

Winchester Sun - April 6, 1935

BERT WITHERS TOPPLES FROM WALL AT LOCK

Body is Lost in Turbu-
ent Water at Base
of Dam.

WAS EMPLOYED
BY QUARRY FIRM

Tragedy First Since
Construction of
Gates.

Bert Withers, 25 years old, of Riverside, nine miles south of Winchester, an employe of the Gwinn-Caldwell Construction company, of Danville and Winchester, drowned at 2:30 o'clock Saturday morning when he stepped or fell from the north wall of Lock No. 10, Boonesboro, into the turbulent waters of the Kentucky river.

Withers, engaged in assisting lock men in working a rock-loaded barge through the locks, dropped 20 feet to the base of the dam, one of the most treacherous points in the Kentucky river. Fred M. Tipton, a lock man, saw Withers disappear over the wall and called for life lines. Lockmaster John Walters and other workmen said the body failed to come to the surface.

Due to the dangerous stage of the river near the dam, it was impossible for boats to reach a point where a search for the body might be made. River men said efforts to find the body will necessarily be delayed until the river recedes several feet. Walters reported a steady rise in the water level today.

Casualty First at Srene.

The casualty was the first at the locks since the dam was constructed in 1904. Several drownings, however, have occurred at Boonesboro bathing beach, 150 yards below the lock gates.

Withers' death by drowning marked his second fall into the river early Saturday. While preparing to take the loaded barge from the quarry, one mile below the dam, up the river, he fell into the water and was rescued by Kalsger Ashcraft, a fellow workman, and other employes. Without changing to dry clothing, Withers boarded the barge. At the lock he was heard to remark that he was cold, and it was thought he was enroute to board the Double Gem, tow boat, when he went over the wall.

Workmen voiced the opinion Withers may have been blinded by spotlight from the boats. The wall at the point from which he fell is several feet narrower than the remainder of the wall.

Withers was the son of John Withers, of Clark county. Survivors include his widow and two children.

Withers, Bert 1912 - 1935

Form V. S. 1-A-75m-3-30-32

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
State Board of Health
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

File No. **11572**
Registered No. **102**

1. PLACE OF DEATH
County Clark
Vol. Pat. Ford Registration District No. 365
Inc. Town _____ Primary Registration District No. 1732
City _____ (No. _____ Ward)
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)

2. FULL NAME Bert Withers
(a) Residence No. Ford, Ky. St. _____ Ward _____
(Usual place of abode) (If nonresident, give city or town and State)
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3. SEX <u>Male</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	5. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (write the word) <u>Married</u>		21. DATE OF DEATH <u>April 6th</u> , 19 <u>35</u>	
6a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of _____ (or) WIFE of _____				22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____, 19____ to _____, 19____ I last saw him alive on _____, 19____, death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at <u>9 A. M.</u> The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows: <u>Accidental Asphyxia</u> <u>(Body Recovered)</u> <u>May 14th 1935</u>	
6. DATE OF BIRTH <u>Jan. 27th, 1912</u>				Date of onset _____	
7. AGE Years <u>23</u> Months <u>2</u> Days <u>9</u>		7. If LESS than 1 day _____ hrs. or _____ min.		Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause: _____	
8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. <u>Laborer</u>				Name of operation _____ Date of _____ What test confirmed diagnosis? _____ Was there an autopsy? _____	
9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, sawmill, bank, etc. _____				23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following: (Accident) suicide, or homicide? _____ date of injury _____ Where did injury occur? <u>Clark Co. Ky.</u> (Specify city or town, county, and State) Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place.	
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) _____		11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation _____		Manner of injury _____ Nature of injury _____	
12. BIRTHPLACE <u>Madison Co. Ky.</u>					
13. NAME <u>John Withers</u>					
14. BIRTHPLACE <u>Estill Co. Ky.</u>					
15. MAIDEN NAME <u>Rosa Larrison</u>					
16. BIRTHPLACE <u>Estill Co. Ky.</u>					
17. INFORMANT <u>John Withers</u> (Address) <u>Ford, Ky.</u>					
18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Place <u>Warner Cemetery May 15th 1935</u> <u>Clark Co. Ky.</u>					
19. UNDERTAKER <u>Scobee & Bartlett</u> (Address) <u>Winchester, Ky.</u>					
20. FILED <u>May 15</u> , 19 <u>35</u> Registrar					
				24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? _____ If so, specify _____ (Signed <u>B. S. Barth</u> Coroner, <u>Clark Co. Ky.</u> (Address) <u>Winchester, Ky.</u>	

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

N. B. WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be given EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.