

[Fry, Rhodes]

OBITUARY

Died—In Hartwick, on the 25th of April last, Mr. Rhodes Fry, in the 75th year of his age. Mr. Fry was one of the first settlers of that town, was a member of the first Society of Universalists in this State, and sustained an unimpeachable moral character, and an unshaken faith in the "Gospel that was preached to Abraham," in which he continued unto the last. The writer of this visited him in his last sickness, two days before his death, and was by him requested to preach a sermon at his funeral; he made all other necessary arrangements of his affairs, and retained his senses until the last. He bore his sickness with unexampled patience, and died without a struggle or a groan. But notwithstanding all those facts, and before the funeral services were ended, it was reported by the opposers of the doctrine of unlimited grace, the "he renounced his faith and died in despair." The writer is unwilling to believe those who published the falsehood, believed it false:— for preachers of endless misery, have been in the constant habit of *telling their hearers* "that *all* Universalists renounce their faith on a death bed." Therefore knowing the opinions of the deceased, and on hearing of his death, they doubtless believed he had renounced his faith. O shame, where is thy blush? And O bigotry, where is thy shame?—"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

J. [Job] Potter

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[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 12 Aug 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY