

[Litchfield (Cedarville), Herkimer Co. NY]

CEDARVILLE CHURCH WILL CELEBRATE ITS CENTENNIAL SUNDAY

Exactly one hundred years ago, in 1829, there was erected in the village of Cedarville at the head of the Iliion gorge, a church edifice for the use of the Universalist church of that community. The present members of the church are making preparations for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the building of the church June 23rd and an appropriate program is being prepared. The morning service will be held at 11 o'clock standard time, which is the time used in the village, and the principal address will be given by the Hon. Charles Bell of Herkimer, who was formerly a resident of Cedarville and attended Sunday School as a boy in this church.

The building has recently received a new coat of paint on the exterior, old horse sheds have been torn down and a new piano placed in the auditorium. The present pastor is the Rev. Earl D. Ridgeway, who has served three years in this historic old church. It is the hope of the members that their friends will turn out in large numbers for this celebration.

Otsego Farmer, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 21 Jun 1929

Transcribed on 9 Mar 2016 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

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CEDARVILLE CHURCH OBSERVES CENTENARY IN FITTING MANNER

The centennial service was held in the Universalist church, Cedarville Sunday, with addresses by County Judge Charles Bell, Herkimer, and the Rev. Lanning, D.D., state superintendent of Universalist churches.

Music was under the leadership of Mrs. E. D. [Cary] Ridgeway [wife of the minister]. Selections were rendered by the chorus in the morning, and by a trio composed of Burton Wilkinson, Arthur Slaughter and Jesse Burgess. Mrs. Anabel Jones sang "I Will Extol Thee."

Judge Bell in his address said in part: This is the only church in which I attended Sunday School. I enjoyed many happy times during my boyhood days and will remember the kindness of the people who worshipped in the church. I recall in particular, Mr. Defendorf and the many times he rode his horse to water. The first check I earned was for \$2.50, for driving a horse in moving to old hall to its present location.

"As a boy I knew everybody for many miles around Cedarville and I knew the horses that they drove.

"I liked the people in those days, I liked those that followed and I like the people today.

"For miles around Cedarville people lived on their own farms. They didn't make much money, but they were honest and industrious church attending people.

"We owe much to our forefathers for handing the church down to us. I cannot remember the bad things in people; if there was bad, I have forgotten it, the good stands out prominently in my memory and I have been inspired and helped through life by their kindly acts."

After his speech, his daughter, Miss Dorothy Bell, sang "Coming Home." The benediction was given by the Rev. Mr. Skeels¹.

A dinner was served at the hall to about 200 persons.

The afternoon service opened with a song by the congregation after which a selection was rendered by the men's trio. The Rev. Mr. Skeels read the 91st Psalm, followed by a solo by Mrs. Skeels of Herkimer, prayer by the Rev. [Clinton A.] Moulton of Dolgeville, and another selection by the men's chorus.

In the address that followed, the Rev. Dr. Lanning spoke on "One Hundred Years."

"There were many things that the people didn't have one hundred years ago. They didn't know the use of coal, electricity, radio, and little about steam, telephone, automobiles and airplanes. Many of the great men were

¹ Rev. Wines Harris Skeels, minister of the Universalist church in Herkimer.

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but boys or just coming into prominence that have had so much to do with the accomplishments during the past century. Wonderful advancements have been made in surgery."

The Universalist church has advanced rapidly in the past, and gives us a challenge to work for the prosperity of the future church.

Arthur Slaughter sang "My Task." The closing song was "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." Benediction was given by the pastor, the Rev. E. [Earl] D. Ridgeway. The following is a list of the pastors which have served the Cedarville church: Rev. L. C. Brown [Lewis Cresaba Browne], C. H. Beebe, Harvard Brown, L. G. Powers, Daniel Ballou, James Huxtable, William Lawrence Sommers, Charles H. Vail, S. R. [Samuel Roland] Ward, J. L. Dowson, H. Babbitt, W. Render, H. A. Abbott, DeWitt Lamphear, E. D. Ridgeway.

Otsego Farmer, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 28 Jun 1929

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