

[Cook, Theodore Dwight]

REV. T. D. Cook
Death of an Old and Well Known Clergyman

Rev. Theodore Dwight Cook died at his residence, No. 287 Genesee street, last evening, after a protracted sickness. He was born in Marcellus, Onondaga county, on the 31st day of January, 1814. He was the seventh son of Lyman and Mary Norton Cook. He came of Puritan stock, and was a descendant from Isaac Cook, one of the first of the name who immigrated to this country, and who settled in Wallingford, Connecticut. His mother was descended from William Bradford, governor of the Plymouth colony. After finishing his studies at Skaneateles and Auburn, Rev. Mr. Cook prepared for the Universalist ministry under Rev. George W. Montgomery, D. D., of Rochester. His first sermon was preached fifty-one years ago next Sunday. He was first settled in Gaines, Orleans county, and next in Utica. He removed from this city to Philadelphia.

He was married in May, 1841, to Calista Niles, daughter of the late Dr. John C. Pease, of Hartford, Conn. Of their seven children, three survive. Mrs. Cook is also living. In 1844 he removed from Philadelphia to Boston, where he remained eight years as pastor of the Third Universalist church. His next pastorate was in Providence, Rhode Island, where he preached until 1859, when he returned to Utica, where he has since resided. He was pastor of the Church of the Reconciliation [Universalist] from 1860 to 1864. In 1872 he built the arcade, which passed out of his hands three years later.

He was a man of sterling Christian character and his long services as a minister were most honorable to him. Since he began his final residence here he took an active part in the welfare of the churches of Oneida county. Besides officiating in the Utica church he often preached in Mohawk, Frankfort, West Winfield, and other neighboring churches.

He was the father of the brilliant and talented Marc Eugene Cook, deceased, whose literary accomplishments were of a high order. Rev. Mr. Cook's life was a long and virtuous one, the remembrance of which will soften the grief of his family at his death.

Morning Herald, Utica NY, 25 May 1887

Transcribed on 10 Jan 2007 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

[Cook, Theodore Dwight]

DEATH OF REV. T. D. Cook

After an Illness of Nearly Four Years—A Sketch of His
Long and Well Spent Life—His Record as Pastor in Utica

Rev. T. D. Cook died at his residence, 287 Genesee street, at 7:15 last evening after an illness of about four years. He was first taken sick with sciatica, which confined him to the house. For the last year, however, he has been unable to leave his bed. Although a great sufferer, he bore his affliction with great patience and never complained.

Theodore Dwight Cook was born in Marcellus, Onondaga county, N. Y., January 31, 1814. He was the seventh son of Lyman and Mary Norton Cook. He was a descendant of Isaac Cook, one of the first of the name who emigrated to this country and settled in Wallingford, Ct. On his mother's side he came of Mayflower stock, she being a descendant of Wm. Bradford, Governor of the Plymouth Colony. After finishing his studies at Skaneateles and Auburn, he prepared for the Universalist ministry under Rev. George W. Montgomery, D.D., of Rochester. Rev. S. W. Brace, formerly of this city, was one of his early tutors. In June, 1836, or 51 years ago next Sunday, he preached his first sermon. He was settled at first in Gaines, Orleans county, and next at Wolcott, Wayne county. He came to Utica in 1839 and became pastor of the old Universalist Church on C___? street. After preaching here about two years he moved to Philadelphia, Pa. In 1844 he removed to Boston, where he remained eight years as pastor of the Third Universalist Church. Then he went to Providence, R. I., where he preached in the Second Universalist Church until 1859, when he returned to Utica, where he has since resided. The first five years after his return he was pastor of the Universalist Church here; then he preached regularly in the Universalist Church at Lockport for three or four years, and later supplied pulpits at Richfield Springs and other places in the vicinity of Utica.

Mr. Cook was one of the oldest and most prominent divines in the Universalist denomination, and stood high in the counsels of that church. He took a deep interest in the affairs of Clinton Liberal Institute when it was located at Clinton.

Mr. Cook was at one time possessed of considerable property and showed great enterprise in an effort to improve the business buildings of the city. In 1872 he began the erection of the Arcade on the site of the old Franklin House. The Arcade was then as it is to-day, the largest business block in the city. It was designed by Architect W. H. Hamilton. Some three years were occupied in its erection, and in 1874, owing to some defect in the plans or construction, a large portion of it fell, entailing considerable expense in its rebuilding. It was rebuilt, however, and in 1875 passed into other hands. The building was perhaps larger than the business needs of the city

[Cook, Theodore Dwight]

warranted at that time, and the accident which befell its construction made people slow to occupy it. But all its stores, halls and rooms have now been occupied for years, and the Arcade stands to-day as a monument of the business enterprise of its projector and builder. Mr. Cook also owned the American Hotel property which in 1872 was taken by commission for railroad purposes, although it was not need[ed] for this purpose until about three years ago and then for a depot. In the litigation which ensued the question whether a railroad company has power to condemn private property for railroad purposes other than the laying of tracks was tried and adjudicated on.

In May, 1841, Mr. Cook was married to Calista Niles, daughter of the late Dr. John C. Pease, of Hartford, Ct. Mrs. Cook survives him. Of their seven children, three survive, viz: Col. Theodore P. Cook, formerly editor of the Observer; Miss Viola Cook, a teacher in the Utica Free Academy, and Miss Flora Cook, principal of the Aiken street school. Marc E. Cook, the brilliant young journalist and poet who died October 4, 1882 was a son of deceased.

Mr. Cook's life was one of usefulness and honor. He was a high-minded, scholarly and cultured gentleman, and an able and faithful pastor, who enjoyed the respect and esteem of all in the community in which he lived. He was a man of fine social qualities, and though he met with some business reverses, and perhaps more afflictions than are common to most men, he bore them all with Christian fortitude and resignation. His family has the sincere sympathy of many friends.

Daily Press, Utica NY, Wed. 25 May 1887

Transcribed on 25 Jul 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY