

DEDICATION

The new and convenient Brick Meeting-House, recently erected by the Universalist Society in North Bloomfield, Ontario co., N. Y. was solemnly dedicated to the worship of the only God, on Wednesday, the 17th June, 1829.

The dedicatory services were performed in the following order—

1. Anthem by the choir (dedication anthem)
2. Introductory Prayer by Br. W[illiam] I. Reese
3. Original Hymn, written by Br. W. I. Reese
4. Reading select portions of Scripture by S[tephen] R. Smith
5. Original Hymn, written by S. R. Smith
6. Sermon by S. R. Smith (text, 2 Chron. 6:18)
7. Consecrating Prayer—by Br. I[saac] Whitnall
8. Hymn by the choir (dedication hymn)
9. Benediction—by S. R. Smith

The day was favorable for the occasion, and a very numerous auditory attended, who manifested a deep interest in the prosperity of the good cause of gospel truth. The services by the choir were very praise-worthy, and as the singers are principally attached to the meeting, the music in that church will certainly be of the best order.

The Society comprises a respectable portion of the most wealthy and influential citizens in the vicinity, and it was gratifying to witness the mingling of age with “locks frosted by many winters” among the youth whose ardent and devout attention evinced their devotion to the cause of truth and to the doctrines of salvation.

Br. W. I. Reese has labored about three years with this Society, one half of the Sabbaths [i.e. half time], and the success of his ministrations may be inferred from the rising of the substantial and beautiful edifice in which he will continue to testify the grace of God.

May the Lord bless both pastor and people with the richness of the gospel, and the rewards of faithfulness.

S. R. S.

Evangelical Magazine, Utica NY, 11 Jul 1829

Br. Skinner—In reporting the dedication of the new church at North Bloomfield, I had not time either to describe the location of the church, or to notice the situation of the society, nor indeed to give you any particulars of my journey.

The Church is beautifully situated on the high and level plain, a few rods west of the Honeoye Creek [in the town of Lima, Livingston Co.], at what is called Smith's Mills, and is about three miles north of the village of West Bloomfield. Perhaps few places out of the principal villages would accommodate more people—it being at the corners of several thickly populated townships. And the congregation is composed of members from East and West Bloomfield, Mendon, Henrietta, Lima and Avon. I preached in the church the second Sunday (14th day) of June, to a respectable number of hearers. What gave particular pleasure was the tone of firmness and unanimity marked on all the doings of the society. I remained several days in the vicinity, and had repeated opportunities of remarking the distinguished sociability and affectionate friendship of many of the members of this congregation. Between them and Br. Reese, there exists great familiarity and the utmost freedom of intercourse, as well as mutual harmony and confidence....

S. R. [Rev. Stephen Rensselaer Smith

Evangelical Magazine, Utica NY, 29 Aug 1829