

[Otsego (Cooperstown), Otsego Co. NY]

Universalist Bell Goes to Afton

Last week workmen removed the bell from the old Universalist Church in Cooperstown and took it to its new home in the Baptist Church in Afton.

The bell was made by Naylor Vickers & Company in Sherfield, England, and was cast by E. Riepes in the year 1859. It was hung in the Universalist Church in 1860. The two workmen, J.W. Huguley and Fred Smith, both of Glens Falls, who removed the bell said that it was about three feet high and weighed approximately 1,000 pounds.

The Universalists organized their society here on April 26, 1831, under the name of the Second Universalist Society of Otsego, as there was another society existing in the township. The congregation consisted of 80 members at the time. The Rev. Job Potter was the first pastor, having been installed in 1831. He was succeeded by the Rev. O. [Obadiah] Whiston in July, 1836.

In 1833, they erected a wooden building on the north east corner of Third and West Streets, which is now the corner of Church and Pioneer Streets, respectively, with a tower and pinnacles. It was 50 feet long and 38 feet wide and stood on the site of the old Academy, the latter building having been destroyed by fire on March 31, 1809. It is the second oldest church in the village and with the lot, cost about \$3,000.

The church, which has not been operating for a good many years, was sold to Harry Apman of Cooperstown in November, 1955. He has been doing some work on the building to preserve it, since he became the owner.

Otsego Farmer, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 28 Sep 1956

Transcribed on 21 Nov 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY