

[Reilly, DeWitt C.]

FORMER UNIVERSALIST CHURCH PASTOR DIES

The Rev. DeWitt C. Reilly, 76, formerly pastor of the First Universalist church of Gloversville, now defunct, and who made his home in Herkimer while he preached here, died Sunday at his home in Penn Yan. He had lived in that place since retiring from the ministry in 1926.

Rev. Reilly took charge of the local church at the time he was in Herkimer and he was beloved by church folk here as well as in that village.

Mr. Reilly's life was unusual, in that he did not train early for the ministry. Born in Branchport he studied to be a lawyer and was admitted to the bar in Buffalo. He later gave up his law practice there at the age of 45.

After his decision to change his life work at the age when most men are firmly cemented to their chosen occupations he entered the theological school at St. Lawrence University in 1900 and in 1902 was ordained.

He served several parishes in New York State, some of them in the northern part of the state, before coming to Herkimer and Gloversville. He had traveled extensively in all parts of Europe and was an authority on conditions there. He was never married.

When Mr. Reilly reached the age limit and was eligible for a pension under the rules of the Universalist church he resigned his pastorate in July, 1926.

*Morning Herald*, Gloversville NY, Thu. 5 Feb 1931

REV. DEWITT C. REILLY

On January 31, the sudden death of Rev. DeWitt C. Reilly of Branchport occurred. He is survived by a niece, Mrs. Charles Roedler, Little Neck, Long Island. Mr. Reilly was born in 1855 in Buffalo. He attended the Theological School of St. Lawrence University, being ordained to the Universalist ministry in 1902. His New York pastorates were as follows: Niagara Falls, Branchport, Springville, Hudson and Herkimer [should be Gloversville]. He retired from the ministry in 1926, following the Herkimer pastorate. He was a minister of notable ability and served his church with high devotion.

*Empire State Universalist*, Carthage NY, March 1931