

## Richard Taylor Birchett

( - 29 Jul 1814)

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*National Intelligencer, July 30, 1814*

A melancholy and very distressing accident occurred yesterday morning, a few miles north of this city. The excessive rains of Thursday night produced so great a flood in the eastern branch of the Potomac which passes the town of Bladensburg, as to overflow the banks to a considerable extent. One of the Baltimore stages only attempted to ford the stream to the bridge, the railings of which were visible; the driver urged on by the passengers, or unfortunately deeming the passage practicable, rashly proceeded, and in a minute the horses, driver and stage, containing five passengers, were all swept down the rapid current. The driver and four passengers, by their own exertions and the aid of boats, were rescued -- the remaining passenger perished. This was a young gentleman, we learn, of the name of Birchett, son of Mr. Robert Birchett, President of the Petersburg branch of the Bank of Virginia, and was on his way to one of the eastern colleges. His body has not been recovered. The driver attempted to preserve his horses by cutting them loose, but to save his own life was obliged to abandon them to their fate.

*The National Intelligencer, August 2, 1814*

The body of Mr. Birchett, whose melancholy fate we noticed on Saturday was found on Sunday in the Eastern Branch, by some of the Marine Guard, near the magazine, about 4 miles below the place where the stage was lost. His remains were yesterday interred in this city.