

Appendix 3: Capitol Construction Accidental Deaths

Information File Updated 2/5/2014

	Felix Arthur	John Beirsack	Albert Swanson	Alfred Magnuson	Florian Zauner	John Corrigan
Other Names	Phelix Arthur ⁱ	John Biessack John Prershek		L. Magnuson ⁱⁱ Alfred Magnuson ⁱⁱⁱ	Florane Zauner ¹	
Place of Birth	Nelson, GA ^{iv}	Barton, WI ? (Family lived there)	Sweden	Sweden, immigration year 1896 ^v	Germany	Minnesota (adopted by Patrick M. McMahon family)
Birth Year	1873	c. 1861	c. 1870	April 1877	April 1860	c. 1885
Parents	Charles Arthur Julia Beaver ^{vi}	Joseph & Anna Biersack				Natural Parents: Edward and Mary Corrigan Adopted Parents: Patrick and Molly McMahon
Ethnicity	white	white	white	white	white	white
Occupation	Stone polisher ^{vii}	Laborer	Mold caster ^{viii}	Stone mason ^{ix}	Laborer ^x	Laborer ^{xi}
Address	Minnesota Georgia: Pike County, GA	491 Wabasha Street, Saint Paul	3801 Fourth Street North, Minneapolis ^{xii}	607 Jackson St, Saint Paul, MN	686 West Water Street, St. Paul ^{xiii}	798 Park Avenue, St. Paul ^{xiv}
Source of Accident Details	<i>St. Paul Globe</i> ^{xv} <i>Minneapolis Tribune</i> ^{xvi}	<i>Pioneer Press</i> , 10/17/1898 <i>Dispatch</i> , 10/21/1898 <i>St. Paul Globe</i> , 10/22/1898 <i>Warren Sheaf</i> , 10/27/1898	<i>St. Paul Globe</i> ^{xvii}	<i>St. Paul Globe</i> ^{xviii}	<i>St. Paul Globe</i> ^{xix}	<i>St. Paul Globe</i> ^{xx}
Death Date	May 5, 1898	October 20, 1898	April 27, 1900	June 30, 1900	August 4, 1900.	June 26, 1903

¹ US Census 1900, Ramsey County, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Death Place	State Capitol Construction Site, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. Minnesota	State Capitol Construction Site, Saint Paul, Ramsey Co., MN	State Capitol Construction Site, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. Minnesota	State Capitol Construction Site, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. Minnesota	State Capitol Construction Site, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. Minnesota	State Capitol Construction Site, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. Minnesota
Cause of Death	Internal injuries-caught in fly wheel of stone polishing machine	Skull Fracture suffered from a fall	Fractured Cervical vertebra ^{xxi}	Fractured skull ^{xxii}	Severe injuries from a fall	Skull fracture, Cervical vertebra fracture ^{xxiii}
Death Certificate			Death Certificate Card	Death Certificate Card	Death Certificate card	Coroner's Record Book
Grave location	Bethesda Baptist Church, Nelson, GA	Old Saint Mary's Cemetery, West Bend, Wisconsin	Minneapolis Pioneers and Memorial Cemetery Burial Date: 4/30/1900 Grave 4F-N 5R Lot 4 Block 3	unknown	unknown	St. Rose of Lima Cemetery, Cherry Grove, Goodhue County, MN Section 59
Grave photo	Yes ^{xxiv}	No	Yes			No

ⁱ From US Census Records

ⁱⁱ From The Saint Paul Globe, Saturday, June 30, 1900

ⁱⁱⁱ From Minnesota Health Department Death Record Cards 1900, A-R, Roll 2

^{iv} Mimi Jo Butler, Marble Valley Historical Museum, Nelson, Georgia

^v From US Census 1990, Ramsey Co, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

^{vi} From US Census 1880 for Georgia, Pickens County. Family was enumerated in Grassy Knob District (GMD 1099) of Pickens County, Georgia. National Archives, Micro Publication, T9, Reel 161.

^{vii} From Mimi Jo Butler, Marble Valley Historical Museum, Nelson, Georgia

^{viii} From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, April 18, 1900.

^{ix} From US Census 1900, Ramsey Co, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

^x From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, August 4, 1900, pg. 2.

^{xi} From St. Paul Globe, Friday, June 26, 1903, pg. 7.

^{xii} From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, April 28, 1900.

^{xiii} From St. Paul Globe, Saturday August 4, 1900, pg 2.

^{xiv} From The Saint Paul Globe, Friday, June 26, 1903

^{xv} From St. Paul Globe, Friday, May 6, 1898.

^{xvi} From Minneapolis Tribune, May 6, 1898.

^{xvii} From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, April 28, 1900.

^{xviii} From St. Paul Globe, Saturday, June 30, 1900, page 2.

^{xix} From St. Paul Globe, Saturday August 4, 1900, pg 2.

^{xx} From The Minneapolis Tribune, Friday, June 26, 1903, page 4.

^{xxi} From Health Department Death Record Cards, 1900, St. Paul, S-Z Roll 13.

^{xxii} From Health Department Death Record Cards, 1900, St. Paul, A-R, Roll 12.

^{xxiii} From Coroner's Record Books, 1901-1975/Ramsey County, Record ID: 001735745.

^{xxiv} From Mimi Jo Butler, Marble Valley Historical Museum, Nelson, Georgia

NOTE: The Minnesota State Capitol Commission and Cass Gilbert papers both report the accidental deaths of six workers on the Capitol construction.

Another serious accident was a fall by Vernon Cole (aka William), whose 70-foot drop was reported on May 20 1899. The height of the fall and severity of skull and spinal injuries led a physician quoted in a newspaper article to say that William (Vernon) was unlikely to survive. There was no follow-up article and some may have counted him among the job's fatalities. However, he did live until 1950 at age 69 and was married.

Another death which may have been related to the Minnesota statehouse construction occurred offsite, but nearby. Michael McNierney, a teamster who was hauling sand for an unnamed construction project within a few blocks of the Capitol, was crushed to death when his load overturned. He died the same day as Cole's accident. The articles for both are "A Chapter of Accidents" and "His Life Crushed Out," *Minneapolis Tribune*, May 21, 1899, page 7.