

[Bailey, Elizabeth Whitcomb]

ELIZABETH WHITCOMB BAILEY

Former Rochester Woman Died at Her Home in Harvey, Ill. in Her 96th Year

Interment was made yesterday morning of the body of Elizabeth Whitcomb Bailey, a resident of Rochester from 1865 to 1871, who died at her home, Harvey, Cook Co., Ill., on Wednesday night in the 96th year of her age. A few friends were at the grave, where prayers were said by Rev. Asa Saxe who ministered to Mrs. Bailey when she was a member of the First Universalist Church, of which he was pastor during the years of her residence in Rochester.

Mrs. Bailey was the widow of Rev. J. W. [James Wilson] Bailey, a Universalist minister who died in 1864 and was buried in Mount Hope, where lies the body of their daughter, Ellen Rose Bailey, who died in [Lima, Livingston Co. NY on 28 Dec] 1862. After her husband's death Mrs. Bailey came to Rochester and took up her home at No. 66 Franklin street, where a pleasant family circle was formed. This included Mr. and Mrs. James Sargent and Col. and Mrs. H. S. Greenleaf, who, in those early years of their married lives, had not begun housekeeping. All of the household were members of the First Unitarian [should be Universalist] church.

Mrs. Bailey was in many ways a remarkable woman. She was of New England descent, born in the town of Swanzey, New Hampshire February 14, 1810. She was at the time of her death the only surviving granddaughter of Colonel Jonathan Whitcomb, the story of whose gallant stand at Bunker Hill is part of the history of this country. Her father and seven brothers lived in Swanzey, where they were men of prominence. It was her brother, Joshua Whitcomb, whose character [D\_\_?] Thompson made famous in the play of that name.

Mrs. Bailey was the mother of four children: Col. J. Murray Bailey, a veteran of the Civil War who now lives in San Francisco; Abbie Bailey Olmsted, wife of Major J. A. [Jerauld Aubery] Olmsted, retired, of Des Moines, Iowa; Rev. Emma Bailey, a Unitarian [should be Universalist] minister with whom she made her home at Harvey; and Emma [should be Ellen] Rose Bailey, who is buried at Mount Hope.

Up to almost her last breath Mrs. Bailey was in full possession of her faculties, alert and fully alive to all conditions surrounding her. She was remarkably well preserved, having the appearance of a woman twenty-five years her junior. She was greatly beloved and was known affectionately far and near as "Mother Bailey."

Rev. Emma Bailey and Mrs. Olmsted, the surviving daughters, accompanied the funeral car to Rochester and were made welcome at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sargent in East avenue during their stay here.

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