

William Read

(24 Apr 1823 – 29 Apr 1884)

Read. In this city, after a brief illness, at 2 o'clock p.m., April 29, 1884, William Read, of Montgomery county, Md., in the 62d year of his age. His funeral will take place from St. Andrew's church, corner 14th and Corcoran streets, at 12 o'clock m. Thursday, May 1st. Friends of the family are invited to attend.

Read. On Tuesday, April 29th, 1884, William Read, late of Montgomery county, Maryland, died suddenly in Washington city. His funeral services were held in St. Andrew's church, Corcoran street, and his remains were laid in the Congressional Cemetery. Mr. Read was born in New Castle, Delaware, April 24, 1823. He was appointed cadet at the Military Academy at West Point, July 1st, 1840, graduated July 1st, 1844, was breveted as second lieutenant in the Sixth Infantry, July 6th, 1844, and in the same year placed on frontier duty at Fort Smith, Arkansas. In the war with Mexico in 1846 and 1847, he served as second lieutenant in the Fifth Infantry, being engaged on the march through Coahuila, in 1846, at the siege of Vera Cruz, in March 1847, and on the Arisaba expedition in 1848. In 1850 he resigned his commission as first lieutenant in the Fifth infantry to accept the professorship of natural and experimental philosophy in the Military Academy of Kentucky, near Frankfort. During the administration of President Pierce he was appointed to examiner of patents in Washington, and subsequently entered the firm of Munn & Co., solicitors of patents, as patent attorney. Mr. Read's legal abilities were of a high order, and, as applied to his specialty, gained for him a reputation as patent lawyer second to none in the city. His services during a long association with the firm, lasting almost up to the hour of his death, were in the highest degree eminent and valuable. Mr. Read may be said to have inherited his legal talent. His great-grandfather, George Read, held the office of Chief Justice of the Province of Delaware under the Crown, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a framer of the Constitution of the United States. His grandfather and father were able and distinguished lawyers, first in rank at the bar of their state.

By his many warm personal friends, Mr. Read will long be remembered for the sweetness of his nature and the peculiarly gentle and endearing traits of his character.

Cullum. Biographical Register of U.S. Military Academy

Class of 1844: William Read

Born Delaware, appointed Delaware. Ranked 16th of 25.

Cadet at the military academy July 1, 1840 to July 1, 1844 when he was graduated and promoted in the Army to Bvt. 2d Lt., 6th Infantry, July 1, 1844. Served on frontier duty at Ft. Smith, Ark., 1844-46, in the War with Mexico 1846-47 being engaged on the march thru Coahuila, 1846, and in the siege of Vera Cruz, March 9 to 29, 1847, conducting recruits from New Orleans, La. To Mexico, 1847; in the War with Mexico, 1847-48, on the Crizaba Expedition, on sick leave of absence, 1848; and on Frontier duty at Ft. Washington, I.T., 1848-50. Resigned July 31, 1850.

Civil History: Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy, Kentucky Military Institute, near Frankfort, Ky., 1851-53; Clerk in the U.S. Patent Office, Washington, D.C., 1853-55 and Assistant Examiner of Patents, 1855-1861. Farmer, Montgomery County, Md., 1861-84. Died April 29, 1884 at Washington D.C., aged 61.

Ranks: