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Last Sunday afternoon about 1 o'clock passed to rest on the eternal shores, John Wesley Sweetland, one of Little Valley's prominent and most highly esteemed citizens. Mr. Sweetland had been in declining health two years or more, and spent last winter in the south in the vain hope that permanent relief might be obtained from the malady which afflicted him. But the seeds of consumption were too deeply seated, and the relief was but transitory. For a few weeks after his return he enjoyed a comfortable state of health, but was greatly prostrated when the warm weather came on. The prostration increased until all hope was abandoned. The last two weeks of his life were spent on the border land which separates the seen from the unseen.

Mr. Sweetland was the son of the late Rev. Lewis Sweetland, and was born in Little Valley, April 9th, 1831. In 1854 he married Miss Malvina P. Short, who survives him. Four children were the result of this union, three of whom died in early years. Mr. Sweetland was a member of the 154th Reg't. in the war of the rebellion, and did faithful duty during the period of the regiment's service. By occupation he was a farmer up to seven years ago. At that time he entered the County Clerk's office as a recorder, where he remained about two years. Upon leaving the Clerk's office he engaged in trade, and for five years past has been one of the prominent business men of Little Valley. He was a man of excellent business capacity, honest and upright in all his dealings, and had the confidence of his fellow citizens to the fullest extent.

From his boyhood Mr. Sweetland was a zealous and consistent christian. For several years past he was an active member of the Little Valley Congregational church, being a deacon and superintendent of the Sunday school. He was an efficient worker in every department of religious labor, and in Sunday school work had few superiors. His death is a great loss, not only to the church and Sunday school with which he was directly connected, but to the cause generally.

Mr. Sweetland died rejoicing in the christian faith and hope. Most truly could the words of the apostle be applied in this instance: "I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness."

The funeral obsequies were observed Tuesday in the Congregational church. Rev. Isaac Bradnack, pastor of the church officiated, assisted by Rev. C. O. Mead, of the M. E. church. The services were of a very impressive character, a large audience testifying their respect and esteem for the deceased by their presence. The floral tributes prepared for the occasion were quite elaborate, and were arranged very tastefully. A touching incident in the funeral service was the presence of the Sunday school over which Mr. Sweetland had so long presided, each member dropping a bouquet into the grave containing the earthly remains of the departed friend and instructor.

The deceased leaves a widow and a son to survive him. In their sorrow much consolation must be derived from the universal respect and esteem in which the departed was held by those among whom he had lived and labored. His many virtues will long be remembered in this community.



John Wesley Sweetland