

Trustees.
Mrs. Charlotte Johnston.
Mrs. Martinette Carlson.
Mr. John C. Cheney. (Deceased)

Bemus Point, N.
October 27th, 19

Bemus
Point

Rev. Howard Gilman, Secretary,
505 Orwood Place,
Syracuse, S. N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gilman,-

In regard to the situation of the Bemus Point
Universalist Society--

The interested living members of the organization met with Mrs. Charlotte Lenhart Johnston Sunday afternoon October 25th to discuss the possibility of selling the property to another Protestant organization, as a branch of a large Church in Jamestown, which is ten miles from Bemus Point, at the foot of Chautauqua Lake.

It is with regret that we have come to this decision, but owing to the advanced advanced age of the majority of the membership, and not being able to support a full time pastor, we wish to have someone take over the property so that it will be an asset to the community. The location is very good. With the nominal rent from the Parsonage we have kept the buildings in good repair and pay taxes on Parsonage. However an unoccupied building soon depreciates.

The only way it could be retained as a Liberal Church, would be from a young ambitious man, who would be willing to begin at the bottom, among the people in the community who are not affiliated with an existing active Methodist Society, and a very fast growing Catholic organization, who have recently acquired some very valuable property in the village and built a Church a few years back.

Rev. Leining thought we should keep it and have Summer services with Student Pastors. That has been tried out in the past without success. This is definitely a Summer Resort and during the Season the local residents are too busy making their years living in that short period to attend services regular.

We have very few of the middle age or young people to stand by and with a part time Pastor it is not possible to interest the young people and no Church will succeed unless there is something to continually interest them.

If the transaction goes through with the Jamestown Society, it is agreed that a generous part of the funds would be turned over to the Theological School at Canton, and some to the Unitatian Church of Jamestown, who have helped us in many ways in the past, and are in need of funds for needed improvements.

We will be glad to confer with you or Mr. Beebe as soon as we find out what the Jamestown People propose. Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the then State Secretary in reply to an inquiry of our status.

Sincerely,

Edith B. Cheney

Mrs. John C. Cheney.