

[Baldwin, George Wilson]

George W. Baldwin

George Wilson Baldwin, one of the most respected and widely known citizens of Cuba, died at his home at North Cuba on Oct. 22, at the age of 81 years, 8 months and (?) days.

He was born on the same farm where he died, and which had always been his home. His parents were Lonon and Sally (Conant) Baldwin, and he had one brother, Orson A., who died in 1911, and two sisters, Mrs. Louise M. Morgan and Miss Stella Baldwin, who survive him.

Mr. Baldwin enlisted in Company A, 135th New York Volunteers, in 1862, and took part in 15 engagements, serving until he was discharged three years later. He was wounded at Averysboro, N. C., in March, 1865, and carried the ball in his ankle until his death.

Mr. Baldwin had always been a farmer, managing the same farm which his grandfather bought of the Holland Land company when Cuba was a pioneer settlement; his estate was one of the most perfectly tilled and kept of any in the countryside.

Mr. Baldwin had been commander of Bartle post, G.A.R., for the past 25 years, and had always been most devoted to the work of that organization. One service for which the town has reason to be particularly grateful was the compilation of a list of the men who enlisted and were credited to Cuba in the Civil war, together with all the data which it was possible to collect concerning them.

Mr. Baldwin was a member of the Universalist church and had always been a trustee of the organization in this place. He was very fond of music and was always a prominent member of the choir when the church maintained services in Cuba [up to 1918].

Mr. Baldwin had been in failing health for a long time and had been unable to leave his house, but was not confined to his room until about three months ago. His sight had failed entirely at the time of his death and it had been five years since he had been able to read or write. During his long illness he had been most tenderly cared for by his devoted sister, Miss Stella, assisted as far as failing health permitted by the other sister, Mrs. Morgan. Mr. Baldwin never married.

He was a man who was respected and loved by all who knew him, a good citizen and a kind neighbor, whose loss to the community cannot well be measured. Patriotism was one of his chief attributes, and he had been unsparing in the service of his country.

The funeral services were held at his late home on Monday afternoon. The Rev. Dr. W. H. McGlaflin of Scrantom, Pa., officiated.

Among those from a distance in attendance at the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. D. F. McLennan and son William of Syracuse; Mr. Ira Baldwin of Ionia,

[Baldwin, George Wilson]

N.Y.; Mr. Herbert Maxwell of Henrietta, N.Y.; Mr. J. J. Carter of Binghamton; Mrs. Anna Knapp of Hornell; Mr. and Mrs. Allen Conant and Mrs. H. E. Conant of Bradford, Pa.; Mrs. Abrams of Butler, Pa., and Mr. and Mrs. H. Swift of Wellsville.

Dr. McGlaflin in his funeral address paid a very fine tribute to the deceased. His remarks were in part as follows:

“In the midst of life we are in death,’ is a common saying. The lowering sky of this (? blanked out) leaves, the gathered harvests, emphasize the adage, ‘There is no fireside, hoseo’er defended, But has one vacant chair.’

“But decay and death, though obvious, are not ultimate; they are the process, not the end. This autumn rain, these tinted leaves, the golden harvests, are contributors to life. Through nature to human nature, the same truth whispers in every hour of bereavement:

“The shadow proves that somewhere the light is shining. Hope sings a song of triumph over death—‘Sings it so the heart can hear it, Life is better farther on... Death is swallowed up in victory.’

“Deep in the consciousness of the valiant soul of George Baldwin these divine verities were enshrined; they made him strong, masterful and buoyant. Through his virile personality three great enthusiasms surged.

“One was love of country—patriotism. By it he became the ready defender of Union and freedom when they were imperiled. Under his uniform of blue the true heart never faltered, as in the glow of early manhood he marched away to face the foe on the battlefields, where lurked wounds, imprisonment and death. The marks of those terrible years he bore in his body and their herosim radiated in his character. He saw his caused crowned with triumph, and was glad. Esteemed as commander for years of the Grand Army post, the comrades were endeared, and the limited number here today is because of the many who have preceded to that resting place where now his dust shall mingle with theirs, ‘on fame’s eternal camping ground.’

A second enthusiasm was love of purity—philanthropy. It lead him into a warfare for sobriety and against entrenched evils that expressed themselves in and through the liquor traffic... When others doubted the good result, he kept the faith; when they grew weary, he never faltered. And on that memorable day when the light of heaven first shown on the newly enacted Eighteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States forever outlawing the saloon evil, among the rejoicing noblemen who had done so much to make it possible, he saw the end of the travail of his soul and was satisfied. [Of course he did not live to see this amendment go down in defeat.]

A third enthusiasm was for humanity—religion. Numbered in church membership with those whose interpretation of the message of the Master

[Baldwin, George Wilson]

spells 'Universalism,' he gave to the movement full fealty and unabridged co-operation. What a faith is his who can look at the sickness, shame and sin of our fellow mortals and contend that, like the 'death' in nature and human nature, it is the process, not the end! 'Well roars the storm to him who hears the deeper voice across the storm,' and George Baldwin heard.

And now that prophetic yeoman, who saw two of his visions come true, has ascended to that immortal realm where he may join with the spirits of the just made perfect in a continuing ministry for the third triumph, a redeemed humanity, that God may be all in all... Serving his Master by serving needy souls in this world, he will not do otherwise over there, where calls the everlasting Gospel.

Cuba Patriot, Cuba NY, Fri. 29 Oct 1920
(funeral sermon is slightly abridged)

Transcribed on 20 Jul 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY