

William May Wood

(- 15 Oct 1895)

The Evening Star, October 17, 1895

William M. Wood Killed

A Young Man From Washington Found Dead in a Freight Train

In the bottom of a gondola of a freight train, which arrived at Petersburg, Va., at a late hour Tuesday night from Norfolk, was found a white man, well dressed, and upon his face and head were ghastly wounds, and by his side was a heavy piece of oak railing, with which the man was probably beaten. The wounded man, who was in an unconscious condition was taken to the city jail, where he died early yesterday morning.

In his coat pocket was found a certificate which stated that Wm. M. Wood enlisted in the naval reserve of the United States September 15, 1888, and was honorably discharged November 15, 1889.

Among other papers found on his person was a certificate signed by John Cooper, inspector of hulls, and E.F. White, inspector of boilers for the city of Baltimore.

Belonged Here

A telegram was sent to Mr. John H. Cooper, inspector of hulls at Baltimore, and in reply this official stated that Wood belongs in Washington and advised the police authorities to communicate with William Clipper, Sun building, Washington, D.C. A telegram was immediately sent to that address.

A coroner's inquest was held in the afternoon and the verdict of the jury was that Wm. M. Wood came to his death on the 16th day of October, 1895, from wounds on the head inflicted by parties unknown.

Mr. Hess reached Petersburg last night from Washington and identified the body as that of Wm. M. Wood. Mr. Hess will leave for Washington with the remains today.

Arrested on Suspicion

Wm. Brennan and Henry Turner, two United States marines of the cruiser Minneapolis and Adolph Lyners, a German emigrant, were arrested last night on the charge of being implicated in Wood's murder. They all acknowledge that they were on the freight train upon which the body of Wood was found, stealing a ride from Norfolk to Petersburg, and that they were ordered off the train by the conductor. They say they got off, but boarded the train again as soon as it started and came only as far as Waverly, which is twenty two miles east of Petersburg, where they got off and spent the night in the woods and came to Petersburg on another train.

A Young Washingtonian

W.M. Wood is a young Washingtonian about twenty-five years of age. His mother resides here with her two daughters and is a clerk in the Treasury Department. Young Wood had been in the navy, but about eighteen months ago was licensed in Baltimore as first mate upon the Atlantic coast trading vessels. Six months ago he went to San Francisco to become first officer upon a Pacific mail steamer. His friends supposed he was still upon the Pacific and do not know how he came to be in Petersburg.