

[Masseck, Frank Lincoln]

REV. F. L. MASSECK PASSES TO SILENT MAJORITY

The Rev. Frank L. Masseck, beloved pastor of the First Universalist Church of this village from 1888 to 1890, passed away two weeks ago [26 Jan] at his home in Santa Paula, California. Only a few weeks ago after the death of a very dear friend, Mrs. Juliet Hendrickson, Mr. Masseck wrote a letter to The Long-Islander telling of the sterling work of Mrs. Hendrickson.

The Santa Paula paper had this to say regarding the former Huntington pastor:

Final tribute was accorded to the memory of Rev. Frank L. Masseck at funeral services held Friday afternoon, January 30, at 2:30 o'clock in the Universalist church here, over the pulpit of which he presided for eight years. Dr. Edson Relfsnider, now pastor of the church and his close personal friend, officiated. The remains were taken to Santa Barbara for cremation. Interment to be made later in the Santa Paula cemetery.

In this manner will be written the last chapter in the life of a local citizen that was filled with good deeds for his fellow man. The time of his funeral service was delayed that his only daughter, Carol Luella (Mrs. Russell S. Smith) might have an opportunity to reach here from her home at Maywood, Ill.

The life of Rev. Masseck was a busy one. It began with his birth at Milford, N.H., March 19, 1865. His parents were Joseph S. Masseck and Sarah Frances Hurd, both natives of Maine. His paternal grandfather, Joseph Massuque, a native of Marseilles, France, came to Saco, Maine, as a sea captain, about 1825, and after a while changed the form of spelling the name to Masseck.

"Dominie" Masseck, as he was known to fellow members of the Rotary Club, was educated in the public schools of Manchester, N.H., and was a member of the University Sunday school, under the pastorate of Rev. L. F. McKinney. In 1883 he moved to Detroit, Mich., where under the influence of Rev. E. L. Rexford, he became a member of the Church of Our Father, and decided to prepare for the ministry.

He was graduated from the Canton Theological school in 1888. About a year later, April 17, 1889, he married Luella M. Clarke, of Potsdam, N.Y., who survives him.

After entering the ministry he held many pastorates including Huntington, N.Y., 1888-1890; Greenpoint (part of Brooklyn, N.Y.), 1890-1891; Mt. Vernon, N.Y., 1891-97; North Attleboro, Mass., 1897-1902; Spencer, Mass., 1902-1905; Brattleboro, Vt., 1905-05; Potsdam, N.Y., 1906-09; Arlington, Mass., 1909-19; and Santa Paula, Calif., 1919-1927.

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He was a member of many church organizations and served as secretary for Sunday School Mission, N.Y. State Convention, 1892-97; Massachusetts Y.P.C.A., General Sunday School Association, and California Universalist convention. The deceased was an executive of the Knights of King Arthur, largest boys' club, interdenominational, 1901-09, and was a member of the original council of Boy Scouts in 1910, being continuously active until his death in the Boy Scout movement, having been awarded the 20 Year Gold Emblem by the National Boy Scout Council.

In addition to his church and Boy Scout activity, Rev. Masseck was active in Red Cross work. During the relief work activity following the St. Francis dam disaster he literally wore himself out working among the flood sufferers. As secretary of the local Chamber of Commerce he also had a fine record. Likewise he accomplished splendid work for the Salvation Army here.

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Transcribed on 26 Mar 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY