

[Kearns, Hal T.]

REV. HAL T. KEARNS, 70, PASTOR HERE, DIES AT HOME

The Rev. Hal T. Kearns, 70, a resident of Auburn for 20 years, died early this morning at his home, 5 Swift St., after a short illness.

He was well known throughout the city and county as a clergyman and as executive secretary of the Cayuga Health Association. He came to Auburn in 1938 as pastor of the First Universalist Church, a position he held for four years.

Mr. Kearns became executive secretary of the Cayuga Health Association, a job he held 13 years, resigning that post about three years ago. He returned two years ago to the pastorate of the Universalist Church, resigning in July of this year.

Born in Salisbury, N. C., Mr. Kearns attended St Lawrence University, graduating from theological seminary there and taking two years of graduate work at Yale University (1920-21). He was chaplain of the Maryland State Penitentiary and superintendent of the state penal farm.

He served as pastor of Universalist churches in Baltimore, Md. and Bridgeport, Conn.

As chaplain with the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I he spent nearly two years in Europe in 1917 and 1918. Since he came to Auburn Mr. Kearns has preached in many pulpits of the city and county. He served a few years as pastor at Throopsville Community Church, at Scipioville and in other community churches.

Besides his wife, Mrs. Edna Northrop Kearns, Mr. Kearns is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Elliott Swineford of Drewry's Bluff, Va., and Mrs. Robert Beaton of Danville, Va.

Services will be at 4 p. m. Wednesday at the Brew Funeral Chapel, the Rev. Harris R. Stewart, D.D., of Aurora, officiating. Burial will be in Bridgeport, Conn.

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