

[Independence (Whitesville), Allegany Co.]

The First Universalist Society of Independence was organized May 25, 1844. On the first board of trustees were Aholiab Sawyer and Thomas Collver. Until 1859 meetings were held alternately at the Collver schoolhouse, on Cryder creek, the Spicer schoolhouse and the schoolhouse at Hallsport (Willing). In the fall of 1858, Thomas Collver, Guy Forsyth and Willet Wilson were chosen a committee to let the contract for and to superintend the erection of a church edifice at Whitesville. The church was dedicated in 1860. The seating capacity is about 300 and its cost about \$1,500. Rev. Jason Lewis was the first pastor. He was succeeded by Linus Payne, Rev. [M. L.] Wisner, Isaac George, O. B. Clark, Joel Sawyer, S.[Seth] E. Darrow, I.[Ichabod] B. Sharp, E. W.[Winchester] Fuller, F.[Francis] M. Alvord, Rev. Holt, Rev. Broeffle, W. H. McLaughlin, E. C. Rie, Emma Bailey and Rev. Dodge. Membership in 1895, 46.

Mrs. Georgia Drew Andrews, ed., *Allegany County and Its People: A Centennial Memorial History* (Alfred, NY: 1896), P. 604

Transcribed on 26 Sep 2007 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY