

The Drowning of Harold and Albert Turner 1912

In 1912 Louis and Laura Turner were living with 5 year old Harold and 2 year old Albert at 59 Waverley Street, about one block from the Rideau Canal. On November 30th the boys strayed from home, fell through the ice and drowned. Albert's body was recovered that afternoon. What a devastating tragedy! Details of the story are shown here in news reports from the Citizen. It was front page news for a week while the search continued for young Harold's body. In the meantime Albert's funeral was

held. Extensive recovery efforts continued. The water level in the Canal was lowered and the ice broken up, but the body was not located. As time slipped by, rumours were that Harold had not drowned but had been kidnapped. These were put to rest the following April, when the body was discovered about two blocks from the site of the drowning. Harold's funeral was held on April 11, 2013. Both are buried in Notre Dame Cemetery.

CHILDREN DROWN IN RIDEAU CANAL

Two Little Sons of Mr. and
Mrs. L. J. Turner, 59 Wa-
verley St. Perished.

A sad drowning accident occurred on Saturday afternoon about 3 o'clock, when Harold, aged 5 years, and Albert, aged 3 years, only sons of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis G. Turner, 59 Waverley street, were drowned in the Rideau canal at the foot of Waverley street, by falling through the ice.

The little tots went out to play about 1 o'clock in the afternoon, and Mrs. Turner, who was engaged with her house work, did not pay much attention to their whereabouts thinking that they were playing with some of their companions as usual.

They did not return and about four o'clock, she became uneasy and making a thorough search, first of the street, and not finding them there, went to the canal, believing that they had gone in that direction.

She was horrified to find a hole in the ice, but no other evidence that they had fallen through. She notified her husband, who is an employe of the G. T. R., but was in the house at the time, and immediately a search was made for the missing children.

With the aid of the police and several neighbors, by means of grappling hooks the body of the youngest boy, Albert was recovered from the icy cold water. Artificial means of restoration

was resorted, to, but all efforts to revive the child failed, and one of the neighbors wrapping a blanket around the lifeless little body, carried it to the home of the parents, where the poor mother was almost insane with grief. Although the father, neighbors and divers worked all day Sunday, the other body had not been recovered up till a late hour last night.

The body of little Albert had evidently been in the water over an hour.

Coroner Baple was called and investigating the circumstances, decided that an inquest was unnecessary. As nobody appeared to have seen the accident, it is not known exactly how it happened, and perhaps never will be known. From the meager details which the parents could glean, it is thought that the two little chaps went down to the canal to wait for their father who they thought was working at the G. T. R., and going on a landing place, the youngest boy fell off the edge of the wharf into the water and the eldest brother, in trying to pull him out, fell in himself.

As the two boys were the only children of Mr. and Mrs. Turner, they are both prostrated with grief, and to them is extended the sincere sympathy of a large number of friends.

DIYER'S NARROW ESCAPE.

What might have resulted in a triple drowning was prevented by some quick action of the men who were assisting diver Ben. A. Rouleau, who was making a rough search for the missing body. A few minutes after he had gone down, his helmet began to leak and water rushed in upon the diver at such a rate that, if he had not been hoisted to the surface with great speed, he would have been drowned. Luckily, he was pulled up before any thing serious resulted.

Ottawa Citizen 2 Dec 1912, page 3

Body Not Yet Found.

All efforts to locate the body of little Harold Turner, the 5 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Turner, 59 Waverley street, who was drowned in the Rideau canal, at the foot of Waverley street, on Saturday afternoon, have failed, although divers have been working all morning and the government steamer Loretta made a trip up the canal this morning and broke the ice to enable the divers to work with greater facility.

(See also page 3)

2 Dec 1912 page 1

Not Found Yet.

Notwithstanding the diligent search which is being made for the body of little Harold Turner, the 5 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Turner, 59 Waverley street, who was drowned on Saturday last, it has not been found. The water is now being let out of the canal and it is expected that the body will be located as soon as the water is drawn off.

4 Dec 1912 page 1

Not Yet Located.

The whereabouts of the body of little Harold Turner, the five year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Turner, 59 Waverley street, who was drowned in the Rideau canal at the "Deep Cut" on Saturday afternoon, still remains unknown, although every possible effort is being made to locate it.

The water is being rapidly drawn off the canal today and there only remains about two feet in the bottom. A gang of men from W. C. Edwards & Co. are plying about the canal in flat bottom punts breaking the ice and dredging the bottom. The nets also which are strung across at different places were inspected but without result.

6 Dec 1912 page 1

Funeral Today.

As it is one week since little Harold Turner was drowned and as his body has not been found, the parents have decided to hold the funeral of little Albert, the younger child of 3 years, whose body was found by his father shortly after the accident, at 2 o'clock this afternoon to Beechwood cemetery from 59 Waverley street. Mr. and Mrs. Turner have the heartfelt sympathy of a host of friends in their very sad bereavement.

7 dec 1912 page 1

Funeral of Little Victim.

The funeral of little Albert Turner, the 3 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Turner 59 Waverley street, who was drowned in the Rideau canal on Saturday, Nov 30th, took place from the residence of the parents on Saturday afternoon last at 2 o'clock to St. Joseph's church and thence to Notre Dame cemetery where interment was made.

The body of little Harold, aged 5 years, who was drowned at the same time has not yet been recovered, although every possible effort has been made to locate the body.

9 Dec 1912 page 1

TURNER CHILD DROWNED

Body of Boy Lost in November Last, Recovered.

The body of Harold Turner, the five year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis G. Turner, of 59 Waverley street, who, with his three year old brother, Albert, was drowned while playing on the ice on the Rideau canal at the foot of Waverley street on Saturday, November 30th, 1912, was found floating in the water of the canal at the foot of Gilmour street last evening.

This discovery puts an end to the rumors that were so current a short time ago that the boy did not perish with his brother, but had been kidnapped and taken away to the country. Albert's body was found at the bottom of the canal a few hours after the fatality happened.

It was William Dickson and Thomas Hall of Robert street who found the body in the water last evening as they were walking along the banks of the canal. They at once notified the police and Detective Ryan had the body removed to Mackenzie Bros.' undertaking parlors where though it was badly decomposed it was identified as that of Harold Turner by a relative.

10 April 1913 page 3

Late Harold Turner.

Followed by a large number of friends and relatives, the funeral of little Harold Turner, the five-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Turner, 59 Waverley street, who was drowned in the Rideau canal at the Deep Cut on November 30, and whose body was recovered on Wednesday night, took place from his parents' home to St. Joseph's church, Laurier avenue, this afternoon at 1.30. Interment with the other brother, Albert, who was drowned at the same time but whose body was recovered shortly afterward, was made in Notre Dame cemetery.

Floral and spiritual offerings received from friends were: Wreaths, by

W. Dent and family, playmates, B. of L. F. and E., sprays, Mary and George Larose, Mr. Young, Dr. Young and the Misses Young, Mr. and Mrs. Service, Mrs. Margaret Prindville, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cromwell Cox, Laurie Armstrong, Mrs. J. Neville, Mr. and Mrs. Codd, Mr. and Mrs. O. Charette, Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Hand, Mrs. R. J. Dunn and son, Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Corbett, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Simpson, Mrs. Hickey and family, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Dale, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Neville, Mr. W. Capell, Mr. and Mrs. C. Neville, Miss Marjorie Stewart, Frank, Dorothy and Harry Heath, Mr. R. J. Calout, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Ogilvie, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Skelly, Lola and Willie Asher, Mr. and Mrs. Michael O'Connell.

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