

[Whitcomb, Thomas Jefferson]

Obituaries of Ministers Deceased During the Year

VII. THOMAS JEFFERSON WHITCOMB, son of Samuel and Lydia (Ramsdell) Whitcomb, was born in Hanover, Mass., June 4, 1801, and died in Canisteo, Steuben Co., N.Y., Feb. 9, 1877, in his 76th year. He attended for a while the academy in the neighboring town of Hingham, and studied for the ministry with Rev. Paul Dean in Boston. He was licensed as a preacher at Washington, N.H., in 1823, and ordained at the same place in June, 1827. In 1830 he was stationed at Hudson, N.Y., and in that year organized a Sunday School, one of the first Universalist schools organized by our people in that State (that of Watertown only [1821] being of an earlier date). He was afterwards located as follows: at Schenectady, Victor, Cortland, Newport, Springville, Buffalo and Alexander, N.Y., and (in 1844-46) at Hightstown, N.J. Mr. Whitcomb was twice married. His first wife, Chloe Lincoln, died in Webster, Monroe Co., N.Y., July 18, 1866. His second wife was widow Mary Wilson, to whom he was married at Dunkirk, N.Y., Oct. 10, 1868. After his second marriage he went to live in Cambridgeboro', Crawford Co., Pa., where he resided 4 years. He then removed to Canisteo, and remained there till his death. He was perfectly reconciled to his approaching end, and, as he was nearing the river of death, said, "It is finished and all is right."

Those who had known him from youth up speak in strong terms of his worth as a citizen, a minister, and pastor. Rev. Dr. [Clement] Le Fevre, who knew him well, says, "Br. Whitcomb was not what is termed a sensational preacher, nor did he possess rhetorical powers, but he was a good preacher and left on his hearers the conviction of his earnestness and devotedness. As the disciple of the good Master he followed his direction, 'Go preach the Gospel.' That was the sum and substance of his message. In his pastoral relation he was very efficient." Two children [Sarah Maria, m. Edmund Burke Vedder, and Mary Abigail, m. Cyrus William Richardson], five grandchildren and one great-grandchild, descendants of his first wife, survive him. He had another daughter [Lucia Caroline, m. Joseph Dibble Hoyt], who died in Buffalo in 1857.

*The Universalist Register*, Boston MA, 1878, pp. 88-9