

John N. Salkeld

(- 6 May 1905)

The Evening Star, May 25, 1905, p. 12

Remains Brought Home

Story of the Death of John M. Salkeld, Jr.

The remains of the late John M. Salkeld, jr., who was killed by jumping from a bridge at Connellsville, Pa., about five weeks ago, were brought to this city last evening by Undertaker Adolph J. Schippert and taken to his establishment at 2008 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, whence the remains were removed to the residence of the brother of the deceased, Eugene W. Salkeld, at 829 6th street northwest. The funeral will take place from Mr. Salkeld's home Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock and interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.

Young Salkeld left this city about five months ago and went to Atlantic City. About two months ago he went to Connellsville, Pa., where he obtained a position in the Sligo mills.

About this time a medicine man, who was peddling through the section, came to the city and established his tent near the big bridge which spans the Yough river at Connellsville, and, after meeting Salkeld and learning that he had won several medals for life saving, while working on the bathing beach in this city, and that he was an expert diver and had been commended by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for work done here, he engaged him to dive from the bridge, so that a crowd would be attracted to the scene of his business. The distance from the bridge to the surface of the river is about one hundred feet. The depth of the water is about fifteen feet when the river is high, but when the dive was made Salkeld jumped into only about six feet of water, and as he went down struck a jagged rock, which rendered him unconscious. He did not arise from the water after the dive, and a search was immediately instituted, but the body was not recovered for about two days after the young man had made the fatal leap which ended his existence.

When the body was found it was not known that he had any relatives to notify and the body was buried through the contributions of friends with whom he worked in the mill.

His relatives did not receive any word of his death until a few days ago, when they were notified by a friend of the young man who had known him in this city. They immediately sent Undertaker Schippert to Connellsville, who carried a letter of introduction from Capt. Boardman of the detective department of this city to the authorities at Connellsville. The laws of Pennsylvania do not allow a body to be exhumed at this time of the year without a permit from the state board of health at Harrisburg, but through the courtesy of Deputy Coroner J.C. Simms of Connellsville Mr. Schippert was allowed to bring the body to this city. The general belief at the time the news arrived in this city was that the young man had committed suicide, but his friends at last learned the true facts of the case. The deceased was a son of the late John M. Salkeld, a former police officer of this city, who died in 1898. The only surviving member of the family is the brother, from whose residence the funeral will be held.