

[Newport, Herkimer Co. NY]

Ecclesiastical History—Newport Universalist Church

The church now known as the Universalist had its beginning in an organization March 28th, 1842, composed of persons styling themselves inhabitants of Newport and vicinity, having subscribed for the erection of a church edifice, bearing the title of the Newport Union Association. This was a union of Universalists, Unitarians and Episcopalians in the effort to erect the present edifice.

The two last named denominations failed to support stated preaching, and the property of the association by the express terms of the original compact passed into the hands of the Universalists.

[On] January 1st, 1843, the Episcopalians having failed to support preaching for the year, the Universalists and Unitarians organized a society and assumed the name of The First Christian Society of Universalists and Unitarians of the town of Newport.

The constitution then adopted was annulled by a formal vote December 28th, 1844, and a new constitution adopted. This change was effected to give the society a distinctive Universalist character, which it has since retained. [On] March 1st, 1858, the society designation was dropped and the title assumed of the Church of the Reconciliation of the Town of Newport.

The names of the members of the society of 1843 were: Daniel Post, Eli Fortune, Joseph Coffin, Steward Cummins, Nathan Bowen, Charles F. Powers, Robert H. Kirck, Low Carpenter, Levi Bowen, Benjamin Benjamin, Joseph Knight, John Burton, Abraham Harris, John F. Allen, Hiram Johnson, H. Fenner, A. B. Fenner, Hopestell [Hopestill] Bradford, Chauncey Eddy, Edmund P. Voorhees, Joseph Cox, jr., Martin Payne, William H. Green, Cady How, Benjamin Coffin, Abram Coffin, Joseph B. Stone, Mary Smith, Betsey Post, Lydia Fortune, Matilda Coffin, Abigail Cummins, Phebe Barney, Olivia Brayton, Eulyssa Luther, Nancy Giles, Adelia Mitchell, Grace P. Wood, Harriet Williams, Roxy Brown, Mary Burton, Charlotte Cox, Saria A. Keith, Rachel Howe, Almira C. Weeden.

Before the erection of the present edifice meetings were held in the school-house and in the old stone church of the Baptists. The building has been improved and repaired recently. There has not been regular preaching in this church for some time.

Frederick W. Beers, *History of Herkimer County* (1879)