

[Upper Lisle, Broome Co. NY]

UNIVERSALIST CHURCH AT UPPER LISLE

The Universalist church at Upper Lisle has nearly reached the century mark of its existence, having organized previous to 1819 [on 4 May 1816]. The hamlet was known as Sharp's Corners, then in the town of Lisle but later annexed to Triangle. Rev. Archelaus Green of Virgil preached about once a month for some time. The meetings were held in the school-house on the east side of the river. Later Rev. Udney H. Jacobs moved here and preached one season. In June, 1819, the Universalist association was held in Niles Hinman's barn.

On August 21, 1830, several friends of liberal christianity met at the school-house near Noah Reed's for the purpose of reorganizing the Universalist society. Joseph Baker was chosen chairman and Jason Lewis secretary. The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously passed:

Whereas, A Universalist society was formed in this place some years ago, and duly organized according to law, and

Whereas, The records of its early proceedings, the copy of its constitution, the register of its members, etc., has been lost; and

Whereas, from these causes, and from some informalities in its proceedings, the society is supposed by some to be incapacitated for holding real estate; therefore

Resolved, That it is expedient to reorganize said society.

Resolved, That we adopt a constitution.

On the second Saturday in June, 1831, it was voted to dedicate the church edifice, then completed, and Rev. D. [Dolphus] Skinner of Utica was invited to officiate, which [he] did at the dedication later in the same month.

On April 3, 1844, a joint stock company was formed and stock issued at \$5 a share. This company purchased the land and erected a parsonage for the Universalist society and this residence still stands, being the first house above Floy Reed's.

Church Record

On July 24, 1819, a number of the brethren and sisters met for the purpose of organizing into a church. Amos Crandall was chosen moderator and Solomon Adams clerk. Articles of faith, covenant and plan of church government were prepared and signed. The signers were: Samuel Hinman, Solomon M. Rose, Ashbel Olmsted, Solomon Adams, Thomas Richards, Noah Reade, John Hollenbeck, Clarissa Richards, Elizabeth Robinson, Elizabeth Sharp, Asenath Graham. The preacher was Rev. Seth Jones.

[Upper Lisle, Broome Co. NY]

Pastors

Below is a partial list of pastors since 1819, the record for some time previous to 1835 being so discolored that names cannot be deciphered:

1819—Seth Jones, Amos Crandall.

[1828-1834—Nelson Doolittle]

March 5, 1835 to May 25, 1840—C. L. [C. S.: Charles Starr] Brown.

1840—Hiram Green.

1841 to 1844—A. O. Warren.

1845 to 1846—William Perry.

1847 to 1949—B. [Benjamin] S. Hobbs. He was ordained here.

1852—Robert Queal.

1860—R. [Rufus] O. Williams.

Rev. Mr. [Nelson] Doolittle was here about this time [by 1866].

1870—F. B. [Francis Benson] Peck.

1877—R. F. Kingsley, followed by Geo. A. Cole, H. and M. L. Whitney, Amanda Deyo.

1887 to 1888—H. O. Summers.

1889 to 1894—Isaac L. Case, Marion Yager.

1897 to 1898—J. P. Curtis.

1898—A. B. Curtis, six months.

1899—F. B. Gifford.

1900—Artemas L. Partridge.

1902 to 1907—Ulysses S. Milburn.

1907 to 1909—Wilburn Potter.

1909 to 1911—Thomas J. Farmer.

Rev. Mr. Colson of Binghamton has supplied the church the past summer. No services through the winter.

Constitution

Art. 1—This society shall be known and distinguished by the name of "The First Universalist church of Lisle."

2—The object of this society shall be the promotion of religion and morality among ourselves and our fellow creatures.

3—The officers of this society shall consist of three trustees and a clerk.

4—The trustees shall hold office three years; the clerk one.

5—At each annual meeting the second trustee shall take the rank of the first; the third that of the second, and one shall be chosen to fill the place of the third. The clerk shall be chosen annually.

6—It shall be the duty of the trustees to see that a suitable place of worship is provided; to raise money for the support of the gospel ministry, by subscription or otherwise, for all or for such part of the time as shall be practicable [e.g. part-time or full-time]; to call special meetings when

[Upper Lisle, Broome Co. NY]

necessary, and give or cause to be given due notice of the annual meeting; to appoint at each annual meeting one of their number as treasurer for the year, and if they deem it necessary, another for collector; to take charge of the estate belonging to the society; and to transact all affairs relative to the temporalities of the same as the law of this state directs.

7—The clerk's duty shall be to keep a faithful record of all proceedings of the society; to take care of the papers belonging to the same, and transmit the whole to his successor in office.

8—This society shall meet annually for the choice of officers and the transaction of any other business coming before it, on the first Saturday in October, of the place and hour of which meeting legal and proper notice shall be given. Special meetings, however, may be called at any time when the majority of the trustees shall deem necessary, or when any ten members shall in writing request the trustees to call such a meeting.

9—As it respects the appointment of delegates to attend the meeting of the association, this society shall cooperate with the Universalist church in this place in the manner prescribed by a vote to said church, passed August 21, 1830. (This provides that the delegate shall be appointed at a church meeting, but that each member of the society shall be entitled to vote at said meeting for the election of said delegate, whether a member of the church or not.

10—Any alteration which shall be deemed expedient may hereafter be made in this constitution at any annual meeting, provided notices of said meeting; and provided, also that two-thirds of the members present concur in such alteration.

11—Any person sustaining a good moral character, uniting in the object of this society, wishing to promote the interests of pure religion and uncorrupted christianity, and desirous of becoming a member, may become such by subscribing to this constitution.

And now commending ourselves, our neighbors and friends, with our brothers and sisters of the human race, to God our Heavenly father, who is able to build us up in the true faith, guide us by His wisdom in the discharge of every duty, both public and private, and to prepare us for the purity and blessedness of His heavenly kingdom, we subscribe our names to this constitution and agree to abide by the same, use our influence and exertions to promote the prosperity of this society, and conform to its rules and regulation. Done at Lisle this 21st day of August, A.D. 1830.

N.B. This constitution was amended Oct. 7, 1843.

[Upper Lisle, Broome Co. NY]

Profession of Belief

Art. 1—We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain a revelation of the character of God, and of the duty, interest and final destination of mankind.

[2—]We believe that there is one God whose nature is Love revealed in one Lord Jesus Christ by one holy spirit of grace, who will finally restore the whole family of mankind to holiness and happiness.

3—We believe that holiness and true happiness are inseparably connected, and that believers ought to be careful to maintain order and practice good works for this is good and profitable unto men.

Covenant

That we may better promote the declarative glory of God, to effectually advance the kingdom and religion of Jesus Christ in the world, and render ourselves the more pure examples of believers, therefore, in the presence of God, angels and men, we most sincerely and solemnly dedicate ourselves to God, as christians to Jesus Christ as disciples and to each other as brethren and sisters in the Gospel, and solemnly promise that we will take the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the only rule and guide of our obedience to God our Father in Jesus Christ, and our duty to each other and the world of mankind in every condition of human life.

Thus we covenant and agree in the Lord.

Cortland Democrat, Cortland NY, Fri. 23 Feb 1916

Transcribed on 17 Oct 2014 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY