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
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 Sewell, 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”
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.......