

Ernest L. Crabbs (- 2 Sep 1907)

The Evening Star, September 3, 1907, p. 16

Boy Accidentally Killed

Contents of Shotgun Causes Instant Death

Sad Ending of Hunting Expedition.

Funeral of Victim Probably Tomorrow Afternoon

A hunting expedition that promised a day of pleasure for Harry Crabbs and his son, Ernest, fourteen years old, of 233 14th street southeast yesterday had a sad termination about 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning, when the gun used by Ernest was accidentally discharged, killing him instantly. The accident happened on the farm of George Rhinefelt, about two miles from Marshall Hall, in Charles county, Md. The body was brought to this city last night by the father on a steamer from Marshall Hall and was turned over to a local undertaking establishment.

No definite arrangements for the funeral have been made, but it will be held either tomorrow afternoon or Thursday morning from the family home at 233 14th street southeast.

Planning to enjoy Labor day in Charles county yesterday, Ernest and his father left their home Sunday evening, each armed with a double-barreled shotgun. They made their headquarters at the farm of Mr. Rhinefelt. Arising early yesterday morning, they went out looking for game before breakfast. About 9 o'clock they returned to the farmhouse for something to eat.

Gun Slips From Chair

Ernest put his gun against a chair that was under a tree in the yard and was talking with his father and George Rhinefelt when the gun suddenly slipped from the chair and fell to the ground. The trigger evidently caught on part of the chair and the gun was discharged. The load penetrated Ernest's stomach and inflicted a terrible wound. The boy fell to the ground in an instant, and it is believed that he was dead before his father could reach him.

Mr. Crabbs picked up the limp body and carried it inside the house and a doctor was summoned. But it was soon realized that the boy was dead and that the doctor could do nothing.

A justice of the peace for Charles county was notified of the sudden death, and made an investigation of the circumstances. He decided that death was due entirely to accident.

About 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon word reached his home here that Ernest had been killed. Mrs. Crabbs was nearly prostrated by the sudden shock. She embarked on the boat for Marshall Hall and soon joined her husband. They returned with the body late last night.

Ernest had two sisters, Annie and Myrtle, and one brother, John, who survive him, besides his parents. They were in great grief when a Star reporter called at the home.

The Washington Post, September 4, 1907

Funeral of E.L. Crabbs

Companions Will Be Pallbearers of Lad Killed by Shotgun Accident

The funeral of Ernest L. Crabbs, who was killed Monday morning near Marshall Hall by the accidental discharge of a shotgun, will be held from his home, 233 Fourteenth street southeast, tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. Rev. George A. Miller, pastor of Ninth Street Christian Church, will conduct the services. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.

Six former companions of the lad will serve as pallbearers. They are John Chamberlain, Homer Hackett, Carl Tredway, John Whalen, John Lacy, and Ray Hurley.

Young Crabbs is survived by his parents, one brother, and two sisters.