

David Newland

(- 21 Dec 1857)

The Evening Star, December 21, 1857

Coroner's Inquest

About 7 o'clock yesterday morning, the body of a man was discovered floating in the canal at the foot of 9th street west. It was taken out and conveyed to the Central Guard House where a jury was summoned, and an inquest disclosed the following facts. The deceased was Gen. David Newland of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, but formerly of North Carolina, where he ran for Congress, was defeated and contested the seat of his opponent.

Mr. Newland was formerly Speaker of the House of Delegates of Wisconsin. He had been in Washington some five or six months, acting as agent, it is understood, for various parties who were applying for office. He has been latterly in very straightened pecuniary circumstances, and this fact probably gave rise to the suspicion that he deliberately put an end to his existence, but the facts elicited before the jury seemed to indicate that his death was accidental, and the jury brought in a verdict accordingly. The papers upon his person were not wet through, indicating that he had been a short time in the water when discovered. Among these papers was a Free Mason's diploma of twenty years' standing, and the body was accordingly taken charge of by members of the Order and conveyed to their hall on 9th street, from whence he was buried at 3 o'clock this morning.

It is high time something was done with that infernal man-trap, the city canal. Let it either be filled up, ("a consummation devoutly to be wished,") arched over, or railed in, as is the case with Jones' Falls in Baltimore. We wonder the city fathers are not afraid to cross the canal after night fall, lest they should be confronted by some of the pale specters of the drowned, who, if there be any truth in ghost stories, must hover over its torrid waters in squadrons!

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Death by Drowning

Yesterday morning the body of a man was discovered floating with the tide in the canal, and officer Deggs and others succeeded in bringing it to land. At the watch-house, where the body was conveyed, it was proved, on examination, to be that of General David Newland, formerly a prominent politician in the Eighth Congressional District of North Carolina, and subsequently Speaker of the House of Representatives in Wisconsin, and local superintendent and engineer of the harbor improvements in Sheboygan. From papers on his person, and the evidence of several gentlemen in this city, it appeared that he had been here several weeks, and was an applicant for a situation in the Capitol; that he was or had been a member of the Masonic Order, and a man of generally temperate habits.

The coroner summoned a jury, who rendered a verdict of accidental death by drowning.

The body is now at the Masonic Hall, in charge of B.B. French Lodge, and will be buried tomorrow evening in the Congressional Cemetery with Masonic honors.