

[Wiggins, John]

DEATHS

In Salisbury Center, Herkimer Co., N.Y., on Monday the 30th [29th] ult. [September 29], Mr. JOHN WIGGINS, aged about 50 years, leaving a wife [Lois] and two young children [John and Luna]. Brother Wiggins was a native of England, who emigrated to this country when a youth. He was a harness-maker by trade, had been a "Son of Temperance" for a number of years, and a Universalist in his belief and practice. He has resided in Salisbury Center nearly twenty years, where he was highly esteemed by the community for his honesty, veracity and kindred virtues. He complained much for about a year past, but was never confined to his bed, until a few weeks previous to his death. As Brother Wiggins had expressed an earnest desire to have his body opened after his death, Dr. A. Gu??s, his attending physician, of Salisbury Center, assisted by Dr. E. S. Walker, of Brockett's Bridge, held a post mortem examination thereon, and pronounced the disease that terminated his life "enlargement of the heart, with valvular ossification [atherosclerosis?]. Thus another friend and christian brother has passed away to that "bourne from whence no traveler returns." The writer was well acquainted with Br. Wiggins for the last thirteen years, and cheerfully testifies to his kindly disposition, amiable nature and patience during his protracted and most terrible sufferings. Many of his self-styled Orthodox neighbors, and citizens, had opportunities of conversation with him during his last days, but none of them dare say that he was not a Universalist. His uniform answer to all was, "I have long been convinced that Universalism, and Universalism alone is the doctrine of the Bible. I believe it with all my mind, soul and strength." A number of friends and citizens convened at his house in Salisbury Center, on Tuesday the 30th ult., to mark their sense of the esteem in which he was held, and followed his remains to the grave, after a few words, and a prayer offered by the writer. By desire of his widow and her friends, his funeral sermon was postponed to Sunday, the 5th inst., in consequence of the severe equinoctial rain-storm which prevailed on Tuesday, on which occasion, it was delivered to an attentive audience, which filled the church, in the Union meeting-house at Salisbury Center aforesaid, from the expressive language of Saint Paul to the Romans, 14th chapter, verses 7, 8, 9, "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself—For whether we live, we live unto the Lord, and whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live therefore or die we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose and revived that he might be Lord, both of the dead and the living."

W. G. Anderson

Christian Ambassador, Auburn NY, Sat. 25 Oct 1856
[a Universalist newspaper]