

REV. JOHN WESLEY WHITLOCK

The following is an extract from a Memoir on the life of Rev. John Wesley Whitlock written on his death by his brother Elias D. Whitlock. Elias was the father of Brand Whitlock the American Ambassador to Belgium during the first world war. John W. Whitlock, the subject of this memoir, was born on a farm in Montgomery county, Ohio, some fifteen miles west of Dayton, January 4, 1839; and, at the time of death, which occurred in Coffeen, Illinois, Saturday morning, September 7, 1912, was in his seventy-fourth year. He was the fifth child in a family of six sons and one daughter.

His father Elias Whitlock, born in Trenton, New Jersey, and his mother Mary (Johnson) Whitlock a native of the state of Delaware, came into Ohio at a very early date in the history of the state, settling in the unbroken forest, where by hard work, the closest economy, and the simplest habits of living, they literally carved out for themselves and their family a comfortable home and a fair competency.

Both parents were endowed with a fair measure of those sterling qualities and resolute purposes, which always makes for industry and probity, and they infused into their children some degree of these traits which account for the building up in our country of great and permanent civilization.

To some extent Mr. Whitlock embodied in his own life and character these necessary and noble qualities, which he sought to exemplify as a neighbor and citizen of this town.

The parents of Mr. Whitlock both reached a good ripe age, the father dying in 1880 and the mother in 1886...

Three of Mr. Whitlock's brothers, Isaac J. for many years a prominent citizen of Piqua, Ohio; Wm. F. for fifty-one years a member of the faculty of the Ohio Wesleyan University; and Arthur O. who, for forty-five years lived in this vicinity, a member of this church (Methodist Episcopal) and widely respected as a citizen of the community; and Mrs. Sarah (Whitlock) Young, cherished and loved as the only sister, have preceded our friend and brother to the other and better world. Two of his brothers, Stephen H. Whitlock, a member of the Illinois Conference and a resident of Charleston, Ill. and E.D. Whitlock, a member of the Central Ohio Conference and a resident of Toledo, Ohio are the only ones left of large family...

The Memoir, while small, is twelve pages in length and details Rev. Whitlock's three marriages and surviving children. His early life in Ohio, Kansas and Illinois and his entry into politics with the Fremont-Buchanan campaign in 1856 are detailed as is his entry into the ministry after the Civil War. A very interesting document. Out thanks to Douglas L. Whitlock for this and the other Brand Whitlock papers.

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