

LYMAN ROOT WILLIAMS

Death of L. R. Williams

Lyman Root Williams, who died in Angola last Saturday morning, July 6, was born in Pompey, Onondaga county, New York, August 1, 1834, and was the son of Heman B. and Laura A. Williams. His parents came to Jackson, Steuben, county, Ind., in 1844, and not long thereafter moved to Gilead, Branch county, Mich., where Mr. Williams grew to manhood. When Lyman was about eleven years old he was bound out to a Mr. Campbell, of Gilead, with whom he had his home until he was of age. He had little or no schooling until he was sixteen years of age. He spent some time at school at Albion, Mich., and later at Hillsdale, working for his board and tuition, thus preparing himself to enter college, which he did at the latter place in 1857. Remaining there some time, he then entered the law school of Michigan University at Ann Arbor, from which he graduated in 1861. During these years of preparation for his life work, he supported himself by teaching and by doing any kind of work that he could find to do. His first school above the common grade was at Bronson, Mich. In 1862 he took charge of the Fremont, Ind., school for about five years, filling also the office of county examiner of teachers. In 1868 he took charge of the school at Orland where he remained for two years, resigning the position on account of impaired health. In 1871 he became the principal of the Angola school, in which position he remained for ten years, ably and acceptably performing the duties of his high position. He served two terms as Treasurer of Steuben county. Education, temperance, everything indeed that looked to the well-being of society, had a firm and efficient friend in L.R. Williams. He was actively connected with the first teachers' institute ever held in Steuben county, and his influence did much to raise the standard of the teacher's calling here. In whatever position he was called upon to act, he performed his duties so faithfully and conscientiously as to win the respect of all fair-minded men. Because justice to the dead demands it, we also note that something over a year ago a most vile and utterly uncalled for personal attack was publicly made upon him, which, in his already somewhat impaired health, affected him most unfavorably, aggravating every symptom. The soul of honor himself, he was keenly sensitive to the appreciation of the public, and when those from whom he had the right to expect fair and manly treatment turned against him, it went to his very soul. He has never really been himself since. His nervousness increased and insomnia and kidney disease added to his sufferings. Everybody that had known him could readily see that he was not the Prof. Williams of other days. No one, however, outside his own family, and perhaps not even those constantly with him, can ever tell or know what he must have suffered, nor how far his mind must have become unbalanced to bring him to the point he finally reached, of ending his life by his own hands. Last Saturday morning, after (as usual for him) a very restless night, he rose early and left the house. As he often did this, nothing was thought of it then nor for some little time after. He was seen as late as six o'clock. His absence beginning to excite uneasiness, several parties began to look for him. About ten o'clock a young man, who was working in a potato field south of a barn owned by the late James Segur, on happening to look up toward a shed which stands east of that barn and open at the south, saw the dead body of L.R. Williams hanging where he had ended his life that he felt had become a burden to himself and which he feared would become a burden to others. Funeral services were held in the West church, conducted by Rev. F.E. Knopf, and were

largely attended. Members of the I.O.O.F. and K. of H. and former pupils attended in a body. Burial in Circle Hill cemetery. The unusually large attendance and the beautiful floral decorations attested the high esteem in which he was held by the people of this community.

STEBEN REPUBLICAN, WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1889, page 4, column 4

MEMORIAL TRIBUTES TO LYMAN ROOT WILLIAMS

IN MEMORIAM.

Angola, Ind., July 13, 1889.

To the Officers and Members of the Angola Lodge, No. 180, I.O.O.F.:

We, your committee, to whom was assigned the duty of preparing a memorial upon the death of Brother Lyman R. Williams, respectfully submit the following:

Brother Lyman R. Williams is dead. Our lodge feels keenly its bereavement. The loss of such a man is irreparable. He was earnest and faithful in the discharge of his duties as an Odd Fellow, as a citizen, as a husband and father, and as a friend. As an Odd Fellow he was active, thoughtful of the wishes of his brothers and the welfare of the Lodge and faithful to every trust; as a citizen he was upright, conscientious, honorable in his dealings; as a husband and father he was kind and tenderly indulgent; as a friend he was self-sacrificing, steadfast and true. We thus record the virtues of one we loved, and while we lay him down in never-waking sleep, we cherish in our memories his many ennobling attributes.

In this sad hour we extend to the members of his family our sincerest sympathy and tenderly commend them to that true solace for all human sorrow. We recommend the adoption of this memorial and that it be spread upon the records of the Lodge and as a further mark of respect that the charter and emblems of the Lodge be draped in mourning for the period of thirty days.

We further recommend that a copy of this memorial, under the seal of the Lodge, be sent to the family of our deceased brother, and that a copy of the same be furnished each of the papers for publication.

Submitted in F.L. and T.,

R. V. Carlin,

Emmett A. Bratton,

Newton W. Gilbert.

Unanimously adopted by the Lodge in regular session July 13, 1889.

George McNeal, N.G.

W.W. Squier, Sec'y.

To the officers and members of Angola Lodge, No. 1484, K. of H., of Angola, Indiana:

Your committee appointed to prepare a memorial on the death of brother L. R. Williams, would submit the following report:

Brother L. R. Williams has gone and left us. He was one of the little band of twenty, that assisted in the organization of a lodge of Knights of Honor in Angola on the 20th day of March 1879, and consequently was one of its charter members, who at that time built the foundation of a Widow's and Orphan's fund here.

He numbers the fifth of our departed brothers whom we have borne to their last resting place.

In his death we deeply deplore the loss of a good and faithful Knight, a respected and honored citizen, a true friend and a noble man. He was widely known for his sterling qualities of head and heart, and as a man in whom, all that knew him, took a deep interest.

To the bereaved widow who for a quarter of a century had been his loving companion, now bereft of one on whom she so confidently relied, and to the orphaned daughter, deprived of a fond father's care and loving counsel, we tender our sincere condolence and commend them to the care of Him whose grace alone can make amends for their great loss.

We ask that this memorial be adopted, that it be spread upon our records, that a copy under seal of this lodge be furnished the bereaved family, and likewise be published in our county papers, and that we wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Yours in O.M.A.

Lawrence Gates.

J. W. McCrory

W. J. H. Watson

Unanimously adopted by the lodge,

H. Menzenberger, Dictator,

W. K. Sheffer, Reporter.

SUBMITTED BY: Jessica Brooks on behalf of Mona Hilden-Beckwith

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