

GETTYSBURG CHILD DROWNS IN QUARRY

**George A. Champlain, 10,
Loses Life When Raft Over-
turns—Companion Fails In
Rescue Attempt**

George Allen Champlain, ten-year-old Gettysburg school boy, drowned in twenty feet of water in a quarry at the Auburn Shale and Brick Company yards at the western edge of Gettysburg on Saturday afternoon. The boy's lifeless body was brought to the surface with grappling hooks about 3.30 o'clock, an hour and a half after the lad had been thrown into the water as a raft, on which he and a companion had been floating, overturned.

Neither the Champlain boy nor his companion, Joseph Reaver, 9 years old, East Railroad street, Gettysburg, was able to swim but the latter was able to make his way to the shore after trying in vain to pull George to the surface. Reaver told companions who tried without success to locate the body by diving and then notified students at Gettysburg college who called police. William Brown, Palmyra, N. J., a junior at Gettysburg college, located the boy's body.

The victim's father, Luther L. Champlain, 27 Baltimore street, Gettysburg, said that he had ordered his son not to go to the brick yard on Saturday afternoon about 1 o'clock as the boy left home in the company of Joseph Reaver and his brother, Charles Reaver, Jr., 7 years old. The father was notified shortly after two o'clock of the drowning and watched the efforts to locate his son.

After Corporal Arthur B. Snyder, of the Gettysburg sub-station

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of the State police, had been notified of the accident, he called Officer Chester M. Spence, of the Gettysburg police force, and together the officers went to the scene. Finding that a number of boys who had been diving in search of the body were not meeting with success, the officers went to William Zinkand, who lives at the eastern edge of Gettysburg along the Lincoln highway, where they secured a row boat and took it to the brick yard on Zinkand's truck. Grappling irons were secured from the Gettysburg fire trucks.

When the body had been brought to land, efforts were made to restore respiration with the use of an inhalator that had been taken to the scene by Burgess Wilbur J. Stallsmith. The body did not respond to the artificial respiration and he was rushed to the Annie M. Warner hospital where physicians pronounced him dead after continued efforts had failed to revive him.

Some of the persons who recovered the body expressed the opinion that the boy might have been seized with cramps as he sank in the cold water. Joseph Reaver, who said he had the Champlain by the hair as they sank together to the bottom. He then grabbed the boy by his clothing and tried to haul him along to the surface. The Champlain boy did not struggle or make any attempt to save himself, Reaver said. Leaving his companion he was able to kick his way to the surface and succeeded in reaching the shore. The victim was fully dressed except for his shoes and stockings which were found on the bank.

Dr. Edgar A. Miller, Gettysburg, Adams county coroner, was summoned and after investigating issued a certificate giving drowning as the cause of death.

The pool in which the tragedy occurred measures more than 300 feet across and covers about three acres. The depth varies by "steps" from several feet near the edges to more than twenty feet in the center of the abandoned quarry. The raft upset about forty feet from the edge of the water.

The victim was a pupil in the second grade at the High Street school building which is taught by Miss Virginia Partner, Gettysburg. He attended the Sunday school of the Gettysburg Methodist Episcopal church. He is survived by his father and mother, who before her marriage was Bessie Arentz, and a sister, Esther Louise, at home. His paternal grandmother, Mrs. Estella Champlain, Gettysburg, and his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Arentz, Two Taverns, also survive.

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