

(Child) Schobert (- 16 Aug 1841)

The National Intelligencer, Monday, August 16, 1841

Dreadful Occurrence

The following painful event took place in this city last Friday evening. It adds another to the many instances on record of unfortunate and distressing accidents which arise from the improper and unsafe use of firearms by boys and other young persons who handle them in a careless and incautious manner.

While two youths of the names of Buckingham and Schobert, both, as we understand, amiable and well-disposed lads, were sporting with a double-barreled fowling-piece on the Mall, south of the Washington Canal, and in the second Ward of this city, the gun unfortunately went off while in the hands of Buckingham, and its load of shot was lodge in the head of Schobert, who at the time was not more than three or four feet from the muzzle of the gun. It is said, we know not whether correctly or not, that the gun had been unfortunately left cocked, when placed in the hands of Buckingham, and that in that way it went off suddenly, without any pulling of the trigger; another statement is that Buckingham pulled the wrong trigger when the loaded barrel was discharged. Which is the right statement we are unable to learn, and have been averse to inquire of the friends of the two lads, whose feelings are deeply lacerated by this untoward and distressing event. We are satisfied that the sad occurrence, in its worst aspect, arose from the want of caution, or was purely accidental. It is a source of inexpressible grief to two respectable families, towards whom the sympathies of our community are strongly excited. Respecting the poor sufferer's condition at the time we write this paragraph, (Sunday, 10 o'clock a.m.) we have ascertained from a correct source, that he still lives, but that the professional gentlemen who attend him entertain no hope of his recovery. His skull is dreadfully fractured and his brain shattered.

Since writing the above, we learn that poor young Schobert expired at noon this day (Sunday).