

CENTENNIAL HISTORY

OF

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY,

PENNSYLVANIA.

BY

RHAMANTHUS M. STOCKER.

ILLUSTRATED.

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PHILADELPHIA:
R. T. PECK & CO.
1887.

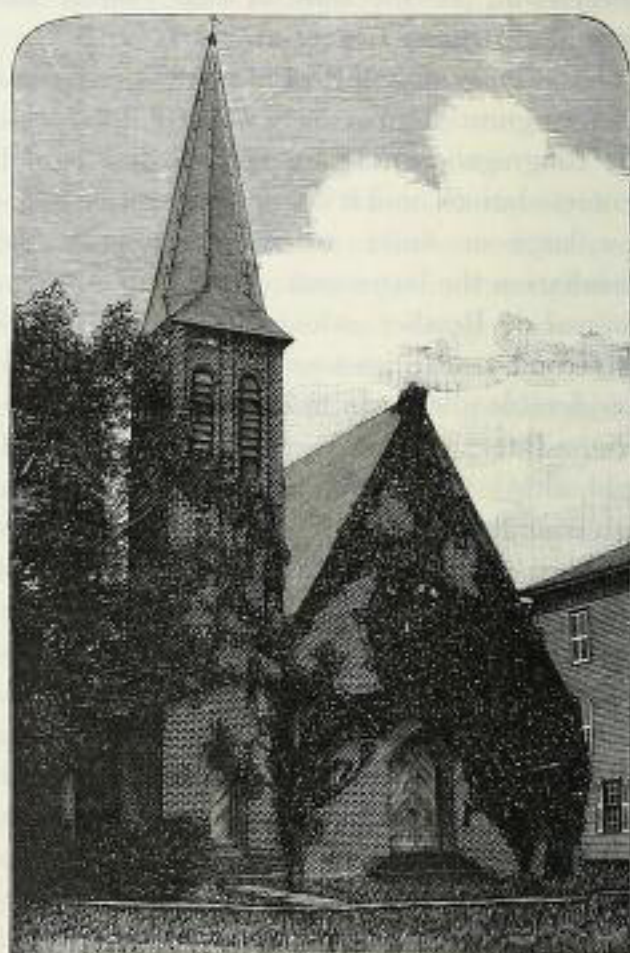
Presiding Elders: Revs. D. Holmes, Jr., 1841, two years; John M. Snyder, 1843, four years; D. A. Shepard, 1847, three years; Fitch Reed, 1850, two years; F. Paddock, 1852, three years; G. Landon, 1854, four years; G. H. Blakeslee, 1859, four years; H. Brownscombe, 1863, four years; D. C. Olmstead, 1867, four years; Luther Peck, 1871, four years; I. T. Walker, 1875, three years; William Bixby, 1878, two years; J. G. Eckman, 1880, four years; and the present incumbent, the Rev. William H. Olin, D.D., who was appointed in 1884.

Pastors: Revs. E. B. Tenny, 1841, two years; J. R. Boswell, 1843, two years; William Round, 1845, two years; Asa Brooks, 1847, one year; G. P. Porter, 1848, one year; E. B. Tenny, 1849, one year; John Mulkey, 1850, two years; P. Bartlett, 1852, two years; Joseph Whittam, 1854, one year; S. S. Barter, 1855, two years; B. B. Emory, 1857, two years; J. K. Peck, 1859, two years; R. Van Valkenburg, 1861, two years; A. H. Schoonmaker, 1863, two years; Luther Peck, 1865, three years; J. L. Legg, 1868, one year; King Elwell, 1869, two years; A. D. Alexander, 1871, two years; W. J. Judd, 1873, one year; W. L. Thorpe, 1874, three years; L. Cole, 1877, one year; W. B. Westlake, 1878, one year; H. H. Dresser, 1879, three years; T. Harroun, 1882, three years; and the present incumbent, H. C. McDermott, appointed in 1885.

Assistant Pastors: George C. Thompson, 1841, two years; N. S. Dewitt, 1843, one year; R. S. Rose, 1846, one year; D. Torry, 1847, two years; G. W. Leach, 1849, one year; W. B. Thomas, 1853, one year; D. Thompson, 1854, one year; John Mulkey, 1860, one year; William Shelp, 1865, one year. All of these have done heroic work for the church; a number subsequently became presiding elders in this or other districts, and several have achieved some distinction in the line of authorship. No full history of the Sunday-school could be prepared, so we have not attempted any. The school is in a very flourishing condition. C. S. Page, Esq., is superintendent.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.¹—The first record of

any Episcopal service in Montrose is found in the local papers under date of March 30, 1828. This, as were most of the occasional services subsequent thereto, was held in the old courthouse, even after a charter was obtained, bearing date December 20, 1830.



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The first Episcopal visitation was made by Bishop Onderdonk, October 5, 1829, when J. W. Raynsford, Esq., wife and daughter, and John Street and wife, were confirmed. These five persons constituted the beginning of St. Paul's Church in Montrose. 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 the study of its contents to the adoption of the emblem of the church, "Evangelical Truth and Apostolic Order." He was a man of great integrity and distinguished for remarkable practical gifts, being active in all the religious, educational, business and social interests of the community.

¹ Written by Rev. Edward A. Warriner.

The corner-stone of the first church edifice was laid by Bishop Onderdonk, June 2, 1832, and the building consecrated October 27th in the following year. This building was subsequently sold to the Roman Catholics, and is now owned and occupied by them. In the summer of 1856 the corner-stone of the present substantial structure was laid, and the building consecrated by Bishop Potter, July 17, 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 given by Mrs. Henry Drinker, on South Main Street; 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. It will thus be seen that the development of the parish has been very slow, covering a space of more than fifty-nine years; yet at no one time, notwithstanding frequent discouragements, has the parish substantially declined in the number of its supporters and communicants. After the first confirmation, there is no record of any other until July 28, 1839, when three persons were confirmed, making the whole number in ten years but eight. The third confirmation was eight years later, July 18, 1847, when six persons were confirmed by Bishop Potter. During the whole period of Bishops Onderdonk's, Potter's and Bowman's administrations, covering the rectorships of Revs. Marks, Peck, Pleasants, Hopkins, Long, Byllesby and Peet, a period of thirty years, there were only forty-six persons confirmed. During Mr. Halsey's rectorship of eight years there were twenty-eight additions to the communion-list; Mr. Kirkland's of two years, thirteen; Mr. Warriner's of eighteen years, one hundred and forty-nine. There were also confirmed eleven persons in the summer of 1867—making the whole number two hundred and twenty-seven. In addition to this number, many have become communicants by transfer of membership from other churches.

The first rector was the Rev. Samuel Marks, who was appointed resident missionary in Montrose in the spring of 1831, officiating also in

New Milford and Springville. He was distinguished for his zeal and personal popularity. Died recently at Huron, Ohio, at an advanced age, and while still engaged in missionary work. Of the subsequent rectors, Revs. Peck and Pleasant, we have no information. Rev. George P. Hopkins is rector of St. Matthew's Church, Pike, Pa.; Rev. John Long, who built the first rectory, working on it with his own hands, is still engaged in missionary work in the vicinity of Reading, Pa.; Rev. D. C. Byllesby is rector at Media, Pa.; Rev. R. B. Peet, at Newport, R. I. Rev. William F. Halsey, under whose thorough and conservative rectorship the church was greatly strengthened and became self-supporting, died a few since at Radnor, Pa., where he had been for many years rector of St. David's. Rev. George H. Kirkland is rector at New Berlin, N. Y.

The first vestry were: Wardens, J. W. Raynsford and J. C. Biddle; Vestrymen, Judge Benjamin Lathrop, John Melhuish, S. F. Keeler, Henry Drinker, C. L. Ward and Admiral Rupley. The present vestry are: Wardens, A. Lathrop and C. N. Stoddard; Vestrymen, Thomas Warner, A. B. Burns, E. P. Munger, John R. Raynsford, James Melhuish and William M. Post.

Among the names of deceased members of the vestry not previously mentioned, and others who have been prominent supporters and communicants, are: F. M. Williams, Henry J. Webb, William H. Cooper, Charles D. Lathrop, Furman Stone, Hon. F. B. Streeter, Rev. Elisha Mulford, LL.D., Joseph D. Drinker, Benjamin C. Park, LL.D., Philander Lines, O. D. Beaman, Thomas Johnson, General D. D. Warner, Charles L. Brown, Hon. E. B. Hawley and Captain Jerome Lyons.

Of devoted women who have passed from earth, we find the following names: Ruth S. Lathrop, Elinor Drinker, Mrs. Henry Drinker, Mrs. F. M. Williams, Mrs. D. D. Warner, Sally D. Biddle, Mary E. Tarbell, Elizabeth Biddle (Mrs. Halsey), Eugenia A. Lacy, Mary W. Groesbeck, Mrs. Simon Sayre, Eliza Duffy, Lydia Welsh, Mrs. Judge Lathrop and Mrs. Truman Stone.

The Sunday-school numbers twelve teach-

ers and about one hundred scholars. Thomas Warner is superintendent, Charles N. Stoddard treasurer, and William Stoddard librarian. In this connection should be mentioned the name of Mrs. Mary Webb, who is the oldest living communicant of the church, having been a member over forty years. In all these years she has been constantly engaged in church and Sunday-school work, and although advanced in years, she still teaches a large class of young ladies and gentlemen.

From this record, brief as it necessarily is, should not be omitted the following names of those who, though not members of the parish, have, with true missionary zeal, interested themselves in its development, and have contributed to its necessities and support in the years gone by: Mr. Tobias Wagner and wife, Misses Mary and Hannah Drinker, Mrs. John B. Wallace, Mr. Harry D. Biddle and Mrs. Pemberton Pleasants, of Philadelphia; and Mr. and Mrs. Paxson, Miss Fanny Paxson and Mrs. Gilman, of New York.

THE UNIVERSALISTS have a church at Montrose. The prime movers in its erection were Samuel Gregory and Daniel Searle. Sheriff Williams, the Stevenses and some others contributed. Revs. Peck, Marsh, Rogers and A. O. Warren have been preachers for them. During the skating craze it was converted into a skating-rink. Rev. Mr. Hand has been preaching here recently. It is now a missionary station. The society was organized in 1831, and the church was dedicated July 11, 1844.

THE ROMAN CATHOLICS first celebrated Mass at the house of Peter Byrne about 1840. They then purchased the old church edifice of the Episcopalians, when they built their new church in 1857. The Catholic Society are now completing a new church on South Main Street. The church is located here because it is in a central point. The congregation is mostly drawn from the surrounding country.

LODGES.—The history of Masonry in Montrose begins with the first settlement of the village. Three charters have been granted to hold Masonic lodges in Montrose: the first, under title *Rising Sun Lodge*, No. 149, was chartered in December, 1816, with the follow-

ing officers: Jonah Brewster, W. M.; Perez Perkins, S. W.; Wm. C. Turrell, J. W.; J. Cook, S. D.; Luman Ferry, Jun. D.; Isaac Post, Treas.; J. W. Hill, Sec'y; and J. Munger, Tyler. Hon. Almon H. Read, Stephen Wilson, Wm. Turrell and David Post became Masons and members of this lodge in 1817, and later also D. G. Wilson, Solomon Dimock, Stephen Bentley, B. T. Case, Cyrus Avery, Mason Denison. In the year 1818 Almon H. Read was Worshipful Master. Under minutes of meeting, February 18, 1819, a motion is recorded recommending G. Clagget and Dr. M. Denison to the Royal Arch Chapter, but no reference is made as to where this chapter was located. On December 27, 1819, St. John's day, the lodge formed a procession and marched to the court-house where an appropriate address was delivered on the festival of St. John by the Rev. Mr. Chase. The lodge then formed and returned to the lodge-room "and partook of an elegant repast." At a meeting held on the 2d day of May, 1825, Samuel Bissel presented a petition for initiation and membership from James W. Chapman, and on the 30th day of May, 1825, Mr. Chapman was entered an apprentice. At this time meetings of the lodge were held in the old court-house. Judge Chapman was made a Mason a few days after becoming of age. He is probably the only remaining member of the old *Rising Sun Lodge*, and, notwithstanding his eighty-three years of life, and fifty-two of Masonic service, is hale and hearty, and has furnished many points in connection with this article. The annals of the lodge-room closed by the Grand Lodge suspending charter September 5, 1825. During its existence it made many Masons, and was a strong organization.

About two years after the suspension of *Rising Sun Lodge*, a number of its old members petitioned for a charter for a new lodge, to be located in Montrose. The petition was granted, and in accordance therewith, a meeting of the following Masons was held at the house of Daniel Curtis on Nov. 13, 1827: Jonah Brewster, Isaac Post, James W. Hill, Samuel Gregory, Daniel Curtis and Hiram Finch were present. They met again November, 17, 1827,