

JOHN ADAMS PINGRY

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DIED MARCH 2, 1923

John Adams Pingry, esteemed and venerable citizen of Pingryville, peacefully concluded his honored life Friday night, March 2. The firmities of age and arterio sclerosis were the primary causes of death.

The funeral was held Monday afternoon from his late home at Franklin S. Pingry's, Rev. Frank B. Cradall of Ayer officiating, and interment was in Westlawn cemetery. Among the floral tributes was a beautiful wreath from the neighbors.

Mr. Pingry was born in Groton (now Ayer) in the house owned by James W. Nixon and built in 1822 by his grandfather, Stephen Pingry, Revolutionary soldier. He was fourth child and youngest son of C. John and Eunice (Whittemore) Pingry. October 20, 1831, was the day of his birth.

After receiving his education Mr. Pingry learned the cooper trade in the Lovejoy shop at Ayer. Afterward he worked in Boston and about fifteen years ago came to Pingryville and in the little shop of his brother, F. S. Pingry, continued his trade for some time, relinquishing it for a position as night watchman in Ayer, the first office filled under the police system of that town. Later he had charge of the Fairbank cooper shop in Ayer, a position he filled until the death of the owner. His activities were transferred to Phelps' mill and there he remained until his 86th year when he retired from active life and returned to his native village. Here his industrious traits asserted themselves and he was happy in occupying himself with chores.

His love for reading and good literature made his leisure moments valuable, for he eagerly read the papers, books and magazines that are well worth while. His love of out-door life was a source of much contentment to him and his bright mind interpreted whatever came within the range of his observation.

At the time of his death Mr. Pingry was an honorary member of the Ayer Gun club. In his prime he enjoyed the distinction of being the best marksman for miles around. The story is told of the Harvard Shakers having lambs stolen and carried off by a huge eagle that committed depredations ruthlessly until one day John Pingry lying on the ground, shot and killed the bird. The distance from tip to tip of the wings measured somewhat over seven feet. At this time Mr. Pingry's right shoulder was so injured that he had to shoot afterwards with his left arm and hand, which in a short time proved as able as the right had been.

Throughout his sickness of several weeks Mr. Pingry was an ideal patient—thoughtful and considerate of others, appreciative of favors and ever grateful for the ministrations so kindly received in his brother's home.

His oldest sisters were Mrs. Amanda Brown of Littleton, Mrs. Angeline Burnham and Mrs. Eliza Sanderson of Ayer. The deceased is survived only by his brother Franklin and nieces and nephews.

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