

**Oswegatchie, St. Lawrence Co. NY**  
(Huevelton)

Prelude and Articles of Compact of the  
First Universalist Society in the Town of Oswegatchie

Preamble

Being impressed with a deep sense of our obligations of love, gratitude and obedience to that indivisible eternal almighty Being from whom all existence emanated and every blessing is derived[,] who superintends the affairs of the Universe and extends his never failing mercies unto all creatures, being aware of the social capacities, mutual dependence and reciprocal obligations of the human family as the children of one common Parent; Being sensible of the importance of the peace and peaceful religion of Jesus Christ who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature, we therefore whose names are hereunto annexed agree to unite ourselves into an association for the support and enjoyment of public worship according to the dictates of our conscience.

Articles of Compact

Art. 1 This Society shall be denominated the First Universalist Society in the town of Oswegatchie.

Art. 2 The object of this society shall be the cultivation of peace and harmony and the promotion of religion and morality among ourselves and our fellowmen.

Art. 3 The officers of this society shall consist of five trustees and a clerk to be chosen annually from among the members of this society. It shall be the duty of the trustees to transact all the temporal business of the society[,] take charge of all property belonging to the same, keep a true record of their proceedings and make report of the same to the society at each annual meeting. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a faithful record of all proceedings of the society and trustees that are necessary to be recorded and transmit them to his successors in office.

Art. 4 The society shall meet annually for the choice of officers and the transaction of business on the first Wednesday in January in the village of Heuvelton. The election of each officer shall be by a majority of the votes of the members present. Special meetings may be held at any time for the purpose of filling vacancies in office or the transaction of other business when a majority of the trustees may deem it necessary.

Art. 5 Any person sustaining a good moral character uniting in the object of this society, wishing to promote the interest of pure religion and uncorrupted christianity and desirous of becoming a member of this society may become such at the discretion of one or more of the trustees and by signing his name to this constitution.

Art. 6 Any member of this society may at any time withdraw from the same by giving notice to the clerk or either of the trustees, and may receive a certificate expressive of his or her character and no member shall be excluded from this society without a fair trial, after being furnished with a copy of the charges, and the name or names of his or her accusers and by a vote of two thirds of all the numbers present at a meeting called for that purpose.

Art. 7 Any alterations or amendments may hereafter be made in this constitution at any annual meeting of the society provided that two thirds of all members present concur in such alteration or amendment.

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And now commending ourselves our families and our friends, with our brethren of the human race, to God our Heavenly Father who is able to build us up in his most holy faith[,] guide us by his wisdom in the discharge of every duty both public and private[,] and prepare us for the [purity?] and blessedness of his heavenly kingdom[,] we subscribe our names to this constitution praying that God of his infinite goodness may enable us to abide by the same and use our influence and exertions to promote the prosperity of this society and conform to its laudable rules and regulations.

<i>Benj. Edgell</i>	<i>Ledyard Haley</i>
<i>Solomon Walrath</i>	<i>Wm. Thurston</i>
<i>Lebbeus Curtis</i>	<i>J. B. Fisk clerk</i>

We the undersigned do hereby certify that at a meeting of a number of the inhabitants of the town of Oswegatchie and its vicinity, held on the 23d day of Feb<sup>y</sup> 1840 according to previous notice for the purpose of forming a Religious society, proceeded to choose Br. W<sup>m</sup>. Thurston chairman and Jon<sup>a</sup> B. Fisk secretary and to adopt the above articles of compact and to choose the above named persons for Trustees and clerk, and that the seal hereunto affixed is the seal subsequently adopted by said society.

Given under our hands and seals this fifteenth day of April 1843

*W<sup>m</sup>. Thurston* Chm.  
*Jon<sup>a</sup> B. Fisk* Sec<sup>ty</sup>

St. Lawrence County

Personally came before me John S. Snyder a Justice of the Peace in and for said county William Thurston & Jonathan B. Fisk, being personally known to me and acknowledged the execution of the within instrument & for the within mentioned purposes & that they are likewise the officers mentioned within[.]

Dated May the 17<sup>th</sup> 1843  
*John S. Snyder* J. P.

Recorded June 1, 1843

*G. B. Eastman* D. Clk

St. Lawrence County Religious Incorporations 2: 33

Transcribed on September 5, 2004 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY