

Death of an Eramosa Pioneer

Elder Robert Royce, of Acton, whose death was announced on Monday, 4th April, was born in Rutlandshire, England, in January 1809. He immigrated with his father to America in 1817, and lived one year in New York, whence he removed to Dundas, Ontario. In the year 1829 he took up land in Eramosa, and doing other work as opportunity afforded. He was married in 1833, when he settled permanently on his farm and lived continuously on it until about four years ago, when he retired, sold out, and removed with his family to the village of Acton.

Being one of the early settlers he underwent all the privations and hardships incident to pioneer life. At an early period he became connected with municipal matters and for many years was either Councillor, Deputy Reeve, or Reeve of the Township. He was also a Magistrate and by his wise counsel and judicious advice rendered much good service. On his retirement from the council he was appointed township Treasurer, and held the office until he left the farm. The deceased took a lively interest in the politics of his country and was always an ardent supporter of the Reform cause. Through life he was an active and zealous Christian worker, and was a member and Elder of the Church of Disciples of Christ, and exemplified by his life that it is possible for a man to be a consistent Christian while he performed his duties as a good citizen to the state. Being of a mild and peaceful disposition he escaped many of the vexations which men of other temperaments are liable to fall into.

He passed peacefully away on the date above mentioned, at the ripe age of 78 years and 3 months, leaving the wife of his youth, one son, Mr. Josiah Royce, of Eramosa, and four daughters to mourn their loss.

On April 6th his remains were accompanied by many old friends to the Everton cemetery, very near the farm where he spent over 10 years of his active life, when they were consigned to their last resting place.

The Acton Free Press pays the following just tribute to his memory which the Mercury can truthfully re-echo:—He was one of the finest men with whom we have ever had the privilege of an acquaintance. He was a kind and considerate husband and father; a warm friend; a loyal citizen; and a consistent child of God. He was an active worker in the Disciples' Church. During his residence in Acton he has been accorded the respect and confidence of every citizen, and his opinion upon public affairs was valued.

1887 ROYCE.

At his home, in Acton, on the morning of the 4th of April, amid sorrowing friends, Elder Robt. Royce, aged 78 years and three months, departed this life to go to be Christ, which is far better.

Bro. Royce was one of the early settlers of Eramosa. He took up land there in 1829, and settled permanently in 1833, in which year he married. He continued to reside there May, 1883, when he removed to Acton.

As early associated with the cause of Eramosa and Wellington County, and

always took a deep interest in the advancement and prosperity of the cause. In his early years he worshipped with what was known as the East Church, over which our late revered and venerable Bro. Black presided for so many years.

Upon the organization of the church in the west of Eramosa he became associated as Elder with our late Bro. Parkinson. Here he continued until 1851, when, by request, he took membership in the Centre Church, as brethren Anderson and Kilgour left to labor in the general field as Evangelists. He labored with the church here until 1861, when the new meeting house was built in Everton, and the union effected between the East and Centre Churches. Here he occupied the position of an Elder until his removal to Acton, where he continued his labors so long as he had strength. The warm, earnest exhortations of Bro. Royce will long be remembered by those whose privilege it was to worship with him.

He acted as Secretary-Treasurer to the Co-operation for over twenty years, and only resigned in 1878 as he found the labor becoming too much for him in his advancing years.

In addition to these things and the care and work of his farm, he served his country for many years as Councillor, Reeve and Magistrate, which positions he filled with dignity and honor. He lived to a good age to enjoy the blessings of a merciful God; he has gone to receive the reward of a loving Saviour in whose service he delighted for so many years. His aged partner, his son and his four daughters have the sympathy of many friends who with them lament the loss of one "not lost, but gone before."

J. W. K.

ROBERT ROYCE.

The death of Elder Robt. Royce, at his home, in Acton, on the 4th ult., reminds us that the pioneers of the cause in Ontario are very fast leaving us. In Everton especially are we reminded of this in view of the solemn facts, that in less than one year Elders Black, Parkinson and Royce, co-workers in this church for many years, have passed away in death. When we think of our loss, and view the consequent depletion of the ranks, our sorrow can be assuaged only by the knowledge that it is fitting that they should cease from their labors and enter into rest.

Our late brother was, at his death, in his seventy-ninth year. He had been a Disciple from early manhood, and during the greater part of his life a leading man in the brotherhood throughout the section of country in which he lived. As an earnest member of the Board of Co-operation

from its earliest history it could be said he was a leading man, not only in his own section of country, but throughout the Province. He was also a chief man in the management of municipal affairs in the township of Eramosa for many years.

About four years ago he left his farm in the vicinity of Everton, on which he had lived for over half a century, and moved to the town of Acton to spend his remaining days, which proved to be but few. He transferred his membership to the church in that place, and gave it the benefit of his ripened experience, and such labor as he in his declining years was able to bestow. His removal must be a serious loss to the little church there.

Our personal acquaintance with him was slight, he having moved from here a few months before we came, but his kind and gentle disposition and deep interest in the welfare of the church will not soon be forgotten.

The testimony of the people in this community, in which he was for many years a wise and efficient officer, as well as the testimony of the church, which he so long and faithfully served, was that he was a believer in, and his life an exemplification of, the *gospel of peace*.

His family consisted of three sons—two of whom are dead—and four daughters. Bro. Josiah Royce, his only surviving son, lives on a farm near the old homestead, and is one of the leading members in the Everton church.

Elder James Kilgour, an old friend of the deceased and co-laborer, preached at the funeral to a large concourse of people an able and comforting discourse from a part of the conversation between Christ and Martha as recorded in the 11th chapter of John.

May the rich mercies of our God still attend the aged partner of the deceased, and abundantly sustain her to the end.

T. L. F.

ROYCE.

Elder Robert Royce, of Acton, Ontario, passed quietly away on the morning of April 4, and his body was interred in the cemetery at Everton on Wednesday following, there to await the summons from him who is the resurrection and the life. Our brother had been failing in health for over a year; his bodily strength gradually wasted away, but his mind remained clear to the last; and his confidence in the rich promises of God, which sustained him through a long active life, ripened as he came nearer to the gate of the eternal city. He passed away peacefully in the fullest assurance of faith. At the time of his death he was in his 79th year. He was born in Rutland county, England. Early in life, with his parents and other members of the family, he came to New York, remaining there for a year. He then came to Dundas, then a small village, and in 1829 came to Eramosa, then an almost unbroken forest, took up his land, and by energy wisely directed he made himself and family a comfort-

able home and secured a competency for his declining years. Shortly after coming to Eramosa he married Eliza Gothrup, whose amiable Christian walk entitles her to an equal share of esteem. To them were born a family of four daughters and three sons. One son died young, and another died a few years ago, leaving a widow and a small family. The eldest son, Josiah, is still living, and is an earnest, faithful member of the church at Everton, ever ready to assist in any good work. The daughters are all living, also a brother (George S.) and a sister (Mrs. Hall), all of whom are active Disciples. His kindness and gentleness endeared him to his family and friends. May the bright prospect of joining, in the home of eternal rest, him who is gone before, sustain our aged sister while she sojourns here. Early in the Reformation movement in this locality, our brother accepted the plea for a return to primitive Christianity, and stood firmly upon the truth and followed faithfully his Saviour.

He was possessed of excellent ability, which added to his wide knowledge of the Bible, his sound judgment and worthy Christian character, gave him a high place in the confidence and esteem of his brethren. He was associated in the good work with Elders Black, Anderson, Kilgour, Parkinson, Oliphants, Stewart and others. These aged co-workers were bound closely to each other by lasting, loving friendship. Many have now passed over to the better land, others yet linger on the shore of time waiting the summons of the Master.

May the faithfulness, labor, patience and hope of the lives of our fathers in the gospel have its proper effect on us who remain. Elder Royce had a finely balanced mind, and was possessed of a kind heart which gave weight to his opinions in worldly matters. The esteem in which he was held by his neighbors and fellow citizens made him the recipient of many offices of trust, and none was more faithful to those trusts than he.

About four years ago he removed from his farm near Everton to Acton that he might spend his remaining days in rest and quiet; at Everton he was greatly missed, having been one of the leaders of the congregation for over twenty years.

His remains were borne to their last resting place by six of his grandsons.

Rockwood, Ontario. HUGH BLACK.

[We knew Bro. Royce well, and admired him as a genuine Christian nobleman. There is no flattery in Bro. Black's words of appreciation. The name of Robert Royce will not be forgotten soon in Eramosa. Though dead, he will continue to speak. This widow has our heartfelt sympathy in her loneliness and sorrow.—H. M.]

In —, Dakota, April 27th, 1887, Maggie Roadhouse, wife of Mr. George Roadhouse, and daughter of Dan and Christie McLellan, formerly of Luther Township, Ont. She was a member of the church in Grand Valley. Her father moved with his family to Dakota in the fall of 1882, where she was married about two years ago. She leaves behind her husband and one child, her father, mother, brothers and sisters, as well as numerous relatives and friends who deeply mourn their loss. She lived a cheerful Christian life, showing a good example to all around her, and bore up under her sufferings with true Christian bravery.

D. B.