

SAMUEL SMITH

Died Jan. 7, 1888

Feb. 25 LITTLETON. 1888

OBITUARY.—Died in Littleton, Jan. 7, 1888, Samuel Smith, aged eighty years, four days. Thus, at a ripe old age, Littleton has lost a respected citizen, and one whose quiet and retiring manners and mode of living little betokened his real worth.

The youngest people saw in Mr. Smith only the genial, kind-hearted old gentleman who, as long as his strength permitted, took his daily morning walk to the depot, talked with his friends, spoke to all the children, got his paper and returned to his house to spend the rest of the day in reading and genealogical research. Looking back a few years they perhaps remember him as one of that most interesting trio of elderly men, of which the others were Andrew Whitcomb, and Jonathan Whitcomb, both of whom have passed away, but who for many years carried on each morning conjointly with Mr. Smith, an animated and spicy discussion on questions both physical and metaphysical, in winter behind the red-hot stove inside the depot, and in summer outside, seated on a bench in the cool of the shady end.

Those who can remember Mr. Smith in his younger days and in his prime of manhood, tell of his accomplished violin playing, when he was, without exaggeration, the peer of any violinist in the country, and might, had he asserted himself more, have gained the great renown he was entitled to.

Through his interest in his own genealogy, which is interwoven with that of all the old families in this town, Mr. Smith was led to make a most thorough and constant search of all records and histories in any way bearing on Littleton, or Littleton people. He had a wonderful memory, was a keen observer of the ways and customs of men, and moreover preserved in writing notes of the records consulted, so that he became an authority on the history of this his native town, and of all people who ever lived in it, and knew more of the genealogy of the majority of the citizens than they knew themselves.

It was exceedingly interesting to talk with him on matters of local history, and a lecture on that subject delivered by him before the lyceum, many years ago, is remembered with much pleasure by those who heard it.

It is understood that through the kindness of Mr. Smith's heirs and A. P. Whitcomb, his administrator, all his records and many of his books will be given to the town to be placed in the library, that the result of his years of research may not be lost, but be preserved for the benefit of all his friends and neighbors, and there remain a fitting memorial of a useful citizen.

H. J. H.