

Joseph Armstrong

The Brunswick News; Friday 6 January 1939; pg. 6 col. 4

NEGROES STILL MISSING, CANOE FOUND IN RIVER

Will Holland, negro caretaker on the Evelyn Plantation near the Broadfield section of Glyn county, and a Brunswick negro boy, Tommy Armstrong, 12 years of age, missing since Wednesday afternoon, have not been found up to this afternoon, Chief L.L. Godwin, of the Glynn county police, reports.

Holland, who has bene caretaker for the plantation owned by the heirs of the late E.D.M. Strachan, for a number of years, disappeared Wednesday when he and the Armstrong boy left the plantation in a canoe on a small creek on the property to investigate shooting it is reported they heard in the back section of the plantation.

Throughout yesterday at the request of the Strachan family and local office of the Strachan Shipping Company, county police and members of the United States coast guard have searched the vicinity for the negroes and so far their efforts have been futile. Late yesterday afternoon the canoe in which the two negroes left the plantations was found on the bank of the south stream of the Altamaha. It is believed that both Holland and Armstrong met death by drowning, and parties are continuing the search for their bodies.

The Brunswick News; Thursday 16 February 1939; pg. 8 col. 4

NEGRO BOY'S BODY FOUND YESTERDAY IN EVELYN CANAL

The body of Tommie Armstrong, 12-year-old Brunswick negro boy, who was drowned in the Altamaha with his uncle, William Harlan [sic], on January 4, was found yesterday by Malvin Moody, a trapper.

The body of the boy was found lodged on a stump on what is known as Evelyn canal, which is believed to have been near the spot where the two negroes lost their lives when they left in a small boat to investigate shooting heard near Evelyn. A search was made for the bodies for several days after the two were supposed to have lost their lives, but no trace of their bodies was found.

On January 22, the body of Harlan was found by a trapper near Friday Cap, which is about 11 miles from where the body of the boy was found. Coroner J.D. Baldwin, who conducted the inquest today, expressed the belief the boy's body was caught in the stump ear the scene of the accident, while the body of his uncle floated out of the canal and into the Altamaha. Rewards had been offered for recovery of both bodies.

A coroner's jury after investigating the case today, returned a verdict that Armstrong came to his death by accidental drowning. The same verdict was returned in the case of his uncle.