

[Sharp, Ichabod Blakeslee]

A Tribute to the Departed

X. REV. ICHABOD BLAKESLEE SHARP, the eleventh child of Hendrick and Hannah (Blakeslee) Sharp, was born in Greene (Chenango Co.), N.Y., April 3, 1811 and died in Hume, N.Y., June 24, 1876. Mr. Sharp's father was born in Germany, but came to this country with his parents when he was but a child. His mother was born in Chenango County, N.Y., but was of English parentage. His parents were rigid close-communion Baptists, and taught their children that all persons outside of their own church were essentially and fatally wrong. Having been thus educated, Mr. Sharp, at the age of twenty-two, united with the Second Baptist Church in Eaton (Madison Co.); but its narrow creed and exclusiveness did not satisfy him, and four years afterward, viz., August 31, 1837, he was licensed to preach by the Chenango Universalist Association at its session in Upper Lisle, though he commenced preaching three years earlier. After one year in Pharsalia (Madison Co.), he removed to Hume (Allegany Co.) in the fall of 1838. He was ordained at Randolph (Cattaraugus Co.), February 24, 1839. He preached in Hume four years, and in Friendship and Philipsburg three years. In 1848 he settled in Cuba, and there, with the exception of a single year, lived for the remainder of his life, preaching in various places as an itinerant and missionary. Faithfully for more than forty years he labored in the gospel ministry, winning the confidence of the people wherever he had lived, and leaving a good name behind him when he died. He had been for many years the victim of disease, and often apparently near the grave, yet he lived to the age of sixty-five to proclaim the glad tidings of universal grace. He came to his death by an accident, very suddenly, and while in his usual state of health, as he was on his way to the annual session of the Allegany Association. He had gone in a carriage with a friend about eight miles from home, when they drove on to a canal bridge, which gave way, precipitating them into the canal. It is supposed that he was instantly killed by the falling timbers, and thus, in four short hours after parting from his family, he was brought back a corpse. He had been twice married; the second time to Mrs. Marilla Meacham, October 1, 1859, who survives him, together with a son [Charles] and daughter [Helen] by the first marriage.

His funeral took place at Hume, Rev F. [Francis] M. Alvord officiating, assisted by Elder Morey of the Baptist Church, who spoke very feelingly of the loss the community had sustained by the death of a true Christian man and a consecrated minister of Christ. The Masonic Fraternity, of which he was a member, took charge of his remains, and performed a solemn and impressive service at his grave.

*The Universalist Register*, Boston MA, 1877, pp. 114-16