

LET'S REMINISCE | By Emily Hoyt

More on Trinity Church

The cornerstone of Trinity Church was laid by John McCarthy, a missionary at Oswego and ports adjacent, on the 22nd day of September, 1831. The Rt. Rev. Benjamin T. Onderdonk, Bishop of the State, Nicholas I. Roosevelt, and Frederick W. Scriba being Wardens and Daniel N. Orcott, Curtis R. Cable, George Scriba, Burnet Dundas, John Beebe, Robert Elliot being Vestrymen and Curtis R. Cable, George Scriba, Nicholas I. Roosevelt, Burnet Dundas and Robert Elliot being the Building Committee; Stephen Gardner, Architect; Peley T. Marshall, William Crandall, George Gardner, and John A. Vary, Builders; Caleb Merritt, Mason.

The above was sworn to before Judge Avery Shinner and a copy of the document was placed in the cornerstone of Trinity Church. The papers were all removed when the church was repaired and are in the Diocese in Syracuse.

At this time representatives were sent each year to attend the Diocese in New York City. Nicholas I. Roosevelt went every year until 1839.

It is not known who was the first clergyman to hold services in Constantia. The village at that time contained about 40 families. It boasted a grist mill, a blacksmith shop and a tavern. Previously Mr. Scriba built a five story grist mill on the bank of Scriba's Creek and he built a distillery which was never used. Both ventures were failures. The grist mill was equipped to grind corn. An Iron Company was formed but never continued. Scriba encouraged Hollanders to come to Constantia where they engaged in lumbering and later cleared land and developed farming.

The first infant baptism recorded was that of Eliza Clark who was born September 3rd, 1822. As there was no organized parish at that time the itinerant missionaries no doubt kept an account of their official services



in their own private registers so there are no accounts from 1795 to 1831.

The Rev. John McCarthy, Rector of Christ Church, Oswego, frequently followed the trail over the old corduroy roads, on horseback, to the home of Nicholas I. Roosevelt at Central Square where he frequently remained over night. This was usually on a Saturday night then on Sunday morning accompanied by Mr. Roosevelt and his two daughters, he would drive to Constantia, hitching the saddle horses to the trees until the end of Divine Service. The good doctor carried his preaching gown and his supplies together with his sermon, Bible and prayer book in his saddle bags and must have presented a quaint figure as he journeyed through the forest. After the service they were entertained at the Scriba Mansion or, if the weather was good, they would eat their lunch under the maple trees in the church yard. The Rev. Amos Pardie visited the Parish in 1832 while the Rev. Timothy Minor was the first resident missionary coming to Constantia in 1834, many followed. In 1851 the church was thoroughly repaired and painted. Then in 1866, \$775.00 was raised in the parish and among friends of the parish to repair the building and to alter it to suit more modern needs. The old three-decker arrangement of pulpit, reading desk, and communion table was removed. The pews on either side of the Church were taken away and two vestry rooms put in their places. Three beautiful stained glass windows were placed in the chancel and the communion table stood under them, otherwise.

The old pipe organ which had been placed in the gallery of the Church when it was built had become broken so it was replaced with a new and much smaller organ which is being used in the Church today. The original organ was a very fine instrument, being one of the first pipe organs to be brought into the wilderness. It was purchased in Germany, shipped to Rome, N. Y. and brought to Constantia by oxcart. It is still in the church. The old pulpit and reading desk are also there.

The Rev. James Stoddard came to the parish in 1867. In this year Judge Carter first became a Vestryman. About this time St. James Church in Cleveland was organized and often the work of the two churches was carried on by one minister. In 1870 the parish was able to pay Rev. Wm. Ely \$400.00 per year, he received a stipend of \$300 and each year was given a "donation". During the rectorship of Rev. Ely the church yard was laid out into burial plots. In 1883 the vestry resolved to deed the entire church property to the trustees of the Parochial Fund of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Central New York.

For the next twenty years few services were held in the church. The church began to crumble, the windows were broken and the roof leaked. Services were sometimes held in private homes or in Cleveland church. When Mrs. Louisa Weston Scriba died on August 20 1899 at the age of 88 her funeral was held in the church, which she loved the service was read by Rev. John Arthur, Oneida.

In 1908 the Archdeacon called the people together for a meeting at the residence of George F. Scriba, Esq. which was well attended. The Bishop arranged to have a new slate roof put on the church. Upon investigation it was found that the timbers were so badly decayed that a great deal of repair work would have to be done before the slate could be placed. This repair was done under the direction of George F. Scriba who advanced the money for the material and labor amounting to about \$140. The slate roof which the Bishop placed cost \$141.75.

In 1910 the church became active again sometimes being filled to capacity. Shortly after World War I, Rev. George MacNish came to Cleveland, N.Y. where for about 30 years he was rector of St. James Church in Cleveland and of Trinity in Constantia.

In 1926 the roof of the church fell in. Mr. and Mrs. Angevine encouraged Rev. MacNish to go to New York and see some one they knew, connected with Trinity Church, which is one of the richest of churches. George Scriba, who was in the mercantile business and owned the Bank of Manhattan, was one of the original contributors to the New York Trinity Church. Rev. MacNish was given not only enough money for a new roof but enough to build a tennis court as well. The macadam court was supervised by Mr. Scriba. In 1954 Mrs. Agnes Scriba secured money from Old Trinity to stain the outside of the church. Fifteen hundred dollars was given at that time and Mr. Keller of Cleveland was employed to do the work. The church was practically lit over on the inside. Win-

LEGAL NOTICE

TO: THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF CENTRAL SQUARE, OSWEGO COUNTY, NEW YORK:

TAKE NOTICE, that a public hearing will be held upstairs in the fire house in the Village of Central Square, New York on May 23, 1966 at 8:00 P.M. on the petitions heretofore presented to the Village Board of the Village of Central Square for a change in zoning classification from "residential" to "multiple residential" of the following described premises in said Village:

NO. 1 that area bounded on the east by the Niagara Mohawk high tension right of way and U.S. Route 11 and N.Y. Central RR Company; on the south by the Dry Bridge Road and a storage area by the Dry Bridge Road with one house and two mobil homes; and on the west and north by dwellings including a duplex dwelling on an area already rezoned multiple dwelling.

NO. 2 Those premises having a 273 foot frontage on Caughdenoy Road known as the former Fred Burdick property bounded east by Leonard Lastine and west by Central Square Central School property.

May 3, 1966

Lowell E. Gregg
Village Clerk.
18w2

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