

AWFUL TROLLEY COLLISION

SLOCUM AND CLOSED CAR WENT TOGETHER

Eight Persons were Hurt, One it is Feared Fatally, Others Seriously and Rest by Flying Glass.

During the latter part of the afternoon on Monday (**August 15, 1910**) took place the most serious accident in the history of the trolley railroad of this place. A collision between the trolley cars and the only explanation for the disaster that can be given is that some motorman must have disregarded the signals in running.

The collision occurred on the curve east of Plum Run and southeast of Devil's Den. Nearly every car of the company was in operation at the time. One of the big cars, Slocum, was on the switch at Devil's Den waiting to go into the next section toward town. A second big car passed Slocum and it is said the signals were set for this car to go forward and started forward at a rapid gate. The Slocum was crowded with colored people from Baltimore. Besides these excursionists there were four soldiers and several other people.

The car Slocum met on the curve was the small closed car called Sedgwick, going toward Round Top. Both motormen tried to stop their cars by reversing but the momentum carried them together. The truck of the Slocum being higher than that of the Sedgwick, the former crashed in and mounted the platform part of the latter occupied by the motorman and the smaller car was completely wrecked. The entire body being driven apart and all the glass of the car broken and the running part is believed to be so damaged, as to be ready for the scrap pile.

Warfield Collins was the motorman on the Sedgwick and that he was not crushed to death in the wreck seems little short of miraculous. In some way he was thrown forward striking both legs against some part of the wreck and landed on a rock on the bank alongside of the road. He received a severe scalp wound and complained of pain across both legs, but the examination did not reveal any bones broken and the painful wounds and bruises on the legs are due to the awful force with which he struck some obstruction.

Edward Weikert was the conductor on the same car, Sedgwick, and he received an ugly cut on back of leg by flying glass and other smaller cuts from same source but was not seriously injured.

Ott Shields was motorman on the big car Slocum and escaped with a number of cuts from the flying glass but was not seriously injured. Nicholas Berkheimer, a passenger on the car and occupying seat back of the motorman is the most seriously injured person in the wreck. He was at the end of the seat and the collision threw him forward and it is believed that he first struck the iron post at end of car and then fell forward to the ground landing on a rock on his head, and it is feared that he received injuries that may prove fatal.

Mr. Berkheimer has been living with Alex Hoffman on the Taneytown road for some time. A year or two ago he lost his wife and was left with a number of small children. The children were taken by friends. Mr. Berkheimer has been working for some time on the new Pennsylvania monument on Hancock avenue.

In the Sedgwick car were four passengers and as stated Slocum was crowded with colored excursionists. A number of these became greatly frightened and might have received injuries by leaping off the car and in other ways, but the four National Guards on the car immediately sized up the situation and helped to calm them and prevent further accidents through fright.

Walter Plank, an employee of the road, was at the Devil's Den switch when the accident took place and with others hastened to the scene of the accident and the seriously hurt persons were placed on a car and it was run up to Rosenstein's and there conveyances were procured to bring them to town. Warfield Collins was brought in by Henry Lewis and first taken to Dr. J. H. Dickson and had his wounds dressed and then to the home of Lewis Weigandt on Baltimore street where he was staying. Nicholas Berkheimer was taken to the office of Dr. Henry Stewart. One or more were taken to field hospitals where their wounds were dressed. Word was immediately sent for Dr. J. P. Dalbey and Dr. Henry Stewart and they hastened to Devil's Den and rendered all the assistance possible and later gave attention to those brought to town.

The curves at Plum Run is the one place on the road where special signals have been erected and these signal will tell to the motorman whether that portion of road is clear or not and with these signals correctly operated it should not have been possible for the wreck to have occurred at this point, but the apparently impossible is just what happens sometimes.

Last word, before going to press, about the wounded is that Warfield Collins, Ott Shields, and others slightly cut are recovering and getting along as well as can be expected. Nicholas Berkheiuier is in a serious condition. He was taken from Dr. Stewart's office to the home of his father-in-law. Emanuel Weikert, near Round Top Monday evening.- During the night he recovered consciousness but later in morning lapsed again in unconsciousness, and either concussion or fracture of skull at base of brain is feared.