

Charles Willard Sanderson

(- 21 Sep 1919)

Sanderson. Suddenly on Sunday, September 21, 1919, Charles Willard, the beloved husband of Irene Sanderson. Funeral from his late residence, 3177 L st. s.e., Tuesday, September 23, at 2 o'clock. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

The Evening Star, September 22, 1919, p. 8

C.E. Sanderson Drowns When Boat Upsets

Expert Swimmer Sinks in Main Channel Unnoticed by Companions

Charles Willard Sanderson, twenty-five years old, an expert swimmer, residing with his wife and two children at 317 L street southeast, was drowned in the main channel of the Potomac river shortly after 7 o'clock last night, not a great distance from the seawall, when the small power bateau in which he and several friends were out for a pleasure ride capsized. The body was recovered a short time afterward by the harbor patrol boat crew.

The young man with a party of three friends hired the power boat and went on the river for short pleasure ride and had made trip down the river as far as Giesboro point and was returning up the river when the accident occurred. Benjamin and Ralph Davis and Harry Grinder, who accompanied the young man, said that the accident was due to two of the men unintentionally standing on one side of the boat to pass a can of gasoline to Sanderson, who was standing in the rear of the boat. The four were thrown into the water when the boat turned over. All were known to be expert swimmers and each started to swim ashore to the seawall, less than 100 yards away.

It was not discovered until the three survivors reached the seawall that Sanderson had disappeared under the water. Every effort to bring his body to the surface of the water quickly was unsuccessful. The police harbor patrol was appealed to the members of the crew of that police organization recovering the body about an hour after the accident.

Friends and relatives of the drowned man say that they cannot understand why he drowned such a short distance from shore, as he was known to be a splendid swimmer. He was in the best physical condition. The only solution of the failure of Sanderson to reach the shore is that he suffered from an attack of cramps.

At the home of the dead man the wife, who was Miss Irene Hines, is prostrated with grief and nervous shock. They were married four years ago and have two little children. Mr. Sanderson was an automobile mechanic. He and his wife were both natives of Washington. No arrangements have been made for the funeral.