

Fenton History Center  
Research Center  
Jamestown, NY

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Chautauqua County Churches

Information Collected by  
Mrs. Mertie Akin

Compiled for  
Miss Elizabeth Crocker  
County Historian

by  
Sarie Naetzker-Fagerstrom  
Historical Aide

974  
.785  
H.C.A.

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## Dunkirk

1894

The First Baptist church was the first church of any denomination in Dunkirk.

There were a number of members belonging to the Baptist Church in Fredonia, living in the village of Dunkirk who, feeling that they were deprived of religious privileges, thought it their duty to organize themselves into a church, if deemed advisable by the church in Fredonia. They laid their request, therefore, before that body. Permission was granted and a council was called to set in the village of Dunkirk on the 17th of March, 1830.

This council, as appears from records, was composed of fifteen delegates from Baptist churches at Mayville, Ripley and Fredonia. The ministers comprising it were Jarius Handy, Elisha Tucker, Washington Windsor and Jonathan Haskell. These were remarkable men, pioneer ministers of this county.

For some reason, after hearing the wishes of the residents of Dunkirk and examining the articles of faith which they had adopted, the council adjourned to May 5th, 1830, when the little band was recognized as the First Baptist Church of Dunkirk. In all there were twenty-two members of the church organized at this time and twenty of them were from Fredonia church. It was twenty-five years from the organization before the church owned a meeting house and twenty-one years later before its property was unloaded of debt.

The first place of public worship was a school-house. This was a small brick building on Third Street which served for all public purposes. The first floor was fitted up as a jail, the second floor served for school-house, town hall and church, each in turn. In 1853 the present building in East Fourth Street was commenced. The side walls were built and the roof timbers partly in place when, on Oct. 23, 1853, a cyclone from the northwest came and blew off the roof timbers and partly laid prostrate the walls. After delays and disappointments and heroic endeavor, the meeting house was dedicated June 14, 1855.

The Historic  
Annals of  
So. West.  
New York  
1940, vol.  
2

The First Baptist church in Dunkirk was the first Baptist founded Mar. 17, 1830, mainly by Baptist from neighboring Fredonia, although the group was not formally recognized until May 5th of that same year. In all, 22 of its members were from the Fredonia church and it was a quarter of a century before it owned a meeting house and twenty-one years before the property was free from debt. Only after heroic efforts against untoward conditions--even the elements entering the picture--was the edifice dedicated on June 14, 1855

Dunkirk

No  
Source  
Given

Dunkirk Holy Trinity: The Catholic church embraces the people of every nation under heaven and ministers to the wants of all. With the growth of the city, many Italian families settled here. The people were mostly of the Catholic faith, therefore, in June, 1908, Bishop Colton sent the Rev. Vincent Fragomelli to Dunkirk to organize a parish for the Italians. Property was purchased on Ruggles Street and the cornerstone of the new church under the title of Holy Trinity was laid in November of the same year by Bishop Charles Colton. The building was dedicated in June of the following year by the Bishop. In the meantime, Father Fragomelli held services in a temporary church on Third Street.

1894

Dunkirk Sacred Heart R.C. Church: The church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was dedicated Nov. 18, 1877. The German Catholics of Dunkirk worshipped with St. Mary's congregation until 1857 when they organized a society and built St. Georges, a frame church. A separate parish was made in 1874 when Father Kolb took charge, and the church of the Sacred Heart was built at a cost of \$20,000.00. George Dotterweich assisted liberally in building these churches. He paid for the clock in the steeple, the chimes of bells, donated a \$5,000.00 marble altar and left a bequest of \$4000.00 for the erection of a schoolhouse adjoining the church. Under the ministrations of Rev. Andrew Frey, St. Georges Hall was erected at a cost of about \$9,000.00. In the parish there are about 200 families. Rev. Father Sistes is the present rector.

Fredonia  
Censor  
Wed. Mar.  
28, 1906

Fredonia: St. Anthony of Padua R.C. church on Cushing Street was dedicated by Bishop Colton. The new church is of brick with stone trimmings, and cost \$13,000.00. The basement is finished and can be used for hall purposes. The new parish consists of 300 Sicilian families who formerly resided in the province of Palermo.

1894

Dunkirk St. Hedwig Catholic Church: Father Fudzink was sent to organize a parish of the R.C. church in the fourth Ward of this city. He celebrated mass and held services in a little wooden building where the rectory of St. Hedwig's now stands. In Sept. 1902, Father Peter Szulca was sent as a permanent pastor and stayed here six months to complete the organization of this parish. From thence he went to Lackawanna and died shortly after. Succeeding him in 1903 and remaining until 1911 was Rev. Father Stabnau. He built the first church of St. Hedwig's parish in 1904 and in Dec. 1905 the church burnt to the ground and lay in ruin. But with never failing courage, the people of the fourth ward built a new church and for good measure, built along with it a parochial school. In 1905 the school was opened and shortly afterward the new church was completed. The original organizers of the parish were Frank Graminski, John Nowak, Frank Przyczien, Michael Czysz and Andrew Kraska. In 1912, Father Latocha bought the cemetery, which has been beautified, enlarged and improved.

Dunkirk

1894

St. Hyacinth R.C. Polish church was erected in 1875 at a cost of \$10,000.00. Father Bratkiewicz, Schneider, Liberki, Cizek, Zarenczny and Klowites officiated prior to the present pastor. There are about 300 families and 175 children in the parish. Under the rectorship of Father Klowites the beautiful church was completed. Rev. A. Lex is the present pastor.

1894

Prior to 1851, Pomfret had no resident Catholic priest and no Catholic church. Rt. Rev. John Timon, Bishop of Buffalo, was the only visitor to the few scattered Catholic families of this county. But when their numbers had sufficiently increased, the Bishop sent them time after time a missionary priest who would gather around him the Catholics in some farm house and hold religious services. A small frame building was purchased in 1851 by Rev. W. Lannon for divine services. The location was by no means eligible to most of the Catholics of Dunkirk. In the fall of 1851, a new addition was necessary, owing to the great influx of people who came with the Erie Railway, the cornerstone of which was laid by Rev. Bishop Timon. The church, although not finished, was opened for divine services Mar. 17, 1854, and in November the Rt. Rev. Bishop Young of Erie, Pa. dedicated the church under the invocation of the Seven Dolours of Mary. The brick building is large and spacious. The architectural design is Gothic. First pastor was Rev. Peter Colgan who, for nine years ministered to the wants of the congregation, identifying himself with it in all its spiritual and temporal prosperity. In 1858, the sisters of St. Joseph were brought to Dunkirk by Rev. Father Colgan to take charge of St. Mary's school and orphanage. This order was originally founded by Rev. Peter Medselle at Prey in France in 1750. In 1836 six sisters formed in St. Louis the first house of their order in the United States. Twenty-two years later, a convent was established in Dunkirk. Besides teaching the Catholic school, they have opened an orphanage for the Catholic children of the county. The old buildings have been removed largely through the generosity of H. Minor and larger and better adapted structures erected.

The  
Historic  
Annals of  
S.W.  
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The First Presbyterian Church was organized on May 22, 1830, with ten members; in the fall of that same year, the Rev. Timothy Stillman was called as the first pastor. Within six years, the congregation had built a house of worship on Central Avenue and East Third Streets. The location of the present church on W. Fourth dates from 1857.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Aug. 4,  
1872

The Presbyterian Society of Dunkirk are about to erect a \$6,000.00 church. It is to be of brick with a slate roof, the main building measuring 50' x 80' with a lecture room addition 25' x 60'. The tower will be 60 feet in height and the steeples 120 feet.

Dunkirk

1894

The First Presbyterian church celebrated its centennial on May 19, 1930, having been organized on May 22, 1830 with the following named charter members: Leon and Harriet Parmalee, Lucy G. Garnsey, Polly Ann Brigham, Sarah Williams, Sally Day, Elijah and Augusta Lock, Mary S. Capron and Abigail Landon. Their own direct descendants now active members of the church are: E.B. Ames, Mrs. Eunice W. Foley, and Macliod Williams. In the fall of 1830, Rev. Timothy Stillman, a recent graduate of Auburn Theological Seminary, was called as the first pastor; within six years the congregation built and dedicated a church edifice on the Southeast corner of Central Avenue and East Third. Moved to new location: During the ministry of William Hyde, the church was moved from Third Street to the present location on West Fourth at Eagle. In 1857 the great elms in front of the church were planted by Mr. Hyde. He resigned his pulpit in 1862 to become a chaplain in the 112th Infantry, where he served with distinction. Under Myran Adam's fine leadership, the church grew rapidly, attracting numerous substantial people to its membership.

No  
Source  
Given

The Dunkirk Church of Christ was organized in the late summer of 1903 by the Rev. Stephen J. Carey, State Secretary for the Disciples of Christ, with thirteen charter members. The first meetings were held in the Women's Union building and the first pastor (resident) was Elder Perry McPherson, who was called to the church in the spring of 1914. Other places of meeting were the Odd Fellows Temple and a store room on Central Avenue. On Oct. 23, 1907, a building at the corner of Lark and West Fourth Streets, originally built by Free Methodists, was rededicated as the permanent home of the church. This building was occupied by the congregation until it was destroyed by fire Jan. 19, 1918. Eight months later the property at Central Avenue and West Fifth Street was purchased. The house was remodeled for use as a church. In 1925, a new building campaign was launched, and May 23, 1926, the building now occupied by the church was formally dedicated. The present value of the church property is \$60,000.00.

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Annals  
of S.W.  
New York  
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2

St. John's Episcopal Church can look back to the day when one Rev. Daniel Brown volunteered for missionary work in Western New York. Settling in Fredonia, he reported in 1823 that he had held services in many parts of Chautauqua County, including Dunkirk. By 1853, there were enough Episcopalians in the village to encourage the organization of a parish, which was effected July 29th of that year. The records of the building of the first church edifice are lost. It is reported, however, that by January 22nd, 1859, the church, free from incumbrances, was consecrated by the Right Rev. Samuel McCroskey, Bishop of Michigan in the absence of Bishop DeLancy. The present church was erected in 1867, but not consecrated until St. John the Baptist Day in 1882.

Dunkirk

Censor  
July 30,  
1912

From the old Files: July 31, 1867--The laying of the cornerstone of St. John's Episcopal church in Dunkirk will take place Thursday, Aug. 1.

Censor  
Nov. 6,  
1912

From the old Files: Nov. 6, 1867--St. John's Episcopal church on Fourth Street between Eagle and Center Streets in Dunkirk is now nearly enclosed. It is built of brick and stone with slate roof and will seat from 400 to 500 persons. The tower will be built of brick, fourteen feet square at base, 98 feet high, rising from a front corner. The church will be heated by furnaces and is expected to cost about \$10,000.00. Our townsman, Capt. E.A. Cursis, is the architect.

No  
Source  
Given  
(dated  
1937)

St. John's Evangelical: According to its oldest official records, St. John's Evangelical church was organized about 81 years ago. While the exact date of its founding is not known, the records show that early in the year 1856, services were conducted regularly in the City Hall block on Third Street by a group of German-speaking Evangelicals. They were served by various ministers from Buffalo until later in the same year, they called the Rev. Mr. Strauss as their first pastor. The first church council included the following members: F. Lechner, K. Albach, F. Pollinsky, Carl Droege, M. Mueller and P. Erbs.

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Annals of  
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1940 Vo. 2

St. John's Evangelical Church: First house of worship was dedicated October 30, 1859, on the same site of East Fourth and Leopard Sts.

1937

In 1865, a school-house was purchased from the German Methodists and placed to the rear of the church on Leopard Street, where it stood until the erection of the congregation's first parsonage in 1873. For a short time, the church employed a schoolmaster who conducted a parochial school in the German language. In the fall of 1900, a lot was purchased on Deer Street and the parsonage moved from Leopard Street to the new site. To meet the need for more commodious quarters, both for church and Sunday School purposes, steps were taken in 1903 to erect a new building. On July 24, 1904, the cornerstone of the present church was laid, and on Feb. 15, 1905, it was formally dedicated to the service of God. During 1919 a new pipe organ was purchased, the church parlors remodeled, the sanctuary redecorated and equipped with lighting fixtures.

Dunkirk

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St. John's Evangelical church: On Oct. 31, 1931, St. John's became a member of the Evangelical Synod of North America. Since June 26, 1934, when this body merged with the reformed church--in the United States, St. John's has been officially known as an Evangelical and Reformed church.

1894

St. Peter's German Evangelical Lutheran was organized in May, 1887, from members dissatisfied with the management of the Fourth Street church. Some ten or twelve families, meeting under the ministrations of Rev. George Seel, formed the nucleus for the organization. Worship was first conducted in the Free Methodist on Fox and Fifth Streets, but through the generosity of Henry Fink, the new organization built a new, neat frame church on Eagle Street which, with grants, cost \$6,600.00. It was dedicated in Dec. 1887.

1894  
Bernhardt

Zion Evangelical Church: The Zion Evangelical Association was organized in 1865 with nine members by Rev. J.Q. Bernhardt, first pastor, and the church edifice was erected that year. Rev C.A. Spies of Canada officiated.

1894

Zion Evangelical: Rev. Lester W. Driftmeyer, pastor. Missionary work was started among some of the German people of the community in 1862 by the Rev. J. Bernhardt, pastor of the Evangelical church in Erie. The first pastor, Rev. Martin Zirkel, was assigned to this field the next year. The present church property in Park Avenue was purchased in 1864. The church edifice in which the congregation now worships was dedicated by Bishop Esher in 1866. A church was built at Laona in 1868 and was served by the Dunkirk pastor. One of the largest increases in the membership of the church came in 1872. Two years later, the Erie Conference of the Evangelical church was formed and the Dunkirk church became part of that conference.

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Zion Evangelical church celebrated the 75th anniversary of its founding (having started as a mission in 1863) in 1938. The present church property was purchased in 1864, and the edifice dedicated by Bishop Esher in 1866.

## Dunkirk

1894

Dunkirk English Lutheran: The first effort to establish English Lutherism in Dunkirk was made by the Rev. G.G. Ruff of North East in January, 1902. A group of interested people was organized into a mission on Easter Sunday and a Bible school, consisting of 17 members, was started.

Rev. Ruff became the resident pastor in Dec., 1902 and the congregation was incorporated in April the following year. Having no church home of its own, the congregation held its services in the Odd Fellows Hall on Main Street until 1905 when a modest wooden church at the corner of Fourth and Fox Streets (now Columbus Ave.) was dedicated to the religious life of the community. Rev. Ruff, who had received a call to Buffalo, tendered his resignation in Sept., 1915, having served the congregation 13 years and laying the strong and firm foundation on which the present strength of the church rests.

The growth of the congregation made imperative the problem of more adequate room and, in March 1919, a campaign fund of \$14,000.00 was pledged for the building of a new church. Three years after the dedication of the new church occurred the Sunday morning fire which, for a time, seemed to threaten the complete destruction of one of the city's finest churches. The fire entailed a loss of \$20,000.00. Undaunted by this catastrophe, the official boards met that same day and decided to begin the construction at once.

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Historic  
Annals of  
S.W.  
New York  
1940  
vol. 2

Grace Lutheran Church was initiated in January, 1902, by English-speaking Lutherans. Rev. G.G. Ruff became pastor in Dec. of that year and the group held services in the Odd Fellows Hall until 1905, when a modest church was erected. A new edifice was constructed in November, 1925, at a cost of \$85,000.00. Three years later, fire caused damage estimated at \$20,000.00, but reconstruction began at once.

1894

Swedish Lutheran: The congregation of the Swedish Lutheran church was organized on the 24th day of April, 1903.

This meeting was held at St. John's Evangelical church, corner East Fourth and Leopard. The Axel C.H. Hilander served as chairman of the meeting. Rev A.M. Benander of Jamestown was also present. The following became charter members: Mr. and Mrs. August Swanson and four children; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Grann and three children; Mr. and Mrs. Emil Carlson and one child; Mr. and Mrs. Emil Peterson and four children; Mr. and Mrs. John W. Blom, and one child; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Carlson; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beckman and six children; Mr. and Mrs. August Thorson; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Martin; Mr. and Mrs. Claus W. Johnson; Miss Hanna Gustavison; John Peterson; August W. Swanson; Emil Carlson and Martin Johnson and Alfred Swanson. In all, 26 communicants and 19 children. The church property on the corner of East Fourth and Deer Streets was purchased from the German Methodists in 1909.

## Dunkirk

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The First Methodist church traditionally grew out of a class held in Dunkirk in 1830. There is a record of July 23, 1838, that the Wesleyan Society of the First Methodist church met in the Academy in the village prior to 1853. This society was associated with Fredonia and Portland in pastoral supervision. Since that year it has been a separate appointment; its first church site on East 4th Street was chosen in 1853. In 1859, a commodious brick building was erected and used until 1918, when the beautiful stone church was completed on the corner of Sixth Street and Washington Avenue. A German Methodist church, founded in 1909, soon united with the Methodist congregation.

1894

A Methodist class, which was the unit of organization in early Methodism, was organized in Dunkirk as early as 1830. The preaching in these days was in private houses, as well as in Parsons Wagon Shop on the North side of Third Street and in the school-house on the south side of the same street until a small church was built on Fourth in 1830. This building soon proved too small and was sold and removed from the lot and the present building was built on the same site. This building was enlarged in 1877 and continued in use until March 17, 1918. Dunkirk became an appointment in 1853. Previous to that time, it had been part of the circuit composed of Fredonia, Portland and Dunkirk. The church recently abandoned was built during the pastorate of A.C. Tibbits and dedicated by Bishop Edmund S. Jones. For a number of years the congregation recognized the need of a new church building which would afford better equipment for church work. The Alex Williams property on the southwest corner of Sixth and Washington Avenue was purchased in July, 1915. The cornerstone was laid Oct. 22, 1916, by President Wm. H. Crawford, D.D.L.L. of Meadville, Pa. The church is Tudor Gothic of the perpendicular type in outline and window development. The walls are of rock-faced Medina brown stone. The nave is diagonal, the center line is 45 degrees to the line of both streets. The roof is supported by heavy trusses resting on steel supports which appear as plastered columns in the audience room at the right. The organ is placed directly back of the pulpit, the choir is at the left of the chancel, Cathedral glass doors opening into the Sunday School room at the right. The church is so planned that the needs of any audience up to nine hundred can be met by the use of movable partitions. There is a basement under the entire building, which provides for the social activities of the congregation. There are two large rooms which can be thrown together, affording seating for 400 persons. At the east end of the larger room there is a large stage. The kitchen and serving arrangements are adequate to the need of the congregation. The finish of the auditorium is red oak with dark stain. The Sunday School rooms and basement are southern pine with same stain. The windows are opalescent Art Glass of beautiful design and coloring. The walls are in harmony with the colors of the windows. The side walls are light buff and the base dark buff. These colors, with the plastered columns and trusses in white, produce a most pleasing effect. There is no undue absorption of light nor any glare. The church is lighted by three large

Dunkirk

1894 windows of the same dimension and similar design. The interior  
(cont'd.) doors and partitions have Cathedral glass of the same leaded design as the windows and are harmonious in color.

The Adams Memorial Unitarian church commemorates the life and work of  
Historic the Rev. E.P. Adams, its founder and first pastor, who for nearly  
Annals two decades prior to his death in 1897 served well the congregation  
of S.W. which met first in 1880. It was founded by liberal members of the  
New York Presbyterian faith and is affiliated with the National Conference  
1940 vol. of Unitarian and other liberal churches. The meeting house was  
2 built during the pastorate of T. Clinton Brockway (1897-1905).

BOOTH & PEASE "NEW YORK"

Westfield

Atlas  
Chaut.  
County  
1811-  
1881

The Baptist church was organized Sept. 16, 1825.

Sept.  
9, 1950

It was 125 years ago on Sept. 16 that the Westfield Baptist church was born with a handful of members. Early history states that a meeting of the Baptist church of Portland was held at the school-house in Westfield for the purpose of organizing a branch church. Rev. Charles LaHatt, pastor of the Portland church, presided at the meeting. The branch church was to have the privilege of holding meetings, observing the ordinances of Christ, receiving new members and attending to all concerns of the church with the exception of disciplining members, in which the mother church must be consulted. Joshua Tinker, Sr. was elected the first deacon and Joshua Tinker Jr. the first clerk.

There is no record of the number of members which constituted the branch church; a short time later, 20 are mentioned as attending communion, and this was probably about the entire membership. The first sermon was preached by Mr. LaHatt. It was not until May 19, 1827 that a pastor was regularly called, and then Rev. LaHatt was asked to come every four weeks. On August 5th of the same year, William Jordan proposed that they have a meeting every Lord's day whether there was preaching or not and probably the meetings were conducted by the members when the pastor was not present. The first baptism took place April 1st, 1827; Gerusha Cole was the first person to be baptized. Sept. 1, 1827, Deacon Joshua Tinker, Sr. and Elias Mallory were chosen to represent the church at the associational meeting. Apparently this was the first time the branch church was represented.

In June, 1828, it was voted to ask Mr. LaHatt to preach every two weeks, which he consented to do. He served the church for almost nine years. In April, 1831, the branch church withdrew from the mother church in Portland.

The first Bible School was organized in 1840 with Mr. Pixles as superintendent and Horace Hale assistant. In that same year, a resolution was passed that the church should build a place of worship "on the meeting house lot;" however, it was not until 1853 that the proposed resolution was carried out and the present church building resulted.

The church was built with a tower and steeple, but these were not strong enough to withstand the heavy winds, and finally they had to be taken down for safety. The bell, which had cracked, was sold to the Cherry Creek Baptist church. Before the church was built, services had been held in the school-house, in a private academy and in the room reserved for religious services in the McClurg Building. The church, with solid brick walls and hand-hewn beams of black walnut, was built in 1853 and has withstood the elements and time remarkably. Partitions have been changed in the interior and some remodeling done. The kitchen was built at the rear, and adjoining the church in 1908. It was about 1913 that the church sold its parsonage in Union Street and

Westfield

Sept. 9, 1950  
(cont'd.) built a new one on the church lot for about \$2,500.00. The old sheds were torn down and new ones erected also at that time. These were in turn torn down when automobiles supplanted horse-drawn vehicles.

Westfield  
Republcn. First Church of Christ Scientist: Having held services in private homes for a while, a group of Christian Scientist formed a society in 1911. First holding services in a room over a store for some time, they moved into a ground floor location in the Welch Block at No. 4 South Portage St. While there, the Christian Science Society of Westfield, N.Y. was organized under the laws of the State of New York in January 1925. The members continued to hold services there until March 1, 1948, when they moved into the church edifice at 35 Chestnut Street, formerly occupied by St. Peter's United Evangelical church. This property was purchased by the Christian Science Society in 1947 and was in the process of being rebuilt when services were begun there. The building was completed and was dedicated free of debt on June 25, 1950.  
With permission of the Board of Directors of the mother church, The First Church of Christ Scientist in Boston, Mass., the name "Christian Sci. Society of Westfield, New York" was changed in May, 1952, to First Church of Christ Scientists, Westfield, N.Y. and a certificate of change of name was obtained from the state.

County  
Clerks  
Records This indenture made the 22nd day of June in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Eight: Between Chiesa Christiana, a religious corporation created by and under the laws of the State of N. Y., and having its place of business in the city of Buffalo, County of Erie and State of New York, party of the first part, and Italian Christian Church of Westfield, N.Y., a religious corporation created by and under the laws of the State of N.Y., party of the second part, in consideration of the sum of one dollar and no more (\$1.00 and no more) lawful money of the United States paid by the said party of the second part, its successors and assigns forever, all that tract or parcel of land situate in the village of Westfield, etc., being a part of lot No. 17, Township 4, Range 4 of the Holland Land Company Survey, Washington and Clinton Streets.

1873-4 St. James R.C. Church: St. James church at Westfield was organized with 100 members in 1860 by Rt. Rev. P. Timore. Their house of worship, which will seat 200 persons, was erected that same year at a cost of \$1,500.00, one-half the present value of church property. The first pastor was Rev. F. Colgan. The present one is Rev. M. Dwyer. There are 100 members.

Westfield

1873-4

St. Peter's United Evangelical Protestant Church on Nettle Hill was organized in 1864 by Rev. Kohler, the first pastor. The house of worship was formerly occupied as a school-house. It will seat sixty persons. There are forty members. The pastor is Rev. Wm. Froman, the church property is valued at \$800.00.

By Miss  
Eda M.  
Swartz  
R.D.  
Wstfld.  
N.Y.

"As to our little St. Peter's church, we had our last service, I believe, in November, 1947. We disbanded, for there were few members left--no young shoulders on whom the burden could fall, and carry on. We couldn't afford to have a full time pastor, and there is no inspiration in talking to empty seats. The few younger people who attended there have affiliated with other churches."

Westfield

Young's  
History  
of  
Chaut.  
County  
1875

A German Lutheran Church was formed in the village of Westfield about twelve years ago. It was recognized in 1870, and called the "Evangelical Protestant Lutheran Church" Its meetings were, for a time, held in Mr. Rorig's dwelling house and in the school-house on Union Street. After its recognition, the society bought the school-house on Nettle Hill Street, where is now their stated place of worship. They are preparing to build a good and commodious house of worship next year. The officers of the society are: John Swartz, president; August Rorig, Christopher Nienkerchen, Trustees; Andrew Wonnenswiths, secretary, Charles Lagerman, treasurer. The present minister is William Fromm.  
(They built a house on Chestnut Street about 1880 which is now occupied by the Christian Scientists.)

By Helena A. Merker, 35 Elm Street, Westfield, N.Y., in answer to my letter:

"My parents did not belong to the Evangelical church in Westfield but a number of my mother's people did. As a child I went every summer to the little church week-day school conducted by St. Peter's pastor. Mother paid tuition for me. In the school we learned to read and write German script. The little room in the back of the church was furnished with the old school desks used in Nettle Hill School. As years passed, the elderly German speaking congregation passed away, the young people married into non-German families and the church was closed."

Mr.  
Nixon  
1955

Westfield Republican--April 22, 1874: Rev. H.S. Green preaches at the German Church on West Portage Street next Sabbath at 3 PM.

Young's  
History  
of  
Chaut.  
County  
1875

The Methodist Episcopal church of Westfield had its origin in a class formed in 1821. It was composed of Brainard Spencer and wife, Joseph Clark and wife, Reuben Peck and wife and others whose names are not recollected. Of this class, Reuben Peck was leader. Rev. Glezen Fillmore was presiding elder, Rev M. Hatton was preacher in charge and Rev. Benjamin P. Hill was assistant. The first meeting house was built in 1830, on the west side of the creek, where it is occupied as a dwelling house. The second was built in 1850 on Clinton Street, near North Portage Street, where it stands unoccupied. Their third house was built in 1871 and 1872, on Main Street. In the plan of its construction and the comeliness of its appearance it was probably not surpassed by any church edifice then in the county. It is built of brick and cost about \$30,000.00.

Mr.  
Nixon  
1955

Mayville Sentinel Aug 4, 1869--The Methodist at Westfield have raised enough to commence getting ready to build a new church edifice, so says the Westfield Republican.

Westfield

Young's  
History  
of  
Chaut.  
County

Methodist Episcopal Church at Howard's Corners: A class was formed about 1837 or 1838, at a log school-house near Isaac Porter's. The members were Rand Miles, class leader; Robert Hill, Alanson Jones and their wives, Rebecca Wheeler, Deborah Harmon; Nicholas Jones and wife and Laban Jones joined soon after. The place of meeting was afterwards fixed at Howard's Corners. The present meeting house was built in 1847. The minister present at the formation of the class is believed to have been Darius Smith.

1873-4

The Methodist church at Howard's Corners, five miles from Westfield, was organized with nine members in 1841 and a church was built at a cost of \$1,300.00 which will seat about 250 persons. Previous to that time the society worshipped in school-houses; at first, for a year or two, in a log school house known as the Porter School-house, one and one-half mile south of Howards Corners, until a framed school-house was erected. The society numbers 27, having for its pastor Rev. Wm. Rice. The church property is valued \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00.

P. 63  
small  
book  
Co. Clk's.  
Office

Wesleyan Methodist church Society of Westfield met in Temperance Hall No. 8, March 21st, 1853 and elected Trustees: John Barnes, John Gibson, Isaac Shaw, Durend Brockenbury, Michael Glead.

Westfield

- No Homecoming at Volusia Church, August 30, 1937: Methodist edifice  
Source built in 1847 is in good condition and services held.  
Given August 29--Homecoming was observed at the Volusia Methodist Epis-  
copal church situated a few miles south of Westfield on what used  
to be known as the Plank Road and which was the stage coach and  
mail route in early days. The church was built in 1847 by the  
pioneer residents of that section, and unlike many country churches  
it is still in fine condition. Services are held and a thriving  
Sunday School is maintained. Rev. F.S. McKnight, pastor of the  
M.E. church at Westfield, has assisted the church in many ways.  
For the past two years, Philip Schlich, who is studying for the  
ministry, filled the pulpit.  
On Sunday about one hundred descendants of the old pioneer families  
gathered for the fourth annual homecoming. A picnic dinner was  
held in the grange hall. At two o'clock, all gathered in the church,  
where a remembrance program was held by Rev. McKnight. Two former  
pastors were present, Rev. F.S. Mills of Westfield and Rev. Mr. Mor-  
rison of Erie. The widow of a former pastor, Mrs. Mary Williams of  
Ripley, spoke. Mrs. Mary Fox Axman, who will be 90 in September  
and who has spent most of her life at Volusia, gave an interesting  
talk recounting incidents of earlier years. The music of the day  
was given by former members of the choir. Mrs. Louise Crouch, a  
former organist, presided at the organ. A solo was given by Mrs.  
Alice Wilcox of Washington, D.C. Friends were present from New  
York City, Erie, Washington, D.C., Fredonia, Brocton, Portland, May-  
ville, Ripley and Westfield.
- 1873-4 St. Peter's church of Westfield (Protestant-Episcopal) was organ-  
Gazeteer ized in January, 1830. The church edifice was erected in 1833,  
and Bus. at a cost of about \$2,000.00, and has recently been enlarged and  
Directory improved. It will seat about 200 persons. The first pastor was  
of Chaut. Rev. Rufus Murry; the present one is Rev. John S. Siebold. There  
County are 68 communicants. The church property is valued at \$7,500.00.
- Westfld. The Episcopal Church and Society of Westfield was incorporated Jan.  
Atlas 28, 1830.  
Chaut.  
County  
1811-81
- Westfld. St. Peter's Episcopal church is 112 years old. The oldest parish  
Jan. 19, church still in use in Chautauqua County, St. Peter's Episcopal  
1942 church here, marked its 112th anniversary Sunday morning with a  
special historical sermon by its rector, Rev. Donald Ellwood. Rev.  
Rufus Murray, one of the early missionaries who organized St. Paul's  
in Mayville, assisted in the formation of St. Peter's and ministered  
to both parishes for many years. One of Westfield's first philanthro-  
pists, James McClurg, gave the plot on the corner of the park (also  
given by Mr. McClurg) to the parish for the construction of the church.

Westfield

Young's  
History  
and  
"others"

Westfield Presbyterian Church: The Presbyterian church of Westfield was formed in 1808, the Rev. John Lindsley, a missionary, officiating on the occasion. This was the first organized church in the county. It was attached to the Erie Presbytery.

The church seems to have begun, early in its history, to decline, and continued to decline until it had little more than a nominal existence. It appears, however, that in 1817, efforts were made for its revival. On the 25th day of June there was formed, in the pursuance of a general law of the state, the "First Presbyterian Society in the 4th township, 14th range, in the County of Chautauqua." Eber Stone, James Montgomery, Nathaniel Bird, David Higgins, William M. Riddell, and Jonathan Harmon were elected Trustees; Jonathan Cass, clerk; Calvin E. Macomber, treasurer; Fenn Deming, collector. On the 7th of November, 1817, a new organization for the church was effected. A meeting house was built in 1821 or 1822 on South Portage Street. It was subsequently sold for a dwelling and removed to Pearl Street.

The first brick church was built in 1832 and heated by two high box stoves, each holding one-quarter cord of wood, which were installed in the vestibule; long stove pipes carried the heat around the auditorium. Tallow candles in tin candlesticks were used for lighting. The pulpit, high above the floor, was reached by a mahogany-railed stair on either side. The pews faced the entrances; each had a door on which was a black iron button which was turned when the family was seated. Members owned their own pews, having paid for them with subscriptions to the building fund.

The bell, the only one in the village and pride of the members, hung in a square belfry tower, calling the people to worship four times each Sunday--in the morning, afternoon, evening and at 5 o'clock for Prayer Service. It also announced deaths, one stroke for a man, two for a woman, three for a child, after which it struck the number of years the person had lived. It also tolled as the funeral procession made its way to the grave. The bell was also used to peal fire alarms. In those days, church discipline was very strict. If a member neglected to attend church and particularly communion, a call was made by one of the elders or deacons, and if that didn't suffice, the member was called before the sessions. In case of flagrant transgressiveness, a person was expelled from the church, which was indeed a disgrace. One early member was ousted for taking a Sunday toll on a Plank Road.

On April 13, 1872, the bell rang an alarm of fire. Two houses and the church burned. In 1874, a new steam-heated church costing \$40,000.00 was erected and for two years enjoyed a wave of prosperity with nearly every seat in the house and gallery rented. Fire again wrecked this on January 13, 1878, with nothing saved except a new Bible owned by Robert Thompson, who dashed in to get it from a rear pew near the door. The present church was completed Feb. 27, 1879, and was complete in every way, with new carpets throughout, crimson cushioned seats, walnut crimson-dressed pulpit chairs (gift of governor Patterson), an elegant communion table, a gift of Mrs. Tinker as a memorial to her honored husband.

Westfield

Westfield  
Republcn. The spire of the main tower of the Presbyterian church is nearly completed. The extreme pinnacle is 150 feet from the water table. The frescoes in the audience and other rooms are entirely completed, the seats are being put in and the inside work in general is being rapidly completed. The carpet for the body of the church, is ingrain drab with crimson and a woven border. The seats will be cushioned with crimson satin. The dedication of the church is expected to take place on the 25th of September, at which time Rev. R.S. Green will be established as pastor of the church.

Wstfld.  
Repub.  
Sept. 3,  
1874 The new Presbyterian church was first opened for Divine worship on Sunday evening last when Union services were held. The sermon was by Rev. A.S. Green.

Wstfld.  
Repub.  
Sept. 23,  
1874 The bell for the Presbyterian church was put in position on Friday last. It is from the Miniely Bell Foundry, West Troy, N.Y. Its weight is 2,573 lbs. and it is suspended from a yoke weighing 417 lbs.

Wstfld.  
Repub.  
Sept. 30,  
1874 The seats in the Presbyterian church will be rented on Friday afternoon next at 2 o'clock. The members of the society and all others desirous of obtaining seats for the ensuing year are earnestly requested to be present promptly at that hour. By order of Trustees.

" The new Presbyterian church: This handsome and imposing building is the center of so much interest manifested by our citizens--irrespective of denominational lines--that description may not be amiss. The edifice is brick trimmed throughout with Berea Sandstone. At the front are two towers, one on either side of the main entrance and vestibule, which form the front corners of the building. The main part of the edifice is 72 feet in length by 52 feet in width, with side walls 26 feet in height that are 22 inches in thickness. The smaller tower on the Northeast corner is 12 feet square and 160 feet in height. The main tower on the Northwest corner is 16 and one-half feet square, 165 feet in height with walls two feet in thickness. In the rear of the main part of the church is a transept, 36' x 70', containing Sunday School rooms, parlors, etc. The towers and roofs are covered with slate. The gallery is in the front, on the northern end of the room, immediately over the main vestibule and has seating for 82. The cost of the edifice is \$36,000.00.

Westfield

Jamestown  
Journal  
Jan. 13,  
1878

Westfield, N.Y.: The Presbyterian church in this village, a large and handsome edifice of brick with gray stone trimmings, took fire about 5 o'clock this afternoon and was entirely destroyed, nothing being saved from the flames, which filled the interior when they were first discovered. The building was erected in 1873 on the site of the old church which was also destroyed by fire five or six years ago. The building was insured for \$20,000.00 and the furniture and fixtures for \$3,000.00, distributed among different companies. The church had spacious and handsome parlors, supper rooms and every modern convenience for church society meetings and sociables.

Jan. 13,  
1879  
Wstfld.  
Repub.

New Presbyterian church at Westfield: At a late meeting of the Presbyterian Society, the building committee reported through their chairman, H.C. Kingsbury, Esq., the plan of the committee, together with their needs. Although no contract has been signed, it is understood that Mr. Aaron Hall of Jamestown, who built the frame house, will put up the new building, using the foundations which are standing and not materially injured. The edifice will be much the same as before, with a few changes which will be of material advantage. The front will be rebuilt, presenting th same appearance as did the other church. The main audience room will be little changed. In the rear, the Sunday School room will occupy the entire transept formerly occupied by the Sunday School and the rear vestibule. The entrance to the rear will be through a vestibule occupying the space formerly designed as the study. This will be enlarged and included in a tower which will cover the intersection of the main part and the rear, and in the tower will be the stairways leading to the parlor and other rooms above. The committee estimated then that there will be required, beside the insurance money, eight-thousand dollars to replace the church according to these approved plans, together with the furniture. Mr. Hall, the architect and contractor, promises to have the building complete and ready for the heating apparatus on or before the first of September next.

Atlas  
Chaut. Co.  
1811-1881

The First Universalist church was organized in 1833.

County  
Clerks  
Records

Hights Corners Universalists incorporated and elected Trustees, meeting held at Hights Corners in the house where they statedly assembled for Divine worship on the 3rd day of October, 1880, Rev. J.M. Payson, the minister of said congregation, Mr. Wilder Rexford, Mr. Abel Holcomb and Mrs. F. Hill as Trustees of said Society.

Westfield

County  
Court  
Records

We the undersigned, two of the members of the Society hereafter mentioned do hereby certify that on the ninth (9th) day of October, 1880, at a meeting of the persons of full age belonging to the Universalist Congregation at Hights Corners, town of Westfield, Chautauqua County, N.Y., for the purpose of incorporating the same, which meeting was held at Hights Corners in the house where they stately assemble for Divine worship, and pursuant to notice duly given upon the 19th day of September and the 3rd day of October and the stated meeting of said congregation for public worship, by Rev. J.W. Payson, the minister of said congregation, the undersigned were nominated by a majority of the members present as returning officials and that said members did then and there elect by plurality of voices Mr. Abel Holcomb, Mr. F. Hill and Mr. Wilder Rexford as Trustees of said Society to be known as the Universalist Society of Hights Corners.

1873-4

The Universalist church at Hights Corners was organized with 26 members in 1833 by Walter Strong and Elisha Ticknor. The church edifice was erected in 1842 at a cost of \$600.00. It will seat 125 persons. The first pastor was Rev. N. Stacy; the present one is Rev. Isaac George. The society numbers forty and its property is valued at \$400.00.

Dorothy  
Hopkins  
Curtis

Hights Corners Universalist church was the first Universalist church of Westfield. Among the constituent members were Larkin Harrington, John Nye, Ebenezer Patterson, Alvah Adams and their wives; Hannah Houghton, Lucretia Adams and Mrs. Betty Bickford. The Rev. Linus Payne was the officiating clergyman. Unfortunately, except for this brief note from a county history, the only record now known to be available is a hand-written constitution of the Universalist Society of Westfield and the minutes of three meetings held at the brick school-house, town of Westfield in 1834, 6 and 7. In these minutes, Samuel Johnson, David Knight, Austin L. Wells and James Sprague are named as Trustees with Solomon Northam moderator and George Newcombe secretary.

Pomfret

Business  
Direct.  
Chaut.  
County  
1873-4

Fredonia Baptist church, the first in the town, was organized as the First Baptist church of Pomfret, with sixteen members, Oct. 20, 1808, by a council consisting of Revs. Joy Handy, Joel Butler and Hezekiah Eastman, which convened in Judge Cushing's barn which was, for many years, the most spacious edifice in town. The name of the church was changed May 25, 1859. The first church edifice (the first in the county) was erected in 1821-22; the present one upon the site of the first in 1852-53, at a cost of \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00, about one-half the present value of the church property. It was dedicated July 7, 1853, and will seat 600 to 800 persons. The first pastor was Rev. Joy Handy; the present one--the seventeenth in number--is Rev. Lester Williams Jr. The church has a membership of 269.

Fredonia  
Censor  
Oct. 28,  
1908

Fredonia Baptist Church: Original members were: Zatter Cushing, Rachael Cushing, Eliphalet Burnham, Rhoda Burnham, William Gould, John VanTassel, Benjamin Barrett, Sophia Williams, Silence Barton.

Picture of First church 1823-1852 at this date Oct. 28, 1908, wooden.

Fredonia  
Censor  
Wed. Oct.  
14, 1908

The Baptist Centennial: One hundred years ago next Tuesday, Oct. 20, 1808, Judge Zatter Cushing gathered nine good, faithful Baptist in his barn on Eagle Street and organized the First Baptist Church of Pomfret. It was the first church organization in Chautauqua County, except the Presbyterian church at Westfield. The Fredonia Baptist Society is justified in making this 100th anniversary a notable event.

Fredonia  
Censor  
Nov. 16  
1910

The Baptist Society is repairing and improving their church edifice and propose to provide a place for a public clock with four faces and give the use of a bell for that purpose. It is the largest bell in the place, and the location is a central and suitable one. Some fifty years ago the Trustees of the corporation purchased a clock and placed it in the Presbyterian church, a place for which was provided by the society when the church was erected. It was kept there for more than thirty years, but was so small and became so worn that it became unreliable. When the church building was taken down it was removed and is not available for repairs. It is of insufficient size to insure correct time when snow, sleet and high winds prevail. We understand that a new clock can be obtained to run four dials at a cost of \$600.00. With the exchange of the old clock, the expense can be reduced considerably.

"  
Mar. 20  
1886

Dials for the new town clock have been placed as high as possible on the tower of the Baptist church. They are six feet eight inches in diameter and, it is thought, can be seen a long distance. The clock will be put in position in about three weeks.

Pomfret

- Fredonia  
Censor  
Apr. 14,  
1886
- The town clock has arrived. (In Baptist church tower)
- Chaut.  
County  
and its  
People  
1921  
Vol. 1
- The Baptist church at Laona was organized in June 1829. Among its active members were: Sith and William Higgins, Joseph Davis, Azariah Gardner and Daniel Saunders. A meeting house was erected in 1835, but the society was feeble and soon dwindled away. Its place of worship went to decay, and the ground it occupied is now a portion of the village cemetery.
- County  
Court  
Records
- This is to certify that at a meeting regularly called and held at Christian Chapel, Fredonia, N.Y., on May 14, 1880, in pursuance of the laws of the State of N.Y., securing the benefit of incorporation of religious societies, George W. Briggs, J.M. Straight and D.S. Ranson were elected the first board of Trustees of the Church of Christ on Free Street, Fredonia, N.Y.
- Censor  
Feb, 14,  
1917
- From the old Files: Feb. 15, 1882. Meetings will be held each evening this week at the Christian Chapel. Services conducted by Rev. B.H. Hayden, evangelist.
- Atlas  
Chaut.  
County  
1881
- The Church of Christ in Fredonia was organized Dec. 7th, 1879, under the auspices of the New York Christian Missionary Convention, through the labors of Elder R. Moffett, A.B. Chamberlain and other evangelists, with Dr. L.S. Brown as its first pastor. The place of meeting is a frame building on the corner of Day and Free Streets formerly owned by the Protestant-Methodist; it is valued at \$2,500.00.
- Mrs. D.W.  
Padden  
1950  
Fred. N.Y.
- In 1839, a Christian Church was built on the west end of the cemetery lot. This church was on a hill and stood on a high wall with many steps leading to the entrance. This, together with the fact that it had a shiny roof, gave it an imposing appearance. It was well-furnished inside with comfortable pews and nice woodwork. The early members were: Barzilla Ellis, Nathan Hatch and Joel Harrington. After years, it became too weak and passed into the hands of Mr. Ellis, who, in 1870, sold it to a Society of Spiritualist and Free Thinkers. The Trustees were George Road, Addison Straight and Gerry Bartlett.

Pomfret

Censor  
Wed. May  
16, 1906

Laona Letter: There seems to be all kinds of stories also dates of the building and disposal of the Laona Christian Church, which was sold a few days ago and is now being taken down, the walls being removed first. There have been several reports in regard to the cornerstone and records. Please allow your Cor. J.S.G. to say that he made a call at the place and at his request, the North East corner, the only probable place for records, was entirely taken down and every stone thoroughly examined by Fred Smith, who is handling the stone, and also by your correspondent. No box or records were found. We are informed by Mrs. William Ramsdel, one of our oldest citizens (aged 88 years), mother of D.O. Ramsdel, that the church was built in 1839. She says she well remembers her husband working on it and also donating \$10.00 to help pay the cost.

Laona

The neighbors are getting over their anxiety about the old church in the way it has been left standing since the foundation was removed. Men are now at work taking it down and will soon have it past danger; we hate to part with our landmarks.

Court  
Records

Laona--The Religious Society of Free Thinkers did assemble on the 3rd day of December, 1853, in the house in said village where they statedly attend Divine worship for the purpose of forming themselves into a religious incorporation and did elect seven Trustees: Levi Baldwin, Erastus W. Randall, Harry Randall, Levi Cowden, Horace White, John Case and Walter W. Holt were elected Trustees for said society to be known as the Laona Free Association. Jan. 7, 1856.

Censor  
Wed. Nov.  
7, 1917

Laona--Free Church at Laona erected 75 years ago to be a "free for all" "no denomination restricted" was pulled down a few years ago and under the skillful management of Attorney Wm. S. Stearns, then Supervisor of the town, the land was added to the Laona Cemetery.

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1921  
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Present Laona church was dedicated in 1879. The lot was given by Hamilton Clothier in 1860. Through the influence of the Evangelical church of Dunkirk, together with the work of the pastor, Philip Miller, the people joined the Evangelical church and built the church which has served the community for more than seventy years. The services for some years have not been in German, and it is now united with the United Brethren denomination and called the E.U.B. church. It has an active women's society and a thriving Sunday School.

Pomfret

Laona  
by  
Mrs. D.W.  
Padden  
1950  
Fred.  
N.Y.

Laona was widely known because of its Spiritualist history. In 1844 or 45, Dr. Moran of Vermont gave a lecture on mesmerism and its power of healing. Jerry Carter was much interested and hoped the doctor would return and heal him of Stomach trouble--but he did not come back. Mr. Wm. Johnson, father of Attorney Oscar Johnson, suggested that Mr. Carter and others interested, test some of the doctor's experiments. This was done and Mr. Carter discovered that he had clairvoyant powers. So, he healed himself and others whom he said the doctors could not cure. From that time he was called Dr. Carter.

About this same time, a Miss Doolittle heard strange rappings which she declared came from the Spirit World. Other mediums arose who worked under the influence of the departed--Indians and others. Dr. Carter's control was a Dr. Hedges, who departed this life some time before. All these things took place before the Fox sisters' time, so Laona claimed to be the birthplace of Spiritualism. After the purchase of the Christian Church (by the Spiritualists) in 1870, meetings were held there with such lecturers as Lyman Howe, Mrs. Elizabeth Watson of Jamestown, Mrs. Cora Richmond, Miss Colby and many others. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Skidmore opened their house to entertain many of these speakers, and when Lily Dale was dedicated, they served at times as Presidents of the Association. After Lily Dale was started, the old church was no longer needed for services. The building was used for a time by clubs of young people, and it was rather startling to see a pastor read something like this: "There will be a dance next Friday night in the Laona Free Church, music by Reynolds Orchestra."

Gerry Bartlett became the last Trustee and he and a friend thought they could take possession of the property as it was too delapidated for further use. Mrs. Bartlett, on hearing the plan, said "Gerry Bartlett you are too old to steal a church." After which the town of Pomfret took possession. The church was dismantled for the material, for there had been no repairs in years and it was in bad condition. The land on which the old church stood became a part of Laona Cemetery.

Fredonia  
Censor  
Wed. Jan.  
26, 1910

Fredonia Grange has bought the Disciple Church. A committee was appointed by Fredonia Grange at a recent meeting to see about purchasing the Disciple Church or Christian Chapel (see p. 21), corner of Free and Day Streets, as it was understood that the property would soon come into market. A member of the state board of the church came to Fredonia this Tuesday, and has made a contract to give good title to Fredonia Grange of the church and the adjoining parsonage property for \$4,000.00, possession given April 1. The Grange will remodel the building and have the finest grange property in the county; the location and building are well adapted to the Grange purpose.

The Grange Committee, E.L. Colvin, L.E. Cowden and S.J. Lowell are entitled to the thanks of all for consummating the purchase at a reasonable price. The price asked was \$4,500.00.

Pomfret

Librarian  
Fredonia  
Free  
Library

"I did not know that the Grange had owned this property. The Fredonia Censor purchased this building while Fred Bickers was owner of the Censor and printed the Censor there. Censor later sold and was printed in the basement of the Russo Building. It is now printed in the Card Building on West Main. The building at the corner of Free Street (now called Lambert Ave.) and Day Street has been remodeled and is now an apartment building owned by John Bickers, son of Fred Bickers."

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County  
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1921  
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Laona Church was built by Dominic Rizzo. He wished his own Catholic church in which to worship. It was built of cement and stone and although there was only one roo, it was completely equipped for Catholic services. Sometimes a priest was present to speak to people gathered outside. Mr. Rizzo has gone and yet the building still stands, although it is no longer used as a church.

Censor  
Aug. 10  
1904

Lamberton Church: Lamberton Letter--The Sunday School was reorganized last Sunday, Eugene Wright being elected Superintendent, J.W. Butcher, Assistant Supt., and Frank Hall Secretary and Treasurer. Rev. Cleveland preached at the school-house Sunday. Arrangements are being perfected to have preaching every Sunday.

Censor  
Dec. 26,  
1909

Lamberton Church: Lamberton Letter--Next Friday night there will be a supper and donation in the school-house for the benefit of Elder Baldwin.

Censor  
July  
31,1912

Lamberton Church: Lamberton Letter--The school-house has got its new coat of paint and its fine concrete walks all finished.

Censor  
Aug. 7,  
1912

Lamberton Church: Lamberton Letter--Rev. S.U. Mock gave us one more of his fine sermons Sunday night. Rev. B.S. Wright will preach at the school-house next Sunday evening.

Censor  
Sept. 23,  
1912

Lamberton Church: Lamberton Letter--Rev. S.U. Mock will preach in the school-house Sunday afternoon. Services 3 o'clock. Rev. Mock is from Fredonia.

Pomfret

1921

While the Methodist circuit riders followed closely upon the advent of the pioneer settlers in Chautauqua County, first coming in 1805, it was not until 1811 that Rev. Elijah Metcalf, preacher in charge of the Chautauqua Circuit, organized a class. The members of that historic class were: Justin and Mrs. Henman; Daniel and Mrs. Gould; William and Mrs. Ensign; Jeremiah and Mrs. Baldwin. A plain church edifice, forty by fifty feet, was erected in 1822. The eccentric but sincere minister Lorenzo Dow, preached in that old church which was replaced by a larger church at the corner of Center and Baker Streets in 1839.

In 1867, a site was secured fronting on Baker Common (now Lafayette Square) and the present church structure begun in 1868, finished in 1869, was dedicated by Bishop Matthew Simpson, assisted by Rev. Benoni I. Ives. The cost of this edifice was \$30,000.00. Among its noted pastors were: Rev. R.W. Crane, Rev. J.A. Kummer, Rev. W.P. Bignell, Rev. Robert E. Brown and Bruce S. Wright.

Censor  
Dec. 4,  
1912

From the old Files: Dec. 1867--The foundation of the new M.E. church is now being laid to become settled during the winter. Brick laying will commence next spring.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Mar. 31,  
1869

The M.E. Society of Fredonia have completed their church. The grounds, parsonage and church, costing \$30,000.00, were completed May 5th. The new M.E. church at Fredonia is to be dedicated Tuesday May 11th. This is pronounced to be the finest church edifice in the county.

Censor  
Jan. 17,  
1917

Fredonia: From the old Files--Jan. 17, 1872. The old building on the corner of Green and Main Streets, which in earlier days was a Methodist church, has traveled across the street onto H.D. Crane's Main Street lot, where he will refit it for a dwelling house. Crane has sold the now-vacant lot to James P. Irwin, a D.W. and P.R.R. officer, for whom Capt. E.A. Curtis, architect, is now perfecting plans for a handsome residence to be erected there in the spring.

County  
Clerks  
Records

Prospect M.E.--The members and friends of the Methodist Episcopal church of the Blodgett appointment, assembled at the home of Mr. Timothy Calkins for the purpose of electing trustees and organizing according to form of law for the purpose of erecting a house of worship for said society and taking a corporate name. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Milo Blodgett, Seth Aldrich, A.B. Blodgett, Pulaski Bull elected Trustees, noted that this be called the Prospect Church.

Pomfret

Liber  
176  
Page 547

Between Aaron R. Blodgett of the County of Chautauqua, N.Y. and Haron B. Blodgett, Pulaske Bull and Seth Aldrich, Trustees of the M.E. church of Prospect and their successors in office of the second part the 19th day of April, 1879, Rented to them and being the S.E. corner of Lot No. 35, and bounded as follows: Beginning at the S.E. corner of said lot No. 35 and in the center of the highway called the Old Plank Road thence west on the South line of said lot one chain and fifty links, thence north on a line parallel with the said highway one chain thence East one chain and fifty links to the center of said highway, thence south along the center of said highway one chain to the place of beginning, containing 1/4 acre more or less for the terms that the same shall be used for meeting purposes, the land house and all buildings to be erected on said premises to be held by the said society as personal property and never to revert to the original owners of the land. The sum of five dollars to be paid in advance and Trustees to pay all taxes or other amounts.

1873-74

Methodist-Protestant church at Fredonia, organized with fifteen members in 1860, by Rev. O.C. Payne, the first pastor. The church edifice will seat about 500 persons and was erected in 1863 at a cost of \$2,000.00. There are forty members and three have gone into the ministry from this church. The church property is valued at \$3,000.00.

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1921  
vol. 1

The First Presbyterian church of Pomfret was organized as Congregational by Rev. John Spencer, its founder being a missionary of that faith from Connecticut. Eight men and six women comprised the first members, thirteen members being added during the next four years. On Jan. 30, 1817, the congregation adopted a Presbyterian form of government. The Presbyterian Society was incorporated in 1817 and in 1836, a church 65 by 50 feet was erected on the site of the present church. About 1875, that church was replaced by the present commodious structure. The first pastor was Rev. Samuel Swezy, installed March 13, 1817. The present pastor is Rev. George H. Allen Jr.

History  
of Ch.  
County  
and its  
People  
1921  
vol. 1

Trinity Protestant Episcopal church was organized Aug. 1, 1822 and a church edifice dedicated in 1835. The first rector was Rev. David Brown...The first warden, Michael Hinman, composing the first vestry. Noted rectors of the past have been: Rev. W.O. Jarvis and Rev. John J. Landers. The present rector is Rev. Henry Missler.

Pomfret

Liber  
213  
page  
313

This indenture made the 16th day of June in the year of our Lord 1888, between Clinton M. Ball and Cintha T. Ball his wife of Fredonia, N.Y. of the first part and John Morian, Eli Durfee, Andrew Morian, John C. Burnham and Clinton M. Ball as Trustees of the United Brethren in Christ Society and their successors in office, of the second part witness that said party of the first part, in consideration of the sum of fifty dollars to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged, have bargained, sold, remised and quit-claimed and by these presents do bargain, sell, remise and quit-claim unto the said party of the second part and to them and to their successors in office and assigns forever, all that tract, piece or parcel of land situate in the village of Fredonia, County of Chautauqua and state of N.Y. more particularly described as follows: Commencing in the center of Clinton Avenue in said village, twenty-five rods and two links from a point at the intersection of East Main Street and Clinton Avenue, thence southwest on a line parallel with said East Main Street, one hundred and ten feet, thence Northwest on a line parallel with Clinton Avenue forty-eight feet, thence Northeast on a line parallel with said East Main Street one hundred and ten feet to the center of Clinton Avenue, thence along the center of Clinton Avenue forty-eight feet to the place of beginning, containing more or less.

C.M. Ball L.S.

C.T. Ball L.S.

County  
Clerks  
Office

First Universalist Society in Fredonia: Oct. 8, 1853, Trustees Francis B. Parker, Jesse E. Baldwin and Orrin Castle.

County  
Clerks  
Office

First Universalist Society: April 29, 1834. The First Universalist Society of Pomfret convened at a school-house in Dist. No. 33, where said society commonly met for worship, Incorporated. Benjamin Sprague, Joseph C. Freeman were chosen to preside, voted to elect six trustees: Philo Orton, Thomas Gillis, Joel Brigham, John Culver, Sylvester A. Danforth and Joseph C. Freeman were elected.

Pomfret

Censor  
Sept. 6,  
1911  
"A  
Pioneer  
Clergy-  
man"

Fredonia---Rev. Joy Handy was born January 24, 1772, at Guilford, Connecticut, where he lived for fifteen years and then went to Granville, Mass. At the age of seventeen, he professed religion and was baptized by Elder Hamilton. Subsequently, he moved to Brookfield, N.Y. and became a member of the second Baptist Church there. Oct. 24, 1804, he was ordained for the Gospel ministry and preached in Brookfield until he moved to Chautauqua County. On Jan. 1, 1794, at the age of 22, he was married to Polly M. Crasman, and to that union were born ten children, two of whom died in infancy. Two sons, Jarius (born April 30, 1803) and Alfred (born Jan. 1807) became ministers of the Gospel, and were worthy sons of a worthy sire.

Jarius was described by one who remembered him as a "Henry Ward Beecher in ability." Although he held but two pastorates, one at Mayville and the other at Buffalo, and died at the age of 28 years, he left a lasting impression on the communities where he labored. Alfred was pastor at Jamestown and at several other places in Western N.Y. Following in his father's footsteps, he became missionary to the newly settled State of Michigan, where he organized many churches. The last one organized by him was at Mason, where he died in 1862, largely from grief over the loss of two sons who died one day apart, one at home and the other at the battle of Fair Oaks.

1894

The Baptist Church in Forestville was established in 1817 with thirty members. A council was held Dec. 13, 1817 recognizing and approving the new organization. Rev. James Bennett was the first ordained pastor of this church, their first church building being the first church edifice in Forestville was dedicated in 1825. In 1859, it was destroyed by fire but replaced in 1861 on the same site by the present fine edifice of brick, at a cost of \$4,000.00.

Fredonia  
 Censor  
 Wed. Mar.  
 18, 1908

Forestville Baptist Church, 1817--1907: The ninetieth anniversary of the founding of the Baptist church in Forestville was observed by the church last Nov. 18 and 19, 1907. At that meeting, a concise and very interesting history of the church was read by Mrs. Elizabeth Dennison, and that history has been printed in a pamphlet of 20 pages. Copies can be obtained from Mrs. Neva Bently, Forestville, N.Y. for 10 cents each, adding one cent for postage if to be sent by mail.

We print below a few of the opening pages which refer to the Fredonia Baptist Church and its early pastor, Rev. Joy Handy. The pioneers of Chautauqua County, coming as they did from the established communities of New England and eastern N.Y., brought with them a strong sense of the value of the church and school in developing a home. They were generally young men of sturdy and energetic character, bringing wife, little children and all their earthly goods in one cumbrous wagon, often making their own roads through the forest and clearing the ground for their little cabins. The very nature of their struggle brought a keen sense of the needs of soul as well as body. Among them, the traveling preacher always found a hearty welcome.

Quickly the news of his arrival would spread, and in a few hours, the scattered settlers from miles around had gathered in a barn, a school-house or a field around a stump pulpit to hear the ringing words of a Baptist missionary, or those of a Methodist circuit rider, preaching with startling earnestness and vigor of the soul's imminent danger and its need for immediate salvation. "The text and the sermon were pondered and discussed for weeks," said a woman who remembered those pioneer days, "not to criticize but to practice." When a large audience could not be waited for, the missionary willingly preached to a single family.

Among the early preachers who thus left their impress on our own part of the county was the Rev. Jonathan Wilson, an efficient Baptist missionary from Vermont, who ministered to many little bands in the county, and often supplied the churches at Forestville and Nashville.

Another was the Rev. Joy Handy, who became, in 1811, the first pastor of the Baptist church at Fredonia, then Pomfret, which had been organized in 1808. Mr. Handy was pastor at Fredonia for eleven years, during which time he made many trips on horseback to neighboring settlements, helping to organize new churches and preaching to groups of settlers here and there. One historian tells us that Rev. Handy was especially gifted in building up, organizing and getting members of the church to work and in keeping them at work. The late Chalon

Hanover

Fredonia  
Censor  
Wed. Mar.  
18, 1908  
(cont'd.)

Burgess of Silver Creek said of him: "There was one man I remember whose pleasant, cheerful look made his presence anywhere a perpetual benediction. His conduct was so irreproachable that it used to be said of him that it was as good as a sermon to see the Rev. Joy Handy walk the streets of Fredonia." Fredonia Baptist church led the way in 1808 with nine members. In 1809, Rev. "Billy" Brown is said to have organized a Methodist church in Sheridan. A Congregational church was also established in Sheridan the same year by the Rev. John Spencer, one of the most noteworthy of early Chautauqua missionaries. In 1810, Mr. Spencer organized the Presbyterian church in Fredonia; in 1811, at Nashville, the First Baptist church of Hanover, consisting of eleven members, was organized by Rev. Joy Handy. It is believed that a class of seven members formed in 1812 by Benjamin Paddock was the beginning of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Forestville, then called Walnut Creek. Another M.E. church was established in Villenova in 1812.

Many of the settlers in and about Forestville were of the Baptist belief. On the fifteenth day of Noevmber, 1817, twenty-nine earnest men and women met at the house of Bro. James Bennett for the avowed purpose of "uniting in church fellowship." In a brief history of the Forestville Baptist church, printed in 1872, I find the following account and membership list taken from the early records.

Nov. 15, 1817. The Baptist Brethren of Hanover met at Bro. James Bennett's for the purpose of uniting in church fellowship, called the Second Baptist church of Hanover; chase Brother Samuel S. Burdick, moderator; James Bennett. clerk; voted that we unite in church covenant. They then proceeded to the adoption of a confession of faith, church articles, and church covenant and voted to have a covenant meeting on the Saturday preceeding the first Sunday in each month. Twenty-nine are said to have signed the covenant and articles, thus pledging to each other mutual support and encouragement in the precious cause.

Thirty names appear upon the record: Christopher McManus, Prudence McManus, Clement Strong, Abigail Strong, Asher Cooley, Polley Cooley, Samuel S. Burdick, Dorotha Burdick, Martin B. Tubbs, Laura Tubbs, Betsy Waterhouse, Anna Holbrook, Abigail Snow, Daniel Farnham, William Heaton, Loana Russell, James Bennett, Hannah Ellis, Tabatha Alden, Joseph Devine, Lucinda Pierce, Samson Trask, Laura Morrison, Hannah Danley, Loana Griswold, Barbara Lewis, Elijah Devine, Nathan Mixer, Rhoda Mixer and Elnathan Ellis.

Again from the records: Agreeable to appointment and request from a number of brethren at Walnut Creek who had united in church covenant and articles, brethren from different churches met in council at the schoolhouse in Walnut Creek on Saturday the 13th of December 1817, at 10 o'clock AM. Delegates from the First church of Hanover and from the churches in Pomfret were present. Rev. Joy Handy was chosen moderator and the council, "after due consideration," unanimously agreed to give them the right hand of fellowship as a sister church. The first Deacons were Bro. James Bennett and Bro. Martin B. Tubbs, elected Jan 3rd, 1818 by ballot.

Hanover

(cont'd.  
from  
prec.  
page)

No ministerial talent was available for the little church in the Forest. The majority of the settlers were struggling bravely to feed their families and pay for the acres of virgin soil they had purchased from the Holland Land Company. A few scattered houses, perhaps two or three sawmills, a grist mill, a black-smith shop, a school-house and probably a store comprised the settlement in 1817. Accordingly, when Bro. Samuel Burdick offered to minister to their spiritual needs, the church granted him a letter, allowing him to improve his talent in exhortation, and appointed a committee to raise, by subscription, his year's salary of \$52.00. Brethren Mixer, Trask, Strong, Heaton and Ellis formed the committee.

Censor  
Dec. 11,  
1912

Forestville Letter: Dec. 7--The Baptist church is now ready for use and thr new decoration adds greatly to its appearance. Rev. C.G. Wright will preach at Hanover Center Sunday afternoon at 2:30.

1894

The Second Baptist church of Hanover was organized Nov. 15, 1817, at the house of James Bennett in Forestville. The first meeting house was finished Feb. 1825 and burned Sept. 4th, 1859. The present brick church was finished in Feb. 1861 and dedicated the 13th of that month. The early meetings were held in a convenient school-house. In 1831, the church was divided but re-united in 1834 under the name of Forestville Baptist Church.

1894

Hanover Center Baptist Church, 1855. The number of original members was 33, viz. Alanson Tower, Deana Tower, Austin Watrons, Ashbel Watrons, Sally Watrons, Anna Watrons, Charles Stebbins, Seth Record, Elleda Record, Willia Mark, Martha Mark, Caroline Johnson, Louis Wood, Minerva Underwood, John M. Barclay, Rhoda Barclay, Julia P. Angell, Stephen Eaton, Drusilla Coman, Lucy Brown, Nancy Bliss, Alonzo Frink, Charlotte Frink, David Gardner, Timothy Gidley, A. Rathbone, Abigail Graves, Lucretta Howard, Avis Hudson and A. Huych. The present church membership is 44. The Sabbath school is a union school and has on its roll about 60. Average attendance is 33. Their church edifice has been repaired by joint efforts of the Baptist and Methodist and is now occupied by both societies.

1894

Baptist Church at Irving organized in 1836, church edifice built in 1837. The constituent members of the Baptist church were Cephas R. Leland, Luther Heaton, Asael Hall, Sylvester Andrus, David Woodbury, Joel W. Nye, (Rev.) David Gardner and wife, William Negrus and wife, Henry Gardner Jr., Obadiah Edmunds, Charles Stebbins and wife, Wesley Stebbins and wife. This church was disbanded in 1858 and the edifice was sold and is now used for secular purposes.

Hanover

- Chaut.  
County  
Atlas  
1881
- The First Baptist church of Hanover was organized (it is supposed) in 1811 by Rev. Joy Handy, as the First Hanover Baptist church, Nashville. The first house of worship was built in 1851 and has been several times repaired and remodeled. This is the oldest religious society in the town.
- County  
Court  
Records  
June  
18  
1850
- We, the undersigned, two of the members of the religious society hereinafter mentioned do hereby certify that on the fifteenth day of June instant, the male members of full age belonging to a religious society in which Divine worship is celebrated according to the rites of the Baptist church and not already incorporated, met at the place of public worship heretofore occupied by the said church in the village of Nashville in the town of Hanover in said county for the purpose of incorporating themselves and did then and there elect by plurality of voices, Peter White, Aruna Scofield, Charles Root, Nathaniel Hopper and Samuel Slawson as Trustees for said church, name and titles of the Trustees of the Baptist Church and Society of Nashville.
- Jamestown  
Journal  
Tues.  
Oct. 25,  
1898
- Forestville--Several of the Baptist people went from here Sunday to attend the services held at the Nashville Church in the afternoon in honor of the successful completion of the refitting and repairing of the church.
- 1894
- Baptist church organized at Silver Creek in 1890 with 12 members: Tina Fox, Cornelia Brown, Dora Cook, Lucinda Dickenson, Lucy A. Erb, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Jones, Kate K. Knight, Agnes McNamara, Wm. Noble, A.B. Miller, Josephine Rogerson. This church has fitted up the former schoolhouse and is using it for their services.
- 1894
- Forestville Roman Catholic church: Organized 1873 with 90 members under the care at first of the Rev. Mr. Angell. They have a church and are now under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Cassimer.
- History  
1921  
vol.1
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel: This parish at Silver Creek dates from the building of a small frame church in 1882, the church standing on the southwest corner of now Monroe Street and Porter Avenue. Father Lfinanel and next Father McCarthy administered to the spiritual needs of the little Silver Creek Mission for sixteen years; both men came from Angola. Father Burke, pastor of the Angola church, then attended the mission until 1906.
- 1894
- Silver Creek R.C.: A Catholic church was formed at Silver Creek in 1883 with 18 members. They have a church edifice which was dedicated in 1883. Minister at the time was Rev. George Burns.

Hanover

- 1894 Episcopal Church at Forestville: The first regular Episcopal services were held in Forestville by Rev. George, pastor, who officiated there in connection with Trinity church in Fredonia in 1830. He was succeeded by the Rev. Lucius Smith, rector of Trinity Church in Fredonia, under whom the church was organized. The church edifice was built in 1859-60, being consecrated May 30, 1860.
- 1894 Irving Episcopal: Episcopal Services have been maintained for several months at Irving by lay readers in the M.E. church edifice every Sabbath morning under the organization called St. Andrew's Mission. The number of members in the organization was six at first, now nine or ten. In the same house, every Sabbath evening, a Presbyterian Service is held by Rev. George Runcimon of the Cattaraugus Indian Mission.
- 1894 Silver Creek Episcopal: The Episcopal Church was formed at Silver Creek October 19, 1891, by the Rev. Dr. Hitchcock of Buffalo, Rector of the church of the Ascension, with four members: H.A. Weston, Mrs. Lucy Mulkin, Mrs. Arthur Brown and one other. That Episcopal mission was inaugurated under the supervision of the "Layman's Missionary League" and services have been maintained largely by lay readers from Buffalo with occasional visits from clergymen. It takes the title of St. Alban's Mission. Their church edifice was consecrated March 26, 1893.
- 1894 Silver Creek German Evangelical Lutheran: The first church was established at Silver Creek March 18, 1883, by the Rev. Mr. Sieck. There were 40 original members. Their first minister was Rev. W. Braecher. Their church edifice was dedicated Aug. 12, 1883.
- 1894 The second Lutheran church, taking the name of the "Evangelical Zion's Church," came off from the above in the year 1890, and now worships in the building owned and used by the Baptist. The original members were twelve. The minister at the time of organization was Rev. August Goetz.

Hanover

1894

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Forestville was organized in 1829, the Rev. J. Gilmore being the minister. A class had been formed as far back as 1812 by Rev. Benjamin Paddock, and a first quarterly meeting held in Samuel Johnson's barn, probably in 1816. The first Methodist church edifice in Forestville was built in 1826. This was a small, plain building, costing little more than \$500.00, yet at that time, even this sum was felt as a heavy burden. About one year after it was dedicated, this building was destroyed by fire. A spark from a brand the Sexton was carrying to kindle the fire for morning worship was enough to ignite a few shavings under the house.

In 1834, a second church building was erected with galleries on three sides and a pulpit about half-way between floor and ceiling. As an indication of the prejudice then felt against musical instruments in church worship, I quote this sentence from the dedicatory prayer: "All the instruments of music which we dedicate to thee are these voices thou hath given us."

This building served the society for 28 years, at the end of which it was superceded by the present substantial and commodious edifice of brick at a cost of about \$4,400.00.

Fredonia  
Censor  
July 4,  
1906

Forestville Letter: The Methodist church was reopened by special services, the Baptist church uniting with its sister church. Much pleasure was felt at being back in the church again after three months absence. Besides the newly decorated walls, the other improvements are: a new carpet, a new organ, additional lights. Other things will be added.

Fredonia  
Censor  
April 24  
1912

From the Old Files: April 23, 1862--Forestville: The new Methodist church at Forestville is built of brick and is 82 feet in length, including the tower, by 40 feet 8 inches in width. Height of the walls is 22 feet. The designs were furnished by the builder, Mr. A.W. Hull of Forestville, who also built the new Episcopal church in Forestville, 1859, and the new Baptist church in 1860.

1894

The Methodist church at Hanover Center dates from 1860 with about 30 constituent members, among whom the names Cockburn, Birdsey and Horton are prominent. The minister at the time of organization was the Rev. William P. Bignell, then having charge of the M.E. church at Silver Creek. Their services are held in the house of worship owned by the Baptists, and their Sabbath School is held in Union with theirs. At present, the church members number about thirty; the church is under the pastoral care of the Rev. J.H. Bates of the Silver Creek M.E.

Hanover

- 1894 The M.E. church at LaGrange (now Irving) was organized with the following members: John Mack and wife, Abner Coney and wife, Mr. West and wife, Mr. Allen and wife, Mrs. Marcia Barr, Solan Hall. M.E. services have been maintained with little interest until recently. The number in church membership at present is fifteen.
- Court Records M.E. church at Irving (formerly LaGrange) in said county of Chaut. do hereby certify that the members of said church and society being duly convened at the meeting house in said village, the usual place of public worship, April 12, 1857 did elect Trustees as follows: There being no elders or church wardens, the subscribers Henry Joslin and Daniel Squire, members of said society present to preside at the said election the following were elected: Henry Joslin and John H. Barclay, S. Yrapprotin and Daniel Squires, John Babcock, H.S. Knights and H.J. Newton.
- Mayville Court Records LaGrange Methodist Episcopal, meeting in school-house in the village of LaGrange, the usual place of public worship, April 19, 1938, Warren Powers, Josua S. West, John Mack and Robert T.P. Allen were elected Trustees.
- Court Records At a meeting held on the 21st day of June, 1850, notified according to Statutes of the State of New York for the purpose of electing and creating a Board of Trustees for the society of the M.E. church at Nashville, Chautauqua County, New York, to be a legal board to transact all its necessary finances, business or the incorporate body for said society, Van R. Carey and Levi Waterhouse were chosen Judges and J.E. Chapin secretary, the following resoltuions appear: Resolved that the members of the trustees be nine, Resolved that the name be called the Nashville M.E. church; the following persons were duly elected trustees, Rufus Nevins, Jonathan Carter, Van R. Carey, Levi Waterhouse, David Sanders, Orrin Putney, Horace Proser, Royal Richardson, Joseph Whitely.
- 1894 The M.E. Church of Nashville was organized in 1850 with thirty original members. The minister at that time was the Rev. James E. Chapin. The Sabbath school is a union school numbering forty. The church membership is fifteen, present pastor Rev. William Calhoun.
- 1955 This church is now being used as a barn, not far from the site where it was built.

Hanover

Silver  
Creek  
News and  
Times  
May 23,  
1935

Silver Creek Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1812 by Rev. Lemuel Lane. It was the first religious body in the town. This small class came in for occasional visits from the circuit rider, but the circuit preachers were few and far between. All the same, the church grew and prospered until 1825, when a man by the name of Handy made more frequent visits. The place of worship was an old school-house on what is now known as the Pathen Corner on Main Street.

In 1827, Silver Creek became part of the Forestville circuit and still held services in the old school-house. It was not until 1847 that a resident minister, Rev. H.W. Beerson, was located here, and this became part of a small circuit including Irving, Hanover Center, Smiths Mills and elsewhere.

Services were held in the morning at Silver Creek and at the out-lying places in the afternoon. By this time, the congregation had outgrown the schoolhouse and had also become ambitious, longing for better things. A lot was purchased in a very central location on Main Street which has been owned by them ever since. A new, commodious building was started and which would be completed in 1848. It was built under a preacher named Miram Norton and was dedicated free of debt (cost: \$1,600.00). On Wednesday, January 11, 1888, the second edifice on this site was dedicated. Rev. Dr. Peate was the Dist. Supt.; Rev. B.B. Ives of Auburn, N.Y. delivered the dedicatory address and a large sum of money was subscribed. This church burned June 23, 1921 and was rebuilt in 1923-4.

1894

The organization of the M.E. church at Silver Creek is put down by authoritative sources as occurring in the year 1837, though a class had existed many years before. According to Griggs' History of Methodism, Rev. Lemuel Lane, while laboring on the Chautauqua circuit, formed a class at Silver Creek in the year 1812, consisting of Artemus Clothier and wife, Norman Spink and wife and a few others. Young's History of our county gave the date 1819, and mentions the same persons with the addition of Mr. and Mrs. Lyscom Mixer and says that soon after, the following persons were added: Mr. and Mrs. Giles Eggleston, Mr. and Mrs. James Wesley, Emily Nevins, Leonard McDaniels and others.

This later statement may perhaps be harmonized with the former by supposing it refers to a re-organization of the former class. The name of Rev. G.C. Baker is given as the minister at the time of the organization of the church. The first house of worship was erected in 1848, improved and repaired in 1874. An entirely new edifice was finished and dedicated in 1889 at a cost of about \$8,000.00, the noted Rev. Dr. Ives preaching the sermon.

1889  
Mayville  
Sentinel

The M.E. church society of Silver Creek dedicated its new \$8,000.00 church Wednesday. Several eminent clergymen and former pastors of that church were present and participated in the exercises. The sum of \$5,826.90 was raised, which cleared the debt and left a balance of about \$1,200.00 for a treasury. The new building is a modern structure, seats 400 and is provided with ample accomodation for a large Sunday School and social gatherings. It has a complete kitchen outfit.

Hanover

No  
Source  
Given

Silver Creek: George Walker has commenced taking down the old M.E. church, which he purchased, and will remove it to Farnham. Silver Creek Local, Mar. 27 1888. Note by Rosco B. Martin-- Have been told Walkers Brothers' store, Farnham, was constructed in whole or in part from the lumber.

No  
Source  
Given

New Methodist Church at Silver Creek dedicated April 13-20, 1935. The new church is of red pressed brick with trim of light gray Ohio Sandstone.

1894

The M.E. church of Smith Mills dates its origin to 1853 with 16 members. Their church edifice was erected in 1886 under the leadership of Rev. George J. Squires and is called the Emory Gage chapel. The Sabbath School has an enrolled membership of forty and the church membership is eighteen. Rev. A.B. Phillips of Forestville is the minister.

County  
Court  
Records  
Liber 210  
Page 160

Sept. 15, 1886: Between George L. Squires of Forestville, Chaut. County, state of N.Y. and Mary M. Squires his wife of the first part and Emory A. Gage, Henry H. Dye, Charles Crowell, Mury E. Marvin, S.B. Winchester, John D. Knowlton, Milo P. Norris, Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal society of the village of Smith Mills and to their successors in office of the second part, consideration one dollar duly paid, do grant and convey all that tract or parcel of land situate in the town of Hanover, etc., distinguished by being a part of Lot No. 29 of the Holland Land Company Survey, be the same more or less.

Buffalo  
Courier  
Express  
March 25,  
1955

A church bell which hung mute in Gage Chapel here for nine years until it called worshippers to service last month, will ring with more firmness Sunday when it celebrates the rededication of Gage Chapel and the installation of its pastor. Sitting on a little rise, right on the Hanover Road from Silver Creek to Balcom's corners, the church was once glistening white and will soon be again. There are 40 families in Smith Mills, a rural community, and these 100 persons have raised more than \$1,000.00 to bring organized Christianity back to the village. The Methodist conference, which had been operating the church on a four-church circuit until 1946, sold the building last Christmas time for \$282.50. That sum is included in the \$1,000.00 for rehabilitation raised by the congregation. The people of the community have done the restoring--they have repaired and refinished the auditorium, reroofed and added the belfry, and now are repairing the basement for the expected overflow crowd at the dedication. The cornerstone was stolen from the church while it was vacant, but a new one will be laid Sunday.

Hanover

1894

In 1877, a Free Methodist church was organized at Forestville with fourteen constituent members with Rev. J. Chesbro as their minister. Their church building was erected in 1880; Rev. J.J. Thompson is their pastor and they have a Sabbath school numbering 25. The present church membership is 33.

Silver  
Creek  
1894

The Presbyterian church of Silver Creek was organized Oct. 28, 1831, by Rev. Blackbeach Gray and Rev. Timothy Stillman, a committee of Buffalo Presbytery called for this purpose. It had thirteen original members: Daniel Rumsey, M.D., Ephraim Hall, David Anderson, John Reid, James Brace, Mrs. Unicy Rumsey, Mrs. Phoebe Farnham, Margaret Nevens, Margaret Hall, Hannah Sproul, Lucy Halt, Mrs. Polly Prentice, and Adelia Mixer, most of whom are put down in the record as Congregationalists from the Congregational church at Hanover (now extinct). The Congregational church just named was probably the church of which Hotchkins History of Western New York under the head Hanover, speaks of as follows. "This church was received under care of the Presbytery of Buffalo Feb. 12, 1822. It was reported by the Presbytery as vacant til 1830, when it was reported for the last time. Fifteen were the only number of members reported belonging to it." Within about three months, the following members were added to the new church: Mrs. Nancy Gage, Thomas Campbell, Elizabeth Case, Clarissa Hall and William Hall by letter and Miss Persis Gage on profession and the church was taken under the care of the Presbytery of Buffalo. Dr. Daniel Rumsey, David Anderson and Ephraim Hall were the first elders, David Anderson being also chosen to the office of Deacon and Daniel Rumsey to the office of clerk. Rev. Abiel Parmalee ministered to this church a short time before its organization, but Rev. O.C. Beardsley was its first pastor, continuing nearly fourteen years. For the first year of 1832, Mr. Beardsley divided his time between Silver Creek and Forestville. The services in Silver Creek were held in a school-house. In the summer of 1833, a protracted meeting was held in a barn belonging to Oliver Lee. Dr. Orton, the well known and judicious revivalist, who did so much to build up the churches throughout this region, did most of the preaching. Crowds attended, great solemnity prevailed, the grace of the spirit was bestowed and there were about thirty conversions before the meeting closed. The barn was needed for the storing of hay, so services were held for a little season in the grove on Oak Hill. The next year, a plain wooden building without a spire was erected, and soon became the scene of revival, in which the pastor was aided by Rev. Wm. Waith. The church received a fresh accession of strength. A better house must be had, they felt, and the present sanctuary was built, Dr. Geremiah Ellsworth laying the cornerstone, and Oliver Lee putting in a bell, the first ever heard in this region. Dedication services were held Dec. 9, 1841, Dr. John C. Lord of Buffalo preaching the sermon. This edifice has been twice remodeled, the last time in 1885, when about \$10,000.00 was expended, providing rooms for Sabbath School, prayer meeting, church parlors, etc., making the audience room a gem of beauty. Rev. Charles Burgess served the church for more than fifteen years.

## Pioneer Churches

By  
Chalon  
Burgess

Three of the pioneer churches were organized in 1808, one in Chautauqua (now Stockton), one in Westfield and one in Fredonia. The one in Chautauqua was taken into the town of Stockton when the town was formed. It began with nine members and increased twelve-fold in the first twelve years.

The Presbyterian church at Westfield was organized a little earlier, probably, than any other in the county. The Rev. John Lindley, a missionary sent out by the Presbyterian General Assembly, officiated at that organization.

The Baptist church of Fredonia was the result of a covenant meeting held for two or three years under the leadership of Judge Zatter Cushing. It was organized by a council held at Mr. Cushing's barn; he himself was made a deacon and afterwards, a preacher.

The Presbyterian church of Fredonia was organized in 1810 by the Rev. John Spencer. This church had for its first pastor the Rev. Samuel Sweeney.

A Congregational church was organized in Sheridan in 1809 by Rev. John Spencer. The M.E. church of Sheridan is set down as having been formed in 1809. The Baptist church of Nashville is supposed to have been organized in 1811, and is still maintaining services. The M.E. church of Fredonia was formed in or before 1812. In 1812, a M.E. church was formed in Villenova and one in Charlotte. In 1814, a Baptist church was formed in Ellery. In 1815, the Congregational church of Kiantone was formed by Father Spencer with ten members. 1816 witnessed the organization of the Congregational church at Jamestown by John Spencer. In 1817, four churches were organized; a Baptist at Forestville, a Baptist at Panama, and a Baptist and a Congregational at Stockton. In 1818, four more churches came into being: The Congregational at Portland, a M.E. in Harmony, a Presbyterian and a M.E. in Ripley. The M.E. church at Ripley had five original members but, at the close of the pioneer period, they numbered forty. In 1819, four churches were also formed: A Baptist and a Free Methodist church at Portland; a Baptist and a Methodist church at Busti. 1820 added five others, a Baptist and a M.E. in the town of Chautauqua, a Congregational church in Ashville, which had fifty-eight members in 1830, and a Baptist and a Methodist each in Gerry and now both extinct. In 1821, a Universalist church was formed in Portland and a Methodist church in Westfield, consisting of six members and having the Rev. Mr. Hatton as Minister in Charge, was also formed. 1822 witnessed the organization of the M.E. church in Portland. In 1822 Trinity Episcopal church in Fredonia came to be, as did in 1823 St. Pauls Episcopal church in Mayville. In 1823, the M.E. church in Jamestown was legally organized. These, with a Christian church formed in Delanti, complete the list of churches strictly in the pioneer period, up to 1825. Thus we have

Pioneer Churches

By  
Chalon  
Burgess  
(cont'd.)

thirty-five churches formed in seventeen years by the pioneers.

"

Centennial History of Chautauqua County, Vol. 1: The Churches and Clergy of the Pioneer Period.

The most distinguished missionary who labored in the early settlement of Chautauqua County was the Rev. John Spencer. He was of Spencertown, New York, and a relative of Ambrose and Joshua Spencer of legal fame and also of Ichabod Spencer, that famous pastor in Brooklyn, author of Pastor's Sketches. After services in the Revolutionary War and promotion therein, he was oppressed by the low state of morale both within and without the army and he longed to preach the Gospel. After a short preparation, he was licensed and ordained by the Northern Associated Presbytery and sent by the Connecticut Missionary Society as their missionary to Holland Purchase.

From 1808 on, for about nineteen years, he made Sheridan his home and Chautauqua County his parish, which then included much more than the Chautauqua County at present. He preached about every evening, and sometimes a whole sermon to a single family. When asked where he was educated, he would reply, "In the Continental Army." His daughter, speaking of her father, said, "His only chance for study was when riding alone in the woods. His Bible and hymn book were always with him, and he thus read through the Bible eight times while riding alone."

He is said to have organized many churches, and with great labor kept these little lights alive until they could find a regular pastor. Strong in body and well able to endure hardships, like the sturdy horse he rode, he shared the fare of the people with cheerful content. His last place of ministerial labor was Busti. He died there in 1826 but his sepulcher is with us, of the lake shore town of Sheridan, to this day. We turn reverently toward his monument every time we pass it. Surely a bright crown must be his.

A Sketch  
Read at  
the Chaut.  
County  
Centennial,  
Westfield  
N.Y. June  
25, 1902  
by Rev.  
Chalon  
Burgess,  
D.D.

From: Churches and Clergy of the Pioneer Period in Chautauqua County:

Lorenzo Dow, a Methodist in belief, was one of the early circuit riders. He could not confine himself to the narrow bounds of a district, but felt moved by the Spirit to go to regions beyond.

He was a strange character, yet he made a powerful impression and was the means of more of an area's conversions than many of its regular itinerants. His dingy white hat, his long unshorn beard, and his garments often worn threadbare (and how could they be otherwise, for he travelled much on foot) served to attract attention, and though the church officials withdrew their sanction, he seemed not to have cherished any resentment, but uniformly advised his converts to unite with the Methodist church. The celebrated Adam Clark is said to have looked upon him with favor, and others in high positions abroad counted themselves as his friends. He introduced camp meetings into England, and controversy over them led to the organization of the society called the Primitive Methodist.

"When the Circuit Rider Came"

Anonymous

In the backwoods of Chautauqua in the days of long ago,  
When religion was religion, not a dressy fashion show.  
When the spirit of the Master fell as flames of living fire,  
And the people did the singing, not a trained artistic choir;  
There was scarcely seen a ripple in life's gently flowing tide  
No events to draw the people from their daily toil aside,  
Naught to set the pious spirit of the pioneer aflame--  
Save upon the rare occasions when the Circuit Rider came...

We have sat in grand cathedrals of the builders' skill,  
And in great palatial churches 'neath the organ's mellow thrill...  
But they never roused within us such a reverential flame  
As would burn in that old schoolhouse When the Circuit Rider Came!

Fenton History Center  
Research Center  
Jamestown, NY

Jamestown Churches  
Information Collected by  
Mrs. Mertie Akin

Compiled for  
Miss Elizabeth Crocker  
County Historian

by  
Sarie Naetzker-Fagerstrom  
Historical Aide

979

1725

J206

2025.119

Jamestown

Jamestown  
Journal  
April 16,  
1869

The church edifices of Jamestown may be regarded as landmarks of its growth, and to trace their history is to point out the stages of the growth of the place from a wilderness to the thriving busy town--from its rude, uncultured first estate to its present advanced point of intellectual, moral and material growth. We therefore have a mind to review part of the churches and church architecture of Jamestown.

Feb. 13,  
1828  
J.J.

Notice: Building of Meeting House in Village of Jamestown. Proposals will be received by the undersigned til the 18th of February inst. for the building of a meeting house in the village. The building is to be sixty feet in length and forty-five feet in breadth, with a steeple framed to the roof and rising above a proper height with a spire, vane and belfry. The front doors will lead into an entryway to be eleven feet wide across the front of the building, excepting the stairs at each end, and from said entry, two doors are to be made which will lead into the body of the church. The lower floor will be divided into fifty-two slips with two alleys. There will be a gallery which is also to be divided into slips. The building is to be painted inside and out, the doors to be panel, and all the rest of the work to correspond. A particular and full plan of the building and work is left at the office of S.A. brown for inspection.

Samuel A. Brown  
Alvin Plumb  
Daniel Hazeltine Jr.

Jamestown, February 6, 1828

Jamestown  
Journal  
May 17,  
1890

Notable Building to be Razed to the Ground: The old first Baptist church, which is the oldest church building in the city, and which has been the scene of very many impressive gatherings, has been sold and workmen will commence Monday to tear it to pieces in order to make room for the larger and more commodious edifice that is to be erected. Mayor Price was the purchaser and the price paid was but \$50.00. The available material in the building will be used again, but it is understood that no effort will be made to move or erect it.

(Notice of sale recorded in Jmntn. Evng. Jnl., May 10, 1890: First Baptist offers for sale their church building on their property, corner Church and E.4th Sts. To be removed. J.H. Clark, Edward Shaver, M.H. Clark, Trustees.)

Jamestown  
Journal  
1894

The First Baptist Church was organized in 1832 with eighteen members. It has grown gradually with the growth of the city till now it has a membership of over 400. During this period, it has had

Jamestown

Jamestown  
Journal  
1894

(Cont'd. from page 1) fifteen different pastors, besides various pastoral supplies. The present pastor, Rev. A.E. Waffle, D.D., took charge of the church in September of 1888. His pastorate has been characterized by progress along many lines. During the history of the church, more than 800 members have been baptized into fellowship, besides those received by other methods. The Sunday School, of which Hon. Jerome Preston has been superintendent for more than 20 years, has grown with the church. It now has an enrollment of nearly 400. The church has occupied three different houses of worship, all standing upon the corner of Fourth and Church Streets. The first, a small wooden structure, was erected in 1833 at a cost of \$1,000.00. This was displaced by a larger wooden building in 1857. During the past two years the church has erected a splendid stone edifice at a cost of about \$55,000.00. It is built of Warsaw blue stone, and is not only beautiful but roomy and convenient. It is well-adapted to all the purposes of church work, and is generally considered a model church. Since entering it the congregations have greatly increased.

Fredonia  
Censor  
Feb. 18,  
1914

Jamestown Baptist Church Burned: All who have entered Jamestown from Falconer Station have seen and admired the beautiful stone church of the Baptist denomination on Fourth Street, which is now in ruins. The fire, discovered Saturday afternoon, started in the basement from a small gas stove which was used to keep the pipes from freezing. It followed a pipe and casing to the roof and soon the auditorium was a roaring furnace. Then the roof fell in and the destruction was about complete. The Sunday School was saved in a damaged condition. The church was built twenty years ago at a cost of \$50,000.00. The insurance is \$28,500.00 and it is thought that \$20,000.00 will restore the structure with a steel roof. Rev. Dr. George Caleb Moore, well-known in Fredonia, is the pastor. Services will be held in the Winter Garden Theatre.

Oct. 14,  
1952

First Baptist Church, Jamestown: On Dec. 27, 1827, the Baptist church and society of Jamestown, numbering about ten members, was organized. Services for the first five years were held in the Pine Street school-house, now stands. On May 24, 1832, the 20 members of the church which was originally a branch of the Busti Baptist church, took steps to organize as an independent, duly organized Baptist church. That same year, during the pastorate of Rev. Daniel Bernard, a box-like meeting house was built on the Northwest corner of Fourth and Church Streets, the present site of the church. It was built at a cost of \$1,000.00 and was used as a church for some 24 years, though it was greatly damaged in 1834 by an infuriated mob of slavery sympathizers during an anti-slavery lecture. The second church building was built in 1857, at a cost of about

Jamestown

Oct. 14,  
1952

(Cont'd. from page 2) \$3,000.00. The building stood for about 33 years.

A third church building, constructed at a cost of some \$55,000.00, was dedicated Oct. 28, 1891. The building was rebuilt in its present form following a fire on Feb. 14, 1914, which destroyed the roof, crushing every pew in the auditorium, the pipe organ and many of the early records. Only the side walls of the building remained. The reconstructed church was dedicated in April, 1915.

Jamestown  
Journal  
July 26,  
1901

At the junction of Ashville and Livingston Avenue and Seymour Street, there is, in course of construction, one of the neatest little chapels in the city. It will be occupied by the Bethel chapel Sunday School which, for a number of years, has conducted services in that neighborhood. The building is of wood on the ground plan. It is a Gothic structure with a tower about fifty feet high at the southwest corner. The main building will be about fourteen feet high with an arched ceiling. About thirty Gothic windows will furnish abundant light and in addition will be one large circular window in front, measuring fully ten feet. The glass will be of the cathedral style with its mellow tints. When completed, the cost of the chapel will be between \$2,300.00 and \$3,000.00. It is expected it will be ready for occupancy sometime in August.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
June 24,  
1905

Calvary Baptist Church newly redecorated on the inside with ivory and green paint, new carpets in the auditorium and in the vestibule.

Oct. 27,  
1937

Calvary Baptist Church, Jamestown: The 35th anniversary of Calvary Baptist church will be celebrated Oct. 28th, 29th and 31st. The church started originally as a mission of the First Baptist Church founded near the boat landing in 1890. For twelve years, the mission moved to seven different buildings before the present church building was erected in 1900 as a gift from Newton Crissey. On Nov. 1, 1902, the sixteen charter members founded the Calvary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. D.H. Denison. The charter members of the church were: Rev. and Mrs. D.H. Denison, Roy Denison, Charles Denison, Newton Crissey, Mr. and Mrs. Israel Carpenter, Leora B. Carpenter, Alice M. Fox, Francis E. Wells, Myrtle E. Griffin, Hetty Davey, Annie L. Stormer, Mrs. Mary Furlow, Royal C. Burnham and Mrs. Emma Barth. During the thirty-five years, the church has had seven pastors: Rev. D.H. Denison, Rev. C.D. Reed, Rev. E.H. Conrad, Rev. F.P. Stoddard, Rev. A.B. Miller, Rev. R.T. White and the present pastor, Rev. Frank A. Sharp. The entire thirty-five years has been spent in the same church building which has been recently remodeled and redecorated. The newly remodeled church will be dedicated on Sunday afternoon at three o'clock.

Jamestown

March 5,  
1956  
Post-  
Journal

Immanuel Baptist church, Jamestown: The church had its beginning in Jamestown in 1919 when members of Baptist Believers in Christ met on Cross Street to organized a Baptist church with Rev. Julius Young as pastor.

The organization incorporated in 1920 as the First Colored Baptist church of Jamestown. At that time it had seventeen members and two trustees. The name later was changed to Immanuel Baptist Church.

Mr. Young served the church (congregation) until 1937, when illness forced his retirement. Rev. H. Norris succeeded him and remained until 1939, when Rev. Spurgeon Donaldson came to serve the church until 1948, when Mr. Ford accepted a call to the church. The pulpit was occupied by Rev. Emmett Moore, William Roach consecutively. Present membership is 140. Their new church on 23rd Street was dedicated on Sunday, March 4th, 1956.

Mon. April  
7, 1941

Italian Baptist Church, Jamestown: The new edifice of the Italian Baptist church at 19 Foote Avenue, the former Youngberg Funeral Home, was dedicated at services Sunday afternoon attended by about 150 persons.

Rev. R.O. Hudson of the First Baptist Church presided, and the dedicatory act was by Rev. Gaetano Albanese, pastor of the church.

Rev. R.W. Neathery, pastor of the First Baptist church of Falconer, gave the invocation; the responsive reading was by Rev. Dominick Arnene of the Christian Italian Baptist Convention...delivered the address. Dr. S.A. MacDougall, moderator of the Chautauqua Baptist association, gave the response.

The Italian Baptist Mission started at the home of Charles D'Angelo, 152½ Allen Street in October of 1939. On March 3, 1940, the first group of nine persons was baptized, forming the foundation of the mission. Andrew Ippolito is Sunday School Superintendent and Mrs. Ippolito is church clerk.

History  
Chaut.  
County  
1921  
Vol. 1

In 1910, St. James parish was formed for the benefit of the Italian Catholics of Jamestown, the upperstory of the present rectory being used as a church. Rev. James Carra, the first pastor, at once began building plans, and on Sept. 27, 1914, the cornerstone of the present brick church was laid in the presence of the Apostolic Delegate, Rev. John Donzано and Bishop Colton of Buffalo. The church was dedicated May 2, 1915. The parish numbers over 4,000 souls, its number having doubled during the ten years of Father Carra's pastorate. The first floor of the church is devoted to school purposes, three hundred pupils being instructed from kindergarten to the eighth grade by six sisters of mercy, the convent adjoining the church.

## Jamestown

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Mon. May  
3, 1915

The new Italian St. James Roman Catholic Church has been but recently completed; it is a fine brick structure fronting on Institute Street just north of Allen Street. The cornerstone was laid last fall and the building has been rushed to completion during the summer months.

The steeple at the front of the new structure towers far above the rest of the building and is topped by a large bronze cross. The main entrance to the church is on Institute Street, directly under the large Steeple. From here, steps on both sides lead to the spacious auditorium on the second floor. The altar is at the west end of the auditorium, opposite the entrance. The auditorium is finished in Golden Oak. The altar is in Gothic Style in Harmony with the style of architecture of the building. The auditorium is well-lighted, a tier of windows taking up the entire sides of the room.

The pews of the church provide seating capacity for about 800 persons. At the east end, directly over the entrance, is the gallery, in which the organ is placed. The gallery provides ample accommodations for a large chorus.

Jamestown  
Journal  
Sat. June  
28, 1913

The two-story frame structure on Institute Street and Victoria Avenue, which is serving as a house of worship for the parish of St. James R.C. is to be replaced this year by an imposing church edifice of brick, stone and cement, more room being required for the work of the church on account of the remarkable growth of the church under the able leadership of Rev. Father Cara. The building will be a notable addition to the churches of the city, being of attractive design and with a tower 150 feet in height.

Several years ago, Bishop Charles H. Colton of Buffalo sent Rev. James Cara to create a parish for the Italian citizens of Jamestown and to supervise their spiritual welfare. To this end, a two-story frame building located on Institute Street and the corner of Victoria Avenue was purchased. This building was remodeled to provide quarters for the pastor on the first floor, while the entire second floor was dedicated for church purposes and the old building in the rear of the lot was remodeled for church-school purposes. It has been decided to move the present building and replace it with a substantial building of brick or stone and cement. The second floor of this new building will be entirely occupied by the church proper.

History  
of Chaut.  
County  
1921  
Vol. 1

St. Peter and Pauls, Jamestown: Prior to 1874, the now parish of St. Peter and Paul was part of a great parish embracing a large extent of territory, extending sixty miles from Steamburg, Randolph and South Valley on the east end through Jamestown west to the State line. At the time of the founding of a separate Jamestown parish, there were probably two hundred Catholics in the city, Rev. Father Baxter being in charge. On June 11, 1874, Rev. Richard Coyle succeeded

## Jamestown

History  
of Chaut.  
County  
1921  
Vol. 1

(Cont'd. from page 5) Father Baxter and, for more than forty years, he was the loved and honored pastor of the parish of St. Peter and Paul's, that parish soon claiming all his time. At the close of Father Coyle's twenty-fifth year as pastor, the parish numbered sixteen hundred souls. The church edifice was twice enlarged, and in 1894 the stone church at the corner of Sixth and Cherry Streets was completed. Father Coyle died August 25, 1914, and was succeeded by Rev. Luke F. Sharkey, who was in charge until November of 1917 when Rev. David Ryan came to the church, its third pastor.

Jamestown  
Post-  
Journal  
Sept. 12,  
1890

A New Church: The Catholic Church Committee recently appointed to consider the building of a new church has decided on a report to be submitted to the congregation Sunday morning at Saint Peter and Paul's.

The report will recommend the construction of an imposing stone building on the site of the residence of Father Coyle, just north of the present church building, which is thought wise to remodel and use as a parochial school.

It is thought that a building to cost \$35,000.00 will be erected, several thousand dollars having already been pledged to that end by members of the congregation.

Feb. 26,  
1949

Christian and Missionary Alliance: The beginnings of the Christian and Missionary Alliance church work in Jamestown were very modest and, like so many other Alliance church beginnings, were the outgrowth of a church in a neighboring town.

In April of 1918, Rev. C.E. Hatch, pastor of the Christian and Missionary Alliance church in Corry, Pa., began holding prayer meetings in the home of Mrs. William Whitcomb, Twelfth Street in Jamestown. During that summer, a series of meetings was held in a tent located at North Main and Kingsbury Streets. Mrs. H.A. Holbrook, a sister of Mr. Hatch, and Mrs. Bowman were the workers who began and carried to a successful conclusion that series of meetings.

At the close of the meetings, a hall was rented upstairs at 304-306 East Second Street near the block which was later to become the home of the Christian and Missionary Alliance church in Jamestown. The work was organized on Feb. 27, 1919, with Mrs. E.A. Halbrook as the pastor. She continued in that capacity until July of that year. After her resignation, Rev. A.M. Baggett was extended a call by the congregation to become its pastor. His was a long and fruitful ministry. He served the congregation until his resignation in March of 1928. The property known as the Jorgenson block where meetings were held was purchased personally by Mr. Baggett on April 1, 1920, with the understanding that it would later be transferred to the local body as soon as it could be incorporated. The incorporation meeting was held on November 29th of that same year and the transfer was made shortly thereafter. On May 24, 1946, the building which had been purchased in 1920 and

Jamestown

Feb. 26,  
1949

(Cont'd. from page 6) which had served the congregation as a church home until that time was sold. The amount raised from the sale was \$16,750.00

Following the sale, the congregation found a temporary home in the old Norden Club building auditorium (known at that time as the Red Cross Building) at 311 East Second Street. Prior to its sale in 1945, three and a half lots had been purchased at the corner of West Third and Lakin Avenue for the sume of \$1,750.00. A building committee was formed by the executive board of the church and consisting of John Larson, George Olson, Glynn Gill and the pastor, Martin Scott, was added to the committee at a later date. On. Nov. 27, 1947, this committee presented a resolution to the annual meeting of the church, to build on the lots which had been purchased. The resolution was adopted and since that time, the history of the work has been a story of building with all of its attendant problems. The present church building, equipped as it is now, has been erected at a cost of approximately \$60,000.00. The sum of about \$30,000.00 was paid in cash, leaving a like amount of indebtedness.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
1893

Christian Science Church: Mrs. A.M. Kent presented the site at East Fourth and Prendergast Streets. Comstruction to the second floor is split granite boulders of various colors, faced, which were collected from different parts of the county by Mrs. Kent. Above this stone wall will be stained-glass windows. The entrance steps will be cut from solid blue stone from Newark. The first regular services of the church will be held in the new structure about the first of November.

Post-  
Journal  
April 6,  
1945

Italian Christian Church: The church of the Italian Christian Group was, out of necessity, the fire-house of Jeffords Hose Company No. 3, situated on the south side of East Second Street between the Quarry Road and Buffalo Street.

Post-  
Journal  
April 16,  
1869

The Congregational Church: In its first efforts to assemble the few settlers at this point for public worship, the settlers from New England were the area's most prominent movers. These were of the Congregational persuasion. The first meetings were simply the result of the natural impulses of the settlers in the wilderness to give thanks for the safety from the dangers that had surrounded them, and to invoke continued protection from the Father of all. The meetings at first were not of denominational character and were simply an informal assembly at which the prayers and hymns and occasionally the reading of a printed sermon by the pioneers among the trees were the only exercises. No doubt they were as much blessed and as acceptable as the more formal worship in our modern, elegant churches, upholstered and carpeted, where consummate eloquence inclines the heart to devoutness

## Jamestown

Jamestown  
Journal  
April 16,  
1869

(Cont'd. from page 7) and the "pealing organ swells the note of praise."

These first informal meetings were held in the largest room of the Jamestown Hotel, where the Allen House now stands. Afterward they were held in the academy, a small school-house that had thus soon been erected near the present corner of Fourth and Cherry Streets. Abner Hazeltine was commonly the reader and leader of these services. Occasionally, a colporteur or missionary would make his way to the settlement through the wilderness on horseback and officiate at regular services.

The earlieset and most efficient of these was Father Spencer. He continued to come and preach at intervals until in June, 1816, enough earnest Christians were united in the desire to justify the organization of a church.

Accordingly, at that time Mr. Spencer formed the Second Congregational Church of Ellicott. The name of the township was taken into the title of the church for the reason that the settlement had not then been christened. It was more generally known as "The Rapids," than by any other name. It was called the second church because the first one had already been organized in the south part of the town, now Kiantone.

At its organization it consisted of nine members, viz. Jon Dix, Jacob and Lois Fenton, Olivia and Lucretia Higby, Ebenezer Sherwin, Milton Sherwin, Abner Hazeltine and Daniel Hazeltine. It was several years after this organization before any pastor was settled over it, but meetings were regularly sustained; when a circuit preacher or missionary of any denomination arrived at "The Rapids," he preached for the thirty souls of the settlers; at other times, sermons were read or conference meetings held.

The religious corporation was organized under the statutes in due form October 22, 1821, under the title of "The First Congregational Church of Jamestown," the now Kiantone church being still the "First Congregational Church of Ellicott."

The first stated supply of the pulpit was furnished by Rev. Rufus Murry of the Protestant-Episcopal Church, then residing at Mayville; he preached here every alternate Sabbath. It is a noteworthy fact that the denomination which was the pioneer of regular preaching was among the last to establish a church of its own here. Rev. Isaac Eddy was the first regularly installed pastor of the church. He assumed this office in 1825, after having been employed for a year to supply the Congregational churches of this place, Busti and Kiantone jointly. He continued with the church until 1830, when he resigned and was succeeded by Rev. E.J. Gillett.

The young had now become strong and prosperous. Under Mr. Gillett's pastorate, the issue between Congregational/Presbyterianism divided the church, resulting, in the year 1833, in the withdrawal of 54 members with the pastor to form the Presbyterian church.

The church was now without a pastor for a while, until in 1834, Rev. Ephraim Taylor came here for a visit, preaching "off and on" for the church for several months. In 1833 he was regularly installed. He remained two years and was succeeded in 1837 by Rev. Mr. Pameley. He continued until 1841, and after a brief interregnum, Rev. Owen Street was called. He labored acceptably to the church and profitably to the place for nine years. Mr. Street was, after a break of a few months, succeeded by Rev. S.P. Marvin, whose pastorate extended through five years and a half.

Jamestown

Jamestown  
Journal  
April 16,  
1869

(Cont'd. from page 8) A vacancy of six months was terminated in 1856 by Rev. T.H. House's coming. He remained until last July and is now to be succeeded by Rev. Mr. Wicks. This is the denominational history of the first religious body to be formed in Jamestown.

Jamestown  
Journal  
April 16,  
1869

The First House of Worship: The first house of worship in the city of Jamestown was raised in June, 1828, and completed in the fall and winter of 1829. It is still standing with its subsequent modifications at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. The fact that it has remained standing til this time--nearly 40 years among all the church enterprises of our later and more prosperous years without suffering by comparison with them, save in style of architecture, is a credit to the men who built it when the town was new. In 1846, we believe, the internal arrangement of the church was entirely remodeled. A floor was put in on a line with the galleries, dividing the room into stories, one for a lecture room and the other for an audience room. The later was tastefully and richly furnished and is today one of the most pleasant in town.

The New Church: Old things must pass away, however. This society, true to its early repute, has taken another advance step and has now nearly completed the first church edifice in this place or in the county. It is of brick and is situated on Third Street. It will be occupied this summer. Then, we suppose, the old "meeting house" will pass away, and soon, like its founders, be numbered among things that were but are not.

The old church was finished on Friday the 30th day of December, 1829, and on Sunday, January 1st, 1830, was dedicated. A party that had become dissatisfied with the ministry of Mr. Eddy, the pastor of the church, succeeded in introducing a minister from abroad to take the prominent position in the dedication services. This slight Mr. Eddy felt very keenly, as he had labored hard and had been instrumental in securing the erection of the building. He sat and wept during the whole dedication service, so deeply was he wounded.

For years, the bell on this church tolled to announce the death of a person in the place, with their age being struck at the close. The old burying grounds are a part of the history of this church. The ground for this (between Fifth and Sixth Streets), like the lot on which the church was built, was the gift of Judge Prendergast, who gave it in 1822 to the Congregational church, to be held in trust for all the denominations of Jamestown. The society accordingly had charge of all the burials of our people for many years. It finally transferred the charge to the village, who kept it until interments ceased to be made therein.

Jamestown  
Journal  
May 26,  
1871

Nicholas Arund Buys Old Congregational Church from William Hall, who bought it from the Congregational church society. Price \$4,500.00. Intends fitting basement for residence, audience room into a hall, and planned blacksmith shop in the rear on 5th Street.

Jamestown

- No  
Source  
Given
- Old Congregational Church of Jamestown burned September 27, 1879. It stood at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. It was erected in 1829 and was occupied by the Congregational Society until 1869 when the society removed to its present edifice. To those who attended services in this old church and who have many sacred memories of it, its demolition is a relief. Too many such words as Shakespeare's "To what base uses do we come" have been called to mind as they have seen the traffic which has been carried on within the walls which once were dedicated to sacred uses.
- Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
June 6,  
1906
- International Concert in YMCA Auditorium for benefit of building fund of the Danish Congregational church.
- Jamestown  
Evng. Jnl.  
June 25,  
1906
- Danish Congregational services were held in the YMCA Auditorium Sunday morning and evening. The pastor was Rev. Fred. A.T. Corneliussen, who preached at both services.  
Wed. 8 PM Prayer Meeting at the home of Mrs. Krohn, 23 Rathbone Street.  
Fri. Church business meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Gaent of 131 Park Street.
- Jamestown  
Evng. Jnl.  
August 3,  
1906
- Danish Congregational Ladies Aid Society met in parsonage, 107 Crescent Street.
- Jamestown  
Evng. Jnl.  
Aug. 6,  
1906
- The last of the services to be held in the YWCA Auditorium by this church were conducted Sunday by the pastor Rev. Fred A.J. Corneliussen. Services were held both morning and evening during the past few weeks.  
Dedication services will be held in the remodeled church building next Sunday. The first services will be held at 11:30 AM, the next, in English, at 3 PM and the final one at 7:30 PM. Professor O.C. Grauer of the Chicago Theological Seminary will take part in the services.  
Tues. PM: A postponed business meeting of the church in the parsonage at 107 Crescent Street.
- Jamestown  
Evng. Jnl.  
August 13,  
1906
- Re-Dedication: Danish Congregational Church opened after extensive improvements-- Sunday was a day of unusual interest to the little congregation of the Danish Congregational Church on Institute Street. The church, which has been closed for several weeks, pending extensive improvements, was opened and rededicated. Three services were held, two in Danish at 10:30 AM and 7:30 PM and one in English at 3:00 PM. The church was raised seven feet, and a cement block wall laid under-

Jamestown

Jamestown  
Evng. Jnl.  
Mon. Aug.  
13, 1906

(Cont'd. from page 10) neath, so that the building is two stories in height. In the basement is a large Sunday School and Young People's Society Room, occupying the greater part. In the southeast corner is the pastor's study; in the northeast corner the furnace for both gas and coal sits, and at the west end is the kitchen and pantry and stairs leading to the second floor. The auditorium above has been enlarged by the removing of partitions near the vestibule, and the diminishing in size of the vestibule, so that several new pews have been added and the seating capacity greatly increased. A balcony has been built over the vestibule with a seating capacity of 50 or 60. The platform and altar at the west end have been remodeled and a beautiful, half-enclosed pupit built.

The church has been painted on the exterior, the interior has been newly painted and papered, the pews varnished. Beautiful colored windows have been placed, new carpets laid, and the whole beautifully finished. An electirc light has been placed before the church, a retaining wall built on the rear by the creek and considerable grading has been done. New gas fixtures have been added and the church will be heated by the furnace in the basement. The whole improvement has cost the congregation about \$1,200.00. The congregation has been organized but six years, and has a membership of only 37. Rev. Mr. Corneliussen has been pastor for fourteen months.

Jamestown  
Evng. Jnl.  
Fri. Nov.  
9, 1906

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Danish Congregational church met Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Christ Marker at 144 Warren Street with a large attendance and a very encouraging degree of interest. A collection was taken and Rev. F.A.J. Corneliussen gave an interesting account of the annual conference of the Danish Norwegian Church of Boston.

Mon. Dec.  
3, 1906

Danish Congregational church very active.

Dec. 29,  
1906

The annual meeting of the Danish Congregational Church was held Friday evening at the home of Mrs. Christian Hansen, 36 West 9th Street. Church in flourishing condition.

Note  
by M.  
Akin

This little church was torn down in the fall of 1956.

Jamestown

Jamestown  
Journal  
March 27,  
1891

A New Swedish Church: A movement has been on foot for some time looking for the establishment of an independent congregational church by some of the Swedish citizens of Jamestown. The proposed plan is to engage a room in the central part of the city as the membership will be small at first, where those interested can congregate and discuss social customs from their own point of view. Instead of at once engaging a minister, it is intended, if the scheme develops, to have the various members alternate as leaders of the meetings, each one as his turn comes to prepare a short address. It is thought by those interested in the movement that it will be, if once established, soon popular.

Jamestown  
Journal  
April 8,  
1891

New Swedish M.E. church, Corner of Foote Avenue and Chandler.

Mayville  
Sentinel

Jamestown: The new Congregational church at Jamestown will be dedicated August 18, 1891, sermon by Rev. Dr. Wicks, who will be installed as pastor the following day.

Post-  
Journal  
1951

The Bethany Church of God has purchased the George W. Hedberg property at 930 Fairmount Avenue, West Ellicott, the former Howard W. Alling Residence. The first floor will be remodeled in church auditorium, classrooms and pastor's study, and the second floor into parsonage, where Rev. Russell Hinderer and family will reside. The church plans to build edifice and parsonage on the 13 acres and use the home for a parish house.

Chaut.  
County  
History  
1921  
Vol. 1

St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal church was organized in 1834 but was without a stated pastor until the year 1853, when the Rev. Levi W. Norton took charge of the parish. The first church building was of wood, erected on the corner of Main and Fourth Streets and was consecrated in 1856. This building was burned in 1862 and was replaced by a second building upon the same foundation in 1865. The present beautiful church edifice was the munificent gift of the late Mrs. Mary A. Prendergast as a memorial to her daughter Catherine. It is constructed of Medina Sandstone, is fireproof and is complete in all its equipment. It has a clock tower which contains the only chime of bells in the city.

1894  
Jamestown  
Journal

St. Luke's Episcopal Church: The noble edifice of which the above (photo) is a representation is now well along in the progress of erection, with the walls rising rapidly above the main floor. The

Jamestown

1894  
Jamestown  
Journal

(Cont'd. from page 12) material of the exterior is red Medina Stone. The length of the church inside is 103 feet, width of nave 56 feet, width of transepts 67 feet, width of chancel 28 feet, depth of chancel 35 feet, length of chapel 42 feet, width of chapel 24 feet. The ground floor or basement is 120 feet long. The seating capacity of the church will be 560, and the chapel will accommodate 118 persons. According to contract, the structure is to be completed in May 1894, and six months additional will be required to decorate and furnish it, so that the building will probably not be occupied until the latter part of next year.

W.P. Wentworth of Boston is the architect, and Collingwood and Donaldson are the contractors. The Journal has unusual pleasure in availing itself of the courtesy of the architect in presenting the above picture of a church which will endure to the worship of the Almighty and to the memory of Catherine Prendergast, scion of the founder of Jamestown, for whom the money to build was given by her mother, the late Mary A. Prendergast. The location, at the corner of Main and Fourth Streets, is the one occupied by the three previous edifices of St. Luke's and is a commanding site for the grand and substantial temple.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Nov. 10,  
1906

Used clock dial for target: Reckless boys with a rifle shattered the face of the Episcopal church clock this morning. This forenoon, some boys holding a rifle thought that the clock in St. Luke's Episcopal church would make a good target and they fired at it. One bullet pierced the dial face on the east side. Another slightly shattered the glass. At the time this shooting was going on, Walter Fuerman, who cares for the clock, was in the clock tower, and it was a narrow escape for him as the bullets were whizzing past. The boys soon afterward realized what they had done and confessed to having fired at the dial. The matter is in the hands of the church officials, who will arrange a settlement with the boys.

1900

Swedish Emmanuel Lutheran was formed from members who withdrew from the First Lutheran Church in 1887. They have a commodious brick church on East Second Street.

Post-  
Journal  
March 21,  
1942

Flames believed to have been caused by defective wiring swept through the interior of the Lutheran Emmanuel Church on East Second Street early this morning causing damage estimated by Fire Chief Rudolph H. Swanson at \$25,000.00, resulting in three alarms bringing out all fire apparatus of the city. No valuable church records were in the study, Rev. Felix V. Hanson said. All valuable church records are kept elsewhere. To the knowledge of Dr. Hanson, the fire is the first to occur in the church. The

Jamestown

Post-  
Journal  
March 21,  
1942

(Cont'd. from page 13) Lutheran Immanuel church, which has a congregation of 1,600, was organized in 1878; the structure was erected about 1880 and was originally a wooden building. About 15 years later, a brick exterior was put on the building.

Jamestown  
Morning  
Post  
May 5,  
1934

Bethel Lutheran Church, at its service tomorrow morning at 10:15 o'clock, will observe the ninth anniversary of its founding. The anniversary sermon will be preached by Rev. Evald B. Lawson of White Plains, secretary of the New York Conference. Special singing will be given by the Bethel Girls' Chorus and the Bethel Male Chorus.

The preliminary missionary work on the west side dates back to the late months of 1923, when the missionary board of the New York Conference decided officially to take up work in the field and Rev. C.O. Bomgren, then at Falconer, was delegated to make investigations on the field. Visitations were made and it was soon revealed that the field warranted intensive effort. A Ladies' Aid Society was organized on April 17, 1924, the first meeting being held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chindgren, 80 Pershing Avenue, and a beginning to holding services was attempted, the first services being held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Carlson, 30 Ohio Street. Because of the lack of a suitable meeting place, however, the holding of services was discontinued for the time being. The present pastor, Rev. Lawrence F. Nordstrom, was called to the field in July of 1924, and began work here on February 1, 1925. A portable chapel was secured immediately and built on lots that had been purchased in 1924. Sunday School work was begun in March of 1925 and services have been held uninterruptedly since April 1925. The congregation was organized on May 4, 1925, which event is being memorialized at the anniversary service on Sunday. The new church of the congregation was built and dedicated in 1929.

Post-  
Journal  
Nov. 22,  
1955

Bethel Lutheran church was founded May 4, 1925, with an adult charter membership of approximately 700. The congregation worshipped during the first four years in a portable chapel located on Cook Avenue, adjoining the present parsonage, and has worshipped since 1929 in the church edifice on West Third Street on Catlin Avenue. During the current year, repairs have been made on the church building at a cost of more than \$6,000.00. A thanks offering will be received at this evening's services to be applied to this indebtedness.

No  
Source  
Given

The First Swedish Lutheran church of Jamestown was organized in 1856. The first church building was erected in 1866, a frame building 60 feet long, 38 feet wide and 18 feet high, total cost being about \$4,500.00. The membership at that time was about 165. In 1871, the building was

Jamestown

No  
Source  
Given

(Cont'd. from page 14) lengthened, making it more like a tunnel than a house of worship. The number had increased to 900 by that time. The present edifice of the First Lutheran Church was begun in 1893, but was not entirely completed until 1901, the congregation worshipping in the basement during this period. Its cost was about \$100,000.00.

The movement to create the Gustavus Adolphus Children's Home originated in the First church in 1881 which led to its reality in 1884.

The inception of the move for the Lutheran Home for the aged came largely from members of the church. The Jamestown District afterward brought the matter before the New York Conference for action. Many stately marriages have taken place in the church, as it is the only church in this part of the county that can be termed as of Cathedral proportions and rather impressive.

The withdrawing from the church of a number in 1887 who helped to organize the Immanuel church caused quite some excitement, as this was the loss of 23 families and 24 single persons with seven deacons and one trustee.

Grace Lutheran church, which was later merged with Holy Trinity, was organized in the church in 1913, using the basement for services. Rev. Dr. E.E. Ryden was the first regular pastor.

We must not overlook various churches which have sprung up in Jamestown and vicinity from the mother church, such as Immanuel, Grace (now Holy Trinity), Falconer, Bethel, Frewsburg, Busti, Holy Trinity have received goodly additions from First Church. Strange to say, the First Mission church of Jamestown was organized by members of the First Lutheran church in 1879, and naturally, these people were all Lutherans. The church celebrated its 60th anniversary in December of 1939.

Before the First Lutheran had a church built, they met in halls and Sunday School rooms of other churches and in the old Academy.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Thurs. June  
1, 1893

A Mammoth Church, First Lutheran: The Largest one in Western N.Y. being erected in Jamestown.

Few people are aware that one of the finest churches ever built in this city is now in the process of erection on Chandler Street by the First Lutheran Church congregation which, when completed, will be an ornament to the city as well as a place of worship for many of its citizens.

The First Lutheran Evangelical Church was organized in this city between 30 and 40 years ago and was the first Swedish Society to have an ordained minister. Their first church was built in 1866 on land adjoining Rescue Engine Company's Hose House, Chandler Street, and Rev. C.O. Hultgren occupied the pulpit as its first minister, and has continued in charge laboring zealously for its welfare, until today he is the pastor of over 2,500 souls who stand enrolled as members of the church.

From this church, the Immanuel and English Lutheran churches have sprung into existence.

Finding that the old church would not accommodate the increasing congregation, it was proposed to build a new one, and to that end, the old building was removed to the rear of the lot and the new commenced

Jamestown

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Thurs.  
June 1,  
1893

(Cont'd. from page 15) last fall on the site of the old one. The new building, which will cost in the neighborhood of \$75,000.00, is being built of Medina Stone. The basement walls, which are 17 feet high from the ground, have been nearly completed and the work of laying the walls of the church will commence in a short time, although the contract for that work has not been let as yet. The basement, which is 145 feet long by 85 feet wide from center to center (which will also be the size of the main church room) will be divided into two halls for prayer and school rooms. Numerous classrooms will lead from the Sunday School room. The pastor's study and church officers' rooms will also be located here. Two entrances will lead to this floor, both from Chandler Street. Twelve stone steps thirty-five feet wide will lead to the church entrance in front. Two steeples at both sides of the front will extend high into the air, one of which will be 150 feet in height. Two large church bells will be placed in this one to call the members to worship. A balcony will extend the entire length of the church. The seating capacity of the new church will accommodate 2,500, and by placing chairs in the aisles, it is thought that 2,800 people can be seated. It is understood that a large pipe organ is to be purchased and placed in position. The pulpit will be placed at the rear of the church and, as the room will be too large for the minister to be heard in all parts of the house, a sounding board will be erected over the pulpit, making the faintest whisper audible in any part of the house.

The furnishings will be first-class, and the building will be lighted by electricity and heated by a furnace.

When completed, it will be the largest church in Jamestown or Western New York, and will be an addition of which the city may well feel proud. Rev. Mr. Hultgren is ably assisted by Rev. C.J. Sandstrom, an able Christian worker who, for the past few years, has been laboring as a missionary in behalf of the Swedish orphans' home and who has been largely instrumental in reducing an indebtedness of \$17,000.00 to \$5,000.00. While this society has never asked aid of its American brethren, the building of this new structure may make it possible for assistance to be given them by Jamestown's generous citizens.

Jamestown  
Journal  
Sept. 21,  
1901

Impressive services of the First Lutheran: Sunday, September 22, 1901 will go down in the annals of the First Lutheran church of Jamestown as one of the proudest and happiest in the history of that organization. On that day, the new church edifice which the members have been working on for years to complete, was formally dedicated to the worship of God with solemn and fitting ceremonies. The auditorium of the new church was packed.

The exercises began about 2:30 PM. The choir and audience joined in singing hymn number 268 after Rev. L.P. Ahlquist conducted the dedicatory services. Rev. Julius Lincoln, the pastor, made a few remarks in Swedish and in English, asking those present to give liberally to assist in making a payment on the church. The offering was then taken and amounted to \$4,200.00. After singing by the

Jamestown

Jamestown  
Journal  
Sept. 24,  
1901

(Cont'd. from page 16) choir, Rev. Mr. Lincoln ascended the pulpit and made an address. The closing exercises were brief, and the congregation was dismissed with a benediction by Pastor Lincoln. The First Lutheran is a massive structure of rough-hewn brown stone and presents an inspiring appearance when approached from any direction. It has a steep Gothic roof and gables and two towers adorn its front. The entrance is by a broad flight of steps which lead up through an arched stone portico to the wide doors, which swing noiselessly open and admit the worshippers to a roomy vestibule. Thence, still other doors lead into the auditorium. As one enters through the center door, the view is impressive. A broad aisle leads down through the nave of the church to the chancel, which is circular in form and is raised about two feet from the level of the main floor. One half of the circle is formed by the walls of the building, which are so decorated as to represent heavy curtains looped up, showing a pale background. The other segment of the circle is a heavy and handsome chancel rail of quartered oak, finished in the natural grain and highly polished. The windows of the church are many and beautiful. Above the chancel arch is a Catherine Wheel filled with richly stained glass, and windows with similar foliations surmount the three large memorial windows. The memorial windows are very handsome and are dedicated to three pastors of the church who are now deceased: Rev. Jonas Swenson, the founder of the society who died in 1873; Rev. John Pehrson and Rev. C.O. Hultgren, both of whom passed away in 1901. The central figure of the large window facing the west is Christ, the good shepherd, that to the north contains a life-size, full-length portrait of Martin Luther, and the sturdy form of Gustavus Adolphus adorns the one looking to the east. Besides the large windows, there are many smaller ones, and a cinque-foil above each of these bears some particular religious emblem. The cost of the structure as it stands today is about \$100,000.00, and it is largely due the pastor, Rev. Julius Lincoln and the efficient building committee of the church that it did not cost even more.

Jamestown  
Journal  
Oct. 11,  
1913

New Lutheran Church: Organization of one for English-speaking Swedes perfected Wednesday night. A meeting was held at the First Lutheran Church Wednesday evening at which the organization of an English Lutheran church for the Swedish people was perfected. The meeting was in charge of Rev. F.O. Hanson, who has been working in the city for several weeks in the interest of the new church. Rev. Mr. Hanson left early this morning for Chicago and Gatesburg, Illinois, where he will attend a meeting of the Association of English churches, and he will return to Jamestown Nov. 1 to assume charge of the new church house. Services of the new church will probably be held at the First Lutheran Immanuel Church.

Jamestown

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Friday  
Jan. 6,  
1914

Jamestown Grace English Lutherans church held its first annual congregational meeting in the First Lutheran church. The acting pastor, E.E. Ryden, opened the meeting with Bible reading and prayer. C.W. Jones was elected temporary chairman and W. H. Benchley temporary secretary.

It was determined to add two additional trustees and deacons to the church council. An election resulted in the appointment of M.W. Probst as Trustee for two years, and Dickson Vernon for one year. Miss Victoria Swanson was designated as organist. O.C. Soderburg, James Rogers and Floy Gregg compose the auditing committee.

The congregation voted that the church council should provide a place for morning services and Sunday School work, this to be done as soon as possible. These ushers were elected: Roy Lofgren, Floyd Gregg, Carl Bergquist, Harry Nyquist. The secretary of the church was instructed to draft a set of resolutions thanking the First Lutheran and Immanuel Lutheran churches for their support of the English work and for the use of their respective churches. Also to ask that the use of the churches might be continued until other arrangements can be made. The matter of incorporating Grace English Lutheran church and of calling a permanent pastor was deferred until a further meeting. The meeting Thursday evening was not concluded, but adjourned, subject to call by the board of deacons.

October 4,  
1915

The Grace English Lutheran church of Jamestown ceased to exist Sunday morning when more than 100 of its members merged with Holy Trinity English Lutheran church, and its former pastor, E. E. Ryden accepted a call to the pastorate of Holy Trinity church. Rev. Mr. Ryden then received his former members of Grace church into the fellowship of Holy Trinity church and the names of 112 members were read (not including children). The merger was the result of negotiations begun last November and had as its objective the consolidation into one compact body of all the English Lutherans in the city. One church, it was thought, would prove stronger than two.

Post-  
Journal  
Oct. 28,  
1946

African Methodist Episcopal Zion church was established in November of 1882 and was originally known as the Union church of Christ, growing out of two colored churches meeting in Jamestown at that time. Rev. J. Carter was pastor. Mr. Caldwell, discussing the beginnings of the church, called attention to the fact that white people had shown an interest and had given assistance from the earliest days of the colored church in Jamestown.

In September, 1896, the church voted to affiliate with the Central New York Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal church and adopted its present name. The church edifice was built in 1898.

Jamestown

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Sat. May  
27, 1899

The cornerstone of the new African Methodist Episcopal Zion church at 610 Spring Street will be laid with formal exercises at the church Sunday afternoon. The sermon will be preached by B.F. Wheeler, D.D., at 2 o'clock. The laying of the cornerstone will follow the sermon. There will be good music and the ceremony will be an interesting one.

Post-  
Journal

Round  
About  
Town  
June 4,  
1953

When the Brooklyn Heights Methodist church holds its ground-breaking ceremonies Sunday at 3 o'clock PM for the new church to be located on Newland and Delaware Avenues near Baker St., one spadeful of dirt will be turned by Mrs. Bertha Squier Barrows, 87, in whose home was held one of the early Bible classes, which resulted in the formation of the church 70 years ago. Mrs. Barrows is the oldest member of the church which, back in its early days was known as the Palmer Street Sunday School and was given the name of Brooklyn Heights Methodist church when the neighborhood contained small farming sections on the hills overlooking Brooklyn Square.

The First Methodist church, realizing that there was need of church work in the area, appointed a committee headed by Edward Appleyard to find a suitable place for Sunday services, with the result that the Presbyterian church became interested in a joint mission Sunday School on the West side.

It happened that a young Presbyterian, William L. Staub, 18, had rounded up four boys to come to his mother's home for Bible study. About this time, Mrs. Barrows, who was then Bertha Squier, a Methodist, had formed a class of girls in her home for Bible study. James S. Ellis, a contractor and a member of the official board of the Methodist church, invited the two classes to hold their meetings in part of his carpentry shop on Palmer St. This they did, and it became known as the Palmer Street Sunday School. This was in 1887.

According to Mrs. Helena M. Stonehouse, who has thoroughly investigated the history of the Methodist church in this area and written about it in her book published last year, William Staub was anxious that this Sunday School be known as Presbyterian, so a meeting was called to vote on whether it should be known as Presbyterian or Methodist, and although more Methodists turned out for the class, the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of the Presbyterians.

The Methodists then pulled out of the group to meet separately at the home of the dentist, Dr. J.E. Almy, on Highland Avenue. Then, in February of 1888, the Methodists rented a house from a man named Bowen on Palmer Street, and the Sunday School became known as the Palmer Street Mission. Soon afterwards, Francis Steele offered two lots for sale on Palmer and Sprague Streets for a church and parsonage, and the building of the present church was started with the help of other Methodists of the Board of Missions and other interested individuals. The church was built at a cost of about \$3,500.00 and dedicated in February of 1889. Dr. F.L. Flood, then pastor of the First Methodist church, preached the dedicatory sermon.

Jamestown

Post-  
Journal  
Round  
about  
town  
June 4,  
1953

(Cont'd. from page 19) In the meantime the Presbyterians started their church on the West side known as Olivet Chapel, dedicated May 2, 1889. From it has grown the Westminster Presbyterian church.

For many years, the Brooklyn Heights Methodist church had no regular minister, except Sunday School teachers who took over, and Thomas Berry, a local preacher who took the services for several years for whatever salary the group could give him. The First Methodist church also donated \$150.00 a year toward the expenses of the church, so at that time, the church was known as the Second Methodist church. For a while, the church was connected with the Falconer Methodist church in that Rev. Willis R. Crosby, the first minister to serve the church, also served the Falconer church. Then they separated in 1897 and had their own independent ministers, and the church on Palmer St. took the name of Brooklyn Heights Methodist church.

In 1916, the church was given a donation of several thousand dollars by Mrs. Katherine Cowels, allowing the interior to be greatly improved. In more recent years, the church has undergone remodeling and redecorating, and has a modern kitchen, an organ, and other fine additions.

Now the church is ready to build a new edifice at a cost of about \$150,000.00, the first of a three-unit project, which will first include the main church building so erected that the auditorium can be expanded and additional education quarters added.

Post-  
Journal  
Nov. 16,  
1955

The Buffalo Street Methodist church originated from a city mission which was started February 20, 1888, when representatives from four churches--Congregational, Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian--met to complete arrangements. William Skinner was named the city missionary. A chapel was built and was dedicated Dec. 8, 1899. After two years, when Mr. Skinner resigned, the Methodist churches took over the work of the chapel and the deed of the property was transferred to the Methodist Episcopal church in April, 1892.

Chapel services and Sunday School were conducted by men from the First Methodist church of Jamestown with the help of ministers from the Falconer Methodist church.

From this work grew the Buffalo Street Methodist church, organized Dec. 21, 1900 by Rev. W.P. Graham, presiding elder, and Rev. H.M. Burns, who had been appointed pastor by the conference. Later, Rev. H.E. Lewis of Allegheny College became supply pastor, with no further help from the Falconer Methodist church.

Rev. W.S. Nickle was named pastor in October of 1903, and it was during his pastorate on May 1, 1905, that the Trustees, Perry W. Goodwin, J.E. Smith, Charles Carpenter, Frank Dickson, Frank Johnson, Henry Ayers, Abram Beckrink, Gust Anderson, and R. Vernon Goodwin began building a new church at Falconer and Buffalo Streets, with Frank Dickson, Abram Beckrink and Frank Johnson as building committee.

The church was dedicated November 19, 1905. Just recently, the officials of Buffalo Street church completed the addition of a new

Jamestown

Post-  
Journal  
Nov. 16,  
1955

(Cont'd. from page 20) vestibule to the basement entrance, a great improvement on the previous crude entrance. Rev. M.V. McLean, present pastor, has served the church since 1948.

Jamestown  
Journal  
March 26,  
1901

Buffalo Street M.E. Society Becomes the owner of its House of Worship:  
At the second quarterly conference held last Wednesday evening in the parlors of the First M.E. church of this city, Messrs. Perry Goodwin and E.H. Hotchkiss, representing the board of Trustees of the Buffalo Street Church, presented a petition, asking for the gift of the property in which the Buffalo Street Society is now worshipping. With characteristic kindness and on motion of T.H. Smith, the conference voted without a dissenting voice, instructing the Trustees to deed the property to the Buffalo Street Society. In a few kindly words, the pastor of the Buffalo Street society, Rev. H.M. Burns, thanked the quarterly conference for its great kindness in the matter. Thus, by the generosity of the mother church, the little society lately organized on Buffalo Street is to come into possession of its own property, enabling it to work untrammelled in this promising part of the city. It is believed that the Buffalo Street Society will give a good account of her stewardship. By this noble act of the First church quarterly conference, she has won the gratitude and prayers of every member of the Buffalo Street Society. East Jamestown, March 23.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Sat. May  
13, 1905

Buffalo Street Church built to cost about \$4,500.00. The building will be 46 feet long and 38 feet 6 inches wide, and will be constructed of rock-faced cement block, with smooth-faced rock for trimming purposes. The ground floor will be largely devoted to the church auditorium, and the basement for the Sunday School rooms. The building will have a tower, and the design of the whole is so attractive that it will be an ornament for the neighborhood in which it is situated. Building operations will be commenced at once, and the present frame building on Buffalo Street will be used until the new one is completed.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Sept. 18,  
1915

Camp Street M.E. Mission will hold its Sunday afternoon services at 3 o'clock at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Catlin. The address will be given by Rev. W.E. Bassett of Frewsburg. This evening, an important meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. John C. Lawson at 800 Camp Street to complete the incorporation of the mission. The excavation for the new chapel has been completed and work on the erection of the building will commence Monday. A meeting of the Trustees and building committee of the Camp Street Mission was held Wednesday Evening at the home of Guy Catlin. It was reported

Jamestown

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Sept. 18,  
1915

(Cont'd. from page 21) that rapid progress was being made in the erection of the new mission building. The heating situation was brought up and discussed thoroughly and the matter of the purchase of seats was decided upon. Other important matters were discussed.

Jamestown  
Post-  
Journal  
Oct. 21,  
1955

The Camp Street Methodist church congregation voted Thursday night to buy seventeen new pews at a cost of (including installation) \$1,655.80. Rev. E.W. Chitester, pastor, said the pews will be installed in time for dedication Easter Sunday, April 1, 1956. Meanwhile, the congregation is offering for sale its present seats, which are still serviceable. The congregation already has raised about \$1,100.00 toward the purchase price. The church was organized in 1914, and the church edifice was built a year later. Mr. Chitester has been pastor since June 1951. The congregation has 105 members.

Post-  
Journal  
Dec. 5,  
1941

Epworth Methodist church: The following historical sketch was prepared by Mr. Liedblad.

The Epworth Methodist church originated June, 1851, when Rev. O.G. Hedstrom, Swedish Methodist minister from New York City, visited the village of Jamestown and preached the gospel in the Swedish language to a group of people at the home of Samuel Johnson, Barrows Street. This was undoubtedly the first time that the gospel was preached in Swedish in this city.

The result of this meeting was the conversion of Samuel Johnson who, as a conscientious lay-worker, was influential in the organization of the church.

Rev. Mr. Hedstrom visited again in 1852, when the church was organized with 12 members.

During its history, the church has had 22 pastors and has built three church buildings. The first was on Center Street, the second was on Chandler Street, and the third is the present edifice on the corner of Chandler Street and Foote Avenue.

Rev. O.F. Lindstrom was pastor for the three years that the work was carried on in the old church building on Chandler Street. Under his pastorate, the membership of the Sunday School was more than doubled, the church attendance constantly increased, and the Young People's work flourished. This evidence indicates that a new and more commodious church was necessary.

Encouraged by the spirit of the church members, plans were drawn, specifications written, and the contract for the erection of the church was let to the late Charles E. Morse. In due time, the building was finished and ready for occupancy. Rev. Mr. Lindstrom had finished his three-year term and, in accordance with the then-existing Methodist rule that a pastor could serve a church no longer than three years, was sent to St. Paul, Minnesota.

Jamestown

Post-  
Journal  
Dec. 5,  
1941

(Cont'd. from page 22) Rev. Nels Eagle was Rev. Mr. Lindstrom's successor. Under his able leadership, the church was finished and dedicated 50 years ago. The dedicatory service was very elaborate and the church was filled to overflowing. At this service, pledges were taken which covered the \$12,000 deficit. In due time, all pledges were paid, leaving the church free from debt. The pulpit and communion table were presented by the Norquist brothers in loving memory of their parents, who were among the pioneers of the church. The lettering on the altar table is the work of the late John Nord.

August  
22, 1939

First Methodist Church of Jamestown was organized in 1814 at Worksburg (Falconer) at the home of William Wilson, composed of James and John Wilson, John Arthur, Edward Work, William Stahles and their wives, ten in all. The class was moved to Jamestown in 1815.

In 1820, the church became a legal society, thereby being able to obtain a grant of 25 acres of land by the Holland Land Company to the churches first formed in Ellicott, which included Jamestown, and so continued for many years.

The First Methodist church edifice was built at the corner of East Second and Chandler Streets in 1829 and was dedicated in 1833. The property is now the home of the Unitarian Society. This first church was enlarged in 1836, but the increasing membership forced another enlargement in 1854 when gallery was built, and in 1866 the society had to build on twenty feet to meet the requirements of the congregation. A tower was erected at this time, but this was removed with the gallery after the building had passed out of the hands of the Methodist. The present beautiful brick church was dedicated in 1886.

Jamestown  
Journal  
Oct. 14,  
1853

The Methodist Episcopal church building in this village, which has been undergoing repair, is nearly finished. A material enlargement is made to the body of the church, a steeple built, the whole building repainted and the structure now looks as well as any church building in the village. We understand the society have it in contemplation soon to furnish a good bell for their steeple.

County  
Clerk's  
Records

Certificate of incorporation of the Free Methodist Church, State of New York, County of Chautauqua. We, the undersigned, two of the members of the church hereinafter mentioned, do hereby certify that on the fifth day of March, inst. the male persons of full age belonging to a church in which divine worship is celebrated according to the rights of the Free Methodist church and not already incorporated, met at the place of public worship heretofore occupied by the said church in the village of Jamestown

Jamestown

County  
Clerk's  
Records

(Cont'd. from pg. 23) (Ellicott Township) in said county for the purpose of incorporating themselves, and did then and there elect by plurality of voices, William P. Carpenter, Thomas C. Blanchard, David H. Knapp and Harry Hawkins as Trustees of the said church Society, to be known as the First Methodist Church of Jamestown.

Chaut.  
County  
History  
Vol. 1

The Free Methodist church was incorporated in 1874, the out-growth of a class formed in 1871. The present church building was erected in 1884 on the corner of Lincoln and East Seventh Streets.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Dec. 29,  
1906

Another Church: Free Methodist planning for a new building. The present church at the corner of Lincoln and Seventh Sts. has been in service for 25 years; it is now unsuited to the needs of the society, which has a record for effective work. The Free Methodist church of Jamestown, which has enjoyed such a degree of prosperity for some years that it has outgrown the frame building which stands at the corner of Lincoln and East Seventh Streets, and it has become necessary to erect a new and more commodious house of worship to accomodate the increasing needs of the growing society. The Free Methodist church of Jamestown was organized some 25 years ago under the labors of Rev. Wilson T. Hogue, who is now one of the bishops of that denomination. During all of these years, covering more than a third of a century, it has carried on its chosen work in a simple and straightforward way, doing its full share not only for the moral and spiritual betterment of its own people, but for the general uplift of the community of which it is a part. It was only after a long struggle and unusual sacrifice on the part of its members that a frame chapel was erected which has served as a place of worship for this growing congregation for more than 35 years. The matter of a new building has been under consideration for some time. The main audience room is to be 43 feet square, with arched ceiling and skylight, with a seating capacity for a congregation of four hundred without crwoding. The structure is to be of stone and pressed brick with a slate roof. It is to take the place which is now and for 25 years has been occupied by the present church building. It is hoped to complete all preliminary work during the present winter, so as to begin building operations at the first suitable weather for such operations in the spring.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
June 26,  
1908

Allen Street M.E. Chapel: New church to be built up under the leadership of Rev. W.S. Nickle. The Allen Street chapel, which has been closed for some time, was formally opened Thursday evening by a committee of workers

Jamestown

Jamestown  
Evng. Jnl.  
Jn. 26,  
1908

(Cont'd. from page 24) from the First M.E. church, and Rev. W.S. Nickle, former pastor of the Buffalo Street church will, during the summer, engage in religious activities with the idea of building up a church in that thickly settled neighborhood.

The chapel will be open for services next Sunday morning and evening. A Sabbath school will soon be organized.

Jamestown  
Journal  
Jan. 8,  
1901

Primitive Methodist church: New structure was formally dedicated on Allen Street Sunday--A Neat Little Church. The Primitive Methodists, a newly organized religious institution in the city, conducted the dedicatory services for its church structure Sunday. The attractive chapel on Allen Street was filled at each service and gratifying interest was manifest in the proceedings. The church is a neat and substantial structure located on the south side of Allen Street near King Street. Being situated upon an embankment, broad steps lead to the entrance. The auditorium has a seating capacity of about 225, has pulpit finishings in oak, is attractively carpeted, and is lighted and heated by gas. Also, there are windows of stained glass, forming an unusually pleasant effect. The total cost of the structure, including the real estate, is \$3,250.00, of which about \$500.00 was pledged prior to the services of Sunday, \$385.00 being raised at that time. Work of erection was performed under the close personal supervision of Z.W. Fisher and architect R.O. Wheeler. The activity of the former has been remarkable in view of his advanced age. The church begins its active work in this city with a membership of 25 and a Sunday School numbering about 60.

Sunday morning Rev. A. Humphries of Fall River, Mass., delivered the dedicatory sermon, taking for his text Solomon V:6. The dedicatory services followed the sermon and were simple and impressive, J.W. Fisher presenting the structure in behalf of the Trustees.

Regular services will henceforth be held in the church.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Jan. 12,  
1905

Allen Street Ladies' Aid Society of the Primitive Methodist church met with Mrs. John Greenwood of Maple Street. There was a good attendance and an enjoyable afternoon was passed. At about 4 PM a tea was served and a nice little income was netted to the society. The ladies will meet next Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. John Hartley of King Street.

Jamestown

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
April 17,  
1905

Primitive Methodist: Rev. S. Darlington, Ph. B., conducted both services on Sunday, taking his text in the morning from Nehemiah IV:6 and in the evening from John XX:17. Wednesday afternoon, the ladies will meet with Mrs. Shaver of Camp Street at 2:30 and make final preparations for an Easter Supper to be held in the church next Saturday, followed by a concert. Wednesday evening, the usual weekly prayer meeting at 7:30.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
June 6,  
1905

At the meeting of the teachers of the First Primitive Methodist Sunday School Monday evening, Thomas Laycock was elected Superintendent to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of Rev. Samuel Darlington from the city. John W. Hutley was chosen chorister of the Sunday School and leader of the church choir. Arthur Hartley and Mrs. Hartley were re-elected as teachers to fill vacancies. Three names were presented for a Young Mens' class which will be organized in the near future. It was decided to give a concert in the evening of the Sunday designated for the Children's Day exercises and to conduct two picnics this year instead of one.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
June 4,  
1906

New Pastor: Rev. A. Hesford comes to local primitive church from New Bedford, Mass., as a successor to Rev. Darrell Markman. The new pastor of the First Primitive Methodist church on Allen Street came to this city from Massachusetts and engages in the actual work of a pastor for the first time, although he has been preaching for ten or eleven years. He has a wife and one child, and will come here within the next few weeks for the purpose of making their home. Rev. Dr. Elijah E. Humphries of Fall River, Massachusetts, secretary of the board of Trustees of the Eastern Conference of the Primitive Methodist church, accompanied Rev. Mr. Hesford to this city and will remain here until Tuesday afternoon in the interest of the conference. He stated to a journal reporter that the work of Rev. Darrell Markman in the city has been very satisfactory and that the latter leaves with the goodwill of the conference and of the people here. Dr. Humphries is a brother of the Rev. Alfred Humphries, who was here for the dedication of the local church about five years ago. Members and friends of the church are invited to meet Rev. Dr. Humphries and Rev. Mr. Hesford in the church this evening at 8 o'clock.

Mon. July  
2, 1906

First Primitive Methodist: The pastor, Rev. A. Hesford, spoke Sunday morning on the "Man of Sorrow" and in the evening on the "Great Supper". There will be no prayer service Wednesday evening.

## Jamestown

Court  
House  
October  
19, 1843

The First Wesleyan Methodist church of Jamestown elected Trustees on the 19th day of October, 1843: Simeon Parks, Abram Jones, presided. William Mallory, Elijah Sherman Garfield, Albert Jones, and John K. Derby were elected Trustees.

By A.W.  
Anderson,  
City  
Historian

The attitude of the Methodist and other ecclesiastical bodies a hundred years ago was that of "non-interference" with civil institutions. The sense of social responsibility in these bodies was awake only in individual members, and to a limited extent. But by 1840, the tide of moral rebellion against slavery became increasingly evident in and outside of churches. The official attitude of the Methodist Episcopal church--general, remained in traditional statutes. But in the local church, there was a large and respectable group who were militantly anti-slavery. They chafed in the harness of restraint imposed in their church deliberations, where discussion of the subject was repressed. However, this was not the immediate cause of the schism that occurred in this society in September of 1843. The line in those days between the "sacred" and "secular" as then conceived, was closely drawn. The pastor of the Jamestown church at that time was a strict constructionist in the dour tradition. In this situation, the proposal of the choir to introduce a musical instrument at Sunday services aroused the preacher to a fury. He forbade the use of the stringed instrument and announced that "he would rule until the heavens fell."

As a result, not only the choir but 40 other church members withdrew from the church and immediately met in the session room of the old Congregational church at the SW corner of Main and Fifth Streets, and formed a temporary organization of the Wesleyan Methodist church on September 17, 1843.

The legal organization, under the law of April 5, 1813, took place October 19, 1843. This church had a membership of over two hundred. Some of our best-known early citizens were members: William Broadhead, Lucy Broadhead, A.B. Cobb, Thetis Cobb, Abram Jones, Rebecca Jones, C.N. Butler, Louisa B. Grandin, Simeon W. Parks, Mary A. Parks, Elijah Bishop, Coleman E. Bishop, Amy Bishop, Samuel Winsor, Anna Sears Winsor, Emory Jones, Laura Ann Jones are among the number.

The lot on which the Wesleyan Church stood was 71½ feet on James Street (Prendergast Avenue) and 115 feet east and west excepting a block 20 feet square at the SE corner of the lot. In this church, anti-slavery speakers were welcomed. R.F. Fenton, who lived in the house still standing opposite the high-school where he settled in 1826, presented the church with two bibles.

In 1862, the church building was destroyed by fire. Many of the articles of furniture and fixtures were removed during the fire, but later several items were missing. The Bibles were saved and returned to the giver.

The church from which this church stemmed still stands in remodeled form, now owned and occupied by the Unitarian Society. Built by Samuel Winsor for the M.E church society in 1830, it was only a few blocks from Winsor Street, which derived its name from this early settler, a carpenter and builder, and father of the late Clinton Winsor.

Jamestown

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
March 17,  
1890

Church Chronicles: The interest in the series of meetings that has been in progress at the Dexterville Mission Chapel for several weeks still continues, conversions being reported almost nightly. The services will be continued each evening this week except Saturday, under the leadership of W.G. Skinner.

Jamestown  
Jnl. Mar.  
22, 1890

Sunday School will be held at the Dexterville Chapel Sunday afternoon at 3:30. Gospel services in the evening at 7:30.

No  
Source  
Given

The Congregation was organized on Thanksgiving Day 1879 with 33 charter members as the "Swedish Christian Mission Church." The first church building was erected in the fall of 1879 at Harrison Street and Foote Avenue at an approximate cost of \$1,000.00, exclusive of much donated labor. By 1889, this building had grown too small and a new wooden church was built on Chandler Street on the site of the brick church destroyed by fire Oct, 28, 1950. Exclusive of free labor, this church cost about \$5,500.00. The church which was destroyed by fire had been dedicated May 15, 1898 and had cost about \$17,000.00. Immediately following a disastrous fire on the morning of Saturday, October 28, 1952, which completely razed the church, leaders of the church set to work making plans to continue services until a new edifice could be built. At a meeting in the Zion Mission Covenant Church on the Sunday following the fire, a resolution was unanimously passed to "build well and soon." The beautiful new brick church on Spring Street was dedicated on Sunday, Nov. 9, 1952.

Post-  
Journal  
April 11,  
1942

The old Hotel Everett on West First Street was made into a Rescue Mission for homeless and fireless men. It is planned to occupy the first two floors of the building, and the work of renovating and remodeling will be undertaken at once. "In its initial stages the Mission will provide food, clothing and lodging for men; modern beds are to be installed," aid Mr. Hiller. The superintendent said that a man is kept at the mission only as long as he can be given spiritual help. If the institution is able to assist him, he said, and if he finds work in the city, he may remain at the home if he wishes, but he must agree to adhere to the rules, and, after his second payday, he must pay his way at the rate of \$6.00 per week.

Post-  
Journal  
Sept. 27  
1954

The Zion Mission Covenant Church, which celebrates its 60th anniversary at services next, was organized Oct. 4, 1894 by 59 persons in a YMCA building on Main Street, where the first meetings were held until a hall was rented in the Gifford Block in Brooklyn Square. At the second meeting, seventeen new members were added, and the

Jamestown

Post-  
Journal  
Sept. 27,  
1954

(Cont'd. from page 27) church took the name of Den Svenska Kristna Zions Forsmalingen which, with the transfer from Swedish to English, was changed to The Zion Mission Covenant church. In 1895, the church became affiliated with the Svenska Missions forbundet i Amerika, now the Evangelical Mission Covenant church of America, and with the Kretsferening, as the Middle East Conference was then known. In May of 1896, the present site on College Street was purchased for \$4,100.00 and the building started in the fall of 1896, with the cornerstone ceremonies in October and the dedication in March of 1897. The property was valued at \$17,000.00, of which all but \$2,500.00 was paid in ten years. Except for alterations, most recent of which were made for the 50th anniversary in 1944, it is the same auditorium of today.

History  
Chaut.  
County  
1921  
Vol. 1

The First Presbyterian church was organized in 1834 by Rev. E.J. Gillett, forty-one members of the Congregational church having withdrawn to unite in its formation. In 1837, a substantial church edifice was built of wood on the corner of West Third and Cherry Streets. This building was burned in 1877, but was replaced by a large and commodious brick edifice, the interior of which was destroyed in 1890. The building was immediately rebuilt with all modern conveniences and facilities for church work. The church has a large and growing membership, and has been ably served by its pastors.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Oct. 8,  
1890

Presbyterian church of Jamestown burned. Third and Cherry Sts. Estimated loss \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00. Organ and furniture total loss.

Jamestown  
Daily  
Journal  
June 22,  
1878

First Presbyterian church Sunday School at 12:30 PM at the Board of Trade rooms, prayer meeting every Wednesday evening at the Board of Trade rooms.

Atlas  
Chaut.  
County  
1881

The First Presbyterian church of Jamestown was organized Feb. 17, 1834. Previously, the Presbyterian and Congregational churches of Jamestown were one. This church has always claimed an equal share with their brethren of the sister church in the history of that old church which is the mother of both. This church has also even disdained a denomination and spirit in that separation. The mother church was already as much Presbyterian as the majority of the so-called Presbetina church of Western N.Y.,

Jamestown

Atlas  
Chaut.  
County  
1881

(Cont'd. from page 28) and had the days been less troubled, none would have desired a church more decided in its form of government

Suffice it then to say that the time had now come when it was manifest that the old church should become two. There were already two other churches in the village.

The Methodist were worshipping by themselves and the Baptist had organized.

The population of the village was between 1,500 and 2,000, and when the new organization moved into its new house of worship the next year, it went in stronger and better equipped than the united church had ever been.

A question of the disposal of the old property was settled by a proposal that one party should buy the vacant pews of the other at a valuation fixed by the Trustees. It was sometimes uncertain which should buy and which should sell. For a short time, the Congregationalists worshipped elsewhere and the Presbyterians occupied the old house. But the latter at last became the colony and, after worshipping temporarily in Second Street, they moved into the basement of their present house in the summer of 1834 and dedicated the new house in August of 1835. The church consisted, at its organization, of 46 members.

Jamestown  
Paper  
Dec. 2,  
1887

Grace Memorial Chapel is a small but very attractive building on Main Street, erected under the auspices of the First Presbyterian church in this city, for the purpose of giving to the growing settlement in the north part of the city a place for gospel services and for Sunday School work. The enterprise is the outgrowth of a work of similar character which was commenced by the Rev. Mr. Rubinkam in a building on Tenth Street rented for the purpose about a year ago. The chapel just completed was commenced last spring. It is 50 by 30 ft. on the ground, built of wood, with a basement under the whole building in which is a furnace for heating. The outside appearance is church-like and attractive, with the entrance door not in the center of the front but to one side, which gives a sufficiently convenient passage-way to the main room and a good-sized classroom lies off this entry for Bible classes or other use. It can be made, when there is need, into a part of the main room by raising the windows which separate it. The inside is finished with hardwood, wainscoted and ceiled over head with wood. The walls have a pleasant tint and the whole interior furnishing has an air of good taste which is pleasing. On the platform is a solid oak table and chairs to correspond, and the room is seated with cane-seat chairs and will accommodate 250 persons. It is to be carpeted; fortunately, the carpet which was to have covered the floor at the time of dedication had not arrived, and so escaped the abundant mud of Thursday evening. The room is well-lighted by three chandeliers. It has a cabinet organ, a small Sunday school library and is thus truly equipped for the purpose for which it was built.

Jamestown

Post-  
Journal  
Round  
About  
Town  
June 4,  
1953

When the Brooklyn Heights Methodist church holds its ground-breaking ceremonies Sunday...etc.(see page 19) In the meantime, the Presbyterians started their church on the west side known as Olivet Chapel, dedicated May 2, 1889. From it has grown the Westminster Presbyterian church.

Friday  
Nov. 2,  
1956

Rededication services for the newly renovated Salem church of Jamestown will be held Sunday at 3:30 PM with Rev. Gordon R. Bender of Lockport as guest Speaker.

The Salem church is 27 years old. Meetings were begun in a store, but later it became necessary to move to a hall, and again into another building.

About 1929, the church was organized. In 1930, under the ministry of John Gustafson, a building was purchased on Chandler Street, and this building is the present church home.

In June of 1955, the Rev. Joseph L. Vitello was called to be pastor, and the task of renovating the church building and parsonage was undertaken. Members and friends gave freely of their labor and of their finances to help complete the work.

The following pastors have served the church: John Gustafson, 1929-30; August Edgren, 1930-34; August Forsgren, 1935-37; Magne Norval, 1937-39; August Lindholm, 1939-41; Walter Gunther, 1942-45; Albert Peterson, 1943; Willard Nording, 1945-47; Harry King, 1948-51; Nils Nilsson, 1951-53; Magne Norval, 1953-55, and Joseph Vitello, the present pastor.

Post-  
Journal  
Sept. 17,  
1955

"Heart to God and Hand to Man" describes the work of the Salvation Army, represented in Jamestown by two corps, the Citadel at 123 East Third Street and the Temple, formerly the Swedish Salvation Army at 24 Harrison Street. The disaster and emergency service units of the Army have been present at every major disaster in America during the past 57 years.

In Jamestown, the two corps work closely with the local fire and police departments. The Salvation Army's paramount purpose is spiritual. Essentially, it is an evangelical organization. Its social welfare program is a practical expression of the Army's original spiritual motive.

The Citadel corps at 123 East Third Street started in 1890 when Captain Boyd was sent here as the first commissioned officer, although previous meetings had been held on Steele Street through the work of a Salvation Army soldier who came to Jamestown. First regular meetings were held in the Broadhead Block, moving to the present building in 1903. The officer in charge of the Citadel corps is Sr. Captain Nametta Taylor.

The Temple corps was opened June 29, 1892, by Captain Hulda Samuelson, with the first meeting held in the "Chapel" on Allen

Jamestown

Post-  
Journal  
Sept. 17,  
1955

(Cont'd. from page 30) Street, near Foote Avenue. Seven soldiers were on the platform as the Captain spoke on "A Man of Peace Holds the Future."  
A year later, the corps was moved to the third floor of Cadwell's factory on Foote Avenue, but returned after three months to the "Chapel." Later, the quarters were moved to 21 Steele Street, remaining there for nine years.  
The present building at 24 Harrison Street has been occupied since Nov. 12, 1912. Officers in charge of the Temple corps are: Sr. Captain and Mrs. Harry Ossmo, assisted by First Lieutenant Ethel Carlson.

Post-  
Journal  
March 16,  
1956

Missouri Synod Forms church in Jamestown: The Concordia Lutheran church to be organized here elected a board of trustees Thursday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Mittelstaedt, 58 Stewart Avenue.  
Named to the board were: Howard J. Phillips, Paul F. Mittelstaedt and Lawrence D. Carey.  
The church is issuing a pastorate call to a student who will be graduating from Concordia College, St. Louis, Mo. in June. Several building sites are being considered before the final acceptance on April 19. At that time, action will be taken on the church constitution. About 16 families are already enrolled, the majority of them previously connected with a Missouri Synod Lutheran church in another community.  
The new church has been meeting the past year in the Monitor Temple with services each Sunday evening at 8 o'clock in charge of visiting pastors. These Sunday evening services will continue at the Temple until a new church is built.  
Easter Sunday services will be conducted at 8 AM with a sermon by Walter Haas of Dunkirk and his choir. Rev. Mr. Haas was present at the meeting Thursday evening, as were also Rev. William Drews, Buffalo, executive secretary of the board of missions and Rev. Roland Gabbert, Otto, who has been serving the local church.  
The Missouri Synod is the largest Lutheran body in America, with more than a million members in about 5,000 congregations. Headquarters are at St. Louis, Missouri.  
Among the communities in Western New York where Missouri Synod churches are located are Buffalo, Dunkirk, Little Valley, Olean, Springville, Salamanca, and Silver Creek.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal

The Swedish Seventh Day Adventist church at 111 Prather Avenue was dedicated free from debt on Saturday afternoon. A capacity audience filled the church which was decorated with flowers. Rev. A.S. Anderson, pastor, presented a brief history of the church from its beginning in 1903 to the present time. The present building was erected during the years 1922 and 1923 at a cost of \$21,000.00. The last payment was recently made. An offering was taken to start a fund with which the church hopes to purchase a

## Jamestown

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal

(Cont'd. from page 31) pipe organ in the near future. The offertory prayer was offered by Frank W. Wallst pastor.

Post-  
Journal  
July 27,  
1956

Formal opening of the St. Louis Albanian Orthodox church's new building, the former Brooklyn Heights Methodist church, will be held Sunday, Andon Ford, president of the congregation announced. Sunday services include Mass from 11 AM to noon, conducted by Rev. George Loli, pastor. The services will include music by the choir under direction of Miss Olga Loli, and Miss Geraldine Adams, organist. A reception open to the public, with refreshments served by the Daughters of St. Louis, will be held from 12 to 1 PM. The Albanian Congregation purchased the church in June of 1955 and took possession early this year, but the altar was changed to conform to the Eastern Orthodox faith before formal opening of the church could be completed. In addition, members of the congregation have remodeled the basement dining room, and have redecorated the walls of the church. The building itself was constructed in 1889, and has been remodeled and redecorated since that time. Prior to acquiring the Brooklyn Heights church property, the Albanian congregation met for 25 years in a smaller church building in Sprague Street. St. Louis Albanian Orthodox church was organized August 25, 1925, with services conducted at Liberty Hall until 1929, when the church on Sprague Street was built. Burning of the mortgage for that place took place in 1941. Pastors who have served the congregation since its organization are: Rev. Naum Ceri, Rev. Theodore Chala, Rev. George Suli, Rev. Llambda Dode and Mr. Loli.

By Miss  
Clara  
Carpenter

History of the Unitarian church of Jamestown: 1886-1936: The liberal movement in this vicinity had its beginning in the organization on March 8, 1858 of a group known as the Universalist Society in Jamestown. The first trustees of this society were: Lewis Taft, Wm. H. Tew, Wm. Clark, Austin Rugles and James L. Sprague. Their first place of meeting was Jamestown Academy Hall at the corner of Spring and Fourth Streets. The first minister was Rev. E.W. Reynolds. On Dec. 26, 1858, the congregation met following a religious service to consider the purchase of property known as the Wilcox lot on the corner of Third and Spring Streets for a church building. The congregation voted in favor of the purchase and Orsell Cook and Wm. H. Tew were appointed a committee to secure the property. No church edifice was ever erected on the lot at the corner of East Third and Spring Streets. In 1866, the lot was sold to Mrs. Martha Andrews, wife of Lewis Andrews, for \$1,300.00. From 1866 to 1875 there must have been a cessation of activities,

Jamestown

By Miss  
Clara  
Carpenter

(Cont'd. from page 32) though annual meetings were held for the election of trustees and other business. In 1874, they considered hiring Rev. B. Brunning to "revive the cause," but so little interest was manifest that the matter was given up. In 1875, Rev. S.L. Roripaugh became minister at a salary of \$1,000.00. This salary was subscribed by the various members. He served three years and in 1877, the society was meeting in what was called Universalist Hall, and it was voted to spend about \$200.00 for a carpet and chairs. On July 1, 1879, G.W. Kent became the minister. He was the minister emeritus of the Unitarian church of New Orleans. On January 5, 1880, the society met in Universalist Hall for the purpose of again considering the building of a church, and a committee was appointed to canvass for two weeks on lots, prices and funds. But in January, 1881, a meeting was called to consider discontinuing the active organization of the society and notices were sent to Mr. Elliot Hall that the society would surrender possession of Universalist Hall and the trustees were authorized to dispose of the personal property of the organization. It was four years later that the history of our church began. As the story goes, Alonzo M. Kent and Elial F. Carpenter met Rev. James G. Townsend on the street one day and asked him if he would be interested in forming a liberal church. Dr. Townsend had been a Methodist clergyman and had held prominent pastorates in that denomination. He became too broad and free in his theological views to longer enjoy his old associations and so withdrew from the Methodist church. He had many liberal friends in this vicinity.

In October, a meeting was held in Allen's Opera House, the site of the present Shea's Theatre, and was well-attended. Rev. Townsend spoke briefly, stating that for a long time, he had noticed the widening gulf between the churches and the people and that he had decided to establish a people's church. He said the name Independent Congregational church was used because the church was independent of all other organizations and because the government was democratic. The meeting was then organized with W.W. Henderson as chairman and Charles H. Brown as secretary. The name Independent Congregational church was formally adopted and the following trustees were elected:

Mrs. A.M. Kent	Mrs. M.L. Fenton	Mrs. C.E. Jones
Mrs. John T. Wilson	Mrs. Mark Martin	Harvey W. Tew
Edward Hall	C.W. Scofield	W.T. Falconer
S.B. Hoyt	Elial F. Carpenter	A.E. Pierce
W.W. Henderson	N.R. Thompson	C.E. Weeks

Charles H. Tew was elected treasurer and F.B. Bush secretary. The salary of Dr. Townsend was fixed at \$2,000.00 and he was to provide his own parsonage. That night, over 100 signatures to the paper declaring the intention of the signers to attend church were received, making in all nearly two hundred and thirty.

Meetings were held in Allen's Opera House for a little more than a year at which large congregations were invariably present. The

Jamestown

By Miss  
Clara  
Carpenter

(Cont'd. from page 33) membership was between 300 and 400. A Sunday school was organized in connection with the church, and the classes were held on the Opera House stage and in the boxes.

In the summer of 1886, the church located at the junction of East Second and Chandler Streets and formerly occupied by the Methodist organization was purchased at a cost of \$5,000.00. It was refitted and furnished at an additional expense of about \$8,000.00. Five hundred opera chairs were placed in the amphitheatre auditorium. The women of the church purchased and installed an excellent organ at a cost of neary \$4,000.00. It was necessary to build an addition on the church for the organ. The dedicatory services for the Independent Congregational church were held Sunday, Nov. 21, 1886. Dr. Townsend preached the sermon. He remained as pastor nearly three years; during that time, excellent work was done and the church was placed on a sound foundation.

On June 20, 1889, the former Universalist Society of Jamestown voted to turn their fund of \$1,202.50 over to the Independent Congregational Fund to finish paying the church debt.

No  
Source  
Given

Kidder Memorial United Brethren Church: A Sunday School started in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel P. Kidder Sr., South Main St. Extension, on Easter Sunday in April of 1906. It grew to such a large capacity that Mr. and Mrs. Kidder, at their own expense, built a frame chapel just outside the city line on South Main St. which was dedicated September 29, 1907, by Rev. W.H. Hickman, acting pastor of the First Congregational church. People of the neighborhood provided furnishings.

In November of 1915, the church was formally organized with 25 charter members, with A.L. Pang acting as pastor. The building was moved to the corner of South Main and Cole Avenue an 1918, enlarged, and dedicated in 1919 by Dr. R.J. White of Buffalo. In 1929, the present structure was dedicated by Bishop A.R. Clippinger, assisted by Dr. N.H. MacAllister, then superintendent of the conference. The old chapel was bricked and now serves as the parsonage.

Jamestown  
Journal  
July 30,  
1956

The foundation will be started this week for the new Betty Weakland Chapel in the Allen Park section. The colonial style chapel, to be built at a cost of \$31,000.00, will be the first unit of a church, complete with Sunday school and religious education building. William O. Anderson is the architect.

The structure, built of concrete blocks with brick facing, will consist of auditorium, Sunday School rooms and pastor's office, to be built at the corner triangle bordered by Beech, Camp and Maple Streets.

This area includes 130 feet on Beech Street, 237 feet on Camp and 153 feet on Maple Street. The lots were given to the church by Mrs. Mae Barrett. Men of the church have cleared this land, and

Jamestown

Jamestown  
Journal  
July 30,  
1956

(Cont'd. from page 34) grading has been done, with a permit granted today by the city Building Inspector to start laying the foundation.

The Betty Weakland Chapel, located for the past 18 years in the old No. 5 school building at McKinley Avenue and Charles Street, has a membership of about 300, with 150 in the Sunday School. The chapel was named for Betty Weakland Bixby, daughter of the pastor, Rev. Dr. J. Roy Weakland, who came here as a girl evangelist, holding meetings in Brooklyn Square and later in a temporary tabernacle on West Third St., west of the bridge, starting the work which led to the founding of the chapel 19 years ago.

Dr. Weakland stated today that the congregation anticipates completion of the church unit this coming fall. He is heading activities of the building committee, assisted by Dwight W. Chase, Dr. Daniel W. Bixby, Lester Vincent, Floyd Simmons, Donald McCaslin, Mrs. Roland Dahley and Martin Wallen.

Miss Elizabeth L. Crocker  
Chautauqua Co. Historian  
131 Center St.  
Fredonia, NY 14063

Chautauqua County Churches  
Information Collected by  
Mrs. Mertie Akin

Compiled for  
Miss Elizabeth Crocker  
County Historian

by  
Sarie Naetzker-Fagerstrom  
Historical Aide

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## Ellery

County  
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Records

For the purpose of organizing the Methodist-Episcopal church of the town of Ellery, County of Chautauqua and State of New York, which church was first organized Nov. the 1st, 1821 and John Bentley Jr. and David Loucks were chosen Judges and John B. Clock, James Pickard and John Rice Jr. were elected Trustees; therefore, agreeable to public notice given to the M.E. congregation in the town of Ellery, met at West Ellery meeting house in pursuance of an act providing for the incorporation of religious societies, the members present qualified who nominated unaminously John Akers (pastor) and Henry Martin for said congregation to preside at said elction. Thomas D. Wallis was then unanimously nominated president of said meeting. John Akers and Henry Martin do certify that we opened the meeting and presided over the same and do return Peter Brownell, James Pickard 2nd and Henry Martin, elected by plurality of votes to serve as Trustees for the M.E. church of New York thus reorganized April 28, 1860.

T.S. Bly, Clerk

By Mrs.  
Blinn  
W.  
Pickett

Maple Springs: The West Ellery church, the oldest in the town, is being torn down, thus removing an old landmark. It was taken over by Thomas Van Wert in 1939.

On. November 12, 1821, a Methodist-Episcopal Society was formed at the home of Joseph Loucks in West Ellery for the purpose of holding worship until a church could be built.

On May 24, 1860, a meeting was held with Robert Lazell acting as chairman to dispose a mortgage on the "gospel lot" in order to create a building fund. One-half of this money was to start the building of a church, and one-half was to be used in building a parsonage, which, incidentally, was built in Bemus Point, and is the same one used by the Methodist pastor today.

Early leaders recalled: On April 23, 1860, Thomas Van Wert deeded one-half acre of his farm to the Methodist society for a church site with provision that the land revert to the Van Wert family when and if the church were discontinued. It is now owned by Wakefield Van Wert, a great-grandson of the original owner. The church was built between 1860 and 1864.

Some of the early pastors who served the church and later the churches at Pickard Hill and Fluvanna were: Rev. John Ackers, T.W. Warner, 1871-72; Rev. Todd, Rev. P. Burroughs, 1875; Rev. Parker, Rev. Thomas Wilder, Rev. Brockway, J.G. Genader, J.K. Whippo, R.A. Parsons, S.T. Davidson.

Some of the early trustees and class leaders and clerks were: B.B. Hoag, John D. Klock, Peter Loucks, James Pickard, Peter R. Brownell, William Brownell and Earl Scofield. Dr. Earl Scofield, a cheese maker in West Ellery at first and later a physician in Bemus Point will be best remembered as a class leader.

One pastor served three M.E. churches which formed the circuit. The church was closed to worship about 1894 and the names of the members transferred to the Bemus Point M.E. church which was built about that time. Sunday School, however, was carried on for some years later. Some of the early Sunday School Supts. were Mrs. Cornelia Brown, Chas. Hoag, Mrs. Adelbert Rew and Mrs. Ada L. Clark.

## Ellery

Maple  
Springs  
May 23,  
1934

Rev F.D. Fuller, pastor of the Chrstain Church of Dewittville, is holding services at the West Ellery Church Sunday afternoon with a good attendance. Regular services have not been held in this church for a good many years. Various evangelists and pastors of local churches have held a series of meetings from time to time and Sunday School has been held there a good many summers. The first services at West Ellery were held at the home of John Putnam in the year 1808. The first church was built in 1831 and dedicated by the Baptist, but later it was turned over to the M.E. denomination. The present building was erected in 1860 at a cost of \$1,750.00 and dedicated free from debt. At that time it was filled each Sunday for the service, standing room being at a premium in those days. The church ceased to function as a regular church in the eighties. The church was closed to worchip about 1898 and the names of the members were transferred to the Bemus Point Methodist church. In 1909, the Trustees, Earl W. Brownell, Mrs Izora E. Thompson and Frank Clark sold the building to the community for \$100.00. So-cial gatherings, home talent plays and West Ellery School Christmas exercises were held here from time to time. In the early days it was the social center of the town, as it was the first church built in Ellery.

County  
Court  
Records

State of New York: This indenture made the thirteenth day of April in the year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred and thirty-six, between John A. Cadwell of Ellery and county aforesaid of the first part, and Elihu Carpenter, Jacob Rowland, Adam Weatherwax, Trustees of the Episcopal Methodist West Society of Ellery in the county aforesaid, of the second part, witness that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the covenants and agreements hereinafter mentioned and contained; On the part of said party of the second part and their Successors in Office, to be observed and performed, hath demised, leased and to certain piece or parcel of land and by their presents let unto the said party of the second part and to their successors in office, all that certain piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the town of Ellery and county aforesaid and bounded as follows: Beginning three chains and thirty-seven links north from the southeast of lot fifty-nine in township No. 3, Range 12 of the Holland Land Company survey, thence west one chain on a line parallel to the south line of said lot, thence north eightly-seven links on a line parallel to the east line of said lot, thence wast one chain on a line parallel to the south line of said lot to the east line of said lot and center of a road running north on the east line of said lot along said road eighty-seven links to the place of beginning, containing thirteen rods, ninety-two hundredths of a rod, be the same more or less; Together with all and singular the benefits, liberties and privileges to the said premises. Belonging: to have and to hold the said demised premises with the appurtenance unto the said party of the second part and their successors in office for and during the full time and ter m of years next ensuing that the said party of the second part shall well and truly occupy and keep the above described piece or parcel of land as a site for the meeting of the Episcopal Methodist church Society of West Ellery there, being a house on said premises belonging to said society, and it

Ellery

County  
Court  
Records

(Cont'd. from page 2) is further covenanted and agreed that if it shall at any time hereafter happen that the party of the second part or their successors shall remove said house or cause said house to be removed and discontinue the aforesaid piece or parcel of same as a site for a meeting house for the Episcopal Methodist Society, that then and in such case, it shall and may be lawful for the said party of the first part, his heirs and assigns, to re-enter the said premises and the same to have again, repossess and enjoy as his or their former estate fully, freely, and absolutely, without any impediment or molestation or interruption whatever name or nature.

As witness, our hands and seals the day and year first above written.  
Signed, sealed in the presence of Elias Clark, John Cadwell  
S.S.

County  
Clerks  
Records

M.E. Society of West Ellery--Dec. 2nd, 1839: A meeting in the home for worship belonging to the M.E. Society of West Ellery, County of Chautauqua, State of New York, met for the purpose of reorganizing said society according to the statutes for religious corporations. Present: Elihu Carpenter, Justus W. Olmsted, Jacob Rowland, Isaac Jackson, Henry John Moore said Harry J. Moore pastor and Elihu Carpenter, officers of said society, were chosen judges. It was resolved on motion that the name of said society shall be changed and be henceforth denominated the First Society of the Methodist-Episcopal church in West Ellery. Trustees were then chosen as follows:

Isaac Jackson, Jacob Rowland, Elihu Carpenter.

The meeting then adjourned to the first monday in December, 1840.

In presence of  
Isaac Jackson

Harry John Moore  
Elihu Carpenter

No  
Source  
Given

State of New York  
Chautauqua County

On the 12th day of September, 1850, personally came before me, Ira Haskins, a justice of the peace of said county John A. Cadwell to me known to be the person same who executed the written lease and acknowledged that he sigend, sealed and delivered the written lease for the uses and purposes therein expressed. Ira Haskins, J.P.

Chautauqua County Ls. Recordes June 9, A.D. 1854 at 1:00 PM.  
R. Olween, Clerk.

No  
Source  
Given

M.E. Church of the town of Ellery, etc, which was first organized Nov. 12, 1821, and John Bently Jr. and David Loucks were chosen judges and John B. Klock, James Pickard and John Rice Jr. were elected Trustees, met in the West Ellery Meeting House for the incorporation of said congregation John Askers, pastor and Henry Martin to preside; Thomas D. Wallis, secretary. Peter Brownell, James Pickard and Henry Martin, trustees.

21st day of April, 1860

Ellery

County  
Court  
Records

Agreeable to public notice legally given to the congregation for the first society of the M.E. church of West Ellery, county of Chautauqua, State of New York, met at West Ellery meeting house for the purpose of organizing said society according to the statutes for religious corporation. The members present, qualified voters, unanimously nominated John Akers and Robert Lazells as judges to preside at said meeting. We, John Akers and Robert Lazells do certify that we opened the election and presided over the same and do return Robert Lazells, Alonzo Fulton, and Peter Brownell, elected by plurality of votes, to serve as trustees for the society aforesaid and the said persons then and there determine by the like plurality of vote that the said trustees and their successors should forever hereafter be called and known by the name or title of the Trustees of the First Society of the M.E. church of West Ellery.

Witness our hands and seal this day of March in the year of our Lord One Thousand eight-hundred and sixty. 1860

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Wed. Mar.  
10, 1884

There is to be a dramatic entertainment at the West Ellery church on Friday evening of this week, the proceeds to be used for repairing the church.

No  
Source  
Given

Feb. 12, 1890: An entertainment was given in the West Ellery church as a benefit to raise funds for purchasing an organ for the church. Admission was 15 cents. Miss Carrie Green was the soloist and Miss Edna Hoag the reader. Two plays were given--"In the Enemy's Camp" and "The Duchess of Dublin." In the cast were: Wayland Kazer, George Barnes, Martin Furlow, Charles Brewster, Cyrus Carpenter, Earl W. Brownell, Frank Clark, Grace Hayes, Belle Carpenter, Frank Stowell, Harry Eddy, Marion Ingerson, Laura Putnam, Mrs. Izora Thompson, Minnie Barnes and Belle Brewster.

1873-4

The M.E. church at Pickard Hill was organized in 1830 with Rev. C. Ayres as the first pastor. In 1871, they united with the United Brethren and built a Union church at a cost of \$3,000.00. It will seat 300 persons and is owned and occupied jointly by both societies. The society numbers twenty-two members. Their pastors is Rev. T.P. Warner.

By  
Abraham  
Pickard

The U.B. church at Pickard Hill was organized in 1869 by the first pastor, Rev. Alanson McIntre, with eight members. In 1871, this church and the M.E. Society of Pickard Hill united for the purpose of building a union church as stated above. There are twenty-two members who are under the pastoral care of Rev. Job Miller. The church was dedicated Nov. 12, 1872, by Prof. Marvin of Meadville, Pa. Rev. P. Burroughs is the present Methodist pastor. Information furnished by Abraham Pickard. Church was torn down in 1932.

Ellery

Bemus Point Dec. 6, 1897

The 11th quarterly Sunday school convention of the town of Ellery will be held at Pickard Hill church Saturday, Dec. 11th. An interesting and profitable program will be given, closing in the evening with an illustrated lecture by C.C. Hunt, entitled "The Footsteps of Jesus." A good attendance is hoped for.

The following comprise the officers: President, Dr. E.A. Scofield; Vice President Mrs. Helen M. Hale; Secretary, George M. Hale, Treasurer, Wm. O. Brownell. Officers will be elected at this meeting.

Report of the meeting: Newly elected officers are Dr. Earl A. Scofield, President; G.W. Hotchkiss, Vice President; George M. Hale, Secretary; and Mrs. Belle Pickard, Treasurer.

The 12th quarterly convention will be held at Bemus Point in March, 1898.

James-town Evng. Jrnl.

Feb. 14, 1905: A social for the benefit of the Pickard Street Church will be held with Mr. and Mrs. John F. Pickard on Wed. Eve, February 15; all are cordially invited to attend.

James-town Evng. Jrnl.

June 2, 1897: Ellery, May 31--The Sunday School in the Lenox District was reorganized Sunday, May 23, and the following officers elected: Superintendent, Mrs. Ida Book; Asst. Supt., Luther J. Furlow; Secretary, Lyda Hoaglund; Treasurer, Gertie Rhodes; Chorister, Lena Johnson.

Ellery

1873-4

The Baptist church at Ellery Center was organized with nine members in 1814, by Elder Asa Turner, the first pastor. The first house of worship was erected in 1830, the present one in 1862 at a cost of \$2,000.00. It will seat 500 persons. There are 100 members. The pastor is Rev. C.C. McKintosh. The church property is valued at \$5,000.00. This church has a balcony.

County  
Clerks  
Records

Lot 25, Township 3, Range 12, bounded by: Beginning on the east line of said number twenty five...at the distance of twenty-five chains, forty-one links South from the northeast corner thereof, thence north, bounding on Lot No. 17, 3 chains to a stake and stones, thence west eighty-five links to a sugar maple tree five inches in diameter, thence north ninety-seven links to a stake and stones, thence west on a line parallel to the north line of said Lot No. 25, twenty-one chains, sixty one links to the center of the Dutch Hollow Road, thence south forty-five degrees east along the center of main Road five chains, sixty-one links to a post and thence east on a line parallel to the south line of the land hereby conveyed twenty-three chains, fifty links to the place of beginning, containing ten acres of land be the same more or less. Between Norman Vandusen and Mary his wife of Chaut. County, N.Y. etc. and Clark Parker, Seeley Strong, Isaac N. Baldwin, Thomas Parker and Jacob R. Burnell, Trustees of the First Chautauqua Baptist Society of the Town of Ellery in the Co. of Chaut., etc. and their successors in office, consideration \$300.00 in the sixteenth day of August, 1852.

Account  
of Mrs.  
Josephine  
Parker

Ellery Center Baptist: This is what Mrs. Josephine Parker, who was born at Ellery Center, told me about the first Baptist church there. It was an old church when she attended as a young girl. It would seat about 200 persons, the pulpit was a box-like affair with a door which closed the preacher in; the pews also had doors.

Mrs. Parker thought it quite an honor as a child to sit by the pew door so that she could reach over and button it on the outside. Heated like the West Ellery Church, the pews were also placed along the sides of this old Baptist Church, with doors and a step up to get into them. There were also high windows.

Elder Varnum preached there for ten years, before the new church was built in 1862. Across the back, opposite the pulpit, were what were then called the Singer's seats, reached from the main aisle by three steps up, the men singers going up the right hand aisle, the women going up the left.

Soon after the other church was built, this church was bought by Jim Hamilton, and used for a wagon shop, the upper part being built over for living quarters. Oliver Pickard bought it of Hamilton and used it for a sawmill. Josephine Parker thought that the building burned some years later. She said it stood south of the present church which was built in 1862.

Ellery

No  
Source  
Given

Tues. May 17, 1938-- Maple Springs Community church observes the 25th anniversary of its founding by six charter members. The Maple Springs Sunday School was organized the first Sunday of January, 1913, by Oscar S. Lang, who also organized a boy's club. There were 30 present at the time of organization.

Mr. Lang was elected superintendent and Mrs. Borworth assistant. Interest ran high and attendance ran as high as 44 on some Sundays. Some have thought the Maple Springs Ladies Aid society, which was organized in Dec. of 1908 was the real starter of this church, but it is felt that the Sunday School is really the parent thereof. It was not until the Sunday School had been organized some weeks that the need of a church service was made apparent. It was in May of that year that Rev. George B. Carr organized the church, although he had been holding services for nearly two months.

This church is a union of various denominations, yet there has been always a fine spirit of cooperation displayed by the membership and often commented on by the pastor.

The first officers of the church were: Clerk, Mrs. Leah H. Haskins; Treasurer, Leslie A. Wood; Advisory Committee to the pastor, Mrs. C.O. Bosworth and Mrs. Charles A. Weaver; Trustees, O.S. Lang, A.D. Rew and Frank Warner.

In 1915, a canvas was made for church members. May 2, 1915, was designated as church membership day and 15 people were received into membership by Rev. Mr. Carr on profession of faith and by letter.

The church building: In early November of 1908, twelve women met at the home of Mrs. C.O. Bosworth to form a Ladies' Aid Society. Mrs. Ida Weaver was chosen the first president. After three years of faithful work, they had raised \$100.00. They first thought of buying a tent for Sunday School purposes, as a Sunday School had been started in the grove sometime before.

As a result of this discussion, John H. Prather and Everett Johnson gave the lot on which the church stands. Subscriptions of money and labor were solicited until enough was available for a building.

B.A. Arnold, a summer resident, was head carpenter. In 1911, the building was put up and was called an Assembly Hall, for all social purposes.

Aid Society Deeds Church: Rev. James W. Frampton was the pastor from 1928 to 1930. Rev. E.H. Jones came to the pastorate in 1930 and stayed five years. It was during his pastorate that the Ladies Aid Society deeded the church to the church Society (June, 1931). It was, as is stated above, erected in 1911 for community purposes, and the front added in 1925. The building was dedicated June 27, Rev. John Lee Buck preaching the sermon and Rev. J.W. Frampton preaching in the evening. Rev. Mr. Jones had charge of the whole affair.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Oct. 27,  
1911

The Swedish Lutheran Congregation organized by Rev. Bowman in Ellery has now seventy members in all. At a meeting held October 2, it was decided to build a church.

Ellery

Jamestown  
Journal  
July 2,  
1912

Ellery Center: Cornerstone of new Swedish church laid. Many are looking forward to the erection of the Swedish Lutheran church which is being built. The cornerstone is to be laid today at 10 o'clock, followed by a picnic in Oscar Johnson's grove. Doris Benson, reporter.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
July 5,  
1912

Ellery people to erect church: Cornerstone of proposed building laid by Vice President of New York Conference. There are a large number of Swedish people residing in the town of Ellery who have been without a church of their own since settling in that town. Services from time to time have been held in the homes of the people and in the school-houses. Rev. Bowman of Mayville has served those of the Lutheran faith. Sometime ago, a movement was started to erect a church at Ellery Center and sufficient funds have been raised to start the work, with the expectation that the edifice will be ready for occupancy late this year or early in the new year. The cornerstone for the new church was laid with fitting ceremony Saturday morning at 10 o'clock by Rev. Julius Lincoln, pastor of the First Lutheran Church of Jamestown and Vice President of the New York Conference of the Lutheran Churches of America. Dr. Lincoln was assisted by Rev. Mr. Bowman of Mayville and Rev. E.F. Bergen of Falconer.

Jamestown  
Journal  
Tues. May  
13, 1913

Swedish Lutherans of Ellery Center dedicated house of worship with appropriate exercises today. The dedication of the new Swedish church here today brought a distinguished gathering of clergymen and prominent Swedish citizens to this place. The church is a handsome little edifice built by the untiring efforts of Rev. Eric Bowman of Mayville, who has been doing mission work here and finally took Ellery Center as a regular pastoral assignment some time ago. The work was begun over a year ago, and the cornerstone laid in 1912. The completed edifice was dedicated today, the ceremony being performed by Rev. L.H. Beck of Kane, Pa., President of the New York Conference of the Swedish Lutheran Church. The services began at 11 AM and were continued this afternoon and there will be an address and special music services this evening. Other clergymen present included Rev. Dr. Julius Lincoln of the First Lutheran church of Jamestown, and Rev. Felix V. Hanson of the Swedish Lutheran Immanuel church of Jamestown, Rev. Emil F. Bergren of Falconer Swedish Lutheran Church, Rev. Eric Bowman of the Mayville and Ellery Center churches and several clergymen from Buffalo and vicinity. The church starts with exceptionally bright prospects for a rural church, with a strong and united congregation. With the edifice well-financed and the debt not so large but that it can be handled comfortably, and with a growing Sunday School and church societies. The people of Ellery are to be congratulated on having so good a work done for the benefit and uplift of the community.

Ellery

Church Members ("As told me by Mrs. Olander") Church members of the Ellery Center Lutheran Church:  
Albert Adelgrin  
Mr. and Mrs. Axel Carlson  
Theodore Colander and family  
Joseph Ehman and daughter  
Charles Frederickson  
Charles Halberg and family  
Charles Johnson and family  
Axel Lawson  
John Nelson and wife  
Olof Samuelsons

and Oscar Johnson (and children), who solicited among Swedish people for funds to build the church. The work was done by the members; Clarence Carlson was head carpenter.

This church had chairs instead of pews.

The church building was sold to Arthur Peterson in 1933 who remodeled it into a home. The organ from the church went to Mrs. John Olander.

No Source Given The Methodist church of Bemus Point was not built until several years after the organization of the society. Services were held in the Universalist church which was not, at that time, being used by its members, there being no regular pastor in charge.

Jamest. Journal Nov. 23, 1897 The new Methodist church (Bemus Point) is rapidly nearing completion and will be an ornament to our village. The new church is shingled and the carpenters are presently putting on the clapboards. The Universalist church has also been recently shingled.

Jamest. Journal Tues. Feb. 15, 1898 Church Dedicated: The New Edifice Occupied by the Methodist at Bemus Point:  
At Bemus Point Sunday, the fine new church built by the Methodist denomination was dedicated with a large attendance both morning and evening. Rev. Dr. E.B. Patterson of this city preached the morning service at 10:30. After the sermon, he stated that there was still a debt of \$1,200.00 which it was desired to raise. Before the close of the morning service, the whole amount was pledged through Dr. Patterson's efforts. The total cost was about \$2,300.00. The church is heated by a furnace, has opera chairs and comfortable furniture and a bell as well. Sunday evening, the formal dedication occurred. Rev. Dr. W. P. Graham, presiding elder of this district, preached the dedicatory sermon.

Ellery

1873-4

The First Universalist church of Ellery was organized with Twenty-three members by Lewis C. Todd, the first pastor, Oct. 13, 1817. Their house of worship was erected in 1858 at a cost of \$1,500.00 and will seat 400 persons. The society numbers fifteen members. Its property is valued at \$5,000.00.

Chaut.  
Democrat  
Sept. 22  
1858

By A.W. Anderson, City Historian, Jamestown, New York. Dedication of a new Universalist Church: The new Universalist church, erected this season at Bemus Point, was dedicated Wed. Morning of last week (Sept. 15th). The service commenced with presentation of a copy of the Bible to the society by Rev. E.W. Reynolds, on behalf of the ladies, and a response by the Rev. Isaac George as pastor of the church. The dedicatory sermon and prayer were pronounced by the pastor, assisted in the accompanying services by Rev. E.W. Reynolds. The religious exercises were continued until Thursday afternoon. Two discussions being delivered by Rev. E.W. Reynolds and the same number by Rev. O.B. Clark of Busti.

Meetings for social conference and prayer were held Wednesday AM and Thursday AM.

The congregation attending these services was very large, greatly exceeding the capacity of the church, and an extraordinary interest and zeal characterized the occasion.

We learn that several more Universalist edifices are being erected in the this county, and that the religious interest in this denomination was never so great as at present.

---Kindness of Rev. Dr. Taylor, pastor of the Universalist church of Bemus Point, in lending the paper for me to copy. 1940

Chautauqua

County  
Court  
Records

Dewittville, Chautauqua, New York: April 18, 1837  
Met pursuant to appointment and proceeded to form a Baptist Society as follows first by signing our names to a constitution then presented, in which constitution the Society is known as the first regular Baptist Society of Dewittville, second, by calling in Elder A.S. Jones and Deacon Job Arnold to receive the votes, third, by electing A.S. Jones president for one year, fourth, by electing the Trustees as follows: Viz. Charles Arnold for three years, Hiram Chapman for two years, and John O. Harris for one year, fifth, by electing Job Arnold as secretary for one year; voted to adjourn. The above nominations and appointments approved by us in conformation, whereof we set our hands and seals.

S.S.  
A.S. Jones, President and  
Church Pastor  
Job Arnold, Secretary

Chaut. County Ls 3

H.H. Lebarren, Subscribing  
Witness on this 29th day  
of June, 1844

Personally came before me, Henry H. Lebarren of Ellery, to me personally known, who being by me duly sworn, did dispose and say that he knew A.S. Jones and Job Arnold who are described in the attached minutes of the formation of the first regular Baptist Society in Dewittville and who executed the same in his presence, that he subscribed his name as a witness to the execution thereof, and that his own place of residence is in the town of Ellery in said county.

Jefsee Brooks, J.P.  
Chautauqua County L.S.  
Recorded June 29, 1844 at 2 o'clock PM  
Alvin Plumb, Clerk

Chautauqua

County  
Court  
Records

1869: Leman (written "Susan" in an otherwise identical account) Pickett, Henry H. Lebarren and Carey Russell, Trustees of the First Baptist church of Dewittville in Chautauqua County, etc., of the first part, and Anna Miles, Abraham B. Smith and Seeley Scofield, Trustees of the First M.E. Church in Dewittville, County of Chautauqua, State of New York aforesaid and their successors in office of the second part, consideration of the sum of \$300.00 to them duly paid have sold and by their presents do grant and convey to the said party of the second part and their successors in office, all that tract or parcel of land situate in the town of Chautauqua as distinguished as part of Lot. No. 14 in the third township in the 13th range of the Holland Land Company Survey.  
Recorded Oct. 20, 1886

A.B. Van Namee, Justice of  
the Peace

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Jan. 7,  
1885

Hartfield Items: Last Saturday the old Baptist meeting-house at Dewittville was being moved to be converted into a blacksmith shop. It was raised upon runners about eight inches wide, and was being drawn by thirteen teams urged on by whip and voice, when Thomas Flanders, a man of over 60 years, fell beneath the building which was dragged over him half its length before a halt could be made. He was not injured. The church was moved with contents.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Anniver-  
sary Edn.  
Dec. 13,  
1934

From the old county records, we find some interesting history relating to early churches. In relation to the Baptist, there is a certificate on record signed by Zacherus Hanchett and William Smith Jr. showing that a meeting previously and duly notified for the purpose of organizing a religious society was held at the court house in the village of Mayville on the 12th day of November, 1821. It was decided to organize a religious society by the name and title of Baptist-Presbyterian-Congregational Joint Religious Society of Mayville, and that Zacheus Hanchett, Artemus Hearich, Russell Morgan, Jedediah Tracy, Elijah Wood, John Dexter, Anselm Potter, David Johnson and William Smith Jr. were chosen Trustees thereof.

This might seem to be what so many believe should prevail in all denominations--unity--but it evidently was not of long duration, and how could it be, with churches holding such wide differences in belief. According to the public records, we find that on the 2nd day of July in the year of Our Lord 1822, the male persons of full age belonging to the First Baptist Church and Society in the town of Chautauqua, in pursuance of 15 days previous notice, convened at the court house in the town of Chautauqua for the purpose of forming a religious society and then and there elected Zacheus Hanchett, Russel Morgan and David Johnson Trustees and declared then they should thereafter be known as the First Baptist Church and Society in the town of Chautauqua. The certificate was executed by David Johnson and Elijah Wood.

## Chautauqua

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Dec. 13,  
1934

The First Baptist church of Mayville was organized as the Chautauqua Baptist Church February 7th, 1820. May 27, 1827, it changed its name to the Mayville Baptist Church.

It began with twenty-five members, seventeen of whom had been baptized the previous day, February 6th, by Elder Jonathan Wilson, missionary of the Shaftsbury board, Vermont.

Representatives from churches in Fredonia, Ellery, and Stockton together with Elder Wilson formed the council of recognition and Deacon John Putnam of Stockton was moderator.

In 1828, trouble came; the church was divided over Free Masonry. Twenty-five withdrew and held separate services under Elder Turner. The seceders reverted to the original name and claimed to be the original church. This provoked a controversy which was settled in favor of the Mayville church under Elder Handy by a council meeting April 30, 1829.

Young's  
History  
1875

A Baptist church was formed in Chautauqua in 1808. John Putnam, David Atkins, Edmund Jones, John Park, Miles Scofield, Sabra Putnam, Hannah Park, Abigail Scofield and Sally Scofield met at John Putnam's, near Chautauqua Lake, 2½ miles south of Dewittville, with a view to the organization of a church, which was organized the 10th of October. In February of 1817, the church was geographically divided by a line running due east from the lake. This left John Putnam in the First Church of Chautauqua.

In July, Mr. Putnam was ordained deacon. In April of 1821, after the town of Stockton had been formed from Chautauqua, the name of the church was changed to The First Church of Stockton, its present name, and the schoolhouse in District No. 1 was established as the regular place for meetings of the church. Among the early members of the church were: Henry Walker, Shadrach Scofield, David Knowlton, David Waterbury, Almon Ives, Epenetus Winsor, John McCallister, and Elisha Tower. In October following, the inhabitants of this school-district and vicinity were organized under the act of legislature as The First Baptist Congregational Society of Stockton, being one of the first two religious societies of the town. Because of this distinction, it became entitled to 50 acres of land from the Holland Land Company.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Sept. 6,  
1934

Point Chautauqua: The Baptist started the community and, for a number of years, maintained a tabernacle which was located on the north side of the town. This building has disappeared.

There was a fine hotel built on a site north of the grounds which are now used for baseball. Visitors came from all parts of America. The hotel was known from far and near; however, an unfortunate fire destroyed it around 1905.

Chautauqua

County  
Clerks  
Office

Oct. 14, 1853: Trustees of the Christian Church at Dewittville:  
Abner B. Van Namee, William M. Sumner and James Frisbee.

By  
Church  
Historian

The Christian Church at Dewittville was organized with fifteen members on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 1853, by Rev. E.H. Mosher, the first pastor, and E.H. Holliday. This church edifice, which would seat 300 people, was erected a year later in 1854, at a cost of \$1,600.00.

In the year of 1928, a basement was made under the church and a furnace installed and the interior redecorated as well.

In June of 1944, new stained-glass windows were purchased and early in 1945, a new electric organ was purchased along with new chairs for the choir.

January of 1947 saw four new Sunday School rooms made available from the upper rooms of the church.

It was an old landmark, and its tall steeple spire could be seen for many miles, nestled back among the maple trees. It had an atmosphere of quietness and peace.

In 1937, the church denomination was changed from Dewittville Christian to Dewittville United Brethren.

On January 24, 1948, the church burned, and in 1949 a new church was ready for its first services in the auditorium (cost: \$41,000.00).

Charter members of the old Christian church were:

Amy Cook	Mrs. Franklyn Leet
Fanny Carpenter	Lizzie Leet
Parker W. Flanders	Seth Scofield
Alice Haviland	Jane Summee
William Haviland	A.B. Van Namee
Azariah Ingerson	Julia A. Van Warner
Susan Ingerson	Mary J. William
Elsie Leet	Harriet J. Wood
Emma Leet	Sarah M. Wood

Post-  
Journal  
August 6,  
1955

Chautauqua Institute Congregational: In 1878, one hundred and thirty Congregationalist responded to the call to join the Chautauqua movement. Among the prominent leaders during the 1800's were the Congregational Patriarch, Dr. Lyman Abott, a national figure, editor of the Outlook; and Mark Hopkins, president of Williams College. In 1880, Congregationalists used a tent for services on the land where the present headquarters and chapel are located, on Roberts Clark and Bowman Avenues, until in 1883, the first denominational house on the grounds (Congregational) was built. The present headquarters building and chapel were erected in 1931 to replace the original frame structure. The association acquired the Mayflower House in 1927 (at Bowman and South Terrace Avenues).

Chautauqua

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Wed. AM  
May 8,  
1881

Cornerstone of St. George Chapel laid Tuesday Last. Style to be Gothic, 20 x 40 feet; will seat 100 to 125 persons. The chancel will be a recess measuring 15 feet by 16 feet. Extending from the church will be an L, or annex, containing a Sunday School room 16 by 20 feet, a vestry room and store room. The whole interior is to be finished in natural woods, the ceiling and walls are to be of chestnut. Under the nave and chancel is a fine cellar 7½ feet high. This will be used to hold the heating furnaces and also for storing the winter supply of wood. Roomy porches will be put in front of the main building and Sunday School room. A bell will be provided, and everything necessary for comfort and convenience.

No  
Source  
Given

Cornerstone of St. George's Chapel laid by Rev. Charles W. Hayes of Westfield, acting as deputy for the Bishop.

No  
Source  
Given

Wed. Dec. 27, 1882: The Episcopal Chapel at Hartfield, which has been in the course of construction for some time, was completed last week and the first services were held on Monday to a large congregation. This chapel is the gift of Mrs. Foster of Oil City, and the parish and society feel deeply grateful to her for her thoughtful generosity. A new organ for use by the church is on the way and is expected soon.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Oct. 24,  
1883

Hartfield Items: The boys do not behave as well as they might in the vicinity of St. George's Chapel when there are evening meetings. There was much wonder in certain quarters when the Chapel was built what the cellar was for. A church having no vegetables to store, it must be for some sort of Inquisitorial purpose. If a young Inquisition could be organized there and some of these youngsters run through it a few times, it might not be a bad idea.

Sentinel  
Dec. 17,  
1884

Rehearsals of Sacred music are given every Saturday Evening at St. George's Chapel which are open to the public. Miss King presides at the organ, and the church is in Holiday attire.

Sentinel  
April 30,  
1890

Hartfield: A fine antique oak Baptismal font has been presented to St. George's Chapel by the Society of the Calvary Church in Titusville, Pennsylvania, with the following inscription:  
"In loving remembrance of Olive M. King Died September 11, 1888."

Jamestown  
Evng. Jnl.  
Aug. 11,  
1906

Hartfield: An item is going the rounds to the effect that St. George's Chapel at Hartfield is to be moved to Bemus Point by water, on a raft or on the ice next winter. The following version of an old hymn is offered to be sung at the launching:  
You are all invited now to embark, On board the old ship, the ancient ark.  
She was builded at Hartfield, and from use was long free,  
Now has come into the harbor for you and for me: Come with us, come with us,  
Come all who want, And we'll sail together for fair Bemus Point.

Chautauqua

County  
Court  
Records

April 3rd, 1884: Between Sarah E. Macfarlane, wife of Peter Macfarlane late of Mayville, N.Y., now of Grand Rapids, Michigan of the first part, and Trustees of the Parochial Fund of the Protestant-Episcopal church in the Dioceses of Western New York Corporation, consideration one dollar, hath bargained, sold, remised and quit-claimed to the party of the second part and to its assigns forever, all that tract or parcel of land situate in the town of Chautauqua and County of Chautauqua, being part of Lot No. 4 and 5 in the Holland Land Company Survey of the village of Mayville, bounded on the north by land deeded to Emma Babcock by Hiram A. Pratt; on the southwest by Valley Street, on the south by a line parallel to the first mentioned line and one chain distant therefrom, and on the Northeast by a line parallel to Valley Street and two chains and fifty links distant therefrom. Being one chain in front on Valley Street and extending back that width to a depth of two chains fifty links. Being the same premises described in two deeds, the one from Peter Macfarlane and wife to Henry Sixby, dated January 25, 1883, recorded in Chaut. County Clerk's Office in book 188 of deeds on page 234; the other from Herman Sixby and wife to Sarah Macfarlane dated January 25, 1883, recorded in said office, book 189 of deeds on page 561.

To have and to hold said premises to the said corporation upon the following trusts and for the following uses and purposes and not otherwise. Viz. to be used for a building and appurtenance for a day school and Sunday School in which shall be imparted instruction both religious and secular and especially in the doctrines and teachings of the Protestant-Episcopal Church in the United States of America and for public worship and for other religious uses according to the doctrines and disciplines and in conformity with the canons, rites, and uses of said church. Instruction and worship in said building to be under the direction and control of the rector and wardens of St. Paul's Church at Mayville, but granting, nevertheless to said Trustees of the Parochial Fund the right to sell and convey at any time the above granted premises by and with the consent of the vestry of the parish of St. Paul's Church of Mayville. The proceeds of such sale to be invested in other similar property in the village of Mayville to be conveyed to said Trustees upon similar trusts and with power aforesaid. Sarah E. Macfarlane, L.S.

W.H. Tennant, Notary Public

April 9, 1884

Mayville  
Sentinel  
July  
1870

Mayville: The German church of this place lately erected on Elm Street will be dedicated to the service of thee Thine God on Sunday the 7th of August next.

Divine service will be held on Saturday evening previous, when Rev. C.F. Botter of Dunkirk will preach a preparatory sermon. Dedication sermon and ceremonies on Sunday Forenoon by the P.E. Rev. M.P. Fitzinger of Lyons, New York. English preaching in the forenoon at half-past 2 o'clock by Rev. H. Graves of Wayland, New York. We cordially invite all lovers of Jesus to unite with us in the petition

Chautauqua

- Mayville  
Sentinel  
July  
1870
- (Cont'd. from page 16) that not only the little German church, but also the hearts of the German people may be dedicated to Almighty God, and expect our English friends to join with us in worship, especially when services will be conducted in the language which they understand.
- Rev. C.L. Witt
- Mayville  
Sentinel  
Wed. Aug.  
10, 1870
- The new German church on Elm Street in this village was consecrated on Sunday last, several German ministers from abroad being present. A debt of some \$300.00 was nearly paid up by contributions during the morning and afternoon services. The small balance of about \$40.00 should be raised among our citizens so that the church may start free from debt.
- Dec. 8,  
1880
- The weight of snow caused the cave-in of the German church sheds on Elm Street last night.
- Sentinel  
Wed. Eve.  
Aug. 10,  
1887
- The German United Evangelical Protestant church property was sold on mortgage on Saturday last. Joseph Zens and others being the purchasers of this property on West Evans Street.
- 1955
- This church is now being used for a garage, corner of Elm and Blanchard, Mayville.
- Atlas  
1811-  
1881
- Mayville-- St. Peter's German United Evangelical Protestant church was organized with 20 members in 1871 by Rev. O. Shroder. The house of worship was erected that same year.
- Mayville  
Sentinel  
Wed. Mor.  
Aug. 16,  
1871
- Another German church: The Germans of this vicinity have purchased grounds on Valley Street at the corner of the N.K. Whitney Alley, where they propose to erect a commodious church for their use. They have already raised a considerable sum among their own people and are now making an appeal to their American neighbors.
- Oct. 17,  
1871
- The new German church is being rapidly enclosed and will not be long in being gotten ready for use.
- Sentinel  
Sept. 11,  
1872
- The new German church on Valley Street in this village is to be dedicated on Sunday, Sept. 22. Services will be held at 10:30 AM in German and at 2 PM in English by Rev. Mr. Miller, pastor of the Baptist church. The English friends are cordially invited to be present for the afternoon service.
- 1950
- This church is now built into a home on Valley Street.

## Chautauqua

Mayville  
Sentinel

First Lutheran Church, Mayville--Organized 1870 with about forty charter members. Meetings were held at the old Bemus Hall where also the first services were held. Shortly after the organization, a church site was procured on the corner of Elm and Marvin Streets, overlooking Lake Chautauqua, on which the congregation proceeded to erect a church, which was dedicated June 2, 1872. This is the same structure we occupy today; however, it has several times been remodeled and improved. The annex or parish hall was erected by the Luther League in 1929.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Dec. 13,  
1934

First Lutheran Church organized in 1870:  
The Swedish Lutheran (Evangelical Lutheran) church of Mayville, which name was changed to the First Lutheran Church in 1923, was organized at the old Bemus Hall in Mayville, October 31, 1870, under the constitution of Augustus Synod of Rock Island, Illinois. The organizer was Rev. C.O. Hultgren of Jamestown, New York. The church was dedicated June 2nd, 1872, and the first pastor was Rev. J.W. Kindborg. The church then had about 50 members. The church since has had thirteen pastors besides numbers of students.  
During the summer of 1926, the church rebuilt its towers and put up the church bell, which was a gift from two sisters living in Ellery, New York, as a memorial to their late brother John P. Anderson, who was a good and faithful member of the church.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Aug. 16  
1871

The new Swedish Lutheran Church is being pushed forward with rapidity, the outside being finished and the plastering to be commenced this week. It will be but a few weeks before this class of our population will have a place of worship where the services will be in their own language.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
April 20,  
1886

The Swede people are building a barn and sheds upon their church property, corner of Elm and Marvin.

Chautauqua

Young's  
History  
1875

Dewittville: The first M.E. church of Dewittville was organized with ten members in 1835 by William Gifford. Their house of worship was purchased of the Baptist that same year. The first pastor was Rev. Mr. Burgess.

Court  
Records

We, the undersigned, two members of church and congregation hereinafter mentioned, in which Divine worship is celebrated according to the rites and discipline of the Methodist-Episcopal church, having been nominated by a majority of the members present for the purpose herein (and there being no elders or church wardens) do hereby certify that on the 21st day of June, 1869, the male members of full age, belonging to said church and congregation and not already incorporate, did assemble pursuant to due previous notice at the church edifice, where they statedly attend for Divine worship in the town of Chautauqua in said county and did elect Anna Miles, Abraham B. Smith and Seeley Scofield as trustees to take charge of the estate and property belonging thereto and transact all affairs of the First M.E. Church of Dewittville.

Westfield  
Republican  
May 3,  
1876

The Methodists of Dewittville have given the use of their church to the friends of the Episcopal faith in that vicinity and hereafter, Rev. Macfarlane of Mayville will hold services there each alternate Sabbath at 2 PM, commencing with the last Sabbath, April 30th.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
April 21,  
1880

The M.E. church at Dewittville have quarterly meetings services next Saturday and Sunday. There will be no services in the church here Sunday or Monday. In the evening, Rev. S.N. Clover of Brocton is expected to be present.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Wed. Eve.  
Mar. 26,  
1884

M.E. quarterly meetings at Dewittville next Saturday and Sunday. Elder J.C. Scofield will conduct the services.

Chautauqua

Jamestown  
Journal  
Thurs.  
Sept. 8,  
1892

The M.E. society of this place, who have been so long dependent on the courtesy of the Christian church for a place of worship, have at length determined to build for themselves. They do not need a large, elegant church, but hope to erect for \$1,000.00 a building which will meet all requirements. The project is little more than two weeks old, but the subscription list already amounts to \$900.00 beside material for foundation, team work and other labor.

A building spot has also been donated. With this substantial encouragement, those who have the matter in charge feel justified in beginning work at once, and builders have nearly completed their plans and estimates.

Sept. 14

Dewittville: Two hundred dollars have been added to the subscription list of the M.E. building fund. A mistaken idea prevails that the entire desired sum has been raised. Enough has been obtained to erect the edifice, but as the building will be completed this fall, money will be needed to furnish the church, and all who desire to contribute stone for the church foundation are requested to do so immediately.

Liber  
258  
Page  
568

Dec. 5th, 1892: Between Helen S. Allen of Dewittville etc. of the first part and Seeley Scofield, Abram B. Smith and Clarence J. Ingerson, Trustees of the M.E. church of Dewittville, etc. of the second part, witness therefore that the party of the first part, consideration \$100.00 in hand do convey all that tract or parcel of land situate in the village of Dewittville, etc., known as Lot No. 14 in the 3rd Township and 13th Range and bounded as follows. Beginning at the Southwest corner of land deeded to Helen Allen by Mary Ann Scofield by deed Dec. 23, 1889, in the center of the road running north and south in Dewittville to the C. & L. R.R. and Chautauqua Lake, thence south along center of said road 36 feet, thence north seventy-nine degrees, west ninety-five feet, thence north thirty-six feet to the south line of land of said Helen S. Allen four feet, east of the northwest corner of land of said Helen Allen, thence east along the south line of said Helen Allen land to the center of the road to the place of beginning, and being same premises conveyed to said party of the first part by Seeley Scofield and Chauty E. Scofield his wife by deed bearing date of Decemeber, to have and to hold unto the said party of the second part, the Trustees of the M.E. church of Dewittville and their successors in office.

Jamestown  
Journal  
Fri. Jan.  
27, 1893

Dewittville, January 25: On Tuesday, January 24, at 10:30 AM, the new Methodist-Episcopal Chapel was dedicated by Rev. J.C. Scofield, presiding elder of the Erie district, assisted by A.C. Bowers, pastor of Mayville charge, and Rev G.A. Williams, pastor of Stockton and Centralia. The impressive dedication services took place in the presence of the assembled congregation. The trustees presented

Chautauqua

Jamestown  
Journal  
Fri. Jan.  
27, 1893

(Cont'd. from page 20) the church, furnished and all indebtedness provided for. Contributions and subscriptions to erect and furnish this church have been generous and too numerous to mention. Among the Jamestown contributors were: J.J. Aldrich, W.E. Griggs, Edward F. Jones and J.L. Sprague. The chapel is half Gothic, painted white with windows of ground glass, surmounted by colored transoms. The audience room is 27 feet by 40 feet, with an aisle six feet wide and a vestibule addition in front, with a six-foot entrance and double doors.

The chancel and woodhouse are added to the rear of the church. The audience room rises to the height of eighteen feet in the center, the arched roof being furnished in corrugated ceiling painted blue. The wall-paper is terra cotta. A high wainscoting is of chestnut, as are also the casings and pews. The pulpit furniture is of oak trimmed with brown plush.

A seating capacity of two hundred has been provided. At the conclusion of the dedication, the pastor, Rev. A.C. Bowers, announced that the next regular service will be held at the chapel Sunday, Feb. 5th and each alternate Sabbath until Further notice.

The church property is valued at \$1,500.00.

No  
Source  
Given

Dewittville, April 19, 1893--The M.E. church lot has been graded and seeded without expense to the society. The gravel and labor have been donated by residents of the village and vicinity.

" "

Dewittville: April 3, 1894--Dewittville M.E. thanks Kings for a gift of \$1,808.00 and also for the liberal gift of numerous individuals which with the amount named above enables them to free the church from debt. The thanks of all who worship in the chapel are due an unknown friend of Buffalo who sent 100 copies of Pentecostal hymns for use by the congregation.

No  
Source  
Given

Dewittville: June 20, 1894--A new Estey organ, handsomely cased and of fine tone, has been placed in the Christian Church. New chairs have also been placed for use of the choir.

" "

Dewittville: August 15, 1894--Through the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. T. C. Wilson, a handsome new bookcase has been provided for the M.E. church. Rev. Bowers is in charge of the purchase of a library which will soon be ready for the use of the Sunday School.

No  
Source  
Given

Dewittville: Aug. 22, 1894--The books have arrived for the M.E. Sunday School.

Chautauqua

No Source  
Given

Hartfield: Ground has been broken for a Protestant-Methodist church on land donated by O.H. Shaw near Parker's Mill. It is to be named Bethel church, and some \$500.00 has already been subscribed.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
April 29  
1885

Hartfield Items: The frame is up for the new Methodist church on the old plank road. A. Gron and H. Parker are preparing to erect dwellings on the same Street.

Sentinel  
Wed. Mar.  
3, 1886

Hartfield: The Protestant-Methodist church on the old plank road in the northern part of town will be dedicated on the 18th of March at 11 o'clock AM.

Sentinel  
Wed. Eve.  
Mar. 31,  
1886

The dedication of the Methodist-Protestant church called Westfield mission of the Genesee Conference took place the 18th of March. This church is situated on what is called the old plank road, between Mayville and Westfield, in School District No. 12, and will be known hereafter as the Bethel Chapel.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Nov. 17,  
1886

Hartfield: There will be a quarterly meeting at Bethel church next Sunday. Rev. Kinney of Adams Basin (near Rochester) will preach at 2 o'clock PM.

It is necessary that those who have subscribed towards the building of Bethel Chapel should pay their subscription to William Parker, Treasurer, immediately, as the bank note for said money comes due early in December.

Sentinel  
Oct. 13,  
1887

Rev. Vaughn preached at the Bethel church, lately supplied by Albert Roe.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Dec. 26,  
1888

There was quarterly meeting at the Bethel church on the old plank road a week ago Sunday. During the past week, there have been evening meetings conducted by Rev. M. Vaughn, the pastor, and Rev. M. Kinney of Adams Basin, near Rochester.

Sentinel  
Wed. Jan.  
8, 1890

Hartfield: (by G.W.S.) There was a New Year's Dance at O.H. Shaw's on the old plank road, with about thirty present. He gave the land for the Free Methodist Church.

Sentinel  
June 4,  
1890

There was a well-attended social at Bethel Church, of which Rev. Mr. Vaughn is pastor, last Wednesday evening.

Chautauqua

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Oct. 29,  
1890

Hartfield: Rev. Mr. Vaughn has resigned the pastorate of Bethel church on the old plank road and gone to Pine Valley. Rev. Mr. Wicks from Steuben County is now supplying the pulpit, with a view of locating here.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Dec. 23,  
1890

There is to be a Christmas Tree for the Sunday School of Bethel church on the old plank road.

Sentinel  
Jan. 20,  
1892

The wife of Rev. Mr. Ham of the Free Methodist church on the old plank road has been severely ill for a week or two past.

Sentinel  
Mar. 2,  
1892

Hartfield: A series of socials are being held by the society of the Free Methodist church on the old plank road. The first was held with Pastor Ham. Last Thursday, the meeting was at the home of Clark Shufelt.

Sentinel  
Feb. 4,  
1893

There is to be another sacred concert at Bethel church next Sunday evening. The receipts of the last one in money and in subscriptions toward the organ fund were over \$5.00. Some \$15.00 has now been raised toward the purchase of the organ.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Jan. 27,  
1893

Hartfield: There is to be a sacred concert at Bethel church on the old plank road next Sunday evening. No admittance fee will be charged, but any so inclined may sign a subscription to raise a fund to purchase a new organ for the church.

1893

A donation for Rev. Way was held at the residence of Vernon Wood Wednesday Evening, January 25. There was a good attendance and a purse of \$14.10 was made up for the pastor.

County  
Court  
Records

Methodist-Protestant church: Oct. 21, 1884. Oscar H. Shaw and Ella his wife of the town of Chautauqua, State of New York of the first part and Joseph Chapceau, Edward Chapceau, Hamilton Hall, James Barris, and William Parker, trustees of the Methodist-Protestant church and their successors in office of the second part. Said church is

## Chautauqua

- County Court Records Oct. 21, 1884 (Cont'd. from page 23) located near William Parker's in the town of Chautauqua. Consideration of the sum of thirty-one dollars to them duly paid, have sold and by these presents do grant and convey to the said party of the second part and their successors in office, all that tract or parcel of land situate in the town of Chautauqua, Lot No. 43, Township 4 and range 13 of the Holland Land Company Survey, beginning...etc.  
Land to go back to grantors when no longer *used for church purposes..*
- Mayville Sentinel Dec. 13, 1934 Mayville M.E.: The Chautauqua society of the M.E. church at Mayville was organized about 1820 and erected their house of worship in 1851. That house would seat 500 persons. There were 143 members. The pastor then was Rev. R.W. Scott, and the church property was valued at \$6,000.00.
- Jamestown Post-Journal July 6, 1945 Mayville: Bishop James H. Straughn, assisted by Dr. J.A. Galbraith, District Superintendent of the Jamestown District, and the pastor, Rev. J.L. Petrie, will be in charge of the special services to be held next Sunday morning, July 8, in the Mayville Methodist church, when the mortgage will be burned and the church dedicated.  
Following the unfortunate burning of the church building on March 13, 1941, plans were made to build the present church at a cost of \$40,000.00. The plans were submitted by Joseph Wertz, a well-known architect. They were then forwarded to the church board, and finally the new modern church was built. Additional improvements brought the cost to \$42,000.00. The building committee consisted of W.R. Ayers, Chairman; Leslie Mills, Dr. M.L. Adams, and Mrs. Mary Bullock was appointed as treasurer of the fund. The congregation is happy in this event, which has been looked forward to with deep interest.
- Gazeteer and Business Directory 1873-74 The Chautauqua Lake Camp Meeting Association of the Erie Conference of the M.E. church was incorporated April 13, 1871, and the same year purchased the Fairport Fairgrounds on the shore of Chautauqua Lake. Lots to the number of 289 have been laid out and leased for a term of ninety-nine years. There are now about twenty-five summer residences built upon the shore of the lake, and the immediate construction of others is contemplated. By the act of its incorporation, the real estate which the association may hold at any time is limited in value to \$100,000.00, and the annual income from its personal estate must not exceed \$30,000.00.
- Post-Journal Aug. 2, 1954 The Methodist house at Chautauqua, near the Amphitheater, is undergoing repairs, and is to have a new chapel. It has served as a social and religious center of the institution ever since it was dedicated in August of 1888.  
Two of its first Trustees were the founders of Chautauqua. Bishop

## Chautauqua

Post-  
Journal  
Aug. 2,  
1954

(Cont'd. from page 24) John H. Vincent and Lewis Miller have the honor of being the men who conceived th place. When the chapel was added later, the House became the church home for the community and served in that capacity until Hurlbut memorial chapel was built in 1930. The new chapel, with colonial interior, will be built after the close of the summer season, when the house also will be put into first-class condition. A campaign for \$25,000.00 to help meet expenses is being conducted by the Methodists.

Post-  
Journal  
July 5,  
1955

Chautauqua: Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke of Pittsburg, at the dedication of the new memorial chapel and restored Methodist House at Chautauqua Saturday afternoon, stated that the project is in keeping with the denominational tradition of serving God and Mankind. Impressive services marked the dedication, attended by about 500 persons. Dr. Harold A. McCurdy of the First Methodist church of Jamestown, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Methodist House, presided. The Methodist House, with chapel, are well-known landmarks at Chautauqua situated near the Amphitheater. The new chapel, in its modern construction of cement blocks, is one of simplicity yet with a stately beauty. Its indirect lighting gives a restful air, while its maroon carpeting blends itself effectively with the mahogany and cream interior carried out in pulpit, lectern, altar rail and pews.

Court  
Records

Chaut. County, Village of Hartfield: We, the undersigned, having been duly nominated and appointed to preside at an election held at the school-house in the village of Hartfield, pursuant to previous public notice given in due form of law, on the 11th day of March, 1851, for the purpose of electing Trustees of the Hartfield Presbyterian Union Society, do hereby certify that at said election, Reuben Wright, Dexter Barnes, George Campbell, Peter E. Freeman, Sherman B. Look, Solomon Bixby and Simeon Leet were severally duly elected to serve as Trustees of the Hartfield Presbyterian Union Society.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Oct. 11,  
1945

Hartfield church buys former school for war memorial: Will move across highway from former site after repairs are made. The furniture of the old wooden church will be moved across the highway to the new brick building. Disposition of the old wooden structure, now used as the U.B. home of worship, will be considered later. The former school, when erected, was considered one of the outstanding rural school buildings of the county. It was a two-teacher, eight-grade school and was closed shortly after Mayville Central School District, embracing 14 rural districts of five townships, was set up.

Chautauqua

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Oct. 17,  
1945

Hartfield U.B. Church will dedicate church to war dead on Oct. 27th. Former school will become Worship home. The new building will be dedicated to the World War II servicemen who died in the service of their country.

The new building formerly served as a school-house. It was purchased by the church two years ago, although it has remained vacant until recently.

Oct.  
1943

Hartfield Church to Celebrate 85 Years Sunday: A full day of services is planned Sunday for the 85th anniversary of Hartfield Memorial Evangelical U.B. Church, according to announcement of Rev. John A. Harrington.

It was 85 years ago, he explained, that the class was officially begun on Beech Hill, just outside of Hartfield. Later, because of its growth, it was moved to Hartfield, and the Old White Church on Brocton Road was used until 27 years ago, when the former Episcopal church building on Highway 17 was purchased.

It was two years ago this week that the church moved once more to the former School District 9 building it now occupies.

Guest Speakers at the morning worship services will be Rev. W.O. Brainard of Jamestown, who was pastor in Hartfield at the time the church was purchased in the early days of the century.

Fredonia  
Censor  
Wed. Jan.  
8, 1896

Hartfield: Last Thursday, E.J. Scofield was elected a Trustee of Union church at Hartfield, giving a majority in favor of admitting the Salvation Army, which has been barred out of late. Friday evening, the army had a jollification meeting and made so much noise they could be heard all over town, notwithstanding the raging snow storm.

Fredonia  
Censor  
Jan.  
1896

The Salvation Army met with rebuffs in this section. At Union church, Hartfield, they were refused admission last Friday evening, because they had not paid their dues (20 cents per night) to the janitor for wood, lights, etc. They offered to pay up and provide their own wood and lights in the future, but this was refused by the Trustees at Bethel church. It is told some of the Brethren took occasion to reprimand a colored brother named Jeremiah for dancing in the church during Salvation exercises. If David danced before the Lord why should not Jeremiah?

Sentinel  
Dec. 26,  
1838

Hartfield: A new board of trustees have been elected for the Union church here, consisting of Mssrs. Parkhurst, Knight and Willard.

Chautauqua

- Sentinel  
June 25,  
1884 Hartfield: A floral Song Service held in the White Church, proceeds to be used for shingling the roof. Lawn Festival next Thursday evening, proceeds to be applied to the same purpose.
- Sentinel  
Oct. 8,  
1884 The White Church is being resingled. At the church on October 16th, 1884, there will be a donation party ofr Rev. J.H. Mills.
- Sentinel  
Nov. 19,  
1884 Hartfield: There were exercises by the Sabbath School at the White Church Sunday evening.
- No date Hartfield: The ladies are painting the windows of this church in imitation of stained glass. Walter Bedell is doing some of the artistic work. They seem disposed to paint things red, or at least to flood them with a light of rosy hue.
- Sentinel  
Oct. 5,  
1887 Chimney on the Old White Church at Hartfield taken down and a new one to be rebuilt in another place; no agreement, so hole in roof was resingled, ceiling inside plastered and carpet tacked down, to await an agreement or to sit in a cold church.
- Sentinel  
Feb. 13,  
1889 Hartfield: Evening meetings are being held at the White Church five nights each week.
- Jmstn.  
Evng. Jnl.  
July 21,  
1908 Hartfield: The social at the Old White Church Friday evening was not a great success. The church has been newly shingled and the horse sheds have their turn next.
- Jamestown  
Journal  
1914 The Ladies' Aid started Feb. 13, 1908, by singing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and by vote, resolved and carried to use moneys collected for church purposes exclusively, and their charter vote, to my knowledge, has never been resolved. Criticism I have never heard. The Aid has done a noble work. In the fall of 1908, our church was decorated and painted within. In 1910, the aid bought two stoves for \$29.00.

Chautauqua

Letter  
to the  
Editor  
Jamest.  
Post-  
Journal  
Feb. 17,  
1914

White Church at Hartfield: Do Not Want Church to be Sold.  
The Presbyterian Union church at Hartfield, better known as the White Church in distinction from another church edifice of a darker color, was built in the year 1851 by the Presbyterians and Baptists, assisted by others who contributed for a time. The Presbyterians, with assistance, maintained a pastor perhaps two or three years, then other denominations held services over a long period of years.

The following denominations have occupied it and held revival meetings: Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, United Brethren, Episcopalians, Universalists and the Salvation Army. It was free to all who wished to use it for religious meetings, as there was no public hall in the place. It was our public meeting place for all occasions. War meetings were held there in the sixties, public lectures, school exhibitions, stereopticon and other entertainments all found a place therein.

From this house were carried to their last resting place many of those who had helped to build it, as in those days nearly all the burials were from.

During most of these years, a Sunday School had been maintained, the community being united in their efforts to keep the house in condition for use on all occasions, as the writer hereof can affirm, having been connected with its affairs for a long period of years, serving as a Trustee on the finance committee, superintendent and teacher in the Sunday School, as chorister, getting the key from a tuning fork, not having an organ until later. We sang for all the different creeds, making no distinction--a united community.

The Baptist minister from Mayville was holding services until about August last, then a United Brethren minister was engaged and a class was formed.

No one objected, and all was harmonious. But like a peal of thunder from a clear sky, came notice that a meeting would be held January 10th to determine whether or not the real estate of said church and society shall be sold and conveyed to the U.B. church society, but few except the U.B. class were notified. The night was very stormy, and the class nearly all reside in the village. The vote was twenty-three for, seventeen against. They then incorporated and demanded the deed. An objection stands in the way at present. All we ask is that they let all things remain as they were. This, in brief, is the situation.

Yours very truly,  
M.J. Willard

Chautauqua

Atlas  
Chaut.  
County  
1811-  
1881

The First Universalist Society of Chautauqua was organized at Chautauqua October 13, 1817, many of its members being residents of Ellery. At a meeting held in School District No. 1, they organized the First Universalist Society of the town of Ellery, June 13, 1882. The first pastor was Rev. I. George. A church was erected at Bemus Point in 1858, costing about \$1,500.00. The present value of church property is \$2,000.00.

## Chautauqua

Jamestown  
Journal

Reminiscence of an observer:

On the east bank of the big inlet to Chautauqua Lake, in the village of Hartfield, stands the old Union White Church, overlooking the cemetery in which repose the remains of Dexter Barnes, donor of the site. About 1851, a few of the old puritan fathers (let me call them such) thought it advisable for the welfare of the community to erect a church edifice which, with the means at their disposal, consisting of labor, money and lumber, would culminate their ambition and also be a landmark and benefit for future generations.

Many of these old fathers, scattered though they be, look back to some of these associations as the happiest of their lives. Others in that dear home beyond the stars, I doubt not, will remember beyond life's evening gray, that happy hour of worship in the white church by the way.

In the early sixties, the walls of our little church echoed to the sound of fife and drum, and to the nation's call for soldier boys' assistance, which was responded to here.

The latch key hung suspended for free access for the benefit of all, irrespective of creed or faith, and has ever been so for the past 61 years of its existence. During these different decades, we have been on the pinnacle, on the level, and on the wane of prosperity. Animosity will creep in at times, guard it as you will. During these years, no one body, creed, denomination or society can truthfully say "we have done it all." Contributions have been made from time to time, both for salaries and fixtures and repairs from the different denominations, societies and bodies. The present condition of the church and property is as good as the general edifice throughout the country.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Mar. 20,  
1878

Point Chautauqua, season of 1878: Already at Point Chautauqua much activity is seen and preparations for the summer business at this point have begun. Every indication seems to point to a most successful season there, and the place is growing in popular favor every day.

The contractor for the building of the new hotel, J.M. Robertson, has his plans all projected, and the work will commence soon. The contract for the building of the Hartson Tabernacle has been let and the timbers are already upon the ground. Mr. Hartson will himself superintend the construction of the building. Several handsome cottages are in course of construction, and many more are to be erected before the summer meetings. The boarding hall and grocery have already been opened for the season, and are in charge of Mr. Barnes of Corry, who gave such universal satisfaction last season.

The grounds are being very much improved, and every facility for the enjoyment of a pleasant time will be afforded to all who stop at the point. Early in July, the Baptist Social Union of Western New York will hold its annual session on Point Chautauqua. The meeting, it is expected, will be one of more than ordinary interest. There will be a grand meeting and dedicatory services of both grounds and

Chautauqua

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Mar. 20,  
1878

(Cont'd. from page 29) tabernacle opening, with a banquet on the afternoon of August 1. This meeting is under the direction of Prof. W.F. Sherwin, of world-wide notoriety. Mr. Sherwin is securing some of the best speakers in the country for this occasion. Church and missionary work, both home and foreign, the women's missionary department, and kindred subjects will be discussed during these meetings. Representatives of colleges and seminaries will be in attendance to take up educational matters. The scope of the meetings will be broad, as there will be ample time for thorough work in many departments of Christian work. The Harmony Baptist Association will hold its fortieth anniversary in the Tabernacle on Point Chautauqua the Friday before the last Wednesday in August, 1878.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
1878

Point Chautauqua: Rev. J.H. Miller made this town possible. He was a Baptist minister in charge of a church at Mayville, three miles away at the head of the lake. He concluded, one day in 1878, that the Baptist ought to have an out-of-doors summer meeting in July of each year. He set out to look for a site and selected a plot of about 100 acres with about five acres of dense woods, and named it point Chautauqua. The Baptist were not educated to attend open air meetings or summer schools in the woods, and this operated against the success of the enterprise. Some of their leading people declined to lend their support to the movement because they thought it would be interpreted as a rival to the Chautauqua Assembly, which was located almost directly across the lake. Therefore, the movement had a precarious existence from the beginning. However, Mr. Miller moved with well-directed energy. He was an organizer; he had a wide acquaintance in his church. Rich men came to his aid, and he bought the land, built a tabernacle and hotel, made a program and began his educational meetings. Men and women of high order of talent from every part of the country were brought at heavy expense to address the people, but no considerable congregation came to the grove or the lecture hall, and after a few years had passed, the meetings were suspended. The title to the land and public buildings passed into other hands. The auditorium has been used for theatricals, for skating, for bicycle riding and for various other purposes.

Mayville  
Sentinel  
Feb. 13,  
1888

Mayville Sixty Years Ago: Running east from the common and parallel with Main Street was a short street called Jackson Street, on the north side of which stood the dwelling of Stephen Hoxie; the next, east of that, was Amos Carver's, the next was that of Deacon Thayer; the next (on the south side) was that of Watun and Tinkcom. The next west was Hiram Spencer's, a harness maker and carriage trimmer. The next west was the Presbyterian church, quite a large wooden building supported by a large and prosperous congregation. There was a short street just under the hill between Jackson and Main called Green Street. There were but two dwellings on this street, one occupied by Reichard Green, County Clerk, and the other by Thomas Green, a Merchant Taylor.

WM. Rheubottom.

Stockton

- No  
Source  
Given
- The first religious services were held at the house of Jonathan Bugbee in March 1814 by Rev Joy Handy from Fredonia, and the first religious society, the Chautauqua Baptist Church, was organized in 1815.
- Gazeteer  
1873-74
- Cassadaga Baptist Church was organized with thirty-seven members on May 8, 1834. Their house of worship was erected in 1835 at a cost of \$1,200.00 and repaired in 1869. It will seat 250 persons. The first pastor was Rev. Elisha Johnson; the present one is Rev. A. Kingsbury. The society numbers sixty-two members and its property is valued at \$3,000.00.
- As told  
me by Mrs.  
Eva West  
and Mrs.  
Florence  
Morgan of  
Cassadaga
- This church has been remodeled several times. It has been built onto in front and a basement has been added for Sunday School rooms and suppers. Two gas furnaces have been installed. Land and lumber for this church were given by Joel Fisher, Putnam, Lyons. It has a baptistry in back of the pulpit lined with stainless steel. An electric Wurlitzer pipe organ and a new piano have been acquired. It had, in early days, a choir loft over the front of the church which was reached by stairs on either side.
- County  
Clerk's  
Records
- Cassadaga Baptist Church Congregation met at usual place of worship on the 13th day of November 1835 for the purpose of organizing a society to be called the Cassadaga Baptist Society. Philip S. Cottle and Jereniah Gage nominated to preside at such election. Dow C. Smith, James S. Bly, Walter Goodrich, Aaaron Lyon, Elijah Woods and Philip S. Cottle were elected Trustees of said Society to be called the Cassadaga Baptist Society, dated this 30 day of November, 1835.
- Fredonia  
Censor  
Wed. Dec.  
6, 1893
- Cassadaga: Much interest has been manifested in the revival meeting held at the Baptist church during the past week, and several conversions have been made. Rev. Knight, the present pastor of the Baptist church, does not fail to draw a large and attentive congregation.
- Censor  
Sun. Dec.  
10, 1893
- Cassadaga-Fifteen converts from this place were baptized at Stockton in the baptistry of the Baptist church of this place, being united with the church in the evening. A great deal of interest has been manifested in the religious meetings conducted by Rev. Knight, who is a remarkably zealous and earnest worker. The meetings will be continued after New Year's.
- Censor  
June 13  
1894
- Cassadaga, June 11: The children's day at the Baptist church drew a large congregation yesterday as usual. The exercises were exceedingly interesting. Next Sunday, childrens day will be observed at the chapel. Wednesday of this week is appointed for working in the cemetery at the Christian Church. The ladies furnish the dinner.

Stockton

Censor  
Oct. 30,  
1912

From the old Files: Cassadaga, Oct. 30, 1867. The Baptist Society of Cassadaga dedicate the new church on Thursday, Nov. 7. Services will be held at 1:00 PM and also in the evening. The occasion must be a gratifying one for those who have labored in the good cause of erecting a fine edifice which will always reflect so much credit upon the society and village, while the proceedings will be of interest to all those who may attend.

Censor  
Dec. 14,  
1914

Cassadaga Letter--The bazaar given by the Bees of the Baptist society last Thursday and Friday was a great success both financially and socially. It was the first entertainment given in the new basement of the Baptist church. The church has been recently enlarged and generall improved and the basement is the full size of the entire structure and has proved an ideal and commodious room for entertaining a large company. With pantry and kitchen adjoining, and a new heating and ventilating system, it is ideal. Suppers were served both evenings, and very attractive booths were supervised by young men and ladies in mother goose costumes. The fancy articles were very attractive and sold readily for Christmas gifts. About 200 dollars was realized from suppers and general proceeds of the sales. Amount to be used on the building fund for the church.

Cassadaga  
Dec. 28

Christmas exercises were held at both churches.

Young's  
History  
1875

Baptist church at Delanti: Soon after the war of 1812, several families of Baptists--or persons favorable to that denomination--settled in the valley of Bear Creek. Among these families were those of Benjamin Miller, Abel Thompson, Samuel Crissey, Gould Crissey and John Mitchell. Early in the winter of 1815 and 16, Rev. John Spencer, a Congregational missionary, is said to have appointed a meeting on a Sabbath, and stated meetings were immediately thereafter commenced. We were not informed that Mr. Spencer continued with them as a preacher. Probably he did not, as we read that the meetings were lead by Samuel Crissey, Benjamin Miller and Gould Crissey; and that sermons were read by Ethan Cooley and Horace Thompson. Singing was performed by the congregation without notes. On the 12th day of March, 1817, the hand of fellowship was given to seven brethren and sisters, as the Third Baptist church in Chautauqua. Their names were: Samuel Crissey, Benjamin Miller, Gould Crissey, Edward Ellis, Patty Ellis, Ruth Crissey and Susanna Bidwell. The ministers present were Joy Handy and Asa Turner. The number of members increased during the first year to eighteen, and they were supplied in part by Elder Ebenezer Smith, then 84 years old. He lived until he was nearly ninety. The names of ministers who have been called to the pastorate of this church are: Elisha Gill, 1823; Washington

Stockton

Young's  
History  
1875

Winsor, 1827; Isaac Sawyer, 1834; Oren Witherell, 1835; Sardis Little, 1837; Judah L. Richmond, 1840; S.A. Way, 1845; Aaron Irons, 1849; B.C. Willoughby, 1851; Elder Howard, 1854; J. Elliott, 1857; A. Kingsbury, 1859; A.L. Freeman, 1861; L.J. Fisher, 1864; Samuel Adsit, 18\_\_ . Many have rendered efficient service as temporary supplies, among whom were Allison Waugh, David Bernard, J.W. Sawyer, Zatter Cushing and H.B. Kenyon. The deaconship has been held by Gould Crissey, Ethan Cooley, John Grant, Charles Bacheller, Jason Crissey and Chester Thompson. A meeting house was built in 1832.

Fredonia  
Censor  
Wed. Nov.  
8, 1896

Stockton Letter: Dr. Hellings, pastor of the Jamestown Baptist Church, preached the dedicatory sermon of the Olivet Church at Denton Corners last Thursday. The debt of \$300.00 was paid that day.

Jamestown  
Evng. Jnl.  
Sept. 2,  
1896

Denton Corners: The new Olivet Baptist church is rapidly progressing under the skillful management of the builder, M.T. Arnold of Dewittville and his assistants. In a few weeks, we expect to announce the date of dedication. Rev. R.B. Hull of Brooklyn has kindly consented to come and deliver the address.

Nov. 2,  
1896

Denton Corners: The trustees and building committee of the Olivet Baptist Church are happy to announce to the public that they have completed their new house of worship. Rev. W.P. Hellings of the first Baptist church of Jamestown, formerly of Omaha, will preach the dedicatory sermon, Thursday, Nov. 12, at 1:00 PM. Rev. A.D. Bush of Panama and other clergymen are expected to be present. Prof. S. Ames of Centralia will have charge of the song service. Covenant meetings will be the last Saturday in each month in the future at 2 PM.

It is said that this church had the windows and pews of the Stockton Universalist church when it was torn down.

Jamestown  
Journal  
Tues. Oct.  
25, 1898

Ellery--Rev. Howard M. Fish has accepted a call from the Ellery Baptist church and the Baptist church at Denton in the town of Stockton. He will preach at Denton every Sunday at 11 AM and at Ellery Center every Sunday at 2 PM and at 7 in the evening.

Stockton

County  
Court  
Records

This indenture made this tenth day of October in the year of our Lord One-thousand eight hundred and ninety-five. Between Henry A. Alden of the town of Stockton County of Chautauqua and State of New York of the first part, and the authorized Trustees acting for and in behalf of the organization known as the Olivet Baptist Church of the town of Stockton, county and State aforesaid of the second part, witness that the said party of the first part, in consideration of the one dollar duly paid and in the further consideration of the benefits thereby afforded to the church-going people of the vicinity, does grant and convey to the said party of the second part for such time within ninety-nine years as suitable sheds are provided and maintained on said premises for the sheltering and care of teams and conveyances for persons that attend divine worship in the neighborhood.

All that tract or parcel of land situate in the south part of the town of Stockton, etc., known and distinguished as part of lot No. 57 of the fourth township and twelfth range, according to the Holland Land Company Survey and bounded as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of the schoolhouse lot owned by School District No. One in the said town of Stockton, running thence south along the west line of said school-district land to the center of the highway on a line between the third and fourth townships, thence west along the center of the highway to the central point of intersection with highway leading from a northerly direction thence northerly along the center of the highway to a point due west from the north line of said school-house lot, thence east to the place of beginning, containing about one-fourth acre of land, be the same more or less. If at any time within the ninety-nine years as stated the said party of the second part vacates the said premise by failing to maintain a shed or sheds and convenient approaches, driveway thereat, except for such reasonable time as may be necessary for renewals or re-buildings of sheds, then this indenture shall become void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue for the full time of ninety-nine years from the date hereof. In witness thereof, the said parties have hereunto set their hands and seal the first day and year first above written.

Henry A. Alden  
Dewitt C. Hotchkiss  
Eric M. Frisbee  
Frank B. Stedman

Trustees of the  
Olivet Baptist Church of  
The Town of Stockton  
Delos Putnam, J.P.

Stockton

No  
Source  
Given  
(Prob.  
County  
Records)

This indenture made this tenth day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand eight-hundred and ninety-five. Between Frank N. Arnold and Zelpha his wife of the town of Stockton, County of Chautauqua and State of New York of the first part and Dewitt Hotchkiss, Eric Frisbee and Frank B. Steadman, authorized Trustees acting for and on behalf of the organization known as the Olivet Baptist Church of the second part in consideration of the sum of thirty-five dollars to them duly paid have sold to their heirs and assigns all that tract or parcel of land situate in the town of Stockton etc., beginning on the line between the third and fourth townships at a point where the center of the highway leading from the town of Ellery along the line between lots No. 56 and 64 in said third township from a junction with the highway that extends east and west along the line between the said third and fourth townships, running thence east along the center of the highway, eight and one-half rods to the center of the highway, thence north along the center of the highway seven rods to the place of beginning, containing fifty-nine and one-half rods of land be the same more or less. If at any time the premises herein conveyed ceases permanently to be used for the purposes of religious meetings except for such reasonable time as may be necessary for building or rebuilding a church edifice or edifices, then this indenture shall become void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Delos Putnam  
Justice of the Peace

No  
Source  
Given

The Baptist were early here, many belonging to a church near Chautauqua. Earlier formed in 1808. The first services were held by Rev. Joy Handy in March of 1814 at Jonathan Bugbee's house. The church above mentioned was formed into two in 1817, one of which in April of 1821 became the Baptist church of Stockton, and in October, 1821, the First Baptist Congregational Society was incorporated and received the grant of fifty acres of land offered to each of the first churches by the Holland Land Company. The settlers in Bear Creek Valley held meetings in 1815 and on March 12, 1817, organized at Delanti the Third Baptist Church of Chautauqua.

History  
of  
Stockton  
1942

The first church organized in Stockton was the Baptist church in 1815-16. The meetings were led by Samuel Crissey, Benjamin Miller, Gould Crissey, Ethan Carley and Horace Thompson. The ministers were Jay Turner and Asa Turner. In 1826, the Union church split from the Baptist for about ten years and then rejoined. The Congregational Church was organized soon after the organization of the Baptist Church. In 1830, it changed to Presbyterian, then went back to Congregational. In 1825, the Christian Church held meetings

Stockton

History  
of  
Stockton  
1942

(Cont'd. from page 36) in the school-house; their church was discontinued in 1863. The Universalists held church services in a building where the Stockton Library building now stands until Harry Seymour moved it to the rear of the lot. This building was later used by the Adventists. The Methodist-Episcopal church was organized in 1857. The old Baptist church is now the Federated church of Stockton. The Baptist and Methodist united in 1929; they each have their own board of directors and alternate preachers. In 1942, the old Methodist church was torn down.

Jamestown  
Journal  
June 3,  
1892

Delanti: The Third Baptist Church in Chautauqua was organized formally March 12, 1817 by Revs. Asa Turner and Joy Handy. A house of worship was built in 1832. The First Church of Stockton was first so called in April of 1821 when the school-house in District No. 1 was chosen as the regular place of worship. The society was formerly part of the early Baptist church of Chautauqua, organized in 1808 and divided in 1817.

Fredonia  
Censor  
Wed. Nov.  
22, 1893

Stockton: A very pleasant time was enjoyed at the Baptist church. The Ellery church came here with their pastor, Rev. Mr. Chase, and baptized 12 candidates in the baptistry of this church and we were glad to know that the Ellery church is being built up by Rev. Mr. Chase. In the evening, Rev. E.L. Gates baptized three candidates into our own church, after which the hand of fellowship and the Lord's Supper was observed. May this place enjoy many more such occasions. Union meetings are held on the first Sabbath eves of each month, with the Baptist and M.E. pastors alternating in the services.

Censor  
Jan. 1,  
1902

Stockton Letter: On Christmas morning, at about 5 o'clock, nine of the Baptist church sheds collapsed under the weight of the damp snow. On the night before, the sheds were filled with the horse of those attending the Christmas exercises in the church, and had they fallen then, serious damage might have resulted.

Censor  
Jan. 29,  
1902

Three of the remaining Baptist church sheds fell from the weight of snow on them Sunday evening during church time. As there were union services in the Methodist church, only one shed was occupied at that time by the Kent brothers' rig. They made the discovery when they went for their horse after the church services. Several men were called, and these succeeded in removing the horse by cutting into the rear of the shed. The horse was unhurt, but the cutter was so smashed that little but the gear was left. Soon after the horse was removed, the remaining shed fell, thus all but two of the church sheds are in ruins.

Stockton

Censor  
July 3,  
1902

Stockton Letter: The Baptist church officials were negotiating last week for new pews. They will soon begin a remodeling of the interior of the edifice and the old pews will be for sale.

Censor  
June 24,  
1909

Stockton Letter: Rev. George W. Strothard of the M.E. church at Sinclairville will occupy the pulpit of the Baptist church Sunday morning and evening. Rev. Strothard will also preach at the Olivet church at Denton Sunday afternoon.

Censor  
Dec. 22,  
1909

Dec. 20, Stockton letter: The remaining portions of the pipe organ for the Baptist church were received Monday of last week. The work of installing it in the church was in charge of Mr. Peck of Buffalo. It will be used for the first time on Thursday evening, December 23, at which time an organ recital and entertainment will be given by the best talent of Fredonia. Proceeds for the benefit of the choir.

The Ladies' Aid of the Methodist church met at the church Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock. Supper was served from 4:30 to 6:30. They also conducted a sale of aprons, baked goods, home-made candy, handkerchiefs and quilts on Friday afternoon at the Grange Hall.

The men of the Methodist church had a wood-bee at Clarence Howard's on Tuesday.

Censor  
Dec. 29,  
1909

Stockton Letter-Dec. 27, Rev. B.F. Gehring preached his farewell sermon at the Baptist church yesterday. A reception for Rev. B. F. Gehring and family will be held at the Baptist church on Friday evening. An invitation is extended to both churches and the public generally.

On Thursday evening, a fair-sized audience attended the organ recital and entertainment by Fredonia talent at the Baptist church. Those who attended pronounced the entertainment fine, and the people are much pleased with the new pipe organ purchased by the church. Very fine Christmas exercises by the two Sunday Schools, Methodist and Baptist, Friday Evening. The program consisted of recitations and music, closing with a distribution of presents from a Christmas tree. A large audience assembled to enjoy the exercises.

Court  
Records

Christian Church: July 5, 1842: Between Quartus Smith and Permulla his wife of the town of Stockton etc. of the first part, and Alvin Amer, Harvey Totman and Otis Mallery, Trustees of the Christian Society of Stockton, Chautauqua County, New York of the second part consideration sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00) to them paid do grant and release to said party of the second part and their heirs, assigns forever, all that piece or parcel of land situate lying and being part of Lot. No. 38 in the fourth township, 13th range of the Holland

Stockton

Court  
Records

(Cont'd. from page 38) Land Company Survey. Beginning with fifty links and with eighty-five degrees west nine chains and fifty-one links and north fourteen degrees. West of the southeast corner of said lot and in the center of the public highway, then north 14 degrees, West one chain, thence west parallel to the south line on the center of the highway two chains thirty-seven links, thence south along the center of the highway to the place of beginning one chain, containing 38 rods of land, be the same more or less.

Philip Lazell

Young's  
History  
1875

Dentons: A Baptist church was formed in Chautauqua in 1808. John Putnam, David Atkins, Edmund Jones, John Park, Miles Scofield, Sabra Putnam, Hannah Park, Abigail Scofield and Sally Scofield met at John Putnam's near Chautauqua Lake 2½ miles south of Dewittville, with the view to the organization of a church. A council was subsequently called for this purpose. The council was composed of Elder Peter P. Roots, Joel Butler, Hezekiah Eastman and Joy Handy; they met on the 10th of October and received the brothers and sisters into fellowship as a church. On the next day, the council ordained Edmund Jones to the Gospel ministry. In February of 1817, the church was geographically divided by a line running due east from the lake, leaving John Putnam in the first church of Chautauqua. In July, Mr. Putnam was ordained Deacon. In April of 1821, after the town of Stockton had been formed from Chautauqua, the name of the church was changed to the First Church of Stockton, its present name, and the school-house near Miles Scofield's in School District No. One was established as the regular place for meetings of the church. Among the early members of this church were: Henry Walker, Shadrach Scofield, David Knowlton, David Waterbury, Almon Ives, Epenetus Winsor, John McCallister and Elisha Tower. In October following, the inhabitants of this school-district and vicinity were organized under the act of legislature as the First Baptist Congregational Society of Stockton. Being one of the first-incorporated religious societies in the town, it became entitled to the donation of 50 acres of land from the Holland Land Company.

Denton

The first Church of Stockton was first so called in April of 1821, when the school-house in District No. 1 was chosen as the regular place of worship. The society was formerly part of the early Baptist church of Chautauqua, organized in 1808 and divided in 1817.

Stockton

By  
Rev.  
Chalon  
Burgess,  
D.D. 1901

Three of the pioneer churches were organized in 1808, one at Chautauqua (now Stockton); one at Westfield and one in Freedomia. The one at Chautauqua was taken into the town of Stockton when the town was formed. It began with nine original members and increased twelvefold in the first twelve years. I have had the opportunity of looking over the records of this church (Denton Corners Baptist) and could but admire the simple-hearted piety and faithful, continuous struggle to keep up an organization in the midst of the poverty of the times. How hard it must have been for preacher and people when they could raise only \$30.00 for half the time. This Baptist church dissolved itself by its own vote in 1846.

Denton  
Jamestown  
Journal  
June 25,  
1891

A most interesting Children's Day service was held in the Denton school-house in Stockton last Sunday evening. This flourishing Sunday School has only been organized about four months, but has made rapid development in that time. The exercises consisted of recitations, songs, and responsive scripture reading led by the Superintendent Charles L. Parker and Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Ella Flanders. Professor Samuel Ames of Centralia had charge of the singing.

Dewittville  
August 31,  
1892

On Sunday Rev. Mr. Hankinson of Stockton, who is organizing a Baptist church at Denton's Corners, baptized seven persons in the lake near this place.

Denton,  
Pleasantville  
Fri. Sept. 12  
1892

Rev. Hankinson preached at the Denton Corners school-house Tuesday evening.

Denton  
Sept. 26  
1892

Our school-house is improved by new doors and windows and neatly painted woodwork. Rev. J.C. Hankinson preaches there Tuesday Evenings; prayer meeting the same evening immediately before preaching.

Denton  
Nov. 8,  
1892

Our long-looked-for today's Baptist meeting is now really coming. It will be held the 17th and 18th of this month. Services to be Tuesday afternoon and evening. Revs. Waffle, Miller, Blandin, Hankinson and others are expected. Professor Sam. Ames and the Centralia organist, Mrs. May Clark, who have so many times by their aid made our gathering a success, will assist at this time. We anticipate a grand meeting in the old school-house as we would have had had we a fine church. Come everyone.

Stockton

- Denton  
Jamestown  
Journal  
Nov. 10,  
1893
- Pleasantville: The new sheds are being built at Denton Corners. Most of the men from miles to Denton lent a helping hand Thursday; also from Clarence Ingerson's to the school-house that same day. Rev. Gates preached at Denton's Corners Wednesday eve. Next Sabbath, he will deliver a sermon on Baptism at the same place.
- Dewittville  
Dec. 5,  
1894
- Oyster supper at the home of Burt Parker at Denton Corners Dec. 14. Proceeds to assist in paying for the new sheds. Bill 50 cts.
- Plsntvlé:  
Nov. 1895
- The foundation is being laid for the Olivet church at Denton Corners.
- Centralia  
May 4,  
1896
- The lumber for the Denton church is now ready for delivery.
- Gazeteer  
1873-4
- The First Christian Church of Stockton was organized at Delanti, with ten or twelve members in 1825 by Rev. Joseph Bailey, the first pastor. Their first church edifice was erected in 1828; the present one, which will seat 150 persons, was erected in 1842 at a cost of \$1,200.00. There are twenty members under the pastoral care of Alden Allen. The church property is valued at \$2,500.00. This church had a small belfry.
- 1905
- William Lord purchased the Christian Church and moved it over on the corner lot by Nox Crandalls. It was then used as a shop to sell machinery; they also nailed baskets there. William Briggs bought this building in 1915 and it was torn down by him later. Some of the lumber was sold to E. Montague and some was used in the main part of the barn now on the Cutting farm.
- Jamestown  
Journal  
June 3,  
1892
- Rev. John Spencer organized a Congregational Church with nine members as early as 1815. About 1830, the Presbyterian form of government was adopted. A return was made to the Congregational form about 1840.
- Young's  
History  
1875
- Delanti: A Congregational church was formed by the missionary, Rev. John Spencer, said by some to have been as early as 1815, consisting of nine members, 3 males and 6 females. This church, some years later (about 1830), adopted the Presbyterian form of government and subsequently (about 1840) changed back to the Congregational form.

Stockton

Young's  
History  
1875

(Cont'd. from page 41) A meeting house having been built, designed for the Christian Church and not taken after its completion, the proprietors sold it to the Congregational Society. On the union of this society with the Methodist church, the house of worship was conveyed to the latter in 1857 or 1858.

No  
Source  
Given

A Methodist class was organized in November of 1857. The Congregational church gave up its organization and its members joined the Methodist. The Congregationalist sold their church to the Methodist with the agreement that the \$300.00 involved was to be used to build a new church which all could use. This was about 1929. This M.E. church united with the Baptist to form the Federated Church of Stockton.

Post-  
Journal  
Nov. 27,  
1952

Stockton: The Stockton Federated Church, with a bequest of \$2,000.00, was among the forty-two beneficiaries named in the will of Jane W. Flagg, late of the town of Stockton.

Post-  
Journal  
Dec. 2,  
1952

Stockton: By Mrs. Emory Masiker--The lowly potato is making Stockton Federated church a better and better place each year. The pastor, Rev. Lloyd Chelton, and the church members point proudly to their new heating plant and the new cement floor in the basement and announce that they will soon have a new well, electric pump, hot water system, modern toilets and new cupboards in the kitchen, all financed by the "Lord's Acre" project. There will be more: A new furnace has been ordered for the parsonage, and the exterior of the church and parsonage will be painted with the proceeds expected from next year's project. It all began three years ago when Mr. Chelton, who also serves the Centralia Church, suggested that they plant potatoes on a Lord's Acre, with the money gained to be used for repairs or replacement of equipment in the church. The first year, the project netted \$840.00, the second year, \$960.00. The receipts from these two years, with several contributions from individuals, were used to purchase and install the heating system at a cost of \$1,960.00. In the fall of 1951, payment was completed and there was \$300.00 left. This year, 1952, the cash profit was \$2,560.00. A new electric organ has been installed in place of the antiquated pipe organ.

1953

Stockton 1953: The Congregation of the Stockton Federated church Sunday voted to continue its potato-raising project and to buy a larger church organ. The larger organ will be purchased with the aid of the \$2,000.00 left to the congregation by the late Miss Jane Flagg for a memento in her memory and that of her sisters, Mrs. Maud Taylor and Miss Harriet Flagg.

Stockton

Liber  
124  
Page  
564

This indenture made this twelfth day of May A.D. 1871, between Ora B. Todd and Lorinda Todd, his wife, of the town of Stockton, County of Chautauqua, State of New York, of the first part, and John Webber, Albert See and Myron Mallery, trustees of the Free Meeting House Society in Pleasant Valley in the town of Stockton, witnesseth the party of the first part, in consideration of the sum of sixty-five dollars, doth hereby grant, demise, and lease unto the party of the second part all that certain piece or parcel of land being part of Lot 10 in the town of Stockton, etc., and being the southeast corner of the orchard lot of this said Ora B. Todd being at the corner as formed by the junction of the road, leading south from Ames and Lewis Sawmill and the road leading west from Andrew Jones, and in the center of each of said roads and running thence west along the center of the said road leading west from Andrew Jones' one-hundred and thirty-five feet and nine inches to the center of the above described road leading south, thence south one-hundred and five feet and nine inches along the center of said road to the place of beginning. To have and to hold all and singular the said herein before granted and described premises with the appurtenance unto the party of the second part and their successors upon the trusts, nevertheless and to and for the uses, interests, and purposes hereinafter limited, described and declared, that is to say for and during the time the said premises shall be occupied and used for the purpose of a meeting house and meeting house purposes; and should the meeting house built upon said premises be destroyed by fire or otherwise be taken down or removed, in that case, for and during the period of three years after such destruction, taking down or removal, the said premises shall continue to be held and occupied by the said party of the second part and their successors. And during the period of three years after such destruction, taking down or removal, a new meeting house shall be built by said society up on said premises, then thereafter the said premises shall continue to be occupied, held and used as aforesaid so long as the same shall be used for meeting house purposes.

The party of the second part and their successors are to build and maintain a good and sufficient fence between the lands above described and the lands of said Ora B. Todd.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto affixed our hands and seals this day and year first above written.

Ora B. Todd      LS

Lucinda Todd    LS

Sworn to before Obed Edson Justice of the Peace.

1894

Cassadaga Lake Free Association: "Lily Dale" is the name of the grounds of this Association. These grounds are in Stockton and are beautifully situated on a tract of land called "The Island" which was once actually an island. The waters which surround it have now diminished to form four beautiful lakes connected by narrow channels, usually called the Lower, Middle, Upper and Mud Lakes. Lily Dale is perhaps the most important assembling place in the United States for those who believe in the possibility of intercourse with the invisible world. The large summer gatherings here of people from distant parts of the country, the pleasant scenery and fine grounds, the singular and unique program of entertainment, each year improving in its intellectual quality, all contribute to make Lily Dale a place of unusual interest. Some of the many spiritualist camping grounds have had longer existence than Lily Dale, but none have a more legitimate claim to hold the leading place; for, in its immediate vicinity, in the little village of Laona, there occurred nearly the earliest movement in the history of American spiritualism. To this movement, Lily Dale owes its origin.

Jamestown  
Journal  
July 18,  
1892

Cassadaga: Regular services are now held at the Christian Church every Sabbath at 3 PM.

Jamestown  
Journal  
Jan. 1,  
1895

Cassadaga: The Christmas services at the Lakeview Chapel Mon. Eve. were well-attended and the tree was well loaded up for the little ones.

County  
Clerk's  
Records

South Stockton Church of God: This indenture made this 4th day of June nineteen hundred and forty-three. Between Mary W. Hale, Leo Harvey, Mabel Kibbie, Nellie Pickard, Leo James and Effie Faulkner and Alma Holtz Near, all of the town of Stockton, County of Chautauqua and State of New York; Edwin Wheelock, Laona, of the town of Pomfret; Ruth Olson, General Hospital and George Wheelock, Merlin Ave., both of the city of Jamestown, county of Chautauqua and State of New York, being all the heirs at law and next of kin of Marcia Wheelock, deceased; Carl Link, 71 East Second, Dunkirk, New York; Henry Link of South Stockton, Harry Link of 821 Sherman Street in the city of Akron, Ohio, being all the heirs and next of kin of Belle Link deceased, parties of the first part, and the Church of God Tabernacle, 291 Falconer Street, Jamestown, New York, party of the second part, \$100.00 duly paid, ½ acre of land, Forget-me-not Club Building.

Stockton

No  
Source  
Given

Services first started for the members of the South Stockton Church of God in the school-house, under the leadership of Mary Hale. They purchased the Forget-Me-Not Club, which was formerly part of the Fenner churn factory. The church was dedicated July 14, 1947. Rev. Russel I. Hinderer, Minister; Morning Worship Sunday AM at 10 o'clock; Sunday AM Sunday School at 11 o'clock; Youth Fellowship and Praise Service Thursday PM at 7:30 o'clock.

Jamestown  
Post-  
Journal  
May 16,  
1952

South Stockton church of God has recently been beautified by a new lawn and a name painted for the front. This little church was once, many years ago, a grocery store operated by the late Adelbert James. From the store, one of the old-time grocery wagons carried a large line of groceries to the farmers' doors. Later the building was sold to the Refus Fenner Churn Factory and used as a warehouse where the Fenner churns were painted and stored.

In more recent years, it was owned by a group of women known as the Forget-Me-Not Club. It was in quite run-down condition when purchased by them, and they held suppers and fancy-work sales to pay for it. A few repairs were made at that time, and several years later, the club sold it to be used as a Sunday School room. Today, through the efforts of Rev. Mary Hale, it has been made into the Church of God. Miss Hale is pastor, and holds services every Sunday morning with Sunday School.

No  
Source  
Given

Centralia M.E.: The M.E. church was organized with seven members in 1838 by Rev. John Wood, the first pastor. The church edifice was erected in 1866, at a cost of \$3,000.00, the present value of church property, and will seat 400 persons. The society consists of thirty members and is under the ministrations of Rev. M. Smith.

This church has a balcony which has been closed.

Young's  
History  
of  
Chaut.  
County  
1875

The Methodist church at Oregon (Centralia) was formed about 1840. In the absence of early records, the following sketch is given from memory by persons residing there at the time of its formation. Rev. John Wood formed a class consisting of Mary Ann Flagg, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Van Wist, Mrs. Charlotte Pickett, Laura Ann Wilder, Rebecca Newton and perhaps others. Abraham Van Wist was leader of the class. Early preachers were Rev. Mr. Barris, Mr. Cummings, Volorus Lake, Orsamus P. Brown. The present preacher (1873) is Rev. M. Smith.

Meetings were held for many years in a school-house. The present meeting house was built in 1866, and dedicated Dec. 27th. Rev. Truesdale was pastor at that time, and Rev. Gruthers preached the dedicatory sermon. It was a stormy day, one of old Chautauqua County's worst, but people came from miles around until the small church

Stockton

Young's  
History  
1875

(Cont'd. from page 45) was crowded. The financial plan decided upon by the congregation was: We will pay as we can afford and if that is not enough we will each pay more. Centralia residents have always been determined to keep the church out of debt. The 30 by 40 foot church was built on a plot of ground deeded to the Methodist Society by Philo Barnes. The group worked hard to raise the \$3,000.00 needed to erect the building, and sacrifices were made to provide interior furnishings. New siding was placed on the church in 1949, and a little later, venetian blinds were hung at the windows.

Gazeteer  
and  
Business  
Directory  
1873-74

The M.E. church at Delanti was organized in November of 1857 with seventeen members by Rev. Ralph R. Roberts, the first pastor, and the first church was erected in 1858 at a cost of \$2,000.00. The society numbers fifty-seven. The pastor is Rev. M. Smith. The church property is valued at \$4,500.00.

Jamestown  
Journal

The Congregationalists sold their church to the M.E. society for \$300.00, with the agreement that this money should be used to help build a church in which all could worship. The old Congregational church was built into a house. The new church was built in 1858 and was used until about 1929, when it united with the Baptist to form the Federated Church of Stockton. The last Methodist pastor was Rev. Ellis. After the union of the two churches, an attempt was made by the Trustees of the Methodist property to foster its use as a community building with recreation facilities for young people. This proved unsuccessful, however, and, lacking proper supervision, irresponsible young people caused serious damage to the property. It was closed, but damage continued, and the Trustees finally decided to tear down the building but retain possession of the land in case it was needed for later church purposes. Mr. L.L. Pierce, who bought the building, plans to reconstruct it on his farm at Bear Lake and use it as a barn. Mr. Pierce has the old church bell, which weighs between 1,000 and 2,000 lbs., and is dated 1868. It was made by the Jones Foundry Company of Troy, N.Y. and is approximately three feet high and three feet in diameter. The present trustees are L.L. Pierce, Max Pierce, Fred Ivett, Clarence Howard, Day Howard and Mark Kelly.

Fredonia  
Censor  
Nov. 1,  
1899

Stockton Letter: The M.E. church sheds are finished.

Censor

Stockton Letter: A Sunday evening union watch meeting was held in the M.E. church from 7 to 12. Sermons were by Rev. Seymour and Rev. Smallenberger. Song service, love feast and consecration service occupied the time very profitably, and at the midnight hour, the old year was tolled out and the new one rung in.

Stockton

- Censor  
Jan. 10,  
1900
- Stockton Letter: Next Tuesday eve, Rev. Crosby of Erie will lecture in the M.E. church. The proceeds are to be used to buy new hymnals for the church.
- Censor  
Mar. 14,  
1900
- Fire in Stockton M.E. church Sunday afternoon about 5:30: Sunday Afternoon about 5:30, fire was discovered in the north-east corner of the M.E. church. A hurried alarm was sent about town, and soon a crowd with pails gathered, and by hand work they saved the building. The fire was heaviest in the closet under the stairs, in which the oil and kindling was kept. How it caught is a mystery. At 3 o'clock, the janitor, Clifford Pierce, was there and fixed the fires and left everything in good condition, stove shut, etc. The church entrance was badly damaged, several windows broken and the paper spoiled in the main audience room. F.S. Hart's piano, which had been used at the concert the night before, and the church organ were taken out before the fire was under control. It is remarkable that the fire was put out when it had such a headway. The Baptist offered the use of their church in which to conduct the revival services. An insurance of about \$1,200.00 was carried on the church, which will cover the loss amounting to about \$500.00.
- Censor  
Mar. 28,  
1900
- Revival meetings are being held at the chapel and will continue through next week (Cassadaga).
- Censor  
April 11,  
1900
- Stockton Letter: Carpenters began repairing the M.E. church Monday. A cellar is also being dug preparatory to putting in a furnace. Some changes will be made in the interior of the church. There will be two small vestibules and a class room in the front, the latter with sliding doors opening into the main audience room.
- Censor  
April 18,  
1900
- Stockton: The work of the repairing of the M.E. church is being pushed rapidly.
- Censor  
May 9,  
1900
- Stockton: It is expected that the M.E. church will be completed by June 10.
- Censor  
May 28,  
1900
- The M.E. church is expected to be finished so as to have the first service on the 10th of June.
- Censor  
June 13,  
1900
- It took considerable hustling the last few days to complete the Methodist church for the dedication on Sunday, but it was accomplished, and a large audience was present at the morning service.
- Censor  
Aug. 1,  
1900
- Stockton Letter: The men of the M.E. church met on Tuesday and improved the grounds around the church.

Stockton

Fredonia  
Censor  
Nov. 17,  
1909

Rev. J.W. Reis of the Stockton Methodist church reports a beautification and renewal of the Methodist church at Centralia, which makes this church a credit and an honor to the community. We know of no country church so finely decorated and finely finished as the church on the charge of Rev. Reis.

Censor  
May 4,  
1910

Stockton Letter: A meeting of the Trustees of the Methodist church and Ladies Aid Society was held in the parsonage Monday night to complete arrangements for laying a cement walk in front of the parsonage and church.

Censor  
June 15,  
1910

Stockton Letter: The new cement walk in front of the M.E. church parsonage and church is now completed. The church property has also been further improved by a cement platform across the front of the church and a cement walk leading to the new sidewalk.

Censor  
Jan. 1,  
1913

Stockton Letter: The Christmas exercises at the Methodist church on Tuesday eve were enjoyed by a large audience. The church was prettily decorated and the Christmas tree was laden with an immense number of presents. The children performed their part in the entertainment in a manner which greatly pleased the audience.

Censor  
May 20,  
1914

Stockton Letter: The Methodist church has been nicely decorated and will be reopened for church services by a special service on Sunday morning.

No  
Source  
Given

Pleasant Valley: Stockton, 1873-4 Union church (United Brethren in Christ) at Pleasant Valley was organized with nineteen members in 1862 by Rev. Joseph Hoyt. There are thirty-six members under the pastoral care of Rev. Joseph Miller. The church property is valued at \$3,055.00; the church edifice was erected in 1871.

1873-74

The First Universalist church of Stockton was organized with eleven members February 6, 1858, by Rev. Isaac George, the first pastor. The church edifice was erected in 1859 at a cost of \$2,500.00 and will seat 300 persons. The church is without a pastor and services are held only occasionally. The church property is valued at \$3,000.00.

Stockton

Chaut. Recorded May A.D. 1858 at 9:00 AM, H.A. Risley, Clerk. Stockton  
County Universalist: At a meeting of the Universalist Congregation in  
Court Stockton, Chautauqua County, New York, convened in the District  
Records School-House of the village of Delanti in said town, according to  
due and legal notice on the 6th day of February, 1858. Armenus  
Ely was elected chairman and John E. Tew was elected Secretary.  
The chairman, after stating the object of meeting to be the organi-  
zation of a religious society to be known as the First Universalist  
Society in the town of Stockton aforesaid, appointed Alvin Drake  
and E. Mitchell as Tellers. When the meeting proceeded to ballot  
for Trustees which resulted in the election of Chauncey Warner,  
Alvin Drake and Eliphalet Mitchell, the terms of whose office will  
expire in the order in which their names are here recorded respec-  
tively.

1932 This church stood where the Stockton Library building now stands.  
It was moved to the rear of the lot where it is now used as a barn  
or storehouse. This church was an impressive structure with a high  
steeple, quaint stained-glass windows and dignified pews. The Ad-  
ventist later met in this church.

Censor Stockton: The Seventh Day Adventist are holdong their quarterly meeting  
April 12, in Grange Hall today. The Rev. Mr. Westerbrook of Buffalo is conduct-  
1911 ing the services, and will hold church services in the same hall tomor-  
row.

## Busti

By  
Historian  
Lucy W.  
Peake  
Lakewood

Lakewood churches: A Union Congregational church was organized at first on Sept. 11, 1893. Services were held in a small chapel on Ohio Avenue and elsewhere. A lot on Summit Street was presented to the congregation in January of 1895. A church building was begun but not completed for several years. In 1894, Rev. J.H. Barnett began to serve as pastor. On the night of June 23, 1914, the church building was completely destroyed by fire.

The year before, on May 6, the Congregationalist church was disbanded and a Methodist-Episcopal church was organized. Rev. W. E. Bartlett was appointed to complete the conference year. Rebuilding began in Oct. of 1914 and the new church was dedicated in 1915 with Rev. A.J. Patterson, the pastor.

The Sacred Heart Catholic church is on Ohio Avenue. The building now occupied by the church was built by Mrs. Rose Kent for a summer chapel about 1884 or earlier. Next, the building housed the electric light plant, then the chamber of commerce for a short time. Finally, in 1913, it was remodeled, and Rev. Father Thomas J. Harrigan established the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in it. Previously, in the summer of 1911, the Catholics held services in the Odd Fellows Hall, Father Mountain officiating. There was also a Grace chapel on Chautauqua Avenue, where services were held for a short time.

There was a United Brethren church on Second Street in Lakewood in earlier days, but church services were discontinued and the building was later torn down. Mr. Charles Swart was a trustee of this church from its organization in 1896 until his death in 1923.

In the past year, a Lutheran church has been organized and has begun to hold services in Lakewood; a church building is expected to be erected soon.

The Baptist church of Busti Village was organized August 30, 1819, by a council consisting of Elder Ebenezer Smith, Paul Davis and Jonathan Wilson. The first pastor was Rev. Paul Davis; the first church edifice was built in 1836 by Aaron Bush, the next was by Orrin Stoddard in 1853 and was dedicated in June of 1854. The bell tower was added in 1888.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Busti Corners was organized in 1819 with sixty members by the Rev. Alvin Burgess, the first pastor. The edifice was built the same year. Since 1923, the Baptist and the Methodist churches have been federated. On April 16, 1948, the Baptist church building burned; now, there is a new federated church in Busti jointly owned by the Baptist and Methodist organizations. It was opened for services April 30, 1950. Rev. George Munger was the pastor.

There is also in Busti a church of God, organized about 1939 by Rev. and Mrs. A.J. Powell.

History  
Chaut.  
County  
1921

The Baptist church of Busti was organized August 30, 1819 by a council consisting of Elder Ebenezer Smith, Paul Davis and Jonathan Wilson. Members uniting at that time were Daniel Startwell, Enoch Alden, Ebenezer Davis, Benjamin Cavel and, it is believed, Henry L., John L., and John Frank Jr., and a few days later, William Frank and Anna Sheppard. The

Busti

History  
Chaut.  
County  
1921

(Cont'd. from page 50) first church edifice was erected in 1836, the present one in 1853. Rev. Paul Jones was the first pastor. The M.E. church of Busti Corners was organized in 1819 by Rev. Alvin Burgess, with sixty members, and a church edifice was erected that same year.

Jamestown  
April 17,  
1948

Fire last night destroyed the 94-year old Baptist church known since 1922 as the Busti Federated church. Two pianos, a number of choirs...the church Bible and an American flag were saved from the building. The destroyed church was built in 1854 at a cost of \$3,200.00. It was dedicated in June of that year. The bell tower was also installed then. The bell was lost in the fire, as well as the church organ, a Reed formerly operated by foot and bellows. The parishioners recently remodeled the organ and purchased an electric motor to operate it at a cost of \$450.00. Actually, nine persons started the Busti Baptist church on August 30, 1819. They were James Burrows, Salmon Blackmar, Aaron Bush, Samuel Bliss, Samuel Bollard, Sarah Burrows, Sally Bush, Olive Bliss and Relief Pickard.

On that day, four others were baptized. They are listed in the church records as charter members of the church. The four were Henry L., John L. Frank, Emry and Amy Davis.

The thirteen Baptist of that day met in school-houses, their own homes or wherever was convenient until they built their first church in 1854.

In 1888 the church was repaired and the stained-glass windows were installed. Eleven years later, the parishioners added the church kitchen and prayer room and dedicated the baptistry.

No further repairs were necessary until 1941, when the church auditorium was remodeled at a cost of \$2,000.00. The exterior of the church was painted two years ago. Since the nearby Methodist church had a small membership, and the Baptist likewise, the officials of the two churches decided in 1922, to unite, and each hold separate services in the one church, using the other for a recreation center. The Federated church was formed in 1923.

The Busti Federated church is to have a new building. April 25, 1950 the new church building was dedicated Sunday with fitting ceremonies. The prayer of consecration was given by Rev. Howard Stull.

Chaut.  
County  
History  
1921

Sacred Heart Church, Lakewood: In 1911, Rev. David Mountin, a missionary father sent by Bishop Colton, bought a church property in Lakewood formerly owned by a Protestant congregation. On May 26, 1912, Sacred Heart Church opened a parish, with Rev. Thomas Harrigan as the first pastor.

Busti

Court  
Records

A meeting was held Jan. 31, 1843 to organize the Church of Christ in Busti in the school-house in District No. 12 in the town of Busti and to form a religious society. John Babcock and Julius C. Smith, two of the persons worshipping in said society presided thereat. Edmond Jennings, Benjamin Ellis, Ira Kimball, John Babcock, Harvey Thompson, Daniel B. Whinling, Julius C. Smith, and William Bullock, legal voters, did proceed to form a society in the town of Busti for the purpose of building a meeting house for the worship of God and said society to be known and distinguished as the Society of The Church of Christ and that three Trustees be chosen to manage the concerns thereof; whereupon, Wm. Bullock, Edward Jennings and Ira Kimball were chosen.

In the Presence of:

E.J. Foote

Wm. Bullock                      June 24, 1843

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Sept. 12,  
1893

Lakewood: A new church organized at Lakewood--To be the Church of Christ in Lakewood/Union Congregational. To meet in the chapel building. This is the only organized church in Lakewood. The Free Baptist church organized in the spring disbanded, most of its members uniting with this organization.

Evening  
Journal  
Dec. 1,  
1893

The Union Congregational church of Lakewood will hold services tomorrow in the hall of the school building. Rev. E.B. Burroughs will officiate. Morning services will be at 11 o'clock, when the communion of the Lord's supper will be observed to which participation in all Christian people are cordially invited. Evening services will be at 7:15. Sabbath School at 12 o'clock, Young Peoples meeting at 6:30. The public welcome at all services.

1942

Lakewood: The Union Congregational church was organized Sept. 11, 1893, and services were held in the small chapel on Ohio Avenue and elsewhere. In 1894, Rev. J.H. Barnett was called to the pastorate. A lot on Summit Street was presented by Mr. George Hall, and in 1895, a church building was begun but was not completed for several years. The following pastors served the church: Robert Brown, especially beloved; George R. Montgomery; T.A. Waltrip; I.N. Steedman; Louis Swanson; Wm.C. Cravenor; Heber R. Harper; Wm. E. Boyd; A.N. Dunmore; George P. Ferguson. A number of the pastors were students from Allegheny College. On May 6, 1913, the Union Congregational Church was disbanded and an M.E. church was organized. Rev. W.E. Bartlett was appointed to complete the conference year. On the night of June 23, 1914, just the night before the high school commencement exercises were to be held there, the building was completely destroyed by fire. Rebuilding began in October of 1914, and the new church was dedicated in 1915, with Rev. A.J. Patterson the pastor. Following pastors were: O.H. Nickle; A.B. Phillips; F.W. Cass; Chas.

1942 (Cont'd. from page 52) McKinley; Harry Hummer; Lee Smith; John H. Gresh; W. Scott Ingersol; Milo M. Mook; Frank W. Shope; Earl N. Engle; the present pastor is Henry J. Mosman. Mrs. Sally Gross was one of the earliest Sunday School teachers; Mrs. Bryan Walton was Sunday School Superintendent. \$400.00 was raised and a bell presented to the church in 1923. Chimes were given to the church in 1926 by Mr. J. Ward Packard in memory of his mother.

Liber 275 page 81 Nov. 13, 1895, Between George Hall of Cleveland, Ohio, party of the first part, and the Trustees of the Union Congregational church of Lakewood, Chautauqua County, State of New York, and to their successors in office for perpetual trust for the purpose of building and maintaining therein a Congregational church, wherein the worship of God shall be maintained according to the government and usages of aforesaid church and denominated parties, consideration \$1.00 do grant and convey all that tract or parcel of land situate in the town of Busti etc., known as part of Lot No. 16 in the second township, twelfth range. Site to revert back to party of the first part when no longer used for church purposes.

Jamestown Evening Journal March 6, 1896 Lakewood: Friday--Sunday morning last, an impressive service in the Congregational Church Hall was held when the ordinance of baptism was administered to ten candidates by the pastor of the church Rev. J.H. Barnett. Following the baptism, twelve persons were received into full membership in the church. Others will be received next Sunday. Commencing Monday evening and continuing throughout the week, a special series of services will be held in the Congregational Hall. Monday evening, Rev. A.L. Smalley of the First Congregational church of Jamestown will speak and will be followed Tuesday evening by Rev. Dr. Colville of the First Presbyterian church of the same place. Rev. Elicott C. Hall and others will be heard throughout the week.

Jamestown Evening Journal May 15, 1896 Lakewood: The Congregational people will conduct services Sunday in the lecture room of their new church. The building is fast nearing completion, and has come to be the pride of almost every resident in Lakewood. Rev. Mr. Barnett is to be congratulated on the happy realization of his plans.

June 16, 1896 Lakewood Congregational church opened: The formal opening of the lecture room of the Union Congregational church of Lakewood took place Sunday, June 14. Rev. W.A. Hallock of Jamestown preached in the morning, and the choir of the Ashville Congregational church

Busti

June 16, (Cont'd. from page 53) furnished the music. In the evening,  
1896 Rev. A.L. Smalley of Jamestown preached, after which, Rev. E. C. Hall addressed the meeting. The church is a very attractive structure located on Summit Street.

Jamestown Lakewood: Children's day was observed in the Congregational  
Evening church Sunday. A program of songs, recitations and responsive  
Journal reading was well rendered.  
June 25,  
1901

Jamestown In the summer of 1937, a group of young people from Jamestown,  
Post- under the leadership of Mrs. A.J. Powell, started what is now the  
Journal Busti Church of God.  
Sat. May Meetings were held in the Swedish Mission house for two years,  
7, 1955 then meetings were held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lar-  
son, and later in the home of Emil Hazeltine. In the spring of  
1940, August Wallin bought a house in the village which was con-  
verted by the members into a church building and was dedicated  
in September of 1940.  
Services were held there until the fall of 1954, when the congre-  
gation moved to the present church. The property was purchased in  
1951, and excavation started in October of that year. The cornerstone  
was laid in August of 1952. The church was incorporated in July,  
1951, dedicated May 8, 1955.  
Ministers serving the church have been: Mrs. A.J. Powell, Rev.  
Floyd Swonger, Rev. I.W. Barrett, Rev. R.I. Hinderer, Rev. A.H.  
Claxton and Rev. Rowe, the present pastor.

Court 15th day of August, 1952: Between Church of God, Jamestown, a  
Records religious corporation organized under the laws of the State of  
New York, having its principal office and place of worship at  
No. 291 Falconer Street, Jamestown, N.Y., party of the first  
part, and Busti Church of God, Busti, New York, consideration  
of one dollar and other good and valuable consideration paid by  
the party of the second part does hereby remise, release and  
quit-claim unto the party of the second part, the building site  
for the new church of God in Busti.

Kindness The Congregational church of Frewsburg stood originally on the  
of Rev. NE corner of a crossroad and at the SW corner of Lot No. 5, Town-  
Fischer ship 1 and range 12 of the Holland Land Company Survey in the  
of Frews. town of Busti and faced south. In 1824, there were a number of  
U.B. Church Congregational families in Busti, the Jones and the Hazeltines who,  
1953 with some others, organized a church and erected a house of worship

Busti

Kindness  
of Rev.  
Fischer

(Cont'd. from page 54) and for several years maintained preaching. About 1855, they abandoned their church, which was located two miles west of the village of Busti. About this time, a Congregational church was organized in Frewsburg and the Busti people offered their church building to the people of Frewsburg society. The structure was taken down and moved by wagon to Frewsburg in 1862 where it was re-erected soon after. It was a frame structure 30 x 45 feet with an arched ceiling 19½ feet high in the center and a pulpit recess. It was built of the finest pine timber.

Liber  
260  
page  
330

Sept. 11, 1893: Between John S. Turner of the city of Jamestown, County of Chautauqua, State of New York and Edwin S. Turner and Nellie his wife of the town of Brookfield, County of Fairfield, State of Connecticut of the first part and John Donelson, Charles O. Anderson and A.G. Anderson, Trustees of the Congregational Swedish church and their successors as Trustees of the second part, consideration \$200.00 to them duly paid, has sold and by their presents, does grant and convey to the said party of the second part, their heirs and assigns all that tract or parcel of land situate in the Town of Busti, etc., and bounded as follows and known as part of Lot No. 60 in the first town and eleventh range of the Holland Land Company Survey and bounded as follows: on the east by the center of the highway leading from Sugar Grove road to Lafayette Davis eleven rods on the south by the center of the Sugar Grove road seven rods, on the west by land formerly of The-ron Palmiter eleven rods, on the north by land of Elvina Garfield seven rods, containing seventy-seven rods of land be the same more or less. Also one other piece of land in the town of Busti aforesaid and bounded by a line beginning in the center of the Jamestown Road and Sugar Grove Road at the SW corner of what was Geo. J. Turner house lot in the village of Busti, N.Y., then south forty-five degrees, west two chains and seventy links, thence North forty-five degrees, west five chains, thence north forty-five degrees, east three chains and seventy-two links, thence south fifty-three degrees and forty minutes. East along the center of the highway two chains and thirty-four links thence south forty-five degrees, west one chain seventy-five links, thence south fifty-three degrees and forty minutes, east two chains and seventy five links to the place of beginning, containing one acre and fifty-eight hundreds of an acre be the same more or less. This indenture made is the intention of conveyence is to convey all the right, title and interest of the parties of the first part in and to all the described premises.

Wm. Northrop, Jr.  
Justice of the Peace

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Aug. 6,  
1908

Busti Swedish Notes: The Sunday School picnic Swedish Congregational Sunday School was held Wednesday at the grove of John Donaldson near Busti.

Busti

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Aug. 11,  
1898

The U.B. church at Lakewood dedicated: The First U.B. Congregational Church of Lakewood was dedicated Sunday Morning. The church was crowded with members and friends of the church and nearly \$600.00 was raised. Rev. J. Hill of Sugar Grove was in charge of the dedication service, and he was assisted by the pastor, Rev. F.E. Depew. Music was furnished by a Jamestown choir under the direction of L.D. Powers. Solos were very acceptably sung by Prof. Harry Manville of Meadville and others. An evening service was also conducted by Rev. Hill.

April 30,  
1953

The service for organization of the Lutheran church in Lakewood will be held Sunday at 9:30 AM in the American Legion Clubhouse. The speaker will be Rev. Glen Pierson, Regional Director of home missions for the New York Area of the Augustan Lutheran Synod. The proposed name for the new church is Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran church. Immediately after the service of organization, the first congregational meeting will be held. Rev. Paul V. Beck of Mayville, who has been conducting a Lutheran mission in Lakewood for the past year, will be pastor of the new church.

May 4,  
1953

A Lutheran church congregation was established here Sunday with 52 chartered adult members. They adopted the church's constitution, agreed upon the name of the church, and elected a Board of Administrators. Meeting in the Lakewood Memorial Post American Legion Home, the congregation decided to retain as a name for its church the "Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church." Named as church officials were: Board of Trustees--Kenneth Sampson, Clarence Affhaus, and Ernest Anderson. Deacons--Oscar Martinson, A.R. Bergstrom, and Henry Dittman.

1953

Rev. Glen Pierson, Middle Village, Long Island, Regional Director of Home Missions for the New York Area of the Augustana Lutheran Church was a speaker. The Board of Administrators was authorized to select a site for construction of a church for approval by the congregation. The first service was held last September in the Legion Home and was attended by 40 persons, and is increasing in number since. Rev. Beck will continue to conduct Sunday Morning services at 9:30 and Sunday School an hour later.

Aug. 20,  
1953

Lakewood: The officials of Gloria Dei Lutheran church today announced the selection of a site for a new church. The parish, organized in May, has been holding services in the American Legion Clubhouse here. The new site is on the south side of Route 17J, between Chautauqua Avenue and Winch Road. The church has a membership of 57.

Busti

Court  
Records

April 1, 1878, between Mark Jones and his wife of the town of Busti, County of Chaautauqua, State of New York of the first part, and John Donaldson, A. Fosburg, Elias Peterson, Andrew Swanson and Andrew Torsander, Trustees of the Swedish Lutheran church of the town, county and state aforesaid of the second part, consideration of the sum of three-hundred dollars, do grant and convey all that tract or parcel of land situate in the town of Busti, known as part of Lot No. 60, being bounded as follows: Beginning at the SE corner of the cemetery lot, thence southerly on a line with the east boundary of the cemetery to a point, thence westerly with and nine feet distant from Mrs. Jennings' north line to the middle of the highway leading from Busti Corners to the mills, thence northerly along said highway to the M.E. parsonage lot, thence easterly along said lot and cemetery to the place of beginning, containing one acre of land more or less.

No  
Source  
Given

May 29, 1888: Mark Jones and Rebecca his wife of Busti of the first part, Charles O. Anderson, A.G. Anderson and Andrew G. Anderson as Trustees of the Busti Swedish church, known as part of Lot No. 60, Town 1, Range 11, bounded as follows: On the south by Mrs. Jennings house lot, on the west by the highway leading from the corners to the grist mill and on the north by the Swedish Church Lot on the east by the extension of the east line of said church lot and being a strip of land nine feet wide extending from the said highway to Land now owned by the parties of the first part.

1893

Between Mark Jones and wife, town of Busti of the first part, and John Donyldson, A. Forsburg, Charles Peterson, Andrew Swanson and Andrew Forrander, Trustees of the Lutheran Swede church of the town of Busti, etc., aforesaid of the second part, sum of \$300.00 do grant and convey part of Lot No. 60, Town and Range 11, not the above lot but near the cemetery.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Sat. Dec.  
22, 1906

Busti, Dec. 21: At the conclusion of the services in the Swedish Lutheran church last Sunday afternoon, the 21st birthday of the pastor, Victor Lindeblad, was observed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bjork. A collection of about 9 dollars was taken for the church.

Aug. 6,

Busti: The sewing society of the Swedish Lutheran church of Busti met Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Olive Peterson. There was a good turnout. Rev. J.A. Rinell conducted devotional services. Refreshments were served. The collection amounted to \$7.35. The next meeting will be held at the home of A.O. Nygren

Busti

August 6

(Cont'd. from page 57) on August 13. Rev. J.A. Rinnell will preach at the Sewdish Lutheran church at this place at 10:30 in the morning and in the afternoon he will preach at the home of Olaf Nelson at Farmington.

No  
Source  
Given

The Busti Methodist church was organized in 1819 with sixty members by Rev. Alvin Burgess, the first pastor. The church edifice was built that same year. In 1923, it was federated with the Baptist church and used jointly by both for various services. After the Baptist church burned in 1949, the Methodist church was used exclusively for Federated services.

It closed its doors following the Sunday services, and consecration of the new Busti Federated church April, 1950 marked the opening of the present church. The old one has been sold to the Busti Grange, which will take possession immediately and will be remodeled to conform to their requirements.

Liber  
237  
page  
358

Dec. 1st, 1888, between Wm. B. Martin and his wife Mary A. Martin of the town of Busti, State of New York, etc. of the first part and Edmund Pilling, John Northrop and Andrew F. Husband, Trustees of the M.E. church of Busti of the same place of the second part, consideration sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) to them duly paid has sold, granted and conveyed part of Lot 60, Town 1, Range 11, etc.

Wm. Northrop, Jr.  
Justice of the Peace

Jamestown  
Journal  
Sept. 12,  
1893

The M.E. society (Lakewood) met for prayer and song Thursday evening on Chautauqua Avenue. Class meetings next Thursday evening at the same place. Sabbath School at the Sanitorium next Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.

Sept. 15,  
1893

The M.E. Sabbath School organized in this place under very favorable conditions. The attendance of 36 members at the first session was very encouraging. Nineteen families were represented.

Jamestown  
Journal  
May 17,  
1913

Lakewood: A public meeting of the citizens of Lakewood was held in the M.E. church there Tuesday evening of last week, for the purpose of organizing an M.E. church in the village. There were 31 persons present, and by a unanimous vote, it was decided to incorporate the church. Attorney C.A. Pickard was present and the papers for the incorporation were made out. The following Trustees were elected: Rev. L.J. Bennett, R.T. Cowing, G.E.

Busti

Jamestown  
Journal  
May 17,  
1913

(Cont'd. from page 58) Tanner, Mrs. Margaret Russell, Warren Norton and Mrs. Julia B. Darrow. Rev. J.P. Burns, District Superintendent, was present and assisted in the work of organization.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Wed. Sept.  
1, 1926

Busti Church Celebrates its 50th Birthday: The Swedish mission church of Busti, which is the oldest mission church in this locality, celebrated its fifty years' anniversary beginning last Friday evening and extending through Sunday. During all the meetings, the little church was crowded to capacity. Rev. A.J. Isaacson, pastor of the church, was in direct charge of the celebration. Rev. Otto Johnson was pastor of the church from 1900 to 1903; Rev. David Lundquist of Troy, N.Y. was pastor from 1903 to 1905; Rev. A.G. Nelson of Warren, Pa., who held the pastorate of the church at first fifty years ago, gave an interesting talk, and a vocal solo was sung by Rev. Otto Johnson and Mr. Leonard Johnson of the Zion Mission church of this city. The brother of Rev. Otto Johnson gave the closing prayer. The history of the church was read by Rev. A.J. Isaacson, who also read greetings from two former ministers, Rev. Fred Edquist of Dassel, Minnesota, and Rev. O.K. Koch of Stranton, Penna., who were unable to be present. Rev. A.G. Nelson told of the beginning of the church fifty years ago and of some of the hardships the struggling church underwent. Mr. Gustaf Lund of the Swedish Mission church of this city spoke in behalf of that church, calling it the daughter of the church of Busti. Music was furnished by the male chorus of the Mission church, led by Miss Ebba Goroson. A gift of fifty dollars was presented to the church by a former member, A.G. Anderson of Jamestown. The charter members of the Busti church who are now living are: Mr. and Mrs. Peter Pang, August Baker, Frewsburg; Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Lund, Mrs. Lars Lawson and August Lindquist, Busti; Mrs. Alfred Peterson, John Hall, A.G. Anderson and Louis Sanberg, Jamestown.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Jan. 20,  
1896

Lakewood: Rev. F.E. Depew of Watts Flats organized a branch of the United Brethren church at Lakewood last week with 22 members. Mr. Depew has been holding revival services there since the first of January, preaching to large congregations and meeting with flattering success. Meetings will be held every evening this week except Saturday. Rev. C.D. Swart will preach this evening and Tuesday evening and Prof. R.J. White of Sugar Grove will preach either Wed. or Thursday evening.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
April 24,  
1896

Lakewood: A number of months ago, the wealthy and fashionable summer attendants of the Episcopal chapel expressed their intentions of presenting a sum of money, which has been variously estimated in popular opinion to be from \$250 to \$500, but which is authentically credited to be \$300, to the first church society which would erect and occupy here a church edifice. The gift seemed reasonably sure of going to the Congregational Society, which, under the able pastorate of Rev. and Mrs. Barnett, has long cherished the project of erecting a church edifice that would be a pride to the village. Indeed, the plans were drawn and many details of the work arranged last autumn. During the winter, a disciple of the United Brethren faith succeeded in securing a large following, a natural outcome of which was a project for the erection of a suitable meeting house. The new society evidently considered so generous an offer worthy its steel, and work has been pushed on both edifices with favoring weather, with all possible speed. The arrangements of the Congregational church, in the opinion of experts, are highly advantageous, and it will be one of the most beautiful, convenient and handsome edifices of its class anywhere. The U.B. church, though much smaller, is attractive and admirably suited to its purposes. It is expected to have the churches ready in early June, yet the people are wondering who is to get the gift.

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
Feb. 7,  
1896

Lakewood: The organization of the United Brethren church was completed Wednesday evening at a meeting of prospective members held for that purpose. The organization was the direct outcome of a series of revival meetings which has been continued a number of weeks by Rev. F.E. Depew and several assistants. The church has a membership of 31, four of whom were received at this meeting. Through the generosity of Ransom Cowing, the organization has been presented with an advantageously situated lot for a church edifice on the north side of Second Street and the Steel Packard and Wan Company has donated an adjoining lot for the erection of a parsonage. It is expected to break ground for the new church Monday, as soon as the weather will permit. The following church officers were elected Wednesday: Class leader, Mr.s Ida Atkins; Assistant Class leader, Frank Grant; Organist, Mrs. Clara Atkins; Chorister, Mr. Bucher; Wardens: Mrs. Viola F. Askinson, Mrs. Francis Helfield; Trustees: Charles H. Wicks, Ransom F. Cowing, Charles G. Swart; the following were elected for the Sunday School: Supt. Jefferson Barker; Asst. Supt. Bernard F. Carpenter; Secretary, Frank Grant; Asst. Secretary, Mrs. Nora Eddy; Librarian, C.C. Swart; Organist, Miss Delila Jenner; Chorister, C.C. Swart. The church organizations will be incorporated. Revival services will be continued during the coming week.

Busti

Jamestown  
Evening  
Journal  
July 2,  
1896

Lakewood: New United Brethren Church at Lakewood: The dedication of the new United Brethren church at Lakewood, which was to have taken place June 21, was for several reasons postponed until the last of July. However, Rev. J. Hill was present and preached an excellent sermon which was appreciated by all. A choir from Jamestown, led by L.D. Powers, rendered delightful music. The offering taken amounted to over \$35.00. The house was tastefully decorated with flowers and ferns; the building is a beautiful one and has a clear-toned bell which can be heard for miles. It is seated with first-class pews, has a fine pulpit, rostrum and organ. In a word, it is a fine church and an ornament to Lakewood. The entire cost of furnishing is \$2,500.00.

Much credit is due the Trustees, C. Wicks, R. Cowing, C. Swart, and other friends of the enterprise for their perseverance and liberality.

Liber  
276  
page  
282

Oct. 31, 1896: Between Martha A. Cowing of Lakewood, New York party of the first part and Ransom F. Cowing, Charles N. Wicks, Charles C. Swart, George Arkinsey, Mrs. Lucy Grant, Frank Grant and Adelbert Eddy, trustees of the United Brethren church of the village of Lakewood, N.Y. and their successors in office of the second part, consideration \$300.00, land situated in the town of Busti, Village of Lakewood, part of Lot 16, Town 2, Range 11.

F.A. Bently  
Notary Public

Court  
Records

Busti: Meeting held Jan. 14, 1846, in the brick school-house of said town for the purpose of organizing a society to be called the First Universalist Society in the town of Busti and vicinity. Wm. Martin and David Palmeter were called to conduct the meeting.

Court  
Records

April 29, 1854: Between Oren Stoddard and Catherine his wife of the town of Busti, County of Chautauqua, State of New York of the first part and Iriah Palmeter, Isahel Andrews and Solo-Butts, Trustees of the Universalist Society of the town of Busti of the County of Chautauqua and State of N.Y. of the second part, for consideration of the sum of ninety dollars paid by said party of the second part, released unto the said party of the second part and to their successors in office forever, all that certain piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the town of Busti, Co. of Chaut., State of N.Y., being a part of Lot No. 60 of the first (?) Township, eleventh range and bounded as follows: Beginning at the NE corner of the Methodist-Episcopal Meeting House lot in the center of the highway leading from Busti Corners to Y. bushand Sawmill, thence westerly along the north line of said meeting house lot two chains and sixteen links to a post, thence northerly parallel to highway one chain and fifty links to a post, thence easterly parallel to the south line hereof two chains and sixteen links and

Busti

Court  
Records

(Cont'd. from page 61) thence south along the middle of said highway one chain and forty links to the place of beginning, containing 30/100 acre of land.

County  
Clerk's  
Office

March 8, 1865: Members of the First Universalist Society of Busti, which had become dissolved by non-usure or neglect, met at the home of Norman Backus in the town of Busti for the purpose of reorganization and pursuant to previous notice, given according to the statute, the meeting was by the choice of Richard Devereaux and Norman Backus, two members of the society to be moderators of and to preside over said meeting. The members then proceeded elect their Trustees of said society and made choice of: George Martin, J.G. Gage, and Norman Backus. The meeting then adopted the following resolutions: Resolved, that the Trustees be authorized to take the necessary measures to sell the lot belonging to the said First Universalist Society in Busti for the best price that can be obtained. Therefore the meeting then adjourned. Dated at Busti, March 8, 1865.

O. Cook, Judge of  
Chautauqua County

No  
Source  
Given

A special meeting of the legal voters of District No. 15 in the town of Busti was held pursuant to legal notice on the 13th day of May, 1863, for the purpose of taking into consideration the buying of said Free Church for a school-house. Motion carried, Trustees pay \$250.00 for the Free Church and its appendages for a school-house in District 15; moved and carried that the church be partitioned into two rooms, leaving one room the largest.