

James E. Bayliss

(- 3 Apr 1890)

Bayliss. At Fortress Monroe, Va., James E., youngest son of John E. and Susie Bayliss aged 21 years. Funeral from J. Wm. Lee's undertaking establishment, Pennsylvania avenue between Third and 4 1/2 street northwest on Wednesday, May 14 at 1 o'clock.

The Evening Star, May 9, 1890

A Drowned Man's Watch

"Just received postal card from P.W. Phillips, coroner, Hampton, Va., Body of young man found on beach had metal watch with R.S. Donaldson, 209 13th street southwest on back." Such was the telegram rece. . . .

The Washington Post, May 10, 1890, p. 9

The Sea Gives Up Its Dead

A Washington Man's Body Cast Up on the Beach at Hampton

A few words scratched with a pin on the case of a Waterbury watch have served to fix the identity of a drowned man. Yesterday morning Inspector Swindells received a post card from Coroner P.W. Phillips, of Hampton, Va., stating that the dead body of a young white man had floated up on the beach at Hampton, and that upon searching the body he found a metal watch bearing the inscription, "R.S. Donaldson, 209 13th street, S.W.," and asking Inspector Swindells to try and ascertain if any man of that name was missing from his home in Washington.

Inquiry at the address given elicited the information that Mr. Donaldson was in the city and alive and well. Mr. Donaldson was seen by a Post reporter later in the day, and said that about six months ago he gave a Waterbury watch, on the back of which he had scratched his name and address with a pin, to J.E. Bayliss, jr., the nineteen-year-old son of Mr. J.E. Bayliss, a well-known commission merchant, whose place of business is on Louisiana avenue.

Some time ago Mr. Bayliss moved with his family to Norfolk, Va., and has been residing there ever since. About a month ago young Bayliss disappeared from his home in Norfolk, and though every effort was made no trace of the boy could be found.

He was in the habit of carrying a considerable amount of money about with him, and as he never drank, it was feared that he had met with foul play. The finding of the watch on the drowned body clear up in all probability the mystery which has overhung young Bayliss' fate, though whether he was murdered or not, still remains in doubt.

His family will be notified on the finding of the body, and steps will be taken looking to a complete identification. The young man had many friends in this city who will be deeply pained to hear of his sad death.

The Evening Star, May 14, 1890

The Funeral of James E. Bayliss

The body of James E. Bayliss, the young man who was drowned in Hampton Roads some days ago, as heretofore published in The Star, was brought here from Hampton yesterday and was taken to J.W. Lee's undertaking establishment, on Pennsylvania avenue, from whence the funeral took place at 1

o'clock today. The deceased was a twenty-one years old and was a son of John E. Bayliss, a commission merchant on Louisiana avenue. The young man had been missing from home since April 3, and his body had been buried at Hampton two weeks before it was known who he was. The funeral services today were conducted by Rev. Father Walter and the interment was in the Congressional Cemetery.