

[Miller, Charles A.]

MR. CHARLES A. MILLER

The death of Mr. Charles A. Miller, of Brooklyn, N.Y., is a severe loss to our whole Church, and a real calamity to those Church interests with which he was closely connected, and which he helped to maintain and guide to a successful issue. Those who knew his rich friendship face an irreparable loss and are bowed with the weight of a profound sorrow. In whatever associations his business, social and religious interest placed him, he there won the respect and affection of all, by his generous loyalty, his genial disposition and the integrity of his character.

In Brooklyn his whole life has been spent in carrying forward the business of oil refining, which for the past thirty years has been associated with the Standard Oil Company of Greenpoint, of which he was the manager, and here he won the standing among those who knew him best, as one of the leading business men of the community. He was vice-president of the Home Savings Bank, and while never seeking or accepting office, has been an influential factor in the community life, for which he felt a citizen's responsibility.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller were among the earlier supporters of the Universalist Church in the Greenpoint district of Brooklyn, and were the whole story known it would place the credit for the maintenance of the church not only financially, but socially and personally upon the Miller family, who in every department of service contributed to its life. When conditions of population required removal, Mr. Miller associated himself with the Church of Good Tidings, and through that found one of the channels for contributing to the cause of Universalism which he thoroughly understood and appreciated as one of the great redeeming forces of life.

Mr. Miller was a prominent member of the New York State Convention, holding important positions. For the last few years he has been president of the New York Ministerial Relief Fund, and when recently the separation of Canton Theological from St. Lawrence University was consummated, he was elected president of the board of trustees. To him in association with the late Mr. E. H. Cole, who was one of the great benefactors of our church, we are indebted for the loyal and persistent support of the historic Murray Grove Association, which preserved and beautified the spot where John Murray preached the first Universalist sermon in America. To the Association Mr. Miller has given of his money and time and manual labor even, for its upbuilding. He had a true sense of historic values, and with that a vision of what will become a great gathering place for Universalists in the years to come.

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The friend whom so many of us found and cherished in Mr. Miller, was of a type we all delight to honor and love; his hearty ways, and frank speech, and generous service to those in need gave peculiar value to his regard. His wife who passed away some years ago after a long illness, was in most perfect sympathy, and together they labored for a home life where hospitality of the most genuine kind reigned. Since her death, Mr. Miller with his son and daughter have resided in Brooklyn, with frequent visits to the home of his two sisters at Valley Stream, Long Island, and several long journeys, in company with his daughter, to California and Mexico and Panama with the Bankers' Association, while every summer found him at Good Luck, N.J., where he found real enjoyment in building up its interests.

It was after a hasty trip to Good Luck, where he had gone to take the resident pastor, that there came a sudden attack of appendicitis, requiring an operation, from which he died on May 15. The funeral services were held at the Church of Our Father, and were conducted by the Rev. Dr. T. E. Potterton, assisted by the Rev. C. B. Etsler. Mr. Miller leaves a son, Charles Clifford, and a daughter, Florence Irene, one brother and two sisters.

A notable and noble layman, a Christian gentleman, a true friend.—
Universalist Leader.

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