

## Charles C. Hall ( - 20 Jul 1902)

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**Hall.** Suddenly at St. Asaph, Va., Charlie Hall aged 15 years. Funeral private from his sister's Mrs. F.C. McCurtan's residence, 521 5th street southeast on Tuesday, July 22 aqt 4 p.m. (Philadelphia papers please copy).

*The Evening Star, July 21, 1902, p. 5*

### **Mangled Under Wheels**

#### **Washington Boy's Frightful Death at St. Asaph's**

While riding on a Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac freight train, near St. Asaph junction, yesterday morning, Charles G. Hall, the fifteen-year-old son of Benjamin Hall, lost his hold and fell under the wheels. He was crushed to death instantly. A number of cars passed over his body, cutting of his head and right arm. As soon as the trainmen became aware of the accident the train was brought to a standstill, the body of the lad was picked up and taken to the undertaking rooms of B. Wheatly, in Alexandria, and this morning brought to the home of his sister, Mrs. F.C. Cathran, 521 5th street, this city.

Only a few minutes before the accident the train had stopped near the Washington and Ohio junction. It was composed of about thirty cars, most of which were refrigerators, in which there were large pieces of ice left after the unloading of perishable freight. It was the tempting ice that led the boy to climb into one of the cars. He had been on the train only a short time when it moved, and a little later he was thrown under the wheels.

Coroner Isaac Burrell of Alexandria county summoned a jury, composed of J.T. Marstellar, foreman, and Messrs. H.H. Powell, John Carpenter, John Slater, F.M. Delane and John Marche. No light was thrown on the investigation by Engineer James Rowe, Fireman Benjamin O'Niel or Conductor J.P. Schwartz, none of whom had witnessed the boy's fall. Flagman Nash, however, stated that he had seen young Hall just before the accident. He did not see him tumble from the car, but was informed of the fact by a little fellow named Marian Price. The flagman said that he had driven the boy off the train, but that he climbed on again. On previous occasions he had warned the boy about the danger of boarding moving trains.

Marian Price and Charles Zachery, his playmate, testified to having seen Hall fall between two cars. They saw him when he boarded the car and heard Flagman Nash when he ordered him off. The verdict of the jury was to the effect that Hall's death was due to his own negligence, and exonerated the railroad company from any blame.

It is said that the unfortunate boy made a practice of boarding freight cars at St. Asaph for the purpose of getting ice, and that he constantly evaded the trainmen when they endeavored to drive him away. His father is a teamster in the employ of the United States quartermaster's department at St. Asaph.