

[Mexico, Oswego Co. NY]

Hon. Avery Skinner was born in Westmoreland, N. H. June 9, 1796, was the brother of Hiram, and the fourth of a family of nine children. In 1816 he came on horseback to Watertown, N. Y., and in the spring of 1823 settled in Union Square, where he died November 24, 1876. He gave the place its name, erected the first tavern, established a mail route, and was appointed the first postmaster, serving as such until his death. In 1831, and again in 1832, he was elected member of assembly, and from 1838 to 1844 was State senator. In 1846 he was defeated for Congress by William Duer. In 1826 he was appointed county treasurer, and held the office twelve years, and from 1828 to 1839 he was by appointment one of the judges of the court of Common Pleas. He was always a Democrat, ever highly respected, and reared a family of prominent sons and daughters. He was an original promoter of the Syracuse Northern Railroad, of which he was also a director.

Union Square.—This is a station on the R., W. & O. Railroad, situated four miles east of Mexico village. Two of its most conspicuous citizens were Avery and Hiram Skinner, the former of whom has already been noticed. Hiram Skinner was an early school teacher, justice of the peace and postmaster, and died November 4, 1865.

Christ Universalist Church of Mexico was organized as the Universalist Society of Mexico, at the school house April 12, 1832, with twenty-four members. The first trustees were Alexander J. Danby, Avery Skinner, Joseph Lamb, Pliny Sabin and Amos Church. The moderator was Rev. O.[Obadiah] Whiston, who was installed the first pastor, and was succeeded by Revs. Charles B. Brown, Henry Van Campen, J. S. Kibbe and others. In 1849 during the pastorate of Rev. William Sias, the society refused to be represented in association and it became extinct. [On] January 16, 1853, it was revived at a meeting conducted by W. S. Goodell, and in 1868 a legal organization was effected with fifteen members. Rev. W N. Barber became pastor and was followed by Rev. James Vincent and by the Rev. E. B. Cooper. In 1870-71 an edifice was erected and dedicated November 16, 1871.

John C. Churchill, ed., "History of Mexico, New York" in  
*Landmarks of Oswego County* (D. Mason & Co., Syracuse NY, 1895