

AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT.

A terrible auto accident occurred on Sunday afternoon on the Dixie Highway about a mile east of Hot Springs when a Ford car, driven by Frank Runnion, and containing Roy Runnion, his wife and three little boys and Jeter Massey, all of Walnut Creek a few miles from Marshall left the road and plunged down hundreds of feet to the old road along the bed of Silver Creek at the bottom of the gorge.

Mrs. Runnion was killed instantly. Her husband and the youngest child both had their skulls fractured and were so terribly injured that little hope of their recovery was held out from the first. They were unconscious. Jeter Massey was injured internally but retained consciousness until he died perhaps an hour later. Frank Runnion and the two older boys almost miraculously escaped serious injuries, although they were badly battered up.

Roy Runnion, with his family and Mr. Massey, had come over to eat Sunday dinner with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Runnion of Hot Springs, Frank Runnion bringing them in his car. After a pleasant time together, about three o'clock they started on the return trip. It was only a little while till tidings was brought back of the disaster. When rounding one of the sharp curves, where the narrow road winds out around a projecting shoulder of the mountain, they had met another car coming down. Frank, who held the outside, tried to get past but the road was too narrow and the curve too abrupt. The two cars bumped and the next instant his car went over the precipice.

The people of Hot Springs were soon on the scene and the victims were taken up tenderly and conveyed to the home they had just left. Dr. E. J. Peck of Hot Springs gave first aid to the injured ones but advised that Roy and little Paul be taken to the hospital at Asheville although it was only a forlorn hope. This was done on the night train but the little one died at 4:25 and the father about 4:05 o'clock Monday morning, making four deaths in all.

Roy Runnion was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Runnion of Hot Springs, aged 26 years. His wife, Hattie, was a daughter of Charles Runnion of Walnut Creek. The little boys are Char-

ley Jack, aged nearly seven and Edward, nearly five, both of whom were badly bruised but escaped with their lives and little Paul who was near 3 years. Both Roy and his wife were members of the Marshall Baptist church. Jeter Massey was a son of Joseph Massey and a neighbor of the Runnions.

We are indebted to Rev. James L. Hyde of Hot Springs who kindly furnished the above facts which seems to be correct in most every particular. Mr. Massey was brought to Marshall on train No. 102 Sunday night and was taken to his home and buried at the family burying place Monday afternoon. The services were conducted by Rev. J. M. Wild.

Mrs. Roy Runnion's remains arrived on train No. 12 Monday and was taken to C. F. Runnion's her father's home and Roy Runnion and little son Paul, arrived on train No 11 Monday evening and was also taken to the home of C. F. Runnion where they were kept until Tuesday morning. The three corpa were then taken to the school building where an immense throng of people had gathered to pay their last respects to the three unfortunate victims of the accident.

The services were conducted by Rev. Shuford Jenkins of Mars Hill who had direct charge together with Rev. J. J. Gray of Marshall and Rev. James L. Hydd of Hot Springs and Rev. J. C. Pipes of Mars Hill, after which they were laid to rest in one large grave at the burying ground on the sunny hill just above the school ground where all manner of pains had been taken to beautify the grounds and pay special respects to the unfortunate. We have not space to mention those who were present but will say that this was the largest and most impressive funeral that the writer has ever attended. Scores of people from all walks of life were present to show their grief and respect for the unfortunate victims and to the bereaved families. Both Roy and his wife were from the leading and best families of the county and as to the victims themselves their lives had been almost spotless and were considered among if not the most devoted family to the cause of Christ who resides in the entire community. The relatives of these parties were present in numbers from various sections for miles away.

