

This Indenture made the 21st day of February 1850 Between Justus B. Ricket and Sarah his wife of the town of Edwards in the State of New York of the first part and Henry Rushton Robert Brown William White Thomas Watson & Justus B. Ricket Trustees of the Edwards Union Meeting House of the second part Witnesseth that the said parties of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of "of" one dollars have released and quit claimed and by these presents do ~~bargain~~ remise release and quit claim unto the said parties of the second part and to their successors in office forever All the following piece of land situated in the town of Edwards County of St. Lawrence and State of New York described as follows to wit: Beginning at a hub driven in the center of the highway N 35° East 4 chs 95 lks from the north easterly corner of Henry Rushtons lands at the intersection of the Creek Road with the turnpike thence N 55° W 2 chs to a post thence N 35° E one chains 25 lks to a post thence south 55° E 2 chains to a hub driven in the centre of the highway thence south 35° W one chain 25 lks to the place of beginning Containing 25/100 of an acre of land as surveyed by John C. Haile January 2d, 1850. Together with all and singular the tenements hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining To Have and To Hold all and singular the above mentioned and described premises together with the appurtenances unto the said trustees for the use and benefit of the owners and partrons of the Union Meeting House forever. In Witness Whereof the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Justus B. Ricket , L. S.
 Sarah Ricket L. S.

State of New York)
) ss.
 St. Lawrence County)

On this 22nd day of February 1850 J. B. Ricket and Sarah his wife came before me and severally acknowledged that they had executed the within conveyance and the said Sarah on a private examination apart from her husband acknowledged that she executed the said conveyance freely and without any fear or compulsion of her said husband and I further certify that I know the persons

STATE OF NEW YORK,
St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office. }

I hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing
with the original.

Record

in this office, and that it is a true and correct transcript
therefrom, and of the whole of said original.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and
seal of office, at Canton, this 22 day of May 1957

Lewis W. Paddock

Clerk.

By Florence C. Wood, Dep. Clerk

who made the said acknowledgment to be the same individuals described in and who executed the said conveyance.

Albert White, Justice Peace

Recorded June 10th, 1873 at 12 M.

T. H. Ferns, Clerk

Recorded in Liber 96 B page 502 of Deeds

This Indenture made this Nineteenth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty six between Thomas Noble and Marian Noble his wife of the town of Edwards County of St. Lawrence & State of New York of the first part and The Union Church Association of the town of Edwards County and State aforesaid of the second part Witnesseth that the said party's of the first part in consideration of the Sum of One Dollar to them duly paid hath sold and by these presents doth grant and convey to the said party of the second part & their successors and assigns All that tract or parcel of land situate in the town of Edwards County of St. Lawrence and State of New York described as follows: Beginning at the S. E. corner of lot No. 7 (now owned by H. Woolever) and running thence N. 50° W 2 chains to the center of the highway thence along the center of said highway S 40° W 65 links Thence S. 18½° E 2 chains & 37 links to the line of the Meeting house lot. Thence N. 40° E 1 chain & 84 links to the place of beginning, Containing twenty four hundredths of an acre of land being lot No. 8 of a map and survey of Village lot made December 1868 by Wm. H. Bradt of a part of Turnpike Lot No. 7 of township No. 8 of Great Tract No. 3 of Macombs purchase. Excepting that this conveyance is made subject to the right of way for a certain highway in the village of Edwards laid out by the Commissioners of Highways of the town of Edwards on the 31st day of December 1885 and also subject to the right of way for the highway known & described as first street in said village.

With the appurtenances and all the estate title and interest therein of the said party of the first part and the said Thomas Noble & Marian Noble for themselves and their heirs executors & administrators doth hereby covenant and agree to and with the said party of the second part and their successors and assigns that the premises thus conveyed in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part their successors and assigns ~~they~~ will forever Warrant and Defend against any person whomsoever lawfully claiming the same or any part thereof.

In Witness Whereof, the parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Sealed and delivered
in presence of Joseph Noble

Thomas Noble, L. S.
Marion Noble L. S.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office. }

I hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing
with the original.

Record

in this office, and that it is a true and correct transcript
therefrom, and of the whole of said original.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and
seal of office, at Canton, this 22 day of May 1957

Lewis W. Paddock

Clerk.

By Florence C. Wood, Dep. Clerk

State of New York)
) ss
County of St. Lawrence)

On this 21st day of June in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty six before me the subscriber personally came Thomas Noble and Marion Noble his wife to me known to be the ⁱⁿ persons described, and who executed the within instrument and severally duly acknowledged that they executed the same.

James McKee
Notary Public

Recorded Oct. 17, 1887 1 P.M.

Recorded in Liber 127C page 1559. W. R. Remington, Clerk

* * * * *

This Indenture made this 6th day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty seven between James N. Noble of the town of Edwards St. Lawrence County, N. Y. of the first part and Robert Brown John Newton Henry Rushton Charles V. Haile and Charles V. Harmon Trustees of the Union Church of Edwards Village N. Y. the second part Witnesseth that the said party of the first part in consideration of the Sum of One hundred and thirty six dollars to him duly paid has sold and by these presents does grant and convey to the said party of the second part their successor or successors in office All that tract or parcel of land situated in the town of Edwards, St. Lawrence County, N. Y. and bounded as follows: Beginning at the S. E. corner of the burial ground in Edwards Village and running along James Nobles line S "18°" E 110/100 chains to a stake thence S. 41° W 87/100 chs to a stake thence N. 35° W 75/100 chs to a stake thence N 84½° W 2 50/100 chs to a stake thence N. 18° E 5 15/100 chs to the line between Thomas Noble & James Noble thence along said line S 68° E 18/100 chs to the N. Westerly corner of the burial ground thence along the westerly line of the same S 18° W 4 67/100 chs thence S 77° E 37/100 chs thence N 76° E 2 55/100 chs to the place of beginning Containing 34/100 of an acre of land of turnpike lot No. 7 in township No. 8 Great Tract No. 3 of Macombs purchase as surveyed by James McKee Jr. Oct. 14th, 1876. This conveyance is made of said land for a burial ground and for no other purpose and is to be free to all persons wishing their dead to be buried there who reside in the town of Edwards and this conveyance is made upon the express agreement that the party of the second part is at all times to keep the same fenced at their own expense.

With the appurtenances and all the estate title and interest therein of the said party of the first part and the said James N. Noble does hereby covenant and agree to and with the said party of the second part their successor or successors in office that the premises thus conveyed in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part their successor or successors in office he will forever Warrant and Defend against any person whomsoever lawfully claiming the same or any part thereof.

In Witness Whereof the party of the first part has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Burial ground only

STATE OF NEW YORK,
St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office.

I hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing
with the original.

Record

in this office, and that it is a true and correct transcript
therefrom, and of the whole of said original.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and
seal of office, at Canton, this 22 day of May 19 57

Lewis W. Paddock

Clerk.

By *Florence C. Wood. Dy. Clerk.*

This Indenture

Made the 29th day of December, in the year One thousand nine hundred and forty-eight

Between The Union Church Association of the Town of Edwards, County of St. Lawrence and State of New York

part of the first part, and Edwards Fire Department of the Village of Edwards, town of Edwards, County of St. Lawrence and State of New York

part of the second part.

Witnesseth, That the said part of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar

(\$ 1.00), to them duly paid, have sold, and

By these presents do grant and convey to the said part of the second part, their heirs and assigns,

All that Tract, Piece or Parcel of Land, situate in the Village of Edwards, County of St. Lawrence, and State of New York, described and bounded as follows: Starting at an iron post driven in the ground on the Edward McDonald line, and running thence North 50 degrees, West 109 feet to the center of First Street, thence South 40 degrees, 42.9 feet along the center of said First Street to the center of Church Street, thence South 18 degrees 30 feet East 129-44 feet along the center of said Church Street, thence North 40 degrees, East 107-44 feet along Union Church lot to the place of beginning, CONTAINING one-eighth of an acre of land more or less.

Being a portion of a Warranty deed given by Thomas Noble and Marion Noble, his wife, to The Union Church Association of the Town of Edwards, dated June 21, 1886, recorded October 17, 1987, in Liber 120 of Deeds, Page 1559.

[Lined area for text entry]

With the Appurtenances, and all the Estate, Title and Interest therein of the said parties of the first part. And the said The Union Church Association of the Town of Edwards

do hereby covenant and agree to and with the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns, that the premises thus conveyed in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns will forever Warrant and Defend against any person whomsoever lawfully claiming the same or any part thereof.

In Witness Whereof, The said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hand and seal the day and year first above written.

In Presence of

Oliver W. Brown, Trustee [L. S.]
Edna M. Hughes, Trustee [L. S.]
Herbert N. Badgett, Trustee

STATE OF NEW YORK,
St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office. }

I hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing
with the original.

Record

in this office, and that it is a true and correct transcript
therefrom, and of the whole of said original.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and
seal of office, at Canton, this 22nd day of May 19 57

Lewis W. Paddock

Clerk.

By Florence C. Wood. Dep. Clerk.

State of New York,
County of St. Lawrence } ss.
Town of Edwards

On this 15 day of March, in the year One thousand nine hundred and fifty, before me, the subscriber, personally appeared Olive M. Brown, Edna M. Hughes and Herbert H Padgett Trustees of the Union Church Association of the Town of Edwards, NYS

to me personally known to be the same person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and they acknowledged to me that they executed the same.

Daniel B. Madigan

DANIEL B. MADIGAN
Notary Public, State of New York
Residing in St. Lawrence Co. Off. No. 83
Commission Expires March 20, 1952

DEC 13 1 19 PM '50
ST. LAWRENCE CO.
CLERKS OFFICE
CLERK

3445

Deed.

Warranty 1.03

The Union Church Association of the Town of Edwards

Edwards

To Edwards Fire Department

Dated December 29, 1948

STATE OF NEW YORK, St. Lawrence County, ss.

Recorded on the 13 day of Dec., 1950, at 1:19 o'clock P.M., in Book No. 469 of Deeds, at page 292

and examined. *William S Mead* Clerk

Williamson Law Book Co., Publishers, Rochester, N. Y.

J. M. Clark

December 29, 1961

Mr. Lewis H. Case
714 E & B Building
Rochester, New York

Dear Mr. Case:

In accordance with our telephone conversation the other day, I am enclosing the abstract of the title of the Edwards Fire Department to a portion of the lands owned by the Edwards Union Church which sets forth the certificate of incorporation of that organization and also discloses the differences in names of the Church and the grantee.

As I told you over the phone, the present people who are interested in this Church are all Universalists and for the past five years no services have been held in the building. The few individuals in the community who are interested would like to dispose of the remaining lot and Church building to the Fire Department for a \$1.00 consideration. I might state that they received \$600.00 in 1950 for the back portion of the lot shown on the abstract from the Edwards Fire Department. If the Universalist convention wants to take over title to this property, the individuals in Edwards will be glad to convey the same; but inasmuch as this is a Union Church other denominations may be equally interested although no other church organization has been active for many years.

Please advise me of the desires and wishes of the convention about this property and return the abstract to me when you have finished examining it.

Very truly yours,

George W. Battersby

GWB:jw
Enc.

January 9, 1962

Rev. Howard B. Gilman
2 Cotty Drive
East Syracuse, New York

Dear Howard:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter I received from George W. Battersby, attorney. The original deed to the property in question ran to the Union Church Association of the Town of Edwards. The certificate of incorporation of the Union Church Association of the Town of Edwards stated, "said Church now and forever to be owned equally by the following denomination namely, Presbyterians, Universalists, Methodist, Episcopal and Baptists." It is my opinion, therefore, that the most the Convention could have is a one-fifth interest. As you can see from the letter, they are willing to let us have it, but in order to get a good title you would have to get deeds from the other four denominations, all of the Court orders, etc., and from what I am told, I don't think the property is worth it, however, I have never seen it. If the property is in the condition implied and of no great value, then I am lead to believe the Convention would do well to consent to the transfer to the Fire Department.

Please advise me of the wishes of the Convention.

Very truly yours,

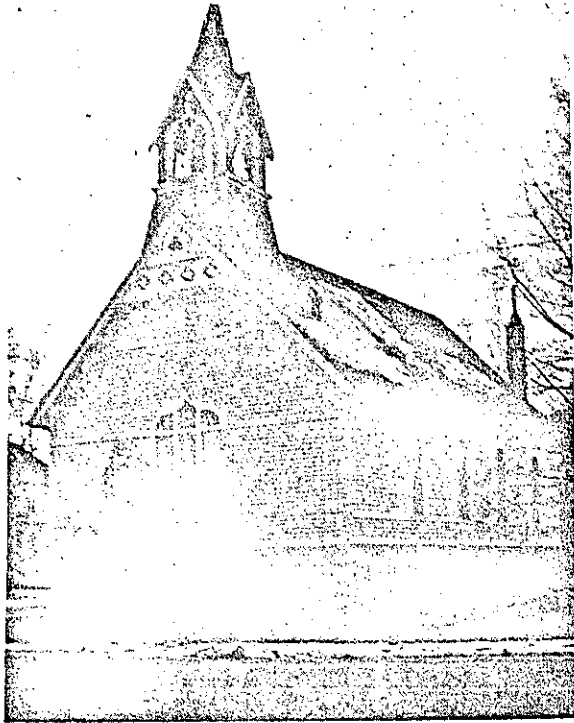
Lewis H. Case

LHC:pjk

Enclosure

CC: Mr. Cleon Wait
565 Hillside Avenue
Rochester 10, New York

CC: George W. Battersby, Esq.
40 Church Street
Gouverneur, New York



By LEAH M. NOBLE
Edwards Town Historian

Back in the 1800's, the followers of the Protestant faith had outgrown their meeting places in homes and school houses, and in 1850, a one-room frame church, the first Union Church, was erected. Little is known of its exact location, but it is believed that it was a bit west of the present fire house. Again, in 1880, the congregation -- Baptists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Methodists and Universalists -- had so increased that a larger edifice was built.

Along with the church home, sheds were built to accommodate the horses and conveyances of the farmers, who had come to town to trade, gather local and national news, or attend celebrations, races, dances and other activities. Many a young lad earned extra money caring for the horses, while the owner was otherwise engaged. About 20 years ago, the sheds were razed, for there was no longer use for them. These stood to the west of the McDonald home.

As a result of differences in regard to church doctrine and discipline, the Methodists withdrew from the group and built their own church farther north on Main Street. This was dedicated December 17, 1885; it is the present Methodist church.

Then, in the spring of 1886, plans were made to build a much larger Union Church, the Union Church of today, on the lot of 24/100 of an acre donated by Thomas and Marion Noble, at the corner of Main and Church Streets. The contract to move back the old frame church was given to William Grant -- he was paid \$75 for the work. The new edifice was to be a "city church in the country", a meeting room, two stairways, a basement room to house heating equipment and space for small meetings and suppers. The marble for the walls was drawn from Gouverneur, and (William's brother) James Grant, cut most of the stone.

Amos Newton collected about \$500 towards the expenses, 200 chairs (priced at \$250), a furnace, and a bell weighing 1,046 pounds. All summer long the good ladies of the church sewed busily on rag rugs for the aisles and across the front of the church. It was a thrilling day when the "boughten" seats arrived and were installed in a semi-circular pattern in the sanctuary. Beautiful stained glass

EDWARDS UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

windows repeat the Gothic feeling of the arched ceiling, from whose exposed beams hang attractive chandeliers today. Years ago, of course, the light was provided by numerous kerosene lamps. The pulpit and communion table were made by William Grant. Appropriate dedication services were conducted February 15, 1887, by Dr. John Lee and Rev. Richmond from Canton. During that year Rev. Harmon and Rev. Forbes filled the pulpit. On September 23 of that year, a Universalist convention was held here.

St. Lawrence Theological school, 30 miles away, in Canton, has sent many graduate ministers and many students to preach to the congregation. Dr. Lee preached almost continuously for 10 years. Other ministers up to 1900 were the Reverends Johnson, Fraser (Frazier), William Watson, Mills from Hermon, Tower T. Williams, Shoesmith, Lund, James Dixon, Adams, Wheeler, and Miss Cora Morgan. From 1900-1903, Rev. John Lowe was the preacher.

Uri Mitchell, who married a local girl - Mary Rushton - conducted religious services and at times delivered illustrated lectures about Canada, assisted by Mr. Bosco or Frank Cook.

In the next 25 or 30 years the following were preachers: Rev. Hal Kearnes, Dr. Wallace Fiske (Hartford, Conn.), Rev. Farnsworth, Edward A. Lewis, C.H. Murch, Richard and George Welch, Clare Blauvelt, John Brush, Robert Davis, Fenwick Levitt, Paul Price, Congdon, Gaither, Jeffery Campbell, Doris Swett, Helene Ulrich, Gus Ulrich, Julia Tobey. Then came Paul Felt, Kenneth Babcock, Norman Sparbel, Mrs. Libby, Edson Miles, Edna Bruner, Richard Woodman, and finally Mr. Wheelwright, in 1956 who was instrumental in having the new roof installed. At this time the congregation had so dwindled in size that the church was closed permanently. Today this fine meeting house has been taken over by Edwards Firemen.

In 1947, Dr. Myles Rodehaver conducted a Forum on Rural Community survey.

The organ, recently sold to the White Church in Pitcairn, was for years played by Ruth Bancroft Adams, Eva Padgett Gore and Gretchen Todd Gregory. Other effects as the pulpit Bible and silver Communion set have been loaned to the Edwards Museum.



FORMER UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
EDWARDS, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY, NY
PHOTO 1967