



COMMEMORATIVE  
SERVICES  
OF  
ABEL HARWOOD,

HELD AT  
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS.

DECEMBER 30, 1891.

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INCLUDING A BRIEF SKETCH OF HIS LIFE, TOGETHER WITH  
EXTRACTS FROM A FEW OF THE LETTERS  
RECEIVED BY THE FAMILY.

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## In Memoriam.

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Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.—Ps. 1: 1, 11.

Abel Harwood was born in North Brookfield, Mass., Nov. 23d, 1814. He was of the old New England Puritan stock. His mother was a Winslow, descended from a brother of Governor Winslow of Massachusetts. His Grandfather Harwood was an officer in the revolutionary war.

He was born on the farm of his father, where he remained and assisted in the work until he was seventeen years of age. He was also employed as clerk in a store for two years.

He prepared himself for college at Westminster Academy, after which he entered Amherst College, where he studied hard and graduated in 1841. Soon afterward (August 4th, 1841), he married Mary Day Batcheller, daughter of Deacon Tyler Batcheller, of North Brookfield. Immediately after their marriage the young couple started for Shelby county, Ky., where he taught school for some years,

but receiving a better offer he removed to Lexington, where he was very successful. Here, after a time, his health failed and he was compelled to give up teaching. He consequently engaged in the boot and shoe business, in which he was also very successful, and at the end of nine years had accumulated considerable money.

He had occasion to visit Danville, Ill., in 1852, and was at once greatly taken with that state. Consequently, the next spring he returned and bought 3,000 acres of prairie land in McLean, Champaign and Piatt counties. He afterward bought 2,000 acres more, all of which he put under cultivation.

He removed to Bloomington, Ill., in 1853, where he opened an extensive boot and shoe store.

In 1856 sorrow came to his home in the death of his beloved wife; she leaving five young children. Two years afterward he married Miss Isabella D. Boyd, daughter of Hon. Wilson P. Boyd. By his first wife he had six children—Mary N., now wife of George W. Harwood; Lucretia, who died in 1882; Emma Louisa, who married William Oscar Cady; Ellen Abbie, now Mrs. John C. Stevenson; Martha Frances, who died in infancy; and Ida Elizabeth, who married William D. Rudy, and who died in 1889. By his second wife there were five children—Isabella Susan, who married Mr. C. C. Staley, and who died in 1888; Caroline Rebecca, who died in 1862; Francis Abel, who died in 1863; Wilson Boyd, who died in 1876.

In 1866 he removed with his family to one of his farms in Champaign county, where he remained until 1870, when he purchased the home he has since occupied for twenty-one years.

His most important public service was in the convention of 1870, which framed the present constitution of the state. He represented the counties of Champaign, Piatt, Moultrie and Macon.

He was very fond of his home, and, although strong in his affections for his friends and always happy to meet them, his real happiness was in his family. Those who did not know him in his home-life lost the chief charm of his character. And in the memory of his tender love and devotion to their interests and happiness, and in his beautiful Christian character, his family have a rich legacy.

He was gifted with robust health and a strong constitution. The writer has often heard him say that he had never had a headache in his life.

Sunday, December 13, every member of his immediate family was ill with la-grippe. On Tuesday Mr. Harwood began to feel the unmistakable symptoms of that dread disease, but would not yield to it on account of his anxiety for his family, and all Tuesday night watched over his daughter, who was very ill at that time. Wednesday he was worse, and Thursday was confined to his bed. Sunday, although very unwell indeed, he was so anxious about his wife, who was quite ill and whom he could hear coughing severely, that he dressed himself and

walked down-stairs to her room, where he remained about an hour, but was then compelled to retire again to his room and bed. Finally his illness, and that of his family, seemed to yield to treatment, and on Tuesday the physician thought his advice and aid no longer necessary and discontinued his visits. But Thursday evening Mr. Harwood had a relapse. Still, there was in the mind of his family no apprehension of a serious result, though everything was done that skill and loving hearts and hands could suggest to alleviate his suffering. Sunday morning his breathing became very heavy, and for the first time it began to dawn upon his family that this might be a fatal illness. In the afternoon he seemed to sink into a lethargic state; but that his mind was clear was proven by his ready response to every touch of affection bestowed upon him by his family; and when later his little grandchildren came into the room, he bade them a loving and tender farewell.

At 3:20 o'clock Monday morning he fell into that last peaceful sleep from which there is no awaking in this life, surrounded by all the members of his family.

When the unexpected news spread through the city, in the early morning of December 28, 1891, that this honored citizen had passed away, a feeling of gloom settled over the community; and as the news of his death spread through the country, letters and telegrams, expressive of sorrow and sym-

pathy, began to pour in upon the family from all directions. These kind remembrances were deeply appreciated by the family, for there is nothing so soothing to sorrow as the tender, loving sympathy of true friends.

Death did not find him unprepared. His house was set in order—his lamp well-filled. His whole life had been a grand exemplification of his faith in his Savior.

Always accurate and methodical in his business, his financial affairs were so accurately and perfectly arranged that the settlement of his estate was a simple and easy matter.

The funeral took place at the family residence at ten o'clock on Wednesday, December 30th, 1891, and the service was conducted by his pastor, Rev. C. N. Wilder, assisted by Rev. John Allender, of the Congregational church.

The services were introduced with the singing of the hymn "How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord," after which was read selections Psa. 90; from John xiv and xvi; Romans viii, 35-36; 1 Cor. xv, 51-58; Rev. xxii, 1-5, 14 and 17.

The reading of Scripture was followed by prayer, after which the officiating minister delivered the following address: