

Even an Obit can “Breath Life” Into an Ancestor

The Livingston Republic, (NY) July 30, 1874, pg 3, col. 2 reads as follows

"Death of a Centenarian" - Three score year and ten is the allotted period of a man's life, but occasionally persons are permitted to live long beyond this period and their lives become full of interest not only to their immediate friends and relatives, but to the world at large. Such a person was Mrs. Jane Whitbeck, who died at the residence of Franklin Carter, in Lima, on Saturday evening last, in her 99th year. Mrs Whitbeck was born on the 9th day of July 1776, 5 days after the Declaration of Independence by the American colonies. Her history is therefore contemporary with that of our country, and it's interesting to reflect on the progress which the republic has made during her life time, the advancement it has made in arts and science, its growth in intelligence, its accumulation of material wealth, and influence it has exerted in civilizing and christainxing the world. During her lifetime genius has wrought out some of the greatest problems of life, and the world has emerged into the full light of the highest civilization. The steam engine had been perfected, the steam cars, the magnetic telegraph, ocean cables, and steamships have been invented, and the deepest mysteries of the heavens and the earth and boundless wastes of the ocean have been read by the light of science. Such a life, covering a century of progress, as well as of existence, is full of material for thought and speculation, which we can only suggest without discussing at length. Mrs Whitbeck, in company with her husband, and family, came to western New York forty-nine years ago, from Herkimer County. Her husband Peter Whitbeck died twenty - five years ago, and since then she has walked life's pathway alone, save for the watchful care of her children, among whom are Mrs. Franklin Carter, Dr. J. P. Whitbeck and J. B. Whitbeck of Rochester, and V. P. Whitbeck of Groveland. The late L. P. Whitbeck of Pittsford was also one of her sons. Mrs Whitbeck was a kind, loving and dutiful mother, and no unkind act of hers embitters her memory in the hearts of her children. She retained her mental faculties to the last, and though for years ready to pass to that incomparable rest beyond the grave, she never murmured because of her suffering, or grew impatient. Thus illustrating what a true life should be, she never outgrew her usefulness, but continued always to exert a sweet, refining influence over those about her. If patience, fortitude, sweetness of temper and true Christian character are ever rewarded, hers is a happy lot in that eternal home prepared by the hand of the Father."