

# **William M. Whitehead**

CHAPLAIN 97th Reg. PVI

Rev 5/2/00

Rev. William Manlove Whitehead, M.D., chaplain of the Ninety-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, was born December 12, 1823, in Philadelphia. At the age of sixteen he experienced strong religious convictions, and was baptized at Kaighn's Point.

William was educated at Madison University, N. Y., entering in 1848. His ordination to the work of the ministry took place in the Calvary Church on October 17, 1850. The Beulah Baptist Church, Chester County, was the scene of his earliest ministerial labors. He served as pastor at Beulah for about eighteen months.

In 1852 he assumed the charge of the Frankford Church, where he labored seven years with great acceptance. In 1858 he removed to Great Valley Baptist, Chester County as the 17th pastor of that church. This pastorate he resigned after four years to accept the chaplaincy of the Ninety-seventh Regiment, commissioned and mustering on November 19, 1861.

Along with most of the young men of the Church he served to battle for the preservation of the Union. He continued with the regiment during most of the year 1862, but his health becoming impaired, he resigned, and was honorably discharged, August 20, 1862 at Hilton Head, S.C.

In April, 1863, he settled in McKeesport, Alleghany Co., Pa., and in 1866 he accepted the call of the New Britain Church, in the eastern section of the State. A growing family and an inadequate salary prompted him to pursue a course of medical studies preparatory to practice in the healing art. He entered in 1871 upon his joint duties as pastor and physician in Woodbury, N.J.

He had at intervals suffered from a return of chronic diarrhea, contracted in the service. This now increasing, he was prostrated on a bed of pain; after lingering many months he died January 30, 1873, and was buried at Great Valley church.

*History of Chester County Pennsylvania* • J. Smith Futhey and Gilbert Cope  
Pages:137, 138, 139, 140, 141, **260, 265, Appendix xii**, thru xxi