

Percy Ball

(- 25 Jun 1902)

Ball. Suddenly on Wednesday, June 26, 1902, Perry L. Ball, beloved son of Kate E. and J.T. Ball. Funeral from parents residence, 203 9th street southeast, Friday, June 27 at 1 o'clock. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

The Evening Star, June 25, 1902, p. 16

Results in Death

Young Man Fatally Hurt By Railway Train

Expires Soon After Reaching Emergency Hospital in This City--

His Name Not Ascertained

An unknown young man, apparently about twenty-five or thirty years old, was struck by the Hagerstown train near Germantown, Montgomery county, Maryland, this morning and fatally injured. He was brought to this city and taken to the Emergency Hospital, where he died a few minutes after his arrival. Death resulted from a severe fracture at the base of the brain. There was nothing found on the man to show his identity. Only a slip of paper taken from his pocket was written: "Dear Percy."

The clothing of the dead man indicates that he was probably making his way through the country afoot and had fallen asleep while seated on the end of the railroad ties. He was seen by the engineer when the train was some distance away and the man at the throttle blew his whistle several times in his effort to attract the attention of the man who was in danger. When he finally realized that the man was not easily aroused he reversed his engine and applied the brakes. The young man straightened up just in time to be struck by the step of the engine. So great was the force of the blow that he was thrown a distance from the track.

The train was stopped and the members of the crew took charge of the injured man. He was unconscious, and was placed on the train and a stop was made at Rockville, where a physician was called to attend him. The doctor accompanied the wounded man to this city, and the Emergency Hospital ambulance was summoned. A quick run was made to the depot, and the victim was given treatment on the way to the hospital in the ambulance.

Dr. Stuart stated when he saw the wounded man that recovery was impossible, and death occurred before an operation could be performed. The body of the victim was removed to the morgue and the coroner was notified. It is likely that a certificate of accidental death will be given.

An effort is being made to have the body identified. A number of residents of the county near where the accident occurred saw the man, but none of them knew him.

The Evening Star, June 25, 1902, p. 2

Dead Man Identified

Son of Mr. John T. Ball, Who Resides in East Washington

The identity of the young man whose tragic death, resulting from an accident near Germantown, Md., as announced elsewhere in The Star, has been established. It proves to be Percy Ball, the son of John T. Ball, who resides at 203 9th street southeast. The identification was brought about by finding a comb bearing his name in a pocket of his clothing. When informed of the death, Mr. Ball, the young man's father, went at once to the morgue to view the remains.

Mr. Ball stated to a Star reporter that his son had sustained an injury to his head several years ago, and had to undergo an operation, since which time he had not been entirely free from mental trouble. He left home ten days ago without notifying his friends of his intentions, and later they heard he was in Pittsburg, but he had not communicated directly with his parents. He was nineteen years of age.

The Evening Star, June 26, 1902, p. 16

Death Was Accidental

Coroner Nevitt So Certifies in Case of Percy Ball

Capt. Boardman notified the Maryland authorities yesterday afternoon of the death in this city of Percy Ball, the young man who was struck by a Baltimore and Ohio train near Germantown yesterday morning. As the affair was purely an accident the Maryland authorities will probably take no action.

Coroner Nevitt gave a certificate of accidental death and Undertaker Cain removed the body last night from the morgue to the home of the parents of the deceased, No. 203 9th street southeast. Arrangements have been made for the funeral to take place at 1 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. The interment will be at Congressional cemetery.