

[Perinton (Fairport), Monroe Co. NY]

Universalist Church

The Universalist society organized April 6, 1833: John Peters, chairman; Abisha Goodell, clerk; John Peters, Joshua C. Eaton, George Hine, Gerton Lewis, Levi Treadwell, Samuel R. Thompson, Henry Mathews, Abisha Goodell, and Lary Wilcox, trustees. They built a house the next year (1834), a lot being given them by Mr. Oliver Tomlinson. Elder Saddler preached the dedicatory sermon, and was the regular preacher for a few years, followed by Rev. J. M. Cook, Charles Dutton, Stephen Miles, Mr. Spaulding, Lyscom Knapp, S. J. Gibbs, H. L. Hayward, M. B. Smith, C. A. Skinner, W. B. Cook, Asa Countryman, Mr. Porter, G. W. Montgomery, and D. C. Tomlinson. One of the first deacons was Mr. Joshua C. Eaton, who served the church for many years, until he moved to Michigan a few years ago, where he has since died. Mr. David Smith, his successor, is their present deacon. Present officers are—Mr. O. P. Simmons, clerk; Mr. Remsen Vanderhoof, Mr. Francis C. Ellis, and Mr. Jacob Chase, trustees; Rev. James M. Cook, pastor, who began his labors in the fall of 1841. The first Sabbath his audience consisted of about twenty persons, and for some time it was small; but ere six months the house was well filled with attentive listeners, and from that time forth while he remained the house was often densely crowded. One of the first objects of his labors was to organize a church, which was effected the ensuing summer (1842,) with twenty-two constituent members. During his ministry the membership increased to over one hundred, and the church became prosperous. At this time there were but few church organizations distinct from the society in this denomination in western New York. he also organized a Sabbath-school and Bible-class, improved the church property, placed an organ in the church, and left it and the society in a prosperous condition in 1845. About 1865 the church, having previously declined, was reorganized by Rev. D. C. Tomlinson, who served as pastor for a few years; no services are held at present.

W. H. McIntosh, *History of Monroe County, New York*
(1877: Philadelphia: Everts, Ensign & Everts), p. 227