

1822

JOHN ADAMS SAVAGE

Rev. John Adams Savage, D.D., son of Abraham and Mary (Adams) Savage, was born in Salem, Washington county, N.Y., October 9, 1800. He graduated from Union College in 1822, and studied theology privately while teaching academies in Delhi and Auburn. In 1825 he was licensed, and in 1827 ordained by the Washington county Associate Reformed Presbytery, and settled at Fort Covington. In 1832 he was called to Ogdensburg, and remained there for twenty years, prosecuting a faithful and successful ministry, and growing to the last in the esteem of the church and of the community. In 1850 he was persuaded to accept the Presidency of Carroll College, Waukesha, Wis. The institution was so infantile when he took charge of it that he may be considered its parent, and by the most assiduous nurture he brought it up to the stature and vigor of youth. Of unquestioned piety and of great excellence, he never spared himself in his work, and died at Waukesha, December 13, 1864, prematurely worn out. One who knew him well, remarked at his funeral that he had taken no rest for a quarter of a century; and he was described by another as "a man of great sagacity, integrity and benevolence, a man of deep piety and excellence of character, an able and instructive preacher, a good and useful man."

Dr. Savage married Eliza Turner, of Salem, N.Y., who, with several children, survived him.

Presbyterianism in Central New York.

p. 643
P.H.Fowler
Utica, N.Y.
1877.

1822 SAVAGE, JOHN A.

Is the son of Abram and Mary Thomas Savage. He was educated in Salem Academy and Union College. He studied theology and was pastor of the Presbyterian Church at French Mills; received the honorary degree of D. D. from Union College; was chosen president of Carroll College, Wisconsin, and during his service there, died. The Salem Book, p. 65

Rev. JOHN A. SAVAGE, A.M., 1822, of Albany, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society. (Died: 1864)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830

JOHN ADAMS SAVAGE, D.D., '22

Son of Abraham and Mary (Adams) Savage, was born in Salem, Washington County, N. Y., October 9, 1800. He began his education in Salem Academy, and afterwards entered Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., where he was graduated in 1822. Having the ministry in view, he commenced the study of Theology under the care of Rev. Ebenezer Maxwell, of Delhi, N. Y. Whilst thus employed he was Principal of Delaware Academy, being very successful as a teacher.

In 1824 he removed to Auburn, N. Y., where he took charge of an Academy in that place, managing it with much success. He continued his study of Theology with Rev. Mr. Forest. In 1825 he was licensed by Washington Associate Reformed Presbytery, and in 1827 he was ordained by the same Presbytery. He remained in this connection until the autumn of 1831, preaching at Fort Covington, Franklin County, N. Y. From Fort Covington he was called, in 1832, to the Presbyterian church in Ogdensburg, N. Y. Here his labors were also abundant and successful. His church soon became and continued to be the largest and most influential in the town or in that region of the State. Probably no man ever exerted so wide and powerful an influence for religion, and for Presbyterianism in Northern New York as he. He remained at Ogdensburg nearly twenty years, and at the time of leaving it he enjoyed the universal confidence and esteem not only of his congregation, but of the entire community; a confidence and esteem which he never lost, for he was, to the day of his death loved and trusted by those who had known him longest and most intimately.

At the earnest and repeated solicitation of the late lamented Dr. Van Rensselaer, then Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Education, he came to Wisconsin in 1850, and by appointment of the Board of Education, took charge of Carroll College, at Waukesha, Wis., then in its infancy. How he labored and toiled in the arduous work of founding and building up a College in a new country, is well known. The charter had been obtained, and some little progress made in the enterprise before his arrival. But it is no injustice to the noble, self-sacrificing men who preceded him, to say that Dr. Savage is properly to be regarded as the founder of Carroll College. If his success did not equal that those unacquainted with the history of such enterprises anticipated, it was at least equal to what has usually been achieved in the infancy of literary institutions. That his efforts, together with those of his able coadjutors, have not been a failure, the noble College site and building, and the alumni who have gone forth, and are already rising into positions of honor and usefulness, fully attest. And the pupils now attending her halls, preparing to act well their part in life, are further witness, if further were needed, that Carroll College is a living institution, and a source of influence and of power in the land. He who founds and establishes such an institution does a noble and honorable work, far more beneficent and enduring in its results than that achieved by the hero of a hundred battles.

2. John Adams Savage

Such is a brief and bare outline--which is all our limits will allow-- of the life and labors of this singularly faithful and laborious servant of the Most High God. Proof it is, ample enough, that he had not lived his life in vain, and that to him may be applied the words of the voice speaking from heaven, saying, "Blessed are the dead who died in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

As a minister, Dr. Savage was eminently laborious and faithful. His highest praise, as it is the highest praise of any minister of the New Testament, is that he preached Christ. He never spared himself when there was work to be done in his Master's vineyard, and to one of his activity and fidelity there always was work to be done. He seemed to have grown prematurely old, and his vital powers to have been worn out and exhausted, merely from the effects of strenuous and protracted toil. As we carried him to the grave, it was remarked by men who had known him long and well, that he had taken no rest for a quarter of a century,

Nor was he more laborious than faithful. He shunned not to declare the whole counsel of God. He was a clear, sound, and scriptural theologian. The word of God was ever his touchstone for all the ambitious and pretending novelties of the times. Christ was his only master; what was not of Christ, but of this or that asserted Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, he let alone; and the old truths, which had grown experimentally into his conscious soul, and had become part of his inmost life, just grew on, and brought forth fruit a hundred-fold. And when, after his assumption of the Presidency of the College, his Alma Mater conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, it was, in this instance, at least, a well-merited tribute to the eminent services of one who had long stood for the defence of the gospel.

He was a man of indefatigable zeal in the great cause of Christian education. He was nearly all his life identified with institutions of learning. His success in these literary enterprises, and his zealous devotion to the training of youth, pointed him out as a suitable person to take charge of a similar and more important enterprise in the young and growing West. And the zeal, the patience, the fortitude, the unreserved self-consecration with which he labored and toiled for the college are familiar to us all. He loved it as his own child, and has worn out his life in strenuous efforts for its advancement. When it suffered he was grieved, when it prospered he rejoiced. When adversity came upon it, the cloud overshadowed him; with the return of prosperity, the clouds about him were dissipated. One of his latest expressions was of satisfaction that the College seemed again to be prosperous.

He was an enterprising citizen. No man did more, in proportion to his means, for the improvement of the place in which he lived. Of this the institutions of learning he founded and the buildings he erected are sufficient proof. In all the relations of husband, father, brother, and friend, he was exemplary, as became the servant and minister of God. As a Chris-

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tian, though never demonstrative in his feelings, and modest and reserved in his communication of them, even to his nearest friends, he was truly humble, devout, consistent, with a calm and fixed reliance on the person and work fo his Divine Saviour. Especially in his last days--days--days, alas! of sore trial in the midst of protracted weakness and decline--was he adorned with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit.

John W. Sterling, D.D., of Madison, Wis., writes as follows:-- "He was a man of great sagacity, integrity, and benevolence; a man of deep piety and excellence of character; an able and instructive preacher; a good and useful man.

He died at his residence in Waukesha, Wis., December 13, 1864, of Decay of his Vital Powers. He married Miss Eliza Turner, of Salem, N. Y., who, with several children, survives him.

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