

Aubrey D. Dexter

(- 11 Jun 1907)

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Death Due to Accident

Verdict in Case of Aubrey Dexter, Killed by Car

Six men composing a coroner's jury and sitting at an inquest conducted by Acting Coroner Glazebrook today declared that Aubrey Dexter, who was killed by a car of the City and Suburban railroad near Brentwood road early yesterday morning, came to his death by an unavoidable accident. The inquest began at 11 o'clock and was finished shortly before noon. The jury recommended better lighting along the car tracks.

John G. Hailey of 2801 4th street northeast, the motorman of the car which struck Dexter and killed him, gave the most important testimony before the coroner's jury. His car, he stated, left Berwyn for the last trip at 12:40 a.m. yesterday morning. Just after passing Brentwood road, he stated, he turned off all the current and allowed his car to drift down the grade, which continues for about 1,000 feet. He was holding the car up with a brake, he stated. After passing over 13th street, the motorman said, he noticed a dark object lying between the tracks, and he said he did all in his power to stop the car, but was unable to do so, and the vehicle passed over the body and ran thirty feet beyond it.

"How far was the dark object ahead of you when you saw it?" the motorman was asked.

"About fifteen feet."

Discovery Made

The motorman said he went back immediately to see what the dark object was and found the body of a man. Witness said he felt over the man's heart, but could not detect a heartbeat. He stated that the body was warm, indicating that the man was probably not dead before the car came along, as had been suggested.

"I could smell the odor of liquor, and it was very strong near the body," testified the motorman.

The testimony of the conductor, Harry F. Faya, 1811 3d street northeast, and of Charles Wright, a passenger, was similar to that of the motorman, except that they did not see the man before the car struck him.

Albert Adams, with whom Dexter had lived recently, testified that Dexter was an "excessive drinker." The witness recalled that Dexter sat down on the railroad tracks once before when intoxicated.

Samuel J. Prescott, a friend of the dead man, was present at the inquest and asked several questions. He took charge of the body following the inquest, and it was taken by an undertaker to be prepared for burial. Word from relatives in Maine is desired before making arrangements for the funeral.