

The subject of this sketch, a most devoted Christian man and one prominent in every good work in and about Farmersville Station, Cattaraugus, Co., N. Y., was born in Abirystwyth, Wales, about sixty years ago, and was one of a family of eleven children. In 1842 he emigrated to this country from Wales, spending several years in Newport and Bridgewater, this state, and in Bridgeport, Conn. He came to Cattaraugus county in or about the year 1855, where he lived the remainder of his life, mostly in the town of Freedom, but about seven years ago he removed to the village of Farmersville Station and here resided until the Master bade him "come up higher." By occupation he was a farmer, though he also taught several terms of district school. A loyal citizen and patriotic to his heart's core, the call for volunteers could not pass by unheeded, and in 1862 he entered his country's service. Bravery and trustworthiness commended him to his superior officers' recognition, and in 1863 William Charles was promoted to the office of Sergeant of Co. F, 154th Reg. N. Y. Vol., in which office he served with honor and distinction until the close of the war when he was discharged. In 1858 he married Miss Arne Evans, only child of Thomas and Frances Evans of Freedom; who died March 14, 1869, leaving four children: Thomas, who lives near Elton; Frances, who married Charles Leonard and died Aug. 15, 1884; Cary and Milton, who also reside near the late home of their father.

In 1871 Mr. Charles was again married, this time to Miss Martha James, daughter of Stephen and Mary James of the town of Rushford. Of this union two daughters were born: Nellie, now Mrs. John R. Edmunds, and Nettie, who resides with her mother.

In politics Mr. Charles was a republican until about twelve years ago when he became a prohibitionist, believed in equal suffrage and became a very prominent, active, zealous temperance worker; and being a man of pronounced views upon all subjects where wrong opposed right, he remained steadfast and died as strong a temperance advocate as he had lived.

Being a close student of the life and teachings and example of the Lord Jesus, he became a Baptist and found a church home at Freedom in 1862. In 1878 Mr. Charles organized a Sabbath School in the school house at Farmersville Station and became its superintendent. Other Christian people, recognizing his sterling worth, as a leader, gathered around the altar of consecration and the result of William Charles' devotion and work was the First Baptist church of Farmersville Station, which he, together with eight other loyal Christians, organized in 1888, and he was chosen its senior deacon, which office he held with honor to the end of life. In 1889 an association of the Sunday Schools of the towns of Freedom and Farmersville was founded and unanimously selected Deacon Charles for its first associational president, and he was

annually re-elected to this office until incapacitated by sickness; a period of seven years.

More than two years of his life he has been an invalid, suffering intensely at times, being confined to his bed, unable to walk for over a year. He realized the fact that he was drawing near the end, but in the gathering shadows a holier calm rested upon him, and he often communed of the "blessed rest that remaineth for the people of God;" and thus he awaited the last summons which came to him a few moments after four o'clock, Saturday afternoon, Dec. 19, 1896, and he passed away peacefully, gently, painlessly "as one that falleth in sleep."

The following brothers and sisters survive him: John Charles of Sandusky, Joel Charles of Greenwich, Conn., Mrs. Catharine Edwards of Wethersfield, N. Y., Mrs. Ann Lewis of Lockport, N. Y., Mrs. Susan Jones of Oshkosh, Wis., and Mrs. Jane Baker of Boonville, Ind.

The funeral services were held in his home church, the place he so devotedly loved, on Tuesday forenoon, Dec. 22nd, conducted by his pastor, Rev. R. R. Prentice, assisted by Revs. Griffith of the Siloam Congregational church, and Wells of the Farmersville M. E. church. Rev. Prentice's discourse was one of great comfort, from the words found in Revelation 14:13, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them." In accordance with Mr. Charles' request the singing was conducted by Mr. and Mrs. George N. James of Delevan and Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Wood of Sandusky. After these services the solemn cortege journeyed to Freedom where the last sad rites were observed and his body laid to rest among the many other earnest christian Welshmen whose names are watch words in many a home and whose examples are worthy of emulation. "Their works do follow them." Many old soldiers gathered to pay their final respects to their beloved comrade, who had endeared himself to them on many an occasion, especially in sorrow, he was always ready to alleviate every cause of sadness, so far as possible, by prayer, counsel or material aid. The bearers were chosen from among his warm friends and associates; Deacon John Goss, Deacon A. B. Morgan, Messrs. William Williams, R. O. Jones, Wm. A. Henry and Wm. C. Williams.

Among the many from out of town who attended the obsequies were Mr. Joel Charles, Greenwich, Conn., Mrs. Harriett Dumville, Lockport, N. Y., Mrs. C. Edwards with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hubbard of Wethersfield, N. Y., Mr. and Mrs. J. G. James and Mr. and Mrs. J. F. James of Rushford, Arthur B. Morgan of Franklinville, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Goss of Lyndon, J. P. Williams of Machias; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Haskell of Arcade, beside many others from Elton, Freedom and Sandusky.

In his enfeebled condition it required but little extra exertion to tire him almost beyond endurance, and his death is attributed to heart failure, naturally resulting from physical exhaustion, and this the immediate cause of death certified by his

William Charles was truly a child of nature and a devoted son of nature's God. His love and admiration for the trees and flowers was in keeping with his devotion to the Creator of all earth's beautiful things, and this he exemplified in every day life, by being kind, considerate and forgiving. He hated no man, and was always of that forgiving nature that men shunned giving him offense. His was a life of active usefulness and whenever opportunity offered was ready to do something for the benefit of his fellow-men. This op-

portunity was placed before him during the Civil war. When he beheld the neglected condition of the colored people, Mr. Charles organized Sunday Schools among them and also taught many of them to read and write; but his efforts in behalf of the negroes could not end here, he must tell them of that peerless Christ in whom he lived, and there are many of this people who turn their eyes gladly to him as the means of leading them unto the fountain of everlasting life.

One piece of music was in especial favor with him, "The Lilly of the Valley," No. 102 in Gospel Hymns, No. 5, and this was one of the selections sung at his funeral. He was all ready to go and received the summons, "Come unto thy rest," in gladness. It was the privilege of the writer of this obituary to have known Deacon Charles and to regard him in his true sense of christian manhood, and know him as one of the best men that ever lived. No words of mine are adequate to an eulogy for such a life. He who was full of the sunshine of God's continuous presence was able to shed abroad that blessed sunshine for others; and whenever and wherever he came in contact with mankind, "They took knowledge of him that he had been with Jesus." And thus he entered into his eternal rest, that rest which "remaineth to the people of God." But what a priceless heritage he leaves to all who knew him, to his Sunday School class, to his church, to his brethren in the Lord and to the community in which he lived; the heritage of a real, true, abiding life with Christ Jesus, the Lord.

To the afflicted family goes out the warmest sympathy of a very large circle of acquaintances, and in this their affliction, we are afflicted also, and in their sorrow we mourn. Yet in their joy do we joy also, knowing that it is only a little way farther on and we shall all gather at the throne of God, to go no more out forever.

"Servant of God, well done,
Rest from thy loved employ;
The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master's joy."

WM. A. DAY,
Pastor Baptist Church, Himrods,
Yates Co., N. Y.

William Charles W. History

The subject of this sketch, a most devoted Christian man and one prominent in every good work in and about Farmersville Station, Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., was born in Abirystwyth, Wales, about sixty years ago, and was one of a family of eleven children. In 1842 he emigrated to this country from Wales, spending several years in Newport and Bridgeport, Conn. He came to Cattaraugus county in or about the year 1855, where he lived the remainder of his life, mostly in the town of Freedom, but about seven years ago he removed to the village of Farmersville Station and here resided until the Master bade him "come up higher." By occupation he was a farmer, though he also taught several terms of district school. A loyal citizen and patriotic to his heart's core, the call for volunteers could not pass by unheeded, and in 1862 he entered his country's service. Bravery and trustworthiness commended him to his superior officers' recognition, and in 1863 William Charles was promoted to the office of Sergeant of Co. F, 15th Reg. N. Y. Vol., in which office he served with honor and distinction until the close of the war when he was discharged. In 1858 he married Miss Arme Evans, only child of Thomas and Frances Evans of Freedom, who died March 14, 1869, leaving four children: Thomas, who lives near Elton; Frances, who married Charles Leonard and died Aug. 15, 1884; Cary and Milton, who also reside near the late home of their father.

In 1871 Mr. Charles was again married, this time to Miss Martha James, daughter of Stephen and Mary James of the town of Rushford. Of this union two daughters were born: Nellie, now Mrs. John R. Edmunds, and Nettie, who resides with her mother.

In politics Mr. Charles was a republican until about twelve years ago when he became a prohibitionist, believed in equal suffrage and became a very prominent, active, zealous temperance worker; and being a man of pronounced views upon all subjects where wrong opposed right, he remained steadfast and died as strong a temperance advocate as he had lived.

Being a close student of the life and teachings and example of the Lord Jesus, he became a Baptist and found a church home at Freedom in 1862. In 1878 Mr. Charles organized a Sabbath School in the school house at Farmersville Station and became its superintendent. Other Christian people, recognizing his sterling worth as a leader, gathered around the altar of consecration and the result of William Charles' devotion and work was the First Baptist church of Farmersville Station, which he, together with eight other loyal christians, organized in 1888, and he was chosen its senior deacon, which office he held with honor to the end of life. In 1889 an association of the Sunday Schools of the towns of Freedom and Farmersville was founded and unanimously selected Deacon Charles for its first associational president, and he was

annually this office until incapacitated by sickness, a period of seven years. More than two years of his life he has been an invalid, suffering intensely at times, being confined to his bed, unable to walk for over a year. He realized the fact that he was drawing near the end, but in the gathering shadows a holier calm rested upon him, and he often communed of that "blessed rest that remaineth for the people of God;" and thus he awaited the last summons which came to him a few moments after four o'clock, Saturday afternoon, Dec. 19, 1896, and he passed away peacefully, gently, painlessly "as one that falleth in sleep."

The following brothers and sisters survive him: John Charles of Sandusky, Joel Charles of Greenwich, Conn., Mrs. Catharine Edwards of Wethersfield, N. Y., Mrs. Ann Lewis of Lockport, N. Y., Mrs. Susan Jones of Oshkosh, Wis., and Mrs. Jane Baker of Boonville, Ind.

The funeral services were held in his home church, the place he so devotedly loved, on Tuesday forenoon, Dec. 22nd, conducted by his pastor, Rev. R. R. Prentice, assisted by Revs. Griffith of the Siloam Congregational church, and Wells of the Farmersville M. E. church. Rev. Prentice's discourse was one of great comfort, from the words found in Revelation 14:13, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them." In accordance with Mr. Charles' request the singing was conducted by Mr. and Mrs. George N. James of Delevan and Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Wood of Sandusky. After these services the solemn cortege journeyed to Freedom where the last sad rites were observed and his body laid to rest among the many other earnest christian Welshmen whose names are watch words in many a home and whose examples are worthy of emulation. "Their works do follow them." Many old soldiers gathered to pay their final respects to their beloved comrade, who had endeared himself to them on many an occasion, especially in sorrow, he was always ready to alleviate every cause of sadness, so far as possible, by prayer, counsel or material aid. The bearers were chosen from among his warm friends and associates; Deacon John Goss, Deacon A. B. Morgan, Messrs. William Williams, R. O. Jones, Wm. A. Henry and Wm. C. Williams.

Among the many from out of town who attended the obsequies were Mr. Joel Charles, Greenwich, Conn., Mrs. Harriett Dumville, Lockport, N. Y., Mrs. C. Edwards with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hubbard of Wethersfield, N. Y., Mr. and Mrs. J. G. James and Mr. and Mrs. J. F. James of Rushford, Arthur B. Morgan of Franklinville, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Goss of Lyndon, J. P. Williams of Machias; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Haskell of Arcade, beside many others from Elton, Freedom and Sandusky.

In his enfeebled condition it required but little extra exertion to tire him almost beyond endurance, and his death is attributed to heart failure, naturally resulting from physical exhaustion, and this the immediate cause of death, certified by his

William Charles was truly a child of nature and a devoted son of nature's God. His love and admiration for the trees and flowers was in keeping with his devotion to the Creator of all earth's beautiful things, and this he exemplified in every day life, by being kind, considerate and forgiving. He hated no man, and was always of that forgiving nature that men shunned giving him offense. His was a life of active usefulness and whenever opportunity offered was ready to do something for the benefit of his fellow-men. This op-

Mike

portunity was placed before him during the Civil war. When he beheld the neglected condition of the colored people, Mr. Charles organized Sunday Schools among them and also taught many of them to read and write; but his efforts in behalf of the negroes could not end here, he must tell them of that peerless Christ in whom he lived, and there are many of this people who turn their eyes gladly to him as the means of leading them unto the fountain of everlasting life.

One piece of music was in especial favor with him, "The Lilly of the Valley," No. 102 in Gospel Hymns, No. 5, and this was one of the selections sung at his funeral. He was all ready to go and received the summons, "Come unto thy rest," in gladness. It was the privilege of the writer of this obituary to have known Deacon Charles and to regard him in his true sense of christian manhood, and know him as one of the best men that ever lived. No words of mine are adequate to an eulogy for such a life. He who was full of the "sunshine of God's continuous presence" was able to shed abroad that blessed sunshine for others, and whenever and wherever he came in contact with mankind, "They took knowledge of him that he had been with Jesus." And thus he entered into his eternal rest, that rest which "remaineth to the people of God." But what a priceless heritage he leaves to all who knew him, to his Sunday School class, to his church, to his brethren in the Lord and to the community in which he lived; the heritage of a real, true, abiding life with Christ Jesus, the Lord.

To the afflicted family goes out the warmest sympathy of a very large circle of acquaintances, and in this their affliction, we are afflicted also, and in their sorrow we mourn. Yet in their joy do we joy also, knowing that it is only a little way farther on and we shall all gather at the throne of God, to go no more out forever.

"Servant of God, well done,
Rest from thy loved employ;
The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master's joy."

WM. A. DAY,
Pastor Baptist Church, Himrods,
Yates Co., N. Y.

Cattaraugus Co. History Museum