

Churches in Hoosick and Surrounding Communities

The following was written in the late 1800's

The first place of Christian worship in the town of Hoosick probably was established by the early Catholics at St. Croix as a mission for the Indians. Authentic data in relation to this institution is lacking.

The first church of which we have any definite and satisfactory record is the old Protestant Dutch church at St Croix. The building stood

on the road to Cambridge. The house of worship, which was built principally through the offices of Cornelius Van Ness, was abandoned in 1800, but was not torn down until twenty-five years later.

In the northeastern part of the town, near Walloomsac, a Baptist church was founded as early as 1778. Three or four years later a house of worship was erected, and in 1788 a second one was built at Waite's Corners.

The Hoosick Baptist church was founded March 16, 1785. The society was first known as the Mapleton church, but during the pastorate of the Rev. James Glass the name was changed to Hoosick church. About 1831 the church was transferred to Hoosick Corners.

The Reformed church at Buskirk's Bridge (now Buskirk) was organized May 2, 1792, and was the outgrowth of a church formed in 1714 in Schaghticoke. The Rev. Samuel Smith first served the society as pastor, preaching but once a month. The first house of worship was located near the site of the present one, the locality then being known as Tiashoke. In 1823 a building was removed from Pittstown and dedicated May 2 of that year. In 1872 it was enlarged and remodeled.

The Walloomsac Methodist Episcopal church was organized April 18, 1811. The first meeting house was completed the same year and sometime afterward the society was incorporated as the Methodist Episcopal church of Old Hoosick. On June 2, 1858, it was reincorporated as the Walloomsac Methodist Episcopal church, and soon after the old church was abandoned and services were held in the school house at North Hoosick. Soon after the church was reorganized at that place.

On January 25, 1825, a number of the inhabitants of Hoosick Falls assembled at the Warren meeting house on Main Street and organized a religious society by the name of the "Presbyterian Society of Hoosick." In 1829 the congregation erected on Church Street a frame meeting house, which, when finished, was dedicated by the Rev. N. S. S. Beman, D. D., of Troy. This building cost

\$1,800 and had seats for about three hundred people. In 1854 the old building was removed and the present church edifice was erected at a cost of about \$7,000, having a seating capacity for about five hundred persons. It was dedicated in the spring of 1854, with Rev. Beman, Rev. J. H. Noble of Schaghticoke, and Rev. A. M. Beveridge officiating. The church edifice was enlarged and improved in 1879 at an expense of \$6,500.

The new church of the original Mapleton church society, located at Hoosick Corners upon the renewal of the organization, was erected about 1831. At that time Rev. Israel Keach, who had accepted a call in 1824, was pastor, and he remained as such until 1839. About 1869 a new house of worship was erected at a cost of \$11,000, and in 1874 a parsonage costing \$4,000 was built.

The Liberal Religious society at Mapleton was incorporated January 23, 1836, and occupied the property of the old Mapleton church. It was established as a mission church, and persons of several religious denominations worshipped there in its early days.

The First Baptist church of Hoosick Falls was organized October 30, 1847. The congregation until recently occupied what was called "the meeting house" of the Warren society, erected in 1800. During 1884 a beautiful and commodious house of worship was built at a cost of over \$12,000 with a seating capacity of 700. It was dedicated October 31, 1884.

The first masses were celebrated in Hoosick Falls in 1834 by the Rev. J. Shannahan in the old school on Elm Street, and in the Baptist church (then used as a union church). The corner stone of a new church on Main Street was laid August 15, 1869, by the 'Very Rev. E. P. Wadhams, V. G., of Albany. It was dedicated December 10, 1871. A bell weighing 2,960 pounds was placed in the tower in August, 1872. A new organ was placed in the church August 15, 1881. The present edifice is a substantial brick structure with stone trimmings, and cost \$58,000. Its seating capacity is 1,050.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Hoosick Falls was incorporated April 12, 1858. In 1860 a frame church was erected on Main Street, in which services were first held on Christmas day of that year, at which time it was dedicated. The building cost about \$3,300 and had a seating capacity of 300. It was further enlarged in 1877. A fine toned bell, weighing 1,866 pounds, and costing \$642, was placed in the belfry in the summer of 1874. In 1887, during the pastorate of the Rev. C. W. Rowley, it was determined to build a new church, the old one having been outgrown. The Russell homestead was purchased, the old house converted into a parsonage, and the corner stone of a new church laid October 20, 1887. The edifice was completed in about a year, at a cost, including furnishing, of about \$30,000; the value of the entire property, lot, parsonage and church, being about \$40,000. This building was dedicated October 31, 1888. The society is in a strong and flourishing condition.

The Baptist church at West Hoosick was incorporated April 16, 1861, with Stephen Paddock, Philip Herrington and Isaac Shedd- as trustees.

St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal parish, of Hoosick Falls, was organized under the ministrations of the Rev. Nathaniel O. Preston. It was incorporated November 1, 1834. The parish continued to exist in a very uncertain condition till 1858, when a new organization was formed. The cornerstone of the church was laid in the summer of 1858 by the Rt. Rev. Horatio Potter. The first services in the church were held August 26, 1860, and the edifice was consecrated May 5, 1863. The church was partially destroyed by fire in 1886; was restored the same year and enlarged in 1888-89. This church contains a town clock and a fine chime of bells presented by J. Hobart Warren, in memory of his wife. A beautiful carved oak reredos, representing the Lord's Supper, is the gift of William M. Cranston, of England, in memory of his wife. A brass lectern and oak pulpit are the gift of John G. Darroch, in memory of his wife.