

[Pittsford, Monroe Co. NY]

At the session of the preceding year [1813], the society in Pittsford, then Ontario now Monroe county, was received into fellowship. It was principally composed of English Unitarians; but being believers in the restitution, they sympathized with Universalists, and united with them accordingly. This was one of the largest and strongest societies in the State. Its former worthy and intelligent minister, Mr. [William] Billinghamurst, continued his labors with this congregation. This was emphatically the first Universalist society in what is properly denominated "Western New York"—and it took the appropriate name of "The First Universalist Society in the County of Ontario," which then included a tract of country that would suffice for a respectable State. Few congregations have maintained their identity and influence, with greater fidelity or success. Mr. Billinghamurst possessed a well-chosen library, which like his house and his heart, was open to every friend of truth and righteousness. And to this plain, intelligent and good man, and to the Society with which he was identified, Universalism is greatly indebted for its general prosperity in the surrounding region.

Rev. Stephen R. [Rensselaer] Smith, Historical Sketches and Incidents Illustrative of the Establishment and Progress of Universalism in the State of New York (Buffalo, NY: 1848), pp. 87-88

Transcribed on 8 Feb 2016 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY