

Charles E. Satterfield

(27 Jan 1879 – 8 Nov 1912)

Satterfield. Suddenly, on Friday, November 8, 1912, at 11 o'clock p.m., Charles E. Satterfield, beloved son of Samuel T. Satterfield and the late Susannah Satterfield, aged thirty-three years. Funeral from his late residence, 717 7th street northeast, Tuesday, November 12, at 10 o'clock a.m. Relatives and friends respectfully invited to attend.



CHARLES SATTERFIELD.
(From photo made a few years ago.)

The Evening Star, November 9, 1912, p. 1

Seeking Death Car

Police Looking for Automobile That Killed Satterfield

May Belong In Maryland

Reward Offered for Identification of Men in the Machine

Inquest To Be Held Monday

Deceased Was Crossing Pennsylvania Avenue Southeast at 15th Street When Run Down

Charles Satterfield of 721 7th street northeast was run down by an automobile at Pennsylvania avenue and 15th street southeast last night, receiving injuries from which he died a few minutes after reaching Casualty Hospital. The automobile was occupied by a party of four men, who departed unidentified. The tragedy was witnessed by Leon White of 1033 Jefferson street northwest and Miss Naomi Harrover, 1528 Pennsylvania avenue southeast, who were returning to Miss Harrover's home from an entertainment. Maj. Sylvester has offered a reward of \$50 for the identification or apprehension of the men who were in the machine.

Run Down While Crossing Street

Satterfield, who was thirty-five years old, was crossing Pennsylvania avenue on his way home, when the touring car, moving eastward, came along and struck him. The car continued east across the Pennsylvania avenue bridge, the police were told, and disappeared.

Leon White and an unidentified young man picked Satterfield up and took him to a nearby drug store, where Albert F. Gorsuch the night clerk, assisted in caring for him until the arrival of an ambulance, which carried him to Casualty Hospital.

Surgeons at the hospital saw that Satterfield was in a dying condition. His neck was broken, several ribs were fractured and his back and side cut and bruised. The injuries he had sustained indicated that he probably had been struck on his side or back, and that wheels of the car had passed over him. He died a few minutes after he reached the hospital.

Satterfield was identified by papers found in his pockets. His father, Samuel T. Satterfield, who is employed as watchman in the government printing office, was notified of the accident.

Seeking Automobile Party

Detective Charles A. Evans acting chief of detectives, last night assigned Detective Armstrong to work with Precinct Detective Wise and others of the fifth precinct to ascertain the identity of the persons who occupied the automobile. Policeman Fisherty of the fifth precinct saw what he thought

was a Ford touring car pass Pennsylvania avenue and 8th street a few minutes before the accident happened. Four men were in it.

Leon White this morning told the police he was certain that the car that inflicted the injuries to Satterfield was a Ford car, but Miss Harrover was not certain about the appearance of the machine. She thought that the automobile had a red body, but when further questioned she said she was so excited over the affair that she could not be positive about its color.

The police are anxious to find the unidentified young man who assisted White to remove Satterfield to the drug store, thinking he may be able to throw additional light upon the affair. White told the detectives that the young man said he thought the car was a Ford. White said he thought the automobile was running at a rate of about twenty or twenty-five miles an hour when Satterfield was struck, and it sped off in the direction of the bridge spanning the Eastern branch.

Police Not Promptly Notified

It was not until Satterfield had been taken to the hospital that the police were notified of the accident. Then the police of the fifth, ninth and eleventh precincts participated in the effort that was made to overtake the automobile but nothing was seen of it, and the police thought it probably belonged to a resident of Maryland.

Coroner Nevitt viewed the body this morning and heard the report of the police. He directed that an autopsy be performed and decided to hold an inquest Monday morning.

Clue Obtained By Police

Inspector Boardman said this afternoon there is no certainty that the automobile that killed Satterfield is of a particular make. The department received a clue which led Detectives Armstrong and Vermillion into Maryland, the chief of detectives said, although he did not know in just what part of the state the owner is thought to reside.

It was also stated that a number of persons residing in Prince Georges and Charles counties have been in the habit of coming to the local theaters at night and returning shortly after the close of the performances. Satterfield was killed shortly before 11 o'clock just about the time Marylanders or persons living in the county east of the city would be returning home from one of the theaters.

The Evening Star, November 19, 1912, p. 2

Clue An Empty One

Occupants of Auto Which Killed Satterfield Sought

Capital Detectives in a Machine Visit Several Maryland Towns

E.H. Stobbe Relates Incident

Man Who Found Victim Lying in Street Promises to Prove an Important Witness

Detectives seeking the automobile that figured in the fatality at Pennsylvania avenue and 15th street southeast Friday night shortly before 11 o'clock, when Charles Satterfield, a paper hanger, sustained injuries from which he died, followed a clue yesterday which took them to Charles county, Md., having received information which suggested that some prominent residents of that county were occupants of the car.

Reports to the police at an early hour this morning, however, indicated that the trail into Maryland was not a hot one. The detectives reported that they located the car which they had trailed from Washington through Brandywine to Hughesville, Charles county, Md., and found the car was undamaged, and did not in any way show that it had been in an accident. The detectives also talked with all the men that had been in the car, they said, and the automobilists, while admitting they had been in Washington Friday night, denied striking any person on the trip.

Detectives Charles Mullen and Harry R. Warren were accompanied to Charles county in an automobile by Detective Wise of the fifth precinct. They reached Brandywine, about fifteen miles from Hughesville, about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. At Brandywine they received information that an automobile party of four or five men passed through there Saturday morning about 1 o'clock on the road to Hughesville.

Leaving Brandywine in their automobile, the detectives went in the direction of Hughesville. Inspector Boardman telephoned to sheriffs and constables in the nearby counties of Maryland that a reward of \$50 would be paid for information leading to the arrest of the occupants of the death car, and last night he remained at his office later than usual expecting to hear from the detectives.

Brandywine is about sixteen miles from this city, on the Silver Hill road, and is a station on the Pope's Creek branch of the Pennsylvania railroad. It is the western terminus of the short line which passes through Hughesville and has its western terminus at Mechanicsville.

Prince Georges County Visited

While Detectives Mullen and Warren and Precinct Detective Wise were conducting an investigation in Charles county, Detectives Armstrong and Forteney were in Prince Georges county.. Later Policeman Waldron went to Prince Georges county to follow a supposed clue. The detectives returned early last night from a trip to Upper Marlboro, Forestville and Crome, and reported the result of their investigation to Inspector Boardman. Policeman Waldron telephoned that he had made no headway. It is said that they obtained information which they regarded as being important, and unless arrests are made in the meanwhile they may return to the county today.

E.H. Stobbe, 1373 Potomac avenue southeast, the man who found Satterfield on the street after he had been injured, and who assisted Leon White to take him to Bradley's drug store, promises to prove an important witness in the investigation of the fatal accident. He called at police headquarters late yesterday afternoon and told Inspector Boardman what he knew of the affair.

Stobbe was on his way home from Twining City between 10:30 and 10:45 o'clock Friday night, he told Inspector Boardman, and while crossing the Pennsylvania avenue bridge he met an automobile in which five men were riding.

"It was a low car," said Stobbe, "and I think it was a Ford. One lamp was out, and it seemed to have been damaged or battered."

One of the men in the car, he said, wore a brown overcoat and soft light hat. The car was speeding over the bridge in the direction of Randle Highlands at a rapid rate of speed.

"It was between three and five minutes after I saw the car," said Stobbe, "that I found the injured man."

Says Men Were Drinking

A young man, employed near Pennsylvania avenue and 6th street northwest, was at police headquarters last night to contribute what he thought might prove an interesting bit of information in the case. He said that five men in an automobile were about the vicinity of his place of employment several times last night, and he thought they had been drinking.

"Their automobile was in front of a saloon some little time," he stated, "and before they left the neighborhood one of them told me he had to be in Mechanicsville by 1 o'clock. Their automobile was run about Pennsylvania avenue on second speed.

"I know one of the men in the car," he added, "but I can't recall his name."

The young man said he thought the car was not a Ford, but a Kett, which is similar to the Ford.

Police Examining Autos

Although Inspector Boardman said the information at hand last night suggested that Maryland people probably had run down Satterfield and had then continued on their way into Maryland, the police of all the precincts were instructed to examine automobiles on the streets and in garages to see if they could find a damaged car. The police inspector said there was certainty that the car was a Ford or that it had a black body.

It was pointed out by the inspector that a red body might easily be taken for a black one at night, especially if it were dark red, and the police were instructed to continue their search until something is accomplished.

Scores of automobiles in this city were examined by the police yesterday and last night. None of those that was examined was damaged in a way suggested by the witness Stobbe, nor did any of the cars present an appearance that seemed to involve the slightest degree of suspicion.

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Held By Coroner

Five Men Accused of Satterfield's Death

In Automobile At Time

Were Located at Hughesville, Md., and Brought Here

Will Be Released On Bail

Dr. F.D. Chappelier One of Those Charged With Running Down Victim

Five men located at Hughesville, Md., as alleged occupants of the automobile which killed Charles Satterfield of 721 7th street northeast, in this city Friday night, were held this afternoon for action of the grand jury by a coroner's jury after an inquest at the morgue.

The men held for the grand jury are: Ambrose Smoot, a bartender, twenty three years old; F.D. Chappelier, physician, thirty-one years old; Raymond Hitch, merchant, thirty years old; William C. Woodburn, clerk, twenty-seven years old; Spencer Carico, an attendant at the Government Hospital for the Insane.

Accused by Verdict

The verdict of the coroner's jury was as follows:

Charles Satterfield came to his death at the Casualty Hospital November 9, 1912, from rupture of the liver and hemorrhage caused by being run over by an automobile the night of November 9, 1912, on Pennsylvania avenue southeast near 15th street, said automobile being occupied by Ambrose Smoot, Raymond J. Hitch, Fred J Chappelier, William C. Woodburn and Spencer Carico. We hold them for the grand jury."

It is understood that these men will be released on bond today as soon as the amount of the bond has been set. George Ray of Georgetown will be their bondsman.

Testimony of Witnesses

Eugene H. Stobbe, an electrical machinist, was the first witness. He was on his way from Randall Highlands to Washington about 10:30 p.m, and he found Satterfield lying in the street. Coming across the Pennsylvania avenue bridge he passed an automobile with five men in it, and the lamp on the right side was out Mr. Stobbe thought.

The car was going at high speed, and the men were sitting low in it. He could not identify any of the men in the machine.

Saw Wheels Strike

Leonard G. White, elevator operator, Riggs building, saw the front wheels of an automobile pass over an object lying in the street and at the time did not know it was a man until the man's hat blew off. Then he went out to it and found it was that of a man. He did not see the man knocked down

"The car that struck the man was black and looked like a Ford," he said. He could not recognize any of the men in the automobile.

Miss Naomi Hanover stated that an automobile running at thirty-five or forty miles an hour struck an object in the street.

Arrival at Police Headquarters

It was about 11 o'clock last night when the five Marylanders in one car and five detectives in two other cars reached police headquarters. The detectives had spent the greater part of the day and evening in Charles county, having returned there yesterday after their visit Saturday night. It was not until about 2 o'clock Sunday morning that the Saturday trip of Detectives Mullen and Warren and Precinct Detective Wise was finished, the officers having been lost in the woods shortly after they left Hughesville.

On the trip to Maryland Saturday night the five men who returned here last night were seen in Hughesville. They admitted having been in this city Thursday and Friday, and said they had returned home Friday night by way of the Pennsylvania avenue bridge and Silver Hill road to Brandywine, but they denied that their car had struck Satterfield, or that they had participated in an accident of any kind.

Had Supper at St. James

Statements made by the men were that they had supper at the St. James Hotel and that they started home about 10:30 o'clock. Satterfield was fatally injured near the west end of the bridge shortly before 11 o'clock. Although the five men discussed their trip freely and denied having participated in an accident, the detectives were convinced that their car had struck Satterfield.

Ambrose Smoot, who was operating the car, and Clarence Woodburn, who occupied the front seat with him, declared the car could not possibly have struck Satterfield without their knowing it, while Spencer Carrico, Raymond Hitch and Dr. Frederick D. Chappelier, occupants of the rear seat, were equally positive that the car was not in an accident.

Leaving the vicinity of Pennsylvania avenue and 6th street northwest about 10:30 o'clock, the police say, the automobile should have reached the place where the accident happened just about the time Satterfield was struck by a car. Continuing in the direction of Charles county, the five men in the automobile reached T.H., Prince Georges county, before midnight.

Dance in Town Hall

There was a dance in the town hall at T.B. that night and the automobilists made a short stop there. A.C. Wheatley, who conducts a bar at Brandywine, and who had attended the dance, rode home in the automobile with his friends. It is said that the automobile party remained at the bar some time before resuming their journey homeward.

Hughesville was reached about 4 o'clock Saturday morning. The five men professed to have known nothing of the accident in this city until the detectives visited Hughesville Saturday night and discussed the affair with them.

Warrant for Smoot

Yesterday about noon Detective Fortney, who had participated in the investigation, obtained a warrant for Ambrose Smoot, charging him with manslaughter, warrants not having been obtained for the others, but when the men reached here last night they were detained by the police. Bond was fixed at \$4,000, and the men were told that \$2,000 cash would be accepted. Rather than go to the trouble or

expense of furnishing security the men remained in custody, being given comfortable quarters in witness rooms at the sixth precinct station.

The five men came to the city last night in the car in which they said they rode the night Satterfield was killed. It belongs to Louis Jenkins, hotel proprietor at Hughesville, for whom Ambrose Smoot attends bar. Clarence Woodburn, one of the five, is a son of the proprietor of the Hotel Woodburn at Hughesville. Dr. Chappelier is a practicing physician at Hughesville. Raymond Hich is a merchant and Spencer Carrico is an attendant at the Government Hospital for the Insane. Hitch is the only one of the party who is married.

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Funeral of Satterfield

Services Will Be Conducted Tomorrow at Home of His Father

Funeral services for Charles E. Satterfield will be conducted tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock at the home of Samuel T Satterfield, father of the deceased, 721 10th street northeast.

The interment will be at Congressional cemetery, Mrs. Satterfield, mother of the victim of the accident, died about five years ago.

The Evening Star, November 27, 1912, p. 11

"Death Car" Not Found In Southern Maryland

Detective Warren Returns From Leonardtown Without Results

Detective Harry Warren was in Leonardtown, St. Marys county, Md., Sunday, conducting an investigation in reference to the recent death of Charles Satterfield who was knocked down by an automobile near Pennsylvania avenue and 15th street southeast and fatally hurt. His mission to the southern Maryland county was to make inquiries about a supposed damaged automobile that was recently shipped from there to this city to be repaired

Inspector Boardman learned of the car having been shipped here and the detective was sent there to make an investigation, although five residents of the vicinity of Hughesville already had been held for the action of the grand jury as having been occupants of the so-called "death car."

The detective reported to Inspector Boardman that the Leonardtown car could not possibly have been the one that ran over and killed Charles Satterfield.

Friends of the several young men accused of having been occupants of the car at the time the accident happened think the visit to Leonardtown indicates that the police are not altogether satisfied that the Hughesville automobile is the one that inflicted the fatal injuries to Satterfield.

Recent Action of Authorities

"There is a strong element of resentment expressed by the most substantial citizens throughout the lower counties of Maryland at the actions of the Washington authorities in this case," wrote a Hughesville business man to The Star. "The accused men are all in excellent standing down here, and have the full confidence and sympathy of the entire community.

"Without the slightest direct evidence that an automobile was responsible for the death of Mr. Satterfield, the accused men were taken to Washington and held under bail, the premium on the bond cost them \$750, in addition to attorneys' fees and other expenses, while nothing has as yet developed which would indicate that the victim had been struck by an automobile or wagon, or had been held up and murdered by a highwayman in this lonely part of the town.

"The Washington police department seem to be strongly impressed by the fact that some southern Maryland automobile is responsible for this unfortunate man's death, and these lower counties are

being thoroughly searched to secure additional evidence. Investigations have been in progress at LaPlata, Hughesville and other automobile centers, which may produce any evidence bearing on the identity of the guilty parties in this case."