

[Steigman, Willis]

ONE BOY KILLED AND ONE FATALLY HURT

Shocking Accident on the Pennsylvania Railroad Tracks at East Aurora.

EAST AURORA, Dec. 24.— Train 102 on the Pennsylvania railroad struck a rig at Blakeley's Crossing, two miles south of this village, at 8:10 this morning, killing one boy and probably fatally injuring another. Willis Stiegman¹, 18 years old, and William Schopper, 15, were driving to town. Coming down a steep hill to the crossing, which is a dangerous one, they met the train.

They evidently underestimated the speed of the train and before they could get over the crossing it struck their rig. The Stiegman boy was killed instantly. The Schopper boy was terribly hurt, the horse killed and the wagon demolished. The engineer of the passenger train could not have known that he struck anything, as the train did not stop.

The engineer of a local freight leaving here at 8:30 discovered the accident. The train was stopped, the Schopper boy picked up and brought to this village. Dr. Herbert N. Tanner found his injuries very serious, including a fractured skull. He was taken to the General Hospital, Buffalo, on an extra engine. Undertaker W. A. Gerber has taken charge of the Stiegman boy's remains.

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Buffalo Evening News, Buffalo NY, Wed. 24 Dec 1902

EAST AURORA

The funeral of Willis Steigman, killed in the railway accident at Blakeley's crossing Wednesday, was held yesterday from his late home near this village, Rev. John Sayes [Universalist] officiating. William Schopper, the other victim, died in the Buffalo General Hospital. The funeral will be held tomorrow.

Buffalo Evening News, Buffalo NY, Sat. 27 Dec 1902

¹ Transcriber's note: There are two spellings of his name in these articles. I have been unable to find out which one is correct.

[Steigman, Willis]

"WHOA! WHOA! YOU CAN'T MAKE IT"

VICTIM OF RAILROAD IN HIS RAVINGS DISCLOSES NATURE OF ACCIDENT.

(By Special Wire to The Courier)

East Aurora, Dec. 28.—The funeral of William Schopper, the second victim of the Pennsylvania crossing accident, Wednesday, was held this afternoon from his late home near this village. Rev. George D. Knight [Baptist] preached the funeral sermon and there was a large attendance. The interment was in Oakwood Cemetery and the remains were laid beside those of Willis Steigman, the other victim, whose funeral was held Friday.

Late developments seem to make it certain that the boys saw the train coming but tried to make the crossing. Young Schopper lived about forty hours after being taken to the General Hospital, but he did not regain consciousness. It is said that his constant raving was "Whoa! Whoa! You can't make it. Don't try."

The Steigman boy was driving, which explains the remarks. The Steigman and Schopper families live on adjoining farms, and the boys often rode together.

This was the worst railroad accident that has occurred in this vicinity for several years...

Buffalo Evening News, Buffalo NY, Mon. 29 Dec 1902

Transcribed on 26 Jan 2024 by Karen E. Dau of East Rochester, NY