

[Williams, Leon Oscar]

RETIRED LOCAL CHURCHMAN IS TAKEN BY DEATH

The Rev. L. O. Williams, 74 years old, passes away at General Hospital

The Rev. Leon O. Williams, retired Universalist minister who served the Church of the Messiah, now the First Universalist Church, North and Mariner streets, [for] seventeen years, died last night in the General Hospital of a cardiac-bronchial ailment. He was 74 years old.

Although the Rev. Mr. Williams left the ministry in 1925, he continued an active career as lecturer and guest pastor, preaching and speaking in many churches and institutions here and throughout the East. When he retired, the Church of the Messiah was taken over by the Rev. Bruce Swift and the church name changed to the First Universalist.

The Rev. Mr. Williams was born and spent his youth and training period in New England. Born in Lee, Mass., he attended Dartmouth College and was graduated from there in 1886. Following his undergraduate course, he prepared for the ministry at Tufts Divinity school in Boston, Mass. He received his degree from the latter institution in 1889.

His first appointment was at Claremont, N.H., where he remained until 1893, when he moved to the Ashmont Universalist Church in Boston. After ten years' service there, he received a call in 1903 to the Universalist Church in Stoughton, Mass. He was minister there until 1908.

His Buffalo pastorate began in 1908. It was in this city that he served the longest period of his career. He was known here as a scholar of religious and cultural subjects.

His clubs and organizations included Phi Beta Kappa, to which he was elected at Dartmouth; the Tuesday club, the Masons, Psi Upsilon fraternity and the Dartmouth Club of Buffalo. He lived at 80 Richmond Avenue.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Avis P. Williams whom he married in 1890 in Marlow, N.H.; a son, John R. Williams, now at Dartmouth, and a daughter, Miss Marjorie Williams.

Funeral services will be held at the First Universalist Church tomorrow afternoon at 2:30. the officiating ministers will be the Rev. Mr. Swift and Dr. Richard W. Boynton of the University of Buffalo.

*Buffalo Courier-Express, Buffalo NY, Wed. 3 Apr 1935*

[Williams, Leon Oscar]

THE REV. L. O. WILLIAMS

The Rev. L. O. Williams died at the General Hospital in Buffalo, N.Y., Tuesday, April 2. Death was due to heart disease. For twenty years he was minister of the First Universalist Church of Buffalo. Since he retired in 1927 he has preached occasionally and given courses of lectures in various cities.

*The Buffalo Evening News* says:

"He became pastor of the Church of the Messiah in 1908, attracting wide attention for his grasp of religious and cultural subjects. Mr. Williams was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Psi Upsilon fraternities, the Dartmouth Club of Buffalo, the Tuesday Club and the Masons. He leaves his wife, Mrs. Avis P. Williams; a son, John R. Williams, now at Dartmouth, and a daughter, Miss Marjorie Williams."

Funeral services were held Thursday, April 4, at 2:30, in the First Universalist Church, with the Rev. Bruce Swift, pastor of the church, and Dr. Richard M. Boynton, University of Buffalo, officiating.

Mr. Williams resided at 80 Richmond Avenue.

Leon Oscar Williams was born at Lee, N.H., July 5, 1861, the son of Charles H. and Anna C. (Langley) Williams. He received his training at Coes Academy, Northwood, N.H., where he graduated in 1882, Dartmouth, A.B., in 1886, Crane (Tufts) B.D. and A.M. in 1889. He took another year of graduate work in Greek at Boston University. He was licensed as a Universalist minister in 1888 and ordained in 1889. On Dec. 24, 1889, he was married to Miss Avis Elvine Petts at Marlow, N.H.

He had served churches as follows: Claremont, N.H., 1889-1892. Ashmont, Boston, Mass., 1892-1902. Stoughton, Mass., 1902-1907. Buffalo, N. Y., 1907-1927.

In 1908 he was a delegate from the American Peace Society to the International Peace Conference, London, England. He was a 32d degree Mason and had held various state offices in his denomination.

Mr. Williams contributed frequently to *The Christian Leader* and was regarded as an able writer and a fine, strong man.

*Christian Leader*, Boston MA, Sat. 13 Apr 1935

Transcribed on 19 Oct 2015 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY