

## [Smith, Elijah]

### Biography of Rev. Elijah Smith

We were under the painful necessity of announcing in our last week's paper the death of our esteemed brother in the ministry, Rev. Elijah Smith<sup>1</sup> ...

Br. Smith was a native of Vermont. He was born in the town of Monkton, county of Addison, December 5, 1796. He never attached himself to any religious denomination, until in October, 1829, he was received into the fellowship of one of the Associations of Universalists in the above named State, in July, 1831, in which year he was duly ordained in the work of the Gospel ministry. At, or near this time, he commenced preaching with the societies in Henrietta and Livonia. He continued his labors with these societies for nearly three years with good success and unanimous approbation. From thence he removed at the urgent solicitations of friends to Kennedyville, Steuben county, where he remained for some considerable time, how long we are not certain. In this place he was much respected by all who knew him, and proved not a little successful in spreading and promoting the cause of impartial grace.

In January, 1835, while at Kennedyville, probably by excessive labor and study, he was attacked with an inflammation of the liver, which afterward ran into the typhus fever, and confined him to his bed and house for several months. At length he began slowly to recover, but continued very nervous and feeble. In October, 1835, he removed to North Bloomfield, where, as always before, he found many warm and attentive friends and brethren. His health was so far improved, that through the Winter, or till February last, he succeeded in preaching to his society one sermon each alternate Sabbath, at which time he began to decline, though moderately. His companion and friends continued to hope for his recovery until a few weeks before his death. But he was evidently in a much worse condition than they imagined, his extreme patience, resignation, and cheerfulness having deceived them.

Thus, having labored in the Gospel field most faithfully and successfully for about eight years, he fell asleep ... in the fullest confidence of a holy and happy immortality for a ransomed world.

It may be proper to state that a few hours before his death, he requested that the writer should be called to attend his funeral. And that his affectionate and beloved companion in life might have an abiding testimony of his faith in an impartial Gospel, he penned the following lines and left them safely secured between two leaves in his Bible:-

This Book of Truth has from my youth, Been my great consolation:  
I'm no more sad, such tidings glad, Disclose a world's salvation.

....

We cannot leave the subject without invoking the benediction of Jehovah – the widow's God, to rest upon our disconsolate and esteemed sister in Christ, who is now left husbandless, childless, and homeless, in a strange land. We heartily pray that she may find the best of friends wherever she may go, and finally a happy and enduring re-union with her departed Elijah and a purified world, beyond the power of death and the narrow confines of the grave.

C. [Rev. Jacob Chase]

*Herald of Truth*, Geneva NY, 27 May 1835

Transcribed on 1 Feb 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

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<sup>1</sup> Deaths: At North Bloomfield, May 11, Rev. ELIJAH SMITH, Pastor of the First Universalist Society in that place, in the 40<sup>th</sup> year of his age. His funeral was attended on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. by the writer [Rev. Jacob Chase]. *Herald of Truth*, Geneva NY, 20 May 1836)