

Cont. of John Rennison West's  
obit

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and from his tongue in broad Scotch would roll the poems of the latter from "The Cotter's Saturday Night" to "Holy Willie's Prayer" as ripplingly as the purling waters over the pebbles in the meadow brook, while his eye would snap as he explained the sarcastic allusions of the poet to the hypocritical elder who was the cause of it. Indeed, a strong love of justice and an intense hatred of all shams were his striking and leading characteristics, and he was ever fearless in upholding the one and denouncing the other, and his christian principle and on which he acted was, To deal justly, love mercy, and walk uprightly; and no man can affirm truthfully that either as a public officer or private citizen he did otherwise. Though of foreign birth, he was a patriot and intense lover of his country and proud of her growth and prosperity. His son William was the first man in Westfield township to enlist for the suppression of the rebellion and now lies in the cemetery in which his father was placed by his side.

In politics he was first a whig, ever afterwards a republican. He was personally acquainted with both Corwin and the elder Thos. Ewing, and would relate in somewhat an amused manner how the latter would come from Lancaster to West Rushville to watch him weave and ask questions regarding the working of the loom. He professed no creed, that is, belonged to no church, and was always somewhat chary of what he denominated priest-craft. This no doubt was in-bred and an inheritance from his father whose parents were Friends of Quakers, therefore subject to much persecution for their religious opinions, but he never suffered this to influence his opinion of the individual minister, and has often been heard to say of this one, "He is a fine man," of the other, "He is an elegant gentleman."

He loved his family devotedly. A man only Saturday, speaking of him said, "Uncle Jimmie West got as much good out of life as any man I ever knew; when but a little fellow in Westfield I knew him, and whenever in those days any show or entertainment come into the country, he always went, and not like some men, alone, but could spare, and did, enough to take all his family along." Thus lived this patriarch, and when the dread summons came he met it fearlessly, and like a knight wounded to death on the field of battle, but refusing to leave, and insisting on still directing the fight, so he spake to each and all present, and asking "I'm going fast, am I not?", and receiving an affirmative answer, between breaths mentioned by name his intimate friends, especially his old, old ones, directing they be notified, and saying, "I'll soon be over there, we're most all over there", he passed away. How well the first four verses of the third chapter of Proverbs apply to him! "My son, forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandments; for length of days, and long life and peace shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth foresake thee; bind them about my neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. T.S.W.

The funeral was held at the home of his daughter, Mrs. S. A. Smith, with whom he had made his home for eleven years. Rev. Lewis Robinson, late pastor of the Universalist church at Mt. Gilead, conducted the services. Those in attendance from a distance were: Mr. and Mrs. Carl Winter and Miss Imogene Smith of Cleveland, Mr. And Mrs. Willard Edie of Mt. Blanchard, Jas. Plumley, Mrs. Elizabeth Leslie and Mrs. Ora Sponseller of Convoy, Mrs. O.W. Olds and son Von of Nevada, E.S. Olds and son Robert of Shelby, Fred Peters and wife, Clyde West and Miss Blanche West of Marion and C.R. Smith of Urbana, Ill.

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