

Margaret A. Collins

(- 17 Mar 1913)

Collins. Suddenly on Monday, March 17, 1913, Margaret A. Collins, beloved wife of C. Fenton Collins of 627 North Carolina avenue southeast. Funeral services at the residence Thursday, March 20 at 11 a.m. Interment at Congressional cemetery.

The Evening Star, March 18, 1913, p. 2

Death Accidental, Coroner's Verdict

Jury Holds Hitting of Mrs. Margaret C. Collins by Auto Unavoidable

Life of Woman Gone on Reaching Hospital

Seven Witnesses Testify, Giving Versions of Just How the Accident Happened

A verdict of accidental death was returned by a coroner's jury today in the case of Mrs. Margaret C. Collins, wife of C. Fenton Collins, druggist at 1201 New Jersey avenue northwest, who was almost instantly killed last night by being knocked down by an automobile after having alighted from a street car at 7th street and Rhode Island avenue northwest shortly before 7:30 o'clock. The jury was of the opinion the accident was unavoidable.

Seven witnesses were examined by Coroner Nevitt.

Dr. C.P. King of Garfield Hospital was first called. He stated that Mrs. Collins was practically dead when brought to the hospital, no pulse action being detected.

Dr. White, deputy coroner, who performed the autopsy, stated that he found the body was bruised and that the skull was fractured on the left side. Death was due to hemorrhage of the brain.

Gives Version of the Accident

Alfred H. Fink, who was in the auto when the accident occurred, testified that when he first saw Mrs. Collins it was after Mr. Forden had called out, and the car was then upon her and she went under it. The proper signals were blown, he said, as the car crossed 7th street. After striking the woman the car went ten or eleven feet before stopping.

The car was going about eight or ten miles an hour, he said.

J.L. Farden, a medical student, who was also in the car with Williams and Fink, stated that the first he saw of Mrs. Collins she was rushing across the street and, was almost upon the car. He called out, but as he did so the car struck her and she fell. The car did not go over her.

He jumped from the car, went to the woman and assisted in picking her up and carried her to the hospital. Mrs. Collins did not seem to see the automobile as she came from behind a crowd standing on the corner of 7th street and Rhode Island avenue he said.

Witness thought the car was going about ten miles an hour when the woman was struck.

Saw Mrs. Collins Struck

John E. Chrisman, 610 L street southwest, passed across the street just ahead of the machine and as he stepped on the curb the accident occurred. He saw Mrs. Collins dragged about six feet after being struck, and the car ran about fifteen feet before King stopped, he added.

James McCann, 168 Bryan street, saw the machine strike Mrs. Collins, and he says she fell, striking the back of her head on the paving.

T.B. Harris, colored, 242 M street northwest said he saw the car strike the woman and that it only went five or six feet after she was struck.

In Charge of Automobile

Arthur L. Williams, twenty-one years old residing at 1642 6th street northwest, partner of J.S. Berryman in the automobile and motorcycle business at 912 9th street, was operating the racer when the accident happened. Seated in the car with him were Alvin H Fink, a sheep raiser from Texas, who is visiting at 1528 8th street northwest and Joseph L. Farden, 1017 9th street northwest.

Mrs. Collins left her home at 627 North Carolina avenue southeast, last night to attend a millinery class at the McKinley School building. She was a trifle late, it is stated, and when she left a northbound car at 7th and R streets she turned south and started running in the direction of the school building, having in her hand the frame of a partly trimmed hat.

The automobile crossed 7th street from the west. Williams and his friends declaring it was going at a speed of not more than eight miles an hour, and when Williams saw Mrs. Collins, he later stated he thought there was no danger of his car striking her.

It is thought a fracture of the base of the skull resulted from her head striking the pavement. Williams brought his car to a stop as quickly as possible and had his companions lift Mrs. Collins into the vehicle. A hurried run to Garfield Hospital was made, Williams thinking prompt treatment might save her life, but she died about the time the hospital was reached.

Williams Under Arrest

Dr. C.P. King examined the body and pronounced life extinct. The body was placed in the hospital morgue, where it was today viewed by the jury of inquest. Coroner Nevitt reached the hospital soon after the accident happened, and found a fracture at the base of the skull. There was no mutilation of the body and identification was not difficult.

Mrs. Collins' name was in the hat frame she dropped and was the means of identifying her. Mr. Collins visited the hospital as soon as he learned of the accident.

Realizing the police would have to take action against him, Williams remained at the hospital until Policeman J.J. Geier of the eighth precinct came and placed him under arrest, in order to hold him until Coroner Nevitt concluded his investigation. Bond was not accepted last night, and Williams was detained until he was taken to the inquest today.