

The following text was transcribed by Betsy Lewis, Western Presbyterian Church historian on January 5, 2007, from a copy of the *Certificate of Incorporation of First Presbyterian Church of Palmyra, N.Y.*, as provided by Rita Burm of the East Palmyra Presbyterian Church. *Note:* First Presbyterian Church of Palmyra and East Palmyra Presbyterian Church are the same entities and they were the "mother" church of the Western Presbyterian Church of Palmyra, N.Y. Also see: *Certificate of Incorporation of The Western Presbyterian Church in the Town of Palmyra*

Certificate of Incorporation of First Presbyterian Church of Palmyra, N.Y.

Ontario County, State of New York:

These may certify that a church or society meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Palmyra having been legally appointed on the 28th day of September A.D. 1797, for the purpose of electing trustees for said church, a number of the church and society assembled and made choice of Jacob Gannet, David Warner, Jedediah Foster, Jonah Howel, Thomas Goldsmith & Stephen Reves [sic] to act as Trustees for the same, agreeable to an act of the Legislature of the State of new York entitled: an act to enable all the religious denominations in this State to appoint Trustees who shall be a body corporate for the purpose of taking care of the temporalities [sic] of their respective congregations and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Done under the Inspection of us the undersigned Elders of the aforesaid Church.

Witness our hands and seals the day and date first above written.

Test

Festus Goldsmith

Stephen Reeves

(L.S.)

Joel Foster

David Haynes Foster

(L.S.)

Jonah Howell Jun^r

Be it remembered that on the first day of December in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven personally came before me Moses Atwater one of the Judges in and for the County of Ontario, Jonah Howell Jun^r who being duly sworn declared he saw Stephen Reeves and David Hanes [sic] Foster sign seal and deliver the within Instrument as and for there [sic] free voluntary act and deed to and for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and that he the deponent with Festus Gouldsmith [sic] and Joel Foster in the presence of each other subscribed there [sic] names as witnesses to the same to the same [sic] I having inspected the said Instrument and finding therein no erasures or interlineations do allow the same to be recorded.

Moses Atwater.

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the orininal Certificate examined & compared with the same and recorded this 1st day of December A.D. 1797.

Peter B. Porter Clk.

[Link to Certificate of Incorporation of Western Presbyterian Church](#)