



SAMUEL HARRISON SOCIETY

PITTSFIELD MASSACHUSETTS

"NO WARMER FRIENDS HAVE I HAD
ANYWHERE THAN IN PITTSFIELD"



August 11, 1900

On this day 120 years ago, the Rev. Samuel Harrison passed away at the age of 82. His last words in his autobiography are as follows; "But, in all these years, the Lord helped me, and when I look back I am surprised at the way in which I have gotten along; myself and family have had shelter, food, raiment and fuel. God has withheld nothing from us which was needed, and now that I have reached old age, I can use the words of David, the sweet singer of Israel, 'I have been young, now I am old, yet have I never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread.' I do not know how much longer the Lord will give me strength to work. But I will work as long as I can."

The Rev. Harrison left behind a legacy of stewardship and advocacy that is evident in all his works. He was so highly regarded by the greater Berkshire community that funds were raised years later by area citizens and a stone tablet was donated to the Second Congregational Church in his memory. The inscription, written by Anna L. Dawes, reads as follows;

"Ordained and Settled over this Church as its First Minister, 1850-1862. Again its Minister from 1872 until his death. For Forty Years a member of the Association of Congregational Ministers of Berkshire County.

Chaplain 54th Massachusetts Volunteers
Chaplain W.W. Rockwell Post

A Wise Leader, an Honored Citizen, an Ardent Patriot, a beloved Messenger of the Lord, he wrought well for his People, his Country and his God.

I have Fought a good Fight. I have finished my Course. I have kept the Faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness."

August 22, 2008

On this day 12 years ago, The Samuel Harrison Society (SHS) celebrated the beginning of the restoration and preservation of the Samuel Harrison House by holding a Groundbreaking ceremony. The ceremony was attended by Senators, Representatives, Friends, Neighbors, and descendants of Samuel Harrison.

It is the mission of the Samuel Harrison Society to restore and preserve Reverend Harrison's homestead; use it as a place to teach the values embodied in his noble life, his enduring beliefs, his extraordinary writings; and to define a chapter in the story of us as a people by providing greater insight into African-American history.

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