

[Hicks, Francis Eugene]

OBITUARY

REV. FRANCIS EUGENE HICKS was born in Bristol, Ontario County, New York, November 4th, 1831 and died in Lowell, Massachusetts, April 23^d, 1865, aged 33 years, 5 months and 19 days. He commenced the study of theology with Rev. J[ames] H. Tuttle in Fulton, Oswego County, N. Y. at the age of 21 years. During his residence in Fulton he formed the acquaintance of Miss Mary E. Harris, who subsequently became his wife, and who died in Potsdam in the summer of 1863, leaving a daughter, now nine years old. He received his letter of ministerial fellowship from the Ontario Association of Universalists. His first field of labor was Victor, N. Y. He afterward removed westward, preaching for a time in Marietta, Ohio and Rising Sun, Indiana. Not finding the western section congenial with his health, he removed eastward, preaching first in Meriden, Ct. and subsequently, for three years, in Dover, N. H. The eastern section proved unfavorable to the health of Mrs. Hicks, and they returned to their native state. After laboring for a season in LeRoy, Genesee County, he removed to Potsdam, St. Lawrence Co. Here he ministered nearly two years with much success, and acquired considerable reputation and influence in the vicinity. After the death of his companion, he became somewhat dispirited, and desired a change of scenery and associations...

From Potsdam he removed to Lowell, Mass., and commenced his labors as pastor of the Second Universalist Society in that city on the first Sabbath of July, 1864. A new and larger field of labor, new scenes, and new acquaintances revived his spirits. The old Merrimac River Ministerial Circle was resuscitated. He became a member, and was much interested in its meetings. New and interesting domestic relations were formed. Not quite three months previous to his decease he was united in marriage with Miss Josephine A. Young, a member of his congregation. A funeral service was held in Lowell, in the church in which he had ministered, the services being shared by various members of the M. R. Ministerial Circle. His young widow and daughter, with a brother of the deceased, Edwin Hicks Esq., of Canandaigua, accompanied the remains to Bristol, where they were interred beside those of his first companion, on the afternoon of the 2^d of May. The services at the grave were by Br. J. R. Sage, assisted by the writer. On the following Sabbath, May 7th, a large concourse of citizens with the aged parents and brothers of the deceased assembled at the Universalist church in Bristol, and a discourse was delivered by the writer. It is sad to see our ministers passing away, especially those in the prime and vigor of their lives, and sad to see so few entering the field to fill the places of the fallen.

L. C. [Rev. Lewis Cresaba] Browne
Canton, N. Y.

Christian Ambassador, New York NY, 17 Jun 1865
[a Universalist newspaper]