

[Mattern, Henry F.]

MATTERN BOY FOUND
Body Far to South of Where Search Had Been Made
IT WAS BADLY BLOATED
And Decomposition Had Set in So That It Was Necessary to Bury Him Today

Henry F. Mattern, the 18 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mattern of No. 25 Academy street, one of the victims of the double drowning of the evening of July 6, was found floating on the placid waters of Owasco lake early last evening, just about 6:30 o'clock, by Captain Jimmy Ibbs of the motor boat Alamo II, while on his way to Wyckoff's with a party of passengers.

The Alamo II was speeding along about on a direct line with the pump house and Wyckoff's station and about 300 yards south of the Four Mile House, according to Captain Ibbs. In his boat were R. C. Talpay, J. F. Leonard and Mrs. Ibbs. The body was seen floating feet up. A rope was tied about the body and the craft turned about for the foot of the lake with the deceased Mattern in tow. A boat in which the father of the lad, Jack Toughey and John Cunningham, a chum of the deceased, were dragging, was notified of the find and near the pump house the body was turned over to the father and his crew and brought ashore at the pump house pier.

The body when found was lying face down with the left hand pressing against the stomach as though he had suffered with a cramp while enjoying his fatal swim. The body was badly bloated and in a state of decomposition.

Paul Mattern, the father, recognized and identified the body of his son and was almost prostrated by the shock. From the pump house pier the body was taken down the outlet to the boat house of John J. Leo near the junction of the old outlet and later taken to the Two Mile House dock and taken in charge by Undertaker Edward A. Heick and brought to the city.

The news of the finding of the body spread like wildfire about the foot of the lake. People at Ireland Park and the Lakeside Park resorts flocked en masse to the pump house pier. The crowd was morbidly curious and men and women ran out on the waterworks pier, jostling and crowding and oblivious of any danger of being crowded over into the outlet or on the rocks on the east side. Women dragging young children, old and young men were all in the crowd, anxious to get a peep at the body of the drowned youth. The crowd followed along down the outlet when the body was taken down to the Leo boat house and continued to flock along when the body was taken to the Two Mile house dock and was loaded into the undertaker's wagon.

When the first news of the finding of the body was flashed, the water commissioners were notified by employes [sic] as was Coroner Andrew J. Forman. Commissioners Conway and Henry were soon at the scene and Coroner Forman arrived after the body had been taken to the Leo boat

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house. He did not consider any extensive investigation necessary and pronounced death due to accidental drowning and the body was turned over to Undertaker Heick at once.

Paul Mattern, father of the youth, felt very badly when his son was brought to his view, bloated and almost unrecognizable. He calmed down later when the body was brought to the city. He had been a faithful searcher every day since he returned from New York where he was notified of the drowning of his son hardly 24 hours after he and his wife had started on a week's pleasure trip to the Metropolis and vicinity. During the past nine days he has been at work dragging the lake without having a very great amount of sleep. He has the sincere sympathy of the community in his bereavement.

When the body of Mattern had been taken to the city the activity in the search for L. Verner Patty, companion of Mattern, was resumed with a large addition to the regular flotilla of boats which have been dragging faithfully since the tragedy became known....

It is thought that the lads took their fatal swim near Buck's Point and when the body of Mattern came to the surface last evening it was blown above the point by the North wind which prevailed yesterday and last evening....

The funeral of Mattern was held at the undertaking rooms of Meagher & Heick at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. Burial was made in Fort Hill Cemetery. Rev. A. [Arnold] S. Yantis, pastor of the First Universalist, officiated.

The reward for the finding of the body of Mattern will not be paid until the regular meeting of the Water Board on July 30. In the meantime the commissioners will decide as to which parties are entitled to the \$50.

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Transcribed on 14 Jan 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY