

[Cortland, Cortland Co. NY]

The Universalist Church.—The first Universalist Society in Cortland was formed November 16th, 1813, at the court-house. The following persons were elected trustees : Moses Hopkins , Allen Baney , John Chamberlain , David Merrick , Mead Merrill and Roger Edgcomb ; John Chamberlain , clerk.

The Cayuga Association of Universalists convened at the Baptist Church in Cortland June 7th and 8th, 1815. [On] June 19th, 1829, a meeting was held at the home of David Merrick, when a society was formed by the name of the "First Universalist Society of Homer"(Homer at that time comprised the present towns of Homer and Cortlandville). David Peck, Jacob Badgley and David Mallery were elected trustees, and Lewis Boies, clerk. Since 1833 the society has held regular annual meetings, electing its officers , etc. The present neat church-edifice was completed in 1837, at a cost of about six thousand dollars. The lot upon which it is located was donated by Calvin Bishop. Since the building of the church the organization has been called the "First Universalist Society of Cortlandville;" and on the 9th of January, 1872, the church and society was organized, adopting the Articles of Faith of the Universalist Association of the State of New York. Its prosperity has varied at different periods of its history, but at all times having some faithful, earnest, Christian members, who have borne its standard through evil as well as good report. The church has secured an annual income from a legacy bequeathed to it by Roswell Crow, of the town of Virgil. The following are some of the pastors who have officiated for the society: Doolittle, Saunderson, Bullard, Strickland, Whitcomb, Brown, Cargill, Fish, Crain, Austin, Peck, H.W. Hand and Rev Geo. Adams , who is the present pastor.

The trustees are Josiah Hart, H.J. Messenger, Rev. and Mrs. H.W. Hand, W.W. Kelsey, W.T. Blanchard.

H. P. Smith, ed., *History of Cortland County* [NY] (Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1885)