

[Perry, Wyoming Co. NY]

## A HAPPY REUNION

Dinner, Reminiscences and a Social Time Much Enjoyed

On Thursday of last week occurred the first annual reunion of the Universalist parish of Perry, N. Y. Notwithstanding the prediction that the day would be a bad one, it was exceptionally fine, and this fact made it possible for a goodly number of the people to be present.

A splendid dinner was served at the church at noon, which was much enjoyed by a large number of the members of the society, many being present from out of town.

At about 2 p. m. the program of the afternoon opened with a medley quartet by the excellent choir, which was very much enjoyed. This was followed by words of welcome and congratulation by the pastor, the Rev. Charles Palmatier.

After the rendition of the vocal march "On to the Charge," the Hon. George Tomlinson in a very fitting manner gave some recollections and reminiscences of former days in the life of the parish.

After another song from the choir the venerable Rev. E Hathaway spoke feelingly and pleasantly of the circumstances in the history of the church in which he had borne a part, also taking pains to call the attention of the people to the cheerful prospect which is now before them.

"Give me my Own Native Isle," from the choir closed the regular program of the day. But it was not until many words of congratulation and good cheer had passed between the people, that they were ready to go to their homes, hoping to meet again another year in a like joyous reunion.

## THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Universalism got an early start in Perry, the exact date being difficult to ascertain. But a congregation of the faith worshipped in town previous to the organization of a society. On Oct. 8, 1831, the congregation adopted a constitution and profession of faith, to which the following persons subscribed:

Daniel Dickerson, Robert Mattison, Arvin Olin, Moses Pollen, Eliakim Botsford, Noah Bacon, Josiah Williams, James H. Bolton, Amos Otis, John Griffith, Isaiah T. Gore, Jonas Wood, William Tripp, Homer Bingham, Nathan Chister, Oliver Goodspeed, Samuel Marsh, Joseph Wilson, James Calkins, Jacob Ashdin, Rodney Atwood. Stephen D. Tabor, Talmon T. Carver, Hiram Austin, Titus Howe, Ann Dickerson, Betsey Ayers, Betsey Olin, Densa Burnham, Dolly Botsford, Margaret Bacon, Lovina Otis, Deborah Waterman, Mary Patchin, Nancy Wood, Sally Tripp, Polly Bingham, Laura Goodspeed, Harriet Collins, Lucy A. Collins, Mary Collins.

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The trustees for the new society were Josiah Williams, James H. Bolton and Daniel Dickerson.

At a meeting of the society in 1833 the trustees were authorized to purchase the old Methodist church, located at the time on Short Center street, which was used up to the time of the erection of the present church, corner Main and St. Helena streets, built in 1852. The old church was then sold as a dwelling house and moved from its site to another part of the village.

The new church was dedicated on Feb. 9, 1853, Rev. D. [Dolphus] Skinner of Utica, N. Y., preaching the dedication sermon. The cost of the church was \$4,000, and the organ cost \$800 more.

Among the pastors of the church have been the Revs. Daniel Ackley, Stephen Miles, J. G. Brown, Eben Francis, A. B. Grosh, D. C. [DeWitt Clinton] Tomlinson, Stephen Crane, W. B. Randolph, Sampson 8keele, W. T. Reese, Alfred Peck, John Flagler, Benjamin Luther, L. L. Sadler, T. P. [Townsend Paoli] Abell, Seth Barnes, Jacob Chase, O. [Orrin] Roberts, Alanson Kelsey, B. G. Bennett, W. Sisson, J. E. June, H. C. Munson, Asa Countryman and Charles Palmatier, the latter being the present pastor of the church.

The present edifice was remodeled several years ago, important changes being made in the interior, giving it modern style and convenience, much pleasanter than the old one, making it one of the cosiest and handsomest churches in town.

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Transcribed on 26 Nov 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY