

DOUBLE DROWNING BODIES RECOVERED IN BULL RUN
To the Editor: August 1954
ProQuest Publishing, Inc. 1994

DOUBLE DROWNING BODIES RECOVERED IN BULL RUN

Girl, 16, Died Tuesday With
Man, 57, Who Was Giving
Her Swimming Lessons.

STEPPED INTO DEEP HOLE

The bodies of Miss Helen B. Keyes, 16 years old, of Fairfax, and George M. Roder, 57 years old, of Occoquan, who were drowned Tuesday afternoon in Bull Run, about five miles below Chifton, Va., were brought to Alexandria yesterday. The body of Miss Keyes was taken later to the home of her mother, Mrs. Helen Guthrie, near Fairfax, and Roder's body was sent to Cumberland, Md., for burial.

According to reports of the double drowning, Miss Keyes, accompanied by her mother and several other relatives, was on an outing at Bull Run. Several of the party donned bathing suits and went into the water. Roder, an expert swimmer, was fishing nearby and essayed to teach Miss Keyes to swim.

A short time after the swimming lessons began Miss Keyes and Roder stepped into a deep hole where there is a swift current. The girl became frightened, threw her arms about Roder's neck, and so prevented him from rescuing her, and both were drowned, while the girl's mother and the others of the party looked on, powerless to assist.

The body of Miss Keyes was recovered by her 12-year-old brother, who tied a rope about his waist and went into the dangerous water where his sister's body was seen floating. Roder's body was recovered several hours later at a point near where the drowning occurred.

Reprinted with permission from the Washington Post, August 1954