First Free-Will Baptist Church of Brockport

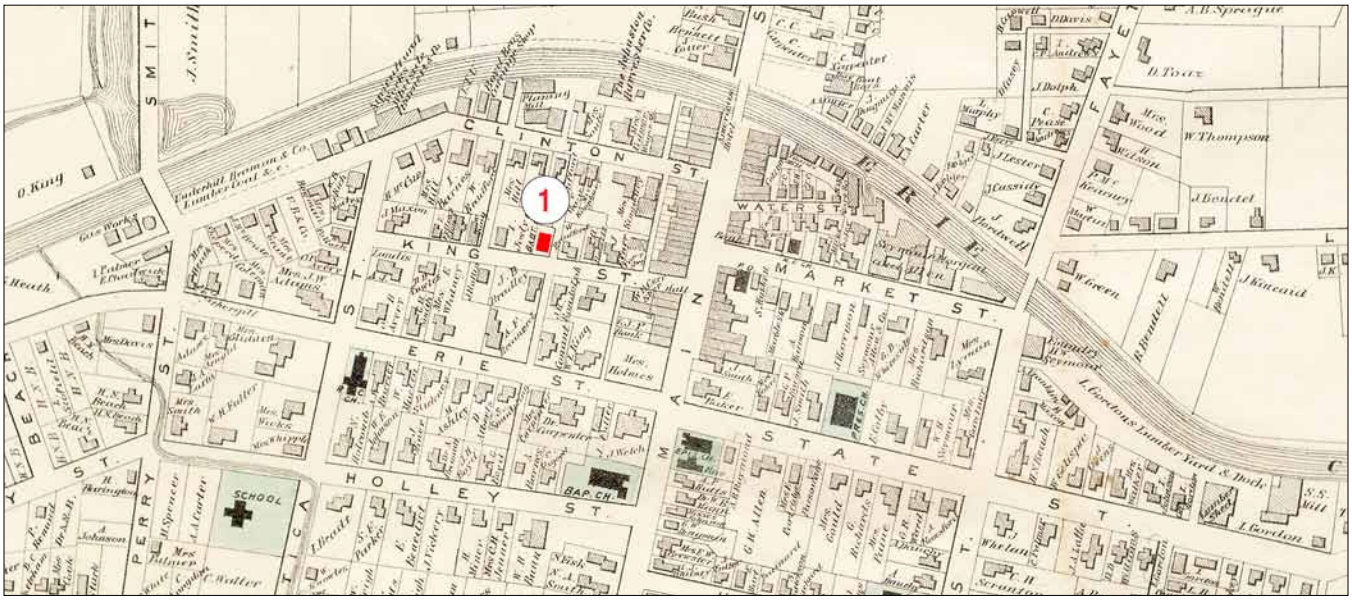


Free-will Baptist Church, King and Queen Street, Brockport. This image, from a cropped post card of unknown date, shows the building when it served as the International Order of Odd Fellow's Hall.

THE FIRST FREE-WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF BROCKPORT

Was organized on the eighth day of May, 1844, in the village of Brockport, by a council of ministers and delegates convened for that purpose, and composed as follows, viz., Elder James Bignall, moderator, Elder Eli Hannibal, assistant-moderator, and Elder Stephen Bathricks, secretary; with the delegates, Orrin Dunning and A. Alden, from Byron, John Holly and Daniel Ross, from Clarendon, John Blossom, John Henry, and Job Estes, from Clarkson, Jonathan Henry and Johnson Serris, from Parma, John P. Curtis, from Gaines, Hiram Gilman, from Ridgway, Jared Hall, from Parma and Ogden, and H. A. Blackmar, from Alabama and Elba. Opening prayer given by Elder E. F. Crane, installation sermon delivered by Elder D. L. M. Rollin, and the right hand of fellowship extended by Elder H. A. Blackmar to the following members, viz., Ezra F. Crane, Thomas, Sallie, and Harriet Bascom, Amasa and Juliet Spring, Samuel and William Smith, Eli F. and Eliza Young, Anson and Catharine Durand, Rufus, Eliza, and Louise Childs, Curtis and Betsey Hale, Jared and Amanda Bromley, Francis and Sarah Wells, Hannah Parks, Anna Hisrott, Caroline Lambert, Eunice Crawford, Martha Crook, Betsey Criswell, and Betsey Gardner. Services were held at the place of organization until the construction of a church edifice the same year, which was completed early the year following, and consecrated to divine worship on February 13, 1845, by Elder D. L. M. Rollin, assisted by Elder Whitcomb. It was erected by the Free-Will Baptist Mission of New York State, to which it still belongs. The first clerk was Rufus Childs, and the first deacons, chosen December 6, 1845, were Samuel Smith, Amasa Spring, and Eli Watkins. The first pastor was Elder E. F. Crane, who served until February 7, 1846; and on March 7, 1846, Elder Rollin; July 1, 1848, Elder Crane again; and on November 2, 1850, Elder W. Dick, the last pastor before the church disbanded, which occurred shortly after the election of Deacon Amasa Spring, treasurer, and D. Ross, auditor.

A reorganization of the church was effected in 1854, under the direction of a council of ministers, comprising Rev. D. G.



Location of structure (1). Map (cropped): Beers, F. W., "1872 Plat map of Brockport"

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Holmes, of Walworth, Rev. H. Blackmar, of Rochester, Rev. H. Gilman, of Parma, and Rev. F. W. Straight, with D. S. Holmes as moderator, and F. W. Straight as clerk. Services were conducted by Messrs. Blackmar and Holmes. After reorganization, W. S. Fairbanks and J. Lowry were appointed deacons, J. W. Barker, clerk; and on February 2, 1556, D. Morehouse, treasurer, and J. P. Curtis, Thomas Bascom, and Daniel Morehouse, business committee. The first pastor was Rev. F. W. Straight, succeeded on June 7, 1856, by A. M. Richardson; on March 29, 1857, by Elder Morton; and on April 3, 1858, by Rev. Mr. Blanchard, who officiated until October 6, 1858, at which time the church a second time dissolved, and has never been resuscitated since. The last trustees, appointed December 16, 1857, were Hiram Mordaff, Curtis Hale, Daniel Morehouse, J. P. Curtis, Daniel Pease, and Joseph Crook; the last deacons, appointed April 3, 1858, were J. P. Curtis and Alonzo Norton; and the last clerk, Alonzo Smith. A prosperous Sabbath-school was organized, and flourished in connection with the church, but with it passed out of existence, and has never been restored. J. P. Curtis was superintendent, and also Aaron Mills.

[McIntosh; 1877; p.163]

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The first Free-Will Baptist Church of Brockport was organized May, 1844, as delegates convened from Byron, Clarendon, Clarkson, Gaines, Ridgeway, Parma, Ogden, Alabama, and Elba. Church construction was started the same year and completed the year following. The church building the present Assembly of God, was consecrated Feb. 13th, 1845. The church was disbanded in 1850, but reorganization was effected in 1854. The first pastor was the Rev. F. W. Straight. On Oct. 6TH, 1858, the church was dissolved for a second time and was never resuscitated. The last trustees, appointed Dec. 16th, 1857, were Hiram Mordaff, Curtis Hale, Daniel Morehouse, J. P. Curtis, Daniel Pease, and Joseph Cook; the last deacons, appointed Apr. 3rd, 1858, were J. P. Curtis and Alonzo Norton; and the last clerk, Alonzo Smith. A Sabbath school was organized and flourished in connection with the church, but passed out with the church.

[Elwell; August 25, 1955; p.171]

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...We have in the meantime gained another church – The Assembly of God, located on King St.

[Elwell; July 15, 1954; p.32]

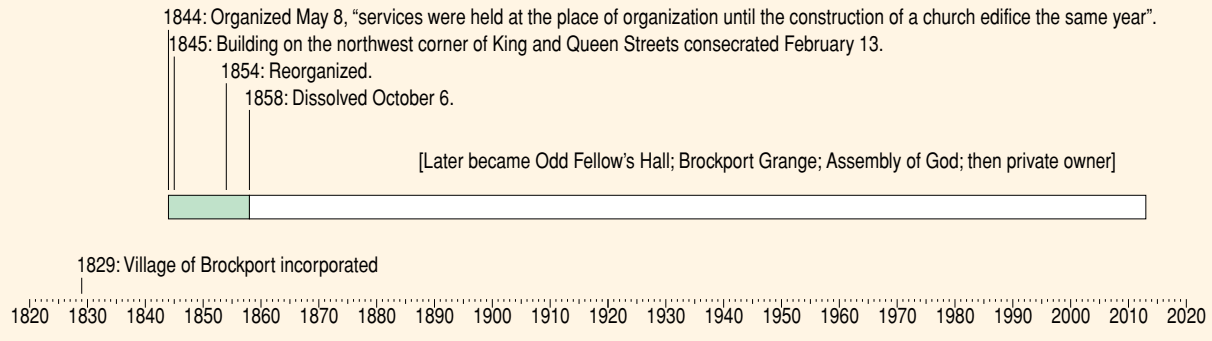
...The Assembly of God, I understand, already own their own church building.

[Elwell; July 15, 1954; p.33]

Much of the property in the Cady Grove is owned and occupied by the Assembly of God, a church society.[1]

[Elwell; December 9, 1954; p.101]

1. Troutburg camp was owned by the NY-NJ Assemblies of God, not this church. But this one may have been a member. –Mary E. Smith



First Free-Will Baptist Church of Brockport

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Designated use of building (from Sanborn maps):

1885 Monroe Lodge IOOF Hall
1892 Monroe Lodge IOOF Hall
1898 Monroe Lodge IOOF Hall
1904 IOOF Hall
1909 IOOF Hall
1914 Grangers Hall
1927 Grange Hall

Rev. Don Riling says [2013.03.07] that as far as he knows firemen were using the building until around 1941 or 1942 when the Assembly of God bought the building for $700.00. Rev. Riling started preaching there around October 6, 1962. In 1970 his church disaffiliated with Assembly of God, but they still had services there until they moved to the Golden Heights property ~1980. It was then that Norm Giancursio bought the old church property. He is thought to have sold it a few years ago. –Norm Frisch

CITATION:

Text Source:
Elwell, A.B., "History of Brockport With Vicinity Happenings, 1826 - 1956: Also Biographies of Prominent Men of the Past" (1956).
Provenance:
Original document at: SUNY Brockport Archives
http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/local_books/1

Text Source:
McIntosh, William H.; "History of Monroe County NY: Town of Sweden & Village of Brockport" Published by Everts, Ensign & Everts (1877); 716 Filbert Street; Press of J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.
Provenance:
Original document at: SUNY Brockport Archives
http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/local_books/10

Map Source:
Atlas: "Monroe County 1872" Published by: Beers, F.W.
Provenance:
Original document at: SUNY Brockport Archives
http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/local_maps/11/

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