

[Alexander, Genesee Co. NY]

The [Universalist] Society in Alexander has, if not from its organization, at least during some seventeen or eighteen years, been one of the most substantial and efficient in Western New-York. Its pecuniary resources appear to have been quite ample from the first; and these were applied in 1833 to the erection of a convenient church—situated on a commanding eminence, and overlooking the village and a large tract of country. It has usually sustained public worship from one half to all the Sabbaths, [i.e. from half-time to full-time] and has exerted abroad and beneficial moral power, as any other congregation of equal number, within the very ample limits of the [Genesee] Association [of Universalists]. For a few years past, it has enjoyed a more than ordinary degree of prosperity, and has added much to the number of members of church and Society, as well as made considerable increase of attendants of the congregation. From greater caution, or better discrimination, it as usually been particularly fortunate and successful in the choice of its ministers. They have not only been good and true men [sic], generally distinguished for their worth and weight of Character—but they have been men of fair, if not eminent, pulpit talents.

Excerpt from Rev. Stephen R. Smith, "Historical Sketches of Universalism in the State of New York", published in the *Christian Ambassador*, Auburn NY, Sat. 14 Jun 1856

Transcribed on 8 Oct 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY