

## Agnes P. Brissey

( - 22 Feb 1880)

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*The Evening Star, August 8, 1870*

### **Sad Case of Drowning**

The Navy Yard Bridge being out of repair, and still not closed to travel, a most melancholy example of "from life to death" occurred there yesterday morning about 11 o'clock. Mr. Harvey Hazard, well known as in charge of the Ellis music store, was crossing the bridge on his way to the camp meeting at Tolson's woods, in a one-horse carriage, containing his sister, Miss Annie J. Hazard, and his two aunts, Mrs. A.P. Brissey and Miss Annie E. Bibb, the two former being on the front seat and the two latter in the rear. Mrs. Brissey, who, was about fifty-five years of age, was on her way down for the purpose of listening to a sermon from some minister who was a near relative. The team had just reached within about ten yards of the draw, when the horse became suddenly frightened, at something on the open side of the bridge, and in attempting to turn around, broke a section of the railing on the upper side and backed the team over into the stream where there is about thirty feet of water. Before going over, Mr. Hazard jumped out to catch the horse by the head, but was powerless to stop him, and at the same time Miss Hazard was seized just in time by a colored man who was passing, and by him lifted out of the carriage. The horse and vehicle then went over in an instant with Mrs. Brissey and Miss Bibb. Miss Bibb, strange to say, did not sink, but floated with uplifted arms about thirty yards down the stream where she was rescued by Messrs. Sam Hineline and Tobias Hutchinson. Mrs. Brissey, however, went down with the carriage which, about twenty minutes after was hooked up, and she was found to be wedged in between the dash-board and the horse, who (from appearances) in his struggles had kicked her severely on the head. She was immediately placed in a frame building nearby, and although all the appliances in such cases were tried for over two hours by Doctors Coombs and Christy, she was found to be beyond all hope. Coroner Potter was there, but deemed action on his part unnecessary. The body of the unfortunate lady, who resided on 7th, between H and I streets north, was carried to the residence of Mr. Mundle, near the Navy Yard gate. Her funeral will take place from the Christian Church, on M street, between 9th and 10th, at 4 1/2 o'clock this afternoon, and the remains will be taken to the Congressional Cemetery for interment.

### *The Inquest*

Dr. S.J. Todd, as deputy coroner, held an inquest on the body at the residence of Mrs. Mundell this afternoon--Mr. F. Stramberger being foreman of the jury.

Dr. Coombs testified that Dr. Christy, of Uniontown, was at work trying to resuscitate her and to their subsequent but unsuccessful efforts to bring her to life.

Mr. H. Hazzard, Jr., who was driving the horse when the accident occurred, testified to the circumstances of the accident and to one-half of the bridge having been torn away.

Mr. C.W. Kibbey testified that he was in a boat under the bridge when the accident happened; picked up the lady who was floating and carried her to shore; also testified to the raising of the horse and carriage with grappling irons.

Mr. Simmons corroborated the testimony of the preceding witness, as did Mr. Smith.

Horace Harline testified that he was one of the parties who put off with on a raft at the time to rescue the party and to aid in raising the carriage.

J.W. Hawkins testified to being on the bridge when the young lady sprang out of the carriage, and grabbed her as she was falling.

P. Hutton corroborated the testimony of preceding witnesses, and to Langley's diving after the carriage.

A.T. Langley testified that he was sitting on the bridge at the time and heard a lady scream, ran back and dived twice after the deceased.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental drowning.