

[Lewis, Delbert R.]

FUNERAL OF D. R. LEWIS WAS HELD THURSDAY
Services Conducted by Masonic Order—Burial Made Near Old Home
Was 32ndDegree Mason

The funeral of the late Delbert K. Lewis, formerly principal of the Norwood High School, took place on Thursday afternoon from his home in Bridgewater, N. Y.

Mr. Lewis was stricken while in the hay field on Monday of last week and never regained consciousness, passing away early Tuesday morning. Funeral services were held in the Universalist church which was directly opposite the Lewis home, a double line being formed from the home to the doors of the church by the Masonic fraternity. The church was well filled with sympathizing friends and a solo was effectively rendered by Rev. Charles Barrett, pastor of the M. E. church of Leonardville. Rev. W. Griffith of the Bridgewater Congregational church offered the prayer. Rev. Joseph Phillips of Norwood made references to the esteem in which Mr. Lewis was held in Norwood and his work in the school, fraternity and church in this village. Rev. DeWitt Lamphere, pastor of the Bridgewater Universalist church, preached a sermon in which he referred to Mr. Lewis as one who was always very active at home in works of usefulness and the fact that he died while in harness. He was present at Mr. Lamphere's service on the previous Sunday morning and expressed his appreciation of the sermon.

Burial was made in the cemetery at Unadilla Forks where a Masonic service was conducted by W. B. Andrew, Master of What Cheer Lodge, of this village.

Mr. Lewis, who was spending the summer vacation with his mother at her home in Bridgewater, had gone to the farm, north of the village, owned by Mrs. Briggs to assist in haying. About 3 in the afternoon the men with whom he was working noticed that he was acting strangely and called to him to come into the house. Almost immediately Mr. Lewis became unconscious and did not regain consciousness.

Delbert R. Lewis was born March 20, 1874, in the town of Plainfield, where his parents were then engaged in farming. After the death of the father, Lewis Lewis, the mother and children moved to Bridgewater, and purchased their present home. Delbert attended the high school and was graduated in the first graduating class in 1897.

The next year he took a post-graduate course in Clayville High school. In 1899 Mr. Lewis returned to Bridgewater and accepted a position as primary department head, which he held for several years, making many friends with the children and their parents, because of his inexhaustible patience with the little ones.

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In 1902 he entered St. Lawrence University, from which he was graduated in 1906. Since that time he has been a teacher in Madrid and Norwood. Mr. Lewis had accepted a position as principal for the coming year at Harrisville.

For several years, during his summer vacation, Mr. Lewis was employed as boatman at Star Lake Inn, Star Lake, St. Lawrence county. He had entire charge of the boat livery and during his employment there met hundreds of people and made a wide acquaintance among New York, Utica, Syracuse, and Buffalo people who spent their summers at that resort. Many of them were unaware that he was a school principal and he was generally known among them as plain "Del" Lewis. Parents entrusted to him the care of their children, knowing that he would provide a boat that would ensure their safety. Directly in front of the hotel is the bathing [swimming] beach and part of Mr. Lewis' duties consisted in watching the bathers [swimmers], especially those who could not swim. To this care many owed their lives to him.

He was of powerful build and always interested in athletics. He had an equally powerful voice and a hearty laugh that brought him scores of friends among the summer visitors. Knowing him for his genial nature, as soon as they arrived back each summer they would ask if "Del" Lewis was still in charge of the boats.

Mr. Lewis was a member of the following: Blue Lodge, No. 589, of Norwood; Chapter Commandery and Shrine of Watertown; Central City, Consistory of Syracuse.

Mr. Lewis was a 32nd degree Mason, and had hosts of friends in his home town and the towns where he taught, who were grieved to her [sic] of his passing.

He leaves his mother, Mrs. Sara L. Lewis; a sister, Mrs. Maurice Richards of Sauquoit; two brothers, John of Little Falls and Robert of Utica.

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Transcribed on 23 Apr 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY