

[Ward, Samuel R.]

Rev. Samuel R. Ward.  
RICHFIELD SPRINGS, N.Y.

The Rev. Samuel R. Ward, of Richfield Springs, was born in Ogden, Monroe county, N. Y., December 27, 1829. His father, Isaac Ward, was a blacksmith by trade, and a native of the State of New Jersey. His mother, Margaret (Young) Ward, was born in Ireland, but came of Scotch ancestry. The subject of this sketch passed his early days in Niagara county, and received the rudiments of his education there. At nineteen he began teaching school, and at the age of twenty-three took up the study of theology, in preparation for the Universalist ministry ... In all, Mr. Ward has seen nearly thirty years of successful service in the village of Richfield Springs, and his long residence there speaks stronger than any words, of the place he holds in the hearts of his people. He has always taken a deep interest in public affairs, particularly in educational matters, and was for a number of years an active member of the Board of Education of that village. Mr. Ward was married in 1852, to Thankful M. Sherman of Niagara county, and they have three children: Henry, Charles L. [of Watertown] and Lucy [Louise] E., wife of Benj. W. Franklin.

*Otsego Farmer*, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 22 Feb 1895

#### RICHFIELD SPRINGS

Richfield Springs, May 16.—The many friends of the Rev. S. R. Ward were much grieved when they learned of the paralytic stroke which he suffered yesterday morning at his home in this village. He appeared at his breakfast as usual yesterday morning although complaining of not feeling well. Soon after more serious symptoms were noticed in his condition when he became quite helpless, he being unable to use his lower limbs. The left leg and arm are now paralyzed. While the Rev. Mr. Ward has the use of one arm he is not able to control its motion. His condition this morning remains unchanged. His mind is clear, although not quite as keen as when in normal health. He passed a very restless night and his son, Dr. Henry A. Ward of this village, is in frequent attendance at his bedside. Miss Louise Franklin, the granddaughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Ward, was called here from her home in Mohawk yesterday.

This year completes the fiftieth of Mr. Ward's service in the ministry of the Universalist Church, and although less than 73 years of age he has undoubtedly undermined his health in his faithful work in his different

[Ward, Samuel R.]

parishes, which have included at various times Springfield Center, Van Hornesville, South Columbia, Monticello and Schuyler Lake, as well as the Church of the Redeemer in this village, and the long drives which have devolved upon him every Sunday have been very hard at times.

The Rev. Mr. Ward is one of the oldest and best beloved of Richfield Springs's citizens, and that he will soon be in his usual health is the much desired wish of all.

*Herald-Dispatch*, Utica NY, Fri. 16 May 1902

### Town Topics

—Rev. S. R. Ward, the beloved pastor of the Universalist church of this village, who was stricken with partial paralysis last week, seems to be gaining somewhat, intelligence that his hundreds of friends will greet with pleasure. He is gradually gaining control of his afflicted limbs, rests comfortably, and it is the fervent wish of all who know him that he may be spared to his half century of a pastor's life, which will be concluded in May, 1903. During that time he has never been a single Sunday without a pastoral charge, a truly remarkable record.

*Richfield Springs Mercury*, Richfield Springs NY, Thu. 29 May 1902

### Rev. Samuel R. Ward

Dies at Richfield Springs After a Service of nearly Fifty Years in the Ministry

Rev. Samuel R. Ward, one of the best known clergymen in this section of the state, died at his home at Richfield Springs Friday in the 73d year of his age. Had Elder Ward lived another year he would have served an even half century as a pastor in the Universalist church. He was ordained as a minister October 6, 1853, and for forty-nine years had been actively engaged in church work. There are very many families in this and Otsego counties that have felt his kindly influence and loved his splendid personality. Elder Ward's first charge was at Southport, Pa., where after a year he took up his life work at the place of his ordination, Portageville, N.Y. After some years there he removed to Rome, preaching there and at Lee Center. During his pastorate the civil war broke out and Mr. Ward became a most ardent advocate of union principles and with a wealth of eloquence and

[Ward, Samuel R.]

personal magnetism he made many fervent addresses to arouse public spirit. At the birth of the republican party he became an ardent disciple of its principles and remained steadfast to them through life. He has served in many campaigns as a public speaker and his logic and earnest eloquence were a valuable aid to his party. In 1862 he moved to Richfield Springs and remained there 11 years, also assuming the pastorate of the church at Springfield Center, during six years of that period. In 1873 he removed to Syracuse[,] leaving that city after a year to take up a charge at Middleville and Newport. There he remained three years, returning to Richfield Springs in 1877. A full quarter of a century he has labored there during which time he has preached also at Schuyler Lake every alternate Sunday. Seventeen years of the time he has been a pastor of the Universalist church at VanHornesville, preaching for many years at Cedarville and Richfield. Previous to his last illness he had charge of the church at Richfield, the Kitt Shipman Memorial church at Springfield Center and the Stone church at Schuyler Lake. The funeral was attended from the Universalist church at Richfield Springs yesterday at 2 p.m., Rev. [Edward A.] Perry of Cooperstown officiating. Deceased was active in Masonic circles and the burial service of the order was read at the grave. The surviving relatives are the aged wife [Thankful Sherman Ward], who has been the faithful companion since 1852, two sons, Dr. Horace A. [should be Henry A.], of Richfield Springs, and Charles of Watertown, and three grandchildren, Louise and Kenneth Franklin of Mohawk and Ward Franklin of Newark, N. J.

*Ilion Citizen*, Ilion NY, Fri. 20 Jun 1902

#### Town Topics

—Artist F. F. Martinez is engaged in painting a life size portrait of the late Rev. S. R. Ward, which will decorate the wall of the Richfield Springs Masonic lodge. The work under this artistic ability of Mr. Martinez will be an admirable memorial to the worthy deceased brother.

*Richfield Springs Mercury*, Richfield Springs NY, Thu. 3 Jul 1902

[Ward, Samuel R.]

Springfield Centre

The Rev. E. A. Perry of Cooperstown preached a memorial sermon for the late Rev. S. R. Ward at the Kitt-Shipman-Catlin Universalist Memorial chapel on Sunday. Mr. Perry Spoke very feelingly of this beloved pastor, of his kindly ways and benevolent disposition and beloved by all who knew him. Mr. Perry spoke of being the last surviving minister who was present at the dedication service in July last. He mentioned that Mr. Ward preached his last sermon in this chapel. A beautiful window bears his name, which was draped in black; also the pulpit, and beautiful flowers were tastefully arranged. Miss VanderVeer presided at the organ. All joined in the singing.

*Richfield Springs Mercury*, Richfield Springs NY, Thu. 10 Jul 1902

Transcribed on 2 May 2018 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY