

[Scott, Martin]

FRIENDSHIP DEPARTM'T.

Martin Scott died at his home Monday night a little after ten o'clock, at the good old age of 83 years. He was about the last of the old settlers of Allegany county, coming here from New Hampshire nearly 60 years ago. The funeral was held at the Universalist church Wednesday, at two o'clock.

Weekly Dispatch, Belmont NY, Wed. 25 Jan 1893

THE LATE MARTN SCOTT¹

The chief incidents of Martin Scott's life were sketched by his former pastor and friend, Rev. F.[Francis] M. Alvord, at the funeral, which occurred January 25th, at the Universalist church, after the interment, in the presence of a large audience. He said in part:

"Martin Scott was born in the year 1809, and came with his parents to Friendship in 1822, and has been a resident of our town 70 years. He has been a merchant in our village 55 years, and you all know what the manner of his life has been. My acquaintance with him covers a period of nearly 40 years, and his uniform courtesy, his candid spirit and his stalwart integrity has [have] challenged my highest admiration and won universal confidence and respect. His name has always been the synonym of honesty. I do not believe that he would intentionally wrong a brother man, for his own right hand. His word was as good as his bond. And is there in all this world a grander moral spectacle than the truly upright man? He who walks circumspectly all through life, who spurns all gains but honest gains, that no gold can buy, and no official honors can corrupt, whose entire life is squared by rigid morality and uncompromising principle, such a man is worthy of all praise. It is hardly idolatry to reverence the noblest work of God.

Brother Scott was one of the oldest Masons in town. I became a member of Allegany Lodge in 1854, but he was in before me. He had been Master of our Lodge and represented us in the Grand Lodge of New York. He was a true Mason. The fraternal spirit and social nature of our Order were dear to his heart. At his request, you have buried him with Masonic honors. Let all Masons keep his memory green in their hearts, for in his life he honored us by his upright conduct and well ordered life.

¹ The part of this passage between a portrait of Martin Scott at the top of the page and the passage itself is missing from this source, and it may have contained a part of the article about him.

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When I came to this town in 1854, among my earliest friends were Bro. Scott and his family. Our parish was first organized in his house, and he was identified with it from the beginning. As long as his health permitted, he was chairman of our board of trustees, a liberal supporter of our cause, a constant attendant at church and a most devoted friend of our liberal faith. For the last nine years he has been a great sufferer; on some subjects his mind has been under a partial eclipse, and he has not seemed to us like the Martin Scott of other days. But his confidence in his faith never wavered. It was dear to him to the very last. I am here to-day at his special request repeatedly made to me. But [only] few of the original members of our parish are left. One after another drops out of our ranks. But a short time and we shall all be gone. Our children will have to carry on the work, which we began in weakness but in faith.

I am an old man. For more than three years I have been living on borrowed time. Every funeral I attend I feel that it may be the last one. It will not be long before Allegany Lodge No. 125 of F. & A. M. Masons and my neighbors and friends, will have to perform the same duty for me which we perform for Brother Scott to-day. But in the evening of my days, with the lamp of life burning low in its socket, I contemplate the future with the most pleasing anticipations. There are deep things in the Bible, in Providence and in human life which we may not fully understand until the opening of the great seals. But there can be nothing hidden opposed to God's revealed will. I ardently expect to meet my parents who have been in heaven for more than a third of a century, and of whom I cannot think to-day without a feeling bordering on reverence, and my kind brothers and sweet sister, with whose names are linked the sweetest memories of childhood; and our two little boys who left us all too soon for our own hearts, but none too soon for the angels, and Brother Scott and the people of my former charge, and all mankind in that world where sin casts no shadow, sorrow drapes no tears, and death claims no victim, but where the universal radiance smiles and God is all in all."

Rev. F. M. Alvord was assisted in the funeral services by Rev. J. J. [Jay Jenkins] Brayton. The business places were closed during the progress of the funeral. Those who were familiar with Martin Scott in the days of his strength recognized in him a man of admirable temper, and instinctive honesty, and it was appropriate that his obsequies should be marked by unusual demonstrations of respect.

The photograph from which our cut was made was taken some years ago and represents him as he appeared before extreme age and sickness had deeply furrowed his benevolent features.

[Scott, Martin]

[A lengthy resolution of respect presented by the Masonic Lodge is not included here. It mentions "the aged widow, the dear children, and the only surviving sister.]

Weekly Register, Friendship NY, Thu. 9 Feb 1893

Transcribed on 29 Oct 2014 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY