

PULPIT MADE FROM 200-YEAR-OLD TREE

Interesting Dedicatory Services Held at Greenpoint Universalist Church Last Sunday —Presented as a Miller Memorial

The memorial services Sunday at the Third Universalist Church, North Henry street, at which the new pulpit and communion table were dedicated, proved very interesting.

The table and pulpit were dedicated to the memories of William Miller, Louisa Miller and Justice Liberty Miller who were, during their lives, active members of this church. The tributes were presented to the church by Charles A. Miller, a trustee, who, of late years, has rendered valuable service to the society.

The exercises attracted a number of the members of visiting congregations to the church. A delegation headed by L. Ward Brigham and his father came from All Souls' Universalist Church, on South Tenth street, and the members of other Universalist churches in Brooklyn attended the exercises.

The pulpit and communion table were cut from a tree which stood in front of the first Universalist church ever erected in the United States, at Good Luck, N. J. The tree, it is believed, was 200 years old when it was chopped down and must have been standing during the time of John Murray and Thomas Potter, the founders of the Universalist Church in the United States.

Mr. Miller secured the wood to erect the pulpit and communion table in an interesting manner. One day last summer, accompanied by some friends, he went to Good Luck, N. J., for a day's outing. While there they learned that an old tree which had stood in front of the Universalist church had been cut down. Mr. Miller and his friends inquired into the history of the tree and learned that it was 200 years old.

The party was told how Thomas Potter accepted John Murray, who had been washed ashore in a bark, as his preacher of the Gospel. Murray did not make known the fact that he had been a preacher in England, but eventually it came out and he preached the first sermon. Learning of the history of the church the party under Mr. Miller's direction made an inspection of the tree. It was found that there were two hundred rings in the wood. This showed the tree was as old as there were rings.

A woodman, who had charge of the work of cutting down the tree, was found and he was asked by Mr. Miller what he intended to do with the wood. The old fellow replied that it would keep him and his family warm during the winter. Mr. Miller purchased several pieces of the old oak and the woodman had the wood expressed to Brooklyn and slipped in a storeroom until such time as it should be needed. When it was thoroughly dried Mr. Miller decided to have it placed in the hands of wood turners and carvers to have a pulpit and communion table made from it. But for labor troubles the pulpit and communion table would have been finished long ago.

(Brooklyn) Daily Star, New York NY, Sat. 14 Nov. 1903