

Elisha

...tunnel through as...  
ished the grade. I think we have wait-  
ed long enough to get out painting.

July 5 1889  
WILLIAM H. DOWNING.

OBITUARY.

By the death of Mr. Elisha Sears, Ches-  
ter has lost one of its oldest citizens.  
Born in North Haddam, Conn., in 1805,  
when Jefferson was president, he moved  
the following year, with his parents, to  
Oneida Co., N. Y., the journey being  
made with an ox team, and much of the  
way through an unbroken wilderness.  
After residing fifty-four years in New  
York, he moved to Grinnell in May, '60,  
and in '76, to Chester, which has since  
been his home.

Mr. Sears was a man possessed of many  
sterling traits of character. He was  
most thorough in his work as a stone-  
mason and plasterer; even when seventy-  
five years of age, doing work on chim-  
neys and ceilings of which any young  
man might be proud. When sixteen  
years of age, he united with the Cong'l  
church, and for many years was superin-  
tendent of the Sunday school, and dea-  
con of the church. He was a great ad-  
mirer of President Finney, and one seas-  
on heard him preach every day for three  
months. He abjured stimulants of ev-  
ery kind, including tea and coffee. His  
only drink all his 84 years was water and  
milk. He was averse also to all social  
and amusements in the house of God.  
He was a great reader of the Bible, and  
much of his time was spent—during his  
declining years—in writing out medita-  
tions on passages of scripture.

Mr. Sears was twice married, and had  
nine children, of whom three survive  
him, viz., Maynard and Adelbert Sears,  
of Chester, and Mrs. Mary Rhodes, of  
Monte Vista, Col. He died of heart dis-  
ease, June 10, being conscious to his last  
moment. The funeral was held at the  
house of his son, M. A. Sears, Tuesday  
afternoon, June 11, the services being  
conducted by Rev. W. H. Atkinson.

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