

[Skinner, Clarence Russell]

DR. CLARENCE R. SKINNER

Two years ago, Dr. Clarence R. Skinner of Cambridge, Mass., submitted to a serious operation and his many friends hoped that his recovery would be permanent. His death occurred in the home of his father-in-law, Benjamin M. Ayers, in Stamford, Conn., on August 27. Dr. Skinner was sixty-eight years of age.

His father was editor of "The Brooklyn Daily Eagle" for twenty-five years. His uncle was the famous character-artist of the stage, Otis Skinner. His grandfather was Dr. Charles A. Skinner, who held pastorates in the Universalist churches of Hartford, Melrose, and Somerville in New England.

Dr. Skinner was one of the Brooklynites from Erasmus Hall to become a student in St. Lawrence University, in the Class of 1904. His interest in the Universalist ministry was strong in his senior year which led to his acceptance of the position as assistant to Dr. Frank Oliver Hall in the pastorate of the Church of the Divine Paternity in New York City. At the end of two years, he became pastor of the Universalist Church in Mount Vernon, serving from 1906 to 1910. He accepted the call to the Grace Universalist Church in Lowell, Mass., serving until 1914 when he became professor of social studies in the Theological School of Tufts College. He succeeded Dr. Lee S. McColleston as dean of the School in 1933, continuing in this office until 1945, when he retired. He was the founder and also pastor of the Community Church in Boston for several years in his period of teaching at Tufts College. In 1906, he was married to Miss Clara Ayers, who was a class-mate in St. Lawrence University.

He received his master of arts degree from St. Lawrence University, also his honorary degree of doctor of divinity. He was outstanding as a Universalist writer with two powerful contributions in his book, "Hell's Ramparts Fell," and "A Religion for Greatness."

He is survived by his widow. The memorial service was conducted in a funeral chapel in Stamford, on August 30, and burial was in Long Ridge Cemetery, Long Ridge, Conn. The officiating clergymen were: Dr. Cornelius Greenway of Brooklyn, who, during his course at Tufts College was a student in Dr. Skinner's classes; Dr. John M. Ratcliff, his successor as dean; Prof. Alfred S. Cole, a fellow member of the faculty, and Dr. Roger F. Etz, a former general superintendent. Louis H. Pink, a class-mate at St. Lawrence University, in his eulogy spoke of their long friendship, dating back to Brooklyn days. Dr. Greenway said, "Dr. Skinner opened my soul's eyes' windows and his strong personality swept out my then narrow and bigoted outlook."

Truly Dr. Skinner was a gentleman and a scholar. He was of a quiet nature, reflecting his Quaker background, but in his heart there was an

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abounding and fervid devotion to our great Cause. He held nothing back in his career of service. He was a former president of the Massachusetts Universalist Convention and a frequent speaker at denominational gatherings. His death is a serious loss to the Universalist church and to the Christian mission.

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Transcribed on 24 Jun 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY