

Death of Jim & Allen Hudson

Oakland, California July 22nd, 1914

My Dear Carol,

I wired you yesterday of the death of your dear brothers who were drowned in the estuary at the foot of Kirkham street where they had been going most everyday for about two weeks. It seems from the testimony of the other boys that were with them, John Cate and two Murphy brothers, James had entered the water about the time the ferry boat passed, and the both plowed through the water causing quite a swell which forced him away from the barge from which the rest of the boys were on and also caused him to swallow salt water which strangled him. Allen noticed there was something wrong and called John Cate's attention to him. John went to his assistance, but he could not handle him. Then the Murphy boy went to help. When he got to them, Jim grabbed him and they went down together. By that time John had got back to the barge. Allen pulled him up out of the water. When Jim and the other boy came up, Murphy had got away from Jim and was swimming ashore. Allen saw something must be done to save Jim, so jumped in and swam to him. Jim grabbed him with a death grip. They sank and did not come up. Some men at the lumber yard came with rapping irons and it was over an hour before they recovered their bodies. All was done that could be done to try to bring them back to life but it was too late. They were gone.

Carol, my heart is broken. Oh what a loss. Your mother, just think what a shock to her and the girls got on their great trip through the east. I tried to keep the boys away from this place. Jim told me on Saturday. "Pa, I was swimming in water 40 feet deep yesterday." "Jim", I said, "don't do it. You can not swim good enough. Don't go in deep water." Next day I asked him if he had been deep water. He told me he had not. I explained to him how they would bring him home in a box and I would have to telegraph to your mother to come home. But it done no good. He took Allen with him. They are both gone. It may be all for the best. We will try to look at it that way. The bodies are embalmed and at the undertakers where they will keep them until you all arrive. Jim and Lena is here. Mrs Trewick came yesterday and went home tonight and will come again tomorrow. With love to you all, I am your broken hearted father, C.E. Hudson.

I got your uncle's message today also one from your mother stating you would arrive here Sunday on 19. Thank your uncle for his message of consolation. Your father.

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Oakland Cal 7-22nd '14

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with love to you all I am your broken hearted
Father E. Hudson