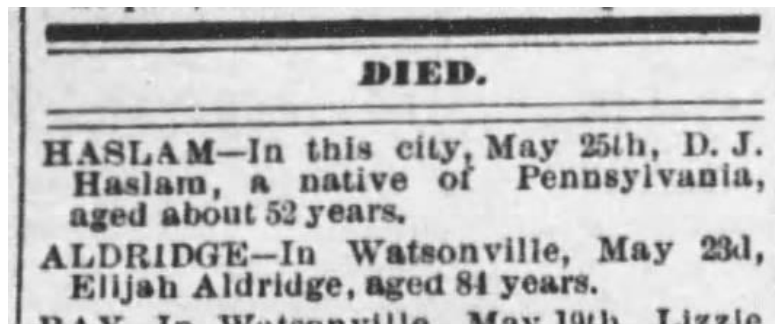


Death Notice for Elijah Aldridge 1878



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Elijah and Jane Aldridge were living in Boone County, Iowa, in 1871 when their son Frank came out to Iowa to bring them to California. Frank had gone out about twenty years earlier to California, traveling by wagon train and horses. By 1869 the train was running between Council Bluffs, Iowa, right by Omaha at the western edge of the state, and Sacramento. Instead of a trip taking months, the train took only four days. Family stories only mention that Frank took his parents to California but not how they went. I hope by train, as Elijah and Jane were elderly by then. Council Bluffs was about 150 miles from Boone County and a train ran across Iowa through Boone County to Council Bluffs. This would have been a much easier trip.

In a letter to his sister Caroline, in Florida, he tells of Elijah's death:

Our poor old Father is gone to his final reward to the peace where we must all go sooner or later. After an almost constant confinement to his bed over 5 months he breathed his last at my house in the town of Watsonville May 24th half past 2 o'clock in the morning in the 87th year of his age. The funeral discourse was delivered by Hiram connell in the Christian Church. He was buried in my burying ground near the town. The discourse was mainly delivered on his history and life. I will briefly state the history. Elijah Aldridge was born in the State of North Carolina, Feb 13, 1792. Emigrated to Kentucky with his parents at the age of 2. Was married to Jane White January 26, 1812. Remained in Kentucky about 30 years from thence removed to Indiana remained in that state about 29 years from thence removed to the state of Iowa, remained in that state about 17 years was then brought to California by his son Frank Aldridge, lived in California until his death a little over 7 years. Was married to Jane White 66 years ago and the result of the marriage was 7 sons and 7 daughters of whom 5 sons are dead and one daughter...

Elijah Aldridge united with the Christian church 39 Years ago. Father fully prepared to meet his final desolution. Death was no terror to him but only a welcome visitor...

Mother is still lingering on the brink now 83 years old but looks much younger than that, is quite stout --- fare to live yet many years. She lives in the house with me and is a full partner with me and my wife and will be as long as she lives. A more devoted and faithful woman to her husband never lived.

In a letter to his niece Eliza, daughter of his sister Caroline:

Father was in his 87th year and mother in 90th year when they died. Both died in my house and I buried both of them side by side in the Watsonville graveyard with a nice \$85.00 tombstone at their head.

Letter written by Franklin A. Aldridge to his sister, Caroline Aldridge Whitted in 1878, with enclosed newspaper notice about the death of their father, Elijah Aldridge.

Letter written by Franklin A. Aldridge to his niece, Eliza Ann Whitted Bass, daughter of his sister Caroline who had just died. Franklin died not long after his sister, in November 1900.

Letters are from *Aldridge Records*, by Franklin Rudolph Aldridge, Nashville, TN, 1966.

www.annefield.net/aldrigelinks.html

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