

[Titus, Anson]

REV. ANSON TITUS PASSES

Rev. Anson Titus, 84, well known historian and generous contributor to the CITIZEN for 50 years, passed away at his home in West Somerville, Mass., on March 16th. Deceased was the son of Anson and Almira Titus. His early life was spent in Phelps and he retained a keen interest in the affairs of the place of his nativity up to the last. His latest contribution to the columns of the CITIZEN appeared in the issue of December 31st last, which, we are informed, was his last writing, written under great difficulty and weakness.

Mr. Titus knew more of the early history of Phelps than any of its present day citizens and at the time of his demise had manuscripts on all the pioneers of Phelps and the early history of the town. It had been his fond hope to some day assemble this matter in book form, but financial support was not forthcoming so the project was abandoned. An effort should be made to secure the material and place it in the town vault for future reference and as a memorial to a man who has given so much of his time in assembling history of the town for posterity.

At the centennial observance of the town of Phelps in 1889 he was historian of the occasion.

The following clipping was taken from the Boston *Transcript* of March 17: "Rev. Anson Titus, who died Wednesday morning at his home in West Somerville after a long illness, was born in Phelps, N.Y., on June 21, 1847, and was educated at Clinton Liberal Institute, N.Y. and the theological school at St. Lawrence University, from which he was graduated in 1872. He held active pastorates at Oakland, Me.; Towanda, Pa.; Charlton, Weymouth, South Weymouth, Amesbury and Natick, Mass. Since 1894 he had resided at West Somerville and of late years has been engaged in collaboration with others in historical and genealogical research and was often consulted on difficult questions. He assisted in the preparation of innumerable genealogical publications.

At one time he was associate editor of the Gospel Banner, a Universalist denominational paper, and contributed to other church publications. He was a life member of the Universalist Historical Society and also of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, to both of which he made valuable contributions.

He is survived by his wife, who was Lucie Fobis Merrill; a son, Anson Merrill Titus of Swampscott, and a daughter, Mrs. F. Leslie Hayford of New York.

Funeral services will be held at the Third Universalist Church, West Somerville, at three o'clock on Saturday, and interment will be at Mount Auburn."

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