

COUNTRY CLERGY
OF
PENNSYLVANIA

revised
11 BY
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MONTROSE (C.) ST. PAUL'S.

(COMMUNICATED.)

The first record of any Episcopal service in Montrose is found in the local papers of March 30th, 1828. This, as were most of the occasional services subsequent thereto, was held in the old court house.

The first Episcopal visitation was made by Bishop Onderdonk, in 1829, when J. W. Raynsford, Esq., wife and daughter, and John Street and wife, were confirmed. These five persons constitute the beginning of St. Paul's Church. It is probable that Mr. Raynsford was instrumental in procuring the first services, it being the tradition of the parish that he, accidentally becoming possessed of a copy of the Book of Common Prayer, was led by a study of its contents to the adoption of the emblem of the church, "Evangelical Truth and Apostolic Order." He was a man of strict integrity and distinguished for remarkable practical gifts, being active in all the religious, educational, business, and social interests of the community.

The corner-stone of the first church edifice was laid by Bishop Onderdonk, June 2d, 1832, and the building consecrated October 27th, in the next year. In 1856, the corner-stone of the present substantial structure was laid, and the building consecrated by Bishop Potter, July 17th, 1857. The first rectory, the house now occupied by Dr. W. W. Smith, was built on land donated by J. W. Raynsford, in 1850. In 1874, the present fine rectory was built on a spacious lot donated by Mrs. Henry Drinker; and three years later the present Sunday-school building and chapel on land adjoining the church, the plan of which, by a New York architect, was given to the parish by Mrs. Theodore Gilman, of the same city.

In Mr. Warriner's rectorship of twenty-one years, one hundred and sixty-one have been added to the list of communicants.

The first rector was Rev. Samuel Marks, who was appointed resident missionary, in Montrose, in 1831, officiating also in New Milford and Springville. He was distinguished for his zeal and personal popularity. He died at Huron, Ohio, at an advanced age, and while still engaged in missionary work. Of the subsequent rectors, Rev. Messrs. Peck and Pleasants, there is no record. Rev. George P. Hopkins is rector of St. Matthew's Church, Pike, Pennsylvania. Rev. John Long, who built the first rectory, working on it with his own hands, resides in Reading; Rev. D. C. Byllesby resides at Media; Rev. R. B. Peet is a rector at Newport, Rhode Island; Rev. Wm. F. Halsey, under whose rectorship the church became self-supporting, died at Radnor, Pennsylvania, (see Radnor in this volume for an account of him) where he had been rector for many years. Rev. George H. Kirkland is rector at New Berlin, New York.

Great Bend, New Milford and Springville are treated of in Peck's History of Susquehanna County. These county histories are often useful as containing facts from first sources by those acquainted with the parishes.

I add a biographical sketch of Rev. E. A. Warriner, abridged from the July number of the *Magazine of Poetry*, 1890.

Mr. Warriner was born in Agawam, Massachusetts, in 1829, of old Puritan stock, a farmer's boy, spending his early years between the fields in summer, and the district school in winter. Later he attended the classical school in Springfield, living at home, and crossing the river, often with great difficulty and peril from floating ice, yet never failing to be in his seat at the opening

of school. He entered Yale College in 1850, but was compelled by illness to abandon his studies, but graduated from Union College in 1855, and in the next year was admitted to the bar at Springfield, Massachusetts. He taught an academy at Washington, Georgia, for a time. A systematic study of the Bible so impressed him that he determined to devote his life to the ministry. Returning north, he taught the Brainerd Academy, at Haddam, Connecticut, and subsequently the Yeates Institute, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In 1867, he was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Stevens, and the next year to the priesthood. In the following autumn, he became rector of St. Paul's Church, Montrose, an ideal country parish, located among the hills of Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania. Here, with the exception of two years, in which he was rector of Christ Church, ("Old Swedes"), at Bridgeport, Pennsylvania, he has spent all the years of his ministry.

He loves the surrounding forests and streams in which he has found health and inspiration for his literary and professional work.

With the exception of occasional poems written in his earlier years, and published in current periodicals, his first literary production was "Victor La Tourette." His next venture was "Kear," "a poem in six cantos." It was warmly received, and in some instances met with enthusiastic commendation, as a "real and original poem." In 1887, he published his work—intended chiefly for distribution among his personal friends—entitled, "I am That I am, The Philosophic Basis of the Christian Faith. A Metrical Essay."

NEW CASTLE (P.) TRINITY.

Rev. J. D. Herron, the present rector of this church,