OLD PIONEER GONE TO REST

Gilbert Waggoner Dies at the Age of 94 Years.

Funeral Services were held at the Waggoner Church Wednesday afternoon, conducted by Elder Jesse Shields.

A death of considerable local interest occurred in Whitley township, near Bruce Tuesday morning, being that of Gilbert Waggoner, who had lived for seventy-four years within a mile of the place where he died.

Gilbert Waggoner was born at Rutherford, North Carolina, May 29, 1808, and was 94 years, 5 months and 19 days old at the time of his death. He was married to Martha Bailey in 1825. Mrs. Waggoner died September 9, 1892, past 81 years of age.

Mr. Waggoner moved to this country in 1828, with his brothers George and Amos; his father, Amos Waggoner, not coming until later.

Gilbert and Martha Waggoner were the parents of ten children, one of whom died young, nine living to be men and women and married.

Only three of the children are now living, A. J., and Martin Waggoner of Whitley and Henry Waggoner, sr., of Springfield. The children dead are Nancy, wife of William Hostetler; Emsey, wife of J. L. Martin; Lizzie, wife of Henry Snyder, and three sons, Green, George and John.

Mr. Waggoner had sixty-two grandchildren, thirty-six great grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren.

The funeral services were held at the Waggoner Church Wednesday afternoon at 1 o'clock by Elder Jesse Shields, who himself is 90 years of age. The text was taken from the 2nd Samuel, 14 ch. 14 v. Elders Eli Ashbrook and W. E. Gill, the regular minister at the Waggoner church assisted at the funeral services.

The casket that Mr. Waggoner was burried in was made by his

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old time friend, W. F. Buschman, and trimmed by J. F. Eden. It was constructed out of white oak lumber which had been sawed from a tree on his farm several years ago and had been laid away in the loft of his porch for that purpose. It had been Mr. Waggoner's wish that Joseph Hoke and Thomas Davis build his coffin but were unable to do so.

The burial was at the Old Linn Creek burial ground where the first sermon preached in Whitley township was preached by a Methodist minister and where the baptists worshiped until in 1880 when the Waggoner church was built in one corner of Mr. Waggoner's orchard near his house at his request that he might be able to attend church. The church and the church-building were the pride of the old man's heart and will long stand as a monument to his memory.

He was an honest, upright citizen, a man well liked by all his neighbors and acquaintances, for his fair and honest dealings, his hospitality and sociability. He enjoyed pienics and social gatherings and was the orignator of the Waggoner reunions but when he could no longer go and attend them they were dropped. In 1894 he attended the Old Folks reunion at Sullivan and received a gold headed cane as a prize for being the oldest resident present.

He voted for president seventeen times, casting his first vote for Andrew Jackson and the last one for Grover Cleveland in 1892.

This clipping was given to me by John Garland Waggoner.

