

Hervey, Alpheus Baker]

[DR. HERVEY, MENTOR OF OWEN YOUNG, DIES
Oldest Graduate and Former Head of St. Lawrence University Was in 92d Year.
WROTE BOOKS ON NATURE
Had Been Pastor of Universalist Church Since 1861—
Succumbs at His Home in Baldwin, L.I.
Special to the New York Times

BALDWIN, L.I., March 10.—The Rev. Dr. Alpheus Baker Hervey, oldest graduate of St. Lawrence University and second president of that institution, an old friend of Owen D. Young, died at his home, 16 McKenna Street, after a lingering illness. He was in his ninety-second year.

In October of 1928, the seventieth anniversary of his arrival at St. Lawrence University as a student, and the fortieth of his return as its president, was observed with a three-day program, and he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

He was called to the presidency of St. Lawrence in 1888 when the fate of the university hung in the balance. The sum of \$50,000 was needed to keep it open and Dr. Almon Gunnison, a trustee, urged that Dr. Hervey be chosen. At the end of six years Dr. Hervey left with the endowment doubled. One of the students he brought to the University was Owen D. Young, and a close friendship started that lasted through the years. Since his resignation as president of the university Dr. Hervey had remained on the board of trustees.

Dr. Hervey was graduated in the first class of the college in 1861. As an undergraduate he specialized in botany and microscopy, and later wrote several nature books, among them "Sea Moss," "The Wild Flowers," "The Flowers of the Field and Forest" and "The Algae of Bermuda."

He was born in the village of Triangle, in Broome County, N.Y., and in 1847 the family moved to a wilderness in Northeastern Pennsylvania. At 16 he left home to teach school and worked in hayfields and lumber camps during the Summer.

Because he induced Owen D. Young to leave the farm and go to college Dr. Hervey was recently referred to in THE TIMES as "The Academic Father of the Young Plan." Last week Mr. Young visited Dr. Hervey and cheered him in his illness.

A pastor of the Universalist Church since 1861, Dr. Hervey held charges at several places in New York State and in Massachusetts and at Bath, Me. His first wife, Sarah Andrew of Malone, N.Y., died in 1884. Their son, with whom Dr. Hervey resided, survives. In 1921 Dr. Hervey married Hanna Rion, and English writer, thirty-five years his junior. She died in May, 1924.

New York Times, New York NY, 11 Mar 1931

Transcribed on 8 Aug 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

Hervey, Alpheus Baker]

DR. A. B. HERVEY

The Rev. Dr. Alpheus Baker Hervey, president of St. Lawrence University, Canton, N.Y., from 1888 to 1894 and second head of that institution, died at his home, 16 McKenna street, Baldwin, L. I., yesterday after a long illness. He was 92 years old and had the distinction of being the oldest graduate of St. Lawrence.

Funeral services will be held in the Universalist Church of the Divine Paternity, Central Park West and Seventy-sixth street, this city, at 3 P.M. tomorrow.

Dr. Hervey is credited with having "discovered" Owen D. Young. That was about 40 years ago when Dr. Hervey as president of St. Lawrence University was preaching one Sunday from the pulpit of the Universalist Church in Van Hornesville. Looking down upon the congregation he noticed the farmer's boy and thought he appeared promising. After the service he asked the lad if he wanted to go to college, just as he had asked scores of other alert looking boys during his preaching trips through the towns and villages near the university towns. He recruited Owen, and Owen D. Young never forgot. That is why Young, who is now chairman of the board of directors of the General Electric Company and often mentioned as a possible candidate for the Presidency, hurried to the educator's bedside when the report came that death was near.

Dr. Hervey was born at Triangle, Broome county, N.Y., on March 31, 1839, a son of Joseph and Rhoda Baker Hervey. He was educated at Alfred and Oxford academies and St. Lawrence University. He was graduated from the theology department of the university in 1861 and enlisted in the army for the war between the States but was not mustered in.

From 1861 he was pastor of Universalist churches at Malone, Afton and Troy, N.Y., Southbridge, Peabody and Taunton, Mass., and Bath, Me. In 1888 he became president of St. Lawrence University and held the office until 1894. Thereafter, until 1900, he was a trustee. He was a fellow and also chairman and secretary of the subsection, A.A.A.S., president of the Troy Scientific Society and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa. In politics he was a Democrat.

His degrees included honorary A.M. from Tufts College in 1880, and A.M. in 1878, Ph.D. in 1885 and LL.D. in 1928 from St. Lawrence.

He was author of "Sea Mosses," "Beautiful Wild Flowers," "Flowers of Field and Forest," and with Frank S. Collins, "The Algæ of Bermuda." He was also a translator of technical works.

In 1863 he married Miss Sarah Eliza Andrew of Malone, N.Y., who died in 1884. His second wife was Miss Hannah Rion, English author, whom he married in 1921. She died in 1924. His sole immediate survivor is a son, Charles S. Hervey, a former member of the New York State Public Service Commission.

New York Sun, New York NY, Wed. 11 Mar 1931

Transcribed on 19 Oct 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY