

[Morris, Madison Co. NY]

COMPLETES THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE AT MORRIS CHURCH

Thirty years of consecutive service to the First Universalist church of Morris on the part of the Rev. F. G. Leonard is recognized fittingly in the current issue of the "Empire State Universalist," monthly publication of the churches of the New York State convention of that denomination.

The following excerpts from that tribute necessarily considerably abbreviated, will be of interest not only to the many friends of Mr. Leonard, but as well to those interested in rural churches.

"On May 1, 1929, the Rev. Fred G. Leonard completed thirty years of service as pastor of the First Universalist church in Morris. Thirty years he has labored as a Christian friend in this town of 600 persons, and to him it has been always a beautiful field. He confesses that he has labored among some of the best people that the sun has ever shone upon.

"This man began life in East Eddington, Me., on January 1, 1862. His parents were Universalists in the days of theological conflicts and they knew just why they were Universalists.

"He was ordained to the Universalist ministry in 1893, with his first pastorate in the Universalist church of Huntington, Quebec. He served this church for three years and then accepted the call to the Universalist church in Southold, L. I. This was also a three years' pastorate, and then came the invitation to Morris, where he began his work on May 1, 1899.

"Morris has four churches and as ministers have come and gone, Mr. Leonard has remained, always ready to sponsor any worthy cause in the village. Naturally his congregations could not be large, but nevertheless he has the respect and affection of every church and person. That accomplishment is real wealth for any man. For the past ten years, his salary has been \$600 per year. For the previous twenty years, it was \$500 per year. The church does not possess a parsonage.

"In speaking of his work, Mr. Leonard said:

" ' My greatest joy has come through the assurance which I have received from saddened people that I have brought them comfort in the hour of sorrow and have with the help of God cleared away the doubts that have beset them when they have watched the operations of man or contemplated some of the mysterious workings of providence. More often we sow the seed and have to trust for the future.

" ' I know no special key to rural success. Keep hard at it. Give the people the best you have. Drive home the practical, uplifting ideals of our faith. Strive constantly to enthuse, to exalt. ' "

The Otsego Farmer, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 14 Feb 1930