

OSMAN NEEDHAM

DIED JUNE 26, 1925

On Friday morning, June 26, the town of Littleton lost a universally esteemed and most valuable citizen through the passing of Osman Needham. He leaves his wife, Mrs. Inez G. Needham, a daughter, Mrs. Brooks Edwards, one son, Carleton Needham, a grandson, Franklin Edwards, and two brothers, Clarence and his twin Oscar. Throughout a protracted and trying illness he has been devotedly attended by the members of his immediate family and kindly remembered by a host of sympathizing friends.

Mr. Needham's former pastor, Rev. E. J. Prescott, of North Andover, officiated at the simple but comforting service held from his late home on King street Monday afternoon. A wealth of floral tributes bore unquestionable testimony to the regard and sympathy of very many friends and was further emphasized by the presence of representatives from nearly every family in this town and many friends from neighboring communities.

Interment was made at Westlawn, where Rev. Mr. Prescott read the committal service and the remains were laid in their final resting place by some of Mr. Needham's business associates.

The deceased, a son of the late Boynton and Harriet W. Needham, was born in Littleton September 1, 1861, his exact age at the time of his death being 63 years, 10 months and 24 days. Here he grew up, attended school, was married and in early manhood learned the carpenter's trade, followed by his father before him. Although modest in his professions, it is evident that he held the highest ambition in the field of his chosen occupation, for pride and conscience would permit him to do only the best in any contract that he took proving him to be a "workman that needeth not to be ashamed."

To his town he has been a most loyal citizen, filling its highest offices with wisdom, vision, and efficiency, serving as assessor for twenty-one years, bearing the difficult responsibilities of selectman fifteen years, holding positions on important committees and ever seeking to promote the welfare of the town and the interests of its valued institutions. Mr. Needham's devotion to his family was beautiful. His interests and activities reached also beyond his home in many directions. The Unitarian church to which he belonged felt the pulse of his loyalty. He enjoyed life membership in the Unitarian Sunday school society, and his active mind and ready wit figured prominently in the "Boys' class" of the Unitarian Sunday school, many of whom he has now joined on the other side.

Mr. Needham was too well known here and in surrounding towns to need any lengthy eulogy, but nothing can speak more positively and impressively than the product of his ingenuity and hands which is so evident throughout Littleton and nearby communities that we are moved to apply to him very appropriately the words inscribed on a tablet near the tomb of England's great architect and master-builder, Sir Christopher Wren, "If you seek his monument, look around." The crowning masterpiece of Mr. Needham's thought and execution was the new high school building on Shattuck street, which those associated with him in the undertaking pronounced the greatest monument to his skill and citizenship. He wanted it to be the best possible for the sum appropriated and to this end he labored unceasingly, sparing neither time nor pains in making plans and carrying out the specifications to the minutest details. It was from the building of this splendid structure that the undermining of his health dated, but happily he lived to reap the satisfaction of having completed the task and won the approval of his fellow townspeople.