

AGED CITIZEN PASSES AWAY

Death Claims Alpheus Laird at the Ripe Old Age of Eighty-Five.

Sept. 17, 1818 – Oct. 21, 1903

Alpheus Laird, for many years a resident of this vicinity and who by several years had exceeded the three score years and ten mark allotted man, ended his earthly career on Wednesday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Henry Hancock, with whom he had made his home for a number of years past. At the ripe old age of eighty-five years, he was claimed by the Grim Reaper, passing peacefully over the great divide, from whence no traveler has ever yet returned. His death was due to a tumor of the stomach, from which he had suffered for a great many years. The past three years he has been confined to his bed most of the time and death no doubt came to him as a welcome relief from the suffering he had so long and patiently endured.

The deceased was born in Madison county, New York, September 17, 1818. His early years were spent upon a farm and he came west and located in Wisconsin while the state was passing through the early stages of its development, experiencing many of the hardships of pioneer days. He was twice married. His first wife, Miss Louisa Davis, died a few years after their marriage, leaving him one daughter, Mrs. Hattie Walton, now living in South Dakota. In 1852 he was married to Miss Betsy Tucker, and this union was blessed with three children, all of whom survive to mourn his loss. They are Herman Laird, of Great Falls, Mont.; Mrs. Louisa Bagley, of Barron, Wis.; Mrs. Caroline Hancock, of this village. In their bereavement the afflicted ones have the sympathy of all.

Mr. Laird was an old Civil war veteran. Leaving his farm at the call of his country, he enlisted on Aug. 14, 1862, in the 31st Wisconsin volunteer infantry, where he served his country gallantly until Jan. 10, 1865, when he was transferred to Co. C, 5th volunteer cavalry, remaining until he received an honorable discharge July 24, 1865. He was also a soldier under the blood-stained banner of the cross of Christ, in the ranks of the M. E. church, but of late years had not attended services, owing perhaps to his ill health.

The funeral was held from the M. E. church on Friday at 1 o'clock p. m., the services being conducted by the Rev. A. H. York. Many old friends and neighbors were present. The remains were interred in the local cemetery, beside those of his wife, who preceded him in death about eleven years ago.