

[Richfield (Richfield Springs), Otsego Co.]

Church Histories  
RICHFIELD

The FIRST UNIVERSALIST church. (From the records). At a meeting of a number of the inhabitants of Richfield and the adjoining towns, convened, pursuant to previous public notice, at the house of Cornelius M. Paul, in the town of Richfield, on May 23, 1833, for the purpose of organizing a Universalist society, organized by choosing the Rev. Jacob Todd moderator, and Tideman H. Gordon clerk. The object of the meeting was then stated from the chair, when a ballot was had, and Davis Brown and Tideman H. Gordon were chosen to preside at this election, and to decide on the qualifications of voters. The meeting then proceeded to ballot for five trustees, and, on canvassing the votes, it appeared that Benjamin R. Elwood, James Wilson, George Tuckerman, Davis Brown, and Moses Wheeler received a unanimous vote, and were duly elected. Tideman H. Gordon was elected clerk, and Benj. R. Elwood treasurer. The trustees were then classed as follows: first class, Davis Brown, Moses Wheeler; second class, James Wilson, George Tuckerman; third class, Benj. R. Elwood. The church edifice of the society is a substantial stone structure, and was erected in the year 1833 on grounds presented to the society by Nathan Dow, Esq. According to the records, Rev. Orrin Roberts, preached in this church two Sabbaths in each month, from April, 1834, to March, 1835, inclusive. Rev. L. C. Brown[e] preached one Sunday in each month, from April, 1835, to March, 1836, inclusive. Rev. T. J. Smith engaged to preach one-half the time the ensuing year, commencing in the month of March, 1836. From 1837 to 1861 the following clergymen preached in this church at intervals, viz.: J. S. Kibby, \_\_\_ Belden, J[ames] H. Tuttle, De[Witt] C. Tomlinson, W. [William] E. Manley. In the spring of 1862, Rev. S. R. Ward was called as the regular pastor of the church, in which capacity he continued to labor until April, 1873, when he was called to the Second Universalist church of Syracuse. During the pastoral labors of Mr. Ward the church edifice was greatly enlarged and beautified, at an outlay of \$11,000. Rev. Mr. Cook, of Utica, was pastor in 1873. In the spring of 1877, Rev. S. R. Ward was again called to the pastorate of this church, and is at present its officiating clergyman. B. A. Weatherbee, Chas. Wilbur, Peter Seeber, Allen Bloomfield, and Isaac DeLong are the trustees.

D. Hamilton Hurd, *The History of Otsego County, New York, 1740-1878*  
(Philadelphia: Everts & Fariss, 1878), p. 310