

William Alfred Divan, (22 Jul 1871 – Jan 1899), Newport News, Thursday, January 26, 1899

The funeral services of **William Alfred Divan**, the announcement of whose sad death has already been made, were held on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock from his home on South Second Street. They were of a semi-private nature and were conducted by his pastor, Rev. G. M. Diffenderfer. The music, which was in charge of a quartet from the choir of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, was touchingly appropriate. The opening anthem was followed by the reading of the burial service of the Lutheran Church by Rev. William Dorwart. The pastor was further assisted in the services by Revs. A. J. Rudisill of New Bloomfield; J. M. Axe and Furman Adams, of Newport, and S. C. Alexander, D.D., of Millerstown,

The quartet sang, "Nearer, By God, to Thee," which was followed by the funeral address, delivered by the pastor. Its subject was "The Christmas Song of Triumph," based on Rev, 5:9-11.

The floral tributes, which were numerous and beautiful, proved the love and affection which he inspired. A large wreath of lilies, with other white flowers was the tribute of the employees of the W. Va. Central & Pittsburgh R.R., at Elkins W.Va., at which place he was an operator at the time of his death. There were also a large floral cross from Newport Castle, K.G.E., and a massive "GAtes Ajar" from the operators of the middle division, P.R.R. In addition the casket was covered with the tributes of loving friends from this place.

The young life of which has just closed was a Christian one, and the strong character was molded after the ideal one. He was born at Salmoa, Clinton County, Pa. July 22, 1871, and baptized September 18 of the same year by Rev. Dr. W.H. Gotwald and confirmed as a member of the Lutheran Church, February 19, 1887, by Rev. G.E. Faber. Since that time he delighted in her service and been earnest and consistent within her fold. He was active in the Sunday school and the Young People's Society, having been for a time the president of the latter organization. His pastor bears testimony to his devotion and he will be missed in every department.

He was also a prominent member of Newport Castle, No. 300, K. G. E., which order also conducted their impressive service at his grave. He consecutively filled all offices in this order and was a few years ago a candidate for a state office, having been nominated at the convention in Altoona.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, write, blessed the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works to follow them."

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