

[Brooks, Halbert G.]

HALBERT G. BROOKS

Halbert G. Brooks, after a long, busy and useful life, passed to the higher life January 2, at his home. Mr. Brooks has been ill for some months, but kept smiling, and walked among his friends and family almost until the last. He spent the Christmas holidays with his sons in Akron, and was fatally stricken on the return journey. He died as he would liked to have died, without suffering and without the consciousness of the great sorrow his passing brought is beloved wife and children and friends.

Simple ceremonies were held in his home Monday afternoon, and in the Chapel at Mt. Hope, where the Masonic services were read. Rev. Dr. A. W. [Arthur Wilder] Grose and Rev. W. W. [William Wallace] Rose officiated. Hosts of his loving friends and a bank of flowers attested the extent to which Mr. Brooks lives in us all.

Whatever mansions God hath prepared for us it is certain that these earthly bodies were never intended as our eternal homes. Therefore, "he is not dead, he is just away."

In the death of Mr. Halbert G. Brooks, this parish has suffered a very real loss. He has been a resident of Rochester and a member of the parish for nearly a quarter of a century, and for twenty years from 1897 to 1917 he was a member of the Board of Trustees, and during most of that time was chairman of the Board. His period of service on the Board included three successive pastorates, those of Rev. Lyman B. Squires, Dr. [Isaac P.] Coddington and Dr. [Arthur Wilder] Grose; it also covered the important period of the building of the Sunday School addition to the old church, the sale of that property, the building of the new church, and the payment of a burdensome church debt. No one was more influential in shaping the financial and temporal policies of the church during all that time than he. Upon the expiration of his term as trustee three years ago, he refused a reelection, although he was most urgently requested to serve another term.

In all those years his services were of the greatest importance and value in promoting the interests of the parish. While he gave most generously in money, his greatest service was in the time he gave and the efficient work he did for the church. No layman connected with the society has left a deeper impress on its permanent development than Mr. Brooks. No one had a more watchful interest in the welfare of the church than he. His death removes from the parish one who for many years was recognized as a leader and one of its most influential members.

Heman W. Morris

*Our Outlook*, First Universalist Church, Rochester NY, Fri. 9 Jan 1920