

Trinity Episcopal Church in Gouverneur

By MRS. RICHARD JANKE

In 1862, the Rev. Wilbur Padcock held the first Episcopalian religious service in Gouverneur in the Presbyterian church. Then in 1865 the Rev. Jeddekiah Winslow came from Watertown as a traveling missionary for the North Country and held a few services. Seeing great possibilities for the establishment of a church, he was appointed missionary in charge of the interested congregation in February, 1866, and held regular services in the Wesleyan seminary, a conference school of the Methodist church.

Within two months parish organization was effected, and on Easter Monday, April 16, 1866, the congregation was incorporated as Trinity Church.

The first wardens and vestrymen were: Judge Benjamin F. Skinner, warden; Aaron B. Cutting, warden; Augustus E. Norton, Albert M. Barney, Amos E. Egert, Griswold E. Burt, John S. Honeycomb, Thomas Jones, James D. Easton and William H. Bowne.

First Minister

The Rev. J. Winslow was the first minister and his total salary was \$685.00 with \$435.00 pledged from the local parish, \$150.00 from the Board of Missions, and \$100.00 from the Northern Convocation.

Plans were immediately made to build a church. A subscription was started, and the women formed the Ladies Aid Society of 30 members. Under the presidency of Mrs. Amos Egert, they raised \$900.00 the first year by festivals, socials, and suppers. A lot on the corner of Trinity avenue and Park street was donated by Messrs. James and William Averill of Ogdensburg. John S. Honeycomb and James Anderson were appointed architects and given the contract for the church building.

Building the Church

On September 10, 1866, the cornerstone was laid; and about a year later the building was completed at a cost of \$7,000.00, a great deal of labor having been donated.

The basement was fitted up for a Parish School which opened in the fall of 1867 with 40 pupils and Miss Katherine Skinner as teacher. The village had limited school facilities at the time so the school

was of great benefit to the community and continued for seven years at which time the East Side School at the corner of Gordon street and Barney streets was built. On July 29, 1869, free from debt, the church was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. William Croswell Doane, S.T.D., LL.D., D.O.L., first bishop of the Diocese of Albany. It stated in the original subscription that the pews or sittings should be assessed yearly for the contingent revenue of the parish. In 1870, Trinity Church was admitted into the Diocese of Albany. Services have been maintained regularly since by the following rectors:

Rectors

The Rev. Jeddekiah Winslow, 1866-1867; The Rev. E. Dolloway, 1867-1870; The Rev. J. H. Babcock, 1870-1871; The Rev. William M. Ogden, 1871-1875; The Rev. Thomas W. Barry, 1875-1877; The Rev. Herbert C. Miller, 1877-1878; The Rev. Bradford D. Kirkbride, 1878-1879; The Rev. Samuel B. Bostwick, 1880-1881; The Rev. John Dolby Skeene, 1881-1883; The Rev. Benjamin Rice Phelps, 1883-1885; The Rev. George Howard Sommerville, 1885-1889; The Rev. James A. Dickson, 1890-1914; The Rev. William A. Braithwaite, 1914-1923; The Rev. W. Hubert Bierck, 1923-1925; The Rev. Victor O. Boyle, 1925-1942; The Rev. Robert Clyde Joudry, 1942-1952 and The Rev. Richard K. Janke, 1952-.

Choir and Organ

The first choir was organized in 1867 under the direction of Mrs. Fidelia Goodrich Burt, who was a teacher of vocal and instrumental music and a talented musician. In 1882, a pipe organ was purchased and an organ chamber built to accommodate it. In 1893, this organ was exchanged for a new one made by Hook and Hastings at an additional cost of \$1100.00. This organ, still in use today, is in excellent condition and in its original form except for the tremolo-stop added in 1935 and the electric blower installed in 1924.

Choir vestments were first used on Easter Day, 1905; they were made in London, England, by Vanheims, at a cost of \$200.00. The choir has continued as a vested organization ever since maintained by a devoted band of organists,

directors and singers. At present, there are 20 members under the direction of Mrs. William T. Anderson with Mrs. Carlton Weegar as organist.

Sunday School

The Sunday School was organized in 1867 with Aaron B. Cutting as the first superintendent. Week-day church school began in 1921, meeting every Thursday from 8:45-9:45 under the leadership of the rector. At present there are about 60 pupils. Assisting Father Janke on Thursday are Mrs. Larry Mashaw, Mrs. Thomas Rotundo, and Mrs. Walter Christensen. Assisting at Sunday School are Miss Mary Kenyon, Mrs. Jack Elmer, Mrs. George Coughler, Mrs. James Fleming and Carlton Weegar.

Rectory

In May, 1869, Judge James Smith of Buffalo, New York, gave a spacious lot and house at the northwest corner of John and South streets for a parish rectory. This rectory was sold and the proceeds put into a larger and more convenient house at the rear of the church lot which was completed in 1882. A screened in porch was added while the Rev. V. O. Boyle was rector.

Vestry

The vestry which has charge of church property and finances has been served by a devoted group of laymen. Originally the vestry consisted of two wardens and eight vestrymen, but in 1884, this number was reduced to five. In January, 1953, a rotating vestry was started making any man going off the vestry ineligible for reelection for a year. The present vestry consists of two wardens and six vestrymen. They are: wardens: J. Elliot Wood, and Walter Christensen; vestrymen: William Hammond, Ray Fosgate, Charles Murphy, Carl Davis, Garneld Savage and Vernon Cannoy.

Church Groups

The women of the church are organized into two guilds, St. Agnes' Guild and Trinity Guild. St. Agnes Guild was organized in the Rev. G. H. Sommerville's time to carry on the duties of the former St. Cecelia's Guild which assisted in the expenses of the choir and the organ. In addition they pledged themselves to take care of the altar, altar hangings, and

linen. At present, the guild helps materially in parish finances along with their other work. In 1952, the members bought material and made a set of purple Eucharistic vestments. They also made and embroidered purificators and lavabo towels. The present officers are: president, Mrs. Carlton Weegar; vice-president, Mrs. Hazel Hudson; secretary, Mrs. Elliot Wood; treasurer, Mrs. William Anderson; chaplain, Miss Grace Corbin.

Trinity Guild was formed in 1941. Its members have given financial aid to the parish and Sunday school and have been responsible for the choir mothers and choir vestments. New choir vestments were bought in 1948 with funds from both guilds. The present officers of Trinity Guild are: president, Mrs. Carl Davis; vice-president, Mrs. Thomas Rotundo; secretary, Mrs. George Gardner; treasurer, Mrs. David Murray; chaplain, Mrs. Walter Christensen.

The original Ladies Aid society changed its name to St. Andrew's Guild about 1900. It was disbanded several years ago, and now there are only three members left Mrs. Frank Keeler, Mrs. Carl Geisendorfer and Mrs. Albert Boughner. The missionary work of the

church is done by the Women's auxiliary which was formed in 1898 with every woman in the church being a member. The United Thank Offering, the missionary box during Lent, and sending materials to hospitals and missions is the special work of this group. During the Rev. J. A. Dickson's time, The Daughters of the King was formed along with a junior group. These were strictly devotional groups and were disbanded while the Rev. Braithwaite was rector.

Church Property

The church building and property have been kept in good preservation. Early in The Rev. J. A. Dickson's time, the interior was redecorated, and stained glass windows were placed in the nave of the church. About 1915 the interior was redecorated again in soft tones of cream and buff with appropriate church symbols and colors in the chancel and sanctuary, at a cost of \$3,000. This was so beautiful and lasting that only now are we looking forward to redecoration again.

Also, in 1915 a parish room, a vesting room for the choir, and the kitchen were built. In 1941, a handsome new ceiling of acoustic board was installed to replace the

old plaster one. The hardwood floors throughout the church were refinished with duro seal. In 1948 the old furnace was taken out, and a new oil burner installed. Two Sunday School rooms were built along with a room for keeping the choir robes. New cupboards were built in the kitchen, and in 1949 a rubber tile floor was put in the main room.

In 1953 one large room was made out of the two small Sunday school rooms, and it was fitted out for a nursery school with a sand box and small tables. Recently the main room of the basement has been done over, covering the walls with insulation board and painting the woodwork and ceiling. Better lighting was attained by new and additional light fixtures. The kitchen is in the process of redecoration. Besides a new ten burner, two oven gas stove and a refrigerator, new wiring has been put in the kitchen.

The Men's Club has donated its time and labor to do this work and expect to install a new tile floor this summer.

The officers of the Men's Club are: president, Vernon Cannoy; vice-president, John Henry; secretary, Lincoln Cathers and treasurer, Barney Howland.

History of the W.S.C.S. of the Methodist Church

By MISS ELEANOR FLETCHER

The actual recordings of work carried on by the women of the Gouverneur Methodist church in its earliest days have been mislaid thus making impossible the writing of any lengthy history. However, we do know that from the beginning the church has had an active group of women working steadfastly in the background.

Lacking old records, we are very fortunate in having the co-operation of Mrs. Harry Rogers, who as Miss Elizabeth Williams, first became a member of the Missionary society of the Methodist church in 1895 and for many years was an ardent and active member thereof. She has volunteered a few interesting facts concerning these earlier days.

She remembered as president of the Foreign Mission group, Mrs. L. M. Gardner; of the Home Mission Society, Mrs. George Beaman, sr. Later, the two missionary groups were united under one

president, the first being Mrs. C. G. Mellen. Other active members at that time were Mrs. L. M. Gardner, Mrs. Beaman and Miss Belle Beaman.

Programs of work for the year were sent to the society from headquarters and included books on home and foreign missions. Often times the meetings centered about the visit of some returned missionary when members received first hand information on the needs of people at home and abroad. One meeting which Mrs. Rogers recalled with particular pleasure was on foreign customs. Various members decorated homes to resemble the homes of Chinese, Japanese, Indian and other countries. Members visited each home in turn and were entertained as guests in that particular country would be entertained and served refreshments in keeping with the decoration.

One memorable missionary meeting saw the dedication of a

life to service. Miss Lila Thayer, daughter of Ortega Thayer, Grovest, Gouverneur, N.Y., so dedicated her life, studied at a school in Washington, D.C., later serving as a missionary in Porto Rico.

Besides the missionary groups in which the women studied the needs of others, there existed a Pastor's Aid society which aided in the work of the local church and raised funds for this purpose by the well known suppers in addition to regular dues and gifts.

In September, 1940, the entire women's group was changed in name and set up to our present Women's Society of Christian Service, directly under the Conference of the Methodist church in its rulings and programs.

Presidents of the society since 1940 have been: Mrs. Amy Brown, Mrs. Grant Freeman, Mrs. Charles Griffith and, at the present time, Miss Eleanor R. Fletcher, who during a period of illness was assisted by Mrs. Merton Hewitt.

The First Methodist Church in Gouverneur

By **GORDON J. BUTLER**
And **JULIUS R. BARTLETT**

A certain air of mystery hangs over the beginnings of the Methodist church in Gouverneur. Research among old records does show that as early as 1807, two years after the founding of the settlement, religious meetings were held that on occasion were presided over by a Methodist minister. Without a doubt these were men of the gallant company of itinerant preachers, who with saddle bags over their horses, braved the hardships of a wilderness to carry the gospel. None stayed long enough to establish any particular denomination.

Authentic history is obscured further when some early writings reveal that previous to 1828 a Methodist group had grown up, who, although large enough to meet in the homes of members, still lacked a regular minister. Documents disclose that the home of Dr. Richard Townsend on the Johnstown road, one half mile from the present village limits, was open for services. However, as Dr. Townsend had left the town by that date, the host must remain unknown.

After Godfrey W. Barney, listed as one of the early traveling ministers, the first name to be actively connected with Methodism is that of Benjamin Dighton who came in 1828.

Early Struggles

Although the Baptist church which started in Gouverneur in 1811 and the Presbyterian church in 1817 had received generous donations of land for their buildings and the support of the community, the Methodist church had to face some opposition from certain elements of the population—not all connected with the established denominations.

The story of the Methodist struggle and growth unfolds as the facts disclose that by 1832 the church was able to rent the present two story brick building at No. 6 John street in the rear of the Gouverneur Savings and Loan association. The friendly attitude of the school trustees is indicated by the fact that the yearly rent was but fifteen dollars.

Leading the congregation during this period was the Rev. Lydon J. King, the first ordained

minister, who raised the standards of the Methodist society and gave impetus and strength to its growth.

The Methodists continued their close association with schools. Following the formation of a village class under the leadership of Mrs. Isaac Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Smith and Mrs. Moses Kenyon, a new two story high school was built in the eastern end of the village in 1834. The next year, the Methodists, now grown in number and influence, rented quarters in the building.

Wesleyan Seminary

In 1837 the Black River Conference of the Methodist church, as the result of an agreement with the school trustees, assumed control and patronage of the high school and thus established the first parochial type school in the village. The Methodist church group at once felt at home in the building.

But the institution was destroyed by fire on January 1, 1839, and again the Methodists were without a meeting place. Just how they handled the services with a group now grown too large to meet in homes is not known. But the people of the village rallied quickly after the loss of their high school, and funds were raised for the erection of a new high school opposite the original park site on Grove street.

Special control and patronage once more were arranged with the Methodist church and the institution became known as the Gouverneur Wesleyan Seminary. For the next 23 years the Methodists met in that three story stone building.

In 1862, ten years after the incorporation of the Village of Gouverneur, the Methodists purchased a small church located on the site of the present Methodist church for the sum of \$1,000. This structure had been erected about 1844 by dissenters from the First Congregational church. The purchase was made during the pastorate of the Rev. Francis O'Farrell.

New Building

The building remained the Methodist church home until 1870, when, in May, the cornerstone of a much larger church was laid. The new edifice was completed on February 9, 1871, at a cost of

\$13,500 and was dedicated, free of debt, ready for the congregation which had become the equal in size and activity of any in the village.

The new Methodist church was far in advance architecturally of other churches of its time, and its design and seating capacity of more than 500 were indicative of the change in church architecture since pioneer days and of the trend of future building.

A parsonage, originally belonging to William H. Bowne, which adjoined the church was torn down in 1889. Following the same foresight in building a home for the minister that they had used in building their church, the Methodists erected a large modern, red brick house trimmed with pressed brick that overshadowed other parsonages. Built at the cost of \$4,000, the church assumed a mortgage for half of the amount.

Ever conscious of the importance of adequate housing, the Methodists considered the possibility of constructing a new church in 1889 but discarded the idea as an impossibility. Under the enthusiastic leadership of Isaac Starbuck, who had come to Gouverneur in 1869, the subject was reviewed in 1891.

As a result, the 1870 wooden church was remodeled. The construction of the building lent itself well to conversion to more modern architecture. Gouverneur marble and Potsdam sandstone belt courses were superimposed on the original building. The south side of the church was enlarged to accommodate a new pipe organ and the entrance altered. As the basement which contains a large kitchen and dining room was largely above ground, the auditorium was almost a full story from the street level.

Papers of that time listed the cost of the remodeling as \$19,880 and the building committee as the Rev. Charles W. Brooks, George C. Daine, C. C. Heald, William W. Whitney, Hezakiah S. Randall and Isaac Starbuck. Accounts show that at the time of dedication, February 17, 1892, all remaining debts on the parsonage and the church were assumed by the trustees as individuals, and the generosity of the Methodist congregation enabled the people to occupy a church building free from debt.

Outlying Churches

Nor did the Methodists ignore the needs of their fellow churchmen in nearby communities and outlying districts. In 1871 they assisted the people at Natural Dam in erecting a new building, and in 1892 carried on a similar program for the congregation in Hailesboro. At first these churches were allied with the Gouverneur institution, but later the two shared a pastor. There has been no regular service in either Hailesboro or Natural Dam for several years. The Hailesboro church has been converted to a public building, and the Natural Dam church kept ready for service.

In 1903, members of the Methodist Brotherhood, recognizing the inconvenience caused their West Side members in covering the distance from the West Side to Grove street, organized the "Cozy Branch" Sunday school that was held in that area. In 1906 they erected a small chapel on West Main and Reid streets where Sunday afternoon services in charge of the regular pastor were held for many years.

Major improvements to the First Methodist church building were undertaken in 1923 when a new heating and ventilating system was installed, the main auditorium redecorated, a new lighting system incorporated and the basement remodeled to fit the needs of a constantly growing congregation. The exterior of the church was not changed. On January 6, 1924, the building was rededicated at a service presided over by Bishop John W. Hamilton of Washington, D. C.

Liquidation of the debt incurred was arranged through a three year pledge plan.

Improvement Crusade

As the result of an Improvement Crusade undertaken in 1953, a new \$17,000 Moller organ was installed, the Sanctuary floor refinished, and new carpeting and wiring placed in the parsonage.

The organ, made up of three separate organs, great, swell and pedal, was housed in a specially prepared cabinet which extends eight feet out from the rear of the chancel. There are 1100 pipes ranging in size from that of a small lead pencil to the largest which is 16 feet.

On September 21 the redecorated dining room, complete with a modern lighting system and shuffleboard, was dedicated. The following December the Primary room was redecorated and refurnished.

The Northern New York conference of the Methodist church was held in Gouverneur beginning on April 6, 1924 and continuing through Monday, April 13. Other denominations joined in the event and opened their churches to the hundreds of visitors. Bishop William Burt, D.D. was the presiding officer with the Rev. Clarence True Wilson and Sir Wilfred Grenfell of Labrador, Canada being the principal speakers.

Roll of Pastors

The roll of the pastors as reported in the historical record book of the church follows: Benjamin Dighton, 1828; Lyndon King and James Erwin, 1832-3; George C. Woodruff, 1834; John Wallace and John W. Leet, 1835; Reuben Reynolds and John Lowry 1836-7; Horace Rodgers and N. R. Peck, 1838; Hiram Shepard, 1839; Loren S. Adkins and Orra Squires 1840; Harry Chapin, 1841; John W. Armstrong, 1842; Jessie Penfield, 1843; Lorenzo D. Stebbins, 1844; John N. Brown and Augusta E. Munson, 1846; Benjamin S. Wright, 1846-7; Hubert Graves, Silas Slater, 1849; Hiram Woodruff, 1850; Silas Slater, 1851; Jackson C. Vandercook, 1852; Benjamin Paddock, 1853-4; Allen Castle, 1855-6; Enos E. Kellogg, 1857-8; Thomas Richey, 1859; Josiah Zimmerman, 1860; Francis A.

O'Farrell, and John H. Merritt, 1861-62; Benjamin E. Whipple, 1863; Darius Simmons, 1864-5; Anson T. Copeland, 1866-7; Charles W. Brooks, 1868-70; John T. Hewitt, 1871-2; Ward W. Hunt, 1873-5; Charles W. Parsons, 1876-8; Isaac D. Peaslee, 1879; A. Johnston Cowles, 1880-2; W. Dempster Chase, 1883-5; Mattison W. Chase 1886-8; S. T. Dibble, 1889-92; S. J. Greenfield and L. T. Conrad, 1893-5; S. J. Greenfield and W. H. Simmons, 1895-6; E. B. Topping, 1897-1901; C. L. Peck, 1901-5; M. G. Seymour, 1905-7; John S. Wilds, 1907-12; William M. Hydon, 1912-17; Harry C. Campbell, 1917-; Maynard P. Beach, 1924-29; James W. Barrett, 1929-31; Edward J. Lavis, 1931-35; and Harold A. Thomas, 1935-50. William C. Wood, who took over the charge in 1950, is the present pastor in 1955.

Methodist Conference

The Gouverneur Methodist church was host to the 82nd annual session of the Northern New York Conference of the Methodist church, Syracuse area, May 12 through 16, 1954. Hundreds of delegates from church organizations and the clergy were present for the sessions and were welcomed not only by the host church but by people of all faiths in the village who opened their homes, churches and institutions for the use of the visiting Methodists.

The conference was presided over by Walter E. Ledden, DD. LLD, Bishop of the Syracuse area.



THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

The First Baptist Church in Gouverneur

By CLAYTON RUSH

The First Baptist church of the Town of Gouverneur was organized under that name at the residence of Isaac Austin on the 18th day of February, 1811.

At the first business meeting held shortly after February 18th, the names of 18 members were signed to the petition, namely Jonathan Payne, Stephen Patterson, Eleazer Nichols, John Brown, Hezekiah Nichols, Isaac Austin, Benjamin Drake, Aaron Atwood, Zilpha Gates, Patty Payne, Alice Payne, Betsy Thompson, Nancy Nichols, Levicie Smith, Polly Brown, Hannah Atwood and James Thompson.

Jonathan Payne was elected deacon, Stephen Patterson, church clerk, and Isaac Austin and John Brown to look after the finances.

At the time of organization, a council was sent from the Baptist church of Hartford, Washington county, N.Y., from which many of the early settlers came, to consider their request and the resolutions laid before them, including Articles of Faith, which were doctrinal and practical and the Church Covenant.

First Deacon

Jonathan Payne, first deacon, had received a license from the church to preach, and he was soon ordained by the Council to the work of the Gospel Ministry. In 1812, this church was one of the constituent churches to form the St. Lawrence Baptist association. Jonathan Payne was its first moderator.

Baptism

The first to be baptized was Sally Hasskin, who was baptized in the river June 7, 1812.

Previous to the erection of the second edifice in 1850, the Oswegatchie River was used for Baptismal purposes. The pastor and deacons, followed by the candidates, left the meeting house, four abreast, and singing as they went, passed down the river on the east side below the falls, where a small brook entered the river. There the baptismal services took place.

From the time Brother Payne left in March 1816, to 1825 the church was without a pastor. The work of the church went on regularly, however. Meetings were held on the Sabbath and active elders ministered to the members. As a result of this labor, 102 mem-

bers were added to the church roll during this pastorless time.

Letters of dismission were granted to members of the First Baptist Church of Gouverneur to organize other churches as follows: In 1822, a number to organize in Fowler; in 1834, sixteen to organize at Richville and in 1843, a number to organize at North Gouverneur.

First Church

The first church edifice was erected in 1822, on the present site. The land donated by Gouverneur Morris, on which the present church stands, originally included the lot where the G. & C. Hardware store now is, and the little brick building back of it, formerly a school house. John street, when first established, cut through the Baptist lot.

Second Church

The second edifice was erected in 1850 and dedicated on November 7th of that year. It was partially destroyed by fire March 26, 1894. The present parsonage was built 1871 to 1874 during the pastorate of Mr. Putnam.

Present Church

The present edifice was started very soon after the fire. The corner stone was laid June 5, 1894, and the building was so far completed as to have services in the Sunday School room on the anniversary of the fire. It was dedicated Nov. 7, 1895. The total cost of the new building was about \$25,000.

A considerable part of the funds was raised by the Rev. D. D. Munro, pastor of the church from 1891 to 1897. The Rev. A. W. Rogers, who followed Rev. Munro, is credited with wiping out a \$12,000 indebtedness by his persistent and well planned efforts. Eighty-eight members were added during his pastorate.

Rev. Beckwith

During the pastorate of Rev. Irving J. Beckwith, the church observed its Centennial anniversary, November 19 to 22, 1911. Several former pastors returned to participate in the services. The Rev. A. W. Rogers of Schenectady preached the sermon on the opening day.

There are many interesting facts relating to the Baptist church, prepared and published in previous years. We are indebted

to Mrs. C. A. Parker, who wrote the "History of Gouverneur" published in 1890, and "History of Baptist Church" prepared by Miss Jennie Williams on occasion of the dedication of the present church edifice in 1895. Also one written by Mrs. E. H. Neary for "History of Gouverneur" in 1905, also one written by Mrs. Seymour Easton for the Northern Tribune.

Evangelistic Campaign

The Baptists participated in a union evangelistic campaign, together with Methodists and Presbyterians, November 12 to December 17, 1916, under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. J. N. McCombe. "It is said to have been the greatest religious awakening in Gouverneur within the memory of the oldest Christian people." Fifty persons were baptized into Baptist fellowship in that church year. The Rev. Roy E. Barnett was then pastor.

Boy Scout Troops

One of the first, if not the first Boy Scout Troops in Gouverneur, under the leadership of Mr. Barnett, was organized in 1917, sponsored by the Baptist church. The troop owned its own tents and camping equipment, and each summer two weeks of camp life was enjoyed at Sylvia Lake or Pleasant Lake. The scouts also organized a Fife and Drum Corp, which was active for several years.

Union Service

The Union Candlelight Communion service with the Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians participating was instituted in April 1928 during Holy Week. The first service was held in the Baptist church. The Rev. L. L. Hutchinson was then pastor of the church. This union service continues to be held each year.

The Building

A new central heating system, replacing several small furnaces, was installed in 1937 during the pastorate of the Rev. Chanley.

The church auditorium and Sunday School rooms were redecorated, in 1947 at a cost of \$2,500.00, half of which was contributed by Miss Nina B. Pike and Mrs. B. G. Parker in memory of their sister, Miss Carrie M. Pike.

To relieve the overcrowded conditions in the kindergarden and lower grades of the Gouverneur

Central schools, a part of the Baptist church was leased to the Board of Education for school purposes, until the new school buildings, voted June 27, 1953, are ready for occupancy.

Pipe Organ

The pipe organ rebuilt by the Buhl Organ Co. in 1954 at a cost of about \$5,500, was dedicated March 14, 1954 by the Rev. William H. Work, minister, with Miss Marilyn Howard, organist. An appropriate plaque has been prepared listing the names of all contributors to the organ fund. Part of the funds given represented memorials for individuals or families, and the gifts are credited as follows: From Miss Nine B. Pike in memory of the family; from James B. Thompson, in memorial of his wife, Grace Thompson; Mrs. Theron Storie, memorial for her mother, Mrs. Jerome Clark; from Mrs. Lisle Beardslee in memorial of her mother, Mrs. Minerva Thompson Walling and a memorial for Miss Marion Leggett given by her many friends at the time of her untimely death.

Pastors of The First Baptist Church, Gouverneur, N.Y., since 1811 to 1955.

Jonathan Payne, February 20, 1812 to March 1816; Noah Barrell,

January 1, 1825 to July 5, 1827; Joseph W. Sawyer, May 18, 1828 to June 16, 1833; Clement Havens, June 1834 to June 1837; Wukkuam E. Locke, July 1, 1837 to January 1, 1839; Newell Boughton, May 1839, to May 1, 1841; Samuel Pomeroy, May 1, 1841 to December 1845; J. N. Webb, March 1846 to February 1848; Joseph W. Sawyer, October 1, 1848 to March 1851; Conant Sawyer, April 1851 to December 12, 1852; H. A. Morgan, June 1852 to June 1855; O. W. Babcock, September 1855 to April 16, 1862.

George A. Ames, May 1862 to June 1864; J. W. Daniels, October 1, 1864 to October 1867; J. B. Child, February 1868 to September 1871; James W. Putnam, October 29, 1871 to August 1, 1874; E. P. Weed, September 1874 to November 1876; H. C. Hownley, February 11, 1877 to April 1, 1880; M. L. Rugg, June 1880 to April 11, 1884; H. S. Schwartz, July 6, 1884 to July 6, 1889; D. D. Munro, January 1, 1891 to January 10, 1897; A. W. Rogers, April 1, 1897 to October 1902; J. G. Clutterbuck, November 22, 1903 to July 30, 1905; L. N. Sirrell, November 5, 1905 to October 20, 1907; G. B. Bradley, January 1, 1908 to June 1, 1911.

Irving J. Beckwith, September 1, 1911 to February 1, 1916; Roy E. Barnett, May 17, 1916 to October 19, 1919; J. Wilbur Richardson, November 30, 1919 to November 18, 1923; W. J. McCullough, June 8, 1924 to December 1, 1927; L. L. Hutchinson, February 1, 1928 to November 2, 1930; Isaac C. Taylor (Interim Pastor) November 9, 1930 to October 11, 1931; Ralph E. Gould, October 18, 1931 to December 31, 1934; Earl E. Chanley, March 17, 1935 to January 5, 1941; William Montgomery, May 4, 1941 to August 29, 1943; Ward L. Crawford, November 21, 1943 to November 1, 1951; William Hubbard Work, March 5, 1952 to January 26, 1955. The Rev. Anthony E. Jefferson of Rose, N.Y., accepted a call to the First Baptist church in May of 1955.

Nazarene Church

By REV. L. C. WARNER

In the year 1903 at the close of the Union Revival held in the First Baptist church with Rev. John A. Davis as evangelist, the Brotherhood of the First Methodist church wanted to do something of evangelistic endeavor locally.

They commenced prayer meetings in what is known as Gardner's Grocery store now, and the outgrowth was a Sunday School on the West Side, held Sunday afternoon.

In the later part of 1903 the present building was in the process of construction and in 1904 was completed to be called the Cozy Corner Branch Sunday school. After the year 1916 services were no longer held but the Methodists of West Side still asked for services and a pastor. They were unable to secure a Methodist pastor.

A young minister from Eastern Nazarene College, Rev. Hervey Brown, in the year 1918 became pastor of the Cozy Corner Branch.

In 1922 the Methodist church voted to sell the building to the Church of the Nazarene.

The following have been pastors since the church had its local organizational beginning; Rev. Brown, Rev. Sturgeon, Rev. McPherson, Rev. Williams, Rev. Keeler, Rev. Whitney, Rev. Hill, Rev. Crutcher, Rev. Smith, Rev. Potter, Rev. Burdett, Rev. Herberle. The present pastor is Rev. C. Leroy Warner.



THE SECOND CHURCH erected by the Baptist Society. This building was dedicated November 7, 1850 and replaced the first church erected on the site in 1811, the year the church was established with Rev. Jonathan Payne, first pastor. This building burned March 26, 1894 and the present church building was started June 5, 1894 and dedicated November 5, 1895.

St. James Roman Catholic Church

The parish of St. James is intimately associated with a much larger territory than is now embraced within its parish limits. In the earliest days of the parish, it included for a time, Harrisville, Fine, Keenes Station and several other neighboring hamlets and communities.

1850-1877 — Early History

Catholics came into Gouverneur about the middle of the 19th century. It has been said that in 1850, there were only two Catholics here, but their identity is not known now. In the beginning, the spiritual needs of the Catholics living in and around Gouverneur were given by priests from various sections of the North Country, especially Ogdensburg and Canton. It should be noted that, in 1850, this part of Northern New York was part of the Diocese of Albany, which had been erected in 1847. The first Bishop of Albany was the Right Reverend John McCloskey, who was later to become the Cardinal Archbishop of New York. And, so the parish of St. James had its beginning as a parish of the Diocese of Albany and until 1872 was under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of that diocese.

In 1872, the Diocese of Albany was divided, the northern part becoming the present Diocese of Ogdensburg with the Right Reverend Edgar P. Wadhams as the first Bishop. The Diocese of Ogdensburg comprises the following counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence, together with the northern parts of Hamilton and Herkimer countries, a total of some 12,000 square miles or about one-quarter of New York state.

As early as 1856, the Catholics of the community were considering plans for a church building and property was purchased on South street. However because of the then small number of parishioners, the plan to build was delayed for several years and the property sold. As the years went on and the number of parishioners increased, St. James parish became an out-mission of St. Mary's parish in Canton. In 1873 or 1874, the Reverend James O'Driscoll, pastor of the Canton church, secured property on Park street for a church. After being used a very short time, the building was en-

tirely destroyed by fire in January of 1875.

The congregation immediately set about to erect a new church. Land was acquired on Gordon street, and the building of the new church was completed in the fall of 1875. Bishop Wadhams dedicated the church on November 25, 1875. This church served the parish until 1925, when the present church was completed on Main street. The old church was sold the following year and is now owned by the Grange.

Just prior to the opening of the Gordon street church, the parish of St. James was incorporated under the Religious Corporation Laws of New York State, with the Right Reverend Bishop, the Reverend James MacKey, Vicar General of the Diocese, the Reverend James O'Driscoll, pastor, and Noah Loomis and Owen Sullivan as the original incorporators.

First Resident Pastor

In 1877, Gouverneur was detached from the jurisdiction of St. Mary's parish at Canton, and the Reverend Thomas Kelleher was appointed the first resident pastor. There were then about 40 families in the parish. Father Kelleher remained about a year, when he was named pastor of Sacred Heart parish at Massena. St. James parish then reverted to the status of a mission, being attached to St. Patrick's parish at Rossie. This arrangement con-

tinued until 1882, when the Reverend Damase Guilbault was sent to Gouverneur by Bishop Wadhams. He was succeeded the following year by the Reverend Edward C. Laramée.

During the pastorate of Father Laramée, a parochial school was opened about 1885 under the direction of the Sisters of Mercy. In those days, the Mother house of the Sisters of Mercy was located at Hogansburg. The school operated for several years and then closed about 1892.

On December 23, 1885, the parish acquired a tract of land from James Spencer for cemetery purposes. The cemetery located at the corner of Factory and Pooler streets was solemnly blessed by Bishop Wadhams on September 25, 1877.

Father Laramée after serving the parish about 13 years was assigned to the Church of the Assumption at Redford in 1896, and was succeeded here by the Reverend Michael Gallivan.

1896-1936 — Father Gallivan

Father Gallivan, a native of Brushton, was a young man when he came to Gouverneur in 1896, having been ordained in 1890 at St. Joseph's church, Malone. Destined to serve the parish for 40 years, Father Gallivan began his ministrations in his new parish with the ardor and zeal which was to characterize his long years of service in St. James parish. He



THE PRESENT ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH was erected in 1925. Its completion was the fulfillment of the life-long dream of Father Michael Galvin, pastor of St. James parish for 40 years.

found a considerable increase in parishioners over the 40 original families of 1873. And, as the parish further increased in numbers, he could readily see the need at some future date of a larger church. With vision and careful administration, Father Gallivan began early to make plans against the day when the need for a new church would become imperative.

As early as 1909, he acquired the site of the present church on the corner of East Main and North Gordon streets. Part of the original holdings of Octavius P. Sterling, the land was sold to the parish by Barnard G. Parker on March 22, 1909. The following day, Father Gallivan purchased the home of Henry Sudds, adjoining the church property, for a rectory.

In the years that were to follow, Father Gallivan kept building the fund for new construction and began early planning for a new church. From plans prepared by David D. Kieff of Watertown, construction of the present church was begun in 1924 by J. B. and R. L. Reid of Alexandria Bay. Father Gallivan celebrated the first Mass in the new church on Thanksgiving Day in 1925. It has been said by the older parishioners that Father Gallivan saw virtually every stone placed so interested was he in the work he had dreamed these many years.

The Church Building

The new church is of English Gothic. The exterior is constructed of random laid Gouverneur marble with a stone trim. With its tower and belfry towards the front right-hand side and the secondary chapel adjoining the nave to the rear left, the church stands out as one of the most imposing in the village.

The stone window tracery, into which the leaded art glass is installed, was at that time an innovation in church work, most tracery having been executed in wood.

The interior, with its paneled wainscot and reredos, together with the hammered beam roof, lends an atmosphere of dignity and is in strict accord with the architectural design.

The total cost of construction and furnishings was in excess of \$100,000, a substantial sum in those days. It stands as a magnificent tribute to the efforts of the old parishioners under the guidance of the zeal, hard work and

careful planning of a truly great pastor. It will remain a lasting memorial to a great priest.

In 1927, the need for additional cemetery land was noted, and a site on Route 58, on the Hailesboro road was purchased from Walter R. Perrin. Father Gallivan set about immediately to slowly develop the new property.

Ill health early in the 30's forced the curtailment of Father Gallivan's activities. The Reverend Donald S. Gallagher, now pastor of St. Patrick's church at Chateaugay, was named administrator early in 1934. He served until May 1936, when Father Gallivan resigned as pastor and went to live at Brushton, his native town. Here he died September 26, 1939, and was buried in St. Mary's cemetery, Brushton, on September 29th. Thus ended the long and zealous pastorate of Father Gallivan, who saw many changes in the parish of St. James.

1936 To The Present

While Father Gallivan served as pastor for some 40 years, three pastors have administered the parish since 1936.

The Right Reverend Monsignor Cornelius J. Crowley was named in May, 1936. Like Father Gallivan, he was a native son of the Diocese, having been born at Helena, N. Y. Coming here from Brasher Falls, he served until 1946. Monsignor Crowley died at Hepburn hospital on December 8 of that year and is buried in Glenwood cemetery, Watertown.

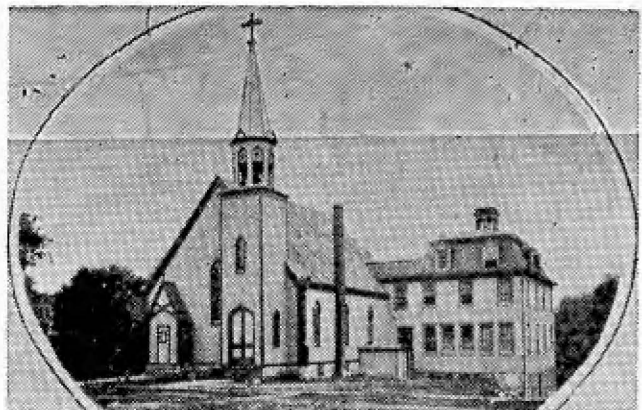
The Reverend Frederick P. Di-

vine succeeded Monsignor Crowley, being appointed in February. Father Diviney remained here until December 18, 1951, when he became pastor of St. Patrick's church at Watertown. He was succeeded by the present pastor, the Very Reverend Monsignor James T. Lyng, former Chancellor of the Diocese.

During the period 1936 to 1946, three priests served as assistants to the late Monsignor Crowley. The late Reverend William S. Capron was an assistant from 1936 to 1940; he was succeeded by Reverend Frederick P. Shue, now pastor at North Bangor. The Very Reverend Monsignor William J. Argy, presently Chancellor of the Diocese, was an assistant following Father Shue. The last regularly assigned assistant was the Reverend Timothy M. Ladden, who served briefly in 1953 under Monsignor Lyng.

It is noteworthy that since 1883, the parish has been served by only five pastors, forty years of which time was under one pastor. The history of the parish of St. James is in a large measure the history of one pastor, Father Gallivan.

From a small beginning in the 1870's, when there were about 40 families, the congregation has grown until today there are upwards of 400 families. The territory presently embraces, besides the village of Gouverneur, the villages and communities of Balmat, Fowler, Hailesboro, Natural Dam, Richville and Spragueville, besides the outlying rural areas.



FOR FIFTY YEARS THIS LITTLE WOODEN CHURCH on Gordon street served the St. James Catholic parish. The building was erected in 1875, and the first mass was celebrated in the new church on Main street in 1925. The old church is now the Gouverneur Grange Hall.

Chamber of Commerce Works for Expansion

Civic improvement, industrial expansion and better living conditions for the people in Gouverneur have been the aims of the Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce since its organization in April, 1908. Continuously since that time, with the exception of two years during World War I, the group has promoted new business enterprises, encouraged conservation and played a strong role in forming public opinion on municipal affairs.

New Depot

The first major move of the Chamber came late in 1908, when, under the guidance of its first president, Morell E. Loveland, it added its voice to the demands of the village board and individual citizens to assist on the removal of the New York Central passenger station from the south side of the tracks to the north side. Without a doubt the opinion of the chamber, representing as it did over 125 members, was influential in convincing the New York Central to agree to the construction of the present brick building. Work was started on the structure in August, 1909, and the station was opened on Feb. 24, 1910 with the Gouverneur Reading Room association making it a library benefit.

William Street Crossing

Raising of the overhead rail crossing of the New York Central on William street was also a Chamber of Commerce project. After the iron bridge was erected on William street over the Oswegatchie river in 1892, replacing the old 1866 covered bridge, the roadway was elevated sufficiently to make it difficult for loads of hay or high rigging to pass under the railroad span. Partly because of the action of the chamber, the New York Central put in a different type of crossing that eliminated this traffic hazard.

Post Office

The influence of the Chamber was also felt when the decision had to be made in 1910 and 1911 on a site for a new Post Office building. Federal plans which had included a driveway entirely around the building were not possible on the site of the post office then located on East Main street. Charles McCarty, then postmaster and prominent member of the Chamber of Commerce, working

with other members who had a vision of the traffic problems which would come with increasing numbers of automobiles, was able to convince the residents of the village of the desirability of placing the building in the Judge Edwin Dodge grove. In 1912 an allotment of funds was made by Congress and excavation started in 1915 for the building that cost about \$52,000. The purchase price of the lot was \$9,500.

High School

In 1914 when the Gouverneur Board of Education announced that Mrs. Myra Dean and her daughters, Miss Jennie and Miss Cora Dean, would build and equip a high school, the Chamber of Commerce was called upon to organize a meeting to accept the offer and to honor the Dean family.

Following its completion, the Chamber of Commerce worked out a plan of the village to buy the old school building for \$32,000 and to vote \$20,000 for alterations that would permit the use of the structure for municipal purposes as well as a large public hall and opera house. This action was based on the idea that another elementary school would be built. The Chamber of Commerce effort went for naught as the school district was unable to carry out its plan.

New Industries

In 1914 the Lawton Brothers of Elmira were induced to locate here in the defunct Van Duzee Manufacturing plant through the Chamber of Commerce committee efforts. Their operation was never large and terminated in 1919.

Two further efforts to obtain new industries came in the 1914-1916 period. In April, 1914, the Perfect Silk Throwing Co. of Hamburg, Pa., with Charles H. Kneppka, manager, indicated a desire to locate in Gouverneur and requested a bond issue of \$15,000 through popular subscription. Agreement on terms with the local residents proved impossible and negotiations ended.

Silk Mills

Another silk company from Cortland became interested in locating here in the fall of 1916 seeking a site for the plant then located in Theresa. The Chamber raised several hundred dollars to aid the company in moving its ma-

chinery to the David G. Scholton Marble Works plant at 20 Mill street.

The plant, known as the Cortland-Gouverneur Silk Mills, began operations in February, 1917, and continued through World War I. In May, 1922, the Silk Mill people requested the Chamber to ask the people of the village to subscribe to a bond issue of \$35,000 to build a new plant to accommodate their expanding business. The issue was successful and the silk business boomed for over six years employing nearly 80 people.

With the appearance of new substitutes for silk on the market, the plant closed in July, 1929 leaving the stockholders with the building and equipment on their hands.

These incidents show the difficulties encountered by the Chamber in inducing new industries to settle in Gouverneur.

In 1925 the Chamber threw its entire support to oppose a rescinding vote for the referendum vote of Oct. 22, 1923 calling for the erection of a municipal power plant.

Van Duzee Hospital

The Chamber of Commerce instituted the movement that eventually brought about the conversion of the Stephen B. VanDuzee house on William street into a hospital. Mrs. Lucy Turnbull, daughter of Mr. VanDuzee, asked the Chamber to set up an organization that would take over the VanDuzee home on her death and the Chamber complied.

Lace Mill

When the International Lace company plant on Prospect street closed in 1927 and remained idle for ten years, the Chamber of Commerce sent representatives to Philadelphia to see if there was any way of reopening the plant. The trip was to no avail. The plant was operated again in 1937 as a combined lace and stocking factory but closed again during World War II. The purchase of the plant by the Rushmore Paper Mills in 1944 was a boon to local economic conditions and ended all mourning for the lost lace company.

Conservation Efforts

In April, 1928, a reforestation program was started by the Chamber of Commerce at Fullerville with students of the Gouverneur

high school cooperating by planting pine seedlings. The first plantings of 8,000 were made on May 2. The Chamber's lands at Fullerville are mainly on the east side of the Fullerville road on the east side of the West Branch of the Oswegatchie river. There are now around 100,000 trees on the chamber project. The first plantings have reached a height of about 20 feet.

Christmas Decorations

Christmas decorations on the village streets were started on a large scale by the Chamber of Commerce in 1929. During this same period, the organization's work on freight rates, particularly those connected with coal, bore some fruit. An improvement in insurance rates was brought about by the Chamber through the village trustees working out insurance underwriter's recommendations on dead end water mains in various sections of the village.

Water Supply

In the early 1930's the problem of obtaining a pure water supply for the village interested the Chamber. The body went on record as favoring a lake or spring water source as opposed to a filtration plant. Engineer figures on various lake or similar supply were staggering and officials believed there was no chance of the taxpayers approving the expenditure that would amount to over \$300,000. A filtration plant was voted on in July 1934 and lost by a vote of 357 to 22. Little discussion has been heard on an improved water supply since that time.

The Gouverneur airport was backed by the Chamber in 1931, and a large crowd attended the dedication on Labor Day of that year.

Church Street

In 1933 when the State Highway Department built a concrete road through the village, replacing the original 1913 state-built macadam road, the need of rebuilding the Church street road was obvious. The Chamber worked effectively with the village trustees and presented a taxpayer signature group of 140 backing the Church street and short Grove street improvement. The vote was carried with a large margin by the taxpayers and the streets were concreted and curbs provided where none had existed previously.

Other Activities

The Chamber was also asso-

ciated with a 4-H club Achievement Day in October, 1937, and in advertising in the World Fair Book in 1938.

During World War II, the Chamber assisted in obtaining farmers' permits for use of the properties in the 1940 maneuvers in this area. At the close of the war, the Chamber made arrangements for the armistice observance at the fairgrounds.

As far back as 1924 when a motion was unanimously approved by the Chamber for the building of "The St. Lawrence River Canal" the group has backed the Seaway project. A Seaway dinner was held at the Gouverneur Country club in May, 1945.

In 1948, the Chamber tried to interest local people in having the Hockenbury System of Harrisburg, Pa., investigate the need and possibilities of a hotel here. However, as construction of the Edward John Noble hospital was being considered at that time, public response was not favorable and the project was dropped.

Sesqui-centennial

An attempt was made in May, 1950 by the Chamber to promote an observance of the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the village of Gouverneur. In 1952 the first group meeting of people interested in a Gouverneur observance of the sesqui-centennial observance of St. Lawrence county was sponsored by the Chamber. The local celebration was carried out by a general committee with marked success.

Nearly every year the Chamber has held an annual dinner meeting. An historic session was held in the Presbyterian church April 22, 1953 with C. L. Austin, president of the Jones and Laughlin Steel company of Pittsburgh, giving the main address.

Store Closings

In May, 1953, the Chamber, at the request of several members, called a meeting to consider the closing of the local stores on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and remaining open on Friday evening. This meeting resulted in an apparently favorable vote, and in July it was supposed to become effective. However, some establishments remained open both nights. In August, the retail division of the Chamber decided almost unanimously to close Saturdays and open Fridays. The Chamber as a body never took a position in the matter.

During late years the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, in addition to being alert to possible business opportunities, has received more and more letters requesting all types of information regarding the community. A great many of these inquiries come from social studies students.

Membership

At the time of its inception, annual membership in the Chamber cost \$3.00. In 1949 all non-business individual members or members of firms doing less than \$25,000 business a year were assessed annual dues of \$5.00. Firms doing \$25,000 to \$100,000 in business pay \$10 for membership and those over \$100,000, \$15.

Presidents

The following is a list of Chamber of Commerce presidents beginning in May, 1908; Morell E. Loveland, 1908-1909; Barnard G. Parker, 1910-1911; Henry H. Ryan, 1912-1914; Anson A. Potter, 1915; John J. Sullivan, 1916-17. No election was made in 1918 or 1919.

The Chamber reorganized in May, 1920 with David G. Scholton acting as temporary chairman and Charles McCarty as secretary. Charles M. Tait became president in 1920; James C. Dolan, 1921-23; Earl W. Campbell, '24-'25; Byron J. Carpenter, '26-'27 and '28; Frank L. Seaker, '29; Byron Carpenter, '30; William B. Simons, '31; Edward J. Cahill, '32; Albert E. Boughner, '33-'34; Charles R. Rodger, '35; Dr. Stanley W. Sayer, '36-'37; Elmer Robinson, '38; Mason R. Smith, '39-'40; R. Dwight Magee, '41; Edward H. Case, '42; Jesse O. Canfield, '43; Charles I. Ruderman, '44-'45; Harold J. Murphy, '46-'47; Guy F. Baker, '48; Charles Creswell, '49; Charles S. Gass, '50; and Jack Ruderman, '51-'52-'53-'54 and '55.

Filling the position of secretary have been James Vinton Baker, Arthur F. Corbin, J. Herman McLearn, Albert M. Jepson, Clayton F. Rush, Julius R. Bartlett, Earl Riley and Nelson B. Winters.

Before the reorganization of the Chamber in 1920, the offices of treasurer and secretary were combined. Beginning in 1920, Andrew K. Laidlaw was treasurer until 1930 when George Evans assumed the position until 1946. George F. Schlosser was appointed then for one year, but left town before the end of his term. Arthur P. Mason was named treasurer in 1948 and still holds the office.