

[Sawens, Martha Rood]

Died, in Watertown, N.Y., Feb. 28th, Mrs. MARTHA SAWENS, in the 90th year of her age.

Mrs. Sawens' father, Daniel Rood, M.D., moved from Massachusetts in 1791 to Monroe county, in this State, when it was a wilderness. She was married [there] to Jonas Sawens in 1796, where she resided on a farm for fifty-five years. Mrs. Sawens became a convert to Universalism under the ministry of Rev. Thomas Billinghamurst, who preached in Mrs. Sawens' house, afterwards in the school house in their neighborhood. From this period to the time of her death, she was a devoted and enthusiastic Christian Universalist.

There are some items of interest associated with her labors, that may prove not a little surprising to some young ministers at the present time. When Rev. Liscomb Knapp located with the Society over which Father Billinghamurst had ministered for many years, and to which Mrs. Sawens was attached, she boarded him; and then, as now, the people wanted their minister neatly attired for his pulpit services. Mrs. Sawens went among the ladies of the Society, and each contributed one, two and three pounds of their finest wool; and the young minister by this means was furnished with a suit of black throughout, including an overcoat.

The most blessed trait of her character was entire confidence in the love of God; and it was a source of joy to assist the helpless and needy, regardless of race, color or condition. No one destitute ever left her door cold, hungry or naked, no matter who they were. Her stay on this earth was long, but useful, and she rendered all who came within her influence hopeful and happy. Mrs. [Mercy] Morse, the widow of the later Rev. Pitt Morse, and Mrs. [Eliza] Clapp, cheerfully ministered unto her as affectionate daughters should, during her last sickness. She retained her faculties to the last, and her confidence in God's love grew stronger and stronger to the last. Her funeral was attended by the Rev. Mr. [John H.] Stewart, as the resident pastor was absent at the time. Her remains were removed to Rochester, N.Y., where Rev. Mr. [Asa] Saxe officiated at her burial [in Mt. Hope Cemetery].

D. C. [DeWitt Clinton] Tomlinson

Christian Ambassador, New York, NY, Sat. 27 Apr 1867
[a Universalist newspaper]