

Miss Harriet L. Druley Ordained  
Services Held In Universalist Church, Henderson [Excerpt]

On March 1, 1822, Rev. Pitt Morse and 19 members effected a church organization in Henderson. For some unknown reason, this organization seems to have lapsed, so that at a public meeting of the citizens of Henderson in 1838 a reorganization of the parish took place. Chester Barrett, Amasa Hungerford and David Montague were elected trustees the same year this church was started, and on Christmas day, 1839, the first dedication services were held.

With few exceptions services have been held here regularly ever since under the leadership of the following ministers: Rev. Pitt Morse, Rev. Seth Jones, Rev. Luther Rice, Rev. Alfred Peck, Rev. Harvey Haynes, Rev. S. W. Remington, Rev. L. B. Fisher, D. D., Rev. D. L. Fisher, Rev. H. P. Morrell, Rev. Arthur Roberts, Rev. Charles Lund, Rev. Samuel Ayres, Rev. L. M. Clement, Rev. Flora [Bron\_\_?]. Rev. George Adams, Rev. Loomis O. Black, Rev. William J. Metz.

During the pastorate of Rev. Arthur Roberts some alterations were made, and the church building was thoroughly repaired, both inside and out. In July, August and September, 1909, however, during the pastorate of Rev. William J. M. Metz, very extensive alterations and repairs were made. Art glass memorial windows were placed in position, and the interior arrangement of the church reversed. New pews, pulpit and communion furniture, as well as a new carpet were put in the church. These and numerous other improvements, including complete decorations, both inside and out, an excellent heating plant, cement steps and walk were added at this time.

Much of this was made possible and brought about through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Arms of Chicago, former members of this society. However, great credit must be given to the host of contributors, who while not able to give large sums, gave at least all they possibly could.

The re-dedication of the church took place on the evening of June [30?], 1910. In this service the pastor, Rev. William J. Metz, was assisted by Rev. F. W. Betts, D. D., of Syracuse, Rev. Moses H. Harris, D. D., of Watertown and Archie D. Wilcox of Canton. Since then the church has held regular services and has been a factor in the life of the community.

During the pastorates of Rev. Elmo Robinson, Rev. Harold A. Niles and Rev. Weston A. Cate, the church and its various organizations have prospered. Many ministers who have become prominent in the work of the church were ordained in this little church in Henderson.

In 1920 a fine bell was given to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Byron Penney in memory of their son, Harold, who had passed away and who always wanted a bell in the church. It was placed in the tower and now every Sunday morning sends out an invitation to come and attend divine service.

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