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Alex Posey, Editor

POSEY LOSES LIFE IN FLOOD

Alex Posey, editor of The Indian Journal was drowned in a washout on the M. K. & T. railroad about a half mile north of the North Canadian river bridge Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, while with three others he was trying to cross the washout in a boat.

Posey and R. D. Howe came down from Muskogee Wednesday morning on the train from Muskogee to Cathay where the train was stopped by the washout. They hired a boat from Joel Scott, a negro, who offered to put them across the washout to the railroad track whence they might walk to Eufaula. They took another man, a negro, to help manage the boat and shoved off at about twelve o'clock intending to keep safely to the west of the terrible current made by the washout but when the boat

struck the current the last named negro lost his paddle and the other negro who was handling the oars became excited and let go one of his oars. The boat shot for the opening made in the railroad track by the washout and struck a post of the right of way fence turning over. Posey caught a bush on the edge of the current after passing the wire fence on the west side of the track and supported himself standing waist high in the swift water for two hours. Howe was whirled down the awful current of the washout, struck the right-of-way wire fence on the east side of the track but got over after having his clothes torn on the wire. He then swam a quarter of a mile gradually working out of the current and reached shallow water and waded to the railroad track. He immediately returned to the washout finding Posey hanging to the bush sent a party to Eufaula for a rope. In the meantime a crowd had gathered and was helplessly staring at the man in distress. Of the negroes in the boat Joel Scott had been drowned and the other, name unknown, had gotten out pretty much after the manner used by Mr. Howe.

While waiting for the rope a boat was gotten

from the pump house at the bridge and after nearly two hours the parties returned from Eufaula with a rope. John and Jim Simpson, Jim Wadsworth, Pearl Gibson, Jay Smith, John Lowe and others of Eufaula now endeavored to get the end of the rope to Posey who had been weakened by standing long in the rising water and bracing himself against the current.

After many unsuccessful attempts the rope was thrown to him from the boat across the current and he was told to loop it around his body, but this seemed impossible because of the large size and stiffness of the rope and of his weakened condition. Instead he twisted it around one arm and turning loose the bush he grasped it with both hands and was instantly whirled into the current. The parties in the boat tried to pull him to the boat but on account of the awful force of the current failed to do so. The rushing water tore him loose from the rope and swept him to the east side right-of-way fence where he was sucked under and to all appearance hung in the barbed wire. The body rose no more and later the fence was washed out or the rising water obscured it.

Mrs. Posey and her two children were visiting near Fayetteville, Arkansas. She was notified by wire from Eufaula of the death of her husband and immediately took the train for this place.