Brockport United Methodist Church

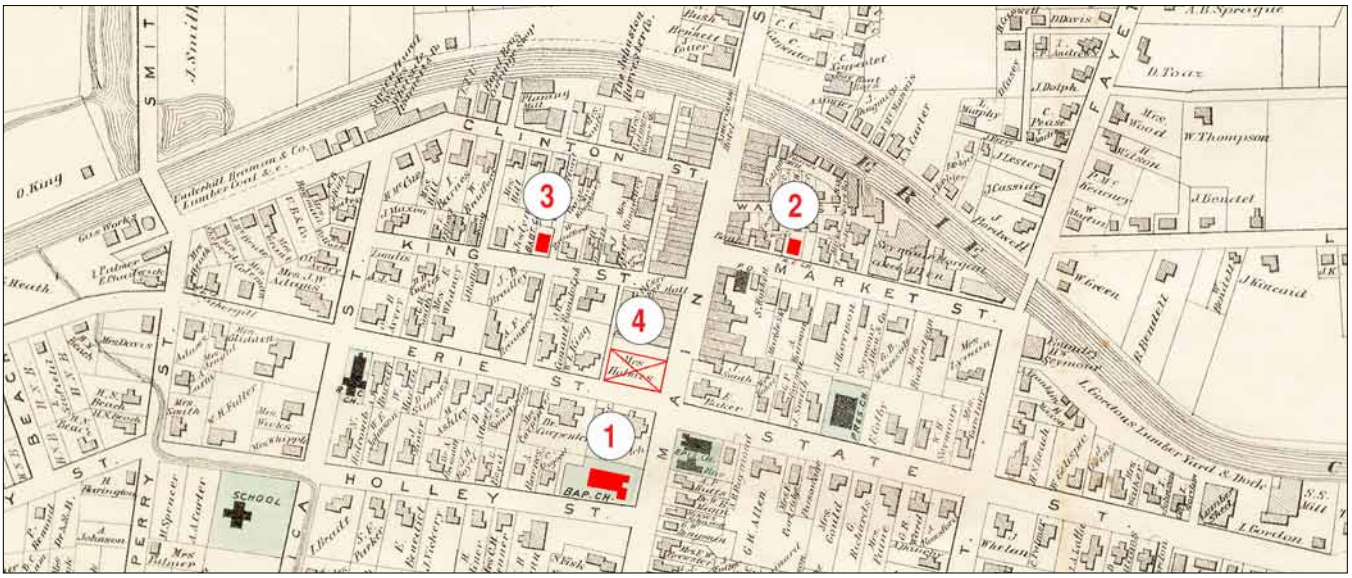


Brockport United Methodist Church, Main and Erie Streets, Brockport circa 1910. Photo by George Guelph [?]. Courtesy of Emily L. Knapp Museum.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF BROCKPORT.

The first society of this church was organized December 10, 1827, by the Rev. John Copeland, in the academy, which then occupied the site of the present Baptist church. Previous to its organization religious services in connection with the circuit had been held in a private house, then in a hotel, but after that event, and until the construction of their first church edifice a year later, at the academy. Among the first members were Luke Webster, Silas Hardy and Mrs. Hardy, Barney Mead and Mrs. Mead, Caleb Kingsbury, Prime B. Hill [1] , and Marietta Smith, the latter the only original member now living. The first pastor was John Copeland, one of the fathers of the old Genesee conference. The original board of trustees were Silas Hardy, Henry Ketcham, Henry Jones, Richmond Tuttle, Hasting R. Bender, and Samuel Kingsbury; the first stewards, Luke Webster, Peletiah Rogers, Barnhart Mead, and Silas Hardy; and the first class-leaders, John Hewett, Caleb Kingsbury, and Silas Hardy. Loring Grant was presiding elder; Barney Mead the first local preacher. Their first church building was erected in 1828. This was the first church edifice of any denomination ever erected in Brockport. It was a brick structure, located on the north side of Market street east of the post-office, constructed under the supervision of Richmond Tuttle, at a cost of three thousand dollars, and dedicated in January, 1829, by Rev. Abner Chase.

In the spring of 1875 successful measures were inaugurated for the construction of a more commodious and imposing edifice. The old structure and lot were sold to John A. Latta for three thousand dollars; a subscription of ten thousand dollars was raised; a lot on the corner of Main and Erie streets purchased for four thousand five hundred dollars; plans and specifications procured of Warner & Cutler, architects,



Organizational meetings held at the Academy located near where the Baptist church is indicated on this map (1). Original church building which was destroyed in a fire (2). The congregation rented space in what had originally been the First Free-Will Baptist Church of Brockport while their new (current) church was being built (3). Site of current church (red outline) (4). Map (cropped): Beers, F. W., "1872 Plat map of Brockport"

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of Rochester; and the contract of building awarded to Mr. Wilkinson, of Honeoye Falls, for eleven thousand dollars. It is now in process of construction,—a magnificent brick structure, costing, with lot and furnishing, seventeen thousand five hundred dollars.

Meanwhile, on the last Sunday in May, 1875, the last religious services were held in the old church, which, with its sacred memories of over forty y[ears was] forever deserted, and since then the services have been conducted in the Free Will Baptist church. On August 8, 1876, the ceremonies of laying the cornerstone of their new structure occurred, under the direction of Dr. Dennis, the present pastor, who placed the box with the records beneath the stone. Addresses were also made by Rev. A. D. Wilbur and Rev. T. J. Leak, of Rochester. The present board of trustees are Hiram Miner, Elijah E. Chiswell, Edgar A. Spring, Robert Fellows, William Bradford, Gurden Richards, and George B. Lewis.

There have been thirty pastors of the church, as follows, viz.: John Copeland, Joseph Atwell, Chester V. Adgate, Richard Wright, Manly Tooker, William H. Goodwin, Edward Bannister, Gideon D. Perry, H. R. Smith, Chauncey G. Baker, Joseph T. Arnold, Samuel C. Church, Philo E. Brown, Amos Hard, S. D. W. Chase, Henry Hiscock, Seymour A. Baker, E. M. Buck, William S. Tuttle, William Kendall, Isaac Kingsley, B. T. Roberts, E. A. Rice, Peter Stover, J. N. Simkins, J. B. Wentworth, John A. Copeland, J. H. Rogers, J. C. Hitchcock, and John Dennis. The present membership of the church is one hundred and sixty-five.

[McIntosh; 1877; p.161,162]

[1] Prime B. Hill is a misspelling in the original. It is Priam B. Hill, a brother-in-law of James and William Seymour. [Smith, M.]

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...The Methodist Church has also decorated the interior of their building and painted the outside trim. They have acquired chimes, as well, for future use.

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

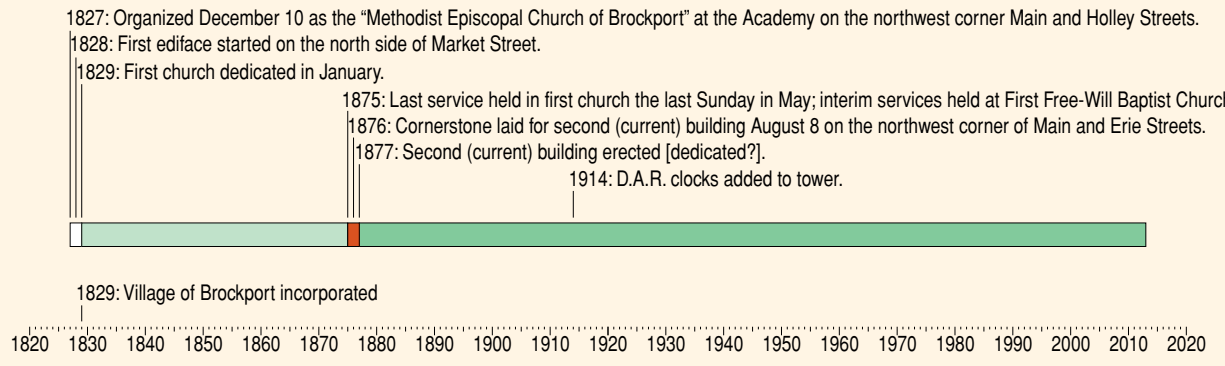
H. E. Bayley was pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church for several years. The first Methodist Church was built on Market St. at a cost of $3,000. It soon became too small and in 1876 the present church was built at the corner of Main and Erie Sts. The church at the time of Rev. Bayley's pastorate had a membership of 350. After his death his family returned to Brockport to make their home.

[Elwell; undated; p.44]

The village clock! Although we scan its face frequently, little thought it given to what is taking place high up there in the Methodist steeple. All we are interested in is the time of day, or night perhaps.

Recently while passing the church, Charles Page asked if I would care to go up and watch the winding of the large clock. This has to be done once a week. One arriving at the base of the steeple I was amazed at the size of the working parts. They occupy a space comparable to that of the family sharp freezer.

The clock is operated by two ponderous weights. The one giving the action for striking the hour was about twice the size of the one operating the movement of the hands. The former also had to be raised twice as high in the winding operation. It



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When did the Methodist-Episcopal church become the United Methodist church (see page 4)?

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takes several minutes of exhausting labor to raise those weights to their extreme height.

Formerly the care of the clock was assigned to one of Brockport's jewelers but now the utility men at the village building have taken charge, and very seldom have to call an expert clock man to overhaul it. At certain intervals it is necessary to climb up inside of the steeple to oil parts near the face of the clock.

As I watched the clock being wound, it occurred to me that there must be a story connected with this most useful contribution to the people of Brockport, and to others who use our Main St.

This is what I discovered: the Daughters of the American Revolution secured and installed the clock, also a bronze tablet which was placed in front of the church. Both were dedicated to Revolutionary War soldiers of this vicinity, the 30 that are known and also those unknown. These remembrances were to be passed in to future generations.

It was proposed at a DAR meeting in October, 1913, and also voted at the same meeting, to start the fund by subscribing $200, to be taken from the treasury. Then a harvest festival was held by the organization and it netted $225 more to be added to the fund.

Subscriptions were then solicited and the late Fred Gordon pledged $25, provided nice more people would do the same. This was accomplished and the Hon. R. C. Shannon gave $100 and George Rand of Buffalo gave $200. Then followed many smaller donations 'till a total of $1,500 was reached in a few months.

Then the clock manufactures had to be contacted, so as to select the most suitable location for the clock. To get the information needed for the memorial tablet, many graveyards had to be visited.

The clock and tablet were dedicated by the DAR to the following soldiers of the Revolution whose services were given to their country between the years of 1775 and 1783.

Brockport: Capt. Joseph Roby, Thomas Buck, and Rev. Amos Frink.

Sweden: Capt. Charles Treat, Lt. Ezekiel Elliott, Reuben Allen, Anselm Comstock, Levi Francisco, Jonathan Fanning, Elisha Locke, Ebenezer Martin, Reuben Stickney, and Capt. John Griswold.

Clarendon: Lemuel Cook, Samuel Lewis, and Augustus Sturges.

Clarkson: William Pennatt, Moody Freeman, Capt. Samuel Darling, Sgt. Elijah Cook, John H. Bushnell, Joseph Kennedy, Jonathon Mead, David Smith, and Eli Mead.

Hamlin: Peter Blossom.

Kendall: Samuel Bates.

Sandy Creek: Asa Clark.

Spencerport: Charles Kimball.

Adams Basin: Thomas King.

The grave of Capt. Joseph Roby of Brockport is located in High St. Cemetery. The inscription on his monument states that he was a member of the famous "Boston Tea Party" about which all of us have read about in our study of United States history.

The presentation of the town clock and the unveiling of the memorial tablet took place June 20th, 1914, 40 years ago this past June. It is also significant that the above year was the 100th birthday of the town of Sweden, as the first town meeting ea shelf at the home of Reuben Stickney in April, 1814.

The actual presentation was to the village president, George Harmon, representing the village of Brockport. At this time the key to the clock tower, insurance policy on the clock, and the statement of finances, which were in perfect condition, were surrendered to the possession of the village.

Mr. Harmon then accepted the gifts in behalf of the village and thanked all of those who had worked so faithfully to secure them.

As so often happens, we, the public, take our surroundings as a matter of fact and do not delve into how they came about, or seldom realize their true worth or significance.

May we in the future see more than the time of day when we looked at our village clock in the Methodist Church steeple!

[Elwell; December 30, 1954; p.106-108]

The Methodist Episcopal Church, organized Dec. 10th, 1827, by the Rev. John Copeland, was the first church society in Brockport. Meetings were held in the academy, which then occupied the site of the present Baptist Church.

The first church building was erected in 1828. This was the first church edifice, of any denomination, erected in Brockport. It was of brick construction, located on the north side of Market St. The cost was $3,000, and it was dedicated in Jan., 1829, by the Rev. Abner Chase.

In the spring of 1875 measures were taken to construct a more commodious and imposing edifice. The old structure and lot was sold to John A. Latta for $3,000; a subscription of $10,000 was raised, and a lot on the corner of Main and Erie Sts., was purchased for $4,500. Plans and specifications were procured and a brick structure erected. The entire amount spent at this time for lot, building and furnishings was $17,500. Services had been held at the Market St. site for over 40 years,

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with the last one taking place May, 1875. On Aug 8th, 1876, the cornerstone was laid for the new church with suitable ceremonies. The church at that time had 165 members.
[Elwell; August 25, 1955; p.169

The Free Methodist Church of Brockport was organized about 1858. It was formed by a division of the Methodist Episcopal Church. At first services were conducted in the second story of the John A. Latta block, the original home of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
[Elwell; August 25, 1955; p.170]

He [Abraham Smith] started a class of nine boys at the Methodist Church Sunday School which grew into the men's Bible class, and he continued to teach the class for 50 years. He also directed the church choir for several years.
[Elwell; December 1, 1955; p.202]

He [Austin Harmon] next had a shop on the site of the present Methodist Church.
[Elwell; December 1, 1955; p.205]

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Link to Seymour Fire Bucket story (bucket hanging from steeple)?

1939: The Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church merged to form the Methodist Church.[17]
1968: The Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church merged to form the United Methodist Church.[18]
[GOOGLE; 2013.07]

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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