

[Baldwin, Jonathan]

DEATHS.

In this village [Oxford, Chenango Co.] on the 2d inst.¹, Mr. JONATHAN BALDWIN, aged 80 years. The deceased was a native of Berkshire county, Mass. In 1792 he visited this then almost unbroken wilderness, and settled here in 1794, when there were but six or seven families within the limits of this now beautiful village. He owned a large portion of the land on which it stands, and being in several respects a remarkable man, his name is and must ever be particularly identified with the recollection of our earliest inhabitants, and in the history of the foundation of the place he handed down from generation to generation.

It is a tribute of respect to Mr. B. to say that as a husband, he was affectionate and devoted; as a father, kind and indulgent; as an associate, agreeable; as a friend, confiding; as a neighbor, obliging; as a citizen, enterprising and useful. In his manners he was unpretending, in his purposes firm, in his pursuits industrious, in his habits temperate, in his dealings honest, and in the expression of his opinions fearless. He was destitute of early advantages, but deeply imbued with a love of knowledge, no small share of which he obtained by reading, and which he successfully and practically applied. His memory was great, his intellect vigorous, and his thoughts peculiarly his own. He was distinguished for much sound philosophy and sterling sense, striking exhibitions of wit, coupled with unusual oddity of expression, and so directed that they sometimes caused those not intimately acquainted with him, to think that his feelings were harsh and revengeful. But nothing could be more erroneous. His heart overflowed with good will to his fellow beings. His pity extended to all the suffering, how vile and degraded soever they might be. He opposed all cruel and sanguinary retributions, and believed that "there is a chord even in the most corrupt heart that vibrates to kindness." The unfortunate ever found in him a friend, and the poor a benefactor.

In an unusual degree he retained his faculties to the last. He bore a lingering and painful illness with patience and resignation. He was fully conscious of, and freely conversed upon, his approaching exit, with a reconciliation which is seldom equaled, and when it at length arrived, without a fear or a pang he calmly and quietly passed away.—Thus go, one by one, our venerable sires! Their bodies return to the elements from which they originated—their spirits to the God who gave them!

His companion [Parthenia Stanford Baldwin] with whom he had lived for more than half a century, and all his kindred, friends and numerous acquaintances, will long deplore their loss, and proudly enshrine his memory in their best affections, for the many excellences of his head and heart.

His funeral was attended at his residence by a large congregation on the 5th inst., and a discourse delivered by Rev. J. T. [John Temple] Goodrich [Universalist].—Oxford Times of July 10.

Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate, Utica NY, Fri. 22 Aug 1845
[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 14 Jan 2015 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

¹ July 2, per his gravestone in Riverview Cemetery, Oxford