

## ELLISBURG CHURCH APPEALS FOR FUNDS Ladies' League Endeavoring to Replace Structure

Ellisburg, Jan. 25.—The members of the congregation of the First Universalist church of Ellisburg which was totally destroyed by fire last fall, have begun the work of raising the fund [sic] necessary to rebuild the edifice.

The following appeal has been sent out by the Ladies' League of the church in an endeavor to enlist the assistance of the friends of the church in the campaign for funds:

To all our friends: During the recent conflagration, which threatened to destroy our little village, the first Universalist church of Ellisburg was burned, and among the records which were fortunately preserved we find the following interesting data—

In the interim between 1821-38, and several years prior to the erection of the church edifice, the Rev. Cornelius G. Person, assisted by such ardent believers in our faith as Isaac Mendell, Silas Emerson, John Clark and others, organized the first Universalist society and elected the following trustees: Isaac Mendell, Edmund Eldridge, Daniel Stearns, Edmund Palmer and Richard Cheever.

From that ardent assembly of 19 members originated a prosperous church and the seed of Universalism, thus early and faithfully sown, sprang up and yielded an abundant harvest.

The first clergymen of our faith were the Revs. N.[Nathaniel] Stacey, and M. Winslow; 1812-1818—followed by Seth Jones, Cornelius G. Person, John French, C. B. Brown, and O.[Oliver] Wilcox; after Rev. Wilcox's death in 1845, the pulpit was supplied by C. G. Person, Jacob Saxe, Justin Averill and others until 1846, when Rev. L.[Luther] Rice became pastor, remaining until 1851. Then the Revs. A.[Alfred] Peck, Pitt Morse, J.[John] H. Stewart, E. A. Holbrook and others supplied until 1859, when L. Rice again accepted the pastorate for three years.

About that time, the Civil war broke out and we had only occasional religious services interspersed with war meetings, until 1870, when Rev. W.[William] S. Goodell, who is still one among us, commenced his tireless labor which continued for eight years.

Subsequently, the pulpit was supplied by students from Canton Theological college, St. Lawrence University, until the cry, "Come over into Macedonia and help us," was answered by Rev. L.[Lewis] B. Fisher, D. L. Fisher and H. P. Morrill [Herbert P. Morrell].

The same zeal and enthusiasm which was manifested in each individual that formed the little assembly in 1821 still exists.

The church was built by Benjamin Bemis, architect, at the cost of \$1,500, and on Thursday, Aug. 24, 1848, it was "dedicated to the worship of God the Creator and Savior of all men."

The Rev. Wilcox was installed as pastor of the church and society, and was assisted in the services of the day by the Revs. [A. W.] Bruce, Jones, Morse and Person.

For nearly 70 years the building has stood as a monument to the unselfish generosity of its contributors and the unfailing loyalty of its followers. Today there are many survivors of those "Pioneers of Universalism," and lest we forget that we are "one" in the faith, we quote these lines which seem so fitting:

"Faith of our fathers, living still  
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;  
O, how our hearts beat high with joy  
Whene'er we hear that glorious word."

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