

Early Churches And Schools In Monroe Had Great Influence

(Continued from Page 9—A)

threws Phoenix.

CHURCH HISTORY

Before there was any organized religious group local preachers supplied the wants of the people. The first meetings and Sunday School were held in the log school house.

The Methodist Episcopal group organized first with Rev. Silsbury Wild as minister. The Baptists were next with Rev. William Frear as their preacher. Following these were the Protestant Methodists with Rev. J. K. Helmore, Rev. Mr. Brown, and Rev. Peter Montross among the first preachers. Rev. Thomas Rhoads was the Presbyterian pastor.

In 1865 the four societies agreed to build a Union Church. There were five trustees appointed, one Methodist Episcopal, one Baptist, one Presbyterian, one Protestant Methodist, and one by the people. They were Sidney C. Clarke, George D. Clarke, Samuel B. Cook, Peter Montross and Daniel Morgan. The building was dedicated in 1866. The ministers of the different denominations preached in turn except the Presbyterian pastor whose people had a church of their own.

William Richards, father of Mrs. J. H. Hadsall, was first superintendent of the Sabbath School which always had a good attendance.

In 1874 the Presbyterians petitioned the Presbytery of Lackawanna to organize a Presbyterian Church at Monroe with Rev. C. K. Canfield as pastor and to use the Monroe Academy Auditorium as their meeting place.

The following members were enrolled as the Bowman's Creek Presbyterian Church: Amanda M. Canfield, Samuel B. and Phoebe Cook, James L. Cranford, A. J. Courson, Byron and Morrell Dimmick, Edwin D. Frear, Henry J. and Martha E. Frear, Henry W. Gross, William J. and Ermilla Hemmelright, Mary E. Jackson, James E. Miners, Charles Victor Parrish, and Annette Wilson.

These were admitted to the Presbyterian newly organized group on profession of faith: Adelpa W. Cooke, Mary D. and John F. Hilbert, Almira J. and John F. Parrish, Oliver Wilson, Chandler Newberry and William Patton.

S. B. Cooke, Byron Dimmick, and William Patton were elected ruling elders. Rev. C. K. Canfield was the pastor then Rev. Darroch and Rev. S. McElroy. Dr. D. H. Silkworth served many years as Sab-

bath School superintendent guiding one hundred ten scholars.

(Today the stairs and bannister of the Monroe Academy can be seen in use at Clarence Hilbert's home which was previously owned by A. W. Cook who purchased the site from the Presbyterians and used the timbers of the Academy to build the present Hilbert home.)

The present churches serving the people of Monroe Township are the newly-built Bowman's Creek Free Methodist Church at junction of Route 309 and Noxen Road with Rev. Russell Vanderhof as pastor; the Evans Falls Methodist Church with Rev. Paul Huslander as pastor; the Seven Day Adventist Church with Rev. Horace Reading serving, and the Beaumont Union Church with Rev. Truman Reeves as pastor.

MONROE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

The first school in Monroe Township was a log cabin built at the present junction of Route 309 and the Harveys Lake Road. This log cabin housed the children of the early Connecticut settlers who brought with them the first teacher, Ashel Barnes.

In time a frame schoolhouse replaced the log cabin. (Mrs. Calla Parrish attended the frame schoolhouse and now lives in it.)

When population demands deemed it, another frame school house was built on Cemetery Hill. It was this school house (which partially stands today) that Mr. William Newberry attended. He remembers eighty-six pupils in his group and one teacher, Miss Mary Campbell.

At one time Monroe Township's population needed seven schools, the two mentioned in Beaumont, one in Plattsburg now used as a dwelling and owned by William Arch Austin, one in Marsh Creek, one at Evans Falls, one at Buckwheat Hollow (on the site now occupied by the Lowell Boones) and one at Bowman's Creek near Lutes' Corners (now the Free Methodist Church Youth Center).

Prior to high schools in September 16, 1872, the largest rooms of the Presbyterian parsonage, now the home of L. B. Hilbert) were opened for higher learning under the name of Monroe Academy which was designed to teach the "higher branches and the classics and also to serve as a normal school." Not less than fifty successful teachers had their start here. In 1873 the

Odd Fellows' Hall was occupied. Then in the summer of 1874 the building known as the Monroe Academy, but chartered as the Bowman's Creek Presbyterian Church, was erected. The total cost of the building consisting of two classrooms and a chapel auditorium was \$4,625 chiefly contributed by the citizens of Monroe. The first principal was Rev. C. K. Canfield. *1

The large maple trees in front of the Beaumont Schools and Clarence Hilbert's house are now the living memorials to the Monroe Academy which was attended by students from Easton, Tunkhannock, Kingston, and this vicinity.

J. P. Breidinger, former principal at Coughlin High School at Wilkes-Barre, was the principal at Monroe Academy when Mrs. Calla Parrish, Mrs. Addie Ryman Austin, Lewis Orcutt, and William Newberry attended.

In 1890 a meeting was held at the Bowman's Creek School where it was voted to build a grade school at Beaumont.

During the next few years one acre of land was purchased at the site of the present high school.

In 1894 a four room building with a second story auditorium was built and nicknamed the "White Elephant." When the fire escape was added, it was acclaimed as "the trunk of the elephant." The four rooms housed four departments: primary, intermediate, grammar, and three-year high school. Each department contained three grades. This was commonly called a New England type school.

At this time the two schools at Beaumont and the one at Plattsburg were closed and the pupils came to the new school with Mr. McCreary, the Plattsburg teacher, as the first principal and high school teacher.

The next change came in 1922 when the ninth grade was dropped and two teachers were used in the three years of high school.

In 1930 the fourth year of high school was added and a four-room elementary school was built allowing the remaining one-room schools to be abandoned and the pupils brought into Beaumont via bus. A temporary program, still in use, calling for four teachers for the first six grades and four for the upper six was installed.

CEMETERIES

ORCUTT'S

The first burying grounds were those on the land by the home-steads.

The present Orcutt Cemetery was the burial plot for the Philemon Clarke family. It was deeded in trust to Mr. O. C. Orcutt for the

use of the township. The first person buried there other than a member of the Clarke family was the wife of Jared Slaughter, but the first marker or tombstone was that of Ashel Barnes, 1823. Mr. Barnes was the first school teacher. He came with the Jackson family from Connecticut. Some of the early settlers buried at Orcutt's and their dates of burial are:

1. Joseph Jackson, March 29, 1833; aged 61.
2. Ebenezer Parrish; born 1760; died 1844; Revolutionary War; enlisted in Massachusetts July 15, 1776; discharged July 20, 1777; (monument erected by Frear-Parrish Reunion).
3. Charles Patton; October 2, 1855.
4. Philemon Clarke; April 15, 1856.
5. Mary Newman, wife of Daniel; March 20, 1857.
6. Elizabeth Clarke, wife of Philemon; April 30, 1857.
7. Mary May Phoenix, wife of Matthew; February 19, 1858; age 76 years, 6 months, 5 days.
8. Warren M. Parrish, son of Ebenezer Parrish. A Private of Co. B, 12th Regt. P. B. C. Died at Georgetown, D. C., in Seminary Hospital February 10, 1862; aged 20 years, 9 months, 5 days.
9. Ebenezer Parrish, April 14, 1868.
10. Mary M., wife of Edward Dimmick; June 2, 1868; aged 49 years, 6 months.
11. Matthew Phoenix; August 22, 1873; aged 107 years, 7 months, 12 days.
12. Mary Orcutt, wife of O. C. Orcutt; August 19, 1878.
13. Michael Haffner; March 17, 1880.
14. O. C. Orcutt; June 22, 1884.
15. R. H. Evans, Capt. Co. A, 144 Regt., N. Y. V. I. Died September 27, 1902; aged 72 years, 5 months, 2 days.

The present Board of Trustees for the cemetery are: Superintendent, Elmer Boice; secretary-treasurer, Harry Bigelow; James Patton, Paul Space, Rev. Ira Button, George Orcutt, Lewis Orcutt, and Corey Schooley.

Yearly dues are paid for the upkeep of the cemetery.

BEAUMONT
The Orcutt Cemetery is the older of the two burial grounds, but the first burial of the early settlers in Beaumont was that of Lewis Warwick whose grave was in the woods above the residence of Josiah Newberry.

The following was garnered from the legible markers at the Beaumont Cemetery:

1. Maria, wife of John Whitaker; died March 13, 1818; aged 51 years,

- 8 months, 8 days.
2. Mary, wife of Josiah Newberry; March 14, 1846; aged 65 years, 1 month, 6 days.
3. William P. Poole; died January 6, 1852; aged 74 years, 8 months, 1 day.
4. Josiah Newberry; died March 19, 1854; aged 71 years, 11 months, 22 days.
5. Mary E., daughter of Sydney and Jane Clarke; died December 26, 1854; aged 3 years.
6. Nathan Parrish; died October 1, 1855; aged 59 years, 8 months, 9 days.
7. Ebenezer Freeman. A soldier of 1812; died April 26, 1861; aged 69 years, 2 months, 24 days.
8. Memory of Rufus Frear. Co. F, 53rd Reg. Pa. Vet. Vol.; 1822-1864.
9. George, son of Thomas and Dianne Barringer; died August 26, 1865; aged 8 years, 2 months.
10. James N. Straley; died December 21, 1866; aged 46 years, 1 month, 26 days.
11. Rev. Abraham Frear; died March 13, 1867; aged 77 years, 11 months, 18 days.
12. William Herdman; G. A. R.; 1828-1873.
13. Maria Austin, his wife, (Herdman); 1832-1877.
14. Mary L., wife of Rufus Frear; died February 19, 1876; aged 51 years.
15. Peter Montross; born February 4, 1798; died May 1, 1884.
16. Mark D. Newman; August 26, 1889; aged 58 years, 8 months, 25 days.
17. D. H. Silkworth, M. D.; born October 3, 1816; died August 6, 1890; Co. F, 53 Regt.
18. Thomas P. Barringer; Co. G, 143 P. V.; January 7, 1827; April 27, 1897.
19. William F. Cair; born January 19, 1820; died October 22, 1904.
20. Oliver Wilson; 1828-1908.

21. Sarah A. Clarke; 1847 (Jackson's wife) -1910.
 22. William H. Jackson; 1834-1913; Co. F, 171 Pa. Vol.
 23. Nancy Jane Stanton, wife of D. H. Silkworth, M. D.; born June 16, 1834; died February 6, 1915.
 24. Lavina F. Newberry (wife of Oliver Wilson), 1831-1918.
- The ground in the rear of the Monroe Academy was a burial place too but those remains were transferred to the Beaumont Cemetery.
- In 1919 the Beaumont Cemetery Association reorganized with John Downs, Gale Clark, L. B. Hilbert, J. H. Hadsall, H. G. Shotwell, and Thomas Nulton as officers. They hired work done financed by voluntary contributions to pay for the cemetery up-keep. They also sponsored an annual "Bee" at which the Ladies' Aid furnished dinner. These "Bees" were successful until the wartime labor shortage. Now little is being done to keep up the cemetery other than that of interested survivors who mow and care for their family plots.

The present officers are: President, Charles W. Smith; secretary, Wayne Hadsall; treasurer, Charles Clark.

MILLS, STORES, POSTOFFICES AND INNS

The early development of Monroe Township centered around the lumber industry which necessitated many mills.

The first sawmill was built at the foot of Cemetery Hill by Zion Newberry, then a run of stones was added by Oliver Wilson to grind corn, etc.

There were three sawmills in the vicinity of the Falls Hill. In 1865 Levi Mosier operated his mill near present Serfos farm. On the stream which flows now from Lake Catalpa, Byron Dimmick operated a mill built by Stephen Parks on the present Jacob Straley property. The Will Frear mill was also on the present Jacob Straley property.

Charles May operated a sawmill at Lutes Corners. This site is the property of Elwood May.

Thomas May's sawmill was on the (Continued on Page 11—A)

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'50 FORD "8" Tudor. Radio, Heater	\$995	'47 DeSoto 4 Door Custom Sed. R&H	\$595
'50 FORD "A" Tudor. Radio, Heater	\$895	'47 BUICK Sedanette	\$495
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'51 MERCURY Sport Coupe	\$1445	'50 MERCURY Sport Sedan	\$1145	'48 PONTIAC 4 Dr. Sedan	\$645
'51 DODGE Coronet Cl. Cpe	\$1295	'50 FORD Crestliner 2 Dr.	\$995	'48 CHEVROLET Fleetmaster 2 Dr.	\$650
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