

Mary (Owen) Dunbar, (27 Sep 1814 – 24 Nov 1902), Newspaper Clipping, The Perry Historians

Mrs. **Mary Dunbar**, relict of the late **John Dunbar**, of this place, past to rest Tuesday noon of last week, as a result of a wasting hours of old age. She was aged 88 years, 1 month, and 28 days.

The deceased was born in York, Pennsylvania, September 27, 1814, and was one of a family of 14 children. Her early girlhood days were spent in that place. In 1829, she came to this place with a **Gotwalt family**. Bloomfield, but a few years previous have been made in the county seat of Perry County.

May 24, 1830 she was united in marriage with **John Dunbar**, Rev. John A. Gere, of Baltimore conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, officiating. For children resulted from this union, a daughter **Elizabeth D.**, and son **George**, each dying in early childhood. September 14, 1840, the husband died, leaving the mother to support a family, which task she bravely undertook and was heroically accomplished.

She lived almost 70 years in the same house where she died. She was converted when she was 13 years of age and from that time was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. She took the cooking for the men who built the first Methodist Episcopal Church every record in Bloomfield, after Roosevelt often carried the old-fashioned fat lamp and tallow candles to light the house for services. During the winter months to save fuel and also to have more comfortable place for prayer meetings were often held in her house. As might be expected her end was peaceful as the setting sun. At her funeral there was present the only remaining member of her father's family of 14 children, **G. W. Owen**, the youngest of all, now 82 years of age, who resides in York PA.

Mrs. Dunbar came from Quaker stock, but in early life she associated herself with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and those tenets she firmly believes that his principles she zealously practice until her death. Hers was a life of consecration of His service; and her widowhood His strong arm was at her firm support and in the shadows of the Valley of death, her faith was absolute, triumphant. Hers was a victory. Time dealt gently with this mother; her heart always young and sympathetic, and those of younger years found in her a tender and thoughtful friend. Her mental faculties were unimpaired to the last.

Two sons survive, **Samuel** and **John**, of this place,[New Bloomfield] and one brother **George Owen**, of York PA. **Phil S.** and **Anna R. Dunbar**, of this place, are her only grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at her late residence Friday morning, her pastor, Rev. J. R. Sipe, officiating. Interment was in the old graveyard, this place, beside the remains of her husband. The following were the pallbearers; **S. S. McBride**, **W. H. Sweeger**, **D. H. C. Campbell** and **F. D. Parson**.

Her son **Samuel** is her constant companion for many years. His was a life of singular devotion and a beautiful example of affection, and her death, although she prayed for the summons of her Master -- is a severe blow to him. His care and affection will meet its reward.