

[Columbus, PA]

A history of the religious movements in this township would be incomplete without somewhat extended mention of the most prominent clergyman and theologian in the town. Rev. Nathaniel Stacy was born on the 2d of December, 1778, in New Salem, Mass. His father, Rufus Stacy, was a fisherman, during the seasons, on the banks of the Newfoundland, and like [Nathaniel's] mother, was a native of Gloucester, Mass. They were probably of Scottish or Irish descent. The subject of this notice studied theology under the [tutelage] of Rev. Hosea Ballou, of Massachusetts, and did his first preaching near Salem. He was always of diminutive stature, being five feet and one inch in height, and weighing for years but ninety-five pounds. His heaviest weight was 105 pounds. He was active in movement and rapid and nervous in speech, but at the same time of a very calm and even-tempered disposition. He lived his religion. In the fall of 1798 he went to Bridgewater, Vt., where, for his health, he tried blacksmithing and several other manual occupations. He soon returned to Massachusetts. Then he went to Hamilton, Madison Co., N. Y. in April, 1808, after itinerating through Massachusetts, Vermont, and New York, and remained there during a period of twenty-two years. On the 30th of January, 1806, he married Susan, daughter of Perez Clark. In 1830 he came | to Columbus, Pa... After five years he removed to Ann Arbor, Mich., where he remained about five years, and then came back to Columbus, where he spent the remainder of his life, preaching, as he says, until Spiritualism "broke out," about 1851 or 1852, and his meetings were interrupted. From that time he engaged in only occasional preaching. He died April 7, 1868 and was followed by his widow exactly one year and six months afterward. They had eight children, of whom only three, Judge Edwin C. Stacy, now of Albert Lea, Minn., Clara, wife of John D. Anderson of Washington, Iowa, and Charlotte, wife of O[zro] A. Smith, of this township, survive. The house now occupied by O. A. Smith in Columbus borough was built by Rev. Stacy in 1832. He was the first Universalist preacher, and the organizer of the Universalist church, in Columbus. He came at the solicitation of Peter C. Howard, Ezra Dutton, Solomon Dutton, Captain [David] Curtis, Isaac Crosby, and others of that denomination. The house of worship was erected under Mr. Stacy's direction in 1847, and is now a Union church.

J. S. Schenck, *History of Warren Co., Pennsylvania*
(Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1887) PP. 491-2

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