

[Holmes, Allen J.]

Death of Allen J. Homes.

Died, in Stillwater, Saratoga co., March 7th, 1860, ALLEN J. HOLMES, aged 51 years. In the death of Br. Holmes, the Universalist Society of Mechanicsville has lost a faithful and respected member; the community has lost an honored citizen; and his family circle has lost therefrom a worthy christian member, who, as husband, father or brother, adorned his christian profession by every grace and virtue. For many years Br. Holmes was a member and officer in the Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess co., N.Y., and at the time of his death he was Deacon of that church, never having been deposed from the office. But he had slowly changed his views so as to sympathize and labor with the Universalists at Mechanicsville, to which town he removed some two or three years ago; and at the time of his death he was one of the Trustees of the Universalist Society in that village. He served the Hudson River Association as Moderator of its Council, at its last annual session, being a delegate thereto from the Mechanicsville Society; and in every way, by word and deed, he labored to extend the joyous faith he cherished. His was a true life. For the many years that he was a member and officer of the Presbyterian Church, he honored his profession; and when he was obliged to change his views and recognize the glorious doctrine of the final reconciliation of all men to God, in Jesus Christ, he carried into his new relations the same zeal, the same piety, the same devotedness, the same fidelity. His former pastor of the Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church acknowledged that he died a member and officer in that church, they never having deposed him, so much was he respected as a man and a christian, although (in remarks made by his former pastor at his funeral) "his alienation from the Presbyterian church was deeply regretted."

Br. Pomfret, of Albany, attended the funeral at the homestead, and also went with the family to Dutchess co., where the remains were taken for burial, and there preached a sermon, in the church of which he had so long been an honored member and officer, in which he payed [sic] a fitting tribute to his memory.

Long will that day be remembered by the friends.—Sadly solemn, yet joyful was the duty Br. Pomfret had to perform! Such a life and such a death—they have a lesson for those who remain. He lived a devoted religious life; he bore his sickness with patience and submission to the Divine Will; he died rejoicing in the faith of the final redemption of all.

But his death takes a husband and father from the home circle<sup>1</sup>, while his presence was still needed. May those who mourn his death look unto God,

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<sup>1</sup> His wife was Hannah Holmes and his children included Phebe, Mary, John, Joseph, Jonas, Amanda, Caroline, Catherine, and Abraham.

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and find HIM to be "a very present help in trouble." And the young Society at Mechanicsville will feel his death. He contributed largely towards the maintenance of religious services, and the expense of the Society.—His loss will be deeply felt. But not alone by material aid did he help the Society! His presence was a benediction. His personal influence as a NOBLE CHRISTIAN MAN—that his best contribution to the Society. His life preached; his character was a sermon, whose persuasive power none could resist. And their loss—who can make good? God grant that his mantle may fall on many. He has passed through the shade and now is entering into rest.

G. W. S.

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 14 Apr 1860  
[a Universalist newspaper]

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