



A Brief Tribute to Rev. Sam May
Our Second Minister – 1845-1868
(For Whom Our Church Is Named)

Biographical Information on Sam May



- Born September 12, 1797, in Boston, 10th of 12 children
 - Parents were Colonial Joseph May and Dorothy Sewell
 - Educated at Chauncey Hall School (Boston Day School for Boys), Harvard (1817), Harvard Divinity School (1820)
 - Died July 1, 1871, in Syracuse
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Sam May's Interesting Relatives



- Father, Joseph, King's Chapel (first U.S. Unitarian church) Warden and supporter throughout his life (actually buried there)
- Mother, Dorothy, granddaughter of Chief Justice Sewall, of Salem, the first to expose the Salem Witchcraft delusions
- Sister, Abigail, wife of Transcendentalist, Amos Bronson Alcott – their daughter was Louisa May Alcott (*Little Women*, etc.)
- Son, Joseph, well known Unitarian minister

Sam May's Primary Occupational History

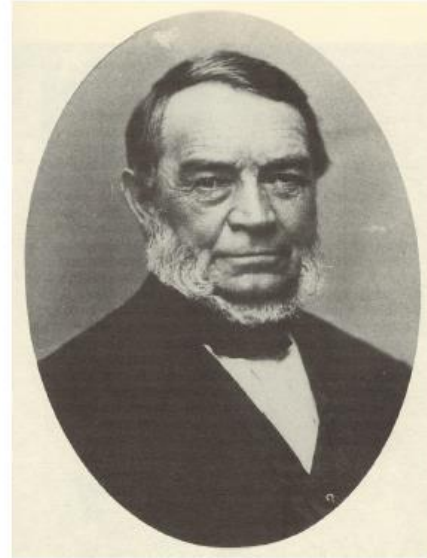


- **Minister, Unitarian Church, in Brooklyn, CT (1822-1835)**
- **Full-time agent for the Massachusetts Antislavery Society (1835-1836)**
- **Minister, First Parish in South Scituate, MA (1836-1842)**
- **President of the Normal School at Lexington, MA (1842-1844)**
- **Minister, Unitarian Congregational Society of Syracuse (1845-1867)**

Photographs of Sam May Ages 56 and early 60s



Photographs of Sam May Ages 68 and 74



Sam May's Many Passions



- Anti-Slavery Work
- Rights of Women/First Feminist Minister
- Peace/Anti-war/Pacifism/Non-Violence
- Against Death Penalty
- Temperance Work
- Very Strong Advocate of Education
- Historical Society/Orphans Home/Hospital Work/Native Americans

Sam's Anti-Slavery Work



- Founding member of New England and U.S. Anti-Slavery Societies (1882/1883)
 - Used Full Force of His Pulpit (3 churches)
 - Sought after Speaker on Anti-Slavery Issues Across the Country
 - Underground RR Work with Canada connections
 - Key Role in Syracuse's Famous "Jerry Rescue"
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Discovering the Lost Marble Tablet Honoring Rev. May



Hung in our previous church on James St.
– thought lost in church’s razing – found
(2005) in basement of Onon. Hist. Society

Repairing the Marble Tablet



**Repaired by Prof. Ron DeRutte, SU
Assisted by Dale Sherman**

Hanging the Marble Tablet Outside West Wall of Church



Hung on December 31, 2006

Home At Last! Sam Must Be Smiling.....

