

MRS. ALLAN P. WHITCOMB
(SARAH ELIZABETH REED)
(OR READ)

DIED JULY 2, 1913

The town has lost one of its most patriotic women through the death of Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Whitcomb, which occurred on Wednesday, July 2. She had taken her bed less than two weeks before, and for the first time in sixty-two years experienced a sickness. Her case was diagnosed as internal obstruction, and to overcome this the skill of physicians and nurse seemed powerless. Much suffering necessarily followed and the body gradually weakened until its organs failed altogether to perform their functions.

Saturday afternoon services were held at her late home on Foster street when her pastor, Rev. Oliver J. Fairfield, and her former pastor, Rev. Chester A. Drummond, of Somerville, officiated, the latter offering prayer, and the former reading the scriptures and a poem written by the deceased and paying a worthy tribute to her memory. The ladies' quartet sang very effectively "Beautiful isle of somewhere" and "One sweetly solemn thought."

The presence of many friends and the abundance of floral tributes bore testimony to the esteem in which Mrs. Whitcomb was held. Among those present were representatives of the G. A. R. and the Woman's Relief Corps, of West Acton.

The interment was at Westlawn beside the body of her late husband, Allan P. Whitcomb, whose death preceded by twelve years. The grave was lined with evergreen edged by small U. S. flags and clusters of peonies. Mr. Fairfield read the committal service.

Mrs. Whitcomb was born in Raymond, N. H., on February 8, 1835. Her parents were Mrs. Sarah Lawrence Reed and Rev. Andrew Hunter Read, Congregational minister. During childhood she moved with her parents and sister to Mason, N. H., and at other times lived in Mendon and Concord. She prepared herself for the profession of teaching, and received a diploma from Framingham Normal school. For a short time she attended Mt. Holyoke seminary.

After teaching school in Mendon and Concord, she married Allan P. Whitcomb and came to Littleton Center, where they lived for a short time in the house that was her last home. Then Mr. and Mrs. Whitcomb moved onto the farm on Russell street now owned by Jesse Dodge.

The deceased was a public-spirited woman. With genuine happiness she presented to the town a few years ago the very serviceable drinking fountain at the Center, and afterwards placed on the library building nearby a large U. S. flag. She enjoyed the distinction of being the only W. R. C. member in town and belonged to the West Acton organization. Her loyalty to the flag and to the interests of the G. A. R. were unswerving.

In the days of the W. C. T. U., she had been an active worker for the temperance cause and ever maintained an interest in all that makes for clean and honest manhood and womanhood. Whatever was of educational value to the individual or the community claimed her ambitious efforts and constant support.

To the Unitarian church and its various organizations, the Woman's club, the King's Daughters' Circle, the lyceum and the Historical society she was strongly attached and gave freely of her means. Many were her benefactions, but her gifts were, for the most part, made so quietly that few people realized the extent of her generosity.

Mrs. Whitcomb enjoyed good literature and her mind was well stored with its treasures. Magazines and papers were among her choicest friends. Not infrequently she took the pen and wrote very acceptable verse. She had been a newspaper correspondent for years, having written for the Lowell Journal and the Littleton Guidon. To the latter she contributed through an unbroken period of more than thirty years. Her presence will be greatly missed in the town and its various organizations, and in the home.

She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Alonzo Bernis, of Worcester; a step-daughter, Mrs. William H. Davis, and a step-granddaughter, Miss Cora Davis.