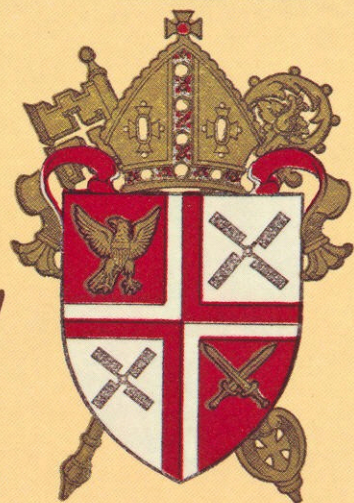


**THIS
PLANTED
VINE**



**A NARRATIVE
HISTORY OF THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK**
James Elliott Lindsley

Advance comments for *This Planted Vine*:

"This is a rare example of lively and well-written institutional history. It deals with many picturesque figures, and tells the tale of a New York changing through three centuries not only in its religious practices but in its values and ways of living. The book gives an appealing glimpse of mortals struggling, often amid insuperable worldly snares, to do the Lord's work."

—August Heckscher

"Well organized, highly readable, often entertaining, by an author who really has a feel for New York and its church life."

—David L. Holmes

Professor of Religion

College of William and Mary in Virginia



Neefus Photographers

JAMES ELLIOTT LINDSLEY was born in Morristown, New Jersey, is a graduate of Bard College and the General Theological Seminary and was ordained in 1955. He is currently the Rector of St. Paul's in Tivoli, New York, and lives in Germantown with his wife and three children. He is the editor of *The Episcopal New Yorker*.

THIS PLANTED VINE

James Elliott Lindsley

This authoritative and engrossing volume is a lively account of the growth and development, the problems as well as the accomplishments, of the Diocese of New York under the stewardship of thirteen bishops. It was shortly after the American Revolution that a group of New Yorkers set up an independent branch of the Church of England in lower Manhattan. But the origins of the Episcopal Church in New York lay further back in the history of the Province, when English congregations gathered in "New York town," Westchester and Albany. Trinity Parish, as it was known and remains to this day, was among the first of what became nearly a thousand Episcopal churches over the next two hundred years.

The early years, as the author points out, were beset by small numbers of communicants, inadequate funds—for a long time financial support, prayer books as well as new clergy were supplied from England—and, later, frictions over High and Low Church preferences. But in spite of these problems, which never completely disappeared over the following decades, the growth of the Episcopal Church kept pace with the expansion of American society. New churches were created farther up-town as the city grew, and a diocese was

born that included the entire State of New York. The early bishops spent a great deal of their time visiting their far-off parishes by river steamer, canal boat and horse and wagon.

Mr. Lindsley follows the controversies and achievements during successive diocesan administrations. He explores the church's role in a rapidly changing environment; its successful efforts in attending to medical needs with the establishment of St. Luke's and other hospitals; its establishment of social services for the poor; its lack of enthusiasm for Abolition or support of the Union cause in the Civil War; and he describes its prominence among the elite of city and state.

The result is a book that in part is an insightful history of New York over more than two centuries, as well as a stimulating narrative about an outstanding religious institution and its leaders.

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Harper & Row, Publishers
10 East 53rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10022

THIS PLANTED VINE

*A Narrative History of
the Episcopal Diocese of New York*

James Elliott Lindsley



*Early didst thou arise to plant this vine,
Which might the more endear it to be thine.*

—GEORGE HERBERT



1817

HARPER & ROW, PUBLISHERS, New York
Cambridge, Philadelphia, San Francisco, London
Mexico City, São Paulo, Singapore, Sydney

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FIRST EDITION

Designer: C. Linda Dngler

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Lindsley, James Elliott.

This planted vine.

Includes index.

1. Episcopal Church. Diocese of Central New York—

History. I. Title.

BX5918.C4L56 1984 283',747 84-47588

ISBN 0-06-015347-4

84 85 86 87 88 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

To Barbara

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Benjamin Moore

John Henry Hobart

Benjamin T. Onderdonk

Jonathan M. Wainwright

Horatio Potter

Henry Codman Potter

David Hummel Greer

Charles Sumner Burch

William Thomas Manning

Charles Kendall Gilbert

Horace William Baden Donegan

Paul Moore, Jr.

St. Paul's Chapel, Trinity Parish

St. Luke's Church, Somers

Church of Our Savior

St. Thomas Church, New Windsor

St. Thomas Church, Amenia Union

St. Barnabas' Church, Irvington

St. Luke's Church, Beacon

Church of St. John the Evangelist, Barrytown

Church of the Epiphany, Manhattan

St. Gregory's Church, Woodstock

Cathedral of St. John the Divine

Preface



When Bishop Moore asked me to write a history of the Diocese of New York marking its two hundredth anniversary, I accepted the task with an eagerness born of naiveté. If he were to ask me now, I might respond with lessened enthusiasm, despite the cordiality and warmth of those who helped me prepare this history. For the wealth of material is great, as it should be, inasmuch as here we are considering one of our largest dioceses and one of the greatest cities of the world. Anyone who attempts to tell the story of the Diocese of New York is tempted to explore byways that, however pleasant and fascinating, interfere with the principal narrative. When these pages are delivered from my desk they leave a large aggregation of material that has not been used. This includes facets of diocesan life untouched here, worthy names neglected, parishes whose rich history must go unnoticed, organizations inadequately mentioned. The lode has simply been too rich.

Therefore, let me begin by an apology to those who search in vain for specific information about a favorite person or place: its inexistence is due either to its not coming to my notice, or to the obvious limitation of page space.

As I come to the end of preparing this history and begin to think of those who have helped me write it, a great host of names confronts me. First of all, there is Bishop Moore, who conceived the history and who, with his suffragans, Bishop Wetmore and Bishop Dennis, read much of the manuscript. I cannot claim that they approved it, but their encouragement was much appreciated, and their persistence about the bicentennial of the Diocese of New York deserves the appreciation of all of us.

Two men have been helpful beyond what I had any right to expect. The first is F. Garner Ranney, Custodian of the Archives of the Diocese of Maryland, now housed in the Maryland Historical Society. Many students of Episcopal Church history are indebted to Garner Ranney, but none more than I. His helpfulness and knowledge of the material in his custody made my work not only easier, but delightful.

Nelson R. Burr is well-known for his in-depth research in American Church history. He has read much of this history when it was in its formative stage, and his valuable suggestions have been respected.

There is yet a third man whose kindness to me was more than

matched by his commitment to the Church he served, and that is Thomas Muncaster, who was clerk of the works and general factotum of the cathedral during the episcopates of five bishops. He is proof that the clergy come and go, but the laity are here always.

I have also to thank the very many other people who have helped me, beginning with my wife, who encouraged me to embark upon the work and prepared an extensive bibliography; the librarians at the General Theological Seminary; Bishops Donegan, Boyntan, and Wood; the Rev. Messrs. Edwin C. Coleman, Carl Scovel, Allen Hinman, Kenneth R. Waldron, Raymond L. Harbort, William Reisman, D. Lincoln Harter, F. Lee Richards, A. Pierce Middleton, Wayne Schmitt, William Howard Melish, Douglas Glasspool, Thomas Pike, Marion J. Hatchett, Horatio N. Tragitt, and, particularly, my predecessor as historiographer, Leslie Lang. The Rev. Frederick H. Shriver, Jr., kindly read much of the manuscript and offered valuable comments.

Thanks are also due Columba Gillis, OSH; Richard B. Morris of Columbia University; Phyllis Barr, the Archivist of Trinity Church; Denis Sennett, SA, Archivist of Graymoor; David L. Holmes of William and Mary; E. G. W. Bill, Librarian of Lambeth Palace Library; Canon Edward N. West, the Community of St. John Baptist; the Community of St. Mary; Mother Ruth of the Order of the Holy Spirit; the Holy Cross Fathers at West Park; Samuel O. Gray; V. Nelle Bellamy, Archivist of the Episcopal Church; Judy Johnson and her successor as Archivist of the Diocese of New York, James Templar; Gloria Normann, Registrar of the Diocese of New York and always ready to assist me; Clyde Griffin; Bronson Chanler; Olive Anderson; Gladden Pell Foss; James Duane Livingston; members of the Monday Club, who were encouraging while enduring two years of lectures; Andrew Oliver; Mary W. Gray; H. C. Robbins Landon; and the Rev. Messrs. George W. Wickersham, Darby Betts, and Joseph Bernardin. I am especially grateful to Thomas Newbold Morgan for hospitality in New York City while I was gathering information there; Richard H. Jenrette, for allowing us to use his celebrated Roper House on Charleston's Battery, where much of the writing was done; and my sister-in-law, Anne Newberry dePineda, who provided peace and refreshment in her house in Maracaibo for more writing.

I also thank Mary Jane Alexander, William Monroe, and M. S. Wyeth of Harper & Row.

And, finally, the people of St. Paul's Church, Tivoli (among them, my wife, Barbara): they have been very patient, and early adapted themselves to my handy excuse that writing the history of the diocese prevented me from paying them the attention they deserved.

Sbewglte

Germantown, New York

November 17, 1983