

[Lobdell, Nelson]

REV. N. LOBDELL

A funeral service for the Rev. Nelson Lobdell, 88, who died in the Canandaigua Health Home, Tuesday, August 18, was in the First United Presbyterian Church, Victor, Thursday afternoon. The Rev. Carl Westman, pastor of the Unitarian-Universalist [should be First Universalist] Church, Rochester, and the Rev. Richard H. Bowen, pastor of the First Congregational Church, Canandaigua, officiating. Burial in Boughton Hill Cemetery, Victor.

The Rev. Mr. Lobdell had served as missionary in Japan from 1905-1921 and from 1921-1926 was pastor of the Universalist Church in Canandaigua.

Born January 31, 1876, in Victor, he was the son of Burton R. and Amelia Ketchum Lobdell. The first church in the village was erected on Lobdell property. Rev. Mr. Lobdell's grandfather, Jacob Lobdell, is said to have been the first white person ever to spend a winter in the area.

After graduating with Victor High School's first class in 1894, Mr. Lobdell taught in district schools in Victor and then attended St. Lawrence University, graduating in 1900. For the next three years he was principal and teacher in the Clifton Springs High School. In 1905 he earned a master of divinity degree at Tufts Theological School and left that year to begin his missionary duties in Japan.

Returning in 1907, he married the former Leora Britton of Fairport, who returned with him to Shidzuoka, Japan. A son, Nelson, Jr., and a daughter, Marion, were born in Japan. His wife's ill health forced the family to return here in 1921. At that time he assumed the pastorate of the Canandaigua Universalist church, a position he held until the church was closed five years later.

Although he continued his membership in the Universalist Church, he became active in the Victor Presbyterian Church and served as elder, trustee and Sunday School teacher. He also served as supply preacher in all of the Victor Protestant churches. From 1929-1933, he was postmaster of the village. He was active in community affairs and was instrumental in forming Victor's first library. He was a former member of the Victor Masonic Lodge, which he served as secretary, and of the Lion's Club. His wife died in 1956 and his only son was killed in an auto accident in 1929.

His only survivor is a daughter, Marian Lobdell, of Lanham, Maryland.

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