

[Alvord, Francis Milton]

NECROLOGY

FRANCIS MILTON ALVORD, was born in Wilmington, Vt., Oct. 12, 1819, and died in Friendship, N.Y., March 20, 1904. "He was of sturdy New England stock. His grandfather was a revolutionary soldier, one of the far-famed Green Mountain boys. Family tradition has it that he was with Ethan Allen at Ticonderoga and was one of the picked men with whom Mad Anthony Wayne stormed Stony Point." The family moved to Western New York, while this son was young. There he grew to manhood, and for the most part resided during his long ministry. His first sermon was preached in 1842, and he was ordained in 1844. He held pastorates in Carroll and Sherman, N.Y., and finally in Friendship, N.Y., where he resided fifty years and wrought out the great work of his life. "He was a man of such a high order of ability, was so completely rounded out on every side, with such judgment and self control, such utter allegiance to his high ideals of right, that there was no room for any misgivings, and in whatever circles he moved or wherever or to whomsoever he delivered his message, he was not only sure to command attention but unanimous respect... He was the immediate successor of some of the famous pioneers and self-constituted missionaries of our cause in this region. Such men as George Rogers, Nathaniel Stacy and Stephen R. Smith, men who stood in the forefront of the battle, and on whom the storm burst with its utmost force, and it is sufficient to say that their mantle fell on worthy shoulders... He grew old in years but his brain and heart were always young. His thinking was on the fighting line of the most advanced ideas to the last, and his heart in touch with the freshest humanitarian work... We are glad that he has lived, for the world is better for it and we are better for it—and may we not say we are glad he has been called up higher, for heaven will be better for his presence."

*The Universalist Register*, Boston MA, 1905, pp. 100-1

Transcribed on 27 Jul 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY