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## One Hundred Years Old.

### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH ROUNDS OUT ITS FIRST CENTURY.

The Archdeaconry of Williamsport.

LARGE ATTENDANCE AND IMPRESSIVE SERVICES.

On Sunday, May 28th, 1793, St. Paul's church of Bloomsburg, then Fishingcreek, was admitted into union with the convention of Pennsylvania, and was represented by a lay delegate. Since that time it has been an organized parish. It was fitting therefore, that at the time of the celebration of its hundredth anniversary, the Archdeaconry of Williamsport, embracing twelve counties of the state, should be invited to come here and participate in the jubilee. The invitation was accepted, and accordingly the sessions of the Archdeaconry began on Monday evening with full evening service. The procession started from the Parish House headed by the vest ed choir of twenty men and boys, with fifteen clergymen in vestments, followed by Archdeacon Graff, and Rt. Rev. N. S. Rulison, Assistant Bishop of Central Pennsylvania. The Bishop, Archdeacon, and Rev. C. J. Wood occupied the sanctuary, the other clergy sitting in the front pews in the body of the church. A song service followed, with a very able and interesting sermon by Rev. C. J. Wood of Lock Haven.

The visiting clergymen are Rev. T. H. Cullen, and Rev. Dr. Zahner; Rev. W. H. Graff, Rev. G. C. Foley, Williamsport; Rev. Dr. H. L. Jones, Wilkesbarre; Rev. Dr. Clerc, Phillipsburg; Rev. Chas. Morrison, Sunbury; Rev. A. W. Snyder, Wellsboro; Rev. Wm. Heakes, Muncy; Rev. John Graham, Shamokin, Rev. C. E. Fessenden, Brookland; Rev. C. T. Coerr, Rev. L. B. Thomas, Antrim; Rev. C. J. Wood, Lock Haven; Rev. Geo. Warnock, Montoursville; Rev. John Rockwell, Sugarloaf; Rev. W. R. Mulford, Danville; Rev. J. F. Powers, Archdeacon of Reading Archdeaconry; Rev. T. B. Angell, Archdeacon of Harrisburg Archdeaconry; Rev. L. F. Baker, Harrisburg; Rev. Mr. Pratt, Lancaster; Rev. Mr. Eastment, Troy. Of the former rectors, there were but two present, Rev. T. H. Cullen of Freehold, N. J., and Rev. Dr. L. Zahner of Adams, Mass. Rev. Mr. Russell lives in the west, too far away to come here; Rev. A. A. Marple was prevented by other important engagements, and no word was received from Rev. Dr. Tullidge. He was written to three times. Rev. John Hewitt expected to be present, but a letter received a few days ago states that scarlet fever has broken out in the Boys Military School at Lincoln, Nebraska, of which he is rector, and he deemed it inadvisable to leave home. Rev. Mr. Parker had accepted the invitation to be present, and expected to come with his wife, who was formerly Miss Clara Barton, but the sudden death of the latter a few weeks ago prevented him. Rev. Dr. F. W. Bartlett of Williamstown, Mass., who acted as an assistant to the rector in 1872, was obliged to send his regrets on account of his own engagements, and Rev. Geo. F. Breed who conducted the services here one summer, was not heard from.

At 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning a business meeting was held in the Parish House, at which the Bishop presided. The business was of a routine character, pertaining to the missionary work of the Archdeaconry.

At 10 o'clock morning service was held in the church, and an eloquent and powerful sermon preached by Rev. Dr. H. L. Jones, rector of St. Stephen's church, Wilkesbarre.

An interesting meeting was held in the Parish House at three o'clock in the afternoon, when very able papers were read by the Rev. Messrs. Snyder and Heakes.

The church was crowded at the evening service, when the rite of confirmation was administered by the Bishop. Among the candidates were seven members of the choir, who knelt together at the altar rail, clad in their churchly vestments, and received the Apostolic rite of the laying on of hands. It was an impressive sight. They were O. W. Ent, John B. Fox, David Tasker, Elijah Shutt, Frank Phillips, Charles Wilson, and Mortimer Butler. Every member of the vest ed choir is now a communicant, except two who are yet too young for confirmation. There were eighteen other candidates presented to the Bishop by the Rector, making a total class of twenty five. During the offertory, Mrs. Ella Fox Gilbert sang a beautiful solo, accompanied on the organ by Miss Maude Runyon. Besides the Bishop's address, there were



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, BLOOMSBURG, PA.

missionary addresses by Archdeacon Graff, and Revs. Foley and Snyder. After the service an informal reception was held in the Parish House.

#### CENTENNIAL DAY.

The prominent feature of the week was the service on Wednesday morning. The choir and clergy and Bishop formed an imposing procession as they entered the chancel from the Parish House. The Te Deum, Nicene Creed and Gloria in Excelsis were Tours in F. The Holy Communion was administered, and the sermon was preached by Rev. Thomas H. Cullen. It was an able effort; and the tones of his voice in the church once more aroused many pleasant recollections in the minds of many of the congregation.

Just before the sermon the following historical sketch was read by the Rector, Rev. W. C. Leverett.

#### HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Services of the church were held in this vicinity more than a hundred years ago. This very parish was organized, probably, as early as the year 1790, and was known as St. Paul's, Fishing Creek. On the 11th of Sept. 1795, Mr. Joseph Long, for the consideration of five shillings, agreed to convey to the parish the acre of land which is now occupied by the church property, and in the agreement for the same it is described as "the ground on which the church now stands," so that in 1795 and before that time an Episcopal Church building stood in the enclosure where the present one is erected.

In 1793 Mr. Elisha Barton was the deputy from this parish at the ninth Diocesan Convention as "from St. Paul's Church, Fishing Creek township."

In that convention held in Christ Church, Philadelphia, on May 28th, 1793, the parish was admitted into union with the Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

To-day, therefore, we commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of this fact; the admission of St. Paul's Parish into union with the Convention being positive evidence of its existence as a recognized body in May, 1793.

It is one of the oldest parishes in the Diocese of Central Penna. St. James, Lancaster, St. John's, York, and St. Gabriel's, Douglassville, were admitted into union with the Convention of Pennsylvania, in 1785, and St. Paul's, Bloomsburg, comes next to them in the order of time.

The Rev. Caleb Hopkins was the first Rector of this parish. He also had charge of St. Gabriel's, Sugarloaf, and Christ Church, Derry. The last named, which in 1793 was Christ Church, Derry township, and which in later years became Christ Church, Jerseytown, can be followed to about the year 1844, but since then it has ceased to be. In the other places where the Rev. Mr. Hopkins officiated, viz: Milton and Muncy, Church buildings and congregations of the faithful exist to-day, and St. James Church, Exchange, in charge of the Rector of Muncy, is now the nearest to the site of the old Derry Church. St. Gabriel's, Sugarloaf, is known to many of you. The old building was burned not very many years ago when, under wise direction, the present chapel sprang up speedily from the ashes. You have seen that little church among the trees, of which one of our own poets has sung:

"Flung to the air the echoing chime of thy sweet bell, at morning prime, While o'er the mountain's steepy height The rising sun pours glowing light;

And when the evening shadows fall Among the pines and hemlocks tall Then to the silent hamlet tell The message of St. Gabriel."

A pencilled memorandum on a fly leaf of the oldest existing record of St. Paul's Church says: "Mr. Hopkins was here in 1794 or 1795, then left and was recalled in 1806." He seems to have remained in charge until 1818. It is recorded of him that he was a man of vigorous intellect and of stalwart frame. He had been a lieutenant in the patriot army of the Revolution. Descendants of this distinguished man are now connected with this parish, and one of them is a member of our present choir.

I am indebted to our venerable townsman, Mr. John K. Grotz, and to our late lamented Warden, Mr. B. F. Hartman, who died at a very advanced age, for reminiscences of the earlier days. A statement in one of our church papers, some years ago, also furnishes interesting items. The first Church building was of logs and its internal arrangements were very plain. There was no vestry room, nor were there any stoves to heat the building. The plan for heating is reported to have been a large square hole in the floor in front of the chancel, opening down to the ground, and a fire of logs made early and burned to living coals, kept the room warm during service; and it is also said there was no chimney to lead off the smoke from the glowing and crackling fire. To this log church the people used to come on horseback from all parts of the surrounding country; those living on the other side of the Susquehanna would gather together at the river's bank and all come over in a flat-boat, leaving their horses until their return; men and women coming to the church in the plainest garments which had been woven and made by themselves. In 1827, the log church gave place to a frame structure which remained for about ten years. In 1837, a brick church was erected on the spot where the Rectory now stands. And in that was placed in the following year the first church bell ever heard in the town. The bell is of much less weight than the smallest in our present peal, but of sweet sound; a bell with so many sacred and endearing associations, that it is retained in yonder corridor as a precious relic, though its voice has been hushed before the three-fold call which we now hear:

"Bells are the voice of the church; They have tones that touch and search The hearts of young and old; One sound to all, yet each lends a meaning to their speech, And the meaning is manifold."

The brick building of 1837 continued in use until 1868, when the people resolved to begin the construction of a new edifice. The cornerstone of this, the fourth building was laid on September 11th, 1868, and the church was finished, with the exception of the tower, early in 1870. It was begun and completed while the Rev. Thomas H. Cullen was Rector, and was consecrated on June 28th, 1881, by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Howe, Bishop of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania during the rectorship of the Rev. Dr. Zahner.

Returning to the succession of Rectors, we find that after the Rev. Mr. Hopkins left the parish in 1818, Lay Readers maintained the services until in December, 1824, Mr. Wm. Eldred, from England, who had been acting as a Lay Reader here from the 20th of May, 1823, was ordained Deacon by Bishop White, and continued in charge of the parish for a year or more. In 1828, the Rev. James DePui was Rector of St. Paul's, St. Gabriel's,

Sugarloaf, and Christ church, Derry. He resigned in 1832. The Rev. Benjamin Hutchins began his rectorship on Sept. 2, 1832, and resigned April 8, 1833. He was followed by the Rev. George C. Drake, who was in charge of the parish from 1833 to 1842. The Rev. Wm. H. Bourne succeeded Mr. Drake in Dec. 1842 and continued in charge until June, 1844. The Rev. Samuel T. Lord came next, in Feb., 1845, and resigned June, 1846. He was immediately succeeded by the Rev. A. A. Marple, who held the rectorship until Sept., 1848, when the Rev. Joel Rudderow entered upon duty here and remained from 1848 to 1853. The Rev. Henry Tullidge, D. D., was then called to the rectorship and continued until Nov. 1857. He was followed by the Rev. A. M. Weily, from March 1859 to Feb. 1860. In August, 1860, the Rev. J. A. Russell became the Rector and continued until Dec. 31, 1862. January 5, 1863, the Rev. Thomas H. Cullen took charge of the parish and stayed until 1870. He was followed by the Rev. John Hewitt, who remained until 1877. He was succeeded by the Rev. Louis Zahner, who continued until the Autumn of 1886, and in December of the same year, the present Rector, (the Rev. Wm. C. Leverett) assumed the care of the parish. It is a simple thing to pen this list of names and dates. But could we read between the lines, what a record it would be of toil and sacrifice, of blessings and of joys!

Time would fail me to tell the good things accomplished here by my honored predecessors. The memory of their work survives in the grateful hearts of the people, and its record is on high.

But it may not be out of place for me to mention what the congregation has done during the last six years, of which I am personally cognizant. Let us go back for a moment to 1886.

The first thing which was attempted after my coming, was the liquidation of a debt of about a thousand dollars, which was an obstacle to progress. This was soon accomplished and, in my judgment, the prompt action was the step that opened the way to all that followed. Then came a renovation of the church building, repairs upon the roof, re-painting of the walls and the introduction of steam-heating apparatus.

A fund, which had been begun some years before, was now augmented by the efforts of the ladies and supplemented by the men of the congregation and the parish house was built. An addition not for show, but for service, to be what it has proved to be, a work-shop for the parish. The Sunday School room was furnished throughout by the thoughtful liberality of one parishioner, Mrs. Hester Barton, and by other gifts the various needs were supplied and the machinery was made complete. The tower of the church was finished by Mr. John G. Freeze, and a peal of bells given by Mr. Paul E. Wirt. The vest ed choir was introduced under the direction of Mr. George E. Elwell, and the choir-stalls and necessary outfits were procured.

By the energy of Mr. George S. Robbins and the co-operation of those inspired by his zeal, the artificial stone pavement was next laid about the whole church property. After a brief breathing space it was resolved that the interior of the church building should receive due attention. And within the past few months all the wood-work has been re-dressed, the walls and ceiling have been colored, new carpets and cushions and kneel-

ing crickets supplied and electric light introduced. Various additions have been made, like the renewed font and hymn tablets, and last but by no means least, the three chancel windows, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Funston, which beautify the sanctuary and mark the beginning of better things in the way of windows for the church.

You will observe that the organ-pipes have not been changed in color so as to match the tints of the wall above them, but are left in their original hue to remind us that a new organ is in due time to come.

The commodious Rectory was made increasingly comfortable at the time of my coming, in '86, and recently its exterior has been painted. The grounds have also been much improved.

Meanwhile the parish has met all its Diocesan dues and has enlarged rather than diminished its offerings for missionary and charitable purposes. And best of all, the people have united with their Rector, more and more, during these years in his endeavor to build them up as a *Spiritual Temple* acceptable to the Lord.

For all this we are profoundly grateful to Him who maketh men to be of one mind in an house and devoutly say, "To God give all the praise."

At 1.15 p. m. an elegant lunch was served in the dining hall of the Parish House, under the direction of the ladies, which was attended by the Bishop, the clergy, the choir, and all the visitors who came back to their old home to be present at these services.

At the close, entertaining speeches were made by Bishop Rulison, Rev. J. F. Powers, Rev. W. H. Graff, Rev. Mr. Baker, and Col. Freeze. The Hall was beautifully decorated with ferns, plants and flowers. At 7:30 the closing services were held, when touching addresses were made by Rev. Dr. Zahner and Rev. T. H. Cullen, followed by the Bishop. A reception was held in the Parish House after service, attended by all the visitors and the congregation.

Thus closed the first century of St. Paul's church. It was a season of delightful exercises, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated.

Among the former members of the congregation who returned to attend the centennial services were Miss Mary Painter, Muncy; Judah Boone, Pottsville; Mrs. Eli Ager, Wilkesbarre; Mrs. C. R. Paxton, Mrs. Christian, Virginia; Mrs. E. W. Elwell, Towanda; Mrs. R. C. Neal, Harrisburg; G. A. Clark, Tyrone; Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Walker, Shickshinny; Mr. and Mrs. John S. Gilbert, Mrs. Jacob Verdy, Philadelphia; Mrs. W. J. Buckalew, Pottsville; Mr. and Mrs. William Leverett, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Lutz, Wilkesbarre; Miss A. D. Webb, Pottsville; Mrs. Hewitt, Sunbury.

#### NOTES.

Mrs. Cullen accompanied her husband on a visit to Bloomsburg friends. They are the guests of Mr. Lloyd Paxton at Rupert.

Rev. T. H. Cullen was rector of St. Paul's from 1863 to 1870. In 1881 he returned to preach the sermon at the consecration of the church. It was built during his incumbency.

Mrs. Dr. Zahner's many friends were disappointed by her inability to be here. The illness of her aged father prevented.

Many of the visiting clergy complimented the choir highly on the rendition of the music, and were pleased at the interest manifested by the members in attending every service.

Mrs. Henry L. Jones of Wilkesbarre was the guest of Mrs. Geo. E. Elwell, and Mrs. William Leverett.

Mrs. Hewitt, mother of Rev. John Hewitt, spent Wednesday in Bloomsburg, attending the centennial service.

#### A SAD DEATH.

Morgan Rodman Drinker, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Drinker, died at Tamaqua last Sunday afternoon at four o'clock, after an illness of only five days, aged 26 years. The remains were brought here on Monday, and funeral services were held in St. Paul's church on Tuesday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. He was a member of the Episcopal church, and an exemplary young man. His parents were summoned and arrived before his death, but his brother Fred, received a telegram on Sunday, announcing his critical condition, and drove to Tamaqua, reaching there several hours after the end had come.

He was possessed of extraordinary mechanical genius, and was fast making a reputation as a draftsman and mechanic, and his early death has blasted the fond hopes of his many friends. Many floral offerings were sent in, and the bereaved family have the sympathy of the community.

## BRIEF MENTION.

About People You Know.

Geo. A. Clark is at home on a two week's vacation.

Hon. I. K. Krickbaum of Benton was in town Monday.

Prof. J. P. Welsh went to New York on Wednesday.

Sheriff Mourey went to Harrisburg on Thursday.

Judge Elwell is having his residence repainted.

W. S. Rishton spent several days in Philadelphia during the past week.

D. R. Coffman, court crier, policeman, and court house janitor, was 44 years old on Wednesday.

C. B. Robbins has been up the creek this week on a Fishing expedition.

C. C. Evans Esq. and C. B. Jackson Esq., both of Berwick were in attendance at Argument court Monday.

Harry Stees has entered the drug store of G. A. McKelvy, to learn the business.

Cyrus Demott, one of Millville's most substantial citizens, was in town on Saturday, attending to business.

Iram Derr, and son John F. of Greenwood township were in town decoration day. They are two of the solid democrats of the county.

Cleatus Jones, a former typo of THE COLUMBIAN office, and now employed on the *Nanticoke Sun*, spent decoration day with his parents in this place.

Chas. Unangst Esq. and wife of New York city, visited their parents Mr. and Mrs. P. Unangst, during the past week.

Mr. Layton Runyon has gone on a trip to visit relatives and friends in Northern Pennsylvania and New York state.

Mr. and Mrs. I. K. Dildine of Orangeville, spent Sunday with their son-in-law F. P. Vanderslice on East street.

John Rehm of West Third street is breaking ground for another dwelling. That section of the town is building up very rapidly.

Charles Shaffer, our famous base ball catcher is now captain of the Harrisburg club. His last position is that of first base, and he plays it with the same earnestness and success that he plays that of catching.

Hon. E. M. Tewksbury, who has been confined to his bed at his boarding house in Harrisburg for the past two weeks is improving slowly, and will no doubt soon be out again. He was missed very much at the closing hours of the Legislature.

Eli McHenry of Benton was in town on Saturday. He recently sold fourteen head of cattle fattened by him, to Charles Haas of Berwick. The cattle averaged 1340 pounds, a gain of 340 pounds each since Mr. McHenry got them last winter. He knows how to prepare them for the market.

Ex-Sheriff Casey celebrated his forty-ninth birthday yesterday. The sheriff was born on Iron street in this town within three hundred yards of his present residence in the house nearest the arch bridge, and with the exception of about two years has resided on the same street ever since his birth.

#### PRESIDING ELDER DONOHUE DEAD.

It is the unexpected that always happens. No one would have believed that the next person to be summoned across the dark river would be the Rev. John Donohue, Presiding Elder of the Danville District of the M. E. Church. He was to all appearances a robust and healthy man. On Wednesday evening he returned home on the 6:36 train, and before he had reached his home he felt faint, and was observed by his wife who was at a window in their house, leaning against a tree. Help was sent to him, and he was able to get to the house, when he said he wanted air, and that he was very sick. Dr. Arment was summoned, and soon after, Dr. Brown was also called in, but he was beyond the aid of human skill, and died soon after. His age was sixty-one years. He was pastor of the M. E. Church here some years ago, and has been Presiding Elder for several years, making Bloomsburg his residence, and was prominent in the councils of his church. His loss is a severe one not only to the family, but to the Methodist Church and the community. The services will be held in the Methodist church Friday afternoon at 2:30. The remains will be taken to Baltimore for burial.