

[Wires, Roy D.]

MISTAKEN FOR DEER AND KILLED

Roy D. Wires of Herkimer Shot by Friend Who Made a Sad Error Near North Lake
Yesterday Afternoon—Effort Made to Get Victim to Village of Forestport

EXPIRED IN WAGON

Victim of Shooting Exonerated Young Man Who Mistook Him For Deer From All Blame—
Walked Mile After Being Shot—Deceased Was Popular and Highly Esteemed.

(Special to the HERALD-DISPATCH.)

Forestport, Oct. 18.—Roy D. Wires of Herkimer died while being brought to this village, about 9 o'clock last evening as the result of a wound received from a rifle in the hands of Alfred Winston, also of Herkimer, who mistook him for a deer in the woods near North Lake, about 5:30 yesterday afternoon. The victim had received attention from a doctor at the State House at the lake named and had been given every care that was possible on the way here, but without avail, as the wound, which was in the abdomen, was of a nature that left no hope for permanent relief.

Mr. Wires had remained conscious during the greater part of the time after the accident occurred until death relieved him of his sufferings, and he assured the young man who fired the fatal shot that he realized fully that the affair was an accident. He displayed remarkable nerve for one in his condition when he received the wound.

Went Hunting Together

Mr. Wires and Mr. Winston were friends and had gone into the woods together on a hunting expedition. They left Herkimer Saturday for the camp of Attorney E. B. Mitchell, father-in-law of Mr. Wires, located on North Lake. Mr. Winston, who was formerly a resident of Sidney, and who had lived in Herkimer for about three years, had hunted in the woods for about five seasons, but this was his first trip with Mr. Wires. They left the camp yesterday afternoon and were "still hunting" when the fatal shooting occurred. For a goodly portion of the time the young men were within sight of each other and when they were not they kept up a series of whistling signals, both as a means of safety and to let each know of the other's progress.

Only about two minutes before the shooting occurred, Mr. Winston heard his companion whistle, but he made a mistake in the direction from which the sound came, for it seemed to him that Mr. Wires was still at his left, where he had last seen him. Mr. Winston was following the trail of a deer when suddenly, some distance ahead of him on the trail he saw what appeared to be the animal. The hunter believed that the deer that he supposed he was viewing was going from him or approaching him, the distance being so great that he could not easily distinguish details.

[Wires, Roy D.]

Shot His Friend

Mr. Winston fired and was horrified, as soon as he had done so, to hear Mr. Wires yell and to learn that shot his friend and had made another of the mistakes that mar the hunting season in the Adirondacks. He ran to the spot and was told by Mr. Wires, who at that time did not seem mortally wounded, that he had been shot in the abdomen. The young man who had fired the shot at once assisted the victim from the place. Mr. Wires was able to walk by leaning on the arm of his companion, the distance of a mile to the lake.

There they found Game Protector McDermott, who rowed them the distance of two or three miles to the State House. Dr. Price Lewis of Holland Patent was stopping at Pride's camp nearby and he was summoned and gave the injured man what aid was possible under the circumstances.

Then a wagon was procured, the patient placed in it on an improvised cot and the drive to this place was commenced. North Lake is about 16 miles from Forestport. When the party reached Reed's Camp, having covered eight miles of the journey, a stop was made for some water and Mr. Wires was given further attention by Dr. Price. It was noticed that he was weaker, but it was still believed that he would survive the trip, the intention being to catch the train at Forestport that arrives in Utica at (3:40 a.m.?). But he did not have sufficient vitality left and some time after the journey had been resumed from Reed's camp it was found that the unfortunate young man had passed away. It is believed that his death occurred about 9 o'clock.

When Forestport was reached it was too late to secure a permit for the removal of the body. The body was placed in charge of Undertaker Youmans and Coroner Douglass of Little Falls was notified. The Coroner, accompanied by District Attorney F. A. Schmidt of Herkimer County, started north on the first train out of Utica, and this morning made a preliminary examination in the case. Undertaker W. B. Howell of Herkimer, Leland C. Wires of Herkimer, a brother of the deceased, and Charles B. Morris, an uncle, came here today for the remains. The body was taken to Alder Creek, four miles from here, and was forwarded from there. The date fro the inquest has not been set.

Mr. Winston returned to the Mitchell camp for the hunting outfit that the young men had brought with them from Herkimer. His grief over the outcome of their trip can be imagined and sympathy extended to him, as it is to the survivors of the victim of the accident.

Mr. Wires wore, when he was shot, a shirt such as lumbermen are accustomed to don, but it was of dark material and the color, of course, could not be seen from the distance from which Mr. Winston fired when the victim's movement on the trail attracted attention to him.

[Wires, Roy D.]

GRIEF IN HERKIMER

Young Man Was Popular and Highly Esteemed in Village

(Special to the HERALD-DISPATCH.)

Herkimer, Oct. 18.—Roy D. Wires, who was mistaken for a deer and killed by Alfred Winston, was only 26 years old, and was one of the most popular young men in the village of Herkimer. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. B. C. [Bloomfield Calvin and Ida Morris] Wires and had been a lifelong resident. He was a graduate of the Herkimer public schools and for a time attended Syracuse University. He had much musical ability, and was an excellent clarinet player, being one of the efficient members of the Herkimer Fort Dayton Band. Three years ago he was united in marriage to Emily Mitchell, daughter of Attorney E. Mitchell of Herkimer, and she survives with one child. Mr. Wires was engaged in the insurance business with his father-in-law. He was a member of the Masonic Club, of Upsilon Chapter of the Theta Phi fraternity and of the Universalist Church. He was a favorite with all who knew him. Besides his parents, his wife and child he leaves one brother, Leland C. Wires, and two sisters, Lillian and Persis Wires, all of Herkimer. B. C. Wires, the young man's father, has been at Indian River, where a club of which he is a member has a camp, and it was impossible to reach him last night by telephone to notify him of the fatality. The location is in the northern part of the town of Wilmurt, near the Herkimer County line. Former sheriff John M. Richards, who was reached by phone to-day, started from Truman Haskell's camp to notify Mr. Wires of the death of his son and to bring him from Indian River.

Out of respect to the memory of the deceased, the whist party to have been held at the Masonic rooms Thursday night has been postponed.

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