

**Cyrus McCullough Hench**, (17 Jan 1834 – 13 Feb 1930), Newspaper Clipping, The Perry Historians County's Oldest Resident Dies In Mifflin

**Cyrus M. Hench**, possibly the oldest citizen in Juniata county, died at his home in Mifflin last Friday, aged 96 years, after being bedfast for more than four years. He was born in Turbett Township, on January 17, 1834, a son of John and Margaret Hench.

He spent his early life on the farm and was noted for his kind and generous way in aiding and helping with a right good will. He heard the call of President Lincoln for the young men to come to the aid of the country and enlisted in the 101 Penn's infantry, Co. E. After a brief period of training he was sent into Virginia to hold the lines of Gen. Sherman on his march towards Richmond. The war over, he was mustered out in Harrisburg and came to Patterson [now Mifflin] where in 1866 he entered the employment of the Penna. Railroad as a brakeman and served faithfully and loyally in that service until 1904 when he retired as conductor of construction.

From 1904 he lived a quiet retired life, but always interested in development of the RR and other activities of the community. He loved to recall the first engine that ever came down the valley of the Juniata and how the people gathered to watch the queer contraption and its smoke and fire, for engines burned wood in those days. He loved to recall the development of the trains with their ten and twenty cars to the enormous engines of today with their 100 carload. There was another fact that he loved to recall - the development of the national government and events of the war.

Many of the children, now grown up, recall the times when they used to go to him for help with their history lessons and without reference to book he could give all the main facts of the history of the country or of the tragic struggle between the states. He exercised that kindly disposition unto all wither of his own household or workmen or anyone. Even when bedfast and unable to help himself he was kind, considerate and thankful for any little kindness or help in his helplessness. He was unusually patient and throughout his life never complained. He was a man who drew largely for his basis of conduct from that greatest book that is beyond all literature, the Bible. He drew upon that patient sufferer whose story is unfolded in the pages of the New Testament and his life as it unfolded in its long years revealed the secret of the loving disposition.

**Cyrus Hench** has been called to his father's in the ripe age of 96 years and like that old man whose story is written in the book of Genesis in a single verse, so may the story of this aged servant be written "He walked with God and is not for God has taken him."

His only public office was that of serving one term as associate Judge during the term of 1883-1890.

He is survived by one sister, three sons and three daughters as follow: **Mrs. Sara Weimer**, 81, of Port Royal, and **Charles G.** and **George L. Hench** of Cresson; and **Mrs. Ralph (Ella)** of VanDyke; **Mrs. Charles (Mae) Doodell [Goodale]**, of Mifflintown, and **Mrs. William (Clara) Cramer**, of Mifflin.

Interment was made in the Presbyterian Cemetery.

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