

Frederick Rodgers

(– 5 Apr 1828)

The National Intelligencer, April 9, 1828

The Norfolk papers of Monday, received yesterday by the Steamboat Potomac, convey to us the following afflicting information. It will be received by all our readers with sincere sympathy; but by those of this city and elsewhere, who personally know the respected parents of one of the unfortunate youths, it will be received with heartfelt sorrow:

From the Norfolk Herald

Most Lamentable Occurrence

It is with a feeling of deep sorrow that we announce the following occurrence, which has cast a gloom of sadness over our whole community: On Saturday forenoon, the following young gentlemen, midshipmen in the U.S. Navy, viz.: William J. Slidell, Frederick Rodgers, Robert M. Harrison, and Bushrod W. Hunter, manned a sail boat, and proceeded down the river, as they had been accustomed to do, for recreation and practice. The wind was blowing fresh; but when they had proceeded about three miles down it became flawy, with intervals of dead calm. It was after one of these intervals, that a sudden and very heavy flaw of wind struck the sails, when the boat capsized, filled and instantly sunk, carrying down with her Mr. Slidell, who never rose. Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Harrison cheered each other for some time, but, exhausted by cold and fatigue, the former sunk, and the latter soon shared his fate. Poor Hunter was on the eve of following his ill-fated companions, when an East river schooner, then beating down, picked him up, nearly in a state of insensibility, and put back with him to the Navy Yard, where, with proper care, he was in a little time restored to health.

Immediately on the receipt of these distressing particulars, Com. Barron ordered boats down to drag for the bodies; but they have not yet been found.

Mr. Slidell was from New York, and brother to the lady of Captain M.C. Perry. Mr. Rodgers was 16 or 17 years of age, and son of Com. Rodgers. Mr. Harrison was son of Robert M. Harrison, Esq. Commercial Agent at St. Bartholomew's. They were young men of the finest promise, and much caressed in the circle of acquaintance to which they had found a ready introduction in this place.

The National Intelligencer, April 12, 1828

The body of Midshipman Rodgers having been recovered and brought to the City, his funeral will take place this afternoon, at half past three o'clock, from the residence of his father. The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend, without further notice.