

## Emma Gill

( - 4 Nov 1898)

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*The Evening Star, November 4, 1898, p. 12*

### **Injuries Result Fatally**

#### **Death of Mrs. Gill at the Emergency Hospital**

Mrs. Emma Gill of Norbeck, Montgomery county, Md., who was taken to the Emergency Hospital yesterday, suffering from injuries received in an accident at 9th and P streets, died a few minutes before 2 o'clock this afternoon.

While walking across the former street at the intersection named Mrs. Gill was thrown violently to the concrete by two bicycles, ridden by Roger O'Hanlon and John Sperry, which came together in a collision. O'Hanlon had been going west on P street, while Sperry was wheeling northward on 9th street.

The bicyclists were arrested and held to await Mrs. Gill's injuries, then believed to consist of a fracture of the skull at the base of brain, and necessarily fatal.

Mrs. Gill was visiting her brother, Mr. William H. Nast of 1537 Marikon street. Her husband, who is the proprietor of a store at Norbeck, was notified and reached Washington today.

O'Hanlon, who lives at 3326 M street, Georgetown, was released last night on \$2,500 bail. He is about thirty years old. Sperry, who is a lad of fifteen years, residing with his parents at No. 1463 Kenesaw avenue, was detained last night at the first precinct station in the witness room. Neither bicyclist could tell how Mrs. Gill came to be struck.

Sperry's friends gave bond for him this afternoon in the sum of \$500, and he was also released upon the presentation of the facts in the case to the prosecuting attorney.

The death of Mrs. Gill was reported to the coroner, and it is likely that an inquest will be held tomorrow. It is probable that the wheelmen will be taken in custody again and detained until the inquest is held.

Mrs. Gill did not regain consciousness. Her father, husband and children, besides other relatives, were at the hospital when the end came.

*The Evening Star, November 5, 1898, p. 11*

### **Death Caused By Accident**

#### **Verdict of Coroner's Jury in the Case of Mrs. Emma Gill**

#### **Testimony Taken Today Detailing Result of Autopsy and Circumstances Attending the Casualty**

A coroner's jury called to inquire into the death of Mrs. Emma Gill, who was fatally injured Thursday afternoon in a bicycle collision between John Sperry, a young white boy, and Roger O'Hanlon, a man about thirty-two years of age, at the corner of 9th and P streets, returned a verdict at 1 o'clock this afternoon holding the young men blameless and finding that the deceased came to her death as a result of an unavoidable accident.

The jury, composed of John F. Kelly, George O. Miller, Alfred S. Wilson, Joseph M. Burlew and George Holmes, was impaneled at the sixth precinct station, on New Jersey avenue, this morning shortly after 11 o'clock.

Deputy Coroner Glazebrook testified to having performed an autopsy on Mrs. Gill's body at the Emergency Hospital, where she died yesterday afternoon. Her skull was cracked across the base, the fracture extending from two inches above the right ear downward, being six inches in length. Death was

due to the resultant hemorrhage. There were no other bruises on her body, with the exception of a blue spot on the hip, which was too old in appearance to have been caused in Thursday's accident.

John A. Bowers of 13th and Florida avenue, a motorman of the Metropolitan Railroad Company, testified to having seen Mrs. Gill leave the west side of 9th street and start across the thoroughfare. A young boy came riding down 9th street in a northerly direction, and as he reached P street he swerved onto the Metropolitan tracks to avoid the rough paving in the P street car tracks. As he did so he struck the lady and knocked her down. Bowers could not identify the wheelman who knocked Mrs. Gill down, but thought it was young Sperry. The older wheelman came up later, the witness thought, and he saw no collision. The young man was riding at a moderate rate of speed and was on the right side of the street until he reach P street, when he circled to the southbound car track, the left side of the street.

William Taylor, colored, of 517 3d street southwest, said young Sperry and O'Hanlon collided at P street, the former riding down the right side of 9th street and the latter riding westward on the left side of P street. As the boy Sperry was knocked off his wheel he struck Mrs. Gill and knocked her down. The accident would never have happened, he declared, but for the bicycle collision. Taylor contradicted the former witnesses, and said Mrs. Gill walked from the east to west side of the street.

#### *Witnessed the Collision*

Maurice Fitzgerald saw the wheelmen come together, but could not say which man struck the woman. The wheelmen picked her up and carried her into the drug store on the corner. Mrs. Gill's head must have struck one of the cobblestones of the P street car track.

Howard Bayly, a school boy of 1333 11th street northwest, declared young Sperry tried to avoid a collision with O'Hanlon by swerving on to the Metropolitan tracks. The riders collided in the center of 9th and P streets, both striking Mrs. Gill. Witness did not notice whether the wheelmen rang any bells or not.

Howard Maher of 1435 9th street northwest, corner of P street, said O'Hanlon passed down P street toward 9th street, riding on the left side of the street. He next heard a scream and saw Mrs. Gill lying on the car tracks at the corner, and the two wheelmen standing nearby. There were a number of school children near the scene, but all were on the sidewalk and not in the way of bicyclists.

Richard Gilleland of 1508 9th street said Mrs. Gill was standing on the car track with her back to the wheelmen when struck. The riders were not moving fast. Neither man seemed to be hurt as a result of the collision.

Ellen Proctor, a little colored girl, of 1121 1st street northwest, saw the bicycle riders try to avoid colliding. Both wheelmen and the lady fell at the same time.

#### *Defendants Testify*

Roger O'Hanlon of 1519 7th street, one of the defendants, said he was riding down P street, picking his way through a crowd of children. In doing so he turned on to the left side of the car track. He saw young Sperry too late to avoid collision. He did not see Mrs. Gill until he got up. He couldn't say how the wheels came together, but from bruises on his left side he judged the boy struck him. He was riding slowly and did not ring the bell.

John Sperry of 1463 Kenesaw avenue, the second defendant, said he did not see the lady until after he collided with O'Hanlon.

Neither wheel was hurt in the accident.