

## [Porter, George Judson]

### GEORGE JUDSON PORTER

George Judson Porter died at his home in Macedon, August 12, 1926. He was buried in the Macedon cemetery August 15th, the funeral services being conducted by the State Superintendent, Dr. G. D. [George Delbert] Walker.

Mr. Porter was born in Orleans County, New York, a little over seventy-six years ago. His father [Lafayette F. Porter] was one of our prominent Universalist ministers in the old days and early in life the son decided to give his life to the same work. He was graduated from Meadville Theological Seminary and ordained into the Universalist ministry at Nicholson, Pa., in 1876. Later he had two pastorates in New York State, one at Bemus Point [Chautauqua Co.], the other at Watertown where he ministered for about seven years. Following his ministry in Watertown, Mr. Porter moved to the middle West where for a long time he was engaged in business. He also was prominent politically in the West and was widely sought after as a campaign speaker throughout the Mississippi Valley. He was known to thousands of the past generations in that section as one of the leading political debaters.

About fifteen years ago Mr. Porter returned to the ministry. His first pastorate at this time was in Olinda, Canada, afterward he served as missionary in South Carolina. In 1918 he accepted a pastorate at Cortland, New York, where he served successfully until three and one-half years ago when he received the call to Macedon.

It was in this town that at the age of about seventy-three he achieved the greatest success of his whole ministry and in three and one-half years accomplished as much as is often done in a lifetime. Shortly after accepting this pastorate he organized a Chamber of Commerce in the village which quickly under his direction and leadership did much for civic improvement and the general betterment of village conditions. A little later becoming convinced that village life depended upon localizing itself in all its departments within its own borders, he conceived the idea of organizing a bank. This he did, overcoming many discouragements in the way. He became president of the bank which office he held until the time of his death. This institution was a success from the beginning and last August dedicated a beautiful new bank building which stands as a monument to his genius and foresight.

His activities in civic affairs in no way curtailed his work as minister of the First Universalist church; in fact the church prospered under his ministry as never before.

A great concourse of people came to look at his face for the last time. He was a father confessor to many and a fellow townsman of note, who had in

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the last three and one-half years of his life in many ways changed the entire outlook of the community in which he lived.

Mr. Porter was twice married. He is survived by his wife [Emma], a son, and two daughters.

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Transcribed on 12 Mar 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY