

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



## REVEREND LEWIS H. ROBINSON 1877-1953

*"Come to the Universalist Church-  
Soft cushions and no hell!"*

*--Rev. L.H. Robinson*

Rev Lewis H. Robinson was born at Blakes Mills, St. Lawrence County, New York in 1877. He attended the district school there and worked for his father in a sawmill after school hours and during the summer. His secondary education was received at Nicholsville, also in St. Lawrence County. He next attended the Normal School at Potsdam for three years, but did not graduate from there on account of a very serious attack of typhoid fever which completely used up all the funds he had saved for educational purposes.

After his recovery, through the advice of two very close friends, he went to Canton University and studied for the ministry. He entered the Theological School there in 1897 and graduated in 1900. He immediately went to Dolgeville, N.Y. where he preached for two years. In August 1901 he married Miss Alice Fiske.

In 1902 they moved to Clarendon, N.Y. where he preached at the Universalist Church for five years. It was during his pastorate in Clarendon that two children, Lawrence and Bessie, were born. In 1907 the Robinsons moved to Canada, where he worked for his father for two years, afterwards moving to Tupper Lake for two years. While at Tupper Lake a third child was born to live for only five months. In 1910 Rev. Robinson was called back to Clarendon where he ministered until 1912. From Clarendon he was called to the pastorate of the Universalist churches at Richfield Springs and Schuyler Lake where he served for three years.

It was during this time that a son Robert was born.

In 1915 he accepted the pastorate of the Universalist Church in Herkimer where he served three years after which he returned to Nicholsville where he taught district school for a short time while taking care of elderly parents through their ailing years. He then returned to the Herkimer church to preach for around two years.

On September 1, 1921 Mr. Robinson began his pastorate in the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church of Albion. It was there that he preached continuously until March 1, 1941 when he resigned on account of ill health. He was considered ...."an outstanding figure in the community, a worker in every cause for righteousness, and with all, one of the most popular preachers Albion has ever had. The people of the church exceedingly regret that his health has failed to the point where he is forced to resign, and his resignation was accepted with deep regret."

Rev. Robinson was a member and Past Master of Renovation Lodge No. 97, Orleans Chapter R.A.M. and the IOOF Lodge. He was also a member of the Lions Club and served as chairman of the Albion Red cross and was secretary of the Orleans County Fair Association.

Rev. Robinson actually served three Universalist Churches in Orleans County. Aside from clarendon and Albion he also preached for the Universalist Society at Childs (Cobblestone Church) during his pastorate at Albion.

On Saturday, June 28 a special tour bus of delegates from the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association meeting in Rochester, N.Y. will visit the churches which Rev. Robinson served, including also the former Universalist Church of Kendall, now Farmers Hall at the cobblestone Museum Complex in Childs.

On Sunday, June 29, the annual pilgrimage of Unitarians and Universalists to the historic Cobblestone Universalist Church at Childs will take place, this being a tradition which started in 1895. A service, to which the public is most cordially invited, will begin at 11:00 a.m.