

JOSEPH A. PRIEST

DIED FEB. 28, 1892

A WORTHY TRIBUTE.—One of the old and familiar figures in our town meetings will be missed next Monday—Joseph A. Priest, recently deceased. He was always present and for more than twenty-five years was in the service of this (his native) town as selectman, assessor, overseer of the poor, and school committee. He was also a representative to the legislature in the session of 1869.

For counsel and direction his judgment was often sought and relied upon, especially in matters of doubt and difficulty. Before his sturdy, vigorous common-sense, difficult problems would soon disappear, and our people would feel safe and at ease when Mr. Priest took the helm of town affairs. The spring of 1863 found Mr. Priest on the board of selectmen, in which capacity he served during the remaining period of the war. These were memorable years for our town, and other towns in this vicinity—quotas to be filled, money at once to be raised, for the purpose outside of the regular and legal routine of taxation, state aid to soldiers' families to attend to, and many other duties incident in times of excitement and trouble to look after. In all the public duties of these troublous times, Mr. Priest rose to the demands of the occasion. There was no circumlocution about his method of performing a duty. He made straight for the subject and disposed of it in his own mind, while others were debating about the expediency of it. Before the legislature made it legal for towns to raise or borrow money to pay bounties for filling quotas called for by President Lincoln, Mr. Priest with several other citizens, gave their notes as individuals for a large amount, this money to be used for the prompt enlistment of volunteer soldiers. The board of selectmen during this period consisted of Joseph A. Priest, William Kimball, George W. Sanderson, the latter being now the only survivor. Mr. Priest was a man of the plain Puritan New England type, respected and beloved by all. Peace to his ashes.

Mr. Priest's father, Asa Priest, in his day served the town as selectman, assessor and overseer, and also represented the town in the general court, and at the close of the session he presented to each school district a copy of Webster's unabridged dictionary.

BORN IN LITTLETON AUG. 25, 1817

SON OF ASA AND NABBY (BULKELEY) PRIEST