

[Conklin, Abram]

REV. ABRAM CONKLIN

One of the grand old men of the Universalist ministry was the Rev. Abram Conklin of Southold, N.Y. His modesty three years ago would not allow him to send biographical data to the editor of this magazine on which an article might be built in appreciation of his career as a Universalist minister. He would not talk about his record but in every parish and community this minister reached a height of usefulness and esteem which in ministerial circles is considered a distinctive success. For fifty-three years he faithfully and consecratedly served Universalist churches and the biographical sketch that he did write he carefully placed among his papers with instruction that this particular envelope be sent to Dr. Leining after his death. The two small pages arrived in the State Office on February 26.

For the past two years, this venerable clergyman has been in poor health. His long and painful illness ended with his death on February 23. Memorial services were held in the Universalist church, Southold, on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 25, when a congregation of sorrowing friends filled the church. The services were conducted by the Rev. R. H. Bird, pastor, assisted by the Rev. W. H. Lloyd, pastor of the Presbyterian church. He is survived by his widow, a sister, Mrs. J. F. Moore, and by several nephews and nieces.

The Rev. Abram Conklin and the late Dr. Charles Conklin were brothers and resembled each other in many characteristics. Their voices were almost identical. On April 13, 1858, Abram Conklin was born in Nyack, N.Y. He was educated for the Universalist ministry at St. Lawrence University, graduating in 1879. He was a loyal alumnus of the Theological School and was one of the first to make a pledge for the Campaign for \$125,000 to increase the endowment of the institution and to improve its building. Following his graduation, he began his ministry in the Universalist church at Southold where he remained nearly four years. In 1883, he was married to Miss Lucy A. Peck, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Israel Peck of Southold. His succeeding pastorates were in Reading, Pa.; Church of Good Tidings, Brooklyn; Bath, Me.; Grove Hall (Dorchester), Mass.; Monson, Mass.

In 1918, he returned to Southold, intending to retire. But on the enlistment of the Rev. Clifford D. Newton, pastor of the Universalist church, in the World War, Mr. Conklin was urged to resume the work of this pastorate. He continued in this second term of service until 1931 when ill health compelled his retirement. Under his leadership, this church became a center of culture and inspiration in the community. It is safe to say that all that was highest and best in the intellectual, literary, dramatic and moral life of the village, for which the community has been famous, owed its origin to the Universalists of this church. It is an outstanding church for this community service. Needless to say, Mr. Conklin was a community minister, loved by everybody. He was always a friend to man.

He served as a member of the school boards and as a trustee of the libraries in the cities where he lived. Like his brother, without whom there would be no Doolittle [Retirement] Home in Foxboro, Mass., he was interested in establishing homes for the aged. He was the foremost factor in establishing such homes in Bath, Me., and Monon, Mass. He was an active member in Odd Fellow and Masonic circles.

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