

[Grosh, Aaron Bort]

Death of an Old Resident

Rev. Aaron B. Grosh, who died in Towsin [Towson], Md., age 80, and was Saturday buried at his old home, Marietta, Pa., was for many years a resident of Utica. He came here in 1833 or 1834 to be the associate editor of the [*Evangelical*] Magazine and [*Gospel*] Advocate, a Universalist publication, of which Dolphus Skinner was then proprietor. With Oren Hutchinson, he afterwards bought out Mr. Skinner, retaining his place as editor, which he did also when the paper was sold to Albert Walker. It was subsequently merged with the [*Christian*] *Ambassador* of New York, and as the *Christian Leader* of Boston, yet survives. Besides his editorial work, Mr. Grosh was pastor of the old Universalist society, which had its church on Devereaux street. The building subsequently burned. During the latter part of his residence here, under the firm name of Grosh & Hutchinson, his partner being his newspaper associate, Mr. Grosh had a book store opposite the Marble block. The firm failed, and tho' not dishonorably, such was Mr. Grosh's sense of integrity that he was never content until every dollar of the indebtedness was paid. After years of saving, he accomplished this self-imposed task. Mr. Grosh's residence in Utica extended over a period of 18 years. He went from here to be pastor of the Church of the Messiah in Philadelphia, whence he went to Reading, Pa., and then to Washington. Hon. Simeon Cameron, then a senator from Pennsylvania, his personal friend, procured him a place in the agricultural department. Washington has since been his home, and until within a few years, he has been connected with the government work. He leaves no relatives in this vicinity, except [Emma] the wife of John G. Jones of 37 Seymour avenue. A son, Warren R. Grosh, of Elkton, Md., is also living. While he was a resident here, he was heavily afflicted in the loss of two of his sons [Ethan Allen Grosh and Hosea Ballou Grosh]. They were among the forty-niners who went from this vicinity to California, and both perished in the snows of the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Mr. Grosh was one of the early abolitionists. When the mob tossed the type and materials of Wesley Bailey, father of E. P. Bailey, out of the second-story window, in order to modify the views which he expressed in his *Friend to Man*, Mr. Grosh offered him the use of the office of the [*Magazine*] & *Advocate*. For this courtesy the mob threatened to clear out Mr. Grosh's office, but, with his brothers, he put himself in a stage of siege, and with loaded guns guarded the stairway.

Utica Herald, Utica NY, 31 Mar 1882

[Grosh, Aaron Bort]

By the Rev. Anson Titus

No sketch of early Universalism is complete which does not recognize the living and labors of the Rev. Aaron Burd ^[sic] Grosh. He was of German extraction, born in [Marietta,] Lancaster Co., Pa., became a Universalist when 20 years of age and soon began preaching. In 1830 he became associated in the editorship and publication of *The Gospel Advocate and Magazine* [should be *The Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate*], Utica, and from 1838 to 1865 he edited the *Universalist Register*. He was a settled pastor in Reading and Philadelphia [PA] and in Fort Plain and Perry, N.Y. But it was [as] a terse and vigorous writer that he was the more widely known. He was one of the "Founders" of the Patrons of Husbandry, and was the author of "The Odd Fellows Manual." He, with Revs. Stephen R. Smith and Dolphus Skinner, became the active promoters of the Clinton Liberal Institute, which opened its doors for students on November 7, 1831. Father Grosh was a plain man, ever seeking the essentials of a godly life; he may not have always agrees with the brethren in the ministry regarding denominational policies, but everywhere was found dutiful to the larger faith and its enforcement in common labor.

The Convention at Work, Herkimer NY, Aug. 1907
[a publication of the NY State Convention of Universalists]

Transcribed on 10 Aug 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY