

# Willard Robertson

Occupant Name: Willard Robertson

Location: Section O, Lot 28

Date of Birth: 5/28/1864

Date of Death: 12/24/1919

Date of Burial: 1919

Veteran: No

Lot Owner: W.R. Bolles

Multiple Occupants: No

Comment:



## WILLARD ROBERTSON COMMITTS SUICIDE

Former Brownstown Man Locks  
Himself In Bath Room And  
Turns On Gas.

ATTORNEY AT INDIANAPOLIS

Despondency Over Domestic Troubles  
Supposed To Be Cause—Remains  
Brought Here For Burial.

The announcement last week that Willard Robertson, formerly of Brownstown, had committed suicide at his home in Indianapolis, was quite a shock to his relatives and many acquaintances here. He ended his life by asphyxiation, Wednesday afternoon of last week, concerning which the Indianapolis papers published the following particulars: "Willard Robertson, an attorney with offices at 625 Lemeke building and at one time a candidate for the nomination for prosecuting attorney on the Democratic ticket, committed suicide late Wednesday afternoon at his home, 1429 North Alabama street by locking himself in the bathroom and turning on the gas.

Mr. Robertson has been despondent for some time because of domestic trouble, according to statements of friends to Dr. Paul F. Robinson, coroner.

The body was found lying on the floor in the bathroom of Robertson's home by Fred Rassman, who occupies an apartment above the Robertson apartment, and his brother Emil Rassman, Jr. Mr. Robertson had entered the bathroom, closed the door and all the windows and then turned on the gas jet in the room.

Robertson had been separated from his wife, Mrs. Madge E. Robertson, for more than a year, and has been despondent and in ill health since the separation. Mrs. Robertson is now living in Chicago with the Robertsons' only daughter, Ruth Robertson, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin.

Fred Rassman discovered the body when he went in search of Robertson to inquire about getting more heat turned on in his apartment. He went to Mr. Robertson's office in the Lemeke Building with his brother, and when he did not find Robertson in he immediately suspected that something was wrong. He went back to the apartment house, obtained keys to the Robertson apartment and when he noticed the bathroom door locked, broke it in and found the body.

Friends of Robertson told Coroner Robinson that since his separation he has often spoken of ending his life and it is believed his decision was hastened with the approach of Christmas. Mr. Robertson, since the separation, has been living alone at the North Alabama street address.

Robertson had practiced law in In-

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LEAD—Robertson Suicide Indianapolis for more than twenty years and was a member of the city and state bar association.

The remains were brought here Sunday and taken to the home of his brother-in-law, W. R. Bolles, where private funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. Glenn O. Mills, pastor of the Christian church, officiating, followed by interment in Fairview cemetery.

Willard Robertson, youngest son of John B. and Mary E. Robertson, was born in Brownstown, May 28, 1864; died at his home in Indianapolis December 24, 1919, aged 55 years, 6 months and 26 days.

His early life was spent in Brownstown, where he attended the public schools. After his school days in this place he went to Indiana University where he graduated in 1889. He continued his studies in Cincinnati, graduating from the Cincinnati Law School some time later. After he had completed his education he went to Washington, D. C., where he lived for about two years and was employed as private secretary to Congressman Bynum.

He left Washington to enter into the practice of law in Indianapolis. He established his office in the Lemeke building and continued in that location until the time of his death. Being studious, and devoted to his work, he was successful in his profession and had built a lucrative and honorable practice. He was successful in his chosen work, but was modest and unassuming. It was his nature to be quiet and reserved. He formed many friendships which were true and lasting. He was a man who loved his home and preferred it above the calls to social activities. He was married to Madge Snyder, of Kokomo, Indiana in 1895. To this union was born one daughter, Ruth, who with her mother, survive the departed.

He was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity and maintained his membership to the day of his death.

He has three living brothers, Jonathan, Robert L., and Bruce, who mourn his departure. Two other brothers Charles A., and Edmond S., have preceded him in death within the past four months. He was deeply devoted to his only sister who has also gone on before him. By his special request he is buried near this sister of whom he said "She was always true—she never failed me."

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