

Mohawk Universalist Church

The Mohawk Universalist Society was organized in 1850. The church edifice, which is of brick, forty-five by sixty feet, and located on the north side of Main, just west of Richfield street, was built by Ansel Glover of Paper Mill Village, N.H., at a contract price of \$3,000, and dedicated in February, 1852. The first sermon in the church was upon the death of Flavel Clark, a soldier of the Revolution.

The subscription paper on which money was raised for the church read as follows: "In consideration of our desire to build a house for the purpose of holding Universalist meetings therein, we the undersigned do agree to pay to Chauncey Johnson, Jacob Diefendorf, Ezekiel Spencer and Henry Tuttle, the survivor or survivors of them, the sum set opposite our respective names. The said committee, or majority of them, or their survivors, may contract for a lot for the purpose of erecting said house on the same, and take a deed for the same, and when a lot is contracted for, then one quarter is to be paid to the said committee; and when the body or any portion is contracted, another quarter; when the walls are up and the roof on, the residue is to be paid. Whenever a Universalist society is incorporated in the village of Mohawk, then the said Johnson and his associates, or the survivors of them, are to deed the said lot and house to the said society." Among the most prominent subscriptions to the above were: David Diefendorf, \$100; Henry Tuttle, \$100; Chauncey Johnson, \$100; Ezekiel Spencer, \$100; Benjamin Carver, \$150; Ephriam Tisdale, \$50, Samuel Carey, \$50; Hon. Ezra Graves, \$50; John R. Bliss, \$50; F. E. Spinner, \$25; John Crist, \$25; C. S. Benton, \$25; and many others with like and lesser amounts. The subscriptions seem to have been in four classes: cash, lumber, team work and day labor.

The first pastor was the Rev. B.[Benjamin] B. Hallock, who commenced his labors in 1852, and continued until 1857, when he removed to Little Falls. He was succeeded by Rev. Dolphus Skinner, who was somewhat noted for his eccentricities and for his espousal of the anti-slavery cause. We find that some of his supporters or parishioners were quite as "set in their way" as the dominie; for upon the back of a subscription circulated for the support of dominie Skinner we find the following subscription: "On condition that Mr. Skinner does not preach abolition politics I will pay for half the time twenty dollars (\$20)." Paid. Signed, B. Carver. Besides Hallock and Skinner the following clergymen have served this people and, as near as can be ascertained, in the order in which they are named: Rev. Messrs. L. C. Browne, J. R. Sage, 1858, 1859; L. L. Briggs, Aaron A. Thayer, 1867; F. Stanley Brown and Rev D. Ballou, who closed his labors with the society in 1878.

Under the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Hallock there was a flourishing Sabbath-school connected with this church and society, which continued for several years. There is no stated preaching here at present. The value of the church property is \$2,500.

Frederick W. Beers, *History of Herkimer County*, NY (New York: 1879) p. 176