

[Titus, Oliver Sabin]

OLIVER SABIN TITUS

The news of the death of Oliver S. Titus, of Shortsville, comes with a feeling of deepest regret, not only in his home village, but to all points where he was known. He had been in failing health of some months past, but a fall in the garden at his home less than a month ago, fractured one of his hips and confined him to his bed the greater part of the time since. He closed his eyes for the last time on Tuesday evening [July 1st] about 5 o'clock, thus removing from the Parlor Village one of its best-known and most highly respected residents, a man who had been one of the village's most enthusiastic supporters. His taking away is like the removal of a landmark in the village, and Shortsville and its people are the great losers thereby.

Oliver Sabin Titus, the second son of Anson and Almira Sabin Titus, was born in Phelps, N.Y., on May 13, 1843. His education was obtained in the public school at Phelps and at the Clinton Liberal Institute at Clinton, Oneida county [a Universalist school]. The breaking out of the Civil War stirred the patriotism within his breast, and when but 19 years of age, enlisted in the cause of his county, becoming a member of Company C, 148th Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry. His ability for clerical work was readily recognized and he was detailed to the office of judge advocate of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, under General Benjamin F. Butler, with headquarters at Fortress Monroe at Old Point Comfort, Va. He remained there until the close of the War and was mustered out at Richmond, Va., on June 5, 1865, with an honorable record for efficiency and service.

He chose the pursuit of agriculture as his next occupation and in the year of 1849 went to a farm at Kirksville, Missouri. He subsequently returned to Phelps, where he remained until December, 1874, at which time he decided to locate in Shortsville.

His first employment in the Parlor Village was found in the general store of Charles Edgerton, where he was occupied with bookkeeping. Here his ability was again noted and he was induced by the late Messrs. Hiram L. and Calvin P. Brown, manufacturers of the Empire grain drill, to join their clerical force as a bookkeeper. This position he continued until the year of 1877, when he was admitted into partnership. This new position placed the management of the sales and advertising department under his charge. So successful was his regime that business of the Company flourished to a great extent. Upon the incorporation of the Company in 1884, Mr. Titus became its secretary and treasurer and continued in this capacity until the year of 1903, when the Company was absorbed the American Seeding Machine Company.

At that time Mr. Titus retired from active life, thus concluding a most successful business career. He was interested in local enterprises, being the treasurer of the Red Jacket Telephone Company, of Shortsville, and a member of the banking house of E. D. Mather & Company, also of Shortsville. It is also

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interesting to note that he was the first village president ever elected in Shortsville, and also served for a quarter of a century as the president of the Board of Education of the Shortsville Public Schools.

Mr. Titus was identified with the Masonic fraternity, being a member of Canandaigua Lodge, No. 294, Free and Accepted Masons; Excelsior Chapter, No. 164, Royal Arch Masons, of Canandaigua; Zenobia Commandery, No. 41, Knights Templar, of Palmyra, and Palmyra Council, No. 26, Royal and Select Masters. He was also a charter member and a past commander of Herendeen Post, No. 107, G.A.R., of Shortsville; a member and trustee of the First Universalist Church of Clifton Springs, and president of Herendeen Post Monument Association, through whose efforts the fine soldiers' monument was placed in Brookside in loving memory of the boys of the townships of Manchester, Farmington and Hopewell, who gave their lives during the Civil War.

Mr. Titus chose for his life partner Miss Frances Marion Upham, who resided at Sherburne, Chenango county, with whom he became acquainted while attending the Clinton Liberal Institute. They were married at the home of the bride's parents, the late Elijah and Susan Jenkins Upham, at Sherburne on February 14, 1866. The wedding vows were pledged before the Rev. J. M. [J. J.] Austin, of Kendall, Orleans county. Four children blessed the union, but one was called Home in infancy.

Besides his wife, he leaves one son, Fred A. Titus, of Shortsville; two daughters, Mrs. Harry K. Dodge, of Pasadena, Calif.; and Mrs. William W. Phalen, also of Shortsville; three grandchildren, Miss Helen Titus, Wyman Phalen and Dwight French, all of Shortsville; one brother, the Rev. Anson Titus, of Boston, Mass., and one sister, Mrs. Susan Carr, of Phelps.

The funeral obsequies were held at his late home in Grove street Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock, conducted by the Rev. Angus J. MacMillan, pastor of the Presbyterian church. The interment was made in Brookside cemetery. Members of the Masonic orders and Herendeen Post, G.A.R., attended in a body.

Shortsville Enterprise, Shortsville NY, Fri. 4 Jul 1919

Transcribed on 30 Aug 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

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OLIVER SABIN TITUS

Born, May 13, 1843

Died, July 1, 1919

The following were the remarks made by the Rev. Anson Titus, of Boston, Mass., a brother of the deceased, on the occasion of the funeral of Mr. Titus, held on Thursday afternoon, July 3:

Citizens and neighbors, we are met to salute and farewell Oliver Sabin Titus, 45 years a resident on Grove St. of the Parlor Village. He has been among you as one who served. A business man of the first order, public-spirited citizen, a man of affairs. Diligent in business, serving the Lord. He was a religious as well as a business man; a man of wide interests, yet as a neighbor and citizen, strong and sturdy and true.

Born in Phelps, where our honored father was a like business man for nearly a half century, fully acquainted with all the vital needs of the people of Ontario County. From earliest days, in the Sunday School, Church attendant and member, and official in Clifton Springs. He found delight in his devotions, and in the large and beautiful faith which he carried to the very end. He was a Christian of the Universalist type of faith. In the absence of a pastor, the local brother and minister came to him the day before his passing away and administered the sacred communion. In it, as ever, he found delight and comfort. He passed away calmly, peacefully, with the dear ones around him; and passed forward to the Home Immortal, entering upon the great adventure with a courage and a faith which only a long career of meditation and holy thought can give.

He was one of the thousands whose school training was broken by the call to arms by Abraham Lincoln. In the Civil War he served honorably and loyally. At the close of the War he contracted marriage with her, who today mourns his passing. His long business career in Shortsville is a tradition to many, but he here resided because he loved the village. He has traveled East and found cheer with the brethren; he found delight with whom he could express the chivalry of his ardent nature. To his regimental and Grand Army comrades his attachment was strong. Towards his home life, devotion itself found expression.

Oliver was a man among men, an admirer of youth, interested in the schools, and every improving activity. He lived near the top of his ideas and ideals. He has now gone forward to employments which God has waiting for him to do. He knew that God was his Father; since Jesus, his Master, had uttered the word; he knew that from the affection of God he could not pass; since love was the very nature of god Himself.

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Hither are we come, to salute and farewell. His was a life well rendered, well spent, filled with friendly words and gifts for all. His life is worthy of our memory; his career is an inspiration for brethren in human affairs; his faith should lead our every heart in devotion to altars raised to God.

Friends, the family is grateful for your kind sympathies, these floral expressions of your appreciation, and for your heartfelt tokens so helpful and needful in hours of sorrow.

Oliver, may God bless you and keep you; may God lift upon you the light of His holy countenance and evermore give you peace. Brother, neighbor, comrade, American, farewell! "God be with you 'till we meet again."

Shortsville Enterprise, Shortsville NY, Fri. 11 Jul 1919

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