

[Wood, George H.]

Oneonta Jeweler Drowns Swimming in Susquehanna River
G.H. WOOD IS CAUGHT IN CURRENT
Wife Is Helpless To Avert Tragedy

Oneonta—George H. Wood, 69-year-old jeweler and watchmaker here, drowned late Saturday afternoon in the Susquehanna River in front of his Stillwater camp.

His wife, sitting on the porch, was unable to help her husband. Her call for aid to the Oneonta Fire Department was too late.

State Police at the Oneonta substation said that Mr. Wood was working on the dock in front of his camp, shortly before 6 p.m., when he decided to go for a swim.

CALLS FOR HELP

Caught in the swift current, he called to his wife for help.

Before city firemen reached the camp on the south side of the river opposite Emmons, Mr. Wood had gone down. State police were called. They reported that Mr. Wood drowned in about 15 feet of water about 15 feet from his dock.

The swift current carried Mr. Wood's body downstream. After more than two hours of grappling and dragging by police and firemen, the body was recovered about 300 feet downstream, police said.

DIRECTS SEARCH

Lt. J.W. Wheeler of Deposit, zone commander of state police, directed the search for the body.

State police were aided by New York State Electric & Gas Corp. officials. They said that water flowing over the dam at Colliersville was cut off to allow the river to recede while police and firemen dragged.

Dr. A.F. Carson served as coroner in the absence of Dr. Norman W. Getman. He issued a verdict of accidental death by drowning.

Funeral services for Mr. Wood will be conducted at 11 a.m. tomorrow at Bookhout Funeral Home by the Rev. James Alcock, pastor of Chapin Memorial Universalist Church.

Masonic rites will be conducted by members of the Oneonta Lodge. Burial will be tomorrow afternoon at Athens.

A native of Walden, Mr. Wood had lived in Oneonta 31 years. Survivors are his widow and two cousins.

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