

[Roberts, Henry]

## Death of Henry Roberts

This brother in the ministry of reconciliation, late of Rochester, N.Y., died in the city of New York on Friday morning, the 17th inst., after a brief but very distressing sickness. He had just entered into engagements to preach the gospel at Poughkeepsie and its neighborhood, preached a few Sabbaths, and left for a brief visit to Connecticut, via New York. He was suddenly taken sick while on his way, in the city, and after a few days of intense suffering, which he bore with great fortitude and resignation, all the while expressing his willingness to die, and his strong confidence in the doctrine of life and a happy immortality for himself and all mankind beyond the grave, of which he had for many years been a preacher, he calmly fell asleep in Jesus. His son, Br. Geo. H. Roberts, of Rochester, having been informed of his sickness, went to New York, at the time we went to the Convention, and was with him during the last two days of his earthly existence, and accompanied his remains home to his family on Saturday the 18th. His funeral was to have been attended at Rochester on Sunday, the day after. Thus has fallen another of our brethren in the ministry, and gone home to his final rest. He has left a wife, son, and three daughters to mourn his removal. May God in his infinite goodness comfort them in their affliction.

D. S. [Rev. Dolphus Skinner]

*Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate*, Utica NY, Fri. 24 Sep 1847  
[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 8 Feb 2005 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

[Roberts, Henry]

## DEATH OF REV. HENRY ROBERTS

Rev. Henry Roberts, of Rochester, N. Y., died in New York City, Friday morning, September 17th, at the age of 59 years. The *Christian Messenger* gives the following account of his sickness and death:—

“Bro. R. came to this city the Tuesday previous, on his way to preach on appointment, at Danbury, Ct., the following Sunday. He was at the Bleecker-street Conference that evening. He made a very solemn and affecting address, alluding to his former labors in the city, to the friendship then formed, to the vicissitudes of life, and most pathetically to a severe sickness he had suffered, and to the sustaining power of our blessed faith, in such seasons of trial. He concluded with a very earnest appeal to those present to be faithful and zealous in the great and good work. His remarks left a very deep impression.

“He was taken sick that night. His sufferings from the first to the last were severe in the extreme, and almost without any cessation.

“During his sickness he often spoke of his situation, and of dying. He had no fears, he said, of death, but was perfectly ready and willing to die. He had always desired, when it should please God to call him, that his dying bed might be attended by Universalists, and in this he had been satisfied. He spoke of his burial, and the arrangement he wished made in a plain and unostentatious manner. His faith was unshaken to the last. He never doubted for a moment but that he should meet with all mankind, redeemed and happy, in Heaven.

“His body was borne to the Bleecker-street Church, at two o'clock, on Friday, where many friends were assembled, and where an appropriate address was delivered by Bro. [William S.] Balch, in accordance with his request made some days previous to his death. The prayer was offered by Bro. Gardiner, of Maine. It was a solemn service, following so close upon the joy and felicitations of our Convention. The brethren were preparing to depart to their homes, and then this brother had gone to his long home, to be with us no more upon earth. And many minds felt the power of the great lesson there taught.

“The coffin was then enclosed in a box, and borne from the church to the steamboat, which was to bear the body of our brother on its way to his family in Rochester, to its final resting place. Bros. Balch and [William] Waggoner, Mellen and [Henry] Hayward, Gardner and Gallagher, Smith and Francis, acting as pallbearers, and his son, Br. George H. Roberts, and a brother-in-law, as mourners, followed by a large procession of friends.

“Bro. Roberts received a letter of fellowship in 1822, since which time he had been a preacher, with the exception of some years of sickness, when he had been obliged to suspend his labors. Like many of his profession, he was poor, but it must be gratifying to his friends to know that he lacked for nothing which kindness or wealth could procure. Every possible attention was given to comfort him. A collection of more than a hundred dollars was taken to defray the expenses of his sickness and burial.

“... May God sanctify this providence to the good of his family, and of our ministry and fellowship.”

*Universalist Miscellany*, (Boston: October 1847), 5:162-3