

[Skinner, Timothy]

DEATHS.

In Westmoreland, N. H., July 17th, Mr. Timothy Skinner, a Revolutionary pensioner, aged 82 years.

The subject of this notice had the singular fortune, to rear to manhood [sic: he had one daughter] nine children [Warren, Cynthia, Alanson, Avery, Hiram, Dolphus, Barton, John and Albert], all of whom are now living, with families around them. Of his own family, he himself was the first to obey that summons which bids the living join the congregation of the dead. After having raised up and educated according to the extent of his means his children, it has been with him and his worthy consort [Ruth Warner Skinner] a source of great happiness to see them all—a somewhat unusual circumstance in so large a number—comfortably and even prosperously settled in life, and not a few of them enjoying positions of eminence and distinction, among their fellow men. They have frequently been honored with the confidence and respect of their countrymen, and the aged patriarch who is the subject of this obituary, has lived to see his children in the Senate chamber, in the Halls of legislation, on the Judicial Bench, and, also in the Sacred Desk. Brs. Warren and Dolphus Skinner, eminent [Universalist] preachers of the Gospel, are his children, and well have they honored their family connections and their sacred calling.

Father Skinner was not only a patriot in the Revolution, but he opposed tyranny wherever he found it, and particularly did he oppose all kinds of religious despotism. He was the first in the place of his residence to oppose *compulsory taxation* for the support of the clergy, and rather than submit to this system of oppression, he suffered his property to be driven off and sold under the officer's hammer. The next year after this occurrence, the "Toleration Act" was passed, and every man was permitted to act as to him seemed right, with none to molest or make afraid.

It is hardly necessary to remark, that as Universalism appeared to Mr. Skinner the only consistent system of religious faith, it for many years received his constant and open support. He who opposes religious oppression will seldom, under favorable circumstances, embrace a narrow creed, and hence it is that multitudes of those who in the State of New Hampshire, plead and contend for free toleration in religion are, as was Father S., believers in a common salvation. Honor to those men, who thus severed the chains of priestly bondage! Let posterity hold them in grateful remembrance.—
Balm of Gilead

C. W.

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[a Universalist newspaper]