

[Van Liew, George Riley]

Deaths.

In Sutter Township, Sacramento co., Cal., July 15, 1853, GEO. RILEY VAN LIEW, formerly of Scipio, N.Y., Aged 27 years, 2 months and 15 days. The subject of this notice was an affectionate brother, a faithful and dutiful son, a kind friend, and an obliging neighbor. He possessed a heart that ever beat in union with the great heart of humanity.... He early embraced the doctrine that "God is the Father of the spirits of all flesh," and that the human family is one family—that all are bound together by one common chain of sympathy and love, and destined, eventually, to go home to a world of bliss and glory beyond the scenes of earth. Entertaining such views he cheerfully united himself with the Universalist Society of Scipio, N.Y. He was ever found in the house of worship on the Sabbath day. He felt to the very depth of his soul, that the exalted form of christianity which he had embraced was precious, and therefore worthy of his time and attention. His heart was gladdened by the joys of his christian faith.... He was not ashamed to be called a Universalist.... He was also a worthy member of the choir, of which for a long time he was the efficient leader. He possessed to an eminent degree, a musical power, which on each returning Sabbath was devoted to the praise of his Father and his God. He was also an ardent friend of Education. Several years of his life were spent in developing the intellectual and moral powers of youth.... He won the confidence and esteem of his fellow townsmen, who cheerfully placed under his care and superintendence all the common schools in his town. He watched over these schools of his charge with the same faithfulness which ever characterized all his actions. On the 16th day of last March, he bid adieu to the home of his childhood...and wended his way towards the golden banks of California, with the hope of securing a portion of the "glittering dust" and then to return once more to the bosom of his relatives and his numerous friends, in this land of his nativity. But alas! in this he was disappointed. He is no more on the earth. His mortal form now rests in the grave that was made by the hands of his dear friends (Messrs. E. Bishop, S. G. Reynolds, and Mastin, who went from Scipio to California).... On the 15th of July, as the sun was sinking behind the western waters, the spirit of George was released from its clay tenement, and ascended from earth to heaven.... On Sunday, the 11th inst., the relatives of the deceased, together with several hundred sympathizing friends, including the Scipio Lodge of Odd Fellows, convened in the Universalist church in Scipio, to whom were administered the consolations of the Gospel by the writer, aided in the services by Rev. H. [Harvey] Boughton, of Farmerville, N.Y.

J. H. Harter

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 1 Oct 1853
[a Universalist newspaper]