

[Smith, Stephen]

A Tribute to the Departed

XV. STEPHEN SMITH was born September 27, 1794 and died August 6, 1875, at Roselle, N.J., in his eighty-first year. Fifty years ago, when New York City was a ship building port, Smith & Dimon was prominent among the most energetic and honored firms engaged in that industry. Stephen Smith, the revered head of the firm, and John Dimon, his partner, were apprentices of Henry Eckford, perhaps the most eminent ship-builder of his time in this country. As apprentices, they had some pretty rough experiences during the war of 1812, when they were sent in winter from New York to Sackett's Harbor, over hard roads, and through forests, to aid in extemporizing a miniature fleet on Lake Ontario. Mr. Eckford was subsequently appointed chief of the Sultan's navy yard at Constantinople, and not long after died there, and Smith & Dimon became his successors in New York, where their ship-yard, at the foot of East Fourth Street, the largest of the day, was well known for half a century. They were distinguished for honorable dealing and excellent work. Mr. Smith stood among the finest architects of the country, and by some good judges was regarded as at the head of that profession. But it is of his social and domestic life that we wish chiefly to speak in this place. In all the relations of citizen, son, husband, father, and friend, he was distinguished for the goodness of his heart, the evenness of his temper, and his general candor and charity. He was by nature calm and undemonstrative, but in quiet and unobtrusive ways abounded in generous and noble deeds. In his own family, and to all his kindred, he was a kind, provident, and faithful friend. At the time of his death, he had completed fifty-nine years of happy married life. His wife survives, surrounded by a family of loved and loving children, and sustained in her bereavement by a cheering Christian faith and a thousand pleasant memories. Mr. Smith and his family were long connected with the old Orchard Street Universalist Church in New York City, and his eldest daughter [Mrs. Betsey Smith Blossom] is now the wife of Rev. C. [Cyrus] H. Fay of Washington, D. C.

*The Universalist Register*, Boston MA, 1876, pp. 123-4