

[Burchard, Asahel]

Deaths.

In Lima, Livingston co. on Sept 27, 1853, ASAHIEL BURCHARD, Esq., in the 92d year of his age. Mr. Burchard was born in Norwich, Ct., June 14, 1762. In early life he volunteered to fill his father's place on board of a Yankee Privateer in the War of the Revolution.—While engaged in this service, the vessel in which he sailed was captured by a British frigate, and the crew were forwarded to England, and lodged in a prison ship. In this wretched confinement Mr. Burchard remained more than six months, suffering the pangs of hunger, the terrors of the pestilence, the tortures of disease, and the insults of tyrants, to a degree hardly equaled in the annals of that cruel war. The return of peace restored him to home and friends. Going forth again to seek his fortune, he next made his home in the interior of Pennsylvania, and for two years he there found employment as a hired laborer. In the Spring of 1789, a Mr. Davison came from the valley of the Susquehanna in that State, to seek a new home in the "Genesee Country." He was attended by the subject of this obituary. They pursued the path opened by Gen. Sullivan, the first part of their journey, the remainder of the way to the present town of Lima, to which they came, they opened a path with the ax through the wilderness, traversing swamps and fording streams to reach their destination. Soon after reaching his new home, Mr. Burchard occupied an extensive tract of land, became the head of a family, and an enterprising settler of this newly opened country. As such he shared in all the privations of his new home. Often has the writer of this notice heard him say, that he had slept many a night, in his travels, on the ground now occupied by Canandaigua village, with only his blanket beneath him, and the open heavens above. With is energy of character, and general activity of life he soon became a man of property, influence, and extensive usefulness to the early settlers of the country. And more than sixty years of his life have seen these honors constantly increasing upon his head, until the infirmities of age gently drew him into retirement, and peacefully led him down to his long rest. A large family of children had all passed away before him, and his own departure was without fear or regret. He was a member of the Universalist Society of North Bloomfield, quiet and constant in his attendance upon its public services, and before his decease, from his abundance he left it a legacy of five hundred dollars. All his works praise him. Mr. Burchard is mentioned in the "Pioneer History of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase," as always "a kind and good neighbor, and much esteemed by the early settlers."

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 21 Jan 1854

Transcribed on 5 Sep 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY