

[Upham, Lydia]

Death of a long-trying Friend!

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By a letter recently received from a very dear friend, Mrs. E. D. Wheeler, of Hamilton, N.Y., I have been informed of the demise of a long-trying and highly esteemed friend, her mother, Mrs. Lydia Upham, relict of Mr. Joshua Upham, who departed this life in Oct., 1855.

Although sister Upham lived to an advanced age, her society was cherished by the most ardent filial affection, and the most devoted friendly attachments; and although death, by her, was hailed as a welcome messenger of deliverance, nevertheless tears must testify the sorrow of those left behind, and a sensible vacuum in the heart remind us of our loss. She departed this life in Clinton, Oneida co., N.Y., Dec. 11th, 1860, in the 90th year of her age! And by the request of her daughter, as well as in accordance with my own inclination, this brief notice of her death and her worth is transmitted to the columns of the *Ambassador*.

When I fixed my residence in Hamilton, in the spring of 1808, Mr. Upham was a resident of that town, and for about ten years, was one of my nearest neighbors; and from that time since, although residing in different, and sometimes remote sections of country, we have cultivated more or less social intercourse. Although the hearts of both Mr. and Mrs. Upham were imbued with the principles of true benevolence and the warmest and tenderest sympathies, and although they professedly venerated and loved the religion of Christ, yet from the prejudices of early education—for they were natives of New England, he of Mass., and she of Conn., and were educated in all the "straitness" of the doctrine of the Pilgrims—and the misrepresentation of the doctrine of Universalism, they were afraid of my religious sentiments, and consequently opposed the doctrine I proclaimed. But their social natures were easily won to friendly intercourse. This removed their fears of contamination by contact with my heresy; and by hearing a few discourses on funeral and other occasions, their prejudices were removed and their eyes opened to behold the great truth of God's universal, efficient, saving grace, which their hearts had long been hungering and thirsting for, and were prepared to receive with joy unspeakable. Probably not two years elapsed before they both openly avowed their faith in the true paternity of God, and the ultimate salvation of the whole human race from sin and death, as the doctrine of the gospel, established upon the "foundation of the Apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." And this well-established faith and hope afforded them an abundant support, and consolation under the trials of this mortal life—and they had their share of them—reconciled them to the

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government of God—enabled them to meet the reverses of fortune without complaining—the bereavement of children without repining and the labors of life without murmuring. This faith they retained, without wavering, to the close of mortal life. It manifested itself in the integrity and uprightness of their intercourse with man, in their charity and benevolence toward all, and their sympathy with the suffering and afflicted. They are gone from us; but they have left, in the example of their lives, a legacy to the world, of infinitely more value than the gold of California,—and to the Universalist fraternity, the richest bequest they could have named, in the illustration their lives afforded of the legitimate fruits of that faith.

Mr. Upham removed from Hamilton to the village of Elbridge, Onondaga Co., in 1817 or 18, where they resided until 1845. Their surviving children having arrived to manhood and settled in the world, the aged parents took up their residence, for the remainder of their days with a daughter in Clinton, where they both finished their earthly pilgrimage.

At the time of her decease, sister Upham left four sons and three daughters, all married, I believe, and heads of families in different sections of [the] country, in the States of N.Y. and Mich., besides a numerous circle of friends, who feel that a mother has left us.

May God sanctify the dispensation—and grant us all grace wisely to improve it. Amen.

N. [Nathaniel] Stacy

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 9 Feb 1861

[a Universalist newspaper]

Transcribed on 7 May 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY