

[Rome, Oneida Co. NY]

Church Dedication

The Universalist Church of this city was dedicated yesterday, Rev. Richard Eddy, D.D., of Melrose, Mass., preaching the dedicatory sermon. Dr. Eddy was the first pastor of this church, thirty-five years ago, and in prefacing his remarks he made the following interesting statement about the church building:

This is the fourth [sic] time that services of a dedicatory character have been held within these walls. In 1823, Roman Lodge, F. and A.M., erected this building for their own use, and, some time that year, dedicated it to Masonic uses, although the Grand Lodge records contain no account of the precise day, nor of the official who performed that interesting service. In 1833, Zion Episcopal Church purchased the property, and it was consecrated Aug. 15 of that year, by Bishop Onderdonk. The Universalists came into possession of the building by purchase from the village corporation, to whom Zion Church sold it, in 1851, and after some slight alterations it was dedicated to the religious uses of this society, Sept. 4, 1851, the sermon being preached by the Rev. T. [Thomas] J. Sawyer, D.D., from the words of Moses, "We are journeying to the place of which the Lord said, I will give it unto you; come thou with us and we will do thee good." Your speaker was then pastor of the society, and made the dedicatory prayer.

Roman Citizen, Rome NY, Fri. 16 Apr 1886

Transcribed on 10 Feb 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY