

[Gunnison, Almon]

ALMON GUNNISON, FORMER PRES., DIES, AGED 73

President Emeritus of St. Lawrence University Passes Away in Brooklyn—
Noted Throughout the Country as Educator and Writer

New York, June 30.—Almon Gunnison, a noted educator, died today at his home in Brooklyn, aged 73. Mr. Gunnison was born in Hallowell, Me. He was president of St. Lawrence University, Canton, N.Y. from 1899 to 1917, previous to which he was pastor of a Brooklyn church for 20 years.

Almon Gunnison, president emeritus of St. Lawrence University, was born March 2, 1844 at Hallowell, Me., the son of Rev. and Mrs. Nathaniel L[___?] Gunnison. His education was received in Green Mountain Institute at Woodstock, Vt. and at the Dalhousie College, Nova Scotia, followed by a course at Tufts, from which he was graduated in the class of 1864 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

He entered the Theological School at St. Lawrence University in 1868 and completed a course in divinity. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on him by St. Lawrence and that of L.L. D. by Union College and Tufts College.

He was married at Canton July 7, 1868 to Ella E. Everest, by whom he is survived. Two children, Frederick E., a New York attorney, and Mrs. Guy Harrington of Brooklyn, also survive.

His first charge was at Bath, Me. 1868-1871. He was called to All Souls Church, Brooklyn, where he remained 20 years, then going to the First Universalist Church at Worcester, Mass., where he was pastor ten years.

On the first of November, 1899 he assumed the presidency of St. Lawrence University. He had served as trustee of the institution until 1878.

St. Lawrence University has turned to him in days of deep discouragement as the one man capable of preserving the institution and putting it on a permanent basis.

He remained as president until June 8, 1914. During his administration the Carnegie science hall, the Cole reading room, the United States weather bureau station and the state school of agriculture became adjuncts of the university.

In 1912 he directed the campaign for raising \$200,000 as an endowment fund, and from 1912 to 1914 the annual income from endowments increased from \$12,252 to \$38,070.

At the age of 70 he resigned because of ill health and returned to Brooklyn where he had long intended to pass his declining years.

Dr. Gunnison was one of the editors of the Geographical magazine, a writer for the Christian Leader and for ten years one of the trustees of the general convention of Universalists.

He made eight tours abroad visiting all of the eastern continents.

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Two books, "Rambles Overland" and "Wayside and Fireside Rambles," were written by him. He was a lecturer of note as well as a frequent contributor to the magazines. In politics he was a Republican. He was a member of Zeta Pi fraternity.

Dr. Harry Westbrook Reed, pastor of All Souls Universalist Church and a member of the board of trustees of St. Lawrence University, today paid tribute to the president emeritus of the institution.

"Dr. Gunnison was the first president to confine himself to the outside work of the university and for that reason did not teach. From the time of his arrival the institution began to build up. He secured gifts of all descriptions and several years ago carried on a campaign to raise the \$200,000 needed as an endowment.

"Dr. Gunnison was a very prominent minister in the Universalist denomination and a lecturer of considerable note. Personally he was most genial.

"He was a big man, a natural organizer, and a natural administrator."

Ogdensburg News, Ogdensburg NY, Sun. 1 Jul 1917

Transcribed on 25 Feb 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY