

[Oppenheim, Montgomery Co.]

from "Dedications—Madison—Oppenheim"

BR AUSTIN:—I have long looked for, but have seen no account, as yet, of our churches in the above named places. I do not know that of friends in either place will expect, especially at this late day, a formal notice of the events; and yet perhaps they ought not to pass wholly unnoticed.

In Oppenheim, Montgomery county, our friends went to work last year in company with a few Lutherans and others, and built them a very commodious little church, about three or four miles north of St. Johnsville, where our Br. J.[John] D. Hicks resides, and who has been instrumental in starting the project. Having completed it the latter part of winter, or early in the spring, our Lutheran brethren concluded they would dedicate it in their own way, not wishing to join with the Universalists (the largest proprietors of the house) in that ceremony. The latter made no objections, and the house was dedicated in their way. The Universalists then thought they would have a dedication in *their* way, *nemine contradicentione*. So on the 25th of May your humble servant, accompanied by Brs. Hicks, B.[Benjamin] B. Hallock, and F.[Francis] Peck, repaired to the ground, had a small though attentive congregation (for it rained incessantly nearly the entire day), and with the assistance of the brethren, dedicated the house to the God and Father of the spirits of all flesh. We held two services, had one excellent sermon from Br. Hallock, found good brethren there, and left our benediction with them. Whether they have kept up, or established regular meetings there since the dedication, as they certainly ought to do, I am not informed; not having heard from them since that day.

D. S. [Rev. Dolphus Skinner]

*Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 5 Aug 1854

Transcribed on 21 Oct 2006 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY