

[Brown, Charles Smith]

REV. CHARLES SMITH BROWN

Mr. Brown was born in Oneida County, New York, March 20, 1804. He was early apprenticed to the trade of chairmaker and ornamental painter. At the age of fourteen his employer removed to Rochester, Munroe [Monroe] County, where he became interested in religious things and joined the Methodist Church, though at that time believing in the final salvation of the whole world. Becoming acquainted with Rev. Stephen R. Smith, he was induced to enter our ministry, spending some time first with Mr. Smith, and then with Rev. Dolphus Skinner. He was ordained at Bainbridge, New York, in 1832. His first settlement was in South Oxford, Chenango County, from whence he removed to Upper Lisle, Broome County. For a few years he lived in Pennsylvania, then in Oneida and Cortland Counties, New York, but finally removed some thirteen years ago to Cambridge, Illinois, where he died in May, 1870. During all the years of his ministry, Mr. Brown, like so many preachers of his time, was never able to secure more than a very humble subsistence. By hard work and the severest economy and self-denial he saved enough to purchase a small farm in Cambridge, where he lived in quiet and comfort during the latter years of his life, preaching occasionally, but having no pastoral charge. He was a good, though not a brilliant preacher. His soul was full of the Gospel. He loved his faith, he loved his brethren, he loved the Lord. It is enough to say that he was a humble, sincere, honest, good man and Christian. During his last days he often spoke of the comforting and sustaining power of his faith, and charged that no one should say he mourned as he saw the end approaching, for his hope in the salvation of all men was never brighter. He left a widow and three children, all settled in Cambridge, to mourn their loss.

*Universalist Companion*, Boston MA, 1871, p. 110

Transcribed on 12 Sep 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY