# Whiting, Seymour Webster [1]

## Whiting, Seymour Webster

by Robert G. Anthony, Jr., 1996

### 15 Aug. 1816–2 Jan. 1855

Seymour Webster Whiting, banker, railroad official, and poet, was a native of Stratford, Conn. When about eighteen years of age, he moved to Raleigh [2] and obtained a license to practice law. Whiting, however, chose a business rather than a legal career. He became an officer in the State Bank and for several years, beginning about 1839, served as treasurer of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad [3].

Whiting also achieved recognition as a poet, with his works appearing in several nineteenth-century literary collections, including Mary Bayard Clarke [4]'s *Wood-Notes* [5] (1854), Calvin H. Wiley [6]'s *North Carolina Reader* [7] (1859), and Eugene G. Harrell and John B. Neathery's *North Carolina Speaker* [8] (1887). His best-known poem seems to have been "Alamance [9]," a celebration of the Regulator battle as a glorious struggle for freedom. On 19 May 1841 he married Hannah M. Stuart, of Raleigh, the daughter of John Stuart. They had eight children: George M., Mary Stuart, Elizabeth F., Margaret, Seymour, Hannah, Brainard, and Chester. Whiting died in Raleigh and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery [10].

**References:**

Eugene Clyde Brooks, *North Carolina Poems* [11] (1912).

Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, Reports (North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill).

*Raleigh Register*, 21 May 1841, 17 Jan. 1855.

Whiting's estate papers in Wake County Estates Records, 1770–1941 (North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh).

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