

## THE UNIVERSALISTS

### A FACT A DAY ABOUT BROOKLYN

All Souls Universalist Church, Ditmas and Ocean Aves., was organized in 1845 in what was then the town of Williamsburg, which was a community of less than 2,000 families, with streets paved with cobblestones and with no transit facilities, even the horse-car having yet to be introduced. A small group of Universalists moved across the river from old New York and organized their liberal church there, under the leadership of George Ricard.

A plain little chapel was rented on Second St., now Wythe Ave., and the Rev. Henry Lyon was called as first pastor. The first years of the church were strenuous ones, for in 1847 the ship fever raged in the community, and in the following year 1,642 people died in an epidemic of cholera. In 1849 a great fire destroyed many blocks of the city. In all these disasters the people of All Souls church played a prominent part, caring for the sick, burying the dead and helping the survivors. The present church home was erected in 1905.

*Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, New York NY, Wed. 30 Oct 1940

Transcribed on 12 Sep 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY