

B. O. LOWNDES IS DEAD

Member of a Distinguished Maryland Family.

RELATED TO EIGHT GOVERNORS

Lived for Eighty-six Years at "Blenheim," the Family Home in Bladensburg—Saw Many Stirring Things in Early Days—Nearest Surviving Relatives Are Four Cousins, the Youngest Being Eighty-four Years Old—Last of Immediate Family.

Special to The Post.

Hyattsville, Md., July 12.—Benjamin Ogle Lowndes, second cousin to Gov. Lloyd Lowndes, of Maryland, and related to seven former Governors of this State, died about 10 o'clock this morning at his home, "Blenheim," in Bladensburg, where he was born in 1811, making him eighty-six years of age. About six months since he was seized with an attack of heart trouble, from which he never recovered. His vitality was something remarkable, and not until last Sunday, when all hope for his recovery was abandoned, could he be induced to rest anywhere but in an old arm chair, which was the property of his father a hundred years ago.

Mr. Lowndes was identified with the history of Bladensburg during his entire life. He was related to two Governors Ogle, father and son; was the grandson of Gov. Tasker, of colonial times; was related to two Governors Lloyd, father and son, and was the first cousin of Henry Lloyd, who, being President of the State Senate, became Governor when Gov. McLane was sent as Ambassador to France by President Cleveland. He was also related to Gov. Bladen, after whom the historic town of Bladensburg was named. Although of such prominent stock, the deceased could not be persuaded to talk about his ancestry or himself, and whatever is known was gained through confidential friends of Mr. Lowndes.

Last of the Immediate Family.

He was a member of the vestry of St. Matthew's parish from the time of its inception, some sixty years since, without interruption, until his recent illness. He was also trustee of the Bladensburg Academy from 1842 to 1888, when the academy was turned over to the public school authorities of Prince George's County. His father was Richard Tasker Lowndes and his mother Ann Lloyd. He had a brother, Edward, who died when quite young, and two sisters, the Misses Nancy and Elizabeth Lowndes, the latter afterwards becoming the wife of the late Bishop William Pinkney, of Maryland, and the former dying unmarried. His death, therefore, extinguishes the immediate family, his nearest relatives being first cousins, Mrs. Charles Howard, ninety-four years of age, living in Baltimore; Mrs. Frank Scott Key, relative of the author of the "Star Spangled Banner;" Mrs. Mary Hereford, of the Louise Home, Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Josephine Tilton, also of Washington, the youngest of the four, being about eighty-four years of age. Mr. Lowndes never married, but devoted his attention to his sisters.

"Blenheim," where Mr. Lowndes was born and always lived, is one of the oldest and most historic of Maryland's old estates. It was built in 1792 by his father, after the style of old English architecture. The furniture was all brought from England. A handsome grandiose of beautiful cut glass hangs on the wall in the sitting room, being one of the oldest and most unique heirlooms of the many attached to the estate, and was highly prized by deceased and his ancestors. On several occasions it was shattered by explosions of the powder mills which existed in Bladensburg over one hundred years ago.

Was a Devout Churchman.

Mr. Lowndes avoided publicity with a zealous persistency. He would talk of his past life and the many interesting scenes in, and about Bladensburg only with most intimate friends. During his later years, after the death of the last member of his immediate family, Mrs. Bishop Pinkney, he took little interest in anything but his church work, to which he was devoted in the extreme. When St. Luke's Church at Bladensburg was closed some eight years ago and the new church in memory of Bishop Pinkney built in Hyattsville, Mr. Lowndes was deeply impressed, and for a little while refrained from attending church in Hyattsville. He soon took hold of church work again, and up to the time of his demise was one of the pillars of the church, giving much of his time and money to the cause. He was always a devout Episcopalian, as were his ancestors. In politics he was a consistent Democrat, and it is said voted for the Democratic nominee for Governor, Hurst, in preference to his own relative, Gov. Lowndes. His chief companion was a young negro named Albert Matthews, to whom he was very much attached, and gave the latter a home for himself and family near Blenheim.

Of his father, Richard Tasker Lowndes, but little is known, except that he was a noble character in all respects. He lived a quiet and peaceful life, being engaged in mercantile business in Bladensburg when that town was a shipping point of national reputation. His grandfather, Christopher Lowndes, came to this country when a young man and settled in Bladensburg. In a few years he became not only a very enterprising and successful merchant, but was besides a ship-builder of wide reputation. He built what is known as the Academy building, located within a stone's throw of Blenheim, where he spent the remainder of his days. All the vessels which he built were for ocean traffic, and were launched from the yard or wharf then and now known as "the Sycamore." These vessels used to steam down the eastern branch of the Potomac River to the Chesapeake Bay. The same stream is now hardly large enough to accommodate a large sized row boat, except at high tide.

Events in Revolutionary History.

Christopher Lowndes also had a rope walk, located immediately opposite Blenheim, and even at this late date it is no unusual occurrence for the plow to turn up pieces of tar as hard as flint, where cordage was made over 150 years ago. This rope was all shipped by boats to Philadelphia, and Mr. Lowndes went once a year to that city on horseback to sell the product. He married Elizabeth Tasker, daughter of Gov. Tasker, of the colonial period. At the time of the Declaration of Independence he was the British postmaster at Bladensburg, and was also appointed to that office under the republic.

When Col. William Wood, of the British Army, was dangerously wounded at the battle of Bladensburg he was removed to Blenheim, where he was nursed by Misses Nancy and Elizabeth Lowndes. Many years afterward Dr. Pinkney, then rector of Ascension Church, in Washington, was the guest of Col. Wood, then Sir William Wood, in England, whose family have to this date kept up an affectionate correspondence with Mr. Lowndes.

Deceased will be buried on Wednesday next from Blenheim, the remains to be interred at the old Addison Chapel burial grounds, about three miles from Bladensburg, where the remains of his father and mother and grandfather lie. The pall-bearers will be made up of the vestrymen of St. Matthew's parish, and Rev. Charles J. S. Mayo will officiate, being rector of that parish. A telegram was sent Gov. Lowndes announcing the sad news, and the Governor immediately wired for particulars of the funeral.