

Harry A. Shinn, Jr. (- 6 Aug 1911)

The Evening Star, August 2, 1911, p. 9

Shinn Boy Better

Little Fellow Accidentally Shot by Playmate Doing Well

Surgeons at Providence Hospital this afternoon announce that the condition of Harry Shinn, the eight-year-old son of Harry A. Shinn, of the office of the chief clerk of the police department, who was accidentally shot by a young companion while the latter was handling a revolver yesterday afternoon, is decidedly improved. The bullet, which was located by X-rays, is lodged near the spine. The paralysis which attacked the boy is said to be due solely to shock, and is dissipating, as evidenced by the fact that the patient is now able to move his feet. The accident happened at Kenilworth, D.C.



The Evening Star, August 6, 1911, p. 5

Harry Shinn Not So Well

Lad Accidentally Shot by Companion Has Very Low Temperature

The condition of Harry Shinn, the young son of Harry A. Shinn assistant property clerk at the police department, who was accidentally shot by a companion a few days ago, was not regarded as favorable last evening. It was stated by a member of the family that the boy's condition grew alarmingly worse about 4 o'clock yesterday morning, and continued serious until 1 o'clock in the afternoon. Last night he was resting more easily. He had been very restless and his temperature was quite low.

A consultation of the physicians, Dr. L.S. Savage and Dr. Charles S. White, was held, to which Dr. James F. Mitchell, was invited. Another X-ray photograph was taken, which it is believed is an improvement upon the first and more clearly locates the bullet.

If conditions are favorable an operation will be performed today. The paralysis of the limbs still continues.

The Evening Star, August 7, 1911, p. 9

Shinn Boy, Victim of Accident, Dies

Jury to Pass on Shooting of Son of Police Department Official

Funeral services for Harry A. Shinn, jr., son of the assistant property clerk of the police department, who died at Providence Hospital last night as a result of a bullet wound he sustained last Tuesday when Willie Rahn, a companion, accidentally discharged a pistol, will be held Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. The services will be conducted at the residence of C.M. Shinn, grandfather of the deceased, 145 11th street northeast. The interment will be at Congressional cemetery.

An inquest will be held this evening in Prince Georges county, Md., not far from the Shinn home at Kenilworth, in order to have a jury pass upon the circumstances attending the affair.

The Shinn lad was not quite eight years old. He attended the Kenilworth public school and had been promoted to the third grade. He had looked forward to the beginning of the coming school term with much pleasure and had only recently said he was anxious for school to reopen.

Willie Rahn, who resides in Prince Georges county, Md., about a mile from Kenilworth, called at the Shinn home last Tuesday morning and invited young Harry to spend the day with him. The boys had attended school together and had been companions. It was some time before noon when the two boys left Kenilworth and started for the Rahn home, and before 12 o'clock Mr. and Mrs. Shinn learned of the shooting.

Objected to "Fun" With Gun

Mr. and Mrs. Rahn were in the city at market, an eighteen-year-old boy employed by the Rahns having been left in charge of the premises. Shortly after the two boys reached the home of the little host, it is stated. Willie Rahn was asked by the youth employed to get him a cigar and it is said, Willie was looking through a bureau drawer for the cigar when he found the pistol.

The weapon having failed to fire when Willie Rahn pulled the trigger several times, it is stated, he finally pointed it toward his little guest. The latter entered his objection to that form of play and turned to leave the house. Just as he turned the weapon was discharged and the bullet entered his back.

Willie Rahn and the older boy carried Harry Shinn from the house to the pump and when they realized he had been dangerously wounded they became frightened and started away. The wife of a neighbor of the Rahns heard the report of the pistol shot and made an investigation. She soon learned what had happened and summoned assistance.

The Evening Star, August 9, 1911, p. 3

Harry Shinn Buried

Funeral of Lad Accidentally Shot by Playmate

Funeral service for eight-year-old Harry Shinn, son of Harry A. Shinn, assistant property clerk of the police department, who died from a pistol-shot wound inflicted accidentally by a companion last week, were held at the residence of his grandfather, C.M. Shinn, this morning. Rev. William H. Richardson, pastor of Kenilworth Presbyterian Chapel, where the boy attended Sunday school, and Rev. Dr. J.C. Elliott officiated. Ten boy companions of the deceased acted as pallbearers. The interment was at Congressional cemetery.

During the services Miss Viola Schippert sang "Nearer, My God, to Thee," and Miss Hazel Chisholm played Chopin's funeral march.