

[Cary, Anson]

"On the 3d inst., at his residence in this village [Oxford, Chenango Co. NY], the Hon. ANSON CARY, aged 80 years. Dropsy on the heart, accompanied by debility incident to old age, closed his earthly career after a short illness of about three weeks.

"In performing the duty of recording the death of this aged and venerable man, it can not be otherwise than gratifying to give a brief history of his life, character and public services. The deceased had been a resident of this town for nearly fifty years, and was one of the pioneers who first settled in this vicinity, then a wilderness, and it is believed he was the last surviving emigrant to this town at so early a period. In those 'times that tried men's souls,' he early espoused the cause of freedom. He entered the Revolutionary army at the age of sixteen, and served in three campaigns of the war which terminated in our independence, and for some years past, he had received a pension for the services which he rendered in that patriotic struggle. A great part of his life, after moving to this county, was spent in discharging the duties of various public offices which he has been called to fill by the choice of the people or by Executive appointment. He had been justice of the peace, member of our State Legislature; had served as sheriff of Chenango county, and for a considerable time was one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas.

"The deceased was well known in this and the adjacent counties, as a man of exemplary character, and his virtues had strongly attached to him a large circle of friends and acquaintances. His numerous family have lost in the death of Judge Cary, a kind and indulgent father, who had exercised to the last the fondest affections and regard for their welfare, and his enlightened and supervisory influence was felt in all their domestic relations. He was a practical philanthropist, for want never went sorrowing from his door. He had long cherished the belief in the doctrine of impartial grace for the salvation of all mankind, and he was to the latest period of his life, when fully sensible of his approaching dissolution, blessed with the possession of his mental faculties, and cheered with the hope of a happy immortality."

The above, copied from the Oxford Times of May 14th, is a voluntary tribute of testimony to departed worth. It was written by a member of a different religious society than that to which the deceased belonged, and it shows the estimation in which he was held, even by those of opposite opinions. He possessed a powerful intellect, and remarkably did it retain its vigor to the last. He had been a firm and unwavering believer in the sentiment of universal salvation for about sixty years, and no man living in this section was as well known to the denomination in this and the adjoining states, as was Judge Cary. He generally was present at the meeting of the Central Association of Universalists, from the time of its formation, until the organization of the Chenango Association in 1823—after which he attended

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every or nearly every meeting until 1839. He presided that year as Moderator of the council, since when, deeply to his regret, old age and increasing debility have caused his absence. As long as health and strength permitted, he was a uniform attendant upon the stated services of the sanctuary, and the tear that frequently gathered in his eye, and that sometimes trickled down his cheek, as he heard proclaimed the boundless love of God, and the endless purity and bliss of all intelligent beings, proved that his faith was seated in his affections as well as his intellectual powers. During the last calls I made him, he manifested great anxiety to hear of the condition of our cause, and joy upon receiving information of its prosperity here and elsewhere, and the afternoon previous to his death, the first, and about the only inquiry he made, or was able to make of me, was, how our meetings were attended the day (Sunday) before—and he appeared much gratified to learn that there more present than was expected, and that our congregations were increased. Less than a week before his departure, he spoke of the desire indicated and effort made to shake his faith, and of the extreme folly of any person to expect any alteration while he retained his reason. He conversed with his wife, who is a member of another sect, nearly every day of his last illness, upon the subject of his religious belief, and when near the close of life, requested her, when he was dead and gone, to think of that faith which sustained him in the severest agony, gave him the strongest confidence in God, and enabled him to bear the pains and ills of life without a murmur. The insatiate archer came, and he calmly and peacefully fell asleep in Jesus, without a struggle or a groan.

His funeral was attended and his remains followed to the grave by an immense assemblage of our citizens, May 4th, and on Sunday last his funeral sermon was delivered by the writer, in the Universalist meeting house, which was filled to overflowing. My God bless his truly afflicted partner with whom he has lived more than 57 years, his deeply sorrowing children, and all that are connected to him by the ties of consanguinity and affection, with the assurance that, "as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

J. T. G. [Rev. John Temple Goodrich]

*Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate*, Utica NY, Fri. 20 May 1842  
[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 1 Sep 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY