

## Hilda Johnston ( - 20 Mar 1913)

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*The Evening Star, March 20, 1913, p. 14*

### **Automobile Kills Child In Presence of Mother**



**HILDA JOHNSTON.**

### **Hilda Johnston, on Way to School, Run Over by Car Owned by Dr. Borden**

While crossing at the intersection of 18th and California streets northwest, on her way to school at the Morgan building this morning, a few minutes before 9 o'clock, Hilda Johnston, eight years old, who resided with her widowed mother at 1855 Oregon avenue northwest, was run over by an automobile operated by Dr. Daniel L. Borden and almost instantly killed.

The child's mother was with her when the accident happened, the police report, and the automobile was backing when it struck her, knocked her down and one wheel passed over her.

Dr. Borden was accompanied to the tenth police station by Deputy Coroner White, his name was recorded as having been arrested, and he was paroled in the custody of Coroner Nevitt.

### *Accident in Front of Home*

The accident happened almost directly in front of Dr. Borden's house at 1801 California street. The physician and his father, the latter dean of George Washington University, were in the automobile, and, it is stated, the car was being backed in order to make a start from in front of the physician's home.

Mrs. Johnston and the child were each carrying an umbrella. At the corner it is stated the child ran ahead of her mother, her umbrella probably hiding the automobile from view or preventing her from realizing it was being backed.

Suddenly the automobile struck the child, knocked her down and passed over her at about her waist before occupants of the car realized there was any one in the way. Dr. Borden quickly stopped the car before a second wheel passed over the child.

### *Child Carried to Home of Physician*

Policeman Shipley, who happened to be a passenger on a street car near the scene of the accident, rushed to the automobile and picked up the dying child. He took her in his arms into Dr. Borden's home, where everything possible was done for her.

Drs. Sterling Ruffin and Charles Stanley White were summoned. They made quick responses, but they soon realized that the patient was dying, and that nothing could be done that would save her life.

Coroner Nevitt reached the house about the time the child died. An undertaker took charge of the body and took it to the home of Mrs. Johnston on Oregon avenue. Tomorrow morning at 11:30 o'clock a jury of six men will view the body at the morgue, and will hear the testimony of witnesses.

### *No Charge Against Dr. Borden*

No formal charge was preferred against Dr. Borden at the police station, the record showing he had been arrested to await the result of Coroner Nevitt's investigation of the accident. Dr. William Cline

Borden, father of the young man who was operating the automobile, told a Star reporter that he looked out on one side of the car and his son looked out on the other to make sure there was nobody in the way.

Neither saw the child, stated the physician and he thought she must have darted across the street directly in rear of the car. The car was going very slowly at the time, he stated, and it was stopped the instant the one wheel passed over the child.

Dr. Borden was told that Mrs. Johnston called to her child not to cross the street, he said and Mrs. Johnston said he thought the child did not hear her.