

George M. Ritter (1859 – 13 May 1894), Newport News; May 17, 1894

Ex-Sheriff **George M. Ritter** died peacefully at the Union Hotel, Loysville, about 6 o'clock, last Sunday evening, from a complications of diseases, formidable among which was Bright's disease, a later development of his several ailments and the direct cause of death. Not admonished by the fickleness of the first few balmy days of April, he laid off heavy underclothes and took a severe cold, which clung to him with a firm grasp the balance of his life, although a threatened attack of pneumonia was averted.

On April 9 he took charge of the Union Hotel, which his father had been proprietor of for a long period of years prior to his death in the fall of '85. In a few days he complained of violent pains in his head. He became bedfast and then began the struggle which ended with death the victor.

He was a young man of most generous impulses, of dignified but child like simplicity and he had hosts of friends all over this county. His acquaintanceship was wide away from home and where ever he was known he had friends, all of whom will learn with regret of his death.

Born in Loysville a little more than thirty-one years ago, he grew to manhood under the parents roof, beneath which he died. He was the youngest son of the late **Benjamin Ritter** and is survived by his mother and sister, the wife of the editor of this paper.

He came to Newport in March, '85, to clerk a the Miller Hotel, when S.K. Souder was proprietor.

The following January he became the proprietor himself, continuing the management with much acceptability for the next four years.

February 8, 1887, he was married to **Jennie M. Horting**, daughter of the late **Abraham Horting**, who died less than two hours after his lamented son-in-law. Mrs. Ritter died February 18, 1890. They had no children.

He became the Democratic candidate for sheriff in the campaign of '89, defeated the Republican candidate by four hundred and sixty-four majority. Thus was his popularity fully attested, having overturned a normal Republican majority of 250 to 300.

He was not engaged in business the year of which followed his term of sheriff, 1893, but took a trip to the World's Fair and the south-western states.

Funeral services were held at 5 o'clock on Tuesday evening, at the residence of Mrs. Ritter, the deceased's mother, where the body had been taken earlier in the day.

The house was crowded, a number having come from Bloomfield and elsewhere, and many were unable to gain admittance.

Rev. G.A. House, pastor of the Reformed church, officiated, and the choir sang hymns with impressive effect.

The next morning at 7 o'clock the pallbearers, J.J. Wolf, G.W. Loy, James Wilson and Jerry

Shuler, carried the body and put it into Undertaker Hoenbaugh's hearse. Then the cortege slowly wended its way to the N.&S.V.R.R. station, where passage was taken for Newport.

Here there was a large crowd waiting. Mr. Newcomer, the funeral director, has all the arrangements nicely completed and the morning relatives and friends were subjected to no unnecessary delay, but immediately took carriages for the cemetery to bury the loved one by the side of his wife. Very many of the late Mr. Ritter's friends joined the procession, while others went to the cemetery earlier. An opportunity was here given to view the face of the departed, which was eagerly embraced by the scores of friends present.

Rev. W.R.H. Deatrich read the burial service of the Reformed church in his usual impressive manner and then the body was lowered into the grave, several beautiful floral tributes from loving friends and kin sending up sweet fragrance as the casket vanished out of sight.

The pallbearers, all friends of the departed, were; D.H. Spotts, T.H. Buttdorf, Martin Flickinger, J.M. Sharon, J.E. Fleisher and John S. Leiby.

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