

[Onondaga (Howlett Hill), Onondaga Co.]

HOWLETT HILL CHURCH FOUNDED IN 1804

The Howlett Hill Church was organized at Howlett Hill in January, 1804, under the name of the First Baptist Church of Onondaga.

Its congregation consisted of six men and seven women, with Samuel Stone and Jacob Lawrence as deacons. Soon afterward Elder Ebenezer Harrington became the pastor. In 1814 Elder Joseph Moore took over the pastorate and for (1?) years remained in charge, being paid an annual salary of \$100 for his religious direction.

In 1821 an edifice was built and dedicated, and about 1848 the society moved to the village of Camillus. In (1830?) and again in (1833?) members were dismissed to form Baptist churches at Belle Isle and Onondaga Hill.

The lot on which the church stands was deeded to the society by Leonard Caton upon the condition that it revert to him or his heirs when the Baptists abandoned it. After the Baptists left he redeeded the property to the Universalists, who had formed an organization with John T. Robinson and president, Wheeler Truesdale as secretary, John and B. H. Case, J. Q. and David Robinson, Eliphas and Giles Case, Charles Land and Eusephus Lawrence. Rev. Nelson Brown was the first pastor for the Universalists.

The church at Howlett Hill has not been used for religious services for many years, but the building and cemetery are maintained by a committee of descendants of former members.

Many of the first settlers in the Howlett Hill area are buried in the churchyard, among them being Parley Howlett, Sr., from whom the hamlet takes its name.

Syracuse Journal, Syracuse NY, Mon. 20 Mar 1939
[abridged]

Transcribed on 1 Mar 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY