

[Bassett, William R.]

In Memoriam (slightly abridged)

On the twelfth of June, 1889, died: William R. Bassett, at the ripe old age of eighty seven, he having celebrated his last anniversary on the ninth day of April.

Eighty seven years! What has not the old man seen? ...

When the subject of this sketch first breathed the pure air of his native land, it consisted of only a few states embraced between the Atlantic ocean and the Mississippi river.

We laid him down to rest in a country that stretches from ocean to ocean; girded by the loftiest mountains and interlaced by the most gigantic rivers.

In his life-time he had seen the lightning harnessed by the human will, and whispering messages from the new world to the old. He had seen the cradle and scythe supplanted by the reaper and the mower. He had seen the whole world startled from her stately dignified pace of old, to an onward rush of lightning speed.

Born during the administration of that grand old Democrat, Thomas Jefferson, he grew up a democrat as staunch, always voting a clean ticket.

He was four times honored by the gift of the highest office in his town.

In his religion, he was a strict, consistent and life-long Universalist.

...His was an open-handed, ungrudging charity. The suffering who appealed to *him* appealed not in vain. And when the morning of resurrection dawns upon us, a crown of glory will rest upon that snow-white head, and he shall hear the King exclaim:

"Inasmuch as ye have done unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

He leaves ten children: five sons [prob. Chaney, Edwin, Charles, Frank and William Wallace] and five daughters [including Cordelia Bassett, Harriet Mulford, Catherine Cordelia Munn, and Annie Nicoson], and thirteen grandchildren, to mourn the loss of the kindest, most genial, and best of fathers.*

The Holley Standard, Holley NY, Thu. 4 Jul 1889

*His wife was Olive Munger Bassett, 1807-1877.