

Maude A. Pyles

(11 Jun 1877 - 25 Aug 1901)

Pyles. Suddenly at 8 p.m., August 25, 1901, Maude, beloved wife of Dr. W.L. Pyles. Interment at Congressional Cemetery, August 28. Funeral private.

The Evening Star, August 26, 1901, p. 2

Drowning of Mrs. Pyles

Sad Accident at Marshall Hall Last Night

Wife of a Physician Perishes in Presence of Husband and Parents

Mrs. Maud Pyles, the wife of Dr. W. Leroy Pyles of the Providence Hospital staff of physicians, was drowned about 8 o'clock last night off the wharf of the steamer Charles Macalester at Marshall Hall. Mrs. Pyles fell off the wharf while attempting to hand a small valise to her husband, who stood upon the deck of the boat as the vessel lay at the landing. She dropped into the river between the wharf and the side of the steamer, and immediately a cry of horror arose from those who witnessed the accident. Mr. George Roberts of the geological survey, who was standing nearby, jumped into the river to save Mrs. Pyles, but she never arose to the surface. At a late hour this afternoon her remains had not been recovered.

Witnessed by Husband and Parents

Mrs. Pyles death was witnessed by her husband, her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. John Berry of 202 9th street southeast; her fourteen-year-old sister, and many other persons who were either standing upon the wharf or upon the boat.

Mrs. Pyles, with her sister and her mother, went to Marshall Hall on an early boat yesterday morning to spend the day. The arrangement had been made whereby Dr. Pyles and his father-in-law should make the trip later in the day and return with the three ladies on the night boat. Mrs. Berry and her two daughters carried out their program, and in the evening went to the wharf to meet the boat, which arrived at 8 o'clock. Dr. Pyles and Mr. Berry, who were among the passengers, told Mrs. Pyles and the other ladies when the boat had landed, that they intended to remain aboard until the return trip, and would not come ashore.

When the ladies were informed of this Mrs. Pyles stepped forward with a small valise in her hand and leaning over toward the boat attempted to pass it to her husband, remarking that she wished to stay on the grounds during the hour the boat would remain. Dr. Pyles stood upon the upper deck of the Macalester, about six feet above the wharf. He reached over to secure the valise, but the intervening distance was too great and he was unable to do so. Mr. Berry also attempted to reach it, but was likewise unsuccessful.

Slips Into the Water

Mrs. Pyles thereupon gave a little spring upward with the idea of placing the valise which was in her outstretched hand, within reaching distance of those on the deck. Instead of falling back upon the wharf, her foot slipped and she dropped into the water with a splash that attracted the attention of many people in the vicinity. Mr. Roberts was standing nearby, and he at once jumped to the rescue, but was unable to locate Mrs. Pyles, and all that could be saved was the hat of the unfortunate woman. As Mrs. Pyles fell into the river, Mrs. Berry screamed and started as if to jump in after her, but she was prevented from doing so by her young daughter.

Dr. Pyle and Mr. Berry hurriedly ran from the boat to the wharf and assisted in the effort to rescue Mrs. Pyles. Lanterns were procured, as it had become dark, and several of the rescuers were lowered to the piles of the wharf in their attempt to locate the body, but all their endeavors were unavailing. The grief-stricken relatives of Mrs. Pyles insisted upon remaining at the hall all night, and quarters were offered them by Captain Blake, which were accepted. The Macalester, with the remaining passengers, returned to the city.

Harbormaster's Action

Harbormaster Sutton and a crew left for the scene aboard the Lovie Randall at 1 o'clock this morning to drag for the body. On board the boat was Mr. J.T.D. Pyles, father-in-law of the young woman who was drowned. The police crew dragged for the body all day, but up to the time the Macalester left for Washington it had not been recovered.

Mrs. Pyles was about twenty-three years of age and was married to Dr. Pyles about two years ago. They lived at 224 11th street southeast. Mrs. Pyles was a handsome woman and very popular with a large circle of friends on Capitol Hill and in other sections of the city.