

# Hugh Crawford

## Fatally Burned

Residents of Marmora Village were shocked Sunday morning when it became known that Hugh Crawford had been discovered about 4 o'clock that morning by Elias Spry in his blazing automobile, near the Spry residence, and dragged from the car after he had been very badly burned around the upper part of the body. Crawford thanked his rescuer for saving his life and was able to walk around after the accident, but the doctors who examined him realized from the first that there was no hope of his recovery.

It was one of the fatal tragedies the complete details of which will never be known. An inquest was held in Belleville on Monday morning with Coroner Dr. Tennant of that city presiding. After hearing evidence by Geo. Forestell, Provincial Constables Gray and Campbell, Elias Spry, Dr. H. Crawford, F. Lee and James Fourar, the latter two being neighbours of Mr. Spry, the jury brought in a verdict of accidental death.

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford had planned to motor to Peterborough Saturday night. Shortly before the time they were to start Mr. Crawford left home and as he did not return Mrs. Crawford became anxious, but no one knew where he had gone. Apparently he had driven down to the 14th concession of Rawdon and parked his car there. When found the car was in low gear with the brakes on. He appeared to have lain down on the back seat of the car, with his feet sticking out of the window in one of the doors, and started to smoke. The theory is that he fell asleep and dropped the cigarette on the floor of the car setting it on fire. The mystery is why he did not awaken when the flames reached him as he was so badly burned. According to the evidence at the inquest the deceased had secured a gallon of wine on Saturday and consumed most of it and the effects may have kept him from getting out of the car when the fire started.

Mrs. Elias Spry noticed the fire and aroused her husband, who rushed out thinking the garage was on fire. By strenuous efforts he got Crawford out of the car and an alarm was then sent to Marmora as soon as possible. Provincial Officer Percy Gray, Constable Gillen and Dr. H. Crawford hurried down and it was decided to remove the injured man to the hospital. He was able to walk to Mr. P. Gray's car and from it to the hospital, after their arrival in Belleville. He was examined by Dr. Stobie and soon after collapsed and it was realized that his injuries were fatal. He passed away about 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

The late Hugh Crawford was born in Marmora forty one years ago and had lived here all his life. For years he had conducted a garage business and was a skillful mechanic. For the past couple of years he had been in partnership with his nephew, Mr. Joe Murray. The deceased had a wide circle of relatives and friends. He had one handicap, a craving for alcohol which at times was beyond his control and caused him to do things which under normal conditions he would not have thought of doing. His friends felt it was his misfortune rather than his fault and his other admirable qualities retained their good-will. He was a member of Sacred Heart church. He is survived by his wife, formerly Miss Agnes McGrath, and two sisters, Mrs. Richard O'Connor, of Marmora, and Mrs. J. N. Bacon, of Peterboro.

The funeral was held on Tuesday morning in Sacred Heart church, Requiem Mass being conducted by Rev. Father J. J. Keeley. The funeral was one of the largest seen in Marmora in a long time and there were also a very large number of spiritual and floral offerings. Interment took place in Sacred Heart cemetery. The bearers were Messrs. Joseph Callery, Marshall McCoy, Alphonse Shannon, Joseph Shannon, William Darragh and Sandy Rombohn.