

[Bailey, James Wilson]

DEATH OF REV. J. W. BAILEY

James Wilson Bailey was born in Unity, New Hampshire July 1, 1813. He entered the ministry of Universal Reconciliation when twenty-two years of age. He was successively settled at Guilford, Vt., where he remained one year; Hinsdale, 2 years; Brattleboro, 2 years, and Wilmington, seven years. From Vermont he removed to Madrid, N. Y., where he had charge of the society for five years; thence to the Fulton society, five years; and from there to the societies in North Bloomfield and Bristol, six years, with Lima for his place of residence. About a year since, his failing health compelled him to resign all pastoral care. For the last few months of his life, he preached only two or three times. Early in the spring, he expressed to me his conviction that his labors were nearly finished. The week previous to his death he visited Washington. On his return, and after leaving New York, he was taken sick, and with difficulty reached home on Saturday, May 14. He died on the morning of Friday, May 20. The immediate cause of death was abscess of the lungs.

Funeral services were held in the Methodist church, Lima, N. Y., on the forenoon of Sunday, May 22d. A very appropriate and feeling prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Nettleton, pastor of the Methodist society. The sermon was preached by the writer from the words, "Have Faith in God." The demonstrations of regard for Br. Bailey and his amiable family by the people of Lima and its vicinity were unusual, and worthy of grateful memory. The Rev. M. Nettleton (between whom and Br. Bailey the most cordial friendship existed) and his society voluntarily suspended their services, and tendered their large and elegant church for the occasion. The other churches of the place were closed during the forenoon. The choirs of several societies joined in one for the funeral services. A thousand people formed the congregation, while hundreds were unable to gain admittance into the church... His body was deposited in its narrow home amid the solemn ceremonies of the Masonic order..., by the remains of his daughter Ellen.

Br. Bailey has departed from a family consisting of the widow [Eliza Whitcomb Bailey], two daughters [Abbie Olmsted and Emma Bailey], and one son [James Murray Bailey]. The son, eighteen years of age, is a private in the Eighth Regiment of Heavy Artillery, attached to the Army of the Potomac. He is fighting for his country, while still ignorant of the desolation of his home.

...May his life and death give to us a new confidence in our precious faith and may God teach us to sympathize with his family.

[Rev.] George W. Montgomery

*Christian Ambassador*, New York, NY, 18 Jun 1864

[Bailey, James Wilson]

DEATH OF REV. JACOB BAILEY

The Universalist public will be pained to learn of the death of this veteran in the ranks of our ministry. He entered the ministry in 1831, and [for] thirty-three years, according to his ability and strength, did service for our most precious faith. His earliest labors were performed in the vicinity of Utica, N.Y. He received ordination in 1832, Rev. I [Isaac] D. Williamson, D.D., preaching the ordination sermon. His first settlement as a minister was in Depauville, Jefferson Co., N.Y. He was afterward settled as pastor at Cleveland, Ohio; Akron, Ohio; Rushford, N.Y., and perhaps other places. He was for many years editor of the *Western Luminary*, published in Rochester, N.Y. Since the consolidation of that paper with the *Christian Ambassador*<sup>1</sup>, he has labored as an itinerant, travelling from Boston to the Mississippi river. Br. Whitney had a feeble voice which partially unfitted him for public speaking, excepting to small audiences, but he wielded a vigorous pen, to which fact the readers of our denominational journals will bear testimony. His letters from the army, published in the *Ambassador*, were full of information and interest. They had the merit of touching those topics about which we were most anxious to receive light. His writings were always full of practical common sense and he was remarkable for the persistency with which he stood by his convictions of duty regardless of consequence.

A significant instance of this was his enlisting as a private in the service of his country though far past military age. His soul overflowed with patriotism, which he did not allow to evaporate in words, but rather made it concrete in deeds, and really laid his life as an offering on the altar of freedom. He died of a disease contracted in camp, in the hospital at Frederick, Md., April 21st, 1864, aged fifty-five years. The chaplain of the hospital, in a touching letter written to sister Whitney, communicating the sad intelligence of her husband's death, says: "My dear Madam, you know your husband's religious views—with those sentiments he died. His last words were, 'I trust myself in the hands of my Heavenly Father.' "

His remains were brought to Rochester and buried at Mount Hope, May 8th, 1864. Funeral services were held at the Universalist church, Brs. [George W.] Montgomery, Dean, [Edmund R.] Ottoway and Saxe, participating. A wife and several children are left to mourn his departure.

A. [REV. ASA] SAXE

*Christian Ambassador*, New York, NY, 25 Jun 1864

Transcribed on 9 Jan 2007 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

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<sup>1</sup> This is an error: the paper was bought out by the *Star in the West*.