

## GARDNER PROUTY.

Gardner Prouty was born at Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, September 4, 1817, and was the son of Gardner and Ruth (How) Prouty, both of Spencer. He attended the common schools of his native town till about seventeen years of age, when he went to Westminster, where he spent one term at the Academy. After leaving school he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked about six years. In 1847 he went to Boston, and for a time engaged in the ice shipping business. Afterwards he was in the business of wharfinger, in which he continued till January 1, 1889. In 1864 he went to Littleton and purchased the place where he still resides. His house is pleasantly situated on the main street at Littleton Common; and connected with it is a farm of sixty four acres, the care of which has afforded him ample opportunity for exercise since his retirement from his former business. June 3, 1851. Mr. Prouty was married at Boston, by Rev. Thomas Starr King, to Clara D. Wheelock, of Calais, Vermont. Miss Wheelock was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Welcome Wheelock, formerly of Charlton, Worcester County, Massachusetts. He has one child, Gardner W who is married and lives in Littleton. Mr. Prouty is a Democrat, and was a delegate to the Presidential Convention held in New York in 1868. He has taken an active part in the public affairs of Littleton, having been selectman and assessor seven years, and overseer of the poor six years, and five years chairman of these boards. For several years he was also a member of the School Committee, and was moderator of the annual town-meeting of Littleton twenty years. His paternal ancestor came to Spencer from Scituate.

From: "An Historical Sketch of Littleton" by Herbert Joseph Harwood

DIED DECEMBER 5, 1899

LITTLETON.

FAIRFIELD, Dec. 5: Gardner Prouty, who was as well known as any citizen of Littleton, a familiar figure in Boston business circles for many years, and prominent among the leading democrats of another generation, died at his home today. He was born in Spencer, Sept. 4, 1817, and for more than half a century was very active in business channels. His earlier Boston business experience found him with Daniel Draper, a leading exporter in the days of active American shipping interests, for whom Mr. Prouty acted as agent. Later he occupied a similar position with Gage, Sawyer & Co. He next entered the employ of John W. Damon, and for forty years was wharfinger of the then widely known Damon wharf. Under the collectorship of Col. Peasley he was a United States storekeeper in addition to his duties as wharfinger. He was appointed under Franklin Pierce's administration. Within a very short time after Abraham Lincoln's inauguration there was a clean sweep of democrats and Mr. Prouty involuntarily retired as a federal officeholder. After that he was a wharfinger with the Hoosac tunnel dock and elevator company. Still later he went to Constitution wharf, where he occupied a similar position for the Fitchburg railroad.

Mr. Prouty moved here from Charlestown in 1864, but made daily trips to Boston until about ten years ago, when he retired from active business duties to a farm. He has been a conspicuous figure in town affairs and has been regarded as one of the most prominent citizens. Although an uncompromising democrat, in this republican stronghold he has held the positions of selectman, assessor, overseer of the poor and

school committeeman. Twice he ran for the legislature in a republican district. His popularity was fully attested by the fact that he cut the republican majority down by many hundreds of votes, and at one time was beaten by only about forty votes.

Mr. Prouty was for many years a member of the democratic state central committee, and at that time was regarded as a prominent factor in his party. He was a delegate to the national convention which nominated Seymour for the presidency. He was a member of the local public library building committee. Mr. Prouty united in 1858 with the Unitarian church at Charlestown.

FROM: LITTLETON GUIDON

DEC 16, 1899