

John H. Yonson

(24 Sep 1853 – 29 Apr 1871)

The Evening Star, April 29, 1871

Singular and Sad Accident

Bursting of a Soda Fountain--A Man Mortally Wounded and a Boy Seriously Injured

This morning about 11 o'clock, as Mr. Samuel Shreeves, druggist in Uniontown, D.C., was charging a soda fountain, it burst, and a portion of the casing was driven into the breast of Mr. Shreeves, causing a frightful wound, which it is feared will result in his death. A youth employed in the store had his thigh badly lacerated by the explosion, and will probably have to lose his leg by amputation. Drs. Coombs, Latimer, and Winston are attending the sufferers. The explosion made a sound like the firing of a twelve-pounder.

The Evening Star, May 1, 1871

Killed By Explosion of a Soda Fountain

The STAR of Saturday contained a brief statement of the explosion of a soda water fountain at the drug store of Mr. S.F. Shreeve, in Uniontown, that day badly injuring the proprietor and his clerk--Mr. John H. Yonson. The two were engaged in preparing the soda apparatus, Mr. Shreeve being engaged in pouring the vitriol, when the generator exploded with a report as loud as that of a field piece, and the fragments struck Mr. Shreeve in the left breast, throwing him against the side of the house and inflicting a serious wound. Mr. Yonson received fatal injuries, a portion of the casing striking him on the legs nearly severing the right one, and inflicting ghastly wounds on the left. He died about two o'clock in the afternoon, surrounded by a number of his friends and relatives. Mr. Yonson was about 18 years of age, and resided prior to his going into Mr. Shreeve's employ on F street south, between 4 1/2 and 6th streets. He was a graduate of the Fourth District Grammar School, Mr. John E. Thompson teacher, and was one of the brightest and most promising pupils who left it for active life. He was a member of the Sixth Presbyterian Sunday School, and yesterday morning Mr. C.B. Pearson, superintendent, announced his death, and paid a high tribute to his many endearing and noble qualities which made him a favorite with all. He appointed three of his classmates to attend his funeral, and act with three other school mates from Mr. Thompson's school, as pallbearers. In the morning service the pastor, Rev. Mason Noble, dwelt at length on the sad bereavement to the family. The funeral took place this afternoon from the Sixth Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Shreeve, whose breast was dreadfully lacerated, laid several hours senseless, and for a time his recovery was extremely doubtful. His condition has materially improved, however, and the physicians do not now regard his injuries as necessarily fatal, but not being in robust health, it is feared he may not recover.