

William M. Pruden

(23 Oct 1872 – 27 Jul 1888)

The Washington Post, July 28, 1888, p. 6

Accidentally Killed

Assistant Secretary Pruden's Son Run Over by a Loaded Wagon

William W. Pruden, the sixteen-year-old son of Mr. O.L. Pruden, Assistant Secretary to the President, was run over and killed by a two-horse wagon near Arlington yesterday afternoon about 3 o'clock. He had been on a visit of several days to a schoolmate, by the name of Bailey, whose father lives on a farm near Arlington, and yesterday the two were out with the men engaged in harvesting oats. The wagon had just been loaded, and young Pruden, while endeavoring to climb on top of the load, slipped and fell, and the wheels of the wagon passed over his body causing an internal hemorrhage, from which he died in an hour. The remains were immediately taken to Mr. Pruden's residence, 317 Eleventh street southwest. The family are so much pained by the suddenness of the death that no arrangements have yet been made in regard to the funeral. The boy attended the Jefferson School, and was quite a bright and exceedingly popular with his schoolmates.

The Evening Star, July 28, 1888

A Sad Accident

A Son of Mr. O.L. Pruden Run Over and Killed in a Harvest Field

A sad accident occurred yesterday afternoon on a farm near Arlington, Va., resulting in the death of Willie Pruden, the sixteen-year-old son of Mr. O.L. Pruden, the President's assistant secretary. He has been for several days in a visit to a schoolmate named Bailey, on the farm of the latter's father near Arlington. Yesterday at about 3 o'clock the boys were out in an oat field where the harvesters were carrying the grain from the field. A wagon had just been loaded, young Bailey was on top holding the reins and trying to help Pruden climb up the slippery sides of the load. Both fell and the horses started off. The wheels of the wagon passed over Pruden's body and grazed Bailey's head. The former got up and walked to the house, about one hundred yards away, telling the folks that he was hurt. He felt but little pain and was going up stairs when he fell and was carried to a sofa. He did not seem much injured and lay quietly talking to those around him while they were waiting for the arrival of a physician, when he suddenly, without a sound expired. The death was caused by an internal hemorrhage. The body was taken as soon as possible to the residence of Mr. Pruden, 317 11th street southwest. The funeral will probably take place on Monday. The deceased was a bright, quiet boy, well liked by all his companions, and advancing well in his school work.

The Evening Star, July 31, 1888

Funeral of Mr. O.L. Pruden's Son

The funeral of Wm. W. Pruden, the 16-year-old son of Mr. O.L. Pruden, the President's (Cleveland) assistant private secretary, took place yesterday afternoon. By order of the President all the executive clerks were excused from their duties at the White House in order that they could attend the services, and a handsome wreath of flowers was sent from the conservatory.