

[Skinner, Charles Augustus]

NECROLOGY

CHARLES AUGUSTUS SKINNER was born April 19, 1824 in the village of Dexter, town of Brownville, N.Y. His father was the Rev. Warren Skinner, minister in the Universalist Church from 1823 to his demise in 1874. He was of a family of ministers, eminent for their rugged character and Christian culture. He attended an academy at Ludlow, Vt., and the Liberal Institute at Lebanon, N.H. In 1845 when the late Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Sawyer became Principal of the Clinton Liberal Institute in Clinton, N.Y., and the announcement was made that he would receive students in theology, Mr. Skinner was the first to respond to the privilege, in which he was soon joined by two others, who formed the first class in what was called "The Universalist Theological Seminary."

Mr. Skinner was ordained to the ministry in Dexter, N.Y., his uncle, Rev. Dolphus Skinner, preaching the sermon. He was pastor in Dexter, N.Y., his birthplace, from 1848 to 1850, when he removed to Newark, N.Y., for two years, preaching also in Fairport, and in June 1853 he came to the Universalist Church in Cambridge. For fourteen years he was a conspicuous leader among the moral and religious forces of this University City. From his parish went forth to the Civil War thirty-three young men. Mr. Skinner among them was a tower of strength. His pulpit gave no uncertain sound. His loyalty to the Union was never questioned. In 1868 he settled in Hartford, Conn., where also a fine labor was rendered and the cause of Christian truth strengthened. He was pastor in Hartford eight years, when he removed to Melrose where he was pastor four years. In 1880 he settled over the First Universalist Church, Somerville, and there continued until 1893, when he retired to his home at North Cambridge. From this time on he was a most acceptable supply, for a short or long duration, for many churches. He was a "minister at large." His last services were for the church at Swampscott, which until health failed him, found him a preacher and pastor of consecration and fidelity. He was preacher of the Occasional Sermon at the General Convention of 1872.

Mr. Skinner had bestowed upon him the most fitting degree of Student of Sacred Theology, by Tufts College. Dr. Skinner married [on] May 16, 1850, Miss Cornelia Bartholomew of Dexter, N.Y., who died in 1890. Dr. Skinner died April 22, 1906. Three sons survive—Charles M., connected with The Brooklyn Eagle; Otis, the well-known actor, and William L., an art teacher in the Boston Public School.

Dr. Skinner was interested in the public school, often serving on the School Board. For a series of years he was Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Massachusetts, and ever gave dignity and impressiveness to all their rites and services. His funeral took place from the Universalist Church, Cambridge, and was conducted by the Rev. Dr. G. W. Bicknell, pastor, and Rev. W. B. Eddy, pastor at North Cambridge. Interment at Proctorsville, Vt.

*The Universalist Register*, Boston MA, 1907, pp. 115-16