

THOMAS BAILIFF OBITUARY 1891

CLARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Transcribed By: Ron Cornwell

After a lingering illness, of Prostatitis' at his home in Melrose Township, Friday morning March 6th, **Rev. Thomas Bailiff**, aged 70 years, 8 months and 9 days, passed away.

The deceased was born in **Christian County, Kentucky**, June 27th, 1820: came to Illinois in 1830; was married July 1, 1841 to **Miss Malinda Draper**, a native of this vicinity and who survived her husband. Eleven children were born to them, of whom two died in infancy and one about three years ago. Three sons, five daughters and his aged wife survive him and mourn his loss.

In the fall of 1848 he professed religion, joined the **Cumberland Presbyterian Church** and began preaching the gospel two years later. For over forty years he was a faith minister, traveling all over this part of Illinois.

Almost every child as well as old and middle-aged people are familiar with the name of "**Uncle Tommy**" as he was known by all throughout Crawford, Clark, Cumberland and Jasper counties and hundreds of people mourn this week as never before for any acquaintance.

Probably no man ever in forty years preached more sermons and married more couples than he did. Distance never prevented him from keeping an engagement. A characteristic event in his marriage ceremony was that **he always gave the bride a fifty cent piece as a memorial**. Many scores of these are now laid away and from now on will be held as priceless.

Wherever there was any sickness **Uncle Tommy** was sure to be found ready to administer spiritual consolation. Or if you met him any place it was the same way. His whole life and soul was given to the cause of ministering to humanity. It is very difficult for us to even attempt to form words appropriate to a man who has had such a wonderful influence and power as he had.

By hard work and economy with good management he has amassed a goodly store of worldly goods, which has come as his reward. And as to his reward to the beyond there can be no doubt. During his long illness he endured much suffering, but bore it very patiently and was hopeful of final recovery, expressing the belief the day before he died that he would get well. His last hours were free from pain and he passed away happily and peacefully. He has gone to his reward. His voice will be heard no more in the churches and schoolhouses of this region, no more happy couples will stand before him to be united in wedlock, he will never again stand by the grave of a departed spirit to administer words of sympathy and consolation to grief stricken hearts, but the fruits of his earnest labors will continue to yield abundantly for years to come and the memory of him will be as lasting as the hills. May the young follow the path that he did and may they take him as a guiding star, and eventually gain the reward that he did. He was buried in **Bailiff Cemetery** Sunday, the Masons having charge of the remains. The day was rough and inclement and the roads very bad, yet the concourse of people who assembled to pay this last tribute of respect to his memory was very large. **Reverend Nixon Evans** delivered the funeral

discourse and he was followed by **Rev. Shaft** after which the remains were laid to rest with Masonic rites.

SOURCE: Robinson, Illinois, Daily News, Saturday, 22 January 1938.