

Joseph W. Woodward (- 10 Feb 1895)

Woodward. Suddenly on Sunday, February 10, 1895, Joseph W., beloved husband of Mary Woodward, aged 50 years.

How slender is life's silver cord,
How soon 'tis broken here!
Each moment brings a parting word
And many a falling tear.

And though these years to mortals given
Are filled with grief and pain;
There is a hope -- the hope of heaven --
Where loved ones meet again.

Funeral from his late residence, 140 N street southeast, Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock. Friends and relatives invited to attend.

The Evening Star, February 11, 1895

Under Car Wheels

Inquest of the Fatal Accident on the Belt Line Road

Coroner's Jury Hears Testimony on the Affair Today

How Mr. Woodward Died

There was a fatal accident at Virginia avenue and 10th street southwest Saturday afternoon about 3 o'clock, which was the direct result of the cold weather and condition of the street. Joseph Woodward, the victim of the accident, was a huckster, who lived at No. 140 N street southwest. He was walking behind the wagon, which was moving along the line of the Belt line car tracks. There was a car drawn by four horses approaching, and when the drivers of the car horses made an outcry the man on the wagon pulled his horses to the side and got out of the way. The car was only a short distance from the wagon at that time. Woodward, whose head and ears were covered to protect him from the cold, was unable to hear the warning and he evidently did not see the approaching car, for he remained on the track and did not heed the warning. The drivers, James Gates and J. Nally, made every effort to stop the horses, but were unable to do so until after Woodward had been knocked down and dragged some distance.

The police patrol wagon was called and the injured man was taken to the Emergency Hospital. All the way to the hospital the injured man talked of his wife and child. He realized that he could not recover, and was extremely anxious about those whom he would have to leave behind him. When the hospital was reached it was found that his left arm was broken and he had sustained severe internal injuries, in addition to several external bruises and cuts. His wife was sent for, and she arrived at the hospital early in the evening, remaining there until her husband died, yesterday morning.

An autopsy performed by Dr. Glazebrook yesterday, showed that the severe internal injuries had caused death.

Coroner Hammett made an investigation of the case and had the body sent to Wright's undertaking establishment, No. 1337 10th street northwest, where an inquest was begun this afternoon.

Before the Coroner

Henry Garner, a young man, who was with the deceased at the time of the accident, was the first witness examined. He thought the drivers of the car could have saved Mr. Woodward's life had they pulled the horses from the track. The witness complained that the car bell was not sounded, and said that Mr. Woodward was knocked down before the drivers made an outcry to warn him of danger.

After he was knocked down, said witness, and the car was stopped, one of the drivers told witness to take the injured man away, but he (witness) could not move him without assistance, and the railroad men finally assisted him.

"What did Mr. Woodward say to you after he was knocked down?" the coroner asked.

"He asked for his wife and child," the witness replied.

Henry Spurling, a disinterested witness told the jury that he thought the drivers and conductor did all they could in the matter. The driver pulled up the horses as quickly as they could and then assisted in removing the injured man.

Deputy Coroner Glazebrook testified to the autopsy, and said any one of the three injuries sustained would have caused death. He thought it remarkable that the man should have lived so long. Death was the result of shock.

George W. Leonard testified that he was crossing Virginia avenue at the time of the accident. He heard one of the drivers call "Look out," and the next thing he saw was the man under the horses. Woodward, he said, was facing the horses, and he knew of no reason why he should not have seen the horses. Witness thought that in attempting to get out of the way Mr. Woodward slipped and fell.

Under the Car

Dr. Edward Green, druggist, at Virginia avenue and 10th street, was called, but he said he did not witness the accident. He went out of his store and saw the man under the car.

James H. Gates, one of the drivers of the Belt line road, who had charge of the brakes when the accident happened, testified that he called to the man in charge of the wagon to get out of the way. The wagon driver pulled out of the way, and Woodward, who was walking behind the wagon, either jumped or stumbled under the horses. Witness applied the brakes and the car slid against him.

The injured man, he said, wanted to know what would become of his wife and children.

The horses did not touch the man. If Mr. Woodward had followed the wagon he would not have been injured.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death and exonerated the railroad employees.