

[Harsen, Cornelius]

In the city of New-York, on the evening of the 27th October, Colonel CORNELIUS HARSEN, aged 55 years, after a long and painful sickness.

It seldom falls to our lot to record an event which will be more generally felt by the denomination of Universalists, than the decease of Br. Harsen. For many years he has taken an active and prominent part in every measure connected with the interests of our cause; and by the Third Universalist Church in particular, of which he was an Elder, his loss will be deeply felt. He was one of the very small number who first undertook the establishment of a Society in this part of the city, and it is to his exertions and assistance that it is much indebted for the stand which it now occupies.

While as a society and church we mourn the loss of our brother, and mingle our tears with his bereaved family, there is much to console us in the afflicting dispensation. As our brother had lived in the faith of universal salvation, so it was his happiness to die in its consolation. He afforded an eminent example, if any more were needed, that such a belief is fully equal to all the exigencies of life, as also, in the hour of death... In the last conversation the writer had with him, he expressed how he was sustained in all his sufferings by the blessed influence of his faith, and appropriated to his case the experience of the apostle, "though the outward man perish, the inward man is renewed day by day. In his addresses to his wife and children he always directed them to his hope and trust in God, and told them that the assurance he felt that he should [would] meet them in a holier and happier state together with the ransomed family of mankind, was the rich source from which he drew consolation and support in the prospect of parting from them.

...We feel that we have lost a valuable member, a friend and brother; a widow mourns an affectionate husband, and a large family of children for a kind and indulgent parent. May a merciful God dispense to each severally according to need...

*Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate*, Utica NY, Fri. 30 Nov 1838  
[a Universalist newspaper]

The Harsen Ministerial Relief Fund, controlled by the N. Y. State Convention, was founded by Cornelius Harsen, who died in 1838. His bequest of six thousand dollars has grown into goodly proportions by the thoughtfulness of others.

Abel C. Thomas, *A Century of Universalism in Philadelphia and New-York, Sketches of Its History in Reading [PA], Hightstown [NJ] Brooklyn and Elsewhere* (Philadelphia: 1872), p. 339

[Harsen, Cornelius]

Cornelius Harsen, father of Dr. Harsen, was born in November, 1783. In November, 1805, he intermarried with Joanna Henrietta Rittek, of an old Knickerbocker family, whose records extend back for two hundred years in this city. Eight children were the fruit of this marriage. Mr. Harsen (Colonel Harsen, as he was ordinarily called) was a man of note in his day, and of genial, social temperament. During the war of 1812, he served as colonel of artillery in the New-York State Militia, having charge of the forts for the defence of the harbor. In all the relations of life he was highly esteemed as a man and a citizen. He died of phthisis, in October, 1838. His wife, who survived him five years, also died of phthisis. Mrs. Harsen was a devoted mother, a most notable housewife, of the true Holland type; distinguished for her charities, she was esteemed by all who knew her. She was remarkable for great personal attractions, no less than for the purity and benevolence of her character.

John Glover Adams, *Memoir of Jacob Harsen, M.D., read before the New-York Academy of Medicine, June 1, 1864* (1864)

Transcribed on 18 Apr 2013 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY