

**THE LIFE OF REV. BENJAMIN  
WOODBURY, A HOME MISSIONARY,  
AND THE NEED AND OBJECT OF  
HOME MISSIONS. BY A MISSIONARY  
OVER FORTY YEARS IN THE SERVICE**

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The Life of Rev. Benjamin Woodbury, a Home Missionary, and the Need and Object of Home Missions. By a Missionary over Forty Years in the Service by Benjamin Woodbury

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# THE LIFE

OF

REV. BENJAMIN WOODBURY

A HOME MISSIONARY;

*[Rev. Geo. Woodbury, 1827.]*

AND THE NEED AND OBJECT OF

HOME MISSIONS.

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BY A MISSIONARY

OVER FORTY YEARS IN THE SERVICE.

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*All the profits derived from the sale of this work will be donated to  
the Congregational Home Missionary Society.*

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## PREFACE.

According to the teachings of the Messiah, the first missionary sent from heaven, the troublous times fore-taken the coming of great events. His time is short. Satan, the arch fiend, knows this, and in fury and madness he is striving among the nations, inciting them to vice, crime and bloodshed. His infernal hosts are concentrating to make a final attack upon Christendom. The cross and the crescent, the Turk and the Christian, Christ and Belial, are about to decide who rules the world. In the meantime while the forces of evil are concentrating, the churches are sending out skirmishers, in detached columns, without combination or mutual fellowship. There seems to be a wide breach between the Catholic and the Protestant. This is ominous! Is Christ the author of confusion and discord? Does not the Prince of Peace demand unity, harmony and fellowship among his followers? The churches can never conquer the world, the flesh, and the devil in detached columns. They must unite their forces. In one onward, united movement victory is assured. To secure this grand result, this unassuming volume is sent out to greet all whom it may meet, of every race. May a kind Providence give speed to its divine mission.

INCIDENTS IN THE PIONEER LIFE OF THE

REV. BENJAMIN WOODBURY

ON THE MAUMEE, IN NORTHWESTERN OHIO, BETWEEN  
THE YEARS 1833 AND 1850.

Benjamin Woodbury was born in Salisbury, N. H.; attended district school with Daniel Webster in his boyhood; graduated at Dartmouth College, where he supported himself in part, being a good penman, by writing the diplomas; taught a select school at New Orleans; on his return North married Melitable Pettin-gill of his native place; was pastor of a Congregational Church in Falmouth, Mass., for some nine or ten years.

In this historic town situated on the sea coast of Massachusetts, just opposite the romantic islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, a few miles across the cape, opposite Plymouth Rock, the enduring monument of the stern, heroic, and Christian virtues of the founders of the republic, whose memory is enshrined in the

hearts of Christian patriots the world over, Mr. Woodbury commenced his ministerial labors. He was ordained June 9, 1824. At that early day, full of the love of Christ, he organized the first Young People's Home Missionary Society of Falmouth. Under his loving and energetic pastorate one hundred and twelve persons were added to the membership of the church. The temperance, anti-slavery, and missionary causes, especially the American Bible Society, which published the "Word of God" without note or comment, found in him a zealous and unwearied advocate, and he was greatly beloved by all for his neighborly and pastoral work.

After the close of his successful labors at Falmouth, which terminated September 9, 1833, he came to Plain township in Northwestern Ohio, bought a farm and built a log cabin on a sand ridge that interspersed a romantic prairie, which resembled a lake after the rainfall in the early spring time and late in the fall. At that time this was a wild waste—no bridges, no roads, and but few inhabitants, who suffered extremely from fever and ague induced by the miasma which infected the fens and bogs and bayous after the water had dried up. But the people at that early day were afflicted with a malaria more fatal than fever and ague. These