

James Kirkwood, (16 Feb 1832 – 26 Apr 1923), Duncannon Record, Thursday, May 3, 1923; Town's Oldest Inhabitant Dead

James Kirkwood, for many years a resident of this place, and probably the oldest person in this section of the county, died at the home of his daughter, **Mrs. William Page**, on Thursday morning, following a brief illness incident to his advanced age of 91 years, 8 months and 10 days.

Grandpa Kirkwood, as he was familiarly known, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, February 16, 1832. His father, **William Kirkwood**, died at the age of twenty-five of cholera when the subject of this sketch was in his infancy. He was the only male member of a family of three children, and of his sisters nothing can he learned. It is not known if either survive. His mother lived to the age of 98 and his grandmother to within one month of 100 years. At the age of 21 years he came to America in company with a companion from the same city, seeking his fortune in the new world. He arrived in New York City after a stormy voyage of seven weeks and was sent to this place by an employment agency to work on the blast furnace which was just under construction at that time. Following his arrival here he was joined in marriage to **Mrs. Anna Rebecca Nickum** and survived her more than twenty-six years. He had been a resident of this place for more than sixty years at intervals, and for more than forty years continuously. He became a member of the Asbury Methodist Church in 1868, more than a half century ago. He was employed by the Duncannon Iron Company for many years as a night foreman and caller. Following injuries sustained in a fall on icy steps during the winter of 1897, he was compelled retire from active work. Since that time he has made his home with his daughter, **Mrs. Page**.

He was always interested in world events and was keenly interested in anything connected with the progress of the community. He was a great reader and endowed with a retentive memory, he had a rich fund of information that enabled him to converse intelligently on current events. He enjoyed nothing better than conversation with friends who will learn with regret that his long and useful life has finally been brought to a close. His vacant chair in the home will ever be a reminder that we all do "fade as a leaf."

He is survived by two daughters, **Mrs. Eliza Dreiblebis**, of Hamburg, Berks County, and **Mrs. Sarah N. Page**, of this place, and two sons, **William O. Kirkwood**, of Hellam, York County, and **Peter Kirkwood**, of Lebanon. A stepson, **James Nickum**, of Penn Township, also survives, together with sixteen grandchildren and thirty-four great-grandchildren.

Brief services were conducted at his late home Sunday afternoon and the remains taken to the Methodist Church where further services were held at 2 o'clock by Rev. Brenneman, pastor of the church, followed by interment in the Evergreen cemetery.

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