

**Patriot, Friday, November 22, 1912, Educator Dead.**

Newport, Nov 21. – **Silas Wright**, a former superintendent of schools of Perry County, will be buried today in Wright's Cemetery, in Perry Valley.

He died on Tuesday at the home of his son in Montgomery County, this state after an eight years illness with rheumatism. Prof Wright was widely known as an educator and local historian. He was the author of the "History of Perry County" and wrote the history of Perry, Juniata and Mifflin Counties for Dr. Egle's "History of Pennsylvania." His other historical writings are widely circulated.

**The Peoples Advocate and Press, New Bloomfield, Perry County, Pa. dated November 27, 1913**

Professor **Silas Wright**, for years one of the foremost educators in the State, died at the home of his son **Dr. W.J. Wright**, at Skippack, Montgomery County, Pa. Wednesday evening of last week. His death was due to muscular rheumatism from which he had suffered for the past eight years or more and latterly he was entirely helpless.

The deceased was a son of the late **John and Jane (Bonsell) Wright** and was born in Perry (formerly Wildcat Valley) Valley, Greenwood Township, and was aged at his death, 71 years, 2 months, and 6 days.

He attended the winter schools until 16 years of age and then began teaching. He entered Millersville Normal School from which he graduated in 1865. The same year and following year he was associated in the management of a boy's academy in Coatesville, Chester County. In 1866 he was elected superintendent of the schools of Perry County over Jacob Gantt and George W. Leshner. At the time Mr. Wright was not quite twenty-five years of age and the only graduate in this county of a State Normal School. Relying upon his record he did not canvas the county for re-election and in 1869 was defeated for the office. While superintendent he founded Juniata Valley Normal School at Newport, but later transferred it to Millerstown. He was its principal until 1878. In 1870 he accepted a professorship in Bloomsburg State Normal School, then in charge of Prof. Henry Carver. Upon his resignation in December of the same year, he gave a couple of weeks institute work in Juniata, Perry and Columbia counties, when he accepted the principal ship of the public schools of Plymouth, Luzerne county, beginning his work in January

following. June, 1871, he resigned and returned to the principal ship of the Normal School at Millerstown.

In 1873, upon the death of Co. Supt. George C. Welker, Prof. Wright was appointed his successor, serving until 1875. May 4, 1875, he was elected County Superintendent serving until 1878, From September, 1878 to July, 1880, he was principal of the Soldiers' Orphans School at McAllisterville, Juniata County, and from September, 1880 to February 1, 1881, held a like position in the Soldiers Orphans School at Chester Springs, Chester county, From September, 1881 to June, 1882, he was principal he was principal of Liverpool borough schools and was principal of the Newport borough schools from Sept. 7, 1885 to June, 1892 when he moved to his farm in Perry Valley, tilling it scientifically, and being employed largely in surveying in this and adjoining counties. He served several terms as County Surveyor.

He was foremost in organizing the Farmers Protective Association of Greenwood Township, May 8, 1884. July 15, 1869, Prof. Wright wedded **Fanny C.**, daughter of **Wilson H.** and **Mary Ann Calhoun**, of Unionville, Centre County, formerly a teacher. Four children were born to this union, **Dr. W.J. Wright** and **Roy Wright** of Skippack, Montgomery County; **Bertha C.**, **Mrs. Roy Wright**, of Salt Lake City, Utah, and **Alma**, who died in 1876, aged 5 years. Mr. Wright has been ill for some years. Mr. Wright was the oldest of a family of six children, the other members being; **O.P. Wright**, Esq. of Millerstown; **Emeline**, deceased; **Mrs. Isadore White** and **J.R. Wright** of Greenwood Township and **A.B. Wright** of Newport. Prof. Wright was the author of many historical books of the history of the area.

To the people generally Prof. Wright was known as an educator, one who had at heart the best interests of the youth of the country. He had no superior as an instructor and few equals and his retirement from activity in educational circles was a distinct loss to the public. However he kept in touch with educational progress to the last. He was contemporary with Wickersham and other great educators of the State and was always found in the advance lines of pedagogical thought. In our own county with W.E. Baker, Gard C. Palm, the elder Bucks, J.E. Stephens, and others, he formed a brilliant galaxy in our earlier educational history surpassed by none in the State. Palm and Stephens yet remain this side of the flood. In religion Prof. Wright was Presbyterian having joined in early manhood, and had been a ruling elder in the church for twenty one years and although he had moved away two years ago still retained his membership at Millerstown. In politics the deceased was an ardent Republican, staunchly upholding the principals of his

party, but retaining the right to support those men and measures his conscience approved it. He was a tender loving parent, and a kind and thoughtful neighbor and friend.

The deceased was a man of highest character, attracting to his all with whom he came in contact. All were impressed with his earnestness in whatever caused engaged. His service was whole hearted if at all. He was the cherished friend of our father and at the latter's death we claimed and found in him a loyal friend and wise counselor. Peace to his ashes.

The remains of the deceased were brought from Skippack Friday, arriving at Millerstown at noon and thence conveyed to Wright's Cemetery, Perry Valley, where services were conducted by his pastor, Rev. Will H. Dyar of the Presbyterian Church.