Ernest Vincent Barnes

(- 17 Aug 1915)

Barnes. Suddenly on Tuesday, Augut 17, 1915, Ernest V., the beloved son of Margaret and the late William H. Barnes, in the 29th year of his age. Funeral will take place from his late residence, 509 E street n.e. on Saturday, August 21 at 10 o'clock a.m. Relatives and friends invited. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, August 18, 1915, p. 16

Leaps From Steamer, Ending Life in River

Ernest V. Barnes Drowned After Jumping From the Charles Macalester

Ernest Vincent Barnes, twenty-four years old, committed suicide yesterday afternoon by jumping overboard from the steamer Charles Macaseter when the boat was off Jones light, just below Alexandria, but it was not until the boat had reached a point near Fort Washington, it is stated, that Capt. Windsor was advised of the occurrence. It was too late to return in time to rescue the young man, and the boat proceeded to Mount Vernon and Marshall Hall.

Barnes resided with his widowed mother, Mrs. Margaret A. Barnes, at 509 E street northeast, and was in the employ of Adams Express Company. Friends were unable to assign any reason for his act.

Companion Tells Police

Arthur Leannards, 419 6th street southwest, was Barnes' companion on the river trip yesterday, and he returned to the city from Mount Vernon on an electric car to tell the police of the affair in time for them to drag the river for the body yesterday.

The young men had holiday yesterday. They were about the city during the day, and in the afternoon they boarded the steamer to enjoy a ride as far as Marshall Hall. They were seated on the hurricane deck, and when the boat was opposite Jones light, Leannarda told the police, his companion remarked: "I'm going to jump overboard."

Leannarda thought Barnes was joking, but when the latter started toward the rail he followed and took hold of him. He was unable to prevent him from making the leap, however, and his friend's body quickly disappeared beneath the surface of the water. There were several women on the deck when Barnes leaped over the rail, the police were informed, but none of them witnessed the tragedy.

Too Late for Boat to Turn Back

Instead of rushing to the pilot house and shouting,, "Man overboard," it is stated, Leannarda went to the lower deck in search of the purser to tell him of the affair. The boat had gone such a great distance after the passenger leaped overboard, however, that a return was useless.

Lieut. Dean of the harbor precinct sent members of his force to the scene of the drowning, and the river was dragged until dark, but without finding any trace of the body. Search for the body was renewed this morning, Leannarda accompanying the police to point out the exact location where his companion went down.

The Evening Star, August 20, 1915, p. 18

Ernest V. Barnes' Body Found

James Herbert, a boatman, yesterday afternoon found the body of Ernest Vincent Barnes, 509 E street northeast, who jumped overboard from the steamer Charles Macalester Tuesday afternoon. The body was floating in the river near Fort Foote, not far from where the young man jumped overboard. It was brought here from Alexandria by the harbor police and turned over to an undertaker. Funeral services will be held at his late home tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.