

HORNELLSVILLE IN MOURNING

Grief Over Wednesday's Tragedy Continues Intense— Coroners Inquest—Funeral Arrangements— Condition of Injured—Mr. Petty's Statement

Hornellsville is still a city of mourning, and the sorrow and gloom cast over the community by the dreadful tragedy of Wednesday evening, rather deepens than abates as the hours pass. The terrible accident and its dire results are still the principal topic of conversation and every detail concerning it and the victims is eagerly sought for.

The demand for the Tribune and Buffalo papers containing accounts of the calamity last evening was unprecedented. The Tribune press was kept running until a late hour to supply the demand for extra papers and the sale continued until late in the evening, while calls for more papers coming in this morning necessitated the running off of several hundred more extras.

Universal sympathy is expressed for those so sorely afflicted by the tragedy and everyone is ready and anxious to assist in assuaging the grief of those nearest to the victims.

Unauthentic reports set afloat yesterday concerning the condition of some of the victims who still survive caused added grief to many. Fortunately the reports of the death of Mrs. Rowley and Mrs. Clark proved untrue, and their condition was as stated in last evening's Tribune. There has been no change for the worse in either of them today, and the condition of Mrs. Bond is also about the same as yesterday, with encouraging prospects.

Coroner's Inquest

The coroner's inquest into the accident, which was opened yesterday at the undertaking rooms of Charles H. Hartshorn, on Main street, continued during the entire afternoon, and a number of witnesses were examined, after which an adjournment was taken. The interest in the case is so great that the room was crowded during the entire session, and the testimony of each witness was listened to with the closest attention. District Attorney Burrell acted as examining attorney for the coroner and L. A. Benton officiated as stenographer.

The first witness called was Engineer W. J. Johnson, of the Shawmut train which struck the sleighride party. Mr. Johnson testified that he was running about his customary speed, from 25 to 30 miles an hour. He had sounded two long and two short blasts of the whistle on approaching the crossing, and the fireman was ringing the bell at the same time.

The conductor and brakeman were called to the stand. They knew nothing of the disaster until after the train came to a stop, as they had all been busy and had paid no attention to the whistle or bell and could not tell whether or not either had sounded.

H. H. Myers, the driver of the first sleigh, was then called. He gave some testimony regarding the Stephens crossing, during which time he was somewhat confused by the jurors' questions. He further testified that he saw the headlight of the approaching train and drove away, crossing the Erie tracks before the train came along[.] [H]e was somewhat uncertain as to the distance the second team was behind him, as he claimed

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that his horses were dancing, and so frightened that it took all of his attention to control them.

A. Smith of Bolivar, fireman of the engine which struck the sleigh was the next witness. He corroborated the testimony of Engineer Johnson regarding the speed of the train and the sounding of crossing signals as the engine approached the Stephens crossing.

The next witness was the Rev. Charles Petty, who was in the first sleigh. He related the incidents preceding the accident and told a very clear story of the occurrence. He said that both he and Mr. Myers thought the headlight they saw was that of a switch engine and neither knew that it was a passenger train approaching until they were on the Erie tracks. He had heard the ladies in the first sleigh call to those behind not to try to cross the track ahead of the train. Mr. Petty did not see the actual striking of the sleigh partly because he was in the front seat with the driver and because he knew some of the ladies were standing up behind him. If the whistle or bell sounded he had no recollection of it, although not positive whether it did or not. He remembered hearing the puffing of the engine but did not remember in regard to the whistle or the bell.

Mr. Petty was much clearer on the distance one could see than those before him. He stated that he could see the lights down town, and saw the headlight clearly. He was not excited until after the accident, for no such thought had entered his mind.

The physicians were called to assist in caring for the injured also testified as to the injuries of those whom they attended. Their testimony was to the effect that death had been caused by broken bones, shock or internal injuries.

At the conclusion of the testimony of the physicians the inquest was adjourned until Tuesday morning, February 7, at 10 o'clock. This session will be held in the city hall.

The adjournment was taken until this time owing to the physical condition of the ladies who were in the first sleigh, and whose testimony is needed to complete the evidence. Most of them are suffering severely from the nervous shock resulting from the awful experience of Wednesday night, and are at present in no condition to appear before the coroner's jury. They will be the principal witnesses on Tuesday.

Funeral Arrangements

The bodies were all removed to the homes of the deceased yesterday and preparations are being made for the funerals. The idea of a general public funeral was abandoned and arrangements are being made for the separate funerals. Several of the bodies will be taken out of the city for interment.

The arrangements for the funerals, so far as competed are as follows:

The funeral of Mrs. Ophelia Thomas was held from the residence of William White, No. 5 Preston avenue, this afternoon at 2 o'clock, and was attended by a large concourse of sorrowing friends.

The funeral of Mrs. Fred Boughton will take place at her late residence, No. 11 Marshall avenue, Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. The remains will be taken on train No. 2 Monday morning to Binghamton, where the burial will take place.

Mrs. Jane Graves' funeral will be held from the residence of J. M. Harding, No. 5 Erie avenue, Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. The body will be taken to Howard for interment.

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The funeral of Mrs. Mary Gillette will be held from the residence of W. H. Greenhow, No. 58 Hill street, Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The funeral of Mrs. Elbert J. Moore will be held from the house, No. 30 Cedar street, Monday afternoon at 1 o'clock.

Saturday morning at 11 o'clock the funeral of Mrs. Fred Green will be held at the Southside Baptist Church. Interment in this city.

The funerals of Mrs. John Coats and Mrs. Eugene Shaw will be held from the Southside Baptist Church, Canisteo street, Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. The bodies will be taken to Friendship for burial, leaving on the 11:40 train.

Sunday at 1:30 p.m. the funerals for Mrs. Patchen and Mrs. Hallett will be held at the house, No. 18 Davenport street. Mrs. Hallett's remains will be laid away Sunday afternoon and Monday morning Mrs. Patchen's remains will be taken to Greenwood. Committal services by Rev. James Herrick of Whitesville, N.Y.

No Services of Universalist Church

There will be no services at the Universalist church on Sunday.

Statement from Mr. Petty

Editor Tribune:

Dear Sir:—Some statement regarding the terrible blow we have suffered in the accident of Wednesday evening is due to the public and will be forthcoming after the coroner has concluded his inquiry.

Now two things I wish to mention. We are very, very grateful to all the people for their sympathy and tender of help. We shall avail ourselves of their help when we can. Our services are family services now and later, when we can go into our own church home [under construction], we will have a memorial service for all.

The other matter is respecting the memorial window proposed by you in last night's Tribune. We wish to approve. But I think some misapprehension exists as to the remaining windows. There is no large group window left. There are, however, two good windows left on the east side of the auditorium proper, three in the gallery and four on the octagonal corner on Genesee street. The three gallery windows are suitable for a group. The other six are not large enough to allow of more than a single figure or emblem and the names.

One condition only is imposed, and that is that new windows must harmonize with what has been selected.

Sincerely,
CHAS. E. PETTY

Latest from Injured

Reports from the three injured ladies late this afternoon are very encouraging. All are doing as well as could be expected and present indications are that they will recover. This will be welcome news to their many anxious friends.

Elisha Quick, the driver of the ill fated sleigh, is still in a serious condition, but doctors say that unless some complications arise, he will recover.

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Shawmut Officials Here

General Passenger Agent C. J. Renwick, Engineer A. J. McComb and a party of Shawmut officials, surveyors and engineers met at the scene of the wreck today. Surveying instruments and cameras are being used under their direction in an effort to determine just where, if possible, the responsibility lies.

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Research by Penney Whitford of Canisteo, NY
Transcribed on 12 Feb 2008 by Karen Dau of Rochester, NY