

Harry J. Russell

(- 25 Mar 1914)

Russell. Suddenly, on Wednesday, March 25, 1914, Harry J., beloved husband of Hattie L. Russell and son of Lydia and the late Robert J. Russell.

The trial is hard, the pain severe,
To part with one I loved so dear,
But in my heart he shall remain
Until we meet in heaven again.
By His Loving Wife

I shall never cease to love you,
Though your form be in the dust.
And some day we hope to meet you,
To this end in God we trust.
By His Loving Mother

Sweetly sleep, dear father
On your Savior's loving breast;
Earthly toils for you are over,
God gives his beloved rest.
By His Loving Children

Funeral Saturday, 2 p.m., from his late home, 501 N street southwest. Services at church, 6th and C streets southwest. Relatives and friends invited.

The Evening Star, March 25, 1914, p. 2

Engine Explodes, Four Are Injured

Alexander Craige Dies as Result of Accident in Power Plant of Kann's

Condition of Others Said To Be Critical

Big Service Engine Blows Out Cylinder Head -- Cause of Accident Not Yet Determined

Four men, two white and two colored, were injured shortly before noon today, when the cylinder head of one of the big service engines in the cellar at the department store of S. Kann, Sons & Co. blew out. Alexander Craige, one of the two white men, died soon after being taken to Emergency Hospital, and the injuries of the remaining three were pronounced to be critical.

Craige, who was an assistant engineer, resided in Brentwood, Md.

The three men under treatment at Emergency Hospital are:

Harry Russell, forty-seven years old, first assistant engineer, residing at 501 N street southwest.

William Stark, colored, twenty-five years old, fireman, residing at 60 P street northwest.

Benjamin Archer, colored, thirty-eight years old, fireman, residing on Ainger avenue, Garfield.

Store Is Crowded

The store was crowded with shoppers when the accident occurred. The noise of the explosion, followed by the sound of steam escaping, attracted general attention.

W.L. Mothershead, chief engineer in charge of the plant, was on the first floor of the building. He hurried to the basement, and, making his way through the clouds of steam escaping from the severed pipe, reached a valve in the supply pipe and cut off the flow. On the floor were the four men who had sustained injury. Craigie being unconscious.

Detective Calls Firemen

Detectives Boyle and Springmann happened to be just outside on the 8th street side of the building. Boyle hastened to the quarters of No. 14 engine company and gave the alar, while Springmann entered the store and rendered assistance there.

Craigie Found Dying

Dr. Ready, in charge of the Emergency Hospital ambulance, which was summoned, realized at a glance that Craigie was dying, and that Russell was in a very serious condition. He had them hurried to the hospital.

The other patients were assisted into the automobile patrol wagon from the first precinct, and a few minutes later were in the emergency room at the hospital. One was able to walk from the wagon to the emergency room, but it was necessary to carry the other on a stretcher.

All the physicians on duty at the hospital were summoned and relatives of the patients were notified.

Two companies of the fire department were sent to the scene of the accident. Their services were not needed, however. The only damage was to the engine, and this, it is said, may not amount to more than \$1,000.

Members of the firm kept in close touch with the hospital making frequent inquiries regarding the condition of the patients.

Coroner Nevitt said this afternoon he would hold an inquest over the body of Craigie. The cause of the accident has not been determined. The machinery has been regularly inspected, it is stated.

The Evening Star, March 26, 1914, p. 14

Inquest On Victim Of Explosion Yesterday

Jury Finds Accident Was Unavoidable -- Three of Injured Men Dead, Fourth May Die

"Death resulting from an unavoidable accident" was the verdict of a coroner's jury sitting at the morgue today in the case of Alexander Cragie, oiler at S. Kann, Sons & Co.'s establishment who died as the result of burns and scalds.

Dr. Francis J. Ready, resident physician at the Emergency Hospital, testified that Cragie died an hour after reaching the hospital: Alexander Russell, engineer, at 6:30 o'clock last night, and William Stark, colored, a fireman, at 6 o'clock this morning. Benjamin Archer, the other colored employe injured, is likely to die today, the witness said.

Due to Broken Crosshead

The accident was due to the crosshead at the end of the piston rod of the engine breaking and not to the cylinder head blowing out. The piston, relieved of this check, broke the inlet valve and knocked out a portion of the cylinder head. This was the testimony of W.L. Mothershead, chief engineer at the store, and of Frank Vermillion, inspector of steam boilers of the District. Mr. Vermillion stated that he found no structural defects in the broken piece of the engine. He said that at the last inspection of the plant it was found to be in excellent condition. Mr. Mothershead submitted as evidence the report of the inspector for an insurance company, dated March 4, 1914. The report stated that everything connected with the boilers and engines was in good condition then.

Several witnesses testified that the accident was one which could not have been anticipated. The jury consulted only a few minutes before absolving everyone from blame in connection with the accident. Today's inquest and the findings of the jury will make it unnecessary to hold a separate inquest over each of the victims of the accident.