

http://mssa.library.yale.edu/obituary_record/1859_1924/1887-88.pdf

Source: "Obituary Record of Graduates of Yale University" for the academic year ending in June 1888.

George Jeffrey Tillotson was born in Farmington, Conn., February 5, 1805, the son of Col. Daniel and Huldah (Gridley) Tillotson.

After graduation he taught for a year in Ellington, Conn, and then spent two years in the Andover Theological Seminary. After another year of school-teaching (in Falmouth, Mass.), he took the closing year of theological study in the Yale Divinity School.

He was ordained, May 25, 1831, in Brooklyn, Conn., over the Trinitarian Congregational Church, which was then in great adversity, the church building and funds having been taken possession of by the Unitarian majority of the Society. He devoted himself with singular self-denial to the task before him, and saw a strong church grow up in connection with his efforts. He resigned this charge on March 10, 1858, and for nearly thirteen years afterwards was acting pastor of a church which he had already assisted in organizing, in the neighboring town of Putnam.

From July 1, 1870, until May, 1873, he had charge of the church at Central Village, in Plainfield, in the same county; and his latest settlement was in Hampton, in the immediate vicinity of his other charges, where he was installed on May 29, 1873, and remained until Oct. 25, 1875. He then retired to Rocky Hill, in Hartford County, and in 1878 built himself a home in the adjoining town of Wethersfield, where he died after an illness of about a week, on March 29, 1888, in his 84th year.

After he had laid aside the active duties of the ministry, he took a deep interest in and labored in behalf of the benevolent organizations of the churches, especially the American Missionary Association; he gave largely in his lifetime and by his will for the endowment of a Collegiate and Normal Institute for the freedmen, in Austin, Texas, called in his honor the Tillotson Institute. He was elected a member of the Corporation of Yale College in 1849, and retained the position until his death, being for the last thirteen years Senior Fellow.

He was married, January 8, 1834, to Rebecca, second daughter of Smith Wilkinson, the founder of the enterprising manufacturing town of Putnam. She died on December 18, 1839, and on May 8, 1844, he was married to Harriet, third daughter of Charles Seymour, of Hartford, who died on May 8, 1846, leaving a son who died in infancy. In 1848 he was again married to Elizabeth K. Lester, of Plainfield, Conn., who died in 1857, leaving one son and two daughters, who are still living. In 1860 he was married to Mary Sweetser Wood, of Athol, Mass , who survives him, with one son.