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Church

of

Spencerport, N. Y.

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Spencerport, N. Y.

Rev. S. M. Eaton, B. D.

61 Amity Street

HISTORY OF THE SPENCERPORT M. E. CHURCH AND PREVIOUS SOCIETIES



N the year 1810 the whole of Genesee Conference, as it lies at present, was comprised within the bounds of a single circuit called the Holland Purchase Circuit. The original Genesee Conference comprised as much territory as is now divided into the Genesee, East Genesee, and Central New York, Wyoming, part of the Black River, and part of Canada.

Previous to this, however, in the year 1807 the Philadelphia Conference sent two men, named Peter VanNest and Amos Jenks, to preach in what was termed the Holland Purchase and Caledonia Mission. It is recorded that the first sermon preached west of the Genesee River was preached by Peter VanNest at the house of Colonel Willey, present town of Ogden, near where now stands the Presbyterian Church. This is, however, disputed by some that the Canesteo Circuit had two societies formed west of the river in towns at present called Amity and Belfast, in 1806.

The first session of Genesee Conference was held in a barn belonging to Captain Dorsey, in Lyons, Wayne County, New York. The Holland Purchase Circuit was then included in the Susquehanna District, and John Kimberlin and William Brown were appointed to the circuit. The first class leader appointed within the bounds of the present Genesee Conference was David Downing, who was living in the year 1852, at which time the record was written from which the most of this material is drawn, near Phillipsville, Allegheny County, N. Y.

In the year 1811 the first Society within what was afterwards and until a few years ago called the Ogden Circuit was formed by Rev. Loring Grant. It was located in what was called Webster Basin on the Erie Canal, west of Spencerport, about one mile. The original members of the Society were: John and Susan Webster, Benjamin and Roxanna Freeman, Polly Davidson and Sally Webster. John Webster, Susan Webster and Polly Davidson were members previously in Lima, Livingston County, N. Y., and Benjamin Freeman and Sally Webster were converted in 1811 at a camp meeting held in the town of Caledonia. None of these persons, it is believed, are now living.

From the class at Webster Basin sprang the Methodism of Ogden Circuit. This class, however, was afterward absorbed by the Protestant Methodists, who still hold the ground in the Society. Methodism, however, increased in extent and spread itself abroad until in the year 1821 another class was formed in the southeast part of the town, at what was termed the Whittier Settlement, to which some of the members of the former class were transferred. The class at Whittier Settlement was formed according to the best accounts by Rev. James Hemingway, then a local preacher in Chili, N. Y., acting under the general direction of the Presiding Elder, Rev. J. T. Lent, who was that year Pastor of the Caledonia Circuit, which then covered the territory afterwards called the Ogden Circuit.

In 1828 the Society at Gates was formed by John Copeland. The names of the first class are: Ziba and Olive Hayden, Mary Hayden and Polly Finley. The Hayden family were formerly members at Scipio, Cayuga County, N. Y. Polly Finley formerly was a member at Springwater, Livingston County, N. Y. The meetings were held in a log schoolhouse, about eighty rods south of the Canal, and about three-fourths of a mile north of the present Gates Church.

In 1830 the Society received an access of about thirty members under the labors of Rev. C. V. Adgate and James Hemingway. Among those that year added were: Ebenezer Walker, Parish Lillybridge, Jasper Stowell, Zela Stowell, Azariah Stowell and Barbara Jaynes, with their families.

In 1832, chiefly through the labors of two local preachers of Rochester, named Elisha Grover and Richard Pratt, Gates Charge was blessed with another good revival. Among those converted at that revival was Allen Todd, afterwards a class leader and through whose efforts principally the present house of worship there was erected. "A man," says the record, "of loud voice and great decision of character."

The Society at Spencerport

It was formed first by a concentration from South Parma, Webster Basin and Whittier Settlement. In 1838 Rev. Salmon Judd, Pastor in that year (1838), the meeting house, to which we this day bid farewell, was erected.

Several things militated for quite a number of years against the prosperity of Spencerport Charge. First, the

different parts of which the Society was composed was divided by miles of distance. Second, it was on ground already strongly occupied by Congregational element, by whom the country was first settled. For many years, therefore, the Society languished. No general revival is recorded during those years. And with inroads which death and apostasy makes on all societies, it had a hard struggle to hold its own.

Indeed, the Society was without additions of any great amount until the labors of Rev. Church, only a few years ago. From that time the charge began to rise more rapidly, and though it is yet far from what we all hope to see it, through the blessing of God, still this Society has reason to thank God for the past and with renewed energy to buckle on the armor and go out to win new victories for King Emmanuel. For this let us pray and for this let us constantly labor.

It may be interesting here to give a list of the Preachers' names who have labored upon the charge and the years of their service:

In 1807—Peter VanNest and Amos Jenks.

In 1808—George Lane, afterwards book agent in New York.

In 1809—James Mitchell, Joseph Gatchell.

In 1810—John Kimberlin, William Brown.

In 1811—Loring Grant, Marmaduke Pierce and Elijah Metcalf.

In 1812—Rinaldo M. Evarts.

In 1813—Elijah King and E. Doolittle.

In 1814—William Brown and E. Warren.

In 1815—James H. Harris.

In 1816—Robert Menshall, Thomas McKee.

In 1817—William Jones, Reuben Aylesworth.

In 1818—Cyrus Story, Micah Segar.

In 1819—Cyrus Story, Z. Paddock, A. Williams.

In 1820—N. B. Dodson.

In 1821-1822—James S. Lent.

In 1823—John Cosart.

In 1824—Benajah Williams, James Hazen.

In 1825—Barker Boale.

In 1826—Elijah Boardman.

In 1827—John Copeland, Joseph Atwood.

- In 1828—John Copeland, H. F. Rome, R. Smith.
- In 1829—Chester V. Adgate, S. W. Wooster.
- In 1830—C. V. Adgate, James Hemingway.
- In 1831—M. Tooker, G. Benedict, J. Hemingway.
- In 1832—Richard Wright, D. F. Parsons, Wm. James.
- In 1833—John Cozart, G. Wilkinson, Aaron Palmer.
- In 1834—John Cozart, Aaron Palmer.
- In 1835—R. M. Everts, J. Atwood.
- In 1836—R. M. Everts, H. Stanford.
- In 1837—Salmon Judd, E. O. Hall.
- In 1838—S. Judd, E. G. Sellick.
- In 1839—Nathan Fellows, Wesley Cochrane.
- In 1840—Nathan Fellows, D. Fellows, Jacob Hager.
- In 1841—D. Fellows, Oria Comfort.
- In 1842—James Hall, Daniel Anderson.
- In 1843—Hiram May, John Fuller.
- In 1844—Reuben C. Foote, Ralph Clapp.
- In 1845—Micha Seager, R. C. Foote.
- In 1846-1847—John B. Sancton.
- In 1848-1849—Loren Styles.
- In 1850—Horatio M. Rippley.
- In 1851—Joseph McCrerry, Jr.
- In 1852—Gustavis Hines, who went from here to Oregon as Missionary to the Indians.
- In 1853—C. Patridge. This was a young man devoted to his work and of good promise, who died of cholera in that year. Balance of year was supplied by Moses Wallace, a local preacher of the Parma Circuit.
- In 1854 the name of the Ogden Charge was changed to Spencerport, and W. C. Willey was appointed Pastor. There were some conversions at Spencerport during this year.
- In 1855-1856—Rev. J. B. Jenkins.
- In 1857—F. W. Conable.
- In 1858-1859—A. L. Backus.
- In 1860-1861—H. W. Annis.
- In 1862-1863—E. S. Furman.
- In 1864-1865-1866—S. C. Church.
- In 1867—Geo. W. Coe.
- In 1868—H. R. Smith.
- In 1869-1870—C. C. Wilbur.

CHURCH SERVICES



| | |
|---|-------------|
| Sunday Morning Bible School | 10:30 A. M. |
| Morning Worship | 11:30 A. M. |
| Evening Worship | 7:00 P. M. |
| Mid-week Prayer Service (Wed. Eve.) | 7:30 P. M. |

THE OFFICIARY



Adna Wright Leonard, D.D. Resident Bishop

G. R. Williamson, D.D. District Superintendent

Rev. S. W. Eaton, B.D. Pastor

F. B. Snively Local Preacher

OFFICIAL BOARD and COMMITTEES

1926-1927



| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Mrs. Jennie Hay | District Steward |
| E. C. Hart | Recording Steward |
| Mrs. S. W. Eaton | Communion Steward |
| Mrs. Geo. Ingraham | Supt. Sunday School |
| Mrs. Geo. Ingraham | Acting Supt. Sunday School |

Committee on Education

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Mildred Hart | Lila Brooks |
| Mrs. Ingraham | |

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| E. C. Hart | Financial Secretary |
| E. C. Hart | Treasurer of World Service |
| H. E. Rogers | Treasurer of Current Expenses Fund |

Auditing Committee

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| S. L. Flagg | E. E. Clingman |
| Eben Barrett | Trier of Appeals |

Church Records Committee

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| S. L. Flagg | E. E. Clingman |
|-------------|----------------|

Estimating and Financial Committee

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
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| H. E. Rogers | S. L. Flagg |
| E. C. Hart | |

World Service Committee

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| E. E. Clingman | Mrs. Nellie Brooks |
| Walter Nichols | |

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Miss Esther Ball | Supt. of Cradle Roll |
| E. C. Hart | Custodian |

Parsonage Committee

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Pres. of Ladies' Aid, Mrs. E. C. Hart | |
| Mrs. John Talbott | Mrs. Fred Fraize |

Trustees

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| S. L. Flagg | H. E. Rogers |
| Joseph Worland | Alfred Peacock |
| Walter Nichols | J. A. Talbott |

Stewards

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| S. L. Flagg | Esther Ball |
| Mrs. Jennie Hay | Earl Hawkins |
| E. E. Clingman | Mrs. Nellie Brooks |
| H. A. Shafer | H. E. Smith |

Committee to Eliminate Non-effective Members from Church Roll

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| E. C. Hart | John Talbott |
| L. B. Snively | |

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS



The Sunday School

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Geo. Ingraham | Superintendent |
| Walter Nichols | Assistant Supt. |
| Alfred Peacock | Treasurer |
| H. A. Shafer | Secretary |
| Mrs. Earl Hawkins | Pianist |
| Miss Mildred Hart | Primary Supt. |
| Mrs. Nellie Brooks | Junior Supt. |
| Mrs. Jennie Hay | Missionary Supt. |
| Mrs. F. Nichols | Missionary Treasurer |
| Mrs. Walter Nichols | Temperance Supt. |

The Ladies' Aid Society

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs. E. C. Hart | President |
| Mrs. Fred Fraize | First Vice-President |
| Mrs. John Talbott | Second Vice-President |
| Mrs. Ethel Beaney | Secretary |
| Mrs. A. Lawson | Treasurer |

The Women's Foreign Missionary Society

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Fleming Nichols | President |
| Mrs. Nellie Brooks | First Vice-President |
| Mrs. John Talbott | Treasurer |
| Mrs. Jennie Hay | Secretary |

The Women's Home Missionary Society

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Mrs. Walter Nichols | President |
| Miss Mildred Snyder | Secretary |
| Mrs. Ethel Beaney | Treasurer |

MEMBERSHIP ROLL



| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Emma H. Allen | Earl W. Hawkins |
| Mrs. Frank Amish | Elizabeth I. Hawkins |
| Ruth Eaton Ackley | Irene B. Hedrich |
| Ida H. Amish | Nettie F. Ireland |
| Eben W. Barrett | Floyd G. Ireland |
| Kate Barrett | Lucretia Ireland |
| Esther Ball | William J. Ireland |
| Gladys S. Bennett | Mrs. George Ingraham |
| Ethel Beany | B. E. Kenyon |
| Mrs. Newton Burrett | Mrs. B. E. Kenyon |
| Nellie Brooks | Chas. F. Kenyon |
| Lila Brooks | Arthur Lawson |
| Mrs. C. H. Covington | Clifford Leonard |
| E. E. Clingman | Harry Mason |
| Hortense Clingman | Selina Mason |
| Mrs. Florence Davis | William E. Mason |
| Matilda J. Eaton | Mary F. Mason |
| Gladys H. Eaton | Harry Mason, Jr. |
| Cora M. Fox | Leland Mason |
| Hattie S. Fishbaugh | Lawrence Mason |
| Fred W. Fraize | Chester Mason |
| Mrs. F. W. Fraize | Avis Irene Mason |
| Stephen L. Flagg | Lucile S. Mason |
| Mrs. S. L. Flagg | Ella Madden |
| Mrs. Clarence Freestone | Mrs. Geo. McKinney |
| Mary Gillett | Daisy McKinney |
| Evelyn Gillett | Nellie M. McCabe |
| Cora A. Gardner | Nellie McCabe |
| Jennie A. Hay | Ivan T. Marshall |
| E. C. Hart | Morris W. Marsh |
| Julia L. Hart | Lillian Markel |
| Mildred Hart | Mr. F. W. Nichols |
| Alice Hart | Zena P. Nichols |
| Ethel Hart | Mabel Sharp Nichols |
| Daniel W. Hawkins | Walter Nichols |
| Lydia Hawkins | Francis S. Nichols |

MEMBERSHIP ROLL



| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Edward S. Osborne | Mrs. John Stettner |
| I. Newton O'Dell | H. A. Shaffer |
| Bessie O'Dell | Francis B. Snavely |
| Mrs. Forest O'Dell | Marguerite Snavely |
| John H. Peacock | H. B. Smith |
| Lydia Peacock | Mrs. H. B. Smith |
| Alfred Peacock | George A. Thomas |
| Mrs. Alfred Peacock | Ida S. Thomas |
| Henry E. Rogers | John A. Talbott |
| Grace L. Rogers | Mary Talbott |
| John B. Rogers | F. E. Townsend |
| Mary Rogers | Mrs. F. E. Townsend |
| Lawrence Rogers | Mrs. Irene G. Thaxter |
| Marian Rogers | Lois Thaxter |
| Mrs. Carrie Reddick | Mrs. Louis Thousand |
| Gladys M. Reddick | Carrie E. Whiting |
| Alfred Robinson | Alice Webster |
| Mrs. Alfred Robinson | Ida L. Wilcox |
| Mary Robinson | Gladys M. Wilcox |
| Edith Robinson | Percy L. Wilcox |
| Florence Ring | Joseph Worland |
| Mary E. Smith | Agnes B. Worland |
| Harmon Stahl | Robert F. Wyant |
| Mrs. Harmon Stahl | Rosa Wyant |
| Chas. H. Sweeting | Mrs. Emma White |
| Mrs. C. H. Sweeting | Mrs. M. Woodworth |
| DeForest Sweeting | Irene Waters |
| John Stettner | |

Note—This list does not include probationers, non-resident, or non-effective members. If there are any mistakes or omissions, please notify the Pastor. No one is infallible. A non-effective member is one who has not attended or supported the Church for two years without a cause or a reason.

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(Adapted—Selected)



If you want to be in the kind of a Church
Like the kind of a Church you like,
You needn't slip your clothes in a grip
And start on a long, long hike.
You'll only find what you left behind,
For there's nothing really new ;
It's a knock at yourself when you knock your Church,
It isn't your Church—it's you.

Real Churches aren't made by men who knock
The workers who strive get ahead,
When everyone works and nobody shirks,
You can raise a Church from the dead.
And if, while you do some real hard work,
Your neighbor will do some too ;
Your Church will be what you want to see,
It isn't your Church—it's you.

If you'll give praises, outsounding all whines,
By these glad'ning all workers, true ;
You'll find your Church not left in the lurch.
It isn't your Church—it's you.
The knockers, fault-finders, the growlers, and whiners,
Though multitudes, nothing can do ;
But workers who plod bring the Church nearer God.
It isn't your Church—it's you.

Then let's all get together and make our Church
Like the kind of a Church you like,
And you needn't pack your clothes in a grip
And start on that long old hike.
If you want to be in the kind of a Church
Like the kind of a Church you like ;
Remember "it isn't your Church—it's you."
And your Church will seem just right.

—Adaptation by the Pastor.

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Where the Cheer-up and Be-happy
Blossom sweetly all the while,
Where the never-grumble bower
Blooms beside the fragrant try,
And the ne'er give-up and patience
Point their faces to the sky.

In the Valley of Contentment,
In the Province of I Will,
You will find this lively city
At the foot of No-fret Hill;
There are thoroughfares delightful
In this very charming town,
And on every hand are shade-trees
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Rustic benches, quite enticing,
You'll find scattered here and there
And to each a vine is clinging
Called the Frequent-earnest Prayer;
Everybody there is happy,
And is singing all the while,
In the Town of Don't You Worry,
On the banks of River Smile.

—ANON

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