

[Whitney, Jacob]

DEATH OF REV. JACOB WHITNEY

The Universalist public will be pained to learn of the death of this veteran in the ranks of our ministry. He entered the ministry in 1831, and [for] thirty-three years, according to his ability and strength, did service for our most precious faith. His earliest labors were performed in the vicinity of Utica, N. Y. He received ordination in 1832, Rev. I[saac] W. Williamson, D. D. preaching the ordination sermon. His first settlement as a minister was in Depauville, Jefferson Co., N. Y. He was afterward settled as pastor at Cleaveland [sic], Ohio; Akron, Ohio; Rushford, N. Y., and perhaps at other places. He was for man years editor of the *Western Luminary*, published in Rochester, N. Y. Since the consolidation of that paper with the *Christian Ambassador*, he has labored as an itinerant, traveling from Boston to the Mississippi River. Br. Whitney had a feeble voice which partially unfitted him for public speaking, excepting to small audiences, but he wielded a vigorous pen, to which fact the readers of our denominational journals will bear testimony. His letters from the army, published in the *Ambassador*, were full of information and interest. They had the merit of touching those topics about which we were most anxious to receive light. His writings were always full of practical common sense and he was remarkable for the persistency with which he stood by his convictions of duty regardless of consequences.

A significant instance of this was his enlisting as a private in the service of his country though far past military age. His soul overflowed with patriotism, which he did not allow to evaporate in words, but rather made it concrete in deeds, and really laid his life as an offering on the altar of freedom. He died of a disease contracted in camp, in the hospital at Frederick, Md., April 21st, 1864, aged fifty-five years. The chaplain of the hospital, in a touching letter written to Sister Whitney, communicating the sad intelligence of her husband's death, says: "My dear Madam, You know your husband's religious views – with those sentiments he died. His last words were, 'I trust myself in the hands of my Heavenly Father.'"

His remains were brought to Rochester and buried at Mt. Hope, May 8th, 1864. Funeral services were held at the Universalist church, Brs. [George] Montgomery, Dean, [Edmund] Ottoway and A[sa] Saxe participating. A wife and several children are left to mourn his departure.

A. [Rev. Asa] Saxe

Christian Ambassador, New York NY, Sat. 25 Jun 1864

[a Universalist newspaper]