

[Porter, Lafayette F.]

Death of Rev. L. F. Porter

We have just been handed a copy of the Clarinda, Ia., Journal which contains an extended notice of the death of Rev. L. F. Porter, which occurred in that place, Wednesday, March 13th, from a complication of diseases. His age was 68 years.

Deceased was for 16 years, beginning July, 1861, pastor of the Universalist church at Brooklyn, this county [Susquehanna], and subsequently was for some years pastor of the Universalist church in this borough.

The above named paper, in its notice of his death, says

“When in Pennsylvania during the late rebellion, he was known as ‘The War Preacher.’ He won this title because of the service rendered in securing volunteers. He was commissioned by Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania, in 1864, and authorized to organize a company of volunteers and when the work was nearly completed and as the result of over exertion and exposure he was stricken down with typhoid fever and was only thus prevented from accompanying his company to the field of battle. He filled pastorates at Afton, N.Y., Scranton, Pa., Conneautville, Pa., Morris and Oneonta, N.Y., and Susquehanna, Pa. [also Webster, NY]. He was also engaged in Towanda, Pa., organizing the parish and raising the money for the erection of the church. In the spring of 1889 he was called to the pastorate of the parish in Waterloo, Ia., where he labored three years. He was unanimously elected for the fourth year, when he was taken dangerously ill, from malarial and rheumatic troubles, and felt it his duty to resign. After the lapse of eight months he accepted a call to Anoka, Minn., and entered upon his labors there, before he had fully recovered from his illness, his purpose being to find a climate more agreeable to his physical condition. At the end of one year he accepted a call to Bloomfield, Ia., but after one year’s work here he was prevailed upon to come to Clarinda and Villisca and take charge of the work for which he was so preeminently fitted both by experience and natural endowment.

“During his long ministry of over forty years he was largely engaged in missionary work outside of his regular parish ministrations. He organized a great many parishes and churches and personally superintended and built three churches and was the chief instrumentality through which two other churches were built. He also rebuilt three other churches. He was also successful in raising a large part of the money for the erection of a new church in Villisca in accordance with plans and specifications made by himself.”

When pastor of the church in Morris, N.Y., he became blind. Still he retained his pastorate and did his work in both Morris and Oneonta. It was during this period of blindness that he raised the money for and built the church in Oneonta. He had not enjoyed good health for the past fifteen years, and yet it was during this period that his greatest work was done.

*Tri-Weekly Journal*, Susquehanna PA, Thu. 18 Apr 1895