

[Hokerk, Frank Oliver]

MANY MOURN DEATH OF REV. F. O. HOKERK
Universalist and Divine Science Pastor Held Last Charge at Utica

The death of the Rev. Frank Oliver Hokerk of 18 Amy avenue, pastor of the Church of Divine Science, April 4, removed a leading Central New York clergyman widely known throughout the Southern Tier and with numerous local ties and associates.

He was born at Oneonta Aug. 14, 1864, son of the late Oliver and Martha Hokerk of that city. The family moved to Binghamton and he received his primary education in this city. More than 20 years ago he was ordained at Gloversville into the Christian ministry after studying theology at an Episcopal divinity school in Buffalo.

His first parish was at Weedsport, where he remained two years. He then became pastor of the Universalist church at Richfield Springs for five years and later Universalist pastor Gloversville for four years. Then followed Universalist pastorates at Herkimer, Barre, Vt., and temporary retirement, followed with resumption of activities as Divine Science pastor at Greenfield, Mass. He went to the Utica church May 1, 1930.

He married Myrtle Heath of Union, Broome county, Jan. 22, 1890, and last January friends and relatives joined the couple in celebrating their forty-first anniversary. He frequently visited Broome county, and officiated early in January at the funeral of Mrs. Jane Ann Mandeville at Port Crane.

He is survived by his wife, a son, Lynde DeForest Hokerk of Utica, and a half-brother, Fred A. Yager.

Binghamton Press, Binghamton NY, Sat. 11 Apr 1931

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REV. F. O. HOKERK, FORMER LOCAL PASTOR, DEAD
Passes Saturday Afternoon in Utica Church While Preparing for Easter
WAS ORDAINED HERE
Pastor of First Universalist Church Here for Four Years

Rev. Frank O. Hokerk, ordained as a minister in Gloversville a number of years, and pastor of the Church of Divine Science in Utica for a number of years, died in his church Saturday afternoon as he was preparing for the Easter services. His death caused a shock among the many friends he had there and in Gloversville where he was pastor of the First Universalist church for some years.

Rev. Hokerk was ordained in Gloversville years ago, by the Rev. Frederick W. Betts, veteran Syracuse minister, when he conducted services at the old Darling theatre. Later Mr. Hokerk came back to preach to the Gloversville congregation which by this time had grown to such an extent that it purchased a church on East Fulton street.

Funeral Today

Funeral services will be conducted there at 10 this morning in Utica by Rev. Clinton Moulton, pastor, Universalist church, Dolgeville, friend of Rev. and Mrs. Hokerk for many years.

Efforts failed Sunday to have the ceremony conducted by Rev. Fred Betts, pastor of the Universalist Church, Syracuse, who ordained Mr. Hokerk and who was a close friend. It was learned the physical condition of Mr. Betts, an active clergyman of advanced years, made his presence today quite questionable.

Mr. Hokerk's death came with but brief warning while, with a few members of the church, Saturday afternoon, he was arranging the floral decorations in the auditorium for yesterday's services. He had been in apparent good health up until about 3 P.M., when he complained of feeling ill and decided to go downstairs to his basement study. A few minutes later he called to his wife, who, with others, hastened to his side to find him in acute agony.

Beyond Relief

Medical aid was hurriedly summoned and Drs. William Hale and Harold L. Pender responded, but the stricken man's condition had steadily grown worse and had passed the point of relief by human hands.

The body was prepared for interment without removal from the church.

Rev. Mr. Hokerk was born in Oneonta, August 14, 1864, son of the late Oliver and Martha Hokerk. He received his early schooling in Binghamton and following study of theology in an Episcopal divinity school in Buffalo, was ordained more than 20 years ago, in Gloversville. He served as pastor of a

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Weedsport church two years; at the Universalist church, Richfield Springs, five years; at the Universalist Church, Gloversville, about four years; he had charge in Herkimer for three years and at Barre, Vt., for two years, after which he retired temporarily from the ministry.

In Utica Since 1930

Resuming his work as pastor of the Divine Science Church in Greenfield, Mass., where he spent four years, he went to Utica, May 1, 1930, and organized the local Church of Divine Science of Utica, the nucleus of which was the Home of Truth, formerly located at Hobart and Oneida Streets.

The present church building, formerly used as All Saints' Mission in Genesee Street, near Amy Avenue, was purchased from the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York. It was formally dedicated early last January, after it had been remodeled at a cost of about \$8,000.

Rev. Mr. Hokerk, an arduous worker, had succeeded in developing growth in the new church and, among other things, had founded a junior church as an auxiliary. He was a man of liberal thought in religion and devoted much of his efforts lecturing and teaching. He resided at 18 Amy Avenue, having moved about a month ago from 15 Kenyon Court.

He was a member of Herkimer Lodge, F.& A.M. He and Mrs. Hokerk, last January, observed the 41st anniversary of their wedding in Union, Broome County. In addition to his widow and son, Rev. Mr. Hokerk is survived by a half-brother, Fred A. Yager, Schenectady.

Morning Herald, Gloversville NY, Tue. 7 Apr 1931

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