

[Bristol, Ontario Co. NY]

The FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH in Bristol dates its origin far back to the early years, but its organization is quite recent. In 1828, Rev. Oliver Ackley, of the Universalist denomination, held meetings at the school-house on Baptist Hill, and, in warm weather, in the grove near the residence of J. W. Nichols. There had been occasional meetings held prior to 1828 by Rev. Mr. Morton. Within a few years, William J. Reese, G. W. Montgomery, and William Queal held stated meeting in the school-building mentioned. Rev. Queal was one of the first resident ministers. In the year 1836 a church edifice was erected. It was built of cobble-stones, and stood near the site of the present structure. The money to build was mainly raised by subscription. The deed was given to Joshua Phillips, Lyman Hawes, and about 70 others, to be used and occupied as a site for a meeting- or school-house, and for no other purpose. All subscribers of notable amounts are named in the deed. It was a two-storied building; the upper room for the society, and would seat about 250 persons, one room below was occupied as a school-room. In the spring of 1837 it was deemed advisable to organize a society; accordingly, a meeting was held April 14, 1837, and such society formed. Nathan West was chairman, and Nathan Fisher, Benjamin Simmons, and Anson Packard were elected trustees. In 1861 the interest of the school district was purchased by the society; the old chapel was taken down, and the present frame built, with a seating capacity of three hundred. At a meeting held February 2, 1872, a church was organized, called the "First Universalist Church" of Bristol, and consisted of the following named individuals: Rev. L. P. Blackmore, Lida Blackmore; Aaron F., Eunice, and A. Carlisle Orcutt; Elkanah and Sarah S. Andrews; W. Scott and Eleanor A. Hicks, A. C., H. A., and Mary Hathaway; Almeda Park; Mrs. May E.; Thomas , Elias M., Samuel B., and Roxana Dorrence; Robert B. Simmons, P. F. Hicks, Marcus L. Francis, M. E. Paull, E. M. and George Bailey; S. A. Jones, Eliza Phillips, Zadia Case, Prudence Adams, and Looice Fletcher. The officers chosen were Rev. L. P. Blackmore, moderator; Mrs. Lida Blackmore, clerk; George Bailey, treasurer; and Aaron F. Orcutt and Robert B. Simmons, deacons. A hundred families are now represented in the parish. The pastors, in the order of their succession, have been as follows: Oliver Ackley, Jacob Chase, William Queal, Samuel Goff, Orin Roberts, J. B. Johnson, C. H. Dutton, George W. Gage, U. M. Fisk, J. W. Bailey, J. R. Sage, W. W. Lovejoy, L. C. Brown, L. P. Blackmore, Henry Jewett and John F. Gates, who came to the church October 11, 1874. A large and flourishing Sabbath school has been organized since 1862, with Richard Simmons for the first superintendent, and Elkanah Andrews for the present officer. The school numbers 100 members, and is kept up throughout the year.

Walter H. McIntosh, *History of Ontario County New York*  
(Philadelphia: Everts, Ensign & Everts 1878) p. 236

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