The History

of

St. John's Parish

Monticello

New York



THE HISTORY

OF

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MONTICELLO, NEW YORK

FOR

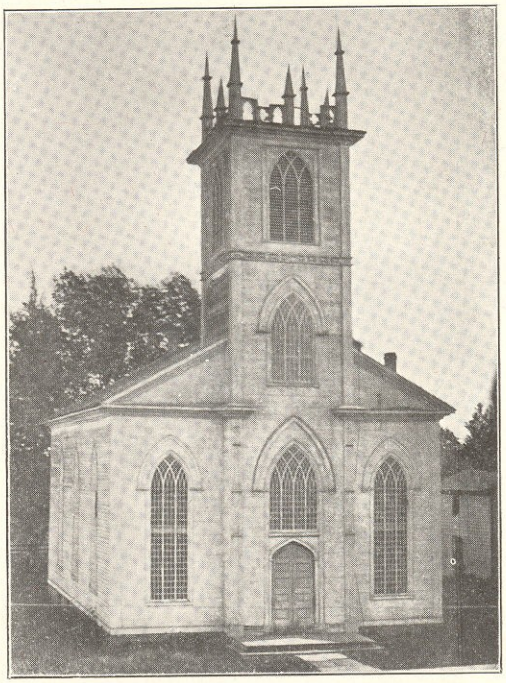
ONE HUNDRED YEARS

1816—1916

COMPILED TO COMMEMORATE ITS CENTENARY

EDITED BY

THE REVEREND WALTER WHITE REID



FIRST CHURCH

1835—1882

PREFACE

THE collection of data in connection with a parish history is probably a difficult problem for everyone to whom the task falls. It is to be doubted whether any parish has, in its present possession, the complete record of its history and activity since its inception. Carelessness and fire seem to be the destroying elements, whereby documents of intrinsic worth, particularly valuable to a compiler of such a work as this, have been lost forever.

From the foundation of this parish in 1816 down to the year 1831, no information, other than meagre generalities, is obtainable. The vestry minutes and church records were in the possession of the Rev. Edward K. Fowler, and were destroyed when the old Mansion House was burned. In fact no church records back of 1870 are now in existence, lost probably in the same fire.

However, the gap has been imperfectly bridged by references to family records, old scrap books, clippings, and Quinlan's "*History of Sullivan County.*"

I am particularly indebted to Major John Waller, whose keen memory at the age of 90 has enabled me to clear away many doubts regarding the past, and to present to the parish this account of its history.

This little book goes forth, doubtless, with some errors and imperfections, but it goes forth with a prayer for God's blessing upon St. John's Parish and its people, my people, friends and brethren in Christ, from their rector and its compiler.

WALTER WHITE REID

IN the fore part of the last century Sullivan County, in almost its entire extent, was a vast, undeveloped country. Settlements were few and scattered. Most of the land was yet untrodden. Dense forests, composed of giant hemlocks, covered valley and hill. These tracts of uncut timber offered strong inducements to a class of enterprising men to engage extensively in the manufacture of sole leather, to supply the active demand of New York, Boston and Philadelphia.

The first settlers straggled in somewhere between 1795 and 1800. They were courageous souls, willing to make present sacrifices for the hope of the future. They built log cabins at Sackett Lake and along the Neversink.

In 1802, Samuel Frisbee Jones of Connecticut, then living at Lebanon, New York, came into this region, at the request of the contractors, to explore the country for the proposed Newburgh - Cochecton Turnpike. So greatly was he impressed with the possibilities of development in this locality that he returned to Columbia County to enlist his brother's sympathy, looking towards the purchase of land.

The result was that Samuel, with his brother John Patterson Jones, bought a tract of almost two thousand acres, which became the site of a new village called by John P. Jones, Monticello, after the Virginia home of Thomas Jefferson. It may be remarked in passing that these men were uncles of Samuel J. Tilden.

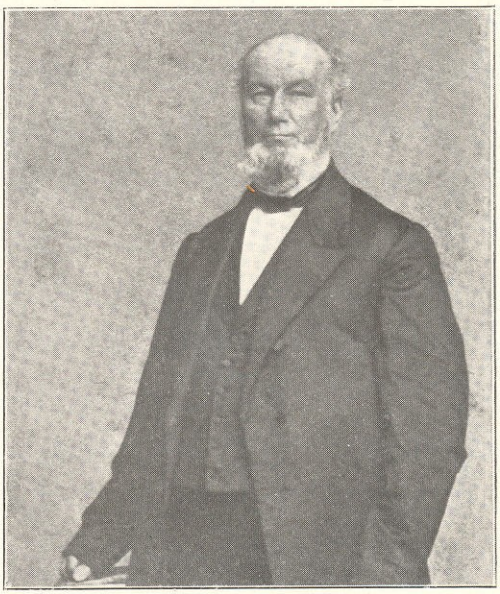
Almost immediately, the land was parcelled off, and tempting offers made to sturdy souls to migrate to the mountain top. The prospect of a bright future brought immediate results in a large influx of population.

These people who now came in, carried with them their idea of God, and the feeling of a duty to worship. There were no services of any church held with regularity, and no Episcopal minister had ever set foot upon the land. Among those who came were many who, if not members of the Episcopal Church, leaned towards it. The desire for its services characterized that period when war had ceased, and independence had become indellible; and with all the new freedom, the call of the ancient church, the Church of England, the Holy Catholic Church Americanized was strong, and did not go unheeded.

On November 11, 1816, therefore, at a meeting held in the old Court House, the parish of St. John's was organized in Monticello. The parish was so designated to commemorate the ministry of the Baptist in the wilderness, and, if it had been in England that the incorporation took place, it doubtless would have been called St. John's-in-the-Wilderness.

The event which brought to a culmination the purposes which had occupied the minds of many citizens for some time, was a visit to Monticello of the Rev. James Thompson, a brother of Judge William A. Thompson. The county records show that, when the parish was incorporated, William A. Thompson and John E. Russell were the wardens, and the vestrymen were Luther Buckley, Levi Barnum, William Woods Sackett, Ira E. Smith, Livingston Billings, Charles Thompson, Otto William Van Tuyl and John Lord.

William A. Thompson, the first senior warden, was a man of great learning, a graduate of Yale University. By profession a lawyer, he had, prior to his coming to Sullivan County, a lucrative practice in New York. His health broken under the strain of his labors, he was compelled to change his residence. He settled at what is now Thompsonville, but which he termed



REV. EDWARD KEATON FOWLER

DEC. 22, 1826—JULY 6, 1868

Albion Mills. In 1803 when this township was incorporated, it was named after him. He had been appointed one of the judges of Common Pleas of Ulster County in 1802, and, when Sullivan County came into being, he became its first county judge. When, by reason of age, he became ineligible to serve longer in this capacity, he was succeeded by Livingston Billings one of the first vestrymen.

John Lord came from Connecticut, and in 1806 settled at Lord's Pond, beside the turnpike. This body of water is now called Fowlwood Pond, and around it has grown the settlement called Rock Hill.

Of the other members of the first vestry little or nothing is known.

At the time of the incorporation of the parish, there were a few Presbyterians whose pastor had left them for another field. He had advised them to unite with the Episcopalians, and this some were desirous of doing, but the plan was defeated by those among them who regarded the Episcopal Church as the "gateway of popery."

The Rev. James Thompson officiated but a few times after the founding of the parish, and then returned to his home.

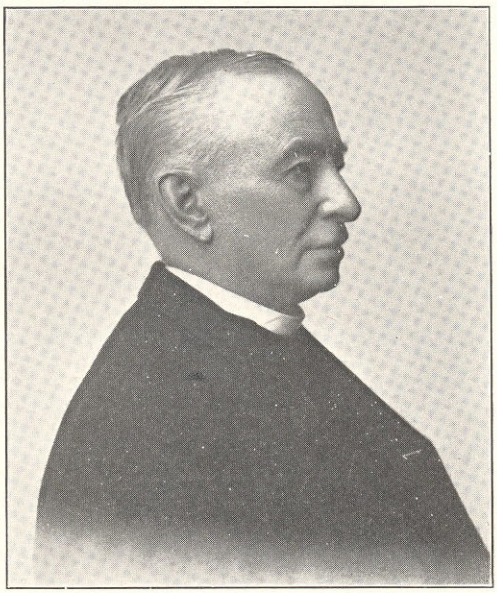
During the first few months of its existence, the congregation struggled along as best it could against great odds. There was a strong feeling among some citizens that it had a Tory sentiment, and, in the minds of people outside our fold, there survived a repugnance for anything or anybody connected in any way with the attempt to crush out the independent spirit of the Colonies.

Soon after 1816, however, the Rev. John Brown came to Monticello to look over the field. This clergyman had assumed the rectorship of St. George's Church, Newburgh, in 1815. He

was an indefatigable and very successful priest, and not only rapidly organized a powerful parish in Newburgh, dominating the whole life of that community by his personality, but he pressed out into this wilderness, and for ten years conducted services here once every three months, making the journey over the turnpike on horseback.

On one of his trips to Monticello he brought with him a young priest to assist him in the work, the Rev. Edward Keaton Fowler. This energetic and godly man was born in East Chester, New York, about 1799. His parents were members of the Dutch Reformed Church, but historical reading, from an unprejudiced point of view, brought to young Fowler the realization that of all the churches, the Episcopal Church held out the charm of all that was ancient and catholic. He therefore was confirmed, and went to the General Theological Seminary to study for Holy Orders. During his sojourn there, his health impaired, he was forced to go into the country, and took up his studies under the guidance of the Rev. Seth Hart at Huntington, Long Island. He was ordained deacon in 1823, and priest in the following year. Before coming to Monticello he had officiated at Huntington, at Cold Spring and at Oyster Bay. He took charge of St. John's Parish on Dec. 22, 1826. The day before he left Newburgh to come here he suffered a severe hemhorrage. Undaunted, he set out on the journey, which the wife of the rector of St. George's said would prove suicidal. This courage represents the greatest trait of our first rector. Catholic, yet liberal in his views, having a genial personality, and given to social intercourse, he soon disarmed all criticism, impressing upon all who came within his influence, the lessons of Christian brotherhood under one Father.

Probably the greatest thing he did, whereby our church in



Rev. George Dent Silliman

Nov. 18, 1870—May 22, 1873

this community rose in public esteem, was to bless the boys who went South to fight in 1862. After a service and sermon, he raised his hands in priestly blessing over men of many religious beliefs.

Some of his eccentricities, which must be told, faithfully to portray his character, cause us to smile. He was charitable in the extreme. He received his salary once a month, after which he would tour the county. All the beggars for miles around would lie in wait for him, and the result would be that, when he reached home, he would be well nigh penniless, and would receive a terrific scolding from his wife, who, though independently wealthy, was not interested in charitable work. They were afterwards separated, for her ambition would not stoop to remain longer in the woods. Fowler with great consecration for his work, never sought a reconciliation, and in this he was staunchly upheld by his parishoners, who claimed that the only mistake he ever made was to marry his wife.

Another amusing feature of his ministry was the frequent habit he had of buying a turkey, chicken or roast, which he took to a family, needy or otherwise, and then invited himself to dinner with them.

The number of men in Sullivan County who bear the Christian name of Fowler, is due to the fact that, whatever name the sponsers gave at the font, Mr. Fowler would always precede it with his own.

When Mr. Fowler took charge of the parish there were eleven communicants, and the people were worshipping in the Court House. Owing to the large growth of the congregation, it was soon apparent that the erection of a church was imperative. Plans were at once entered into for this purpose. Mr. Solomon Dewey, for many years a vestryman, was appointed to raise

money by subscription. The lot, now occupied by the building of the "*Republican Watchman*" was purchased from Hiram Bennett for the small sum of $250. It is now worth about $8000. In all, the sum of $2200. was raised by Mr. Dewey, to which was added $1500. the gift of Trinity Church, New York. A building committee, consisting of the rector and Messrs. William E. Cady and Marshall Perry, signed a contract with Marion R. Sandford and Nicholas N. Terry on July 7, 1835. This contract was afterward cancelled and let to Mr. Terry and Wilson Allyn. By them the new church was built, an oblong structure, with large windows, and a tower topped with pinnacles, the type so frequently met with in New England. This edifice was consecrated on November 20, 1835 by the Rt. Rev. Benjamin T. Onderdonk, D. D., Bishop of New York. In 1840 the interior was decorated, and a bell placed in the tower.

The parish now having a home of its own became more active, and, in co-operation with the rector, greatly increased its membership. Greater missionary work resulted, and the rector went out to preach at regular intervals, at Middletown, Liberty, Thompsonville and Bridgeville, with occasional services in other parts of Sullivan, Orange and Ulster counties.

Mr. Fowler continued as rector of the parish for some forty-three years. He was at the last prostrated by paralysis, but died "still in the harness," though he had tendered his resignation to the vestry some years before.

During his rectorate he baptized 542, admitted to Holy Communion 345, married 409 couples, and buried 304. The remuneration for his labors amounted to $250 a year, plus what he saved out of the offerings after the running expenses of the parish were paid.

A few items of interest during his long pastorate may not



Rev. Charles F. Canedy

Sept. 1, 1873—Oct. 24, 1876

be out of place. On March 14, 1835, after public notice had been given, the sale of pews took place. This was in the nature of an auction, and the choicest seats went to the highest bidders. The proceeds were used for the support of the rector. The pews, like most pews of that period, had doors.

The first representation of this parish in the Diocesan Convention occurred in 1847, when James E. Quinlan, author of *"Quinlan's History of Sullivan County,"* and William E. Cady, went to New York as delegates. At that time all the Conventions of the diocese were held in St. John's Chapel, Varick Street.

Confirmations were held at various times by Bishops Hobart, Onderdonk, Wainwright, and Chase of New Hampshire. No record of these now exists.

About this time, in 1850 and 1855 respectively, the church lost through death, two of its most earnest and consecrated men, William E. Cady, vestryman and clerk, and Solomon Dewey, a vestryman.

In 1855, extensive and necessary repairs were made to the church at a cost of $814., under the supervision of the architect Mr. T. M. Niven, and an organ was purchased at a cost of $600. During the repairs the congregation once more used the Court House as a place of worship.

The question of a free church was first brought before the vestry in 1855, and resulted in making the seats free for the evening service.

In 1860 the chancel was completely furnished, and in 1861 the beautiful communion service now in use was purchased for the parish by Mr. Fowler at a cost of $260. This amount he had raised by doing the work of sexton.

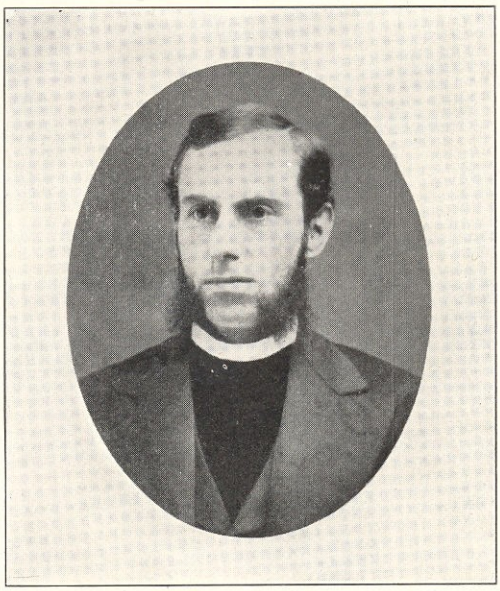
Towards the close of the war the church lost two more of

its foremost men. Col. Jonathan Stratton died in 1863, and Dr. Roderick Royce in 1864. Both had been members of the vestry for many years.

The Rev. Arthur N. Wrixon was now placed in charge of the parish, but the rigors of our winter forced him to leave for a more temperate climate. He was followed by a priest from Hardwich, England, Pierity by name, but he too, after conducting services for a few Sundays, departed.

At a meeting of the vestry June 20, 1870, the Rev. George Dent Silliman, then a deacon, was called to be minister-in-charge. This gentleman took charge of the parish on July 3, 1870. He was ordained priest in St. Paul's Church, Newburgh, on Nov. 18, 1870, after which he became the rector of this parish. During his stay here, he made himself beloved by all, and it was with great regret that the parish bade him farewell in May 1873, when he left for California. The salary of Mr. Silliman was $600. per annum.

During his pastorate the seats were declared free, and an envelope system for contributions instituted. At this time also the work at Thompsonville had reached such a stage that the building of a chapel seemed advisable. It appeared to be a growing community. Little did the men of that day realize what it would become. A building committee consisting of Messrs. Samuel G. Thompson, Samuel W. Borland and John K. Cooper were promised the necessary land by Judge Thompson, and the vestry consented to the erection of the chapel of St. Mary on April 10, 1871. At this time also, the question whether to build a new church in Monticello, or to repair the old one came up, but was laid on the table. On July 23, 1871, the cornerstone of St. Mary's Chapel, Thompsonville, was laid by the Rt. Rev. Horatio Potter, D. D.



Rev. George Henry Anderson

Nov. 1, 1880—March 5, 1882

The vacancy in the rectorship was now filled by the Rev. Charles F. Canedy, now rector of Trinity Church, New Rochelle. He began his work on September 1, 1873.

On the last day of January 1874 a committee which had been appointed to feel the pulse of the congregation regarding a new church, reported that it was the general feeling that a new building ought to be erected. Whereupon, a committee consisting of Major John Waller and Abraham Olmsted was appointed to confer with various architects, and submit plans to the vestry.

At this time, May 14, 1874, the church lost an invaluable man of many attainments, when James Eldridge Quinlan passed to his rest. He had written a history of Sullivan County, from which some of the material contained in this little book was obtained. He left behind him a family of staunch church people who are still greatly interested in St. John's, although only one, Mrs. John Waller, is now resident in Monticello. Mr. Quinlan was a man of great mental force, and for years had been superintendent of the Sunday School.

Plans for rebuilding now filled the minds of vestry and people, and on January 6, 1875, a committee was appointed to wait upon the bishop and get his consent and that of the Standing Committee of the diocese with a view to selling the church property when the proper time came.

On June 14, 1875, the vestry voted to raise $11,000. for a stone church to be located on the Jones Estate on Depot Street, now St. John Street. The ever loyal ladies of the parish at once offered what funds they had on hand for this purpose.

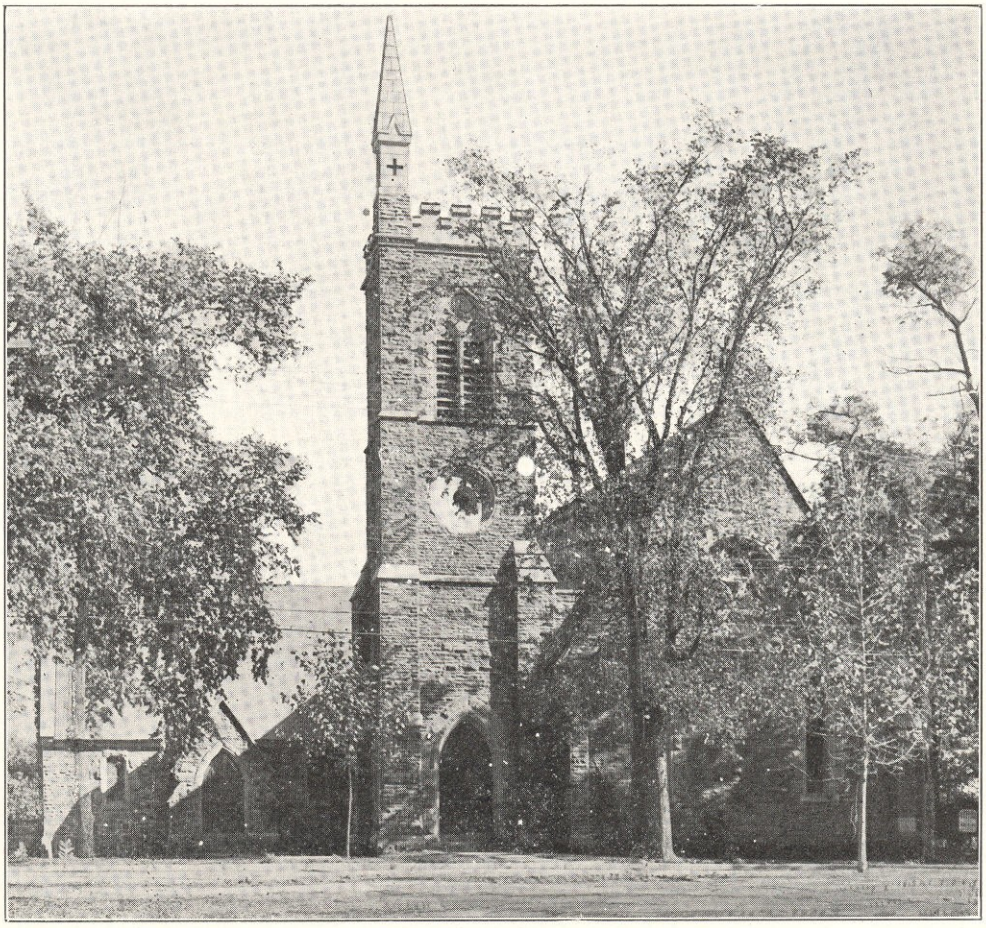
Few people now remember that St. James', Callicoon, owes its existence to the efforts of Mr. Fowler, and the oversight of the vestry of St. John's. The vestry records show that in 1875,

the sum of one dollar was paid by the vestry to Judge James C. Curtis of Callicoon, the grandfather of one of our present vestrymen, for a lot upon which to build that church. The intimate relation between Monticello and Callicoon ceased when the vestry of this parish deeded the land on the Delaware to the rector, wardens and vestry of St. James' after Mr. Fowler's death.

The committee which had been appointed to raise the amount necessary to build a stone church in Monticello met with little substantial response, and on June 15, 1876, they reported failure, and were discharged. At this time also, the parish met with financial difficulty, and for the first time in its history an offering was taken up at the evening service, July 2, 1876.

Amid the difficulties then besetting St. John's, the parish suffered greatly, when William H. Cady, who for years had been treasurer and clerk of the vestry, resigned in July 1876. Matters of finance went from bad to worse, and the vestry found themselves compelled to cut the salary of the rector by $200. This was the height of folly, for the salary, already most insufficient, became absolutely inadequate. The rector, Mr. Canedy, resigned October 24, 1876. Mr. Canedy, however, has kept up his deep interest in the affairs of this parish, and at all great days in its history has been present to show his love and sympathy. His labors here have been amply rewarded in his present field, where he has been loved and respected by all for many years.

On November 24, 1876, the Rev. Gustave E. Perucker became the rector. Unfortunately this gentleman was a foreigner with a decided accent, and not only was it difficult, and often impossible to understand any part of the service, but his ser-



PRESENT CHURCH

CONSECRATED 1883

mons, however good, had little effect. Realizing the sad results, Mr. Perucker himself decided that the vestry ought to call another clergyman, and he therefore resigned in July 1878.

Matters regarding the building of a new church were, at this time, very much confused. On April 11, 1877, a committee was appointed to confer about a stone edifice with an architect by the name of Wood, and on the 28th of the same month, a resolution was adopted by the vestry to build a chapel at the rear of the old church at a cost of $1500.

On the 16th day of July 1877, the venerable and grand old man of St. John's, the Rev. Edward K. Fowler having reached the age of seventy-eight, passed to his rest. The last years of his life were made comfortable by the vestry of the church he served so long and so faithfully.

The vestry now called the Rev. George W. West. He became rector on November 22, 1878. With the coming of the new rector, the desire to build the new church again gained in favor, the resolution to build the $1500. chapel having been abandoned. On March 25, 1879, a committee was appointed to secure a site for the future church. Another committee was appointed to secure an architect, and they made arrangements with a man by the name of Tillotson. Arrangements were also made for the holding of services during the building operations. The committee on the site, purchased from the Jones Estate the lots on Depot Street, for which the sum of $1080. was paid. The land is now worth many times that amount. The old church with the land, was sold to Major John Waller, one of the vestry, for $1600., and old St. John's stood until the disastrous fire which swept Monticello in 1909.

The plans for the present church were finally drawn by Mr. Henry Dudley of New York, and the contract let to Ronald

Ketchum of High Bridge, N. Y., for the sum of $10,800. The only change from the original plans, wherein a grievous mistake was made, was the construction of the organ chamber on the north side of the chancel instead of the south.

On June 30, 1880, the Rev. Mr. West resigned to become chaplain of St. Mary's School, Knoxville, Illinois, after which charge he became a parish priest in the diocese of Springfield.

The next rector, the Rev. George H. Anderson, came in October 1880, but continued illness resulted in his untimely death early in 1882. He was the last rector to conduct services in the old church and the first to conduct them in the new.

The cornerstone of the new church was laid with impressive ceremonies June 24, 1880, by the rector, assisted by the Revs. Alexander Capron, George D. Silliman, then rector of Middletown, John Swords of Hoboken, and others of the clergy. Mr. Israel P. Tremain read a sketch of the history of the parish, which, with other customary books and papers was deposited in the stone. The vestry at that time was composed of Israel P. Tremain, senior warden, Samuel G. Thompson, junior warden, Jacob L. Hasbrouck, M. D., Major John Waller, Charles Barnum, Edward F. Quinlan, M. D., John K. Cooper, Henry A. St. John, Francis G. Snook and George E. Bennett. Four of these men are still living.

The building committee at this time was composed of Messrs. William H. Cady, chairman, Israel P. Tremain, treasurer, Henry A. St. John, secretary, and Clinton V. R. Ludding-ton, Esq. These men raised by subscription the amount of $6,713. and procured from other sources $5,342. With this money in hand building proceeded.

During the winter of 1880, the partly built church was inclosed, and in the Spring of 1881, work began afresh, only to be



THE RECTORY

1887

interrupted by the contractor himself, who was unable to continue operations because he had underestimated the cost. Another appeal for funds became inevitable. This was made, and the result was a response to the amount of $4,049. The contractor was paid, and construction began again in August to be completed in December 1881. The finished structure was accepted by the vestry on December 26th of that year, the total cost of construction being $18,363.45, exclusive of furnishings, of which amount the ladies of the parish raised $4,371.73.

The last service held in the old church was on New Year's Day, 1882, and the next Sunday the first service was held in the new building. The last music sung in old edifice and the first in the new was the Gloria in Excelsis to the Old Chant.

Looking forward to the beautification of the new edifice, the vestry on Easter Day, 1882, accepted from Mrs. H. C. Eldridge of Elmira, the beautiful lectern in memory of Edwin Eldridge, M. D.

On August 9, 1882, the Rev. John M. Windsor of Brooklyn, was called to the rectorship. Soon after his coming, Mr. Israel P. Tremain, who had been senior warden for many years, felt compelled to resign. This was a decided loss, for Mr. Tremain was a man of sane judgment and far-sightedness, and had saved the parish many a false step by his tact and carefulness.

To the new church came the gifts which had been presented in the way of furnishings, and beside, on Easter Day, 1883, was presented the Fowler Memorial, and by Mrs. Eldridge the altar cross.

The church being comfortably well equipped in the way of furnishings, the consecration took place on August 28, 1883, the Rt. Rev. George Franklin Seymour, D. D., Bishop of Springfield, acting for the bishop of New York.

On this memorable occasion the Holy Communion was celebrated by the bishop, assisted by the Rev. Messrs. John M. Windsor and George D. Silliman. The instrument of donation was read by Major John Waller, and the sentence of consecration by the Rev. E. C. Houghton of New York, who acted as chaplain to the bishop. Bishop Seymour preached the sermon.

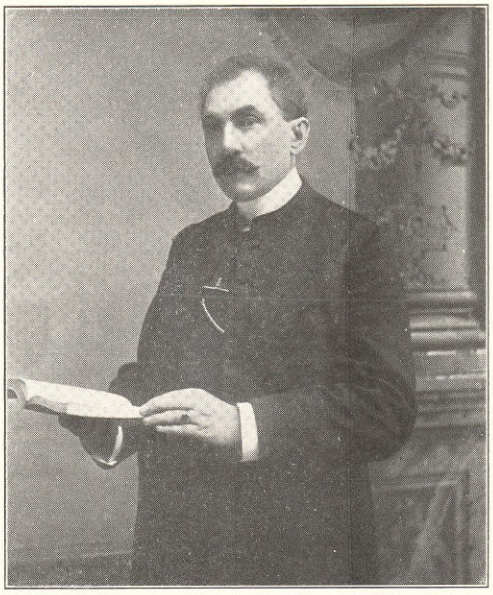
In the afternoon, a reception was held on the lawn of Mrs. Bridges' residence, now the Rosary, at which the clergy, the church officers and invited guests were present. Addresses were made by Bishop Seymour, Rev. Mr. Silliman, and the Hon. Daniel B. St. John.

In the evening of the consecration day, Bishop Seymour confirmed a class of fourteen, nearly all of whom were adults. At this service, the Rev. Octavius Applegate, then rector of St. George's Church, Newburgh, preached the sermon. On the following day, the Western Convocation of the diocese met in the church.

Shortly after the consecration, on June 3, 1885, Rev. Mr. Windsor resigned, and the vestry called the Rev. S. H. S. Gallaudet. He came to Monticello in January 1886, but remained only until May of the same year.

During his rectorship, the roof of the church showed weakness and poor workmanship, leaks being almost constant. This was in part rectified, and the church was decorated in 1887 at a cost of almost $600.

The Rev. William F. Dickinson, M. D., succeeded Mr. Gallaudet in May 1887, and, shortly after he came, the present rectory was built, a monument to the generosity of the Hon. Daniel B. St. John. Not only did Mr. St. John build the rectory without cost to the parish, but he gave ten feet of additional ground to the vestry in order to meet the requirements of the



Rev. William F. Dickinson

May 28, 1887—Oct. 1, 1895

size of the building. The rectory grounds were improved by grading and sidewalks in 1888.

Daniel B. St. John died in 1890, leaving behind him evidences of a life devoted to the cause of Christ and His Church. In his will he bequeathed to the parish the sum of $2,500.

Dr. Dickinson resigned in November 1891, but was recalled, and returned in February 1892. He remained until 1895. In April of that year he was succeeded by the Rev. David T. Howell. It was during his rectorate that Israel P. Tremain was taken to the rest of Paradise, a man who had served the Church with devotion for many years.

The next rector was the Rev. John A. Milbank, now rector of Freehold, New Jersey. He came in January 1899. In April of that year the electric lights were installed in the church, and in 1900 pew rents, which had been deemed advisable after the building of the new church, were abolished, and the envelope system started to make up the deficiency.

In 1901, Mr. Milbank having resigned, the Rev. Stephen Van Renssalaer, now of Washington, D. C., was called. For almost the whole of his rectorate ill health beset both him and his family. He resigned, but after the death of his wife returned. He remained until November 1905. His going was regretted by all, for he was a real man, and a real Christian. His personality is indellibly impressed upon the parish.

It was during the pastorate of Mr. Van Renssalaer that William H. Cady, for years vestryman, clerk and treasurer of the parish passed away. He had faithfully served the parish, and had represented it many times in the Diocesan Convention. With his death began the passing of the vestry that had made possible the great progress of St. John's. One only is left, our senior warden, Major Waller.

On October 31, 1905 the vestry called the Rev. Walter Irving Stecher who was at the time rector of St. Timothy's Church, Brooklyn. Mr. Stecher came to Monticello at the end of the following month, and remained until his death. During Mr. Stecher's time much constructive work was accomplished in the parish. One of the first things which the new rector did was to organize an altar guild. This was done on February 12, 1906. At this meeting Miss Agnes D. Fairchild was appointed directress, and this office she has held since that time, devoting much time to the care and oversight of the sanctuary, and the vestments of the clergy and choir. In her work as directress she has had the help of many able assistants, and it is to be questioned whether any parish of its size has such an efficient altar guild as St. John's. The activity of the guild has a wider scope than is usual in most parishes, for not only do the young women care for the sanctuary and the clerical vestments, but they purchase the communion wine and altar breads, pay for the laundering of the choir vestments, and provide palms and candles. Their funds are derived from monthly dues, and by entertainments and sales.

The present organ was installed, and dedicated on June 24, 1907. The organists on that day were Messrs. Frederick Dennison and Philander Avery. On the previous day there had been an organ recital by Mr. Charles W. Fash of New York, assisted by Dr. O. Northway-Meyer, the Misses Mildred Starr, Clara Force and Elizabeth Chant, Mrs. C. G. Smith and Mr. J. Stanton Ennis. This organ was secured by subscriptions amounting to $968. to which was added the sum of $750. given by Mr. Andrew Carnegie.

On June 24, 1910, ground was broken for the Parish House. At this time there were present besides the members of the



REV. JOHN A. MILBANK

JAN. 9, 1899—APRIL 8, 1901

congregation, the Rev. Messrs. Charles F. Canedy who threw up the first spadeful of earth, the Rev. T. G. Losee, rector of Walden, James M. Robertson, rector of Amenia, and the rector of St. John's. The building was completed, and opened on October 24th of the same year. The cost was $7,000.

Meanwhile, in November 1909, there had died Mr. Eli Wheeler Fairchild, one of Monticello's pioneers and a devoted vestryman of St. John's. He had not only been a faithful worker in behalf of parish welfare, but a generous contributor, and had represented the parish many times in convention. On Christmas Day 1911, the handsome lectern Bible now in use, was presented and blessed in his memory, the gift of his daughter, Miss Agnes Doll Fairchild.

Another faithful man, and vestryman went to his rest on May 31, 1912. This was the Hon. Timothy Bush, County Judge. He had been a staunch supporter of the parish, but the terrible calamity which befell St. John's in 1899, separated him with many others from it. His loss then to St. John's, and his loss to the community at his death, was a great one.

Under the direction of the rector of St. John's, missionary work was begun at White Lake and Forrestburgh, as well as at South Fallsburgh, the latter a flourishing work now being served under the supervision of the rector of Liberty. During 1912 this work was in the hands of Mr. H. Baxter Liebler, now a priest, and rector of Waukesha, Wisconsin.

The rector after a long and distressing illness passed to his rest on September 22, 1913. During the last months of his life, services were conducted by the Rev. Messrs. George M. Geisel and Robert C. Masterton.

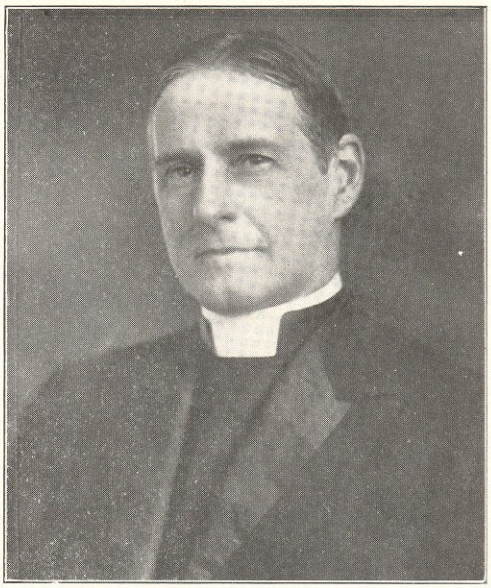
About a month after the rector's death, Mrs. Mary V. Z. Cady passed away. This volume would not be complete without

a mention of her generosity. She was one of the most loyal workers and liberal supporters St. John's Church ever had. In 1908 she was moved to give the parish an additional strip of land on the north side of the property in order that a side porch might be constructed and a driveway made possible.

The vestry now called in succession the Revs. George F. Bambach and Stephen F. Sherman, both of whom declined.

On Feb. 10, 1914, the Rev. Walter White Reid, of Sheldon, Vermont was called, and accepted. The present rector assumed charge of the parish on Passion Sunday, 1914.

"Their works do follow them."



REV. STEPHEN VAN RENSSELAER

MAY 1, 1901—NOV. 6, 1905

Rectors of St. John's Church.

Edward Keaton Fowler,	Dec. 22, 1826—July 6, 1868.
George Dent Silliman,	Nov. 18, 1870—May 22, 1873.
Charles F. Canedy,	Sept. 1, 1873—Oct. 24, 1876.
Gustave E. Perucker,	Nov. 24, 1876—July 1, 1878.
George W. West,	Feb. 5, 1879—August 1, 1880.
George H. Anderson,	Nov. 1, 1880—March 5, 1882.
John M. Windsor,	Sept. 23, 1882—July 1, 1885.
S. H. S. Gallaudet,	Jan. 18, 1886—May 31, 1886.
William F. Dickinson,	May 28, 1887—Oct. 1, 1895.
David T. Howell,	Oct. 1, 1895—April 20, 1898.
John A. Milbank,	Jan. 9, 1899—April 8, 1901.
Stephen Van Renssalaer,	May 1, 1901—Nov. 6, 1905.
Walter I. Stecher,	Nov. 30. 1905—Sept. 22, 1913.
Walter White Reid,	March 29, 1914—

Ministers-in-charge of St. John's Church.

James Thompson,	1816.
John Brown,	1816.
Arthur N. Wrixon,	1869.
——— Pierity,	1869.
George Dent Silliman,	July 3, 1870—Nov. 18, 1870.

Assistant Ministers.

Charles Stewart,	1880, 1885.
George M. Geisel,	1913.
Robert C. Masterton,	1913.

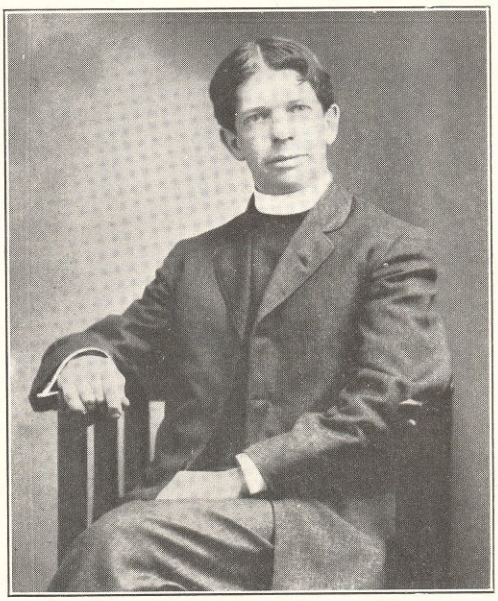
The Wardens and Vestrymen who incorporated the parish.

Hon. William A. Thompson,
John E. Russell, } Wardens.

Luther Buckley,
Levi Barnum,
William Woods Sackett,
Ira E. Smith,
Hon. Livingston Billings,
Charles Thompson,
Otto William Van Tuyl,
John Lord, } Vestrymen.

The Wardens of St. John's Church.

William A. Thompson,	1816—1848.
John E. Russell,	1816— ? .
Luther Buckley,	1832—1842.
Israel P. Tremain,	1842—1843; 1864—1882; 1885—1886.
Roderick Royce, M. D.,	1843—1865.
Solomon Dewey,	1848—1855.
Hon. Jonathan Stratton,	1855—1864.
James Eldridge Quinlan,	1865—1874.
William H. Cady,	1875—1878; 1885—1892.
Samuel G. Thompson,	1878—1882.
John Waller,	1883—1885; 1886—1892; 1906—
Francis G. Snook,	1883—1885.
Abraham Olmsted,	1892—1906.
George Waller,	1892—1895.
Edward F. Thompson,	1895—



REV. WALTER I. STECHER

NOV. 30, 1905—SEPT. 22, 1913

The Vestrymen of St. John's Church.

Roderick Royce, M. D.,	1831—1835; 1837—1843.
John Hill,	1831—1836.
Solomon Dewey,	1831—1837; 1838—1848.
William E. Cady,	1831—1850.
Randall S. Street,	1831—1839.
William Clarkson,	1831—1832.
Hon. Jonathan Stratton,	1831—1838; 1839—1847; 1848—1855.
Marshall Perry,	1832—1839.
Peter F. Hunn, Esq.	1833—1837.
Cyrus Grannis,	1835—1837.
Samuel G. Thompson,	1836—1878; 1883—1885.
Charles Broom,	1837—1839; 1841—1843.
Cholbe Royce,	1837—1840.
John Halstead,	1839—1841.
Isaac Barnum,	1839—1840.
Israel P. Tremain,	1840—1842; 1843—1865.
Henry Mead,	1840—1841; 1850—1851.
James Eldridge Quinlan,	1841—1865.
Ephraim S. Burnham,	1842—1875.
William F. Russell,	1843—1851.
Elijah H. Dewey,	1847—1857.
Frederick M. St. John,	1851—1873.
William H. Cady,	1851—1875.
Gideon Howard,	1855—1866.
Seth B. Allyn,	1857—1870.
Jacob L. Hasbrouck, M. D.,	1864—1882.
John Waller,	1865—1882; 1885—1886.
Charles Barnum,	1866—1881; 1883—1885; 1889—1899.
Edward F. Quinlan, M. D.,	1870—1889.
Abraham Olmsted,	1873—1878.
John K. Cooper,	1875—1890.
Henry A. St. John,	1875—1882.
Francis G. Snook,	1878—1882; 1885—1886.
George E. Bennett,	1878—1881; 1883—1884.
Hon. Timothy F. Bush,	1881—1895.
Albert E. Gillespie,	1881—1886.
George L. Frank,	1883—1889.

The Vestrymen of St. John's Church, continued.

Philander M. Avery,	1884—1889.
Eli McMillen,	1885—1886.
Clinton V. R. Luddington,	1886—1895.
David Watkins,	1886—1895.
James Turner,	1886—1889.
Frederick S. Newkirk,	1889—1890.
Samuel F. Adams,	1889—1892.
Moses Schoonmaker,	1889—1911.
Samuel B. Green,	1890—1899.
Floyd I. Pelton,	1890—
Edward F. Thompson,	1892—1895.
Moses C. Duryea,	1895—1896.
Robert McNickle,	1895—
Andrew Dunn,	1895—1899 ; 1901—1906.
William Nelson,	1895—
Eli W. Fairchild,	1896—1910.
George E. Marlow,	1900—1901.
Thornton A. Niven,	1900—1901.
Burton Royce,	1900—1903.
Silas W. Demarest,	1901—1905.
David S. Avery,	1903—1905.
Ralph B. Towner,	1905—1908 ; 1910—1911 ; 1915—
William W. Johns,	1905—1909.
Russell W. Allan, D. D. S.,	1906—1910.
Ernest G. Rundle,	1908—1912.
Henry W. Stratton,	1909—1910.
William F. Miller,	1910—1912 ; 1914—
Hon. Jacob M. Maybee,	1911—1913.
Hon. H. Blake Stratton,	1911—1915.
George W. Rockwell,	1912—1914.
George D. Pelton,	1912—
W. W. Woolley,	1912—1913.
Roger W. Sears,	1913—1915.
John T. Curtis,	1913—
Alois von Isakovics,	1915.
George H. York,	1915—



Rev. Walter White Reid

March 29, 1914—

Clerks of St. John's Vestry.

Rev. E. K. Fowler,	1831—1832.
Peter F. Hunn, Esq.,	1833—1837.
William E. Cady,	1837—1850.
William F. Russell,	1850—1851.
William H. Cady,	1851—1876.
Israel P. Tremain,	1876—1878.
George E. Bennett,	1878—1880.
Henry A. St. John,	1880—1883.
Edward F. Quinlan, M. D.,	1883—1888.
David Watkins,	1888—1892.
George Waller,	1892—1893.
Samuel B. Green,	1895—1899.
Charles Barnum,	1899—1900.
Burton Royce,	1900—1903.
Floyd I. Pelton,	1903—1906.
Russell W. Allan, D. D. S.,	1906—1911.
Hon. J. M. Maybee,	1911—1913.
George D. Pelton,	1913—

Treasurers of St. John's Church.

Rev. E. K. Fowler,	1831—1835.
William E. Cady,	1835—1876.
John K. Cooper,	1876—1883.
John Waller,	1883—1885.
William H. Cady,	1885—1892.
Samuel B. Green,	1892—1899.
Abraham Olmsted,	1899—1905.
Robert McNickle,	1905—

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention representing St. John's Parish.

1847.	James E. Quinlan,	William E. Cady.	
1850.	Wm. F. Russell,	Wm. H. Cady.	
1851.	E. H. Dewey,	Wm. H. Cady.	
1852.	Wm. H. Cady.		
1853.	Wm. H. Cady.		
1854.	Wm. H. Cady.		
1855.	Wm. H. Cady,	I. P. Tremain.	
1856.	Wm. H. Cady,	F. M. St. John.	
1857.	Wm. H. Cady,	I. P. Tremain,	James E. Quinlan.
1858.	Wm. H. Cady,	I. P. Tremain,	Seth B. Allyn.
1859.	Wm. H. Cady,	I. P. Tremain,	Seth B. Allyn.
1860.	Wm. H. Cady,	I. P. Tremain,	F. M. St. John.
1861.	Wm. H. Cady,	I. P. Tremain,	F. M. St. John.
1862.	Wm. H. Cady,	I. P. Tremain,	F. M. St. John.
1863.	Wm. H. Cady,	I. P. Tremain,	F. M. St. John.
1864.	Wm. H. Cady,	I. P. Tremain,	F. M. St. John.
1865.	Wm. H. Cady,	I. P. Tremain,	F. M. St. John.
1866.	Wm. H. Cady,	I. P. Tremain,	F. M. St. John.
1867.	Wm. H. Cady,	James E. Quinlan,	F. M. St. John.
1868.	Wm. H. Cady,	John Waller,	Samuel G. Thompson.
1869.	Wm. H. Cady,	I. P. Tremain,	F. M. St. John.
1871.	C. V. R. Luddington, Esq.	F. M. St. John,	Charles Barnum.
1872.	C. V. R. Luddington, Esq.	Wm. H. Cady,	Edw. F. Quinlan, M. D.
1876.	J. L. Hasbrouck, M. D.	I. P. Tremain.	
1877.	J. L. Hasbrouck, M. D.	I. P. Tremain,	Wm. H. Cady.
1878.	John Waller,	J. K. Cooper,	I. P. Tremain.
1879.	John Waller,	F. G. Snook,	I. P. Tremain.
1880.	John Waller,	E. F. Quinlan,	I. P. Tremain.
1883.	I. P. Tremain,	John Waller,	Wm. H. Cady.
1884.	John K. Cooper,	John Waller,	Wm. H. Cady.
1885.	C. V. R. Luddington, Esq.,	John Waller,	Wm. H. Cady.
1886.	C. V. R. Luddington, Esq.,	John Waller,	John K. Cooper.
1887.	C. V. R. Luddington, Esq.,	John Waller,	John K. Cooper.
1888.	C. V. R. Luddington, Esq.,	John Waller,	John K. Cooper.
1891.	C. V. R. Luddington, Esq.,	John Waller,	David Watkins.
1892.	C. V. R. Luddington, Esq.,	John Waller,	Edw. F. Thompson.

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention representing St. John's Parish, continued.

1893.	John Waller.		
1894.	C. V. R. Luddington, Esq.,	Edw. F. Thompson.	
1897.	Abraham Olmsted,	Eli W. Fairchild.	
1898.	Abraham Olmsted,	Eli W. Fairchild.	
1899.	Abraham Olmsted,	Eli W. Fairchild.	
1900.	Abraham Olmsted,	Eli W. Fairchild.	
1901.	Andrew Dunn,	S. W. Demarest.	
1902.	Abraham Olmsted,	Eli W. Fairchild.	
1903.	Abraham Olmsted,	Eli W. Fairchild.	
1904.	Andrew Dunn,	Eli W. Fairchild.	
1905.	Andrew Dunn,	R. B. Towner,	W. W. Johns.
1906.	John Waller,	Edw. F. Thompson,	R. W. Allan, D. D. S.
1907.	John Waller,	Edw. F. Thompson,	R. W. Allan, D. D. S.
1908.	John Waller,	Floyd I. Pelton,	R. W. Allan, D. D. S.
1909.	John Waller,	Floyd I. Pelton,	R. W. Allan, D. D. S.
1911.	John Waller,	Hon. J. M. Maybee,	R. W. Allan, D. D. S.
1914.	John T. Curtis,	John Waller,	Floyd I. Pelton.
1915.	John T. Curtis,	R. B. Towner,	Alois von Isakovics.