

## **Whiting, Seymour Webster** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **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](#) <sup>[2]</sup> 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](#) <sup>[3]</sup>.

Whiting also achieved recognition as a poet, with his works appearing in several nineteenth-century literary collections, including [Mary Bayard Clarke](#) <sup>[4]</sup>'s *Wood-Notes* <sup>[5]</sup> (1854), [Calvin H. Wiley](#) <sup>[6]</sup>'s *North Carolina Reader* <sup>[7]</sup> (1859), and Eugene G. Harrell and John B. Neathery's *North Carolina Speaker* <sup>[8]</sup> (1887). His best-known poem seems to have been "Alamance" <sup>[9]</sup>, 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](#) <sup>[10]</sup>.

#### **References:**

Eugene Clyde Brooks, *North Carolina Poems* <sup>[11]</sup> (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).

#### **Subjects:**

[Banks and banking](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

[Biographies](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

[Poets](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

[Railroads](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

#### **Authors:**

[Anthony, Robert G., Jr.](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

#### **Origin - location:**

[Raleigh](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

#### **From:**

[Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press](#),<sup>[18]</sup>

1 January 1996 | Anthony, Robert G., Jr.

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