

Albert Mead

(- 12 Jul 1916)

Mead. On Wednesday, July 12, 1916, Albert, beloved son of George W. and Julia M. Mead who was taken away so suddenly in the 13th year of his age. Funeral from W.W. Deal's undertaking parlors, 816 H street northeast, Saturday, July 15, 11 a.m. Friends and relatives invited.

The Evening Star, July 13, 1916, p. 13

Boat Overturns and Three Drown

Accident Occurs in the Eastern Branch Near Licking Banks

Three persons were drowned in Eastern branch near Licking banks, only a short distance from the District line, early last night, as a result of the accidental overturning of a boat. They were William Reynolds, thirty-six years old, and Ralph H. Bruaner, seventeen years old, who were residents of Greenvale, and Andrew J. Wall, nine years old, whose home was near Bladensburg road and 28th street. Richard L. Oliver, seventeen years old, 609 8th street southwest, and Albert Mead, residing near Langdon, members of the party, were in the water when the accident happened and managed to swim ashore.

The bodies of the three victims of the accident were recovered this morning about 4 o'clock and taken to the morgue. Mounted Policeman Vanderschaaf of the ninth precinct learned of the accident and went to the river bank and made an investigation. He found Oliver and Mead on the shore awaiting the arrival of persons who might participate in a search for the body, learned from them the story of the affair and had them taken to their respective homes.

Reynolds Expert Swimmer

Young Oliver today told a Star reporter the story of the triple drowning. He formerly resided in the Greenvale neighborhood, and had many friends and acquaintances there, one of them being the Wall boy. Yesterday he accepted an invitation from "Jack" Wall, as he called his companion, to spend part of the day with him. Wall worked on Reynolds' truck farm and Oliver assisted him to gather garden vegetables.

It had been the custom of Reynolds to accompany Wall to the river to take a bath and do a little fishing. Reynolds was an expert swimmer, he stated, and was kind to the boys he met when he went to the river. Last night the five members of the party were at the river shortly after sundown, Oliver stated, and after they had caught a few fish they made preparation to enjoy a swim and bath.

How the Boat Overturned

Oliver and Mead were swimming some distance from the boat, the former stated, and Reynolds, who had left his clothing ashore, was in the boat with Brauner and Wall. The bright moonlight, he stated, enabled him to witness what happened. Reynolds, he stated, was seated on the stern of the boat and was easing himself overboard, when he seemed to slip, fall to one side and overturn the boat throwing the boys overboard.

Reynolds and Oliver quickly engaged in rescue work. The latter came near being dragged beneath the surface of the water and losing his own life, he stated, and he was certain that Reynolds lost his life in an effort to save one of the boys. Wall was the only son of William Wall, a steamfitter, and Mead was the son of John Mead.

Mrs. Oliver was told of the accident long before the return of her son at 1 o'clock this morning. She was told that another son, Herman, had been drowned, but Herman appeared soon after she suffered a nervous shock as a result of the erroneous information imparted to her.

The clothing of young Oliver was lost overboard and it was necessary for him to wear a pair of overalls that belonged to Reynolds, the garment having been left on the shore.

Coroner Nevitt and Inspector Grant today questioned Oliver and Brauner at police headquarters. Their versions of the affair made it clear that the triple drowning was purely accidental and the coroner gave certificates accordingly.