

From the Sabula, Iowa Newspaper in 1881
This was copied from the scrapbook of Sophie Wirt Scarborough
in Hayes, South Dakota. Some years later when I tried to get
a copy of the clipping, I was told the old newspapers were
dumped in the river when the newspaper was sold.

THE BODY RECOVERED

The body of Mr. Jabez Smith, who came to such an untimely death by drowning, on Thursday last, was recovered on Saturday forenoon about 10 o'clock. The chances of recovering the remains were considered so exceedingly hopeless that but few engaged in the search. The body was found in an eddy on the east side of the slough and about one hundred yards below the bridge, by Messrs, Ira Overholt and C. G. Eldrege, of this city and H.B. Smith of Maquoketa, a brother of the deceased. The trio had procured a long bar of iron with small hooks attached thereto at intervals, and with it proposed to make one last effort. At the first cast and before they had dragged three rods it was felt to catch to something and upon being brought to the surface it was found that one of the hooks was fast in the stocking of the drowned man. The corpse was immediately taken into the boat and brought to this place, and after slight preparations, taken to the home of the bereaved wife and children. An examination showed that the unfortunate man had received a very severe blow upon the forehead, that without doubt rendered him entirely senseless, thereby accounting for the fact that he did not come to the surface of the water below the bridge and make some struggle before life was extinct. It is supposed by those best acquainted with the affair that the gunnel of the skiff struck the blow in tipping over upon him after he had been thrown out. The current rushing against the lower edge of the boat while the bottom was resting against the stringer of the bridge and the upper side was entirely out of the water, would bring it over with tremendous force. The features were calm and composed as they could be had their possessor been wrapped in slumber instead of the mantle of death. This, with the fact that but very little, if any, water had been swallowed, shows that the horrors of a death by strangulation were at least escaped, and that the deceased must have been rendered unconscious before he had fairly got under the water. The funeral, which was very largely attended, took place on Sunday afternoon, the memorial services being conducted by Rev. G. R. Manning of DeWitt and Rev. J. M. Ferris of this place. The remarks made by gentlemen were very appropriate, eloquent and affecting, being a credit to themselves and doing justice to the memory of the deceased, and many eyes beside those of relatives were filled with tears.

By request of the friends of the deceased the obituary is withheld until next week.

(Sophia's scrapbook did not have the obit.)