

LITTLETON.

Obituary.

Through the solemn stillness of the closing Sabbath of March 27, 1910, there was echoed one of the saddest messages ever borne on the air of Littleton. It was the news of Col. Herbert J. Harwood's death in Boston.

All hearts turned in profound sympathy to the bereft home on that fine ancestral estate where the widow, the mother, and the children have employed every means that love and skill could apply for the restoration of health. To that home it turns with assurance of universal love and esteem for its lost captain, of sympathy and consolation to the family whose affliction is shared by the entire community and the hosts of Mr. Harwood's friends in his large world outside of this town.

The painful communication of death followed closely the news of a sinking spell experienced Sunday forenoon, which came as a great shock. Mr. Harwood underwent a second operation Thursday, which the surgeon thought was accompanied by no serious conditions, but his strength proved insufficient to bear the continued strain which had been sapping his vitality since the first weeks of his illness in the late fall of 1909. At five o'clock in the evening his ever obedient spirit yielded to the call to higher service, where the reward is never withheld.

Herbert Joseph Harwood, son of the late Col. Joseph Alfred and Lucy Hartwell Harwood was born in Littleton, September 6, 1854. His early education was received in Littleton schools which he attended from 1860 to 1869.

After a year at Lancaster, (Mass.) academy, he went to Phillips-Exeter academy, from which he graduated in 1873.

In 1877 he graduated from Harvard college where he made the Phi Beta Kappa society through his high scholarship.

From November, 1877, to August, 1878, he worked in the mill of the Montague Paper Co., Turner's Falls to get a knowledge of the business.

In August of 1878 he entered the employ of J. A. & N. Harwood, manufacturers of fibre chair seats, and remained in the employ of this and other firms that manufactured chair seats and assembly chairs until January 1, 1899, when he went into business for himself as a chair manufacturer.

He had been until his death a director of the National Fibre Board Co.

October 15, 1879, Mr. Harwood was married at Lancaster, Mass., to Miss Emilie Augusta Green. To them were born nine children, eight of whom survive their father and reside at his home.

In 1882 he was Assistant Adjutant General, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on the staff of Governor John D. Long.

In 1899 he became a member of Massachusetts House of Representatives, serving on the committee of Education.

For twenty-one years he was trustee of the Reuben Hoar library. From

1893 to 1906 he served on the school board, acting as its chairman during the latter years of that period.

At the time of his death he was a trustee of the Bromfield school, Harvard; president of the Littleton Historical society, which position he has held ever since it was founded in 1894.

Deacon of the First Congregational (Unitarian) church, which he has also served as scribe, member of the parish committee, and in other capacities, member of the New England Historic Genealogical society, member of the Essex Institute, member of the Phi Beta Kappa society of Harvard college and a member of the National Geographic society.

He has written various articles on the history of Littleton, including a historical sketch of Littleton, published in 1890.

Various other historical works have come at different times from his pen.

His native town, the home of his ancestors, Col. Harwood passionately loved. Its traditions to him was sacred. For their preservation he has given of his time, his strength and his intelligence as no other citizen has ever given. To his searching after historical truth and the presentation of it in attractive form to his townspeople he has devoted a very large part of his life. For its valuable records the town owes Col. Harwood a debt of gratitude that it can never pay.

His patriotism found expression likewise through his interest in the present and future of this town. Its institutions had a large place in his heart.

The church, the schools, the library, the lyceum, the historical society, the town meeting—all have felt keenly the power of his intellect, and the strength of his patriotic heart in his unceasing devotion to their highest welfare.

To the last moment of his life he sought the good of this community. Through the press he recently plead for the care of our trees, at the recent town meeting came a message, one of the last he ever penned, concerning the great work on the publication of town records just completed and supervised in large measure by himself.

Consistent in all things Col. Harwood combined with other admirable traits those qualities that constitute the ideal husband, parent, and son, and he gave to his family and his home the same warmth of affection, the same unstinted devotion that his town enjoyed from his large heart.

In business as in public life Col. Harwood was upright and honest in all things; thorough in investigation, deliberate in judgment, and courteous in his dealings.

From social circles he had withdrawn somewhat in recent years through increasing deafness. He was cordially welcome at whatever social function he graced and always enjoyed the favor of his numerous friends.

Col. Harwood was a gentleman in every sense of the word. No situation no combination of circumstances ever tempted him to be otherwise. Cultured, refined, dignified, modest, courteous and unselfish he made the atmosphere about him wholesome and delightful, and no one of appreciative

and receptive mind could remain in his presence even for a short time without sensing the greatness of the man.

Funeral services were held from Col. Harwood's late residence, Wednesday afternoon. Rev. Wm. Channing Brown officiated, reading the beautiful poem "It Singeth low in Every Heart," and appropriate passages of scripture, offering prayer, and paying the highest tribute to the memory of this distinguished citizen. Mrs. Hartwell, Mrs. Priest and Mrs. Webber sang "O light that maketh all things new," and "Nearer my God to thee," the latter an arrangement that formed part of the service at the late Col. J. A. Woods' funeral.

Beautiful in the extreme were the many floral tributes. Most emphatic was the esteem expressed for the deceased through the presence of the large company of fellow townspeople, college, business, and society associates.

The interment was at Westlawn cemetery, under direction of Wm. H. Davis, undertaker. The four oldest sons, Josiah A., Richard, Herbert and Jonathan Harwood laid the body in its final resting place.