

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

His remarkable Christian character and life has told its own story. Converted at the age of 12, he has spent ninety-one years in the Master's kingdom and service. Ninety-one years of loyalty, power and service, whose full history and meaning is known only to Him who reads our hearts. Truly a father and prince in Israel is fallen, and heaven is enriched by another victor who has come to receive his crown and mansion. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. The music was furnished by the Myers family, of Randolph.

The Burial

The body was buried by the side of his wife. The six of his grandchildren acting as pall-bearers were Frank Blair, of Chicago; John, Bert and Low Anthony, of Bloomington, and Frank Freeman, of Heyworth.

Five of his children were present, Mrs. Blair and Miss Anthony not being able to get there. Eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild were also present.

The history of this remarkable man has been widely published. He was the oldest man in the state of Illinois. No man who has ever lived, unless it be someone who may now be older, has ever witnessed the world make such strides, and he showed his true greatness by always keeping in touch and sympathy with real progress. Even in extreme age he was intensely interested in the affairs of the leading nations, and kept well informed on the great current topics.

He retained possession of his remarkable mental powers in the end. Mr. Anthony represented a sturdy, stalwart type of character of the olden days, all too rare at present. His friends counted it an honor to claim his friendship, and his memory will keep a lasting fragrance in McLean county.

The Weekly Pantagraph
September 4, 1903
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Other Anthonys buried in Funk's Grove Cemetery are:

Aaron, 29 Nov 1850-31 Mar 1906, husband of Mary E.

Mary E. (Hall), 13 Aug 1849-14 Nov 1910, wife of Aaron

Ralph W., 26 Sep 1878-21 Sep 1907, son of Aaron and Mary E.

Jennie M. (Anthony) Shute, wife of George S., daughter of Francis and Mary

Maria, 11 Jul 1848-10 Sep 1929, daughter of Francis and Mary

William, 15 Jun 1838-4 May 1919, husband of Mary, son of Francis and Mary

Mary (Stevenson), 18 Jul 1842-27 Dec 1920, wife of William

Sallie, 19 Mar 1870-26 Dec 1922, daughter of William and Mary

Francis F., 27 May 1866-26 May 1870, son of William and Mary

Jennie, 11 May 1868-27 May 1870, daughter of William and Mary

Effie (Anthony) Rust, wife of Elmer, daughter of William and Mary

Lon K., 11 Aug 1882-9 Jun 1961, husband of Frances M., son of William and Mary

Frances M. (Hayes), 27 Dec 1888-12 Apr 1969, wife of Lon K.

*Taken from Illinois McLean County Cemeteries, Vol. 9, Funk's Grove Township
Bloomington-Normal [now McLean County] Genealogical Society, 1980*

THE LAST OF EARTH

FUNERAL OF FRANCIS ANTHONY

Remarkable Attendance at Obsequies of Oldest Man in State – Mr. Kerrick's Tribute.

— On Tuesday the body of Francis Anthony whose death on last Saturday morning [29 Aug 1903] has already been noted by the Pantagraph, was laid to rest in Funk's Grove cemetery. The day was ideal and the funeral an unusually large one, Mr. Anthony being widely known and universally admired and beloved.

The funeral carriage left the home of Mrs. D. C. Freeman, near Heyworth, where the deceased made his home, at 9:30 and reached the church at Funk's Grove a little before 12. The church was crowded with the relatives and friends of the "grand old man." The floral offerings were elaborate and handsome.

The funeral services were simple and impressive. They were conducted by Rev. F. A. McCarty, of San Jose, assisted by the pastor of the deceased, Rev. F. M. Harry, of Heyworth; Rev. W. O. Roush, of Waynesville; Rev. E. A. Wanless, of McLean, and Rev. Jasper Miller, of Bloomington. Rev. McCarty preached the funeral discourse from Job 5:26, "And thou shalt be gathered to thy grave as a full shock of corn cometh in its season."

Mr. L. H. Kerrick, of Bloomington, a long time friend, in a few well chosen words paid a high tribute to the personal worth of Father Anthony, and read the following

Obituary:

Francis Anthony was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, May 9, 1800, and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. D. C. Freeman, near Heyworth, Ill., August 29, 1903, aged 103 years, 3 months and 20 days, having lived through one entire century and witnessed a part of two others. He came to America at the age of 20, and six years later was married to Miss Mary Stewart in the city of New York. The family lived in Canada until the year 1875, when they came to Illinois, since which time they have been closely identified with the people of this part of McLean county.

There were twelve children born to Father and Mother Anthony. Five are already gone to the other side. The seven who survive are: Mrs. S. D. Marsh, of Painesville, O.; William Anthony, of Bloomington, Ill.; Mrs. Jennie M. Shute, of Heyworth; Mrs. Elizabeth Blair, of Montreal, Canada; Miss Myra Anthony, of Springfield, Ill.; and Mrs. D. C. Freeman, of Heyworth. He also leaves eighteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Thirteen years ago [21 Jun 1890] his beloved wife was called home. Since this time he has made his home with Mrs. Freeman. Such was his wonderful strength of body and powers of mind that he needed no especial care until the last two years. During this time his daughters, Mrs. Freeman and Mrs. Shute, have devoted themselves to him, and no ministry has been omitted that skill and loving devotion could render.

GLEANINGS FROM THE HEART OF THE CORNBELT

A Quarterly Publication

The McLean County Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 488, Normal, IL 61761-0488

The Society's library is located at
The McLean County Museum of History and Library
Courthouse Square, 202-210 North Main Street
Bloomington, IL 61701

Hours: 10 AM to 5 PM Monday and Wednesday through Saturday
10 AM to 9 PM Tuesday
1 PM to 5 PM Sunday (September through May)

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We welcome contributions of articles, records and other materials similar to the type appearing in the current issue of *Gleanings*. No material can be returned unless so requested and accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope. Any material submitted must be neatly written or typed and must include all references and the contributor's name and address. (Note: Currently copyrighted material cannot be used.)

Please keep in mind that much of the material contained herein is copied from old handwritten records and there are no doubt errors in transcription. The editor is aware, also, that some names are misspelled in the records – and so they are here, too.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JAN 10 1901

Anthony
Fam

LIVED IN THREE CENTURIES

Francis M. Anthony of McLean County, Now Enjoys That Distinction – His Long Life and Record.

—When it comes to producing people who have lived in three centuries McLean county can come to the front with at least one of them – Mr. Francis M. Anthony, who resides with his daughter, Mrs. D. C. Freeman, three miles west of Heyworth, was born May 8, 1800, consequently has seen the close of the eighteenth century, all of the nineteenth and the birth of the twentieth.

Last May Mr. Anthony celebrated his one hundredth birthday. He talks freely of the manner in which he has lived and attributes his preserved faculties in his old age to the abstemious (sic) habits he has followed. He never chewed nor smoked tobacco in his life, and his sons and grandchildren have grown up in the same way. Mr. Anthony's health has always been excellent until the present time he now being afflicted with an attack of the grip.

Mr. Anthony was born on a farm in County Tyrone, Ireland. He was the only son of Francis and Jane Anthony, and came to America at the age of 20 years. He was united in marriage in 1826 to Miss Mary Stewart. They purchased a farm of 144 acres in Canada, bordering on Clinton county, New York. One of the metal posts marking the line between the United States and Canada was opposite his farm. On the farm to this union eleven children were born, seven of whom are still living. Mr. Anthony was a volunteer and later captain in the French rebellion from 1837 to 1838. In 1873 he made his first trip to Illinois, when he visited his son, William, in Funk's Grove township. His son, Aaron, came to Illinois the same year and purchased a grocery store on North Main street in this city. Mr. Anthony sold his farm in Canada and together with his wife and daughter came to Bloomington and entered into the grocery business with his son. Mr. and Mrs. Anthony returned to Canada in 1878 and stayed until 1882, since which McLean county has been his home. Mr. Anthony has always been an earnest student of the bible and is the oldest Methodist in this county being now a member of Wesley chapel, situated a few miles west of the city.

Mr. Anthony is undoubtedly a remarkable man and it is the wish of his friends that he be spared for many more years.

The Weekly Pantagraph
January 4, 1901
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ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY