

[Lamb, Joshua]

OBITUARY.

When names associated with the early history of our cause are stricken from the roll of the living, it is due to their memory that we enter them on our denominational records, and thus affectionately pass them over to posterity. The future historian may gather them up as gems to adorn his pages, and with philosophical accuracy determine their position and assign them their niche in the temple of truth.

Among such names we recognize that of Hon. Joshua Lamb, of Columbus, Chenango Co., N.Y., who died on the 6th of January, 1864. He was born in Oxford, Worcester Co., Mass. on the 12th of February, 1780. He visited Columbus [NY]—then Brookfield—in 1802, and settled there in 1804. He was the same year elected to a town office, which he held for several years, and then was promoted to other and higher offices by the suffrages of his fellow-townsmen. He was County Judge for six years and Postmaster for twenty-one years. He was not slothful in business. His integrity was impeachable, and he was frequently chosen as arbiter, to settle disputes between neighbors involving the most important issues. Such was his business reputation.

Judge Lamb was a Universalist. His native town was among the first in New England to give birth to a Universalist society. And this society Dr. [Thomas] Whittemore, in his Modern History of Universalism, celebrates as "the parent of the General Convention of Universalists. At a meeting [on] August 5, 1785, they voted that the society write to Rev. Mr. [John] Murray and the Rev. Elhanan Winchester, desiring their assistance as public teachers at an association appointed, by this society, the 14th day of September next, to meet at Oxford at nine A.M."

Under the influence of this society, for years cherishing as a subject of laudable pride, the memory of this first associational meeting, the heart and mind of young Lamb were unfolded; and who shall say that the friends of our cause in this State were not greatly indebted to this influence for the invitation which he extended to Rev. N.[Nathaniel] Stacy, to appoint the first meeting ever convened in the State of New York, for Conventional organization, at a house he and his brother had just erected? Be this as it may, such an invitation was extended and accepted; and there, in the town of Columbus, near the spot where he died, in an upper chamber, that meeting convened on the 6th of June, 1806, and organized the first Association of Universalists in the State, which was named "The Western Association of Universalists in the State of New York." There were present at this meeting, as delegates from the General Convention of Universalists, Revs. Hosea Ballou, William Farwell, J. Flagg and Paul Dean.

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I visited the room in which this organization was effected, and felt the sacredness of its associations. In full view of it, the funeral obsequies were performed, and near it his remains have found their final resting-place [in Lamb's Corners, a.k.a. Columbus Corners Cemetery].

Judge Lamb leaves a widow [Huldah], and as his best record and most desirable monument, four sons, honored and respected by all who know them. His only daughter, Ambrosia, wife of Lewis White, Esq., of Willow Vale, seems to have gone before "to prepare a place for him in the Father's house of mansions," having died on the 26th of December last. Precious is the memory of the just.

T.[Theodore] D. Cook

Utica, N.Y.

Christian Ambassador, New York, NY, Sat. 23 Jan 1864
[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 26 Jan 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY