

Richard A. Arnold (23 Jul 1840 - 16 Dec 1904)

The Evening Star, July 2, 1888

Mr. Richard A. Arnold, formerly lieutenant of police has been appointed general inspector of the Washington Gaslight Company.

The Evening Star, December 15, 1904, p. 3

Lieut. Arnold Hurt

Knocked Down and Skull Fractured By Electric Car

Richard A. Arnold, who was a lieutenant of police in this city for a number of years, was struck by a street car at 5th and G streets northwest this morning and very seriously injured. It is believed he cannot recover. Crossing Policeman Dyson was slightly injured while trying to save him. Mr. Arnold was crossing from the east to the west side of 5th street on the curve, apparently paying no attention to one of the cars of the Maryland division of the city and Suburban road which was approaching from the west. It is probable he thought the car was going to move along on the G street tracks instead of turning the corner.

The crossing policeman called to him several times, but he stepped directly in front of the car and was knocked down. The motorman had given the car start enough to take it around the corner. When he saw a pedestrian on the tracks, it is stated, he could not possibly have stopped the car in time to prevent the accident.

Falling beneath the fender, Mr. Arnold was pushed along the track a few feet, and was apparently lifeless when picked up. His skull was fractured and two ribs were broken. The ambulance from the Emergency Hospital made a quick run and the injured man was soon in the hospital under treatment. It was stated this afternoon that his condition is critical and that he can hardly recover. His wife was summoned to the hospital, and his daughter, Mrs. Emmons, who lives at 323 Putnam avenue, Brooklyn, was also notified. More than a year ago Mr. Arnold suffered a stroke of paralysis and his weakened condition, it is thought, prevented him from getting out of the way of the car.

Prominent in Police Circles

Lieut. Arnold was prominent in police circles for a number of years while in command of the first precinct, in the business section of the city. He was a native of Prince George's county, Md., where he was born July 23, 1839. He was appointed a member of the police force in September, 1870. In addition to serving as lieutenant of the first and third precincts he was night inspector for a long time. During the investigation of the police department in 1886 his name figured prominently in connection with proceedings, which it was said, involved several members of Congress and others prominent in official life. As a result he was dismissed, as were several other policemen, although in the opinion of those familiar with the case, Arnold had merely obeyed the orders of his superiors.

Since that time he has held a number of responsible positions with private firms and under the District government. He was superintendent of street and alley cleaning and was afterward license inspector, under the direction of the excise board.

The Evening Star, December 16, 1904, p. 1

Injuries Were Fatal

Death of Former Police Lieutenant Arnold

Result of Accident on Electric Railway Yesterday-- Inquest to Be Held Tomorrow

Richard A. Arnold, formerly lieutenant of police, who was struck by a City and Suburban car at 5th and G streets northwest yesterday morning and seriously injured, as stated in yesterday's Star, died at the Emergency Hospital this morning. His death occurred just twenty-four hours after he received the injuries, and he did not regain consciousness before death claimed him. Mrs. Arnold, the former police lieutenant's wife, and his daughter and niece, called at the hospital yesterday, and were there again this morning. Arrangements for the funeral have not yet been made but the body, it is thought, will be interred beside that of his first wife, in Congressional cemetery. Coroner Nevitt viewed the body this morning and decided to hold an inquest at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning. An autopsy will be performed this afternoon.

The death of the victim of the accident recalls the time when he was the night inspector in the police department, and when it was necessary for him to report so many members of the force for alleged violations of the rules of the force. Even those who were caught and fined or dismissed on his testimony speak only words of praise about him. That he was honest in his dealings with the men has never been questioned. Many amusing stories are told of how he caught the men "hoodling." All day yesterday inquiries were made at police headquarters and the hospital concerning his condition.

Stories of His Career

One of the older members of the force who was interested in the ex-lieutenant related stories of his experience with him years ago. He told of an incident when the night inspector caught one of the men in a saloon and waited about the door three hours for him to come out. While he was waiting there a man, apparently a tramp, was thrown out of the place. No attention was paid to him by the night inspector, as he was bent on catching the man, who was in the "hoodling." While he was still standing there on guard the policeman appeared from around the corner and surprised him.

Asked where he had come from the policeman calmly responded that he was on his beat. Upon being assured that no charge would be preferred against him the policeman admitted that he had impersonated a tramp and had been thrown from the saloon. Then he had borrowed a suit from a brother officer and succeeded in astonishing the inspector. Many other cases of a similar character were recalled, and the statement was made that Night Inspector Arnold had never treated a man unfairly.

Controversy Arises Over Remains

A controversy is in prospect between the widow and the daughter of the deceased for the possession of the body. Each side made a demand on Coroner Nevitt, this morning for the body. Even before death had claimed the former police official the coroner was asked by a nephew of the victim not to turn the body over to the widow. Being unable to find any law governing him in the matter, Coroner Nevitt appealed to Corporation Counsel Duvall this afternoon for instructions. The legal representative of the District was unable to give him instructions offhand, and said he would have the law examined and give a decision later.

People who have been acquainted with Lieutenant Arnold were not surprised today when they learned of the trouble about the disposition of the body. More than four years ago the former lieutenant was married against the protests of his daughters. It was but a short time after the marriage before there came a separation between husband and wife.

Later they patched up their differences and again lived together. Then came another separation, it is stated, which was followed by a renewal of the marital relations. Another separation was had, and in August last M. Arnold went to New York. The question of the disposition of the body will not be settled until tomorrow.

The Washington Times, December 16, 1904

**Richard A. Arnold Dies; Run Down by Street Car
Victim of Accident at Fifth and G Streets
Fender Knocks Him Down--Struck by the Wheel Guard**

Death relieved former Lieutenant of Police Richard A. Arnold of his suffering at the Emergency Hospital shortly before 9 o'clock this morning. Mr. Arnold was unconscious when the end came, and was the victim of a fatal street car accident, at Fifth and G Streets northwest, yesterday morning. Coroner Nevitt will hold an inquest over the body at the morgue tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock.

Was Sixty Years Old

Paralyzed and bent under the weight of sixty years, Mr. Arnold was feeling his way across the street car tracks at the switch where the Maryland cars turn up Fifth Street from G, when run down and thrown under a fender. He moved slowly across the southbound tracks on Fifth Street and was almost in the center of the northland track when a Maryland car motorman, who brought his car to a standstill at the transfer station, received the signal to go ahead.

An unheeded warning was sounded from the gun and before the old man could get off the tracks the fender struck his legs above the ankle throwing him to the ground.

Policeman Gave Warning

Policeman Dyson, stationed at the crossing, shouted to the former police official, but the latter evidently thought the car was going straight out G Street, instead of turning into Fifth Street. Owing to the high rate of speed at which the motorman was compelled to operate his car over the switch to prevent his losing the current and block traffic, the car could not be stopped before striking Mr. Arnold.

The fender glided over his prostrate form, and the body was struck by the wheel guards beneath the car. The speed of the car caused the woodwork to strike the paralytic with such force that his skull was fractured and two ribs broken.

Policeman Dyson made a dive toward the fender and tried to save Mr. Arnold. In his attempt Dyson was slightly hurt. The car could not be stopped until it had run about fifty feet. For this distance the victim was dragged over the snow-covered asphalt, and when it was finally brought to a standstill his mangled body was drawn out by the crew of the car, Policeman Dyson, and the switchman at Fifth and G Streets northwest.

In Critical Condition

At the Emergency Hospital, where the dying man was taken within a few moments after the accident, the doctors at once said his condition was critical and there was practically no hope for recovery. The physicians requested friends of the injured man to summon his relatives, and this was done. His family was with him the greater part of yesterday and last night.

Mr. Arnold's Career

Born in Prince George county, Md., on July 23, 1839, Mr. Arnold was brought up in his native State, and educated in the common schools there. At the age of thirty-one, 1870, he was appointed as a member of the police force, serving with distinction in the role of private, sergeant, and lieutenant for sixteen years. At the end of that period his name was brought into an investigation of the Police Department. A number of prominent men were involved in the inquiry which followed, and as a result of the searching investigation Lieutenant Arnold was retired from the force. He declared at the time that he had been done an injustice, as he merely obeyed the instructions of his superiors.

After leaving the department he procured a position in the District Building and held several municipal places from then until his death.

The Washington Times, December 17, 1904

**Arnold's Death Was Accidental
This the Verdict of Jury at The Inquest
Many Witnesses Testify
All Agree That Aged Man Was Bewildered
Conductor Tried to Stop Car**

Death by accident was the substance of the verdict given by the Coroner's jury which assembled at the morgue at 11 o'clock this morning to fix the responsibility for Richard A. Arnold's death. The evidence of the several witnesses was to the effect that Lieutenant Arnold, as he was familiarly known, was bewildered and confused by the shouting of persons who sought to warn him of his danger, and the sounding of the gong of the car which killed him. All the witnesses testified that the motorman made very possible effort to bring the car to a standstill before it struck the aged ex-officer of the Police Department.

Dyson Tells Story

Policeman Dyson, stationed at the Fifth and G Street crossing, was the first witness called by Coroner Nevitt. He said he saw Lieutenant Arnold walking west on G Street as the Maryland car stopped at the switch. Dyson said Lieutenant Arnold was midway between the car track and the curb. The policeman shouted to the aged man and told him to look out.

The lieutenant stopped in the center of the northbound tracks, and looked around in the opposite direction from which the car was coming. Before Dyson could reach his side the car struck the old man and bore him to the ground.

The switchman was next placed on the stand. He told of throwing the switch and seeing the aged man crossing the street. The witness, James O'Connell, said he heard the motorman ringing his bell a number of times in rapid succession, but the pedestrian did not seem to move. The next thing he saw was Lieutenant Arnold falling to the ground. O'Connell then asked two policemen to summon an ambulance.

Testimony of Motorman

Motorman J.S. Feagnus, who had charge of the car which killed Lieutenant Arnold, said he first saw the man when he was ten feet from the car. The motorman testified that he had to operate his car at a rate of about five miles an hour around the curve in order to keep the plow from losing the current on several "cut-outs" (where tracks or trolley slots intersect and through which no current ins run). Feagnus rang his bell loudly, he says, and also heard several persons shouting to the old man to "look out." The motorman says he made every effort to stop the car, reversing the current, and applying the brake, before striking the man. He succeeded in bring the car to a standstill after the man was knocked down and dragged about five yards.

The Other Witnesses

One after the other Edgar Ebbet, of Myrtle Street northeast; William Dixon, a negro; Luther Barber, soda fountain boy in the drug store at the corner of Fifth and G Streets, and John Wallace, a negro, eyewitnesses to the tragedy, corroborated the facts already placed before the jury.

James E. Lackey, of the Washington Electric and Traction Company, took the stand and explained that there were three "cut-outs" or dead points, in the track at Fifth and G Streets. Mr. Lackey said the car which struck Lieutenant Arnold was on the second "cut-out," and the motorman had no current at the time of the accident, but the car glided on because of the momentum it received when started after the switch was thrown.

Accidental Death

Verdict Rendered In Case of Former Lieut. Arnold

Testimony Taken Detailing Circumstances Under Which He Received Fatal Injuries

Contrary to expectation, there was not a big crowd in attendance this morning at the inquest held over the remains of the late Richard A. Arnold, the former lieutenant of notice, who was struck by a City and Suburban car at 5th and G streets northwest, Thursday morning, as published in Thursday's Star.

Several witnesses were examined by the coroner in order that the jury might be able to reach a verdict. Mr. Lackey, secretary of the railway company, was present in the interest of the company, and Attorney Edwin Forrest was there in the interest of the daughters of the deceased. The jury heard the testimony of the witnesses and returned a verdict of accidental death.

The controversy as to who should get the body for interment was not settled last night, and it was expected that the widow and daughters of the deceased would attend the inquest this morning. They did not appear, however, and the body was placed in the care of Undertaker J. William Lee and taken to his establishment at 332 Pennsylvania avenue. The undertaker represents the widow. After the body is prepared for burial it will be taken to her home, 1610 13th street northwest.

It is stated that Mrs. Arnold is willing that his body shall be interred in Congressional cemetery beside the remains of his first wife. The body was removed from the morgue soon after the jury had been sworn.

Result of Autopsy

Deputy Coroner Glazebrook testified to having conducted the autopsy. He described the condition of the body and told of numerous bruises he had received. There was a severe fracture of the skull and three ribs on the left side were fractured. Witness also found a fracture of the pelvis and injury to the bladder. There was also marked evidence of Bright's disease. He said death was due to cerebral hemorrhage following a fracture of the skull.

Crossing Policeman Frederick A. Dyson, who was slightly injured while trying to prevent the accident, was next examined. He said he saw Lieutenant Arnold approaching the crossing Thursday morning and called to him to "look out" and "stop," but the pedestrian looked toward the south instead of toward him. Policeman Dyson explained that Lieut. Arnold was struck by one of the large yellow cars and caught under the fender.

The motorman he stated, sounded his bell several times before taking the curve. Witness thought the accident would not have happened had Mr. Arnold looked toward him. There was no other car near the crossing at the time. The motorman, the witness stated, stopped the car as soon as he could.

Watchman's Testimony

James O'Connell, employed as watchman at the intersection of 5th and G streets, said he saw Lieut. Arnold walking west on G street, and told the jury that the motorman sounded his bell before taking the switch. When the car got upon the curve the bell was sounded several times in rapid succession. Witness heard Policeman Dyson call to the pedestrian, and also saw the latter when the car struck him.

Motorman J.S. Feagnus, who was in charge of the car that struck Lieut. Arnold testified that he reached 5th and G streets Thursday morning about seven minutes after 9 o'clock. When he got a signal to start he saw the pedestrian about forty feet away. He sounded his bell at the time he started, and again when he saw the pedestrian had not stopped. The latter walked into his car, was knocked down and dragged a short distance. Witness said the car was going at the rate of between four and five miles an hour around the curve. The fender, he said, was about two inches above the street, and it bounced when it struck Mr. Arnold.

John Jenkins, conductor on the car, saw nothing of the accident.

Edgar Ebert, a witness, said he was on the west side of 5th street, above G street when he heard people shouting. When he looked a pedestrian was half way over the track. He was looking back toward the pension office and seemed bewildered. Witness said the victim started back and when the car struck him one foot was caught in the fender and the other foot was under it. He said that the man was dragged about five yards. The car, he said, was going about as slow as it could. He heard no bell.

Mr. Lackey's Statement

Other witnesses were heard, corroborating in the main points the evidence of those preceding and James E. Lackey, secretary of the Washington Traction Company, took the stand. Mr. Lackey explained how the track as constructed and told of the "dead" places on the curve. Witness explained that it is necessary to get sufficient momentum to carry the car over those places.

The Washington Times, December 17, 1904

Mr. Arnold's Will Offered for Probate

The will of Lieutenant Arnold, dated August 14, 1903, was today offered for probate. He leaves part of lot 4, square 925, with improvements, to the executors of the will, with instructions to sell as soon as possible after his death.

After paying the expense of the sale of the property, he directs that his wife, Cora Iona Arnold, be paid the amount of her dower right in the property. The balance of proceeds is to be divided equally between his daughters, Addie M. Emmons and Leila T. Emmons. He leaves \$3,000, life insurance, also to his two daughters named.

To Addie M. Emmons is left \$200.

His life insurance in the Metropolitan Police Relief Fund, amount to \$800, is divided \$500 to his niece, Alice Arnold, and the remainder to his wife, Cora Iona Arnold.

His gold watch he leaves to Alice Arnold. Robert W. Emmons and Frederick S. Emmons are named executors.