

Alexander Coghill (- 21 Oct 1910)

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Third Man Missing, May Have Drowned Boat From Which Men Lost Their Lives Loaded With Pig Iron

Frederick Stewart twenty-five years old, who resided at 617 Virginia avenue southeast, is reported missing. The police think he was drowned with Alexander Coghill and Richard Langley, whose bodies were recovered from the flats opposite the wharf at Giesboro yesterday morning. Stewart the police learned was with Coghill and Langley about the time they hired a boat at Bailey's boathouse Wednesday night. He has not been seen by his relatives since.

The crew of the police boat yesterday afternoon recovered the boat from which the men were drowned.

Loaded With Pig Iron

The boat was about 1,000 feet west of the channel, where there is practically no water at low tide, and not more than three feet of water at high tide. The boat contained 1,492 pounds of pig iron the weight being almost too much for it to carry.

The police allege that the iron had been taken from the Anacostia bridge, where it was used by the District for testing purposes. This morning Coroner Nevitt impaneled a jury over the bodies of Coghill and Langley at the morgue and adjourned the hearing until later. The bodies were turned over to the relatives to be prepared for burial.

In addition to the 1492 pounds of iron, the police found a bottle of whisky and a broken whisky bottle in the small bateau yesterday. Lieut. Dean of the harbor police said today he could hardly realize that three men could have occupied the boat with so much iron in it.

Found in Shallow Water

The lieutenant thinks the men in the boat made for the shoal water when the storm overtook them Wednesday night, and that they waded about on the flats after the boat filled with water. He thinks they walked over the edge of the channel and were drowned or that they became exhausted and dropped. There was scarcely water enough on the flats to cover their bodies, the lieutenant says, and had it not been that William Lewis of Alexandria was on the flats gunning yesterday the bodies would probably not have been recovered for several days.