

William Ramsey Magee (19 Sep 1862 – 28 Jul 1901), Newport News, August 1, 1901

William Ramsey Magee, aged 39 years, son of **Hon. John A. Magee**, editor of the Perry County Democrat, was drowned Monday afternoon in the public closet in the court house yard at New Bloomfield.

He had been last seen in that neighborhood about 1:30 p.m. His body was recovered an hour later. **James S. Cameron**, clerk to the County Commissioners, found his hat lying on the closet floor. Knowing that **Mr. Magee** was subject to epileptic attacks, he at once surmised that the young man had had one of them there and fallen into the pit, which was open and unprotected, and about ten feet deep, really being a regular death trap.

At the time of this occurrence it contained probably three feet of water, mostly surface drainage. **Mr. Cameron** immediately communicated his fears as to the fate of **Mr. Magee**, to others, when an investigation was instituted and the body of the young man found at the bottom of the pit.

The indications were that **Mr. Magee** had had an epileptic attack about the time he entered the closet, as his breeches belt was unbuckled and his clothes were all intact. He may have, therefore, fallen headforemost into the pit, and but for the fact that his hat was left behind in the closet, his disappearance might not have been discovered for sometime, or maybe never. His affliction had been of more than usual severity for the past several months, and his friends had been therefore, more than usually solicitous in his behalf. They watched him closely with loving attachment, for his was a lovable character, and although physically distressed, he had a penetrating mind. He graduated with honors at Lafayette College in 1881. To over study at college is attributed his epileptic affliction.

After his return from College, he taught two terms as principal of the New Bloomfield High School and afterward for two for two sessions was vice-principal of the Bloomfield Academy. Later on, he engaged in literary work, his failing health compelling him to abandon the vocation of teaching. He assisted in the editorial management of the Perry County Democrat, and had been a contributor to Golden Days and the Philadelphia Times.

He was born in New Bloomfield, September 10, 1862. He was unmarried and leaves a father, sister and brother. Funeral services were conducted yesterday at 10:30 a.m. at the house; interment in the New Bloomfield cemetery.

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