

**PRIMARY SOURCE 4: CARLISLE DAILY HERALD**

Carlisle, PA., Monday, August 19, 1889

HON. FREDERICK WATTS.

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Hon. Frederick Watts, whose death was announced in our issue of Saturday and whose funeral took place this afternoon, was one of the illustrious men whose lives have made famous the place of their birth—the beautiful Cumberland Valley...

...Very early in life and before attaining his majority he became interested in agriculture and he retained his interest in it throughout life. He soon acquired real estate and experimented in farm buildings, in fertilizers, in crops, in soils, in agricultural implements, and in various breeds of stocks, and the results were made known to the farming community. To do this more effectually he organized the Agricultural Society, of which for many years he was president, and at its meetings discussed subjects of practical interest to farmers and invited and brought about a free interchange of opinions. He introduced agricultural fairs for the exhibition of everything relating to farm and household use in order to stimulate farmers and their families to keep abreast with the times. He was widely known for his interest and activity in agriculture and became a power in and president of the State Agricultural Society, bringing about the establishment of the State Agricultural College (of whose Board of Trustees he became President) and the acquisition of experimental farms. The farmers of Cumberland County, as a mark of their appreciation of his services to the cause of agriculture and of their high personal regard for him, presented him with a large handsomely engraved silver pitcher. Finally as the crowning honor of his life as a farmer and when he had reached his seventieth year President Grant made him United States Commissioner of Agriculture, a position he filled with honor for some years, and his annual reports attest his ability and the value of the work done under his administration of the office. During this time he resided in Washington and the ablest men there soon recognized his ability and sought his companionship and advice...

...Powerful in physique, dignified and courteous in manner, clear, concise and earnest in speech, he impressed himself upon all who came in contact with him. To young members of the bar he was ever ready to lend assistance, and no odds how busily engaged he might be he would drop everything to resolve their doubts and direct their course. He was a close observer of character and hardly a boy in his teens that he saw on the streets escaped his almost intuitive analysis of character. He watched their careers with interest and if his opinion of them was favorable he would help them in ways they never knew of. Such young men never appealed to him for aid in vain. Dishonesty he constitutionally despised and his withering scorn of it drove it skulking from his presence. He had few peers as a conversationalist. For many years in the evenings he was to be found at the store of the elder Haverstick, the railroad office, or some other centre for conversation. There two or three and sometimes half a dozen or more people would gather and for an hour or two a steady stream of conversation would pour from his lips that commanded the admiration of his hearers, added to the information, and increased their appreciation of honesty and integrity. He was always charitable, never paraded his giving and the deserving poor he never turned away empty handed. On questions of law his arguments were clear, logical and convincing and his power over juries was so great that he rarely lost a case where he had the concluding address.

He was twice married. From his first marriage none but grand children, the children of a deceased daughter,—Mrs. Foreman—survive her. Five sons, one daughter, the children of two deceased daughters, with his wife survive from his second marriage. They have a heritage of character from the patriarch full of years and of honors today laid away beneath the sods of the Valley far surpassing anything that gold and silver can confer upon them and with it they have the love and respect of every one who ever knew their honored dead.