

## [Moulton, Herbert Frank]

REV. DR. H. F. MOULTON DEAD  
Pastor of the Universalist Church of Fort Plain Died Friday.

Rev. Dr. Herbert Frank Moulton, pastor of the Universalist church of Fort Plain, died at the parsonage last Friday at noon. The news was a great shock to the people of Fort Plain as the seriousness of Dr. Moulton's brief illness was not generally realized.

Dr. Moulton had been busily engaged with matters concerning the Universalist Fair, which was held at the church on Dec. 9 and 10. On Friday, Dec. 11, Dr. Moulton was taken seriously ill with angina pectoris which caused his death after an illness of a week.

Herbert Frank Moulton was born Sept. 6, 1866, at Scarboro, Me. He was the son of Ira and Lydia Berry Moulton. He graduated from West Brook seminary in 1888 and from Tufts college in 1892, after which he took a business course. On August 2, 1893, he married Effie Smith at Palmer, Mass. His wife survives him. In Dr. Moulton's 33 years in the ministry, he served only four congregations. His first pastorate was at Palmer, Mass., for four years. From there he went to Biddeford, Me., where he was pastor of the Universalist church for 16 years. He then served the Sanford, Mass., Universalist church for two years, coming from there to Fort Plain for a pastorate of over ten years.

He came to Fort Plain in March, 1915, and was in the eleventh year of service as pastor of the local Universalist church. In March, 1925, he celebrated the tenth anniversary of his connection with the local church at which time he was tendered an anniversary dinner by his parishioners. Dr. Moulton had considered retiring from the ministry at that time but the unanimous demand for the continuance of his services on the part of his parishioners induced him to remain.

Dr. Moulton succeeded Rev. H. E. [Elmer] Gilchrist as pastor of the Universalist church of Fort Plain. He found the church in debt and proved his unusual business ability by clearing the society of all indebtedness.

Dr. Moulton had traveled extensively in America and Europe. He was a keen observer and took many photographs and notes of his journeys. These he embodied in illustrated travelogues which were unusually interesting of the Sunday evening services at the Universalist church. He also instituted Sunday evening congregational singing of old-time songs.

Rev. Dr. Moulton stood for progress in the community and unity of action by the churches. He cooperated with Rev. Dr. John Lloyd, the recent Episcopal rector in instituting monthly union community services which have recently been held monthly in the Protestant churches. Dr. Moulton was a

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member of the Masonic fraternity and an honorary member of the Fort Plain Exchange club.

Dr. Moulton was one of the leading pastors in the church history of Fort Plain. He was one of the hardest working pastors the town has ever had and he was untiring in his efforts for the advancement of his church and for the benefit of his parishioners. The community here has experienced a great loss in his sudden passing.

Rev. Dr. Moulton did a great work for the poor and needy cases and his work in this regard will be gratefully remembered.

Dr. Moulton's funeral was one of the most largely attended which was ever held in Fort Plain. It is estimated that fully 500 people were present. The services, held at the church at 2 p.m., were in charge of Rev. George Walker of Carthage, superintendent of the State Universalist society [the NY State Convention of Universalists]. The choir sang three favorite selections of Dr. Moulton.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a blanket of roses from the church society, Sunday School and Missionary society; spray of roses, choir of Universalist church; wreath of magnolia leaves and roses, those who took part in the play "In Walked Jimmy;" wreath of immortelles and roses, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Diefendorf and Miss Hazel Diefendorf; pillow, Masonic lodge; spray of pines, Douglas Ayres jr.; spray of carnations, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bauder and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bauder; spray of chrysanthemums, Harry Eygabroadt; spray of carnations, Miss Irene Hoyer's class. Many flowers were sent to the house during Dr. Moulton's sickness.

On Sunday evening the remains were taken to S. Portland, Me., for services. Sherman Dillenback and Fred Cronkhite accompanied the remains as representatives of the Universalist church of Fort Plain.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday at 2 p.m. at South Portland, Me., a suburb of the city of Portland. They were conducted by Rev. Harry Townsend, Rev. James Valentyne, [and] Rev. Bert Gibbs, Universalist clergymen of Portland. Rev. Mr. Gibbs was formerly pastor of the Herkimer Universalist church at which time he preached in the Fordsbush Universalist church, on several occasions. Burial was made at Dunstan cemetery, West Scarboro, Me.

*Fort Plain Standard*, Fort Plain NY, Thu. 24 Dec 1925

Transcribed on 25 Nov 2018 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY