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Ralph Lamar Webb - Scrapbook Biographical Page

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Ralph Lamar Webb

Ralph Lamar Webb, only brother of Mrs. O. Max Gardner, and the son of Judge and Mrs. J. L. Webb of Shelby, N. C. was born Dec. 15, 1879 and died in a Charlotte hospital after an appendicitis operation, Jan. 9, 1905. He was born in the small home on W. Marion St. next to the large home of his grand parents, Rev. + Mrs. J. M. Webb. He was educated at the Shelby Graded School and at A. + M. College in Raleigh, N. C. He went to Gainesville, Ga. to be with his Uncle Charlie and George Webb in the insurance business, later going to Birmingham Ala. as a cotton broker, then sent to Logansville, Ga. for a few years as representative of the firm. He influenced his parents to send his sister, Jay, to school at Lucy Cobb Institute, then an outstanding school for young ladies with Mrs. Frank Lipscomb and Miss Mollie Rutherford as President + Principle. He often visited his sister here, taking her and her friends out; and several times to Atlanta, once to see and hear her first grand Opera, with Gussie singing. She also visited him at his various points of business and was always doing something for her and his family. His nature was most loving, unselfish, thoughtful to everybody and was exceedingly popular with young and old. He had a charming personality, having a genial and likable manner, was unusually handsome - 6ft 2 tall, dark hair, pearly white teeth, clear cut features, dressed neatly and wore the latest style of clothes. He loved, and was beloved, by his family. He joined the First Baptist Church when fourteen, and was only 26 yrs. old when he died.

He came home in 1904 for Christmas and planned to enter the University of North Carolina to study law but was stricken with an acute attack of appendicitis. As no hospital here, his doctor, Dr. W. F. Mitchell and parents carried him to St. Peter's Hospital in Charlotte where Dr. J. S. Stokes of Salisbury came over to perform the operation. He was considered the best surgeon nearby for this little P. n. o. n. operation, and on Jan. 3, 1905 the operation performed. Later peritonitis set in and Ralph died Jan. 9, 1905 at 6:30 in the morning. The Charlotte Bar accompanied his body to the Railway Station in a body at noon. His sister, Jay, came from her school in Ga. and his uncle, Cong. E. G. Webb joined the funeral party. He was buried from the Webb home, Rev. M. E. Parrish + Rev. W. R. Minter of Shelby Church officiating. The pall bearers were his old comrades and friends: - Paul Webb, Evans McBrayer, Julius Suttle, Fred Harnock, Ed Leonard, + O. M. Mulk. He was buried at Shelby Summit Cemetery with Masonic honors, having been a member of the Ferguson Lodge, No 185, F. + A. M., Logansville, Ga. in Jan. 21, 1902

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