

**David Gring**, (10 Jun, 1857 Pequea, Lancaster County – Mar 1920, Newport, Perry County), Newport News, on micro-film at the Perry Historians, Newport, Pa.

**David Gring** This community was greatly shocked last Saturday morning to learn of the death of Davis Gring, who passed away at his residence, "The Maples," at four o'clock.

Not only was the populace of this community shocked when it learned of Mr. Gring's death, but where ever he was known the news was received with sadness as he was held in high esteem by a very large circle of business friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Gring had been in marked failing health for considerable time, result of progressive diabetes with which he had been afflicted for a number of years.

David Gring was born in Lancaster near Pequea on the 10th of June 1857, the son of **Samuel H. and Catherine (Hoyer) Gring**, his father being a prominent lumberman and manufacturer of the City of Reading. He came to Perry County as the superintendent of his father's mills when he was yet a little past his majority. Before he was twenty-five he purchased his father's extensive business upon his retirement and reorganized and greatly extensive business upon his (father's) retirement and reorganized and greatly extended it. During the first twenty years of his business life he became one of the most extensive and well known lumberman of the State.

From the practical millman he became the successful salesman of his town product and disposed of many millions of feet of lumber to the railroads ship-yards, colliers, and mills, of Pennsylvania and New York. His operations extended over the counties of Dauphin, Perry, Bedford, Mifflin, Huntingdon, Juniata and Cumberland, as well as in Virginia and North Carolina.

His great energy and industry led him from lumbering into kindred enterprises. To develop a tract in Huntingdon County of 20,000 acres he built the Diamond Valley Railroad, some fifteen miles in length, bridging the Juniata (river) and joining the main line of the P.R.R. at Barre. Subsequently he built the Newport and Sherman's Valley Railroad from Newport to New Germantown, Pa. a distance of thirty miles. At the foreclosure of the Perry County Railroad property, he was its purchaser and reconstructed and re-equipped it building fine stations at Bloomfield and Duncannon. He has operated these roads for many years and at his death was the president of both roads.

He then built the Morris County (N.J.) Traction railway extending from Elizabeth, by way of Morristown, to Lake Hopatcong and ran the first cars over it.

Some fifteen years ago he extended his business into the water works construction and operation and expended over \$2,500,000 in this employment. An enumeration of these promotions alone would convey some conception of the vast ability industry and skill of this "Captain of Industry." He built on or improved a dozen or more water properties in Pennsylvania and New York State, among which was the Newport Home Water company of this place and at his death was at the head of nearly all of them.

Of all the water companies he was not only the financial head, but the operator and manager. The vast and varied details of the business of each never were confused in his mind with those of any other. He truly knew each, as if it was his only company.

In his death, central Pennsylvania lost one of its most prominent and enterprising citizens, a man of indomitable will and unlimited courage. No work of any public importance which presented itself to him and which he undertook, ever failed of accomplishment whatever the business sense and sagacity, he never stopped to inquire of the difficulties surrounding it. His penetrating foresight and practical judgment, always told him whether it was worth doing and whether it could or could not be done. If the means of accomplishment were not at hand he proceeded to create them, however great or seemingly insurmountable the task.

In business methods he was calm and determined under every vicissitude or provocation. In his long business life he met several periods of business depression and disaster, through all of which he passed without a diminution of that remarkable bravery and business faith which was always an inspiration to his many business associates.

Mr. Gring's forebears were of staunch Pennsylvania stock having come originally from Holland and settled in Berks County. The grandfather of the lately deceased Mr. Gring was also named David Gring being a native of Berks county, and being both farmer and miller. He accumulated a handsome property and died in his native county.

The father of the subject of the present sketch was born in the village of Sinking Spring, Berks County, where he attended school and learned the trade of miller. In 1871 Samuel Gring engaged in the lumber business at which time he removed to Newville, Cumberland County, having previously resided at Denver, Lancaster County. Samuel Gring removed to Reading in 1876 and died there, having been instrumental also in the building of the N.&S.V.R.R. David Gring of this place (Newport) was the last surviving member of his parents family, there having been a comparatively, large family, several of whom, however died in infancy.

Mr. Gring married **Emma Caldwell**, a daughter of the late **Anson V. and Mary Louisa (Zeigler) Caldwell** of Landisburg, this county, formerly of Westport, Clinton County, Pa., descending from one of the oldest families of this State. To this union was born, **Elizabeth Victoria, Robert Bruce, Rodney M., Herbert Caldwell** and **Wilber D.** all of whom are living except Herbert, a favorite son of the family, who preceded his father to the spirit world some two years since.

To his family, Mr. Gring was an affectionate husband and father. Ever indulgent, self-sacrificing and unselfish he never in his life forgot their slightest wants.

To his many friends and business associates of many years all said here to his memory, and in appreciation of his worth and goodness, is but trite. Those who knew him best, best knew his worth. "The name of the chamber is Peace, where he sleeps till the break of day."

The funeral which will be private will be held from his late residence, "The Maples" at two

o'clock Wednesday afternoon, conducted by the Rev. William D. Taylor, of the Christian Catholic Apostolic Church in Zion.

Friends and neighbors who desire may have the privilege of viewing the remains from four until six o'clock this evening.