

**Dr. Samuel Harrison Whitmer**, (1845 – 1902), Newspaper Clipping, The Perry Historians

This community was shocked to learn of the death of **Dr. S.H. Whitmer**, which occurred suddenly at his residence in Newport, on Sunday morning about 4 o'clock, from heart disease. He was aged 57 years, 4 months and 21 days.

He had been in somewhat failing health for some months past, but had retired apparently as well as usual. About four o'clock his wife, who was in an adjoining room, heard him moaning and she called to her son, who hastened to his father's bedside and found him in a dying condition. A physician was hastily summoned, but before he could arrive the Dr. had expired.

The Whitmer family originated in Sweden, and some of its members came to America before the Revolutionary War, in which they took an active and honorable part. **John Whitmer**, great grandfather of Dr. Whitmer, served in the Continental army, and lost his life in the battle of Brandywine. Samuel Michael, the maternal great-grandfather of Dr. Whitmer, was also in the Revolutionary army, and was killed at the battle of Princeton N.J. **Henry Whitmer**, grandfather of Dr. Whitmer, was born in Pennsylvania and spent his life in agricultural pursuits. **Benjamin Whitmer**, father of Dr. Whitmer, was born east of Georgetown, in Stone Valley, Northumberland County, Pa. in 1811.

Dr. Whitmer was one of nine children, and was born near Georgetown, Northumberland County, this state. At age six years, with his parents, he moved to Perry County and one year later to Juniata County. He attended school until 14 years of age, and later went to Decatur, Ill., where he entered the Weekly Gazette as an apprentice. In February, 1862, he returned to Mifflintown, where he entered Co. F, 126th Reg. Pennsylvania Volunteers. He served his country faithfully, participated in the second battle of Bull Run, was in pursuit of Lee's army, fought at Antietam and Fredericksburg, was in charge at Mary's Heights, and at the battle of Chancellorsville he was wounded in the head by a buckshot and was at the hospital for some time until his discharge--having been conveyed thither--at Harrisburg, in May 1863, at the expiration of his term of enlistment.

In the fall of 1863 he entered the office of Dr. G.L. Derr, where he pursued the study of dentistry until April 1864. At this date he removed to Landisburg, this county, where he opened a dental office. In the spring of 1866 he sold his practice and removed to Shippensburg, Pa., where he opened a new office and remained in practice until 1868; he then sold out and removed to Millersburg, Dauphin County. He was engaged in practice until April, 1870, when he sought a new location at Newport. Here he had since been employed in professional work with the most gratifying success. Dr. Whitmer was one of the organizers and director of the First National Bank, and was also a promoter and director of the water company. In society circles he was prominent, holding place in the various ranks of the Masonic Order, and membership in Newport Post, No. #294, G.A.R.

Dr. Whitmer was married November 25, 1865, to **Mary E.**, daughter of Major **William** and **Rebecca (Kennedy) Power**, of Landisburg, who survives together with two sons; **Frank P.**, a graduate in the Class of 90, Gettysburg College, and now connected with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and **Dr. S. Edward**, also a graduate of Gettysburg College, who had been associated

with his father having in fact retired. A brother, **Harry W. Whitmer**, of Decatur, Ill, and sister, **Mrs. Mary A. Pannebaker**, of Mifflintown survive him.

The Doctor was an avowed Republican and prominent in party councils and had frequently held local office. He was a warm and generous hearted friend, a devoted father and husband. His sudden demise is deplored by a large circle of relatives and friends.

Funeral Wednesday at 10 o'clock

**Wilkes-Barre Times**, Saturday, February 8, 1902. Newport – Dr. S. H. Whitmer died on Saturday night at the age of 57. He was vice president of the Board of Trade and a director in the First National Bank.

**Dr. S. H. Whitmer Dead, Philadelphia Inquirer**, Monday, February 3, 1902.

Newport, Pa., Feb. 2. – Dr. S. H. Whitmer died last night, aged 57 years. He was a prominent business man and vice president of the Board of Trade and a director in the Newport and Sherman's Valley Railroad and the First National Bank at the time of his death.

**Newport, Patriot**, Friday, February 7, 1902

Newport, Feb. 6. – Rev. J. Henry Harms, of Harrisburg, conducted the funeral services of Dr. S. H. Whitmer, on Wednesday.