

The First Church

Springfield, Massachusetts.

1637—1915

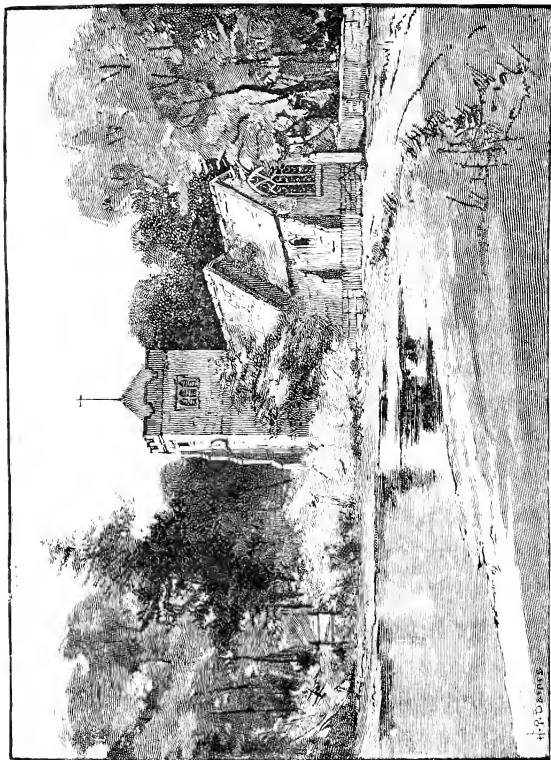
Milestones Through Twenty-Seven Decades

*“First Church, glorious landmark
Standing for the right,
Through the ages guiding
Pilgrims to the light.”*

Springfield, Mass.

1915

F74
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FIRST PARISH, SPRINGFIELD, ENGLAND

FOREWORD

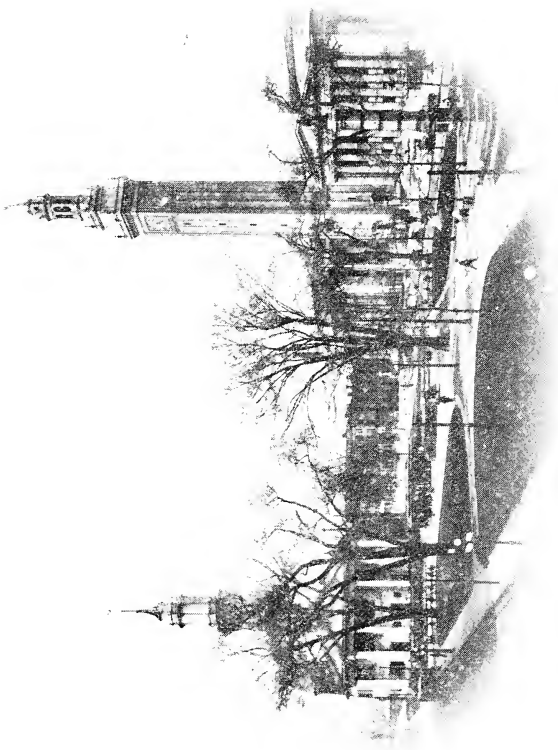
The Opportunity Seekers present this slight contribution to the history of the First Church, hoping it may recall to the older generation pleasant memories of faces and events and put the younger people in touch with bygone days.

Committee on Publication

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1645

YE FIRST MEETING HOUSE

40 x 25 feet

1636

SPRINGFIELD SETTLED

1637

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ORGANIZED

(Fourteenth church organized in Massachusetts Bay Colony)

1915

Membership 1300

CHURCH BUILDINGS

THE FIRST MEETING HOUSE was built by Thomas Cooper and stood on the southeast corner of Court Square facing Meeting House Lane (Elm Street). It had a shingled roof—a rare thing in those days—and two turrets, one designed for a bell, the other for a “watch howse” to guard against the approach of unfriendly Indians. Men and women occupied separate sections of the church.

“New England’s Sabbath day
Is heavenlike, still and pure,
When Israel walks the way
Up to the temple door.
The time we tell
When there to come
By beat of drum
Or sounding shell.”

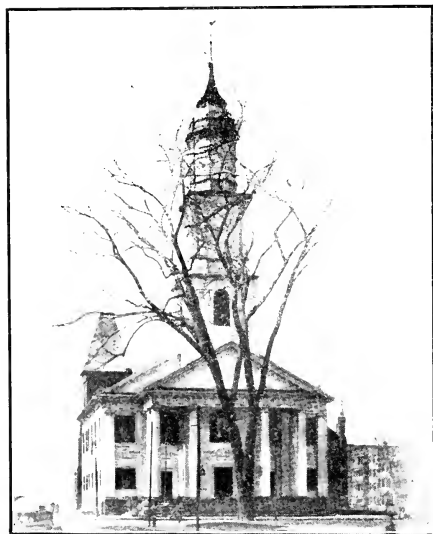
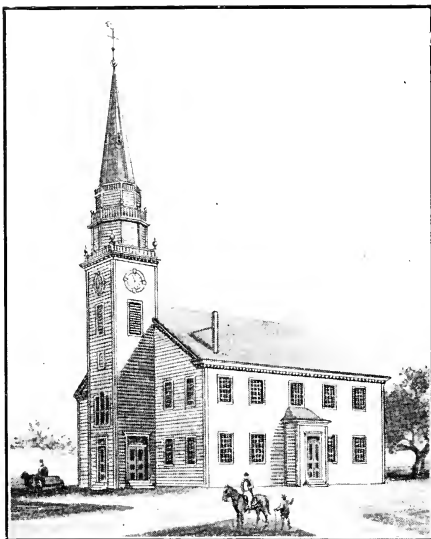
THE SECOND MEETING HOUSE was built in 1677 just west of the first one at a cost of \$400, John Pynchon being chairman of the building committee. It had a turret but no bell for ten years. It was protected from attack by the Indians, by a five-foot rail fence, excepting at the rear where a hedge was planted.

There is no reproduction of the building.

1752

*THE THIRD MEETING
HOUSE*

60 x 46 feet



1819

*THE FOURTH CHURCH
BUILDING*

90 x 72 feet

THE THIRD CHURCH BUILDING was begun in 1749 and was completed three years later. It stood directly east of the present edifice with its front on Elm Street and its main entrance at the side, facing Main Street. The rooster crowned its spire and clock faces told the time from its tower. Within were the customary high pulpit, ponderous sounding board and square seats.

The deacons, wearing a peculiar headdress, sat facing the congregation. Men and women were now allowed to sit together but were seated according to wealth and position in the town.

THE FOURTH CHURCH BUILDING was erected by Isaac Damon of Northampton, a famous church and bridge builder. Its cost, beyond the sum realized by the old building, was not to exceed \$15,000, raised by disposing of 300 shares at \$50 each. About 1826, foot stoves were dispensed with and a furnace installed. In 1862 cushions were put in. Jenny Lind said of its acoustic properties it was the finest auditorium she had used in America.

CHAPELS

A very small wooden chapel, used for prayer meetings and social gatherings, was built on the north side of the church probably in the sixties. Jenny Lind used it as a retiring room when she sang in the church in 1851.

The present parish house was erected in 1874 at a cost of \$35,000.

MINISTERS

Rev. George Moxon, 1637—1652, term 15 years.

The first pastor came to the colony from Dorchester at the age of thirty-five, attracted here by his friendship for William Pynchon. He was a theologian of no mean ability, but on account of unpleasant experiences in the town, especially in connection with the witchcraft delusion, he returned to England in 1652 with his friend William Pynchon.

Rev. Pelatiah Glover, 1660—1692, term 32 years.

A great catastrophe occurred during this pastorate in 1675, when the town was burned by the Indians. Mr. Glover, who was a great student, had his "brave library" entirely destroyed. He stayed by his post, however, and John Pynchon bears witness that he was a "faithful minister."

Rev. Daniel Brewer, 1694—1733, term 40 years.

Church records of this period are very meager. It was a time of quiet and growth. During this term the West Springfield and Longmeadow churches, the first off-shoots from the mother church, were organized.

Rev. Robert Breck, 1736—1784, term 49 years.

Called to be pastor at the age of 22, he was charged by neighboring ministers with being unorthodox and on the very day of his ordination was arrested by a magistrate. He met his opponents so frankly and fearlessly, however, and behaved during his entire ministry in so tactful a manner, that he disarmed criticism and won his people. The "half-way covenant" was adopted during this period and the third church built. The first record of the church now extant is that kept by Mr. Breck, with great care, in his own hand writing. A treasurer's book was also opened at the same time.

Rev. Bezaleel Howard, D.D., 1785—1809, term 23 years.

Mr. Howard came to the town on horseback from Boston for a six week's trial as preacher when but a young man, and remained here until his death. Obligated to give up preaching on account of his health, his studies led him toward the liberal faith and with twenty-five others he withdrew from the Congregational Church and founded the Church of the Unity. He was called a fool for prophesying a bridge across the Connecticut River, but his prophecy came true in 1805.

Rev. Samuel Osgood, D.D., 1809—1854, term 45 years.

During a period when the church was rent by a split in orthodoxy, and the country stirred on the question of slavery, Dr. Osgood stood fearlessly and without compromise for what he thought to be right, and was a power in the community. During his term of service the Sunday School was organized (1818) the present church building was erected (1819) and Springfield became a city (1852). Over 1,000 souls were added to the church during his ministry. The high pulpit was removed and the pews were lowered.

Rev. Henry M. Parsons, 1854—1870, term 16 years.

During the troublous times of the Civil War, he held the people to the faith of the fathers and won new members by his fidelity and genial spirit. Always fond of Bible study, he brought about an afternoon instead of a noon session of the Sunday School.

Rev. Edward A. Reed, D.D., 1871—1878, term 7 years.

A young man of winning personality and fine enthusiasm for his work, he came to the First Church directly from the theological seminary. During his ministry the chapel was built and the Moody and Sankey revival occurred. From here he accepted a call to the Madison Avenue Dutch Reformed Church

of New York City. From there he was called to the Second Congregational Church of Holyoke where he has served as pastor more than 25 years.

Rev. Edward Payson Terhune, D.D., 1879—1884,
term 5 years.

A mature man of large experience, wide travel, and broad sympathy. His wife, "Marion Harland," had a strong influence on the lives of the young men of the church. During his pastorate occurred the Sayford revival.

Rev. Michael Burnham, D.D., 1885—1894, term 9 years.

A man of generous nature who, with his wife, endeared himself especially to the young people of the church among whom he organized the Y. P. S. C. E. (1885). He threw himself unsparingly into all kinds of reform work. During a part of his pastorate, Horace Sanderson served as pastor's assistant.

Rev. Frank Lincoln Goodspeed, D.D., 1894—1908,
term 14 years.

A man of fine presence and delivery who drew large audiences. He left Springfield for the First Presbyterian Church in Oakland, Cal. During his pastorate Milton A. Dixon and Rev. Howard C. Mudie served as pastor's assistants.

Rev. Neil McPherson, D.D., 1910—

Born at Bowmanville, Ontario, of Scotch parentage. He had two pastorates before coming to Springfield, one at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, Ontario, and one at the Tabernacle Presbyterian church, Indianapolis. Under his wise and tactful leadership the church is steadily growing in power and numbers.

From the time of organization until the settlement of Mr. Reed, 234 years, the church had but seven pastors; three died in service, and the average length of the pastorate of each was 32 years.

PEOPLE OF NOTE IN THE EARLY CHURCH

WILLIAM PYNCHON, founder of Springfield, formerly a warden of the church in Springfield, England, came here from Roxbury, Mass. He was a man of sterling worth, respected alike by Indians and white men. He was a deep thinker as well as a man of affairs and brought condemnation on himself by his liberal views, as expressed in his book, "The Meritorious Price of our Redemption." It was publicly burned in the market place in Boston and only three copies exist today. This trouble led Mr. Pynchon to return to England in 1652.

JOHN PYNCHON, son of William Pynchon, a far seeing man of business, built up the town and commanded so much respect that he was called "the worshipful" Major Pynchon. His shorthand notes of Mr. Moxon's sermons and his account books are preserved in the City Library.

ELIZUR HOLYOKE married Mary Pynchon, daughter of William Pynchon. He was town clerk for many years and much respected. Mt. Holyoke perpetuates his name.

SAMUEL CHAPIN was a deacon, a magistrate, and a man of affairs. He furnished the subject for St. Gaudens' statue of the Puritan on Merrick Park. The Chapins of the Connecticut Valley trace their ancestry to him.

MILES MORGAN was a sturdy citizen, active in town affairs, and served as tithingman in the church. He sat in the gallery with a long stick to "use such raps and blows as is in his discretion meet" for small boys who show a "Rude and Idel Behavior in the meeting house

such as Smiling and Larfing.” His statue on Court Square, the work of J. S. Hartley, erected by Henry T. Morgan, a New York banker, stands for the type of the early settler. His home site is marked by a tablet on Cypress Street (Ferry Lane).

SAMUEL WRIGHT served as deacon with Samuel Chapin and sometimes took the minister's place. He removed in later life to Northampton. The brothers, Wilbur and Orville Wright, famous for their invention of the aëroplane, are his descendants.

HENRY SMITH, son-in-law of William Pynchon, was a man of fine caliber, capable of conducting affairs of church and state. He returned to England with Mr. Pynchon.

MARY PYNCHON HOLYOKE, daughter of William Pynchon, was the first bride in the town. Her epitaph on the stone in Peabody cemetery pays this tribute to her:

“Shee y lyes here, was while shee stood,
A very glory of womanhood.”

THOMAS COOPER, carpenter, farmer, selectman, lieutenant, lost his life in attempting to warn the inhabitants of the approach of the Indians to burn the town in 1675.

OFFSPRING OF THE MOTHER CHURCH

West Springfield church	. . . . .	1696
Longmeadow church	. . . . .	1703
Wilbraham church	. . . . .	1741
Chicopee church	. . . . .	1750
Unitarian church	. . . . .	1819
Olivet church	. . . . .	1833
South church	. . . . .	1842
North church	. . . . .	1846

“We’re now Posterity
To all good folks of yore!”

DEACONS OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Samuel Chapin	Daniel Reynolds
Samuel Wright	Lewis Warriner
Jonathan Burt	Levi P. Rowland
Benjamin Parsons	John R. Hixon
John Hitchcock	Elbridge Brigham
James Warriner	Henry Morris
Nathaniel Munn	Addison P. Ware
Henry Burt	Roderick Burt
Nathaniel Brewer	Samuel R. Newell
Jonathan Church	Austin L. Leonard
Josiah Dwight	Joseph L. Shipley
Daniel Harris	Thomas S. Stewart
Moses Bliss	John Giles
William Pynchon, Esq.	James L. Johnson
Chauncey Brewer	Stephen Chapin
John Hooker	Charles E. Brown
George Bliss	Pardon H. Derby
Col. Solomon Warriner	Frank A. Lincoln
Boardman Hubbard	Charles B. Holton
Daniel Bontecou	Daniel P. Cole
George Merriam	Charles A. Gleason
Elijah W. Dickinson	Robert F. Ehni
Benjamin Eldredge	William P. Draper
Chauncey Chapin	John R. Lyman

MEMBERS OF PARISH COMMITTEE

(From 1800-1915)

Daniel Lombard	Richard Bliss
Festus Bliss	Henry Adams
Jacob Bliss	William Hatfield
William Sheldon	Charles Stearns
Thomas Stebbins	Ithamar Goodman
Israel Chapin	Charles A. Bartlett
Solomon Warriner	David A. Adams
Paul Bliss	John Avery
Samuel Kingsbury	George B. Morris
Peletiah Bliss	Caleb Rice
Oliver B. Morris	John B. Kirkham
Daniel Bontecou	Samuel S. Day
George Hooker	Benjamin Eldredge
Charles Stearns	Edmund Palmer
Richard D. Morris	Chauncey Chapin
Fred A. Packard	John C. Stebbins
Elijah Blake	Waitstill Hastings
Thomas Bond	Henry Bliss
Chauncey Chapin	Daniel Reynolds
Bidkav Jones	Marvin Chapin
Thomas M. Hunt	C. O. Chapin
Samuel Reynolds	John Mills
Jonathan Hunt	Richard Chapin
Eldad Goodman	Philip Chapin
Edward A. Morris	C. L. Covell
Josiah Hooker	Otis Childs
Elijah W. Bliss	Stephen C. Bemis
Henry L. Bunker	William Birnie
Henry Morris	Elisha Morgan
Henry Sergeant	Luther Bliss, Jr.
Philip Wilcox	B. B. Woodford
Reuben A. Chapman	Roderick Burt
L. W. Belden	William K. Baker
James Brewer	W. J. Holland

MEMBERS OF PARISH COMMITTEE—Continued

Warren H. Wilkinson	James L. Johnson
Caleb Alden	E. C. Rogers
Emerson Wight	William H. Haile
S. W. Avery	W. L. Barnard
Francis A. Brewer	C. E. Brown
John R. Hixon	B. F. Steele
Nelson C. Newell	A. N. Mayo
H. B. Lane	C. L. Goodhue

1915

A. B. Wallace (since 1880)	H. A. Ley
A. A. Packard (since 1882)	C. A. Gleason
W. O. Day	H. G. Webster
	H. C. Haile

Ralph W. Ellis, *Clerk*

(Has served at intervals as clerk or treasurer since 1887)

W. R. Thacker, *Treasurer*

A. N. Drake, *Collector*

(Mr. Drake completed 25 years of very efficient service as sexton, May 1st, 1914)

On the roll of the First Church membership and parish have been many men and women prominent in the life of the city. Among them are the following who have served as mayors:

Caleb Rice	Emerson Wight
William B. Calhoun	William H. Haile
Stephen C. Bemis	Edwin D. Metcalf
Charles A. Winchester	Charles L. Long
	Ralph W. Ellis

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

Organized in April, 1885, by Rev. Michael Burnham, D. D.

Presidents of the Society since its organization are:

William P. Draper,	1885-86
Lewis W. Allen,	1886-87
William L. Richards,	1887-88
William N. Raymond,	1888-89
George M. Hoadley,	1889-90
Richard J. Huntington,	1890-91
Robert C. Sherwood,	1891-92
James L. Dixon,	1892-93
Fannie Stebbins,	1893-94
C. Leonard Holton,	1894-95
George Thacker,	1895-96
Milton A. Dixon,	1896-97
Henry R. Brown,	1897-98
Frederick H. Law,	1898-99
J. Frank Low,	1899-00
Austin J. Pratt,	1900-02
Sheldon F. Allen,	1902-03
Charles L. Beckwith,	1903-05
John Williams,	1905-06
Harold D. Ripley,	1906-08
F. W. Rosenberg,	1908-09
Charles H. Smith,	1909-10
C. Leonard Holton,	1910-11
Sydney F. Law,	1911-13
Herbert W. Hicks,	1913-

MISSIONARIES WHO ONCE ATTENDED FIRST CHURCH

Foreign

	FIELD
Martha Ely (married Daniel Temple)	Malta
Samuel Osgood Wright	Liberia
Rev. Story Hebard	Syria
Rev. Samuel Bonney	China
Rev. Wm. W. Howland	India
Rev. S. H. Calhoun	Syria
Rev. Edwin E. Bliss	Turkey
Emma L. Bliss (married Henry J. Van Lennep)	Smyrna
Margaret Bell (married Rev. Henry Haskell)	Bulgaria
Mary E. Reynolds	Bulgaria
Rev. and Mrs. R. N. Hume	India
Louisa E. Dietz (married Frank Thompson)	} Sandwich Islands } Valparaiso, Chile
Rev. Henry Bruce		India
Rev. and Mrs. E. M. Pease (Mrs. Pease formerly Miss H. A. Sturtevant)	Micronesia
S. Alice Tupper	Turkey

Home

Frederick Packard
 Mrs. Laura Bliss Montgomery
 Horace Sanderson
 Ethel L. Leonard
 E. M. Atwood

The church keeps the missionary spirit alive through its representative, Rev. Clarence Douglas Ussher, M.D., who is doing a noble work as medical missionary in Van, Turkey.

THE BIBLE SCHOOL

The Sunday School was organized in 1818 from a nucleus which met in a private house. Two rewards of merit bearing this date are in the archives of the church. Until the completion of the new church in 1819, the sessions were held in schoolhouses. After that date the school was held in the audience room of the church. Up to 1826 no school was held in the winter as there was no means of heating the church. After the furnace was installed in 1826, sessions were held every Sunday but the time varied at different periods; sometimes it was at noon and sometimes (as late as in the early eighties) in the afternoon.

The following are the names of some of the best known superintendents:

Lewis Warriner	William P. Draper (served 10 years)
Addison P. Ware	Daniel P. Cole
William J. Holland	Milton A. Dixon
Elbridge Brigham	Clifford B. Potter
Samuel R. Newell	William R. Armstrong
James L. Johnson	Rev. Louis F. Giroux
William H. Haile	Francis A. Day
Benjamin L. Bragg	William L. Richards
Adelbert J. Brooks	

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Before the chapel was built the sessions were held in the tower room of the church.

Superintendents

Mrs. Henry Avery,	Before 1851—1861
Mrs. John R. Hixon,	1862—1887
Mrs. Horace Sanderson,	1888—1892
Mrs. Daniel P. Cole,	1892—1895

SUPERINTENDENTS—Continued

Mrs. George Pirnie,	1895—1897
Mrs. J. B. Spruill,	1897—1899
Mrs. W. B. Grant,	1899
Mrs. John R. Lyman,	1899—1900
Mrs. George Tuthill,	1900—1901
Lucy Stock,	1901—1908
Carrie H. Osgood,	1908—

KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT

Organized 1897

(Held at noon until 1911 when it was changed to a morning session.)

Superintendents

Anna L. Johnson,	1897—1899
Carrie E. Rhodes,	1899
Grace A. Johnson,	1900—1902
Lillian F. Collins,	1903—1905
Helen R. Lombard,	1905—1909
Mrs. Ruth Kingsley Frey,	1909
Lucy B. Cole,	1910—1914
Anna L. Johnson,	1914—

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Organized 1910

Superintendents

Carrie H. Osgood,	1910—1911
Mrs. Horace Sanderson,	1911
Mrs. John R. Lyman,	1911—

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS

Little is known of the music in the church before 1800. In 1801, Solomon Warriner, a native of Wilbraham, became choir director and held the position for more than forty years. He was so good a leader that when he left the city temporarily, members of the church raised \$1,200 to bring him back. He could sing bass or tenor with equal ease. The "Springfield Collection of Sacred Music" was compiled by him in 1813, and in that book it is said for the first time in this country, the air was given to the treble instead of to the tenor voice.

There were from seventy-five to one hundred voices in the choir in those days and they occupied three rows of seats in the gallery at the rear of the church. The leader stood in the center of the second row and beat time with his hand. Back of the singers sat the players, among whom were the following:

Double bass—John B. Kirkham
Violoncello—Cyrus Newell (served 30 years)
Flute—Henry Brewer (father of H. and J. Brewer)
Flute—George A. Crossett
Clarinet—William S. Elwell, the artist
Violin—Albert H. Kirkham

In singing hymns the audience rose and faced the singers in the gallery.

MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR IN EARLY DAYS

Organists

Abraham G. Tannatt	Frederick Bly
John H. Goldthwaite	E. S. Hoadley
Thomas Chubbuck	A. C. Field
Richard S. Escott	Edward Dickinson
William C. McClellan	Louis Coenen
James L. Warriner	Mrs. Jennie Crawford
Edward H. Phelps (1862-65)	Lillia Scott
Edward A. Morris	Charles L. Chapin
Miranda Chapin	Julia W. Roberts
	William R. Hitt

Singers

Col. Solomon Warriner.

Gen. Jacob Bliss (father of the president of the B. & A. railroad).

Col. Thomas Dwight.

Mary Dwight (later Mrs. John Howard).

John Ingersoll (father of Major Edward Ingersoll).

Elizabeth Ingersoll (later Mrs. Dwight Ripley).

Mary Ingersoll (later Mrs. Worthington Hooker).

Ocran Dickinson (grandfather of Miss Julia B. Dickinson).

William Hatfield (court crier).

Col. Lewis Gorham.

Samuel Reynolds (president of Chicopee Bank).

George T. Bond (father of George R. Bond).

Mary Warriner (daughter of Colonel Warriner, later Mrs. Henry Morris).

William Foster.

Maria Foster.

SINGERS—Continued

Emily Bliss (later Mrs. William Bryant).
Mary L. Chapin (later Mrs. T. L. Chapman).
Harriet Chapin (later Mrs. William Birnie).
Charles A. Winchester (ex-mayor).
Major Edward Ingersoll.
Louisa Dickinson.
Emmeline Dickinson (later Mrs. Thomas Bishop).
Mrs. R. S. Escott.
Jarvis G. Shaw.
Mrs. Emily Baker (later Mrs. Charles Newell).
Hannah Goodman. K. Arthur Dearden.
Charles O. Chapin. Emma Hayden.
Nelson Newell. W. G. White.
Samuel Newell. Emily Quinby.
Charles Newell. William H. Hawkes.
Horace S. Newell. William T. Wilson.
John C. Spooner. Charles Mulchahey.
Ginevra McClean. Mrs. Emily C. Beach.
Elizabeth Root Frank A. Whiting.
Amos Whiting. Edward A. Morris.
Louise Dickinson Lucy B. Shumway
Oliver H. Perry. Ella M. Bissell.
L. F. Carr. Frank G. Fisher.
Jennie S. Newell.

MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR OF LATER DAYS

Organists

Edward H. Phelps, 1881—1888
Richard W. Crowe, 1889
John J. Bishop, 1890—1896
John Hermann Loud, 1896—1900
Harry H. Kellogg, 1900—

Singers

James C. Ingersoll (served 16 years)	Charles H. Miner
Mrs. James C. Ingersoll (served 16 years)	Mrs. Edward Burnham
George R. Bond (served 9 years)	Mrs. M. G. Guckenberger
Fannie Chamberlain (served 8 years)	C. L. Hoyt
John Leshure	Charles H. Drude
Julia B. Dickinson	Lovira J. Tait
Fred C. Goodwin	Hazel Huntley
Emilie Gehring	Willis Chamberlain
William Spellman	Marjorie Clifford
Mr. G. Curtis Munson	Mrs. F. Leon Sample
Mrs. G. Curtis Munson	Millicent Snow
Harry L. Reed	Walter Marsh
Ila B. Roberts	W. L. Spittal
H. J. Buckley	Anna M. Wollmann
Frank E. Wheeler	Viora Allan
Mrs. F. E. Fankhauser	Edward E. Hosmer
	Richard C. Campbell
	Kathleen G. Swift

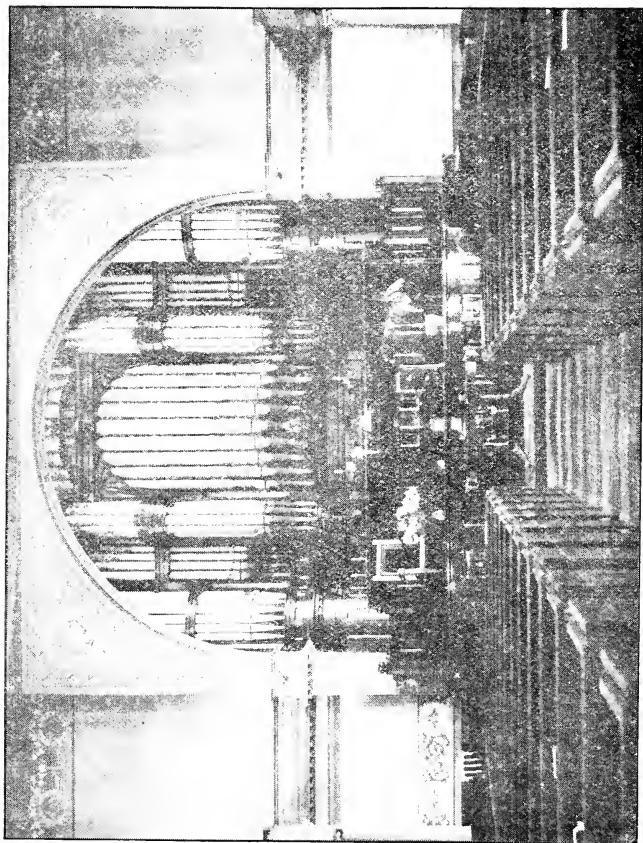
Meta S. Mallery

(The Dickinson family sang in the choir for 100 years with the exception of a few months. The Ingersoll, Newell and Warriner families were represented for three generations.)

ORGANS

The first organ was built in 1849 at a cost of \$3,000 by E. and G. G. Hook of Boston. It had 2 manuals, 2 combination pedals and 34 stops. It was placed at the rear of the gallery. At the dedicatory concert the oratorio "David" was given by a chorus choir.

The second organ was built in 1881 by Steere and Turner of Springfield, and cost \$8,000. It had 3 key-

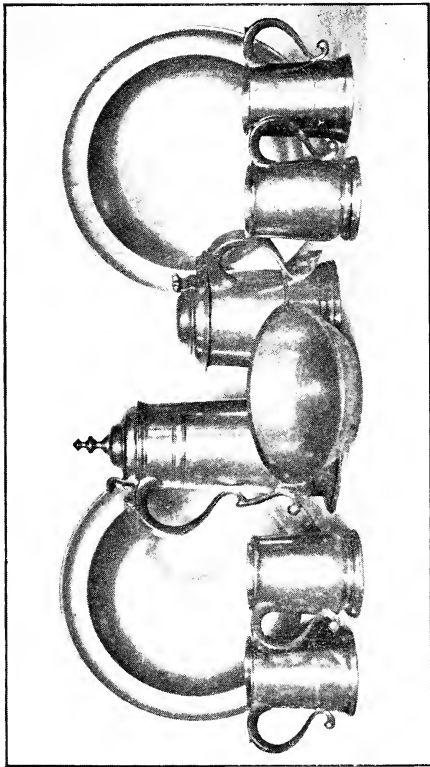


boards and pedals, 40 stops, 2311 pipes, 4 pedal combinations and tracker action. It was placed at the front of the church. It was secured largely through the efforts of E. H. Phelps, the organist, and J. C. Ingersoll, the tenor soloist. It was dedicated by a concert December 5, 1881, given by Dr. J. M. Loretz, an organist of New York City, and George Henschel, baritone soloist.

The third organ (the present one) was rebuilt from the old one in 1914 by the Ernest M. Skinner Co. of Boston, and cost \$12,000. It has 4 keyboards and pedals, detached console, 53 stops, 21 adjustable combinations, and other mechanical accessories. The action is electro-pneumatic. The rich black walnut case is the same which graced the old organ and the best of the pipes were kept. It was dedicated by a concert given by Gaston Dethier of New York City, with Miss Anna M. Wollmann as soprano soloist.

SOME FIRST CHURCH ANTIQUITIES

THE FIRST CHURCH ROOSTER was brought from England over 150 years ago together with two others, one on the Old South Church in Boston and the other on the First Church in Newburyport. Tradition says that he had already glistened on a spire in England and was a gift of a sea captain to the colony. He measures four feet from tail to beak and weighs 49 pounds. A few papers and records are stored with him for safe keeping. Poised on a glass cap, working smoothly over a metal pivot, he always tells the truth concerning the direction of the wind.



THE FIRST COMMUNION SERVICE

The cock used as a weather vane on church buildings is a symbol of vigilance—the bird is the harbinger of the approach of day. In connection with the story of Peter, he may be a sign of the need of repentance.

“How dear to our hearts is the old First Church rooster,
When near or when far he’s presented to view:
For years he has stood there with never a murmur
And never a whisper of tales that he knew:
How much he has seen from the top of the steeple,
So true to his post as the seer of the church:
The bright shining rooster, the patient old rooster,
The dear faithful rooster that ne’er leaves his perch.”

THE FIRST COMMUNION SERVICE was of pewter, and was used from 1742 to 1789 when it was presented to the First Church in Ludlow. It is now in the Historical room in Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow.

THE SECOND COMMUNION SERVICE was of silver; two tankards and two cups were the gift of Josiah Dwight, Esq., two cups were given by Edward Pyncheon, Esq., and four by Hon. John Worthington. The rest of the set was probably purchased by the church, in whose possession it is still retained.

THE THIRD COMMUNION SERVICE (the individual one now in use) was presented by Mrs. Joseph L. Shipley, widow of a beloved deacon of the church, in 1896.

THE COMMUNION TABLE which is of mahogany, was brought from Boston about 1818.

THE "OSGOOD CHAIRS" behind the communion table are thought to have been purchased about 1818.

THE TOWER CLOCK was installed in 1826, by G. H. Holbrook of Medway, Mass. The works still remain in the tower, and the gilded pointers and pendulum adorn the walls of the sexton's room.

THE CHURCH CLOCK hangs on the gallery facing the pulpit and bears the inscription: "A bequest to the First Church by Edward Pynchon, Esq., 1850."

THE CLOCK IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM was given by Dr. David Smith and Eunice Brewer Smith in memory of their son George T. Smith, in 1874.

THE CHURCH BELL was purchased of G. H. Holbrook of Medway, Mass., shortly after 1819.

THE OLD PULPIT BIBLE, now in the possession of the Connecticut Valley Historical Society, was the gift of John Worthington, in 1776.

The beautiful COLLECTION PLATES in use were purchased upwards of thirty years ago by the church at Paine's in Boston, at a cost of \$80 (\$10 each). They took the place of bags on the end of rods.

Of the four PIANOS in the Chapel, the two in the parlors were memorial gifts. One was presented by Mr. and Mrs. James L. Johnson to the kindergarten department in memory of Helen Chamberlin Johnson and Essie May Ewer; the other was the gift of Mrs. M. A. Clyde in memory of her daughter, Carrie Minnie Clyde.

MILESTONES

(*Church and Town History*)

- 1636 Springfield settled.
1637 First Congregational Church organized.
1637 First minister called.
1641 Springfield incorporated as a town.
1645 First meeting house built.
1650 William Pynchon's book burned.
1652 William Pynchon returned to England.
1675 Town burned by the Indians.
1677 Second meetinghouse built.
1679 First schoolhouse built on Ferry Lane (Cypress Street).
1696 West Springfield Church organized (first offshoot of the main church).
1735 Famous Breck controversy.
1752 Third church building completed.
1775 Washington's first visit to Springfield.
1782 First newspaper in Springfield published—*Massachusetts Gazette*.
1783 Stage line established between Hartford and Springfield.
1787 Shays' rebellion.
1805 First bridge built over the Connecticut.
1818 Sunday School organized.
1819 Fourth (present) church building erected.
1819 Court Square opened.
1822 Standing committee instituted.
1824 *Springfield Republican* founded.
1826 Four missionaries ordained in the church.
1841 Peabody Cemetery opened: use of burying ground back of church given up.

- 1848 John Quincy Adams's body lay in state in the church.
1851 Grand concert in the church by Jenny Lind.
1852 Springfield became a city.
1880 Twelfth annual meeting of the Woman's Board of the
A. B. C. F. M. in First Church.
1885 Y. P. S. C. E. organized.
1886 Celebration of 250th anniversary of the settlement of
Springfield.
1887 Meeting of A. B. C. F. M. in First Church.
1898 Thirtieth annual meeting of Woman's Board of the
A. B. C. F. M. in First Church.
1910 Dr. McPherson installed.
1911 Celebration of 275th anniversary of founding of
Springfield.
1913 Forty-fifth annual meeting of the Woman's Board
of the A. B. C. F. M. in First Church.

"Let the children guard what the sires have won."

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