

[Yorkshire, Cattaraugus Co. NY]

The Universalist Church at Yorkshire Center

This society was organized in the school-house at Yorkshire Centre by Rev. Gideon Gowdy, Jan. 3, 1856 and was composed of 22 members, as follows: Hiram Thornton, Jacob Murphy, Buel G. Smith, John H. Bowers, Mason Smith, Ezekiel Pierce, Alonzo Cobb, Henry Howe, N. T. Harvey, William Quint, Willis Pinney, J. Dwinnell, Jerry Fox, Samuel Eastland, Franklin Poor, Henry Olcott, Nathan Bentley, Nathan H. Ferrin, Lewis G. Bentley, E. J. Strong, Henry Nourse, S. S. Langmade. The church proper was organized in 1855, with 23 members, but the records are not accessible.

In 1855 this church, in conjunction with the Methodist Episcopal Church of Yorkshire, erected a church edifice, which has sittings for 300 persons and cost \$2500. Rev. G. [Gideon] S. Gowdy was the first pastor. He was followed by Revs. O. [Orson] B. Clark, E. Hathaway, B. Hunt and George Adams. The congregation numbers 20 members at the present time.

L. H. Everts, *History of Cattaraugus Co., NY* (1879)

Transcribed on 28 Nov 2003 by Karen Dau of Rochester, NY