

Headen, John W

After Lingering Illness—Was Former Well-known Newspaper Worker.

Too Late for our issue last week came the announcement of the death at McMeekin, this county, of John William Headen, a former well known newspaper man of Florida. Mr. Headen's death occurred at the home of his sister, Mrs. J. Letcher McMurtry, with whom he had been living for the past two years. His death was due to tuberculosis, from which he had suffered several years.

Mr. Headen was a close personal friend of Hon. Frank L. Mayes, editor and publisher of the Pensacola Journal and the most talked of man as Florida's next governor. We will let Mr. Mayes tell of Mr. Headen. Here is his tribute to his dead friend:

“Information has just been received in Pensacola of the death Thursday afternoon, October 23, at McMeekin, Putnam county, Florida, of John William Headen. The cause of death was tuberculosis, from which Mr. Headen has suffered for several years.

“No more lovable character ever lived than Will Headen. He and the editor of the Pensacola Journal became friends nearly eighteen years ago when both were employed as reporters on the old Pensacola Times. He was a newspaper man of wide experience, having worked on some of the largest papers throughout the United States from Virginia to Oregon, and having seen service in Florida on the Tampa, Jacksonville, and Pensacola papers, his last work being done on the The Pensacola Journal. For the past two years, he had been living in the home of his sister, Mrs. J. Letcher McMurtry, of McMeekin, Florida, and it was there that he passed away last week after a lingering illness.

Of distinguished Virginia ancestry, the possessor of a liberal school education, which was enlarged and perfected in the great school of experience, blessed with a happy disposition and a splendid intellect, loyal in his friendships and of a great hearted, forgiving nature, Mr. Headen impressed himself lastingly upon all with whom he came intimately in contact. He had read and retained much of all the best of literature and he was a versatile writer. Probably no newspaper man in Florida could write on a wider range of subjects and certainly none could illumine any subject with finer English diction. Some of his descriptive articles on Florida were classics and a collection of them in one volume would constitute a fund of state literature that would hardly be excelled in beauty of style or range of facts.

“Those whose good fortune it was to know Will Headen intimately loved him and all will experience genuine sorrow in the news of his death.”

The Palatka News and Advertiser

Friday, October 31, 1913