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Whitlock - Portwood

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OBITUARY - Jerry M. Whitlock, the son of John ~~A.~~ Whitlock, was born in Russel County, West Virginia, on December 22, 1812, and died at his home in Rockbridge Township on July 9, 1895.

He was one of a family of nine children: - James P., Henry, Esther, Mary, Nathenia, John ~~C.~~ Jr., Jerry M., Andrew, and Robert.

He came with his parents to Illinois in the fall of 1827. They bought the farm where Robert Whitlock died, and finally bought land and settled north of Macoupin Creek, part of the land being now owned by William Whitlock, his son.

Here his parents both died and were buried in the Armstrong family cemetery north of Providence Church.

Jerry Whitlock's father was born in Tennessee, and his grandfather, George Whitlock, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

Jerry Whitlock was married to Sarah A. Portwood on October 14, 1839, and of this union nine children were born, four sons and five daughters, of these two died in infancy, and two, Mrs. Ann Watson and Mrs. Nancy Simpson, died in womanhood. Five children are still living, three sons and two daughters: - Francis Marion, Page R., William H., Mrs. Marsha J. Burger, and Mrs. Alice Dixon.

Uncle Jerry, as he was familiarly called, first settled west of Jallappa, and next on the place known as the Uncle Henry Whitlock farm, and on August 9, 1857, he settled upon the farm which he owned at the time of his death.

His descendants have been nine children, thirty-six grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

At the time of his death all of his affairs had been arranged in the most minute detail, both secular and religious, even to the selection of a minister who should preach his funeral, the text, and the songs.

Brother Whitlock was converted at the age of twenty, in a log schoolhouse at Hawkin's Prairie, Jersey County, under the preaching of Moses Lemen, by whom he was baptized. He was one of the original members of the Bethel Baptist Church, Jersey County, which was organized in 1882, with eighteen or twenty members. Eight years ago he became a member of the Rockbridge Baptist Church, to which he was faithful to death.

He has been a great sufferer for about one year, most of the time confined to his room. Throughout all of his sufferings he was patient and at all times expressed himself as being ready and willing to depart and be with Christ. When his recovery became impossible he became anxious to be relieved from suffering and to be at rest.

When the spark of life had passed away, the minister of his choice, Rev. William Rhoads of Upper Alton, was summoned and on Thursday at ten o'clock a great crowd assembled at the old house to do honor to one they had loved in life. The minister read several passages from different portions of the scriptures, and took the chosen text, Psalms XVII chapter, last verse, from which he drew the conclusion as to what had been the thoughts and hopes of the deceased.

After the large audience had viewed the remains they repaired to the Witt Cemetery (Greene Cemetery) west of the homestead, where all that laid to rest, to await the last summons.

The aged wife, Aunt Sallie, and children have the sympathy of the entire community.

Henry Dixon.
Son-in-Law

OBITUARY - Sarah Ann Portwood Whitlock, widow of Jerry M. Whitlock, was born where the city of Hannibal, Mo., now stands, on May 22, 1818, and died at her home about four miles south-west of Rockbridge, Ill., on May 5, 1902, aged eighty-three years, eleven months, and thirteen days.

She settled with her parents in Greene County, Illinois, in 1830, on the farm now owned by Foster Williams, formerly known as the Jesse Roberts farm.

She was married to Jerry M. Whitlock on October 14, 1837, and settled west of Jalapa, afterwards moving to what is known as the Henry Whitlock farm, and in 1857 to the farm where she lived until her decease.

Her husband, Jerry M. Whitlock, died on July 9, 1895, since which time she has continued to live on the old homestead with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. And Mrs. James Polk Burger.

She was the mother of nine children, four sons, and five daughters. One son and one daughter died in childhood, seven grew to manhood and womanhood. Two daughters, Mrs. Nancy Simpson and Mrs. Ann Watson, preceded her in death. Five children were still living: - Marion, Page, William, Martha Burger, and Alice Dixon. She has thirty-four grandchildren and twenty-four great-grandchildren.

She was converted in a revival conducted at Rockbridge by Rev. Wm. Rhoads in February 1887, and baptized into the fellowship of the Rockbridge Baptist Church on May 30, 1887, where she remained a faithful member until her death.

The funeral was held at the old homestead on May 7th, at ten AM, conducted by the Revs. Gather of Medora and William Rhoads of Upper Alton. The remains were laid to rest in the Greene cemetery.

The bereaved family has the sympathy of their many friends.

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