

[Cohocton (Liberty Corners), Steuben Co.]

A LETTER OF INTEREST TO THE OLDER RESIDENTS

We received the following letter recently from a Bristol Center man who delivered his first sermon in the Universalist Church in Cohocton 57 years ago.

The Universalist church was located on the site now occupied by Richcraft Inn and was a very prosperous church for many years. The late Rev. Clara E. Morgan was at one time one of the ministers. When it was no longer used as a place of worship it served as a recreation center and later was removed from that site to a lot on Wheeler street and converted into a factory building for the Morse Clothing Co. The building was completely destroyed by fire on November 22, 1943.

Many of the attendants of the church have passed on, but there are still some who will remember the once prominent church home of the Universalist faith in Cohocton.

To the Editor of Cohocton Index, Cohocton, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

In noting that next Sunday is the 25th of February, I am reminded that it is the 57th anniversary of the delivery of my 1st sermon which was on Sunday, Feb. 25, 1894 in the Universalist Church in Cohocton, N.Y., during the pastorate there of Rev. H. P. [Herbert Philbrook] Morrel[[]], who was serving the church at that time and I was his guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Harris.

I recall that the mercury fell to 25 below zero that morning in spite of all I could do with my youthful enthusiasm to raise it. Dr. Gaugh was Pres. of the Church Board, Miss Stella Henry was church organist, and Mrs. H. M. Harris was Sunday school Supt. There was also a sizeable Young People's organization in the church at that time.

Miss Bertha Tripp was the faithful reporter from the church to the Cohocton Index, of which I believe she was also an employee.

I know that the church has long since passed out of existence, and most of the congregation who listened to that 1st sermon have also been "gathered to the fathers" but I am wondering if there are any left of that group of young people. Would enjoy seeing a copy of the Index which 57 years ago carried a notice of my sermon, but wisely did not say "It is his first sermon.

Sincerely
Harry M. Wright

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