Lemuel Proctor Bowyer, Private, Co. D 9 IN Infantry, U.S.

1836 August 31: Bowyer was born in Clark County, IN to Felix and Lucy Bowyer.

1850 November 7: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Owen, Clark County, IN showed 14-year-old Lemuel living with his parents and siblings. His father, Felix, was a farmer.

1860 July 19: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Owen, Clark County, IN showed Lemuel, a boat hand, living with his parents and siblings. His father, Felix, was a farmer.

1863 June: Registered for the U.S. Army draft in Owen, Clark County, IN. Former military service listed as “81st Ind Vol Inft.” Occupation listed as “Boatman.”

1864 September 27: Drafted into service in the U.S. Army for one year. Mustered as a private into Co. D, 9 IN Infantry.

November 30: Fought at the Battle of Franklin.


1865 January to June: Company Muster Rolls. Present. Remarks: “Drafted, charged for loss of one screw drive, one cone wrench and one wiper 70cts”


---

**Company Descriptive Book**

of the organization named above.

**DESCRIPTION.**

Age: 28 years; height: 5 feet 9 inches.

Complexion: 

Eyes: 

Hair: 

Where born: Clark Co., Ind.

Occupation: 

**ENLISTMENT.**

When: September 27, 1864.

Where: Jeffersonville.

By whom: 

Remarks: Drafted, Enlisted.

July 27, 1864

Six Battles Franklin, Nashville.
1866  January 18: Married Mary E. Adams in Jeffersonville, Clark County, IN.

1870  July 13: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Owen, Clark County, IN showed Lemuel, a steam boat engineer, living with Mary and their two young sons.

1880  June 18: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Owen, Clark County, IN showed Lemuel, an engineer, and Mary living with their three children.

  August 27: Filed for a pension for his military service.

  September 27: Died in an explosion aboard the steam ship *Maggie Harper*. The *Maggie Harper* traveled along the Ohio River and Bowyer was an engineer aboard.

---

1 The Times-Picayune, New Orleans, LA Monday 27 Sep 1880, pg. 1
2 National Republican, Washington D.C., Monday 27 Sep 1880, pg. 1
Particulars of the Maggie Harper Disaster.

From the Madison Courier, yesterday.

A frightful disaster occurred on the packet Maggie Harper Saturday night, by which one of the engineers, Lemuel P. Bowyer, lost his life, and five other attachs of the boat were terribly or fatally scalded. The disaster occurred at about 11 o'clock, when the vessel was at Locust Bar, some nine miles above this city, and was caused by the bursting of the main steam pipe. The boat had just passed the bar and gotten into deep water, and the engineer had just taken hold of the throttle to turn on more steam, when the break occurred in the main pipe about ten feet from the legs of the steam drum. The metal of the pipe was torn asunder, so that a flood of steam shot from the orifice, wrapping the after part of the lower deck in a scorching cloud and overwhelming all who were in that part of the vessel. Mr. Bowyer, as we have explained, was at the throttle and was struck by the full force of the steam, and was lost. It is thought that the awful pain produced by the steam caused him to leap into the river, or blinded and frenzied him until he fell overboard. The scene on board the Harper was one of consternation and agony. The cloud of steam wrapped the boat, and from the rear part of the deck arose the screams of the five men who were scalded, and who were yet blindly and frantically groping in the hot cloud. Contact with the air spoiled the escaped vapor so that it did not injure those in the cabin nor those forward of the burst in the pipe, yet there was great excitement in every quarter of the vessel, amid all of which Capt. Humphreys and other officers conduced themselves very commendably. As soon as it could be done the scalded men were gotten out to more comfortable quarters and flour and other remedies applied to relieve as far as possible their excruciating injuries. Search was made for the unfortunate engineer, but in vain.

The others injured were Samuel Fisher, fireman; Jas. Jones, Wm. Brown, ———, and ———, colored deck hands. Fisher and ——— will probably die; the other three are not seriously injured.

The steamer Ben Franklin was close behind the Harper, and, seeing she was in distress, Capt. David hastened to her relief. The Franklin towed the Harper to Carrollton. Men in the yawl of the Franklin, as they approached the Harper, saw the body of Bowyer in the water, but not in time to reach him before he sank.

The steamer Pike took the wounded to Louisville, where they reside, and where they were admitted to the Marine Hospital. The Evening Courier says: Lemuel P. Bowyer, the engineer, was about forty years of age, and leaves a wife and three children to mourn his sad death. They reside on a farm which he owned near Eighteen Mile Island, in Clark County. He was a thorough gentleman and a careful, competent engineer—one who had the respect of all who knew him, and will be missed and regretted, especially among those who follow the fortunes of the tide.

1890 August 7: Mary filed for and was granted a widow's pension for her husband's military service.