

William H. Ferguson (- 24 May 1910)

Ferguson. Suddenly on Saturday, May 21, 1910, William H. Ferguson, beloved husband of Sarah Ferguson, aged 54 years. Funeral from the residence of Mrs. F.M. Seaman, 817 8th street northeast, Wednesday, May 25, 2:30 p.m.

The Evening Star, May 22, 1910, p. 2

His Father Killed

Chauffeur Takes Parent on Death Ride

In His Employer's Auto

Dr. Jesse Ramsburgh, Owner of Machine, Consented to Ride

Sympathizes With Driver

Young Man Is Dazed by Smash-Up. Two Others in Car Uninjured

William Ferguson, sixty-four years of age and residing at 2012 Portner place northwest, was instantly killed, shortly after 11 o'clock last night, in an automobile accident at the intersection of New York and Florida avenues.

Osmun Ferguson, his son, who was driving the car; Harry Kopp of 1017 7th street northwest, and his son, LeRoy Kopp, fourteen years of age, who were in the car, narrowly escaped a similar fate.

The body of the elder Ferguson was taken to the morgue after the coroner had viewed it. His son went to Casualty Hospital in the ninth precinct patrol wagon. He was suffering from extreme nervousness and needed medical attention.

Mr. Kopp and his son suffered no hurt. They proceeded to their home.

Permission Given by Owner

Early in the evening Dr. Jesse Ramsburgh, who owned the car, was told by young Ferguson, who has acted as his chauffeur for nearly a year, that he had a prospective buyer for the auto. As the physician desired to dispose of the machine, he authorized the young man to take the prospective purchaser for a drive.

Ferguson told the physician he would also take his father. Ready consent was given to the arrangement.

Later Ferguson and his father called at the Kopp home in 7th street. In a few moments the quartet started out for the trial spin.

They rode about the principal thoroughfares of the northeast section of the city until shortly after 11 o'clock, when they drove the car down Florida avenue. They were on the west side of the avenue. Young Ferguson, who was at the wheel, started to make a turn into New York avenue.

Here the dense foliage of the trees casts a shadow on the sidewalk. It is believed that the chauffeur misjudged just where the curbing was located. He was sending the machine along at high speed, according to those who witnessed the accident. In a moment there was a crash as the big auto jumped the curbing and jammed into a tree.

Top Is Smashed In

Some who viewed the smash declared that the car skidded about 100 feet. As soon as it hit the tree the top was smashed in. The elder Ferguson was killed almost instantly.

The police of the second and ninth precinct stations were notified at once. Both patrol wagons went to the scene. The accident, however, had occurred in the territory of No. 9 precinct station.

Young Ferguson was in a dazed condition. He was taken to the hospital for treatment in the precinct wagon.

The body of his father was covered with a cloth, awaiting the arrival of the coroner before it was taken to the morgue.

The skull of the dead man was badly crushed by the top of the automobile as it was torn from its place.

Minnie Lewis, colored, who resides at 115 Florida avenue northwest, was sitting in front of her home when the accident occurred. Later she declared that the machine was going at a high rate of speed.

She said that it was going "very fast," while others said at last thirty-five miles an hour.

The other occupants of the car escaped injury. Mr. Kopp was riding in the rear seat with the elder Ferguson when they suddenly crashed into the tree, but escaped practically without a scratch.

Account Given by Harry Kopp

Harry Kopp gave a very clear account of the accident when seen last night.

"I was sitting in the rear seat with old Mr. Ferguson, and my son LeRoy was on the front seat with young Mr. Ferguson," he said. "We had been riding around the city for some time, and turned into Florida avenue from 13th street northeast.

When we reached New York avenue the machine was turned around the corner. The next thing I knew I was struck on the head.

"None of us were thrown out of the machine. I was only stunned for a short time

"Of course, I do not know how fast we were going, but I don't believe the speed was great."

Dr. Ramsburgh Gave Consent

When Dr. Jesse Ramsburgh was seen last night he said he felt deeply for young Ferguson, who has been in his employ since last August.

"I have every confidence in him" he said. "He is one of the best men I have ever had for a chauffeur. He is conscientious and never drinks.

"I am especially sorry for him in the sad accident to his father."

Dr. Ramsburg said he gave the young man permission to show the car to Harry Kopp, a prospective purchaser, last night, and that young Ferguson told him he was going to take his father along for the ride. The physician readily assented, and thought nothing further of the matter until he was informed that his car was badly smashed in an accident.

Dr. Ramsburg said the car was a seven-seated touring twenty-five-hundred-dollar Wayne car, and that, from the information at hand, the rear wheel was smashed, as was the side and top.

Young Ferguson is about twenty-five years of age, his employer said, and has demonstrated his especial fitness for the position since the date of his employment.

The Evening Star, May 23, 1910, p. 18

Last Rites For The Dead

Funeral of William H. Ferguson Wednesday Afternoon

Arrangements have been made for the funeral of William H. Ferguson, who was killed Saturday night as a result of an automobile accident at New York and Florida avenues, to take place from the home of his daughter, Mrs. E.M. Seaman, 817 8th street northeast, Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Osmun Ferguson, son of the deceased, who was operating the automobile at the time it ran

into the tree and resulted in the fatality, has left the hospital. He is still suffering from nervous shock. He says he does not know at just what speed the automobile was running.

Coroner Nevitt gave permission for the removal of the body to an undertaking establishment, and it was taken there instead of to the morgue.

An examination of the body by the coroner disclosed a fracture of the skull, but no injury to the neck. The nose was broken, and the fracture was so severe that particles of the skull had been pushed against the brain.

A certificate of accidental death was given.