

Ellis Jones

(- 18 Aug 1907)

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Accident Was Fatal

Passenger From Chesapeake Beach Loses His Life

Several hundred excursionists who were returning from Chesapeake Beach on the 6:30 o'clock train last evening were disturbed by a fatal accident near Lyons creek, between Chesapeake Beach and the Patuxent river, the victim being Ellis Jones, thirty-six years of age, who resided at 403 12th street southeast. It is reported that he was one of many excursionists who were unable to get seats in the crowded train and went to the platform of the car. He had hold of the side iron and was swinging from it when his head struck against a switch lamp, fracturing his skull. He fell from the train. Robert E. Sanford, who had gone to the resort Saturday with Jones, pulled the bell cord, which caused the engine driver to stop the locomotive. The train was backed to the scene of the accident and many of the passengers viewed the body. Women and children became excited. After a short delay the train moved toward the city, leaving the body at the nearest station in order that an inquest might be held.

Jones was a steamfitter and had been employed at the new Union Station. He went to the Beach with his friend Sanford of Ballston, Va., Saturday, and was returning home when the accident occurred.

Suddenly Disappears

It is stated that a number of other passengers were riding on the platform with Jones and some of them saw him swinging out from the side of the car. Suddenly he disappeared. When the train backed to where the body was lying it was found that the top of the switch lamp had been broken and thrown several yards from the switch.

The skull of the steamfitter had been crushed and there was nothing that could be done for him. Residents of the county near Lyons creek looked after the body until William F. Owens, justice of the peace, could be summoned from Bristol. He held an inquest last night and a verdict of accidental death was rendered. An undertaker prepared the body for burial and brought it to this city this morning.

Mrs. Jones and four children survive the deceased. His mother and sister, the latter Mrs. Laura E. Littleford, reside at 1212 E street southeast. Clayton Denver, a nephew of the deceased, was on the train at the time of the accident.

The funeral will be held from the family home tomorrow. Members of Local Assembly, No. 10, American Federation of Labor, of which the deceased was a member, will have charge of the funeral. The interment will be in Congressional cemetery.