

[Perry, Edward A.]

The Rev. Edward A. Perry

Very unexpectedly came the hand of Death to the Rev. Edward A. Perry, for over thirteen years the pastor of the Universalist church in this village, at about 12:20 p.m., on Sunday, December 15th, 1907. Mr. Perry, who was in his sixty-sixth year, had been in his usual good health the Sunday preceding when he officiated at the services in the churches here and at Flycreek [Fly Creek], but early in the week he contracted a severe cold which developed into pneumonia. He was taken to Thanksgiving Hospital on Thursday and passed away on Sunday.

A man of broad culture, an eloquent and convincing speaker, a pastor whom his people loved and all in the community and vicinity respected, Mr. Perry's death will be widely mourned. Not only to the bereaved wife [Mary] and sons is sincere sympathy extended but to all who in affliction have been upheld by his ministrations, to all who in doubt have been helped by his council [counsel] and to all who have come to love him as a friend and brother.

The funeral occurred at the parsonage on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock attended by the immediate family and at 2:30 services were held at the Universalist church. The Rev. F. G. Leonard, pastor of the Universalist church at Morris officiated, assisted by the pastors of the other Cooperstown churches. The funeral was attended by the members of the Masons and Odd Fellows fraternities and L. C. Turner Post, G.A.R. Interment in Wayland, Mass.

Edward A. Perry was born at Framington [Framingham], Mass, May 21, 1842. He secured his early education while working at the shoemaker's bench, assisting in the support of his family. After fitting for college he enlisted in Co. I, Fifth Massachusetts Volunteers, at the outbreak of the Civil War and served nine months. After his discharge he entered Tufts College from which he was graduated in 1867. He taught school while studying during the next two years. His first pastorate was at West Scituate, Mass. In January, 1869, he was married to Mary A. Bullard, who survives him. He had four other pastorates in Massachusetts before moving to New York state. They were at Provincetown, Milford, Quincy and Palmer.

In this state he had four pastorates, two of them in Fort Plain, and at Hudson and Cooperstown. He was always active in Masonic, Odd Fellows and Grand Army circles. He served two years as chaplain of the Massachusetts Department of the Grand Army, and went with the officers of that department to the National Encampment in San Francisco.

The Rev. Mr. Perry was a voluminous writer on religious, scientific and nature study subjects. He had a notable collection of Geological and

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botanical specimens. He had been editor of the "Universalist Chronicle" and "Today."

Rev. Mr. Perry is survived by his invalid wife and two sons, Dr. Henry J. Perry and Carlton A. Perry, both of Boston, Mass.

The following Memorial Minute was adopted Monday by the Cooperstown Ministers' Association:

Passing from this life in the very hour at which he had planned to deliver his message of "the larger hope," the Rev. E. A. Perry leaves many to mourn their loss, not only among those who were to have been his hearers, but in the entire community of which he was the oldest resident minister of religion, and in the wider field of his former pastorates.

The members of the Cooperstown Ministers' Association desire to record their share in this general sense of loss and in the profound sympathy for those most keenly bereaved which arises in the hearts of all.

In the death of Mr. Perry this Association has lost a faithful presiding officer and always thoughtful contributor of scholarship and experience; the village has lost an able speaker and tireless champion of civic righteousness; the Christian world has lost a soldier who never turned his back to the foe.

May he rest in peace.

*Otsego Farmer*, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 10 Dec 1907

Transcribed on 15 Jan 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY