

**Donald Campbell Willard**, (24 Jun 1888 – 1 Feb 1918), Peoples Advocate and Press, February 6, 1918, New Bloomfield, PA

No death in this community or in this section of the State within the recollection of the writer has caused deeper grief and more genuine sorrow than that of **D.C. Willard**, principal of Carson Long Institute, which occurred at his home in this place, from pneumonia and resultant complications. Few knew that he was ill and his death was a shock to all.

During his Christmas vacation in the west he contracted a severe cold, from whose effects he did not completely recover, although apparently in his wonted health, Saturday previous to his death he went to Lewistown and spent Sunday with his friend, **J.B. Pentz**, in Harrisburg, returning home in the evening by way of Newport. The ride chilled him thoroughly. He took some home remedies for his cold, and Monday morning went early as usual to the Institute. His condition was such that he could not preside at chapel, and while hearing classes in his room was seized with heavy chills. Returning home his physician was summoned, but his condition was not deemed serious and he heard classes in his bedroom until Wednesday morning. In the afternoon hiccoughs developed and continued until his death, exhausting his vitality. A nurse was in attendance and **Dr. H.O. Orris**, of Newport, was summoned in consultation Thursday morning, but then the seal of death was upon him. **Mr. Willard** never realized the gravity of his condition and had no thought but that his illness would be of short duration and that he would recover.

**Donald Campbell Willard** was the son of **S.S. Willard**, of Mapleton Depot, Huntingdon County and was born at Tressler Orphans Home, Loysville, June 24, 1888 and at his death was 29 years, 7 months and 7 days. His parents were instructors at the Home which is grandfather, **Rev. Phillip Williard**, was superintendent. **Mrs. Willard** died February 1, 1900. While his father was cashier of the Perry County National Bank, Newport, in 1901, he was a pupil in the high school, there under **Prof. J.C. Wagner**. When his father returned to this place, the son was a student in **Prof. E. Hamilton Smith's** private school and then went to Mercersburg Academy under **Dr. William Mann Irvine**, where he graduated at the head of his class in 1904, as valedictorian. At the age of only 16 years he entered Princeton University, and during his Freshman year led his classes, but on account of an affliction of his eyes during summer vacation he was compelled to relinquish his course at that institution, and for two years rested his eyes in the meantime being tutored by **Rev. J. Thomas Fox**. His vision in great measure having been restored and having received credits for work done during summer courses at the University of Pennsylvania, he entered that institution and graduated with honors in 1910, doing graduate and post-graduate work in pedagogics. Following his graduation he was principal of the Charlerol, Pa. public schools for one year and in 1912 became principal of New Bloomfield Academy, now Carson Long Institute, under the ownership of **Hon. Theodore K. Long**.

His ambition was to make the Institute one of the foremost schools of its class in this country and in this he rapidly succeeded. Each year marked a large increase in the student body, due almost entirely to his individual work and personality. His entire energy was thrown into his work in every department of the school and he never allowed himself a vacation or relaxation. The strain was finally too great and when seized with his final illness tired nature could not respond and the end came.

**Mr. Willard** was a man of strong personality, which was revealed in his intercourse with his pupils all of whom he met. This influence was notably observed among his pupils. He was an authority in athletics as well as in the schoolroom.

Monday morning the students in a body paid their last respects and farewell to their beloved headmaster still in death. With silent tread awe on every countenance they passed before his lifeless form with eyes bedimmed in tears and with stifled sobs, silent lest they might break his calm sleep. Many of them followed him to his last resting place, sincere mourners.

To this community at large, to the course of education his death in the prime of young manhood and usefulness is an immeasurable loss. To his father, whose constant companion he was more as a younger brother than son, his death is a deep affliction, as also to his devoted aunts and to all, we extend our deepest sympathy.

The deceased was unmarried. He was a constant member of the Lutheran Church since boyhood. At the time of his death he was Worshipful Master of Adams Lodge, No 319, F&A.M. of this place and a member of Newport Chapter, No. 238, Royal Arch Masons.

Funeral services were held at his late residence Monday morning, his pastor, Rev. J.W. Weeter, officiating, assisted by Rev. I. Potter Hayes, of the Presbyterian Church, and Rev. J. Thomas Fox, of the Reformed Church, Beautiful floral offerings were placed about the casket. At the grave the burial rites of the Masonic fraternity were observed. The pallbearers were all brother Masons; **J.T. Alter, Luke Baker, W.H. Darlington, P.S. Hill, J.W. Tressler, and H.E. Sheibley.**