

Rev. Alfred Rollason
1843-1899



*From a letter from John Maddams, Church Archivist, Saffron Walden Baptist Church dated November 17th 2003 regarding **Rev. Alfred Rollason**:*

“Alfred was indeed minister here from 1874 - 1897 coming to us from Scarborough on the East Yorkshire coast at the age of 31 originally as co-pastor to the Rev William Audley Gillson who was in ailing health. Alfred was a faithful preacher and pastor, who encouraged the Christian Endeavour Society and the Choir and an Evening School for young working men. He led the formation of the local branch of the Band of Hope Temperance Union. He was prominent in the Liberal Party

cause locally and in improving education facilities. He was a great friend of local Quakers. He led the Church Centenary celebrations of 1875.

He was struck down by paralysis, which sounds in today's terms as though he had a stroke, in 1897 and retired to a house in Cambridge with an annuity provided by the Church, where he died aged 56 in 1899. He is buried in Saffron Walden Cemetery as depicted here.

We knew him to have been twice married and having 7 children, and that a lean-to was added to the Manse to enlarge it to take in the increased family. We know too that his son Harold trained in this country at Regents Park College for the Baptist Ministry and in 1900 became pastor at Farnworth Baptist Church near Bolton in Lancashire. . . We have a note to the effect that he died in Canada but no other information.

We know that Alfred had another son named Stanley and we know the names of 2 daughters. Gertrude, normally known in my boyhood as Miss G A Rollason. She became a Church Member in 1910. The other one we know of was Irene, and she married a Mr. E W Trew, the then Church Treasurer, for whom my Dad, Sydney Maddams worked for a time as chauffeur. Mr Trew had a haberdashery business.

Gertrude lived locally with her great lifelong friend Miss Edith F Cartright, both teachers at South Road Girls School, now the Bell International College of



Languages. The two of them lived together in a house near Sanatorium Lane, the lane that led to the Friends School Sanatorium. My mother Alice, who died on Jan 23rd this year age 98 years 8 months, used to go to their home for Sunday School Teachers meetings, preparation classes, and tea parties for Primary Sunday School teacher helpers. Later these two women occupied a large house in lower Debden road, called "Illawarra" which by 1974 was the headquarters of the Uttlesford District Council and previously that of the Saffron Walden Rural District Council. When the women lived at "Milleara" they ran a youth centre there. (It is now an area of luxury flats, called Stephen Neville Court) and about 1940-1941 they became Wardens of the Saffron Walden Youth Hostel. A Hymnbook Trolley records their memory here.

Alfred was the pastor then who led our Church, then known as Upper Meeting into building the present church building in 1878 and 1879, and the original 18th century building was converted into a Sunday School Building in 1882 with a hall, classrooms and a library. The 1878-1882 project cost about £4000.

Inscription on Grave Marker: In ever loving memory of Alfred Rollason, who entered eternal rest October 14, 1899, Age 56. He was pastor of the High Street Baptist Church in this town 23 years (*rest is illegible from photo*) Also of Susan Elizabeth, his beloved wife who died February 1, 1886, Age 40

Alfred Rollason (1843- 1899)
Susan E Hunt (1845- 1886)

Children

Alfred "Harold" Rollason b. abt. 1876
Amy Gertrude Rollason b. abt. 1878
John Stanley Rollason b. about 1880
Catherine Rollason, b. abt. 1883 - Married Raymond Redhouse
Herbert Duncan Rollason b. Jan 1, 1886
Willie Irene b. abt. 1886

Alfred remarried – Rosa Amelia ?

Arthur W. Rollason, b. abt 1888