

## George A. Downing

Occupant Name: George A. Downing

Location: **Section E**

Date of Birth: 1/2/1853

Date of Death: 10/18/1881

Date of Burial: 1881

Veteran: No

Multiple Occupants: No

Comment:

No legible headstone at site

### The Death of George A. Downing.

Upon the first page of the Banner will be found a full account of the railroad disaster on the New Albany Branch of the Jeffersonville, Madison and Indianapolis Railroad, by which George A. Downing, conductor of the wrecked freight train, was instantly killed. Mr. Downing was a son of John Downing, deceased, who many years ago was engaged in merchandising at Ewing. He was a native of this county, and a few years ago was employed as a clerk in W. C. Benton's store. About two years ago he was united in marriage with Miss Carrie Phifer, daughter of John Phifer, of this place, with whom he lived happily until that fatal Sunday when the wreck of the train under his charge hurled him into eternity. The faithful, loving wife, whom he had left in the morning to take charge of his train, as was her wont, eagerly awaited his return, and as usual had the table linen spread and a savory meal awaiting him. Instead of the idolized husband, who was as all of life to her, returning in the buoyancy and vigor of health, as he had left her but a few hours before, came the heart-rending intelligence that he was dead—mangled and crushed to death while faithfully performing his duty. No one save that young wife herself can know of the intensity of the anguish which rent her heart at that moment—of the unspeakable, indescribable agony she endured, compared to which the torments of a painful death would be as a blissful relief. But such is life. To-day we live and are happy in the companionship of those near and dear to us; to-morrow death intervenes and the smiles of the morning are followed by tears in the evening.

George A. Downing was an exemplary young man of kind disposition and industrious habits, and commanded the esteem of all who knew him. Some years ago he was initiated a member of Brownstown Lodge, No. 488, I. O. O. F., but permitted himself to lapse into dormant membership after his departure from Brownstown. His remains were brought to this place on Monday morning and conveyed to the residence of his wife's parents. They were encased in a handsome casket, furnished by the J., M. & I. R. R. Co., and were accompanied by the wife and other relatives, as well as by a number of his fellow-employees, who came to act as pall-bearers. The funeral took place on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock, and was largely attended. Appropriate services were conducted in the M. E. Church, with an impressive discourse by the pastor, Rev. V. W. Tevis, after which the remains were taken to the new cemetery and lain away to await the resurrection morn.