

## [Alvord, Otis Fries]

### LONG LIFE OF SERVICE ENDED

The Rev. Otis Fries Alvord died Saturday, Sept. 6, at his home on East Main Street, Friendship.

Otis Fries Alvord was born March 28, 1860, the son of Francis Milton and Rebecca Pardee Alvord whose home was on the present site of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. He was graduated from the "Old Academy" with the class of 1880 which included among others, Lillian Hosley, A. Miner Wellman and Ralph G. Utter. As valedictorian he chose for his address the subject, "Goodness Imperishable." Throughout his long life that seemed indeed to be the theme.

Mr. Alvord was graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1884. He married Nellie Bond of Ridgeway, N.Y. and this Christmas Eve of 1941 would have marked their fiftieth anniversary of the marriage.

His active ministry in the Universalist Church for over fifty years included pastorates in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. In Maine he is still remembered as the "Bishop of Franklin County." Through his personal efforts stand three Universalist churches, at Kingfield, Maine; Rome, N.Y.; and Rocky Mount, N.C. Mr. Alvord served for some years as trustee of Christian [should be Clinton] Liberal Institute and was called to a professorship at the Divinity School of St. Lawrence University which he refused.

The Rev. Martz Snyder officiated at the funeral service Tuesday, Sept. 9. He was assisted by the Rev. Arnold L. Simonson, a nephew, who is pastor of the Universalist Church in Bangor, Maine, and Rev. Harry Wright of Bristol, N.Y., a former pastorate. Both Mr. Simonson and Mr. Wright entered the ministry on the instigation and guidance of Mr. Alvord.

One of the last and characteristic acts of his life occurred during the graduation exercises of Friendship Central School in 1935 when on a moment's notice he substitute[d] for the scheduled speaker. He began his career with a valedictory to his own class at Friendship and ended it by an address to still another class. In the years between many have felt the imprint of his scholarliness and high ideals.

As Mr. Simonson said in a short resume of the life of one whom he characterized as an adopted father, "Otis F. Alvord was a man who said little, accomplished much. His kindness and goodness set the example for many who came in contact with him and led many to appreciate his achievement of a life filled with the good, the true and the beautiful. He was a scholar and gentleman, above all a man of principle and fair play. The world is a better place for his having been here."

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He is survived by his widow, Rev. Nellie B. Alvord; a son, Orren; two nieces, Margaret E. Alvord and Nellie Alvord Miller, and a nephew, Francis M. Alvord.

The honorary bearers were Francis M. Alvord and Robert E. Witter.

Bearers were Will Grimes, Otis Grimes, Orris Grimes and Richard Grimes, all of Medina, N.Y.

Among those attending the funeral were many from Medina, Albion, East Aurora, Bristol and Lyndenville [Lyndonville], N.Y. and Bangor, Maine.

*Friendship Register*, Friendship NY, Thu. 11 Sep 1941

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REV. ALVORD PASSES AWAY DOWN STATE

Winthrop—In the Sept. 27 issue of the Christian Leader is recorded the death of Rev. Otis Fries Alvord, who passed away at his home in Friendship, N.Y., on Sept. 6, after an illness of more than a year. He was the son of Rev. Francis M. and Rebecca Pardee Alvord, life long residents of Friendship.

Mr. Alvord was born Mar. 28, 1860. He was graduated from Friendship Academy in 1880 as valedictorian of his class. The same year he entered St. Lawrence University and was graduated from the Theological School in 1884. After his ordination he began a ministry that lasted for 50 years of active service. He held pastorates in Maine, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, North Carolina and New York. [On] Dec. 24, 1891 Mr. Alvord and Miss Nellie Bond of Ridgeway, N.Y. were married. Two children were born to them, one of whom, Orren B. Alvord, survives. Mrs. Alvord is an ordained minister of the Universalist Church, but has been deprived of active service for the past few years because of illness that has confined her to a wheel chair. A nephew, Rev. Arnold L. Simonson, of Bangor, Me., assisted in the funeral service, which was held from the home, Sept. 9. Mr. and Mrs. Alvord served the local Universalist Church in connection with the Potsdam Universalist Church, in 1923 and Mr. Simonson the local church in 1932. Mr. Simonson said in a short resume of the life of Mr. Alvord, "He was a scholar and a gentleman, above all a man of principle and fair play." The trio made many friends in Winthrop.

*Ogdensburg Journal*, Ogdensburg NY, Wed. 1 Oct 1941

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