

The Death of Little Ida Galbreath

By: Wendy Meyers

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“Strange, Indeed”

Sunday afternoon about four, while the people were lounging about, as is usual when there is nothing to do but walk, little Ida, the five-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Galbreath, was playing along the level sidewalk in front of Evereat’s (sic) store. Several other small children were with her.

There being no apparent occasion for alarm, no one paid any attention to the little ones.

James Meadows, who witnessed all, says Ida was leading the jolly little party on its way toward the bridge, and having missed the others from her side, she very naturally turned while running to see where the others were. While her head was thus turned, her feet in some way became tangled, and in the presence of several spectators, the little captain of the band stumbled and fell.

Seeing that she neither made any noise or effort to rise, she was lifted to her feet; but no sooner had this been done than she stretched at full length, cast her eyes upward, raised one hand, gasped, and in fifteen seconds, died. Her neck was broken.

This is all the explanation anybody can give of the very strange accident.

The funeral services took place at the Methodist Church Monday afternoon, and the remains of the little child, which, twenty-four hours before had been healthy and happy, were laid away in the cemetery to await the Resurrection.

The bereaved family have the deep sympathy of our entire community.

Ida Galbreath was the daughter of Mark Coleman Galbreath/Galbraith (1854-1943) and Dovie Ledell Allman (1869-1938), who were married in Swain County on December 29, 1886 and had 8 children, of whom Ida was the second. In 1899, the Galbreaths moved their family to the Bridgeport area of Douglas County, Washington, along with Mark’s parents, two of his brothers, and his sister. They farmed in the area for the remainder of their lives.

NOTE: Ida’s headstone bears a death date of July 1894 but as can be observed from the newspaper article, her actual date of death was April 21st, 1895. This headstone was almost certainly placed many years (even decades) after her death, and likely not by her parents – accounting for the date discrepancy.

