

Howard W. Payne (- 27 Aug 1919)

Payne. Suddenly on Wednesday, August 27, 1919 at 10:30 a.m., Howard W., husband of May H. Payne and son of Joseph G. and Sallie B. Payne aged 51 years. Funeral from Christ P.E. Church, 31st and O street northwest at 2 p.m., Friday, August 29, Rev. Dr. James H.W. Blake officiating. Interment at Congressional Cemetery (Culpepper, Va., papers please copy).

The Evening Star, August 27, 1919, p. 1

Street Car Crash With Auto Fatal

H.W. Payne Killed Instantly, Son Injured Seriously -- Another Autoist Hurt

One man is dead and two others are in a serious condition in Georgetown University Hospital as the result of two automobile accidents today.

The dead man was Howard W. Payne, fifty-two years old, 1620 30th street northwest, who was killed instantly when an eastbound car of the Washington Railway and Electric Company crashed into his automobile at 30th street and Dumbarton avenue.

His twelve-year-old son, Howard H. Payne, who was with him, is in a critical condition.

The Evening Star, August 29, 1919, p. 11

Motorman Is Held For Payne's Death

Coroner's Jury Sends Gardner Knode to Jail -- Car Said To Have Hit Auto

A coroner's jury yesterday held Motorman Gardner Knode of the Washington Railway and Electric Company for the action of a grand jury in connection with the death of Howard W. Payne who was killed in a collision between the latter's automobile and a street car at 30th street and Dumbarton avenue Wednesday. The motorman was sent to the District jail last night while efforts were being made to obtain his release on bond.

A.C. Putnam, inspector for the utilities commission, attended the inquest and questioned several witnesses about the efforts which Knode made to stop the street car when he saw the machine.

Reversed His Motor

Henry L. Hibbs, a motorman who was off duty and riding on a front seat near Knode, testified that Knode reversed his motor just before the collision. He also stated that the car was going about 8 or 10 miles an hour.

George E. Myers, another motorman who was a passenger on the streetcar, said in his opinion the car was going about fifteen miles an hour. Asked if the automobile was fully on the tracks when the collision occurred, the motorman said the left front corner of the car seemed to strike the machine near the front wheels, indicating that the auto had not reached the center of the track.

Measured From Marks

Sergt. John Roper of the seventh precinct, who was on the streetcar, testified that in his belief the trolley was going about eighteen or twenty miles an hour. He stated to the jury that he measured 128 feet from the mark where the car began to drag the auto to the point where it stopped.

Knobe made the voluntary statement that he slowed up as usual when he neared 10th street and rang his bell several times. He said he saw nothing coming and was drifting across 30th street when the machine suddenly came in sight.

Clayton B. Donaldson, driver of an auto truck, testified that he was coming south on 30th street at about ten miles an hour, and that he passed Payne's machine before reaching Dumbarton avenue. He said when he crossed Dumbarton avenue the streetcar was a considerable distance up the track.