

CHURCH HISTORY

Early in 1786 the parsonage was burned; it had been a frame building, and the trustees decided to rebuild with stone. It was at first thought necessary to raise funds for the work by selling some of the "lots" on which the house had stood. The plan was vetoed, as the money was loaned by one of the members, Jedediah Swan.

On March 20th, 1786, "Meeting of Business of the Church and Congregation; Reported that it is necessary to build a parsonage house, and took into consideration whether it would be best to build a frame or a stone house on the parsonage. A question arose at price stone could be had and William Miller sold stone, therefore it was voted that Capt. John Darby and Capt. Benjamin Laing be a committee to proceed immediately to inquire of sd Miller at what price he would dispose of building stone." It is quite probable that William Miller furnished the stone for the beautiful old "Manse," one of the landmarks of the community.

For more than a hundred years the Baptist Church satisfied the religious needs of the people in our community; but during the latter half of the nineteenth century a movement was begun to organize churches of other "persuasions." The Methodist Church began its active career in the fall of 1867 with 16 members. A few years later—in 1871-2—a fine meeting-house was erected on the Springfield road. This Church, like its Baptist neighbor, has been a power for good in the community. The present minister, the Reverend Dr. C. S. Kemble, is a well-known author and lecturer.

In 1873, the Protestant Episcopal Church began its religious work in the village. All Saints Mission, as it was first