

[Lima, Livingston Co. NY]

Receiver's sale marks passing of early Lima church
First Universalist society founded in 1825 now a matter of history.
Special to the Buffalo Express

Honeoye Falls, Nov. 13.—Notice of a receiver's sale for the property of the First Universalist society at North Bloomfield, which includes the church building, its heating plant, seats, carpets, cushions and all fixtures to the highest bidder, marks the passing of a society organized nearly 100 years ago. With the departure of many of the older members and supporters, the membership decreased until about seven years ago, when it was deemed best to discontinue.

A record of the society shows that it was organized on March 12, 1825 and was called the First Universalist church [Society] of Lima. The first meeting was held at the schoolhouse near the home of John Case in Lima. The first form designated as a test of membership for the society reads thus:

"We whose names are hereunto annexed do hereby freely and fully consent to be viewed and considered as legal members of the First Universalist church of Lima, county of Livingston, state of New York." It was signed by nineteen men.

The first minister engaged by the society was the Rev. Henry Roberts. The next pastor was the Rev. W. [? should be I] Reese, who remained about four years. The first meeting house was built near Smith's Mills, now North Bloomfield, in the town of Lima, and was dedicated on June 17, 1829. Thus, the society continued until June, 1843, when it was voted to revise the constitution of the society and the Rev. T.J. [Thomas Jefferson] Smith was chosen to prepare a constitution.

On January 23, 1870, at a special meeting a building committee was elected. It was decided to build a new church and it was dedicated on November 13, 1873. On November 16th the pews were rented for the first time and the Rev. Hamilton Squires was called to preach. The last pastor of the church was the Rev. Donald flower. The church roll shows nearly 100 members.

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Transcribed on 8 Aug 2011 by Karen E. Dau, Rochester NY