

WEALTHY FOX

We have just returned from Holly – whither we were summoned last Saturday to bury our aged mother, Mrs. Wealthy Fox, who passed peacefully and sweetly away last Friday evening, the 19th inst., at the ripe old age of eighty-five years, at the residence of her son-in-law, W. A. Hubbard. Mother had been almost helpless for the past two years from the infirmities implement to old age, and her mind although at times was somewhat clouded, brightened up towards the last at intervals, enabling her to recognize some of her friends who came to see her and to whom she talked of old times. For almost two weeks only she had been confined strictly to her bed and as her end approached expressed a perfect willingness to go home and be at rest, her great, life-long faith upholding her and making her last hours peaceful and calm; for she died like a child going to sleep, without a sign or a struggle. Thank God for that. Her daughter, Mrs. A. I Rankin, of East Saginaw, had been with her about five months, whose care and tender nursing, helped smooth her way to the grave.

Our mother was born in Lyman, Grafton County, New Hampshire, October 21, 1801. At the age of 17 she experienced religion and joined the M. E. Church, having at the intervening years retrained an honored conviction therewith, through evil and good report.

Her father, Eli Whley, was a soldier in the War of 1812, having previous to his enlistment, received a license to preach he being one of the pioneers in the ministry of the M. E. Church.

Our mother left her home in New Hampshire in 1818, and went South to teach school. At that time the entire country was new, and her adventures in many instances were of a highly romantic character. She left at her death, a well-written autobiography of several hundred pages in manuscript, which is of such an interesting and thrilling nature, that it may be thought best to publish at some distant day.

She was married in 1822 to Dr. D. A. B. C. Fox, we believe in Southern Indiana, and about the year 1833, removed to Jamestown, Chantaqua County, NY where the family remained for five years then removing to Michigan – arriving at Detroit on the night of July 4, 1838.

From Detroit our family passed on with teams headed with their household effects to Milford over roads which were simply ‘wonderfully and fearfully made,’ Milford then consisted of a little cluster of houses and was isolated from the rest of creation amid the everlasting hills of old Oakland County. Our father died there in 1840 during the campaign of Harris and Tyler leaving mother with a family of eight small children on her hands, in a new and strange country. How she managed to rear her children and keep them together during the years that followed is a matter of wonder to us all in recalling

those days. But she did it, always acting under the Divine guidance and relying firmly upon that God who finally brought her safely through.

In the year 1854 she removed to East Saginaw, residing there several years. During the past fifteen years she had resided, the most of her time, at Holly, with the exception of nine months spent with the writer, in this village, and a few months in East Saginaw with some of her other children.

She was a woman of remarkable intellect, great strength of character and determination, and possessed an uncommon talent as a writer, which might, under certain circumstances, have brought her into notoriety in the world of letters.

She was a good mother; strong in her affections, with a heart of tenderness for her children and love for her friends, and as such, her memory will be cherished and revered. Six children, twenty grandchildren and eight great grandchildren survive her. Her funeral services were attended from the residence of her son-in-law, Willard A. Hubbard, Holly, Sunday afternoon, the 21st last, the services being conducted by the Rev. J. C. Worthley, the M. E. pastor assisted by Rev. J. H. Morrison, Baptist pastor. Her remains rest in the beautiful Cemetery at Holly. Her end was peace and her reward assured.

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