

1903

OBITUARY

SAMUEL W. SNIDER

Samuel W. Snider was born in Preston county, West Virginia, March 30, 1823, where he was married by the Rev. John Francisco to Margaret Martin, March 21, 1841. He was converted and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1840. Here, in Preston county, he remained until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted July 16, 1861. For sixteen months he served as captain of the 7th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry and was then promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the 16th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry, where he served eight months. After this he recruited the 4th West Virginia Six-months Cavalry and was then honorably discharged, giving seven months additional service to his country as provost marshal. He afterwards removed to Poweshieck county, 10 miles with his family. In 1873 they went to Story county and remained four years, returning to Poweshieck county and settling in Grinnell three years ago. Here, after a brief illness, he died Friday afternoon July 3, 1903, at the home of his daughter Mrs. George Milligan.

There were eleven children in their home, eight of whom, with the wife and mother, survive. These are, Silas, Morris M., Margaret M., Samuel E., Eliza J., Jennett B., Virginia B. and Ida V. No death has occurred in the family since 1856. Seven of the children were present at the funeral.

Brother Snider has a long and honorable record as citizen, neighbor, parent and christian.

Phenomenal is the record of 62 years of happy married life. Precious is the record of nearly 64 years of membership in the church. Potent is the record of over eighty years of life.

"Father" Snider, as we loved to call him, after his long record of service, was ripe for the heavenly life. For many years a steward and class leader, he was always active in the interests of the Master and His kingdom. Cheerful, joyful, and yet with the welfare of his church on his heart as a

serious matter, he was ever eager in the continued prosperity of Zion. The pastor and church could depend upon him. In revival meetings he was a power. In Epworth League work he was as young as any and always ready with a word of counsel and cheer.

Father Snider was a great singer. He loved the hymns of the church. His voice was strong, clear, musical and inspiring. He felt their force as able to transmit this energy and to others. We always enjoyed

the prayer meetings when Father Snider was there.

His life was above reproach. Men told me that they would become christians if they could be christians "like Father Snider." I consider this one of the great compliments to his sincerity and wholesomeness. He seemed to be, to many, an ideal realized, a pattern safe to follow, a type of christian character beautiful, serene, strong and inspiring.

The last voluntary act of his life is characteristic of his spirit and consecration. Two days before his death, calling his family about him he delivered a few tender words, praising God that all were christians, and assuring them, as he assured me later, of his knowledge that he was accepted of God and that all was well. He then asked them to sing, "Fade, fade each earthly joy," exclaiming, as the children tried tremblingly to sing, "O, how grand, Jesus is mine!"

They die well who live forever with God. Farewell, Father Snider, we shall meet in the home of fadeless day.

The funeral services were held in the M. E. church Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, conducted by the pastor, Dr. W. P. Stoddard. A brief address was also made by Dr. I. N. Busby of Brooklyn. W. P. S.