

In the year 1874 a Ladies' Aid Society was formed, — their aim being to raise money to keep the Mission going, — and to help in raising moneys for the Church Fund, — and later on, for the Rectory Fund. Mrs. R. B. Duyckinck was their first president, followed by Miss Jane Kyte, — and the third and last president of this organization was Mrs. H. P. Robinson. This society voluntarily disbanded in the year 1922, turning over to the Vestry a sum of nearly \$3000.00 to be placed in the Rectory Fund. In the year 1906 these ladies gave to the church, a marble Tablet Memorial which is on the west wall of the church. On it are engraved the names of friends in whose names donations were made to the Church Fund.

A low point was reached in the affairs of the Mission in 1877. It seemed to be a reflection of what was happening in the nation. The years 1870-1880 were times of great stress, with bank failures, the Sioux Indian War, President Garfield's assassination, and bitter Labor battles as Labor fought for an eight hour day. In an old church ledger it is recorded that "because of the depression in business, and the difficulty of raising means" — the Trustees were worried for fear they would be unable to meet the expenses of the Mission. In order to build the church, money had to be borrowed. There were many money-raising affairs held by the Guilds of the Mission to help pay the bills. Truly, these builders of our parish dreamed dreams and saw visions of the future extension of Christ's work here, — and the Holy Spirit led them on!

The Church Cornerstone was laid on April 29, 1882. Mr. Charles Sykes, whose Stone Quarry was in back of the village, donated the stone for the edifice. A beautiful church was erected, with a porte-cochire built at the south side for the convenience of parishioners arriving in their horse-drawn carriages, and a complex of wagon sheds and other out-houses were built in back of the property. Bishop Scarborough said at the laying of the cornerstone, "These walls are evidently made to last — a thing of beauty, a joy forever".

The first Worship Service in the new All Saints' Church was held within the Octave of All Saints', November 2, 1882. St. Ann's Church Choir from Brooklyn, N. Y., sang the Thanksgiving Service, and the Rt. Rev. Walker, Bishop of the Diocese of Western New York State, preached the sermon. The Rev. Charles L. Sykes officiated at the service.

Mr. Sykes, then our Priest-in-charge, was also the editor of a publication called "Voices of the Plains" which he published in the interest of All Saints' Mission. A copy of the Easter 1883 issue is in our church history file. He reports, — "The number of church-goers is quite large enough to warrant the establishment of a place of worship for their benefit. All Saints' Mission has 30 Communicants, and has 22 families belonging to its congregation. There are 56 children, and most of these attend our Sunday School, where they are taught church principles." ---- "our people are reverent in their behavior and hearty in the responses at church services." This issue reported a Christmas Fair held by our parish in 1883. At it, the Ladies Aid Society served an oyster stew at 5¢ a plate.

Mr. Sykes resigned in 1888, and was succeeded by the Rev. William Maxwell Reilly who served from 1889 to 1892. Following him was the Rev. Edward H. True, "Minister-in-charge" who resigned in the year 1907.

On May 22, 1893, All Saints' Protestant Episcopal Church was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. John Scarborough. The Ladies Aid Society had prepared the church by installing new carpeting and a new organ, — and the Trustees of the Mission had repaired the boardwalk in front of the church for the occasion.

In 1895, much effort was being put into bringing more people into the parish. Notices of services were placed at the railroad "depot", the trolley station, and the Scotch Plains Post Office. In 1895, the chairman of the Vestry was authorized to hire a stage coach (at \$11.50 each Sunday) to bring worshippers from Fanwood, calling for them at their homes.

#### SPANISH - AMERICAN WAR OF 1898

First mention of an Altar Guild and a Choir Guild was made in the year 1898. The first Directress of the Altar Guild was Mrs. Briggs. The Choir Guild gave a dramatic entertainment at the Fanwood Club House and raised enough money to pay for six tons of coal toward the church's winter supply.