

Dedication of Church 1873 Records of the Society

DEDICATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH When on Tuesday morning the 14th inst. "the church-going bell" rung out. joyous sound speaking as plainly as the tongue of a bell could speak, "come let us go to the house of the Lord," a large number of people caught the inspiration, and turned their faces in the direction of the new Presbyterian Church, which was that morning to be dedicated. While the organ pealed forth a voluntary, well executed, six gentlemanly ushers were busily employed seating the people, who at once manifested by their countenances the interest they took both in the new church and the approaching exercises. A large and elegant basket of flowers (the gift of Mrs. S. S. Gould) most exquisitely arranged, adorned the table facing the congregation, and with smaller collections near the desk contributed largely to beautify the place both by their bright colors and fragrance.

At 11 o'clock, the hour appointed for the services to begin the vast concourse arose to their feet, when the doxology filled the whole church, reverberating to the very arches. Remaining standing, the invocation was pronounced by the Rev. Dr. Hawley of Auburn, in a most impressive manner. Then followed the glorious anthem "O, pray for the peace of Jerusalem" executed by the best musical talent of our village.

An appropriate selection from scripture was then read by Rev. Mr. Thompson of Canandaigua. The grand old Psalm, "Glorious things of Thee are spoken", followed, Chas. A. Hawley, Esq., next stepped forward, and in a few fitting and admiralty adapted remarks paid a high compliment to both the architect and builder of the church, not forgetting the ladies in their efforts in furnishing the building, making special mention of the one who presented the beautiful bible, (Mrs. Nancy Dey,) and then in the name of the board of trustees of which he is a member presented the pastor the key of the church, making mention of his fidelity and zeal in cooperating with them in their arduous labors during its erection. Again, amid a most impressive and solemn silence, the assembly arose, and listened earnestly to the words of the Rev. J. D. Krum, the pastor, who dedicated the beautiful structure to the service and worship of God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Dr. Woods of Geneva followed in a touching and heart-felt prayer, and that sweet hymn "From every stormy wind that blows" was sung. The interest of the congregation had now reached its dimax, for the rare pleasure of listening to the Rev. Dr. Upson of Albany was next in order. He chose his text most appropriately from the 77th Psalm, 13th verse: "Thy way, O God, is the sanctuary. The sermon was delivered with dignity and simplicity characteristic of the true man, who always bears the "child-like spirit." His discourse will long be remembered by those who heard it, as both profitable and eloquent. Prayer followed, by the Rev. Mr. Page of Wolcott. The 137th Psalm, "I love thy kingdom, Lord The place of Thine abode", was very finely sung by the choir, followed by the benediction of Rev. Dr. Willers, who though quite veritable, is still wonderfully active. As the audience dispersed the organ tones' followed them with the sweet strains of "Home, sweet home."

Clergymen and laymen from our own and neighboring towns--among them were the venerable Dr. Hall, and Dr. Boardman of Auburn--were present, and lingered to extend their congratulations, which with a hearty shake of the hand produced the best of feelings, and each and all felt that the exercises passed off in the most satisfactory manner, and the dedication of the new church is an event "to date from" in the history of the Presbyterian Society.

In the evening a large assemblage again filled the house in every part. After singing the opening Psalm and reading of the scriptures by Rev. Mr. Parmelee of Castleton, prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Torrance of Ovid. Mr. Krum then spoke of the regret felt by all at the absence of Rev. Dr. Gridley, who had been expected to preach in the evening, and who has been very much endeared to this people by many manifestations of kindness for more than thirty years, and read a note which he had received from him in the afternoon, expressing sorrow that he was detained from the services by sickness, and his great gratification at the completion of the work which he "had regarded as imperatively necessary long before it was attempted", and his profound sympathy with them in their present joy.

Then came the sermon by the Rev. Mr. Millard of Syracuse. His subject was the Fatherhood of God, from the words, "For as many as are led by the spirit of God they are the sons of God." It was delivered in a very impressive manner, entirely without notes, and showed careful analysis and earnest thought, and will leave a permanent impression upon many minds. He then offered a brief prayer, and the services of a delightful day was brought to a close by the assembly rising and singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' name", and then benediction by Rev. Dr. Upson.



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The music throughout the services was rendered in a very effective manner. Miss Anna Henion, the accomplished organist of the church, played very finely, and the organ, which has been retuned and otherwise improved, never sounded more sweetly. The usual choir was very effectively aided by the choir of the Trinity church who kindly gave their assistance for the occasion.

THE NEW BELL-- "What a splendid bell!" "THAT is a bell!" These are the expressions heard during the past few days, when the rich, deep and mellow tones of the new bell put into the tower of the Presbyterian church on Saturday last have been borne upon the clear winter air. Everybody is pleased with the new bell, and well may they be. Among the dozen or more bells of Seneca Falls it is the monarch, not in size alone, (being four feet eight inches in diameter,) but in the musical richness and fullness of its tone. As we stated last week, this fine bell is from the foundry of Meneely and Kimberly, Troy. It is the fourth bell of 3500 lbs. pattern which that firm have placed in churches in New York State during the past few months. They have, also, recently furnished several other heavy bells for churches in this vicinity, and are about to place yet another in Auburn. Col. Meneely personally superintended the putting of the bell in the tower. Hereafter, on the church bell question, you will find Seneca Falls unanimously in favor of Meneely and Kimberly.

THE NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -- Our citizens have no doubt regarded with much interest the progress made in the erection of the new, church edifice for the First Presbyterian society of this village, and it is with pleasure that we are now permitted to announce its entire completion, and that it will be appropriately dedicated to the service of God on Tuesday next, the 14th inst., on which occasion the sermon will be preached by Rev. Anson J. Upson, DD, of Albany.

For a number of years past the increase of membership and the general prosperity of the society had rendered the building of a new edifice almost imperative, and accordingly early in the summer of 1871, it was determined to at once commence the undertaking which has been crowned by such abundant success, and has given to the citizens of Seneca Falls, one of the most complete and elegant structures for divine worship that can be found in Central New York, and of which we all can justly feel proud, and is a lasting monument to Christian zeal and devotion, though accomplished only by much sacrifice and the exercise of unbounded faith.

The work was commenced in the summer of 1871; a building committee with Mr. John Cuddeback as chairman was appointed, and Mr. Archimedes Russell, architect, of Syracuse, was commissioned to prepare the plans which were perfected by him after much careful attention and study, the result of which must be a satisfaction to himself as well as to the society.

The pastor, Rev. Josephus D. Krum, who has ministered to this society for the past eight years, is entitled to great credit for the untiring energy he has displayed in urging forward this good work and in him the society has a most faithful servant who is entirely devoted to their interests.

The contract was awarded to Mr. Ruel Taylor of Auburn, a contractor of large experience and ability. The old building was immediately removed and the new work commenced, the corner stone being laid Sept. 12th, 1871 and from that time the work has steadily advanced to completion, and it can be truly said there is not a better constructed building in this part of the State.

The structure is designed in the modern English or Victorian period of gothic architecture, the exterior being executed with pressed bricks laid in plumb bond and abundantly decorated with Ohio sand stone, furnished by the McDermotts of Cleveland, Ohio. The exterior dimensions are as follows: length, 117 ft., width, 63 ft., width of front, across the towers, 78 ft. At the first corner rises the main tower to the height of 166 feet. Starting from the ground with massive buttresses which terminate near the belfry and are capped at intervals with stone offsets and moulded belts and pointed windows between in the various sections, the whole terminating with a majestic spire. On the opposite corner is a similar smaller tower. rising to the height of 96.fL In the belfry is hung one of Meneely and Kimberly's Troy bells weighing 3,500 lbs. Between the, two towers are the three large windows resting on a heavy stone belt course and enclosed in a triple pointed arch with elegant stone capitals and arches; above these windows is a solid ornamental belting course and in the typanum of the gable, a beautiful rose window



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12 ft. in diameter encircled with stone mouldings. The gable is crowned by a simple cornice and is surmounted with an ornamental passion cross and beam tracery in the apex. The sides are of the same style as the front and are divided into six panels each with massive buttresses richly dressed with capitals and arches; the windows are filled with cusped tracery and crowned with stone arches. The slating was done by the Norcott Bra's of this village, in uniform black slate, in the highest style of workmanship. The interior consists of two divisions, a basement and a superstructure. The entrances are of solid white oak and are placed in the two towers which are approached by ample stone steps and open upon a landing midway in altitude between the two floors; from these landings in either tower the basement stairs descend and the main stairs ascent to the auditorium. At the foot of the basement stairs is a vestibule 15 x 24 ft. and from this vestibule is a corridor 8 ft. wide extending toward the rear to the Sabbath school room; on one side of this corridor is the ladies' parlor 23 x 27 ft. and on the other side the pastor's study and Bible class room, each 13 x 23 ft. and in the rear of these rooms the Sabbath school room 41 x 66. This room is also entered from the side through a commodious entrance porch. In the rear of the Sabbath school room is located the furnace room and kitchen and a stair-way leading to the apse above. The whole basement is abundantly lighted by large mullioned windows filled with enameled glass, all wood work being executed in black ash; sliding doors are arranged to communicate with the ladies parlor and class room. All the rooms are 12 feet high in the clear and are elegantly decorated and furnished, and are eminently fitted for the purposes intended.

The principal vestibule in front is reached by broad flights of easy stairs from the entrances in the towers and is 15 feet wide and 57 feet long, from which the auditorium is entered through wide arched doors. The auditorium is entered through wide arched doors. The auditorium is 57 x 84 ft. 26 ft. high in the aisles, and 40 ft. high in the nave. The ceiling is divided into aisles and nave and is finished entirely of black ash worked in massive mouldings, bosses and corbels and beam tracery, oiled and highly polished. From the ceiling are suspended three splendid reflecting chandeliers furnished by Messrs. Archer and Pancoast of New York. In the vortex is an organ gallery, which projects over the vestibule four feet, cusped panels all of black ash; the whole auditorium is wainscoted in the same style of work and of the same materials.

The pews are all of solid black walnut, seating 776 persons, and are -marvels of ease and comfort; the design is elegant and are all richly upholstered with the best ponceau terry stuffed with hair entirely, the upholstery being from the well known house of M.S. Price, Syracuse. The walls are most appropriately decorated in fresco in a style perfectly harmonizing with the architecture employed, and does much credit to the artist, Mr. S. B. Ryder of Elizabeth, N.J. The windows are filled with stained glass which renders a very pleasing subdued light, and in the tracery heads of the auditorium windows are represented in emblems, the lily and decalogue, bread and wine, crown and cross, Trinity, cup, dove, lamb, anchor and holy Scripture. All the glass is from the manufactory of Mr. H. W. Lewis of Utica. The pulpit is of extremely tasty design of solid black walnut, and in front is represented the monogram of our Lord, the Alpha and Omega. The pulpit is placed in front of a deeply recessed apse, the effect of which is much improved by a beautiful fresco in perspective. The furniture and communion table are very appropriate, and are from the house of Hunn, Smith and Spencer, Rochester. The altar carpet is of rich Wilton velvet, drab, orange, and brown. Messrs. Nye and Wait of Auburn, furnished the auditorium carpet, which is a beautiful design in scarlet and black.

The whole building is thoroughly heated with the most improved apparatus and a thorough system of ventilation employed both in the basement and superstructure, and these most important details are most successfully accomplished.



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Records of the Society (cont'd)

At the close of the Annual Meeting of the First Presbyterian Society of Seneca Falls held on the first Tuesday in February 1871 (Feb. 7th) the proceedings of which are recorded in a former volume, the Board of Trustees consisted of:

Sidney L. Monroe	Elected Feb. 1869	Term expires Feb. 1872
John Cuddeback		"
Jas. H. Gould	Feb. 1870	Feb. 1873
Chas. A. Hawley	"	
Cornelius Hood	Feb. 1871	" Feb. 1874

At this meeting the following resolution was passed:

"Resolved that the Trustees of the Society be and they are hereby instructed to circulate a subscription to raise \$20,000 towards the erection of a new church: such subscription to be valid when \$15,000 shall have been subscribed: and when \$15,000 shall have been subscribed that the Trustees proceed to erect such new church upon the lot now occupied by the building now in use"

The Board of Trustees held a meeting after the adjournment of the Annual Meeting of the Society and elected

John Cuddeback President

Cornelius Hood Treasurer

Chas. A. Hawley Secretary

Their proceedings are also recorded in the previous volume.

From that point the following record begins; and it is designed to embody in it not only the proceedings of the Society and its Board of Trustees but such facts and memoranda as may be of future interest and value.

Chas. A. Hawley, Secretary

Memorandum of Church Subscription

After the above resolution the Trustees prepared and had circulated a subscription for the erection of a new church which was in the form and subscribed in the manner following

Copy of Subscription

For good and valuable Considerations we the Subscribers do severally promise and agree to pay to the First Presbyterian Society of Seneca Falls, the sums set opposite our respective names to be expended by said society in building a new Church Edifice which we severally request it to build upon the lot where the present one stands.

Such payment shall be made in four equal installments viz, on the first day of May, August, November, and February next, But provided however that no part of this Subscription shall become due or payable until at least fifteen thousand dollars shall have been subscribed for the purpose aforesaid.

Dated Seneca Falls February, 1871



Eisenhower College 1960 - 1982

In the early 1960's the Men's Coffee Hour was very active at First Presbyterian. Sunday School was held before church and this was the ideal time for men to gather for discussion and coffee. At this time baby-boomers were reaching college age (and with an increasing proportion wishing to acquire a college education) academic institutions were being stretched to accommodate them. Scott Skinner, MD, a church member began thinking of the possibility of a college in Seneca Falls. Along with John Rosenkrans and Rev Kenneth Holmstrup he presented the idea of a small undergraduate, coeducation church-related college at a coffee hour in 1961. At the time there was no Presbyterian related college in New York State or in New England. The idea was for a college that would cater to a wide range of students, not just the academically gifted nor just to Presbyterians.

To bring the idea to fruition required more than enthusiasm, financing loomed large. A name that would bring recognition and hopefully generous donations had to be considered, thus the name Eisenhower College. Not only was Dwight David Eisenhower a war hero, President of the United State for 2 terms, he was also Presbyterian. Without receiving the absolute support from Eisenhower but with the support of local (Legislators, Congressmen, and Senator) Skinner and Rosenkrans proceeded to present a resolution to the Geneva-Lyons Presbyter which was accepted with enthusiasm and placed on the New York Synod docket in June 1962.

670 Presbyterian pastors across New York State were surveyed to help establish the need for a Presbyterian-related college. Of the 338 replies only 7 were negative.

A special meeting of the membership of First Presbyterian was called after the 11:00 am service on March 4, 1962 to consider a pledge to support the building of a college. Elder Philip Olmsted made the proposal, Harold Sanderson Seconded. After an hour of discussion Charles Hall called for a vote on the resolution, which read: "Resolved that the First Presbyterian Society and Church of Seneca Falls pledge the sum of one hundred thousand (\$100,000) dollars to be used solely for the construction of a New York Synod Affiliated liberal arts college for the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, to be situated in the town of Seneca Falls, New York, said pledge to be contingent upon the prior securing of sufficient funds by July 1, 1965 from other sources to ensure the completion of the planned project. "The vote was 114 in favor and 32 against. The funds from an endowment fund were the first committed to the college.

Since January 1962 a planning group of community leaders met regularly. Those from First Presbyterian were, Scott Skinner; MD, John Rosenkrans; Charles Hall, DVM; Philip Olmsted; Frederick Huntington; Duane Snyder; Robert Morris, DVM; Paul Foote, MD; Rev Kenneth Holmstrup. Others of the 18 members were from Seneca County. The group incorporated May 10, 1962 empowering them to plan for chartering a College. A meeting with President Eisenhower's brother, Milton, on April 5, 1962 resulted in President Eisenhower consent to use his name. Both Milton and Dwight Eisenhower had been in academics and they approved the proposed compact curriculum stressing world affairs and a trimester calendar.

The June 1963 meeting of the Synod heard the report of a committee appointed the year before, which concluded that giving funds to found a college would jeopardize other programs so would not recommend endorsement. However the full Synod passed the proposal 104-50. Detailed planning began: (appointing a Board of trustees, hiring an architect, obtaining a charter, hiring a President and a fund-raising firm.) On Oct. 30-31 the entire committee traveled to Gettysburg for an 8:00 am breakfast with President Eisenhower where they received a well deserved endorsement of their labor.

On May 16, 1965 a special service: "Eisenhower College Sunday" was observed as 500 visitors and parishioners attended First Presbyterian. The \$100,000 check honoring the churches pledge in 1962 was presented.

The Charter Campaign now exceeded 1 million dollars and ground breaking was scheduled for Sept. 21, 1965. President Eisenhower, Governor Nelson Rockefeller and Bob Hope were among the speakers. Property had been purchased on East Bayard Street ext, and Route 89 extending to the Cayuga Lake.

John Rosenkrans was selected as the first President. Fund raising was difficult and the local trustees and committees to bring the college message across the country devoted much time.

The first cornerstone was laid Nov. 5, 1967. On Sept. 1, 1968 the first class of 304 arrived, the culmination of six years of hard and determined work by the group of men led by a dream for a college to serve capable students with a unique curriculum.

Funding always remained a problem and the college closed in 1982. The property and buildings are now the New York Chiropractic College.



Organ Dedication Program 1959

John S. McIntosh April 15, 1959

Guest Organist
8:00 P.M.

presents

Program

Sonata II Mendelssohn
Grave
Adagio
Allegro Maestoso e Viva ce
Andegro Moderate (Fugue I)

Diapason Movement Walond
Gavotte and Variations Stanley
Aria da Chiesa composer unknown
Trumpet Dialogue Clerambault

Prelude and Fugue in C Minor Bach
OFFERING For the benefit of the Memorial Organ Fund

Air with Variations Leo Sowerby
Scherzo I from Symphony II) Vierne
Chorale Prelude on 'Rhosymedre' Vaughan Williams
Paraphrase on the 'Te Deum' Jean Langlais

You are invited to attend a coffee hour in the church parlors following the recital.

The pipe organ that we are to enjoy this evening was built and installed in 1958 by the Schantz Organ Co., of Orrville, Ohio. Plans and specifications for it started some three years before, when it became evident that the old Kimball Pipe Organ was close to the end of its 58 year life.

The new organ consists of three manuals, or keyboards; the Swell, Great, and Choir. The Choir organ and Swell Organ are under expression and is put of the Great Organ. The diapason chorus of the Great Organ is enclosed. The complete organ has about 23 ranks of pipes as well as a set of Mass chimes. The console is depressed in the floor of the choir loft directly behind the pulpit.

We are very pleased to have the opportunity of hearing Mr. John McIntosh play his recital upon this instrument and hearing the fullness of tone and the dynamic range of which it is capable but seldom heard during the course of a regular Sunday morning service. Anyone wishing to examine the interior of the organ at the completion of the recital will be welcome.