

[Schuyler Lake, Exeter, Otsego Co. NY]

The Free-Will Baptist church of Schuyler's Lake was organized as a Free Communion society in 1821 by Elder William Hunt. This organization was effected in the old Tunnicliff house, about three miles below Schuyler's Lake, and consisted of the following persons, viz.: Chauncey Judd and wife, Amelia Judd, Henry E. Firman and wife, Henry J. Herkimer and wife, Harrison Underwood and wife, Mr. Mott and wife, Mr. Robinson, Patience Rose, Amelia Burk. The meetings of the society were held at the Tunnicliff place until the erection of the union church at Schuyler's Lake in 1838. This church is of stone, and was erected by George Herkimer. The first sermon was preached by Bishop A. Russell. He was followed by the present pastor, Rev. S. Darrow. The following are the present officers: Henry E. Firman, Norman C. Judd, and Daniel Horton, trustees; A. C. Smith and Amos Underwood, committee; N. C. Judd, church clerk.

Union Church, Schuyler's Lake. The Free Baptist church was organized Sept. 2, 1830, by P. W. Lake and Wm. Hunt, elders in said denomination, at the old Tunnicliff house, about two and a half miles south of the village of Schuyler's Lake, in the ball-room, which place was used by the church as their place of worship until the union church was built.

The council was composed of the following delegates: Elder P. W. Lake, moderator; Henry Fitch, clerk; Elder Wm. Hunt and Deacon Crumb, from Plainfield; Deacon McCoon, from Burlington; Henry Fitch, from Columbia; Deacon Henry Lake and Deacon Gates, from Oneonta. After consultation they decided in favor organizing a church, to be known as the First Free Baptist church of Exeter. Chauncey Judd and Henry G. Herkimer were ordained deacons, and Elder Wm. Hunt was chosen as pastor of said church. The first members whose names appear on the church record are as follows: Wm. Chappell, Nathaniel Mott and Abigail Mott, Ezekiel Robinson and Betsy Robinson, Chauncey Judd and Amelia Judd, John Rider and wife, Henry E. Firman and Rhoda Firman, Stafford Coats and wife, William Herkimer, and Freelove Rose.

Elder Wm. Hunt preached to the church for two years, and then Elder Robert Hunt succeeded him, and remained nine years. The next pastor was Ransom Hunt, for two years, and at the time of the building of the union church Elder B. A. Russell was pastor.

The first meeting of the union society for erection of the church was held Dec. 17, 1838, and a constitution adopted. The second meeting was held March 4, 1839, and Calvin Underwood, J. Tunnicliff, Amos Fitch, N. Mott, and George Herkimer were elected as the building committee. The house was dedicated March 5, 1840, and the following officers were chosen: N. Mott, C.

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Judd, and H. Firman for the Free Baptists; David Steward and John Chappell, for the Methodists; C. Underwood and Alvin Barrus, for the Universalists. The dedication sermons were preached by Wm. Hunt, for the Baptists; Elder Job Potter, for the Universalists; and Elder Wright, for the Methodists. The time of occupation of the house was decided upon in the following manner: The Universalists to hold the first Sunday, the Free Baptists the second and fourth, the Episcopal Methodists the third Sunday and the Christian order the fifth Sabbath, when one occurred.

The present officers are N. C. Judd, Henry Firman, Amos Underwood, for the Baptists; and Daniel W. Clark, J. H. Vebber, for the Universalists; and C. Watson and I. L. Vebber, for the Methodists; and John F. Gray, society clerk. The presents ministers are Elder S. Darrow, for the Free Baptist; Rev. S. R. Ward, for the Universalists; Rev. Mr. Hall, for the Methodists. The present number of the Free Baptists is nineteen; the Methodists, about fifty; the Universalists, about ten.

The church building was remodeled at an expense of about \$1200, and was dedicated by the respective societies and funds pledged to pay all arrears; at the same time a subscription was circulated, and an organ purchased, costing \$200. The church building is a neat and substantial edifice, and reflects great credit upon the enterprise of the denominations interested.

D. Hamilton Hurd, "Church Histories" in *The History of Otsego County, New York, 1740-1878* (Everts & Fariss, Philadelphia), p. 154

Transcribed on 8 Oct 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY