

## Albany, Albany Co. NY

The First Universalist Society held meetings in Masonic Lodge-rooms on Washington street, in 1824. Erected a church on Herkimer street in 1829, and another church on Green street in 1833. At a later date owned the present Law School Building. Pastors: W. S. Balch, 1830; Isaac D. Williamson, 1830-37; Stephen R. Smith, 1837-42; S. B. Britton, 1842-43; L. B. Mason, 1843-45; S. B. Britton, 1846-47; K. P. Amber, 1847-48; W. H. Waggoner, 1848-50; O. D. Miller, 1851; A. A. Thayer, 1852-54; J. E. Pomfret, 1858-59; DeForest Porter, 1861; J. H. Hartwell and C. P. McCarty were acting Pastors still later. At present there is no regular pastor or church edifice. Meetings are held occasionally in public halls.

George R. Howell and Jonathan Tenney, *History of the County of Albany, N. Y. 1609-1886* (NY: W. W. Munsell & Co., 1886), p. 772

### UNIVERSALIST CHURCH.

There was preaching occasionally by Universalist clergymen in this city, for a few years previous to 1829. In the fall of that year the first Universalist meeting house in Albany was erected on Herkimer street, being a temporary wooden building 50 by 27 feet. Subsequently it was elevated for the purpose of forming a basement and 10 feet added to its depth; it then had cost about \$1500. On the 1st of March, 1830, a meeting was held to take into consideration the formation of a Universalist Society, when it was resolved to form one. On the 23d of March, 1830, the first Universalist Society in the city of Albany was organized, when about thirty persons signed the constitution, which contains a confession of Christian faith; the society therefore comprises the church. The Rev. Wm. S. Balch commenced his labors in the latter part of February, 1830, who, in consequence of poor health, removed at the expiration of three months. The Rev. Isaac D. Williamson commenced his labors on the 17th of June, 1830, and resigned the 1st of May, 1837. The brick meeting house in Green street, now occupied by the society, was commenced the 25th of July, 1833, and completed in August, 1834. It is a substantial, neat, and convenient edifice, 80 by 48 feet, constructed in accordance with the Grecian Doric order, and with the lot, cost about \$14,000. The Rev. Stephen R. Smith commenced his labors the 18th or September, 1837, and left the society on the 1st of May, 1842; was succeeded by Rev. S. B. Britton, who left the society in April, 1843, after which the Rev. L. B. Mason supplied the desk until the fall of 1845, when he left in consequence of ill health. The society was then without stated preaching until the spring of 1846, when Rev. S. B. Britton returned and remained for one year, after which Rev. R. P. Ambler preached for about eight months; since which there has been no settled pastor until November 1st, 1848, when Rev. W. H. Waggoner was engaged as pastor, and installed on the 20th of December. There is a Sunday school attached to the society, consisting of more than one hundred scholars. The library consists of 200 volumes, of very carefully selected books. The congregation numbers about four hundred, and has sixty communicants.

*Annals of Albany*, (Albany, 1869), V. 1, 2nd Ed., p. 180