

[Whitwood, Franklin Arthur]

FRANKLIN A. WHITWOOD

Franklin Arthur Whitwood was born in Nile, N.Y., July 2, 1859, and died in Friendship, March 6, 1933, aged therefore 73 years, 8 months and four days. His early life was spent in his native town and he was educated in the town school, supplemented by several terms at the Old Academy. For many years after reaching man's estate he traveled for harvest machinery, visiting many states of the Union. He was a man of genial disposition, of unusual intelligence and fond of good literature. He loved to read aloud to his children, selecting some of the finest specimens of our English literature. The American poet, William Cullen Bryant, seems to have been his favorite poet, though he was fond of other poets. He was especially fond of Bryant's "Thanatopsis," and had his children memorize sections of it. Not very long ago he asked one of them if she could repeat the closing sentence of the poem. Though many years had passed since she learned it she could repeat the lines almost exactly, which pleased him very much. These lines might be said to express his philosophy of life. In all the vicissitudes and experiences of life he was "sustained and soothed by an unfaltering Faith" in the integrity and beneficence of the universe and he unfailing love of its Author.

For several months he had been in failing health and as long as reason remained on its throne he obeyed the admonition of the poem and approached his grave "as one who wrapped the draperies of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams."

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Augusta C. Whitwood, two daughters, Mrs. Ellis H. Champlin of Snyder, N.Y., and Mrs. Leonard M. Chafin of Bolivar, N.Y., and one son, Charles L. Whitwood of Friendship, also by six grandchildren.

Fuenral services were held at the home of his son on Maple Avenue Wednesday afternoon, March 8, Rev. Otis F. Alvord [Universalist] officiating. A strange coincidence is that Mr. Alvord's father, Rev. F. M. [Francis Milton] Alvord officiated at Mr. Whitwood's father's funeral many years ago. The interment was in beautiful Mt. Hope cemetery.

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