

OLIVER S. TEMPLE

OLIVER S. TEMPLE, day watchman for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, in Mifflin County, Pa., was born August 29, 1827, in Wayne Township, Mifflin County. He is a son of William and Avis (Morrison) Temple. William Temple, of Scotch-Irish descent, was born in Mifflin County, in 1801. He learned plastering in Lewistown, and followed that occupation for the greater part of his life. For five years, he cultivated a rented farm in Wayne Township, after which he worked for a short time on the canal; he then obtained a position as watchman on the Pennsylvania railroad, and held it until his death, which occurred in 1875. He was married in Mifflin County to Avis Morrison, daughter of Joshua Morrison, a farmer of Scotch-Irish descent. They had eight children.

Oliver S. Temple attended a subscription school in Wayne Township and also the public schools, but was to great extent a self-educated man. He began early to work at plastering, with his father. He was also for some time a repairman on the canal, after which he worked for several years with farmers of the vicinity. May 19, 1847, he enlisted for the Mexican war, being assigned to Capt. James Caldwell's Company M, Second Pennsylvania Volunteers. The company went to Pittsburg on the canal, and thence to New Orleans by boat down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. From the latter place, steamer to Vera Cruz, Mexico, transported the men. Mr. Temple was in service fifteen months, during which time he traveled over 5,000 miles by land and water, and participated in a number of battles and minor engagements. Returning home, he worked on the canal for three years, until in 1851 he obtained a position as repairman on the Pennsylvania railroad. He has now worked for this company for forty-five years, during fifteen of which he was division foreman, and filled the place with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the company. On account of conscientious scruples with regard to the observance of the Sabbath day, he resigned that position, and became day watchman; in consideration of his long and faithful service, he enjoys the special privilege of being exempt from all Sunday work.

The only break in Mr. Temple's duties on the railroad was during the Civil War, when, animated by patriotism, he again followed the flag of his country to the field of battle. His war record is long and brilliant, comprising distinguished services in both the eastern and western armies. He enlisted in 1861, in Company K, of the Forty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, commanded by Col. William H. Irwin, of Mifflin County. Being sent to Camp Griffin, he was soon detailed out of his regiment into the Signal Corps of the Department of the Potomac. His term of service covered a period of three years and two months, and he was finally mustered out in 1864, at Knoxville, Tenn. During this time, he participated in

many engagements among which were those of Winchester, March 26, 1862, the Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Gettysburg, Crab Orchard, Big Shanty, Altoona Pass, Pine Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Lost Mountain, and Little Washington. At Winchester, he was wounded in the left forearm by a ball, but was not confined to the hospital. Mr. Temple took a prominent part in the operations at the siege of Atlanta and Knoxville. Returning home he resumed his duties on the railroad, where he has been ever since, being the oldest employee of the company, in continuous service.

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