

[Landers, Stephen Presson]

A Tribute to the Departed

VI. REV. STEPHEN PRESSON LANDERS, son of Stephen and Polly (Long) Landers, was born in South Bainbridge (now Afton), N.Y., August 22, 1812, and died in Kirkland, (Oneida Co.), April 15, 1876, in his sixty-fourth year. He was trained to his father's calling, that of farmer, and attended only the common district school until reaching the age of twenty-two, when he entered the Clinton Liberal Institute, and remained there three years. He began to preach in 1836, and labored for awhile in the ministry at Prompton and Gibson, Pa. He was ordained in 1839, at Binghamton, N.Y. In 1840 he moved to Andover, Mass., and from thence in 1841 to Worcester, in the same State, where he lived three years, and was instrumental in laying the foundation of our cause in that city, by the organization of a church and the erection of a house of worship. In 1844 he moved to West Cambridge, and while supplying different parishes in the vicinity on Sundays, devoted his week days mainly to his pursuit of horticulture and to the interests of a private seminary established by members of his household. In 1849 he returned to Clinton, N.Y., where he spent the remainder of his days. This was the former home of his wife, Miss Emily Barker, to whom he was married in 1842. At the time of his funeral she was prostrated on a bed of sickness brought on by overexertion and anxiety on his account.

Mr. Landers was one of the original corporators of the Franklin Iron Works in Clinton, and he had been in late years concerned in other manufactures. He took a specially strong interest in horticulture, and one of the finest orchards in Oneida County was set out and cared for by him. He was very industrious and frugal in his habits, of an amiable and gentle disposition, public-spirited, unselfish in a marked degree, of pure life, and faithful to every trust. "His whole family, even to the remotest branches," writes his daughter (an only child), "are Universalists, and always have been since Universalism as such has been known. In his native town, half the Universalists are named Landers, or are related." We knew Mr. Landers well while he lived in Massachusetts, and we can bear our testimony, from personal knowledge, that he was a man of faith, deeply interested in our denominational work. He leaves to his family and to the church the odor of a good name, the influence of a true and noble life.

*The Universalist Register*, Boston MA, 1877, pp. 108-9