

## James Dailey

( - 12 Feb 1846)

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*The National Intelligencer, February 13, 1846*

### **Distressing And Fatal Accident**

We are sorry to learn that another fatal accident occurred yesterday, about ten o'clock in the morning, by an explosion in the laboratory at the Navy Yard. It appears that while the workmen were engaged in the dangerous operation of preparing detonating powder, an explosion took place which caused the immediate death of a person named Dailey, from Philadelphia, whose skull and head were shattered in a dreadful manner. A son of Captain Mitchell, of the steamboat *Oceola*, had also an arm broken by this distressing occurrence. We understand the concussion was very great, so as to raise the roof of the building and otherwise injure it. Coroner Woodward held an inquest over the body of the deceased in the course of the day; but we could not obtain, at a late hour last night, the verdict of the jury.

*The National Intelligencer, February 16, 1846*

### **The Late Fatal Accident at the Navy Yard**

Which was briefly noticed by us in the *National Intelligencer* of the 13th instant, was fully investigated by the jury which was summoned on that day by Coroner Woodward. After due deliberation and the hearing of one witness, who seemed to entertain the opinion that carelessness had led to the fatal explosion, the jury returned a verdict in which they declared it as their belief that "the explosion was purely accidental and that no blame can attach to any person connected with the laboratory."

It seems to be almost providential that only one person was killed. If the explosion had taken place a day or two earlier there would undoubtedly have been a greater sacrifice of human life, as there were many more persons at work in the laboratory. Nineteen hands had been discharged on the previous day. We learn that Mr. James Daily, the unfortunate person who was killed by the explosion, was a young man of excellent character, and his premature death has been generally regretted.