

[DeLong, William Millins]

XV. REV. WILLIAM MILLINS DELONG was born in Pittsfield, Otsego Co., N.Y., Sept. 2, 1815 and died in Binghamton, N.Y., Oct. 30, 1877, aged 62 years. He was the youngest of a family of 5 brothers and 9 sisters. When he was two years old the family moved to Warren, Herkimer Co., and three years later to Utica, where he was put to work in a cotton factory. When he was nine years old the family moved to Hastings, Oswego Co. His mother became entirely blind by an inflammation in her eyes, and by reason of afflictions, of hard times and many children to provide for, the family was reduced to abject poverty. The father died soon after moving to Hastings, and the family was broken and scattered. The mother moved to Clark's Mills, near Utica, where she died in 1830, when William was 15 years old. He lived a year in Sauquoit, with a friend of the family, and while there heard Revs. W [Walter] Bullard and Dolphus Skinner preach a few Universalist sermons, in which young DeLong became deeply interested, as well as in reading the *[Evangelical] Magazine and [Gospel] Advocate*, and for this reason was dismissed from the machine shop at Unadilla Forks by its proprietor, a Mr. Abel Stillman; who, however, reconsidered his unreasonable conduct and reinstated Mr. DeLong, who worked there long enough to acquire the money to pay for a year's tuition at Hartwick Seminary. After that he worked in a carriage shop in South Edmeston, the proceeds of his labor being used to pay his tuition at New Berlin Academy.

His faith in Universalism grew with his increased facilities for study, and the last Sunday in August, 1835, he preached his first sermon. He was ordained July 20, 1837. He was stationed for various periods at Lebanon, Oran, and Binghamton, in N.Y. In 1841 he joined George Rogers in a missionary tour through Ohio and Indiana. For many years he itinerated over a large circuit in N.Y. and Pa.

He was twice married. First to Mary Ann Ashcroft in April, 1836, by whom he had four children, of whom Rev. Henry C. DeLong of Medford, Mass., is the only one surviving; two having died young, and William, the third son, having been accidentally killed Dec. 10, 1869. Mrs. DeLong died in May, 1870, aged 55. In April, 1871 he married Mary Jane Swart, a lady of culture and a preacher of our faith, who survives him.

In 1873, Mr. DeLong began to suffer from a paralytic affection from which he could get no relief, and after long and severe suffering, patiently borne, he passed on to "his long home."

The following sentences, written and signed by him only a short time before he lost the power of guiding his pen, show the strength of his faith: "I know that God is, that my Redeemer liveth, and that we have a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens. This is the source of my consolation. God be praised for it."

*The Universalist Register*, Boston MA, 1878, pp. 96-7