

[Weaver, George Sumner]

DEATH OF GEORGE SUMNER WEAVER
ACHIEVED PROMINENCE AS A UNIVERSALIST DIVINE
LOMBARD COLLEGE FOUNDER

Conducted Funeral of Soldiers killed by Mob in Baltimore—Educated for Bar
but Turned to Pulpit—Sketch of Life of Activity—Funeral Arrangements

Canton, March 7.—Dr. George Sumner Weaver died at his home in this village Friday morning. Dr. Weaver was one of the oldest and most highly respected residents. He was born at Saxton's River, Vt., Dec. 24, 1818, and was educated for the law and was admitted to the bar at an early age. He soon left the law, however, to enter the ministry of the Universalist church. His first pastorate was at Marietta, Ohio, and afterwards he became pastor of the church at Galesburg, Ill., where he was one of the founders of Lombard college, now a flourishing educational institution.

Dr. Weaver afterwards became pastor of a church in St. Louis, Mo., where he remained until the breaking out of the Civil War, when his strong sympathy for the Union cause rendered it unpleasant for him to remain in the south, and he accepted a call to a church in Lawrence, Mass. While pastor of the church at Lawrence in the early days of the war he preached the funeral sermons of two of his parishioners who fell in the attack made upon their regiment (the 6th Massachusetts) by the mob in Baltimore.

From Lawrence, Dr. Weaver went to Akron, Ohio, where he remained as pastor of a church in that city from 1873 to 1876.

He then came to Canton as pastor of the Universalist church of this village, which position he held from 1879 to 1882, when he became pastor of a church in Providence, R.I., where he remained ten years, and then retired from the ministry and returned to Canton where his daughter, Mrs. Nelson Robinson then resided, and continued to reside here until his death. Early in life he married Sarah Kendall of Walpole, N.H. Mrs. Weaver died about four years ago. Two children were born of this marriage, both of whom are now dead. Ernest Weaver, a son, lived to manhood and was at one time a prominent lawyer in Buffalo. His other child, Clara, became the wife of Nelson L. Robinson and left surviving her three children, who are the only descendants of Dr. Weaver.

Dr. Weaver's long life was filled with activity in the way of Christian work and influence. He wrote a number of books bearing upon educational subjects and advice to the young. Since his return to Canton he has enjoyed a peaceful and happy old age. He retained his mental faculties as well as his sight and hearing to the very end of his life, and up to a few weeks ago was a familiar figure on the streets of our village. His fine intellectual features and benevolent mien made him a marked man in any gathering. The funeral will be held from his late home on Sunday afternoon, and the remains will be taken to Buffalo for interment. His son-in-law, Nelson L. Robinson of New York, arrived Friday morning to attend the funeral.

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown NY, Sat. 7 Mar 1908

Transcribed on 5 Sep 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

George Sumner Weaver

Reverend George Sumner Weaver, D.D., who died at his home in Canton on Friday morning, March 6th, was born near Saxton's River in the town of Rockingham, Vermont, on Christmas eve, December 24, 1818, the eldest son of John and Asenath Wiley Weaver. His grandfather Daniel Weaver come [sic] into Rockingham when Vermont was still a wilderness from Newport, Rhode Island, where his ancestors were among the early settlers. Mr. Weaver was educated at Ludlow Academy in Vermont and Kimball Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire. In 1842 he taught school at Fonda, New York, and began his career as a public speaker with four lectures on temperance in his school house. He had already taken the pledge when ten years old. His lectures started a temperance revival which had a wide and lasting influence in Fonda and the neighborhood. While teaching there he became a member of the American Geological Society, attending its meeting in Albany, and also studied law. The next year he taught school and continued his legal studies in Cambridgeport in his native town. In 1844 he went to Dayton, Ohio to study law and there gave lectures in Astronomy and Geology for a literary society of young men, mostly lawyers or law students. He was admitted to the Ohio bar at Columbus, the state capital, early in 1846, and opened an office.

But already under the influence and advice of Rev. W. B. Linell he had thought seriously of becoming a minister of the gospel. On the first Sunday in April, 1846, he preached a trial sermon in Springfield, Ohio, his first, on the text "God is Love;" the next year he was regularly ordained as a clergyman of the Universalist church. He served as minister of the Universalist society in Springfield for two years at a salary of \$100 a year and board; he earned another \$100 a year by teaching in one of the public schools. Then for three years he was pastor at Marietta, Ohio, where he founded and taught in the Western Liberal Institute, which later merged in Lombard College at Galesburg, Illinois, also founded largely by the efforts of Mr. Weaver and his brother-in-law, the late Rev. Paul Raymond Kendall, its first president.

In 1852 he removed to St. Louis, where he remained as pastor until 1860. He was married February 27, 1853 to Miss Sarah Jane Kendall of Phillipston, Mass., and his two children Clara and Ernest Kendall were born in St. Louis. The civil war sent him north and east to St. Lawrence, Mass., where he was pastor for twelve years. There one of his earliest duties was to preach the funeral sermon on the public common of Sumner E. Needham, one of the soldiers of the 6th Massachusetts regiment slain by a mob in Baltimore who was the first victim of that terrible struggle. Under his ministry the Lawrence church and congregation become [sic] perhaps the

[Weaver, George Sumner]

largest and one of the most influential in the city. Later he was pastor at Akron, Ohio, Galesburg, Illinois, Canton from 1879 to 1882, and East Providence, Rhode Island. He returned to Canton in 1891 and has since resided here, continuing to preach and to perform other ministerial duties in various places and to write until within a year or two, helpful in all good works to the very close of his long and active life.

While in Marietta he published "Mental Science," in St. Louis "Hopes and Helps for the Young," "The Christian Household," "Ways of Life," "The Right Way," and "Aims and Aids for Girls and Young Women." Other books of his are "Looking forward for Young Men," "Moses and Modern Science," "The Heart of the World," "Lives and Graves of the Presidents," "Life of James Henry Chapin," "Heaven," and "The Open Way." Some of these works have had a large circulation both in America and in Great Britain.

His chief concern in life has been for religion, freedom, temperance and education. In these causes, or branches of one cause, he labored zealously for more than seventy years. One of his brothers, Rev. Andrew J. Weaver, and three brothers-in-law, Rev. Paul R. Kendall, Rev. James Henry Chapin and Rev. Jonas Hazard Hartzell, became clergymen under his influence. His spirit was gentle and without guile, always cheerful and cheering, his presence a benediction. Wisdom, courage and goodness were his nature.

He outlived Mrs. Weaver and his children and is survived by his grandchildren Ethel, Marjory and Ernest Leffert Robinson, the children of his daughter Clara and Nelson L. Robinson. Mrs. Frank N. Cleaveland is the daughter of Mr. Weaver's sister Abigail and Rev. Paul Raymond Kendall. Her mother died when she was two years old and she was brought up in Mr. Weaver's family as his own daughter.

Canton Commercial Advertiser, Canton NY, Tue. 10 Mar 1908

Transcribed on 5 Sep 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY