

[Cooperstown, Otsego Co. NY]

Pastoral Message to Friends and Church Members

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A PERSONAL WORD OF APPRECIATION

The Church of the Messiah, Universalist, of Cooperstown, N.Y., celebrates the centennial of the building of its church edifice. This building was erected in the year 1833. Plans are maturing for a celebration and a tentative date has been set as of October 15, 1933. It is for this purpose that this booklet of history is being put in circulation and this has been made possible only by the very gracious and generous patronage of you, my fellow citizens. and friends of the church and its minister. I appreciate my return to Cooperstown to take up my second pastorate in this most charming and delightful village and I do realize that in making possible the publication of this centennial booklet your patronage by way of good-will and advertising space has been prompted by a kindly esteem and friendship which I most highly prize and appreciate.

To any who have not found it possible to contribute we still desire of them their good-will, for true friendship is, after all, above the purchase price. May I merit your esteem always.

Sincerely yours,

REV. CHARLES KRAMER

Since the return of Rev. Charles Kramer to the pastorate at Cooperstown the parsonage has received a coat of paint throughout the first floor; the kitchen has been renovated and other improvements made. In the Church the most notable addition at present is the Memorial Lettering Bulletin given by Mrs. Linus L. Barnham to the memory of his mother, Mrs. Sabina J. Barnham and his sister, Mrs. Almeda Caney. This fine bulletin is displayed from the front of the Church and is lighted at night so its messages can be read by the passer-by at all times.

The board of Trustees at present consists of Mrs. Catharine Osterhoudt, moderator; Mrs. Bertha K. Walrath, parish clerk; Mrs. Alta Holbrook, treasurer; Mr. Lucien J. Bowen, Mrs. Leonard Ingalls, Mr. Walter Campbell, Mrs. Sara Gilmore, Mrs. Claudine Fowler.

The Annual Meeting is held the first Monday in May.

The Usher Committee consists of Mr. Lucien Bowen, chairman; Mr. Harold Fowler, Mr. Homer Osterhoudt and Mr. Walter Campbell.

Memorial windows in the Church are dedicated to the memory of Holder Cory, Ellery Cory, Levi Wood, Benjamin Pierce, Nellie and Henry Dodge, Georgie Davis, E. Josephine Swartout.

Gratitude



One hundred years, the span of a century, and the Second Universalist Society of Otsego has held forth in the village of Cooperstown, N.Y. in the church edifice erected in 1833. Here in the Leatherstocking Country, "Where Nature Smiles," and God is not forgotten, as we enjoy and benefit by the beauty and charm of old Otsego, the Glimmerglass of James Fenimore Cooper, and the wooded hills where romance and Indian folklore intermingle, we are not unmindful of a debt of gratitude we owe to the founder of our community abode and to the early settlers so largely responsible for the traditions and history that have become a veritable part of Cooperstown. So we pay tribute as again we record a bit of history.

The plot of ground on which the Church of the Messiah stands was once a part of the "Great Croghan Patent" of 109,000 acres. This patent was issued by George III, King of England, on November 30, 1769, to George Croghan and ninety-nine others, who conveyed their interest in the patent a few days later. Col George Croghan, the first individual owner of the land after the English kings, was Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern District of North America and a "very successful and adroit Indian trader, but absolutely without the qualities which made a pioneer settler of land." So though he built a log cabin near the site of the present office of the Clark estate, he did not get much farther with the settlement. During the Revolution he went back to England and did not again return to America. He was insolvent before he acquired the patent and remained so until his death, which occurred before 1785.

In 1770 Col. Croghan gave a mortgage on 40,000 acres of this tract, including the site of Cooperstown, to William Franklin, then Governor of New Jersey, who had associated with him in this transaction the Burlington Company. Franklin remained true to the British Crown during the Revolution and was taken prisoner by the Colonists soon after the struggle began. He was the son of Benjamin Franklin and his failure to uphold the American cause is said to have been the greatest grief of his father's life. He lived in England most of the time after his release from imprisonment in 1778, but we are told that he conducted in person the proceedings which brought about the recognition of his claim on the Croghan patent and its sale, through the sheriff of Montgomery County to William Cooper and Andrew Craig, in 1786, and that he made a considerable sum by the transaction.

Unlike Col. Croghan, William Cooper seems to have had all of the qualities of a successful pioneer. We are told that "he said truthfully I have settled more acres than any other man in America. There are forty thousand souls holding directly or indirectly under me." William Cooper settled at Burlington, N.J., soon after his marriage and it was there that his son, James Fenimore Cooper, the author, was born. The early history of Cooperstown touches that of Burlington at many points. Both the Copper and Fenimore families were Quakers and Burlington was a Quaker

settlement five years before the founding of Philadelphia. The town was settled by a party of "Friends" who arrived there on "The Shield" in 1677. It is said that as "The Shield" passed down the Thames on her way to sea, King Charles, the Second, who was out pleasuring on the river, asked the name of the ship and who her passengers were. He was told that the vessel was "The Shield" and that she bore members of the "Society of Friends," who were on their way to America to found a colony and he gave them his blessing. The tree to which "The Shield" was tied on her arrival was standing a few years ago on the banks of the Delaware, and may be standing still, and the house at Burlington occupied by William Cooper and his family and in which the novelist was born is standing also and is owned and occupied as a museum by the Burlington County Historical Society.

The first American ancestor of the Cooper family of Cooperstown came to Burlington not long after the settlement of the town. James Fenimore Cooper believed that this first ancestor was William Cooper, a scarcely less famous pioneer in his day than Judge Cooper later became. After sojourning in Burlington for about a year he located on the site of the present city of Camden, bought the license to run a ferry a few years later and gave his name to the region thereabouts, which for more than a century was called "Cooper's Ferries." Now one of the largest and finest of modern bridges spans the Delaware where once the Cooper ferries crossed.

If this first William Cooper was not the direct ancestor of Judge William Cooper, he was probably a near relative of his immigrant ancestor. Later investigators believe this first ancestor to have been James Cooper of Stratford-on-Avon, who in 1682 received a grant of land from Edward Byllynge, the Quaker proprietor of West Jersey, "out of ye good-will and kindness for which ye truth's sake he beareth unto ye said James Cooper."

James Fenimore Cooper was originally named James Cooper. He was the eleventh of twelve children. About 1807, by request of his mother, Elizabeth Fenimore, he said he would adopt the name of Fenimore, as there were no men of his mother's family to continue it. The change was delayed by the untimely death of Judge William Cooper and also to make less difficult the settlement of his large estate. But in 1826 James Cooper applied to the legislature for his change of name to James Cooper Fenimore. This request was not granted, but the change to James Fenimore-Cooper was made. The hyphen, at first used, was soon dropped. And so it was for his mother's sake that he made world wide his fame by the name of James Fenimore Cooper.

His grandfather, Richard Fenimore, was a descendant of an English Quaker family of Oxfordshire and lived at Rancocas, N.J., which is not far from Burlington. According to some accounts the Fenimore family was of Swedish descent and it is not improbable that through intermarriages at least Fenimore Cooper with his love of adventure, romance and the sea, had Norse blood in his veins.

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Historical Sketch of the Church of the Messiah, Universalist
Cooperstown, N.Y.

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"In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth," so reads the opening book of the Old Testament. But there remain for us very few original and accurate dates. God was not a historian. He was primarily the Creator. Man new made and inexperienced had not yet learned the art of compiling historical data. Darkness was figuratively and historically upon the face of the deep. Coming events may cast their shadows before them but too often they are of too little apparent significance to be especially noted. Consequently in after years when they may have become important we have great difficulty tracing their origin.

If one hundred years ago in the humble beginnings of the Church of the Messiah, Universalist of Cooperstown, N.Y., it had been foreseen that in this present year of 1933 the centenary of the building of this Church would be celebrated, care and accuracy might have been employed in the recording and transmission of the complete historical data that has had to do with the events and progress of this Church. This has not been so; and now to go back over the years when records and books have been lost or destroyed and people who might relate the story from first hand experience have departed this life it is difficult indeed to compile any extensive and accurate record. We make apology with sadness and regret that this is so, but we shall strive herewith to do the best we can under the prevailing circumstances.

This booklet then is sent forth upon its mission to commemorate the One Hundredth Anniversary of the building of the Church of the Messiah of Cooperstown, N.Y. The Society was organized as,—The Second Universalist Society of Otsego April 26, 1831, and in 1833 the present Church structure was erected on the site where it now stands at the north East corner of Pioneer and Church Streets though these streets may not have been known by these names at that time, for William Cooper, the father of James Fenimore Cooper, in founding Cooperstown had laid out a plan which made his home Old Otsego Hall, in what is now the Cooper Grounds, the center of development for the Village, and what is now Fair Street was named and intended to be Main St. while what is now Pioneer St. was West St. and on the western limit of the Village. Contrary to the expectation of William Cooper business developed westward on what was named Second Street and it subsequently became known as Main Street which name it now maintains and where the principal business of Cooperstown is today transacted.

The present Universalist Church Building was erected upon the ruins of the old Academy which was destroyed by fire on the 31st day of March, 1809. This fire followed the fire of the night before when the Printing office of H. & E. Phinney, located just across the street from the old Academy, had been destroyed. The

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Church structure was of wood with tower and pinnacles. It was 50 feet long 38 feet wide and cost about \$3,000 for the lot and building. The general structural plan of the building has been maintained all these years. In the fall of the year 1860 the building was somewhat remodeled and a bell placed in the tower. Rev. Job Potter was the first pastor of the Church [he] having been installed in 1831 before the Church building was erected. His successor was Rev. O. [Obadiah] Whiston in July, 1836.

In a paper read at Fly Creek June 17, 1903, at a meeting of the Otsego County Universalist Association, Mr. F. T. Jarvis declared that the first society of the Universalist faith outside of New York City in the State of New York was organized in 1805, about two miles southwest of Fly Creek in what is called the Eddy school district in Hartwick. Fourteen names were enrolled at that time and the man who promoted this project was Rev. Nathaniel Stacy who came into Otsego County in 1805. It is claimed that the Church at Fly Creek was the second house of worship of the Universalist Denomination to be built within the State of New York, and consequently it is the oldest Universalist Church west of the Hudson River. It was in the house of worship that the first meeting of an Association of Universalists ever held in a church of its own faith, convened. Prior to this such meetings were held in churches of other denominations or in School houses or halls. Among the first preachers other than Father Stacy were Edwin Ferris, M. [Miles] E. Wooley and Job Potter.

[On] January 15, 1820, the Society was organized as the First Universalist Society of Otsego County. At a meeting held in 1820 to take action in regard to building a church, the following resolution was adopted: 'That it is expedient to erect a house to be devoted to the worship of God in that part of the town of Otsego, commonly called Fly Creek, and that the doors of said house should be opened to all regular religious societies at all times when not occupied by the society called Universalists.' Wm. Sprague was chosen chairman and Dwight Jarvis, secretary. Mr. Sprague owned the land on which the church was built. The church was built in 1821; extensive repairs were made in 1862. Endowment Funds were given by the early supporters of the Church, principally by the Taylor family for the maintenance of services throughout the years and by reason of these funds services are still continued. A feature of recent years is the holding of an Annual Pilgrimage to this old historic Universalist Church.

The Church of the Messiah of Cooperstown has perhaps shown the greater strength and endurance of any of the early organized churches. It has had its periods of decline and varied success but has always weathered the gale. It is the only building other than the old Otsego Academy that has ever been erected upon this site once owned by William Cooper. Its history is thus indicated from Conveyances D. 1801-1802 page 258. This Indenture made the 23rd day of September in the Year of our Lord 1797 between William Cooper of Cooperstown in the County of Otsego and State of New York of the first part and the Trustees of

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Otsego Academy of the second part, Witnesseth that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of ten shillings, lawful money of the State of New York, to him in hand paid by the said parties of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged, Hath Granted, Bargained, sold, remitted, released Aliend and confirmed and by these presents doth Grant, Bargain, sell, remise, release Alien and confirm unto the said parties of the second part (in their actual possession now being) and to their successors forever all that lot and Land whereon Otsego Academy is now erected. (Then follows a statement of the exact location of the site.) This Indenture was recorded April 20, 1802 by Thomas Ellison.

"The Academy was raised September 18, 1795. It was one of those tasteless buildings that afflict all new countries," says James Fenimore Cooper, and contained two school rooms below, a passage and a stairs; while the upper story was a single room. Oliver Cory was the first principal to assume charge. James Fenimore Cooper, a pupil in the Academy at the age of eight years, recited the Beggar's petition acting the part of an old man wrapped in a faded cloak and leaning on a staff. The Academy contained at that time the largest room in the village and was as much used for other purposes as for those of education. The court on great occasions, was sometimes held here. It was used impartially for religious meetings and for balls." The building destroyed by fire March 31, 1809, the Academy was never reopened.

John H. Prentiss as new owner and editor had just published his first number of "The Impartial Observer," Saturday, April 1, 1809. William Cooper had written a paragraph soliciting patronage of the public for the new editor. Two fires had occurred: the one March 30th destroying the printing plant of H. & E. Phinney and the elegant residence of W. Dewse, Esq. A quantity of ashes taken from a stove and placed in a wooden box had set the building on fire. William Cooper contributed the sum of \$300.00 for the relief of the sufferers. The second fire the burning of the old Academy occurred March 31. These calamities caused the editor to say in the first issue of his paper, "The melancholy situation of this Town by the unfortunate Fires prevents the Editor addressing the Patrons of this Paper and the Public until the publication of the succeeding one." He furthermore said "The preservation of the town is however ascribable only to that Almighty Power who can say to the raging sea—thou shalt go no farther! here shall thy proud waves be stayed! and to the devouring element I am the Ruler." "Fellow Citizens!" Here we have two visitations of Providence: what construction can we put upon them?" Then follows his plea for a united effort "to secure ourselves from the most dire calamities which evidently impend over us."

The deeding of the plot of ground on which the old Academy had stood, to the Trustees of the Second Universalist Society is revealed in Conveyances T. T., 1830-31 in the form of an Indenture recorded May 9, 1831, at Six O'Clock P.M., by Geo. Morell, Judge of Otsego County, *i.e.*,—"This Indenture made the 9th day of

May in the year of our Lord, 1831, Between John Davidson & Katherine, his wife, of the village of Cooperstown of the first part and the Trustees of the Second Universalist Society in the town of Otsego of the second part, Witnesseth that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Two hundred sixty-eight Dollars and seventy-three cents in hand paid by the parties of the second part do hereby declare themselves satisfied and paid, have and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien and release, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part and to their successors in office all that certain piece of land situated at Cooperstown aforesaid and being a part of the lot opposite Elihu Phinney's Dwelling house and the south whole of which lot is bounded south and west by the street, half part of said lot to be divided from east to west the east by S. Gregory's land and north by a part of said lot heretofore leased to Charles Luce."

From "The History of Otsego County" published by Everts and Fariss in 1878 page 274 we glean that "Among those who were instrumental in effecting the organization of the Second Universalist Society of Otsego were Ellery Cory, Holder Cory, Henry Beadle, B. Taylor Comstock, Seth Doubleday, Isaac Fitch, Esek Bradford, Joseph Perkins, Levi H. Pierce, Levi Wood, James I. Paul, William Wilson, Richard Cooley, Stephen Gregory and Abram Van Horne."

The first officers of the Society were Esek Bradford, Abram Van Horne, Levi H. Pierce, Seth Doubleday and Stephen Gregory. Rev. Job Potter was the first pastor of the Society having been installed in 1831 before the Church building was erected. Services at this time were held in the first regular school house ever built in the village, a small wooden structure that stood on the lot later occupied by the dwelling of Elihu Phinney.

The church proper was organized as The Church of the Messiah, August 21, 1858. During that year the record contains the names of Holder Cory, Ellery Cory, Levi Wood, Benjamin Pierce, Olive Wood, Almira Scott, Mary A. Wood, Catharine Jarvis, Laura Barnum, Mary Savage, Wm. B. Stevens, Matilda Stevens, J. S. Parker, Hannah Ball, Giles C. Smith, Ann Bowen, Maria Paul, Eveline Roberts, Elizabeth Marcellus, Aurelia Wilson, Polly Williams, Marcellus Ball, Chas. C. Tomlinson, Mary L. Tomlinson, Jane W. Smith, Sally Greene, Sabra Tucker, Hannah Kellog, Maria Burgess, Sawantha [Samantha?] Cory, Wm. Williams, and Philip Gane. In 1859 Mrs. Philip Gane, Mrs. Almira Robinson, Seth J. Temple; in 1860 Erastus Root; in 1861, Mrs. Polly Pierce, Mrs. Jerusha Spafard, Mrs. Clara E. Hyde, Mrs. Ellen Hardcastle, Miss Annie Frances Butts, Miss Ellen L. Cory, Miss Caroline A. Cory, Mr. Geo. Ed. Beadle, Mr. Titus D. Savage. In 1863 Mary Almy Fish, Josephine Swartout, Alfred D. Brown, Mrs. Amy Campbell, Charlotte Swartout, Mrs. Emma Missen, Mrs. Maria A. Holiday.

Records during the year 1864 and the early portion of 1865 though kept could not be found.

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There seems to have been no additions to the membership until 1870, at least no record can be found. In 1870 W. S. Russell, J. F. Renstle and Miss Almeda Williams were admitted to membership; in 1871 Mrs. Angelina Cooley; in 1874 Emma Stone; in 1875 Henry Pierce; in 1876 Mary Amanda Williams; in 1887 Charles Barnard Cooley. A membership list dated April 2, 1888, contains among others the following names: Levi Bowen, Ada M. Brainard, William Brooks, Hattie Brooks, Irwin E. Caney, Almeda Caney, Susan M. Chamberlain, Laura B. Chapman, Nancy Chapman, Petro Conine, Frank Cooper, Julia L. Cooper, P. P. Cooper, Emma Cory, Genevieve C. Johnston, Mary H. Cory, William E. Cory, Anna O. Connrod, Sabina J. Davidson, Angeline Fish, Willard C. Fowler, Florence I. Fowler, Ella Gazley, George L. Gould, Eliza J. Gould, Harmon Groat, Exaville Groat, Lucy L. Hicks, Huldah Ingalls, Carrie Jones, Olcott McCredy, Edith M. Newell, Elizabeth S. North, Kate Parshall, Louise B. Palmer, Katharine B. Paine, Albert Pierce, Frederick L. Quaif, Mary F. Quaif, Robert Quaif, Harriet Reustle, Regina Reustle, Ellen M. Roberts, Frank A. Robinson, Jane A. Robinson, D. Sophia Ruggles, Mary Ruggles, Sarah A. Sayles, John F. Scott, Ambrose C. Shipman, Cora E. Shipman, Arthur J. Taylor, A. Louisa Taylor, Thomas Taylor, Jr., Seth D. Temple, Charles P. Thompson, Frances L. Thompson, Joel G. White, Lena M. White, Louisa E. White, Isaac K. Williams, Maria Williams, Mary A. Williams, Maria J. Wood and Bianca Doubleday.

The following is a list of the pastors who have served the Church: Rev. Job Potter, 1831 to 1836; Rev. O. [Obadiah] Whiston, 1836-1846; Rev. J. A. Bartlett, 1847 to 1849; Rev. D. C. [DeWitt Clinton] Tomlinson, 1849 to 1850; Rev. F. J. Carney, 1850 to 1851; Rev. J. A. [Joseph Aikin] Aspinwall, 1851 to 1854; Rev. C. W. [Charles Welden] Tomlinson, 1854 to 1865; Rev. W. W. Clayton, 1866 to 1868; Rev. O. Perkins, 1868 to 1869; Rev. C. L. Wait, 1869 to 1875; Rev. Ellery E. Peck, 1876 to 1881; Rev. Samuel G. Davis, 1881 to 1882; Rev. G. W. Patten, 1882 to 1886; Rev. S. W. Suttan, 1886 to 1889; Rev. J. E. Rider, 1889 to 1891; Rev. Lee H. Fisher, 1891 to 1894; Rev. E. [Edward] A. Perry, 1895 to 1907; Rev. H. E. Kellington, 1908 to 1909; Rev. Geo. Wilson Scudder, 1909 to 1911; Rev. Wm. G. Cortright, 1911 to 1915; Rev. Wm. P. Farnsworth, 1915 to 1916; Rev. Charles Kramer, 1916 to 1924; Rev. Geo. C. Borne, 1924 to 1929. Rev. Thomas Chapman, 1930 to 1931. Rev. Charles Kramer was re-called to the pastorate of the Church in Cooperstown January, 1933, after having served as pastor of the First Universalist Church of Bridgeport, Conn., for a period of nine years.

It was during the first pastorate of Rev. Charles Kramer, 1916 to 1924 that the Church and parsonage were very extensively remodeled and very largely paid for. It was also during this period of time that most of the bequests of money left the Church came into our possession and by reason of it Trust Funds were established; the Church indebtedness liquidated; the parsonage repairs paid and the mortgage which had long rested upon the property was lifted. The salary of the minister was also doubled and brought up to the Thousand Dollar standard

with rent of parsonage included. The incentive for these activities was the apparent need of Church and parsonage repairs and the key to the situation seems to have been a legacy of \$1000.00 left to the Church by the Mrs. Thayer, Estate. At an Annual Meeting held May 6, 1918, it was the general opinion that this money be used for Church repairs and Mrs. C. A. Shipman, president of the Board of Trustees appointed Mr. Ralph W. Ellsworth, Mr. James Griggs and Mr. C. A. Shipman a Committee to estimate the cost of repairs. At this meeting a note of thanks was sent to Mr. Jacob Bridger for the gilded cross he had placed on the church spire to the memory of his wife.

The Church needed repairs badly. The ceiling held an old plaster paris ornamentation from which there once hung the old chandelier used in the days when the Church was lighted by gas. The pews were low back built of light lumber (extremely uncomfortable). The carpet was badly worn; the Church organ was located in a loft at the rear of the Church and it was pumped by hand. [On] July 1, 1918 a meeting of the parish was called to discuss plans for repairing the Church. Twenty-two people were present. Mr. A. C. Shipman reported as solicitor of contributions that \$750.00 had been pledged and much of it paid. The following Committees on Repairs were appointed: Organ Committee, Rev. Charles Kramer, Miss Bertha Kramer, Mr. E. D. Lindsay, Mr. W. C. Fowler. Committee on Carpenter Work, Mr. W. C. Fowler, Mr. Fred L. Quaif, Mr. Jacob Bridger, Mr. George Palmer. Committee on New Ceiling and Pews, Mr. R. W. Ellsworth, Mr. James Griggs, Miss Fannie L. Thompson, Miss Huldah Couse, Mrs. Wm. Southworth. Committee on Decorating, Mrs. George L. Gould, Mrs. R. W. Ellsworth, Mrs. Loran Knapp, Mrs. Mollie Schneider, Mrs. Alta Holbrook, Miss Anna Mission, Mrs. Della Thompson Lutes, Miss A. Elizabeth Leaning, Mr. R. W. Ellsworth. Mr. A. C. Shipman was authorized to act as Financial Agent and have general supervision of the repairs.

Work was begun in earnest. The first move was to replace the old and obsolete hand bellows for blowing the organ by installing an electric motor and blower; then it was proposed to move the entire organ equipment to the main floor left the chancel, and here it was installed. Then the plaster-paris ornament of the ceiling was removed and a steel ceiling installed. As the old pews were obsolete and unsuitable to a renovated auditorium, new pews were ordered and a new carpet placed upon the floor. A reading desk and a new communion table were also placed upon the pulpit platform and a new Bible was presented by Mr. Fred L. Quaif to the memory of his father, Mr. Robert Quaif. On the lower floor a new furnace was installed and the dining room and kitchen were completely remodeled and made convenient for social purposes and the holding of Church suppers. Mr. A. C. Shipman reported that the sum of \$3574.00 had been expended at this time for Church repairs.

It was now proposed that the Church of the Messiah of Cooperstown invite the New York State Convention of Universalists to meet in our Church in Annual Session and consequently the 94th Annual Session of the New York State

Convention of Universalists [1919] was held in Cooperstown, N.Y., Oct. 6-9. These sessions had of late years been held only in large Cities and it was a bold move to invite the session to Cooperstown, but the people of the church and the people of other Churches in the Community, and the Chamber of Commerce very graciously offered and extended their help and co-operation, so the session became a memorable one in the history of Universalism in the State of New York.

The steamer Mohican though it had discontinued its regular trips for the season was put into service and carried our guests a round trip over the ever changing waters of the old historic Glimmerglass. It was at this session that there was inaugurated for the first time in New York State the payment of all ministers travelling expense and an allotment of money sufficiently to defray all expense incident to attending the Annual Session.

The inspiration upon us by the remodeling of our Church and the entertaining of the New York State Convention we undertook also the remodeling of the Universalist Parsonage located at 23 Church Street. The entire first floor of the parsonage was transformed by the removal of partitions of smaller rooms and large spacious rooms separated by French Doors were substituted. Steel ceilings, and hard wood floors, new lighting fixtures, new bath room equipment and a new furnace were installed. There was an outlay of over \$1400.00 at this time. The house was now much used for church and community affairs, Church meetings, public suppers, social affairs, plays, rehearsals, weddings and receptions. In fact it became a Community Center as well as a residence for the Minister. During the summer of 1922 a two story addition, with cellar, kitchen on first floor, with an outside grade porch, and a second story room was built and the entire renovation of the parsonage completed. This last building project cost about \$2175.00. In addition to the expense of the church repairs and all repairs upon the parsonage a mortgage of \$2500.00 against the parsonage property was taken care of and in due time paid.

Among those who bequeathed money to the Church were: Henry Pierce, \$1000.00; the Estate of Mrs. Thayer, \$1000.00; Mrs. Susan Hinds, \$1000.00; Horace Pierce, \$4402.06; Mrs. Cook, \$25.56; Mrs. John Conratt, \$22.03; Mrs. Helen Reisdorph, \$250.00; Miss A. Elizabeth Leaning, \$1000.00; Mrs. Mary Williams Campbell bequeathed her piano and her property to the Church. Mr. A. C. Shipman was appointed executor of the estate which netted the Church the sum of \$1500.

[On] May 7, 1928, at an Annual Meeting it was voted to convey the property of the Second Universalist Society of Otsego to the New York State Convention of Universalists by whom it is now held in trust. The first every member canvass in the Church of the Messiah of Cooperstown was inaugurated May 4, 1919. In the summer of 1920 Rev. and Mrs. Charles Kramer attended the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universalist Church in America which was held one week at Murray Grove, N.J., and the second week at Gloucester, Mass. In 1922

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Rev. Charles Kramer was resident pastor and manager of the Murray Grove House, N.J., during the summer season of six weeks extending from the 15th of July to Labor Day in September. In the year 1906 he had also been resident pastor at Murray Grove.

Since the return of Rev. Charles Kramer to the pastorate at Cooperstown the parsonage has received a coat of paint throughout the first floor; the kitchen has been renovated and other improvements made. In the Church the most notable addition at present in the Memorial Lettering Bulletin given by Mrs. Linus J. Barnum to the memory of his mother, Mrs. Sabina J. Barnum and his sister, Mrs. Almada Caney. This fine bulletin is displayed from the front of the Church and is lighted at night so its messages can be ready by the passer-by at all times.

The board of Trustees at present consists of Mrs. Catharine Osterhoudt, moderator; Mrs. Bertha K. Walrath, parish clerk; Mrs. Alta Holbrook, treasurer; Mr. Lucien J. Bowen, Mrs. Leonard Ingalls, Mr. Walter Campbell, Mrs. Sara Gilmore, Mrs. Claudine Fowler.

The Annual Meeting is held the first Monday in May.

The Usher Committee consists of Mrs. Lucien Bowen, chairman; Mr. Harold Fowler, Mr. Homer Osterhoudt and Mr. Walter Campbell.

Memorial windows in the Church are dedicated to the memory of Holder Cory, Ellery Cory, Levi Wood, Benjamin Pierce, Nellie and Henry Dodge, Georgie Davis, E. Josephine Swartout.

CENTENARY
of the CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH
Universalist
COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK 1833-1933

THE SECOND UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF OTSEGO

Transcribed on 29 Nov 2015 by Karen Dau of Rochester, NY