

George H. Wheeler

(- 16 Mar 1896)

Wheeler. Suddenly on Monday, March 16, 1896 at 10:10 p.m., George H., beloved husband of Mary A. Wheeler. Funeral services were held at his late residence, 426 1/2 9th street southwest at 2 p.m. on March 19.

The Evening Star, March 18, 1896

Railroad Yard Tragedy

Inquest Over the Remains of the Late George H. Wheeler

Policeman Henry of the fourth precinct made as thorough an investigation as he could yesterday of the circumstances attending the killing of George H. Wheeler on the Baltimore and Potomac tracks on Virginia avenue Monday night and this afternoon Coroner Hammett held an inquest at J.W. Lee's undertaking establishment.

The brother of the deceased from Elk Ridge, Md., was present at the inquest, and in addressing the jury he said he understood that his brother was killed by a backing engine on the end of which there was no light to warn persons of its approach.

Coroner Hammett inquired whether or not there were electric lights along the line of the track, and he was told that there were none.

"The tracks," he was told, "are lighted only by the street lamps."

"They ought to be lighted by electricity," remarked the coroner, "for there are so many important and dangerous grade crossings along Virginia avenue."

Several witnesses were examined. It was evident from the proof that an engine on its way from the depot to the yard killed the unfortunate man. The engine was backing at the time, and blood stains were seen on the ash pan, while the dead man's hat was found in the pan.

An operator in the employ of the road told the jury that he heard groans, and when he went out a few minutes later he found the dead body. The engineer and fireman on the engine were not in the city and it was reported that they would not return until 6 o'clock. For this reason the inquest will not be finished until this evening.

The Evening Star, March 19, 1896

His Death Was Accidental

Yesterday afternoon Coroner Hammett held an inquest in the case of George H. Wheeler, the clerk to the yardmaster of the New Jersey avenue yard, who was killed on the surface tracks Monday night, as heretofore published in The Star. The deceased, whose family live on 9th street southwest, had been in the railroad company's employ for several years. He had been relieved from his work some time before he was struck by an engine and killed. When the affair happened the engine was backing from the depot to the yard; and the dead man's hat was found in the ash pan of the engine. During the taking of the testimony at the inquest it was stated that the tracks along Virginia avenue near the Half street crossing are lighted only by gaslight, and the coroner said he thought they were of enough importance to be lighted by electricity. No one saw the unfortunate man when he was struck by the engine, but a telegraph operator heard his groans soon after he was injured and left on the track. The taking of the testimony was begun at 1 o'clock, but was not concluded until after 8 o'clock, when the engineer and

fireman returned from Philadelphia. There was no evidence of carelessness or negligence on the part of the railroad men, and a verdict of accidental death was rendered.