

Coroner's Jury Blames Rock Island

Holds Road Blameworthy for Death of Mrs. John Gilbert, Killed by Switching Train on Main St., Wednesday--Others Have Narrow Escape. 10-4-1907

A shocking accident occurred Wednesday afternoon about half past four when Mrs. John Gilbert of 322 West St. was run over by a freight train switching at the Main St. crossing of the Rock Island tracks, and killed. The terrible accident happened as she was attempting to drive across and the wagon and contents together with her mangled body were so inextricably confused that it was necessary to raise the car with jack screws before the remains could be removed. The skull was fractured, the left leg crushed and the right almost severed below the knee.

In the buggy with her at the time was her daughter, Mrs. Los Crews and her little daughter, Grace Crews, of near Lynnville. They were thrown out and somewhat bruised but not seriously injured. The women were going south on their way home after doing some shopping when they were struck by the regular switch train in charge of Conductor Tod Waltham, which was backing west of the switch track to clear the track for the local coming from the west. The Rock Island officials state that the car which struck the buggy was not unattached.

Coroner E. F. Talbot impanelled a jury yesterday morning consisting

of W. J. Rapson, D. S. Morrison and N. Jenkins, W. H. Ditzler, Grace Crews, W. T. Lebus, Mrs. Minnie Crews, Dr. S. C. Buck, O. D. Harris, E. A. Forman, Sam Osborne and March Green were examined as witnesses. The jury then returned the following verdict.

"We do find that said decedent came to her death by being struck by a Rock Island train, causing her death by fracture of the skull and we hold the O. R. I. & P. Ry. guilty of criminal carelessness in too rapid switching and in the employment of a flagman who is physically incompetent to perform such duty."

The testimony of Mrs. Crews, who was in the carriage, showed that the flagman signalled for them to stop as they approached the crossing. When the train called for them they did but could not stop. Flagman "W. A." testified that after they had a momentary notice he tried to stop them but they did not notice him or were unable to stop the train.

Deep sympathy is felt for the bereaved family. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert had moved to town from near Bethel church less than a month ago. Decedent is mourned by her husband and children.

10-8-1907

MRS. JOHN GILBERT

Miss Mary A. Honaker of Canton, Mo., and Jonathan Gilbert of Lynnville, Wis., were united in marriage Aug. 30, 1860, at Monticello, Mo. by Rev. H. S. Miller. Seven children were born to this union. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert moved to Iowa in 1899 living in Jasper county southwest of Grinnell. She was a member of the M. E. church of Bethel. She was a kind wife and loving mother.

Mrs. Gilbert was born in Indiana, May 10 1841. Her death was caused by a railroad accident on Oct. 2 1907. The funeral services were held at her home on 322 West street, Oct. 5. She was laid to rest beside her daughter Cora in Hazelwood cemetery. She leaves a husband and six children, four sons and two daughters, to mourn her loss. They are Willis Gilbert, Aberdeen, S. D. John Gilbert of Chicago Heligus, Nettie Raffety of Euclid, Minn, J. C. Gilbert of Optima, Okla, and Minnie Crews and Arthur Gilbert of Lynnville.

We desire to return our thanks to our neighbors and friends for the kind assistance rendered during the death of our wife and mother. J. R. Gilbert and Family.