

## Walter S. Wrenn

( - 25 Sep 1912)

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**Wrenn.** Suddenly on Wednesday, September 25, 1912, Walter S. Wrenn of 1417 8th street n.w., beloved father of Elsie Wrenn, aged 55 years. Funeral from chapel of Frank Geier's Sons, No. 1113 7th street n.w. on Saturday, September 28 at 2:30 p.m. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.

*The Evening Star, September 26, 1912, p. 1*

### **His Death Mystery**

### **No Clue to Injuries of Night Watchman Wrenn**

### **Found Near Chevy Chase**

### **Alden Smoot and Miss Eleanor Morgan Aid in Attempted Rescue**

### **Coroner Will Hold Inquest**

### **Dying Man Picked Up on Connecticut Avenue Far From Scene of His Work**

An inquest is to be held by Coroner Nevitt at the District morgue tomorrow morning over the body of Walter S. Wren, a night watchman, of 1412 8th street northwest, who died at the Emergency Hospital last night, after he had been found badly injured, lying in the roadway on Connecticut avenue near Upton street.

Alden Smoot of 2630 Woodley place northwest, about 7 o'clock last night was driving his automobile north along Connecticut avenue when he noticed what appeared to be a body lying in the roadway near the car track. His car has only one seat and he had a companion with him. His first thought was to summon medical aid, and he drove on quickly to the Army and Navy Preparatory School and telephoned to the Emergency Hospital for an ambulance.

While he was at the telephone Miss Eleanor Morgan of Chevy Chase, came along in her automobile and seeing Wren, ordered her chauffeur to pick him up and place him in the car.

### *Fast Run to Hospital*

Miss Morgan's car made a fast run to the hospital and Wren was immediately placed upon the operating table. His injuries were such, however, that the surgeons saw he had but a short time to live. Without regaining consciousness to tell how he received his injuries, he died about an hour after he was picked up.

The police were immediately notified of the finding of Wren and Inspector Boardman, chief of detectives, detailed Detectives Evans and O'Dea to make an investigation. It was a first thought that Wren had been run down by an automobile.

Detective Evans stated today, however, that his investigation led him to believe that Wren was struck by a car of the Chevy Chase line of the Capital Traction Company, about ten minutes before Mr. Smoot found him. It is thought that the watchman stood too near the car tracks and that the car, which extends quite a distance over either side of the track, "sideswiped" him.

### *Injuries Were Extensive*

Wren's entire left side was injured. The left side of his head was cut, three ribs on that side crushed, his left arm and leg were also broken.

The detectives examined the car which passed the place a short time before Wren was found, but there were no marks on it. The motorman and conductor of the car declared that they did not see the man, if he was struck by their car.

Wren had been a night watchman for fifteen years, having for some time patrolled a section of 7th street above New York avenue northwest, which is in the second precinct. His wife died several years ago. They are survived by a sixteen-year-old daughter, Miss Ethel Wren. He left his home about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon to go on duty. Just why he was out on Connecticut avenue is not known.

Arrangements for the funeral probably will not be completed until after the inquest tomorrow.

*The Evening Star, September 27, 1912, p. 15*

### **Killed By Accident**

#### **Jury Unable to Fix Responsibility for Walter Wrenn's Death**

That he was accidentally struck by a moving vehicle, not identified, was the verdict of a coroner's jury at the morgue today which investigated the cause of the death of Walter S. Wren night watchman, who was found dying in the roadway of Connecticut avenue near Upton street Wednesday night.

The jury heard the testimony of a number of witnesses in the course of its investigation. The motorman and conductor of a street car that had passed the scene a few minutes before Wrenn's body was found were on the stand, but could throw no light on the cause of his injuries.

The verdict says that death was due to the crushing of bones of the chest and internal hemorrhage, believed to have been caused by Wrenn being "struck by some moving vehicle while he was walking along Connecticut avenue near Upton street."