

ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1931

Women's Auxiliary of Episcopal Diocese Marks Fiftieth Birthday



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Picturesque Costumes of Other Days Lend Color to Anniversary: Half-Century Members Honored; Sum Given for Bishop Brent Memorial

By AUGUSTA S. ANDERSON

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Mrs. Leonard M. Gard, in a costume designed after the fashion of 1881, read a report typical of that which might have been presented before the auxiliary of Christ Church in 1881, when that auxiliary gave up its president, Mrs. Isaac F. Quimby, to become the first president of the new diocesan auxiliary. Then she returned to the present, 1931, and gave the auxiliary's greetings to the members of half a century. Mrs. Gard borrowed her costume from Mrs. Eugene Satterlee of Pittsford, lace mitts and hat nearly covered with plumes making the toilet complete.

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"Our Fifty Years" was reviewed historically by Mrs. J. W. Denness Cooper of Geneva.

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No higher call to useful service was given through the entire session than one from Mrs. Edwin Allen Stebbins, who has served the auxiliary as national president, as well as diocesan, and filled various offices. Her emphasis was on the women seeking to better conditions for all fellowmen, as she spoke on "The Challenge of the Future."

"I think we sometimes are so engrossed in our routine of living that we fail to see the tremendous things going on around us," Mrs. Stebbins said.

She referred to national and international situations. She spoke of the men and women who in their struggle for a livelihood in this industrial age of machines have little opportunity to work out their individuality in craftsmanship expressive of themselves. She said that the women should "think first of others, think first of other countries, then of their own; first of other races, then of the white race"; in fact, to be truly Christian they should be unselfish in the real and practical sense of that word.

Mrs. F. Harper Sibbey, chairman of the National Council, presided through the afternoon. At the final counting it was found that 922 women had attended this diocesan gathering. At only 500 the preceding day, the record for the fifty years had already been broken.

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The Democrat and Chronicle Sunday Magazine, December 14, 1941

Three

TENTH BIRTHDAY OF A DIOCESE

By Arch Merrill

TEN YEARS ago tomorrow there was born in the city of Geneva the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Rochester. The setting was historic Trinity Church, the cradle of the faith in this region, where 93 years before, the clergy and laymen of the frontier had assembled to organize the Diocese of Western New York. For in the beginning the cross had followed the sword of conquest and the settler's ax into the new Genesee Country and by 1838 the growth of the church upstate had made necessary the division of a diocese that had embraced all of New York State.

So in 1931, another milestone was to be set along the long pathway of the church in Western New York. After 55 years of agitation and repeated rebuffs at diocesan conventions, the partition of the diocese had been approved by the church's General Convention at Denver.

The Geneva convention was, in the main, a formality, an organization meeting. It had been decided that gentle, silver-haired Bishop David Lincoln Ferris, who had presided over the diocese before its division, would govern the eastern sector, which embraced the counties of Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Wayne, Schuyler, Yates, Steuben and Allegany. Rochester was to be the see city. Likewise it had been agreed that Bishop Cameron J. Davis would head the new western diocese, with Buffalo its center.

Four names were presented to the convention: The Diocese of Rochester, of the Genesee, of Geneva and of the Finger Lakes. The battle soon narrowed down to the first two. In the debate a persuasive and eloquent voice, often heard in the halls of Congress, was raised in behalf of the Diocese of the Genesee. The speaker was former Senator James W. Wadsworth of Geneva, whose family had long been influential in the diocese. Rochester was known to be the choice of Bishop Ferris. And Rochester won—on the third ballot and by the narrowest of margins.

The clerical vote was Rochester 25, Genesee 24. The lay vote was Rochester 20, Genesee 19.

A shift of a few votes and tomorrow would mark the tenth birthday of the Episcopal Diocese of the Genesee, not of Rochester.

The Historical Records Survey at Albany has recently issued "An Inventory of the Archives of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Rochester." It is heavily documented, laden with statistics and at first glance, seems as ponderous and formidable as its title. But back of the prosaic record, between the soberly written lines, there flashes a kaleidoscopic picture of the eventful years.

In the twilight of the 18th Century, after the Revolution and formation of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the new United States, separate from the mother Church of England, hardy missionary priests braved the perils of the wilderness hereabouts.

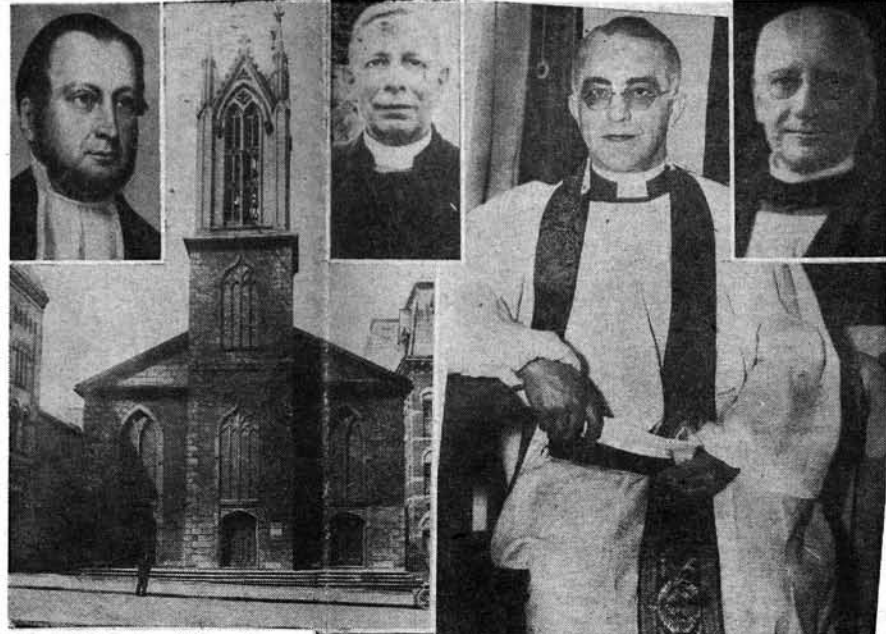
The first recorded Episcopal religious service in the present Diocese of Rochester was, strangely enough, not conducted by a priest, but by a physician. On Aug. 12, 1790, the words of the ancient burial service of the Church of England were intoned by Dr. William Adams, of Geneva, over the remains of Capt. Caleb Walker, a Revolutionary veteran and the first white man to die in the new settlement at Canandaigua. "Gateway to the Great Western Wilderness," no priest was available and it is recorded that Doctor Adams led the procession to the grave. He set a custom that was to last for 90 years for until 1880 it was a tradition in Canandaigua that the attending physician join the officiating clergyman in leading all Episcopal funeral processions.

The practice was discontinued at the earnest behest of the Canandaigua Medical Society.

Oldest organization in the diocese is Zion Church at Avon which began in 1792 although it was not formally incorporated until 1815. The oldest incorporated parish is Trinity at Geneva, which was the cathedral of the diocese during the reign of Bishop DeLancey, 1838-1865. Other pioneer parishes, still extant, are: St. John's, Canandaigua, founded in 1809; St. John's, Catherine, Schuyler County, 1809; St. Luke's, Rochester, 1817; St. Michael's, Genesee, 1819; Zion, Palmyra, 1823.

The Centennial Annals of St. Luke's, Rochester mother church, tell of a 30-mile race of two horseback riders, with a church site as the stakes, on a July day back in 1820.

The founders of Rochesterville and owners of the 100-acre tract, Colonel Rochester, Fitzhugh and Carroll, had offered to convey a lot at 85 South Fitzhugh Street gratis "to the first religious society that should take possession of same and build a church thereon." St. Luke's parish was born in 1817, three months after the village was incorporated with 1,040 inhabitants, but the Episcopalians, of whom Nathaniel Rochester was a leading spirit, had been worshipping in various meeting places. In 1820 they determined to take advantage of the founders' offer of a lot. The Catholics wanted that free



At top left is the Rev. William H. DeLancey, first Episcopal bishop of Western New York; center, the Rt. Rev. Charles Henry Brent, who died in 1929, and top right, the Rt. Rev. David Lincoln Ferris, two of his successors. In his robes is the Rt. Rev. Bartel H. Reinheimer, present bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester. The map shows the diocese. The church is St. Luke's, Rochester's mother church.

site just as earnestly as did their Episcopal neighbors. So, after raising the necessary building funds, they sent a messenger on horseback up the valley to Geneva to obtain the signatures of Fitzhugh and Carroll, both of whom, incidentally, were Catholics. Somehow the Episcopal vestry got wind of this and post haste Henry Rochester, son of the colonel, was dispatched on a fleet horse for Geneva with orders to overtake the Catholic rider.

The history states that the latter stopped in an inn at Avon for refreshments. He did not hear the clatter of hoofbeats on the turnpike as young Rochester dashed on to Geneva to obtain the needed signatures, to which that of his father was added. In the meantime, the men of the parish had taken possession of the lot by digging for a foundation and placing building materials on the spot where old St. Luke's stands today.

The first bishop of Western New York was the Rev. William H. DeLancey who died in 1865 and was succeeded by Bishop Arthur Cleveland Cox. Because of the increasing scope of his duties, Bishop Cox as early as 1875 first recommended the partition of the diocese, although in 1868 a chunk had been taken off the eastern edge to form the diocese of Central New York. As an alternative he desired the appointment of an assistant. He repeated these recommendations at intervals without success until his death, in 1896. With the selection of Bishop William D. Walker as his successor, the movement came to a halt for the new bishop was unalterably opposed to the splitting of the diocese.

Bishop Walker died in 1917. A young New York divine, later to gain wide fame, by name the Rev. William Thomas Manning of New York, declined the Western New York post.

The choice fell upon a churchman of extraordinary attainments, the Rt. Rev. Charles Henry Brent, who had been Bishop of the Philippines and who served during the World War as chaplain-in-chief of the American Expeditionary Forces. Bishop Brent became a world figure through his incessant battle against the drug traffic. He died in 1929 and the Rt. Rev. David Lincoln

Ferris, who had been made his assistant in 1920, succeeded to the throne, making Rochester the see city for the first time. In the meantime, in 1928, another attempt to divide the diocese had been voted down. But in 1929 the plan at last won favor of the diocesan convention and was approved by the General Convention in the fall of 1931.

At his own request, Bishop Ferris took over the new eastern diocese. In 1933 he asked for an assistant and the Rev. Bartel H. Reinheimer, secretary of the field department of the National Council, was chosen. He was consecrated coadjutor bishop in March, 1936. Two years later Bishop Ferris indicated his desire to retire and Bishop Reinheimer became the second bishop of Rochester in colorful ceremonies on May 16, 1938. A vigorous and kindly churchman, he now has jurisdiction over 16,000 Episcopalians in 66 parishes and missions.

At the dawn of the Twentieth Century there were more parishes and fewer communicants. A new order came to America, sounding the knell of the cross-road village and many of its institutions. Consequently, many of the smaller churches were forced to close their doors.

Gone, too, are the DeLancey Divinity School at Geneva and later Buffalo, the Jane Grey School for Girls at Mount Morris and many other church schools. But for 119 years Hobart College has endured on its tree-shaded Geneva campus near the waters of Lake Seneca. Founded in 1822 as the Branch Theological School, it was chartered a college and renamed in honor of Bishop John Henry Hobart, third bishop of New York, in 1851. Hobart is not an Episcopal college in the strict sense of the word. It is open to students of all faiths. But it has close Episcopal connections, many of its presidents have been clergymen of that faith and many of its graduates have become priests of the church. Its companion school, William Smith College for women, on its hilltop north of Hobart campus, was established in 1906 through a gift of William Smith of Geneva.

The diocese includes two summer

colony chapels, at Conesus Lake and at Nine Mile Point on Ontario, two Negro missions, college chapels at Hobart and Alfred, besides a Girls' Friendly Society Holiday House at Conesus and several institutions for the aged.

High above Keuka Lake on Bluff Point, overlooking the pleasant vineyard country is an exquisite marble chapel that has become a shrine for the Finger Lakes region. Known as the Little Chapel on the Mount or the Charles William Garrett Memorial Chapel, it was erected in 1931 and deeded to the diocese by Paul Garrett, head of a famous wine company, and his wife, as a memorial to their three sons who lie buried in its crypt.

Many notable names of clergy and laity have been inscribed on the records of the diocese. The parish of Watkins Glen boasts of producing three bishops: Cameron Mann of South Florida, Alexander Mann of Pittsburgh and Cameron J. Davis of Buffalo.

In 1907 the eyes of the nation turned to Batavia where after a sensational ecclesiastical trial, the Rev. Dr. Algeron S. Crapsey of St. Andrew's, Rochester, was deposed from the ministry for "preaching doctrines contrary to the teachings of the Episcopal Church." Later Doctor Crapsey dubbed himself "The Last of the Heretics," wrote a famous book of that name, lectured in many cities and became celebrated as an outstanding liberal of his day.

Among the lay members have been some of the most influential citizens of the Genesee Country. Always Episcopalians have been the men of substance, the bankers, jurists and other "big men" of their communities. To name a few in this diocese there have been:

Colonel Rochester, founder of this city, for years a senior warden of St. Luke's; the Wadsworths of Genesee, the Churches of Angelica and other grandees of the Valley; Alanson B. Houghton of Corning, former ambassador to Germany and Great Britain; Hiram Sibley and his son, Harper; Selden S. Partridge of Phelps, the "Country Lawyer" of his son Bellamy's best seller; Justice S. Nelson Sawyer of Palmyra; Judge Selden S. Brown of Scottsville, long chancellor of the old diocese; Nathaniel Foote of Rochester; Pliny T. Sexton, state regent of Newark; John M. Prophet, canon of Mount Morris; George B. Hollister, president of Corning Glass Works; Rufus A. Sibley, Alfred Ely and such present-day Rochester leaders as Daniel M. Beach, Edward G. Miner and Eugene C. Denton, chancellor of the Diocese of Rochester since its inception.

It's Only a Decade Since the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Rochester Came into Being in Geneva, but Its Real Beginnings Date Way Back to Late in the 18th Century

St. Luke's: Mother Church of City's Episcopaldom

129-Year-Old Parish Rich In History

By ARCH MERRILL

It was a February day in the grim year of 1942. A bitter wind knifed through the snowy streets. It cut into the bones of the shabby, gray-haired woman with the bundles in her arms. Bitter winds were blowing across all the world. Sombre, mocking headlines haunted the corner newsstands. Singapore had fallen. Corregidor was doomed. Hitler's legions dominated a continent. On all the war fronts the forces of darkness were on the march.

The woman with the bundles thought of her two boys, one on a warship, somewhere out on an Atlantic where the wolf packs lurked; the other on a transport bound for a Pacific, overrun by savage little Yellow men.

Fear and worry clutched at her heart.

A sign on a door across from the gray stone pile of Rochester's City Hall caught her eye. It read: "CHURCH OPEN. COME IN AND SAY A PRAYER FOR THOSE IN THE WAR."

It was not a church of her faith. It was far from her home neighborhood. But she went in, knelt and raised hands roughened by years of toil.

As she prayed, alone in the silent church, where the altar light before the tall pulpit glowed brightly like a beacon in the night, the sorrow and the cruelty of the world outside seemed to fade away. It was the House of the Prince of Peace.

She could not know, that humble, unlettered woman, of the generations who in other troubled times had sought solace in that same old church. Yet somehow every graceful pillar and arch, every sturdy stone and hand hewn timber spoke to her of the courage and the faith of the men who had put them there—while they were building a city.

Quickly the woman arose, gathered up her parcels and faced the wintry blasts again. Her troubled spirit had found peace under the spell of old St. Luke's.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church in South Fitzhugh Street was built in 1824. It is the oldest ecclesiastical structure in Rochester and probably the oldest non-private building. The parish itself goes back 129 years, to 1817 when Rochester was a mere backwoods settlement. Only the First Presbyterian society is older—by two years.

St. Luke's is the mother church of Rochester Episcopaldom. Only four parishes in the diocese antedate it.

History and tradition cling like ivy to the stones of the stately Gothic edifice with the chocolate colored wooden tower that with simple dignity rears the Cross on a changing city skyline, oblivious to the downtown rush and clamor.

Stirring pictures flash across the screen of St. Luke's history—a huddle of settlers around a table in a little schoolhouse; two horsemen flying down a country road in a race for signatures to a vital document; white crested, dignified Colonel Rochester, first senior warden, leading his numerous family into his pew; the roll of drums, the flutter of flags, the men marching away, and the women staying at home, sewing—and praying—through five wars; ceremonials, the rich ritual of an ancient creed, the bishops in their robes; Ruffled Shirt gentry climbing into their carriages; picnics at the old Sea Breeze grove; the old order changed but ever the light shines on the altar and ever the church door is open that the humblest may enter and pray.

The real beginning of St. Luke's was March 13, 1817, when the Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk, rector of St. John's at Canandaigua and "missionary priest in parts adjacent," who later became Bishop of



"Horsemen flying down a country road in a race for signatures"

Pennsylvania, came riding up the forest road to the village of mud and stumps and only 880 souls by the Falls of the Genesee. That day he held the first public service of the Episcopal Church in the newly incorporated village of Rochester. That day 28 men signed a "Declaration of Attachment to the Protestant Episcopal Church."

Those settlers, most of them from New England, thus took the first step toward establishing in the young village the faith in which they had been reared in older communities.

The parish was formally organized July 14, 1817, when 20 persons met in a schoolhouse on the east side of the river in what was then Brighton township and incorporated the society under the name, "St. Luke's, Genesee Falls, N. Y."

Now after 129 years that still is the official name of the parish.

Nathaniel Rochester, who in middle life had ventured into the frontier and who, with two other men of Maryland, had founded a mill town by the Falls of the Genesee, was chosen as the first senior warden. He had not yet moved his family to Rochester and was still a resident of Bloomfield.

Today the sixth generation of his line are among the communicants of St. Luke's.

In 1820 it was decided that the growing parish should have its own house of worship and a permanent rector. The proprietors of the 100-acre tract on which the village was built, Rochester, Charles Carroll and William Fitzhugh, had agreed to convey a lot on Fitzhugh Street to the first religious society that should take possession of same and build a church thereon.

Rochester and Fitzhugh were Episcopalian; Carroll was a Catholic. The vestry voted on July 20, 1820, to avail itself of the offer. They had competition. The Catholics, a small but growing and determined group in the community, also sought the lot and sent a messenger on horseback to the estates of Carroll and Fitzhugh near Genesee to obtain their signatures to a deed of gift.

The Episcopalians got wind of the move and the vestry hastily despatched Henry Rochester, the colonel's 14-year-old son, to the Genesee Valley on a fleet horse to persuade the Catholic rider.

The latter conveniently tarried in an Avon Inn, so the story goes, and did not hear the flying hoofbeats as young Rochester dashed by. The colonel's son obtained the necessary signatures and on his return to Rochester, it was no difficult task to get the third proprietor, the senior warden of St. Luke's, to sign the deed. The vestry in the meantime had clinched possession by digging a foundation and drawing materials on the site.

Thus it came about that it is St. Luke's Church and not, perhaps St. Patrick's, that is in Fitzhugh Street today.

A WOODEN building 38 by 46 feet with a 40-pew capacity, was built at a cost of \$1,260. An additional \$200 went for a bell tower.

Funds were raised by popular subscription. Attached to the gifts was a "string" of Yankee texture which provided that: "Said church wardens and vestrymen and their successors in office shall after the completion of the church sell or dispose of the pews or slips therein and out of the funds arising therefrom, shall refund to the subscribers WITH INTEREST the several sums subscribed and paid."

Most of the donations were in goods or services, such as lumber, tailoring, blacksmithing, joiner work, shelf goods, books and sta-

tionery, flour, team work, tinware and cabinet furniture. They ranged from a few \$1 gifts in cash to Colonel Rochester's \$200 in lumber.

The first service in the frame church was held on Christmas Day of 1820 and the first rector was the Rev. Francis H. Cumling. In 126 years St. Luke's has had but 10 rectors.

IN 1823, when that maker of cities, the Erie Canal, was in partial operation and Rochester was fast becoming the boom town of the nation, plans were drawn for a new edifice, a stone church, 53 by 73 feet, with a tower, to cost \$9,000. The eventual cost was over \$10,000. The old frame church was moved to the rear of the lot and used for a Sunday School until 1832 when it was sold, moved to Buffalo (West Main) Street and eventually demolished in 1875.

In its last year on the old site it housed the first free school in Rochester's history, established by St. Luke's for "children under 15 years of age, unable to pay tuition."

The stone Gothic church that arose in 1824, is the same one that still stands opposite the City Hall. The stone was hewn in Auburn and drawn here by ox teams. The timbers were cut from nearby forests. In 1836 the church was extended to the rear. In 1860 the present wood tower, a duplicate of the first one with the same graceful pinnacles, was erected. A parish house was built in recent years. Otherwise the church has been little altered through the years and the basic design never abandoned.

In 1824, the First Presbyterians built a fine church, their second, directly across the street. This proximity combined with conflicting dogmas to create a spirited rivalry between the two churches in the early days. A brass plate in the front wall of St. Luke's served to orient the old sundial in the open square between the Presbyterian Church and the old Court-house.

St. Luke's mothered three other Episcopal parishes: St. Paul's, which in 1830 built a Gothic stone church on the present site of the Strand Theater on the street that ever afterward was known as St. Paul; Trinity in 1836 and Christ Church in 1855. In addition, St. Luke's was instrumental in founding many missions, church homes and other diocesan projects.

In the late 1820s the first organ in Rochester's history was installed in the gallery supported by the cluster columns.

Early leaders of the parish included some of the men foremost in founding and developing this city, among them, Jonathan Child, the first mayor of Rochester, who resigned his office rather than sign liquor licenses; Samuel J. Andrews and Enos Stone, whose names two familiar downtown streets bear today; Chancellor Frederick Whittlesey, Elisha Johnson, builder of dams and raceways, engineer and promoter extraordinary; Mortimer F. Reynolds, Hamlet Scrantom, Gilman H. Perkins, not to mention six generations of the Rochester family.

ST. LUKE'S saw Rochester grow.

Hastily at first, steadily in the later years; saw it change from the Flour City to the Flower City; saw new churches spring up in all corners of the city. But it stayed serenely in the same old location although there was a move in 1905 to sell the property and take over Plymouth Church, now the mother church of the Spiritualists.

The centennial of the parish was observed in 1917 with elaborate pageantry as was the centennial of the edifice in 1924 which coincided with a successful campaign for funds to renovate the old building. Yet the design was not substantially altered.

A visit to St. Luke's is a journey into the long ago.

There are no memorial windows. The hand-made stained glass windows that were placed there more than a century ago are too rare and too beautiful to be replaced.

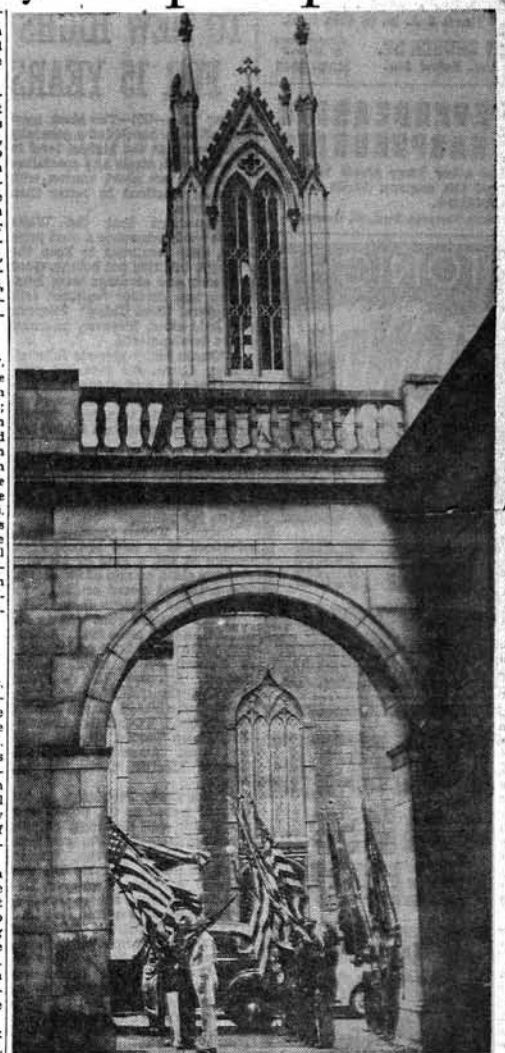
On the wall near the entrance is a tablet erected by John H. Rochester and other of the family in 1881 to the memory of Nathaniel Rochester, "after whom the city is named, one of the founders of the parish and its first senior warden."

A tablet and memorial stone in an interior wall is a bond with the old Rochester across the sea. It was dedicated by the late Bishop Charles H. Brent in 1927 following a visit that prelate made to the see city of Rochester, England. Sent here by the Very Rev. John Storrs, dean of Rochester Cathedral in the mother country, the tablet bears this inscription:

"This stone, bearing the mark of Ernest, bishop of Rochester, 1115-1124, builder and restorer, was presented to St. Luke's, Rochester, N. Y., by the dean and chapter of the Cathedral Church of Christ and The Blessed Virgin as a link binding the old and the new."

With the rector, the Rev. Frederick M. Winnie, and Oscar K. Rehban, as guides bearing flashlights, I made a tour of the bell tower and the loft. There a maze of great beams and smaller timbers, fastened by wooden pegs, support not only the roof above but also hold up the 12 pillars, arches and gallery that make the interior of the church below so distinctive.

Most of the timbers the pioneers



The church, the city and the military were symbolized in this 1940 Memorial Day view through City Hall arch as the parade passed St. Luke's Church in South Fitzhugh Street.

set there so long ago are still staunch. A few are beginning to show signs of strain and have been reinforced by metal braces.

Infinite pains and skill went into the building of this stately 122-year old church, particularly in the exquisite carving of the unique wooden "double decker" pulpit, fashioned by a local artisan in 1836, and the grace and strength of the pillars and the oaken railings.

Old St. Luke's is a monument to the good taste and the craftsmanship of its builders.

This historic church, in the center of Rochester, is truly a landmark of landmarks, a link binding the old and the new.

The poet Shelley had no particular church in mind when he penned this line which applies so aptly to old St. Luke's:

"The Cross leads the generations on."

Observe 125th Anniversary of St. Luke's



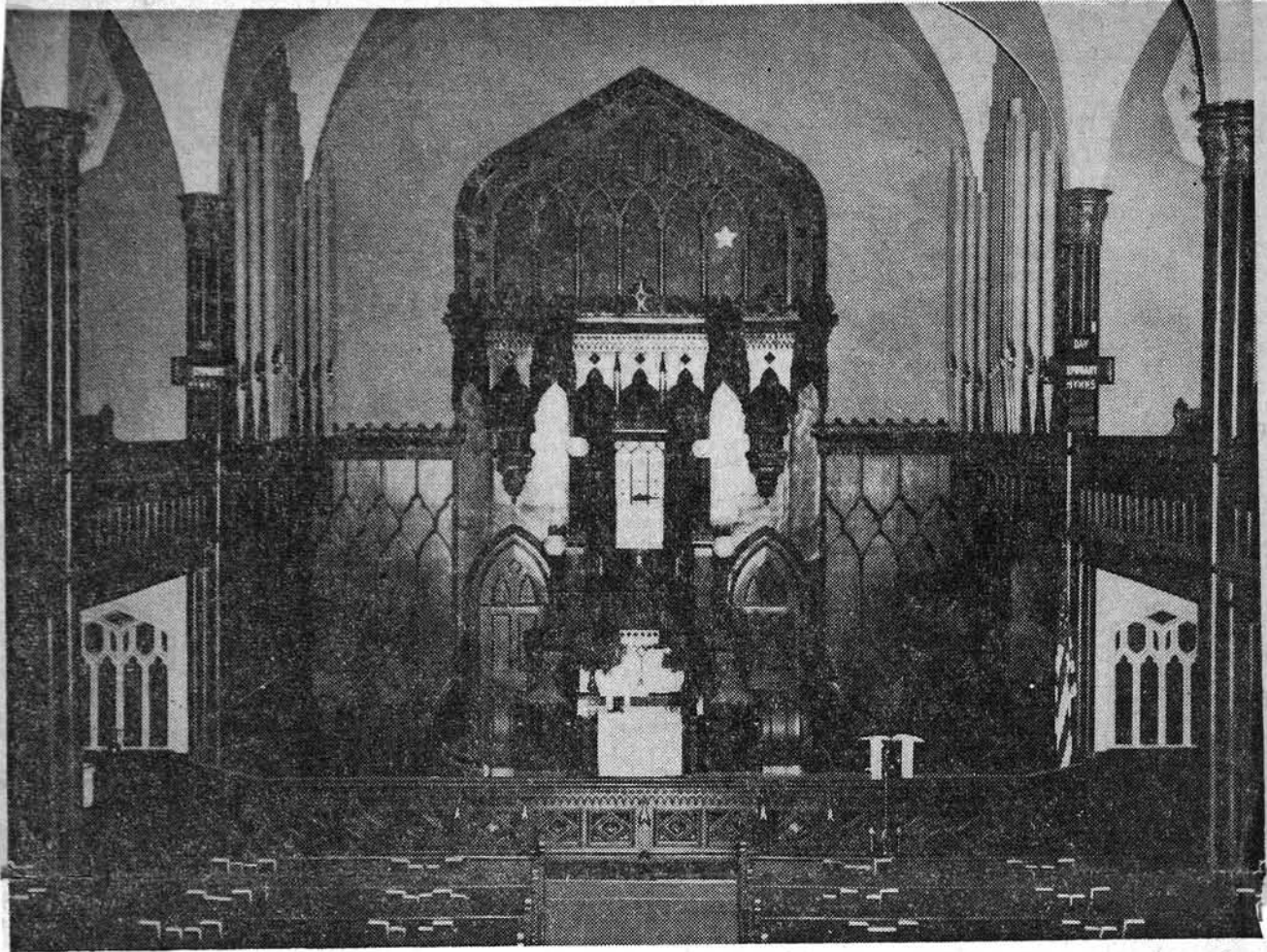
Taking part in last night's observance of the 125th anniversary of St. Luke's Episcopal Church building were (from left) Bishop Bartel H. Reinheimer, John Baker, key Bishop's Man of St. Luke's; Rochester Rogers, junior warden of the

church vestry and descendant of Nathaniel Rochester, first senior vestryman of the church, and the Rev. Frederick Winnie, rector of St. Luke's. Rogers received a Bishop's Men key as part of the observance.

UNION FEB 5 1949

Rochester's Churches—5

D. & C. FEB 5 1950

**St. Luke's Episcopal**

Said to be the oldest public building in Rochester is the present edifice of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, at 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

Its cornerstone was laid May 11, 1824, and it was first opened to public service Sept. 4, 1825.

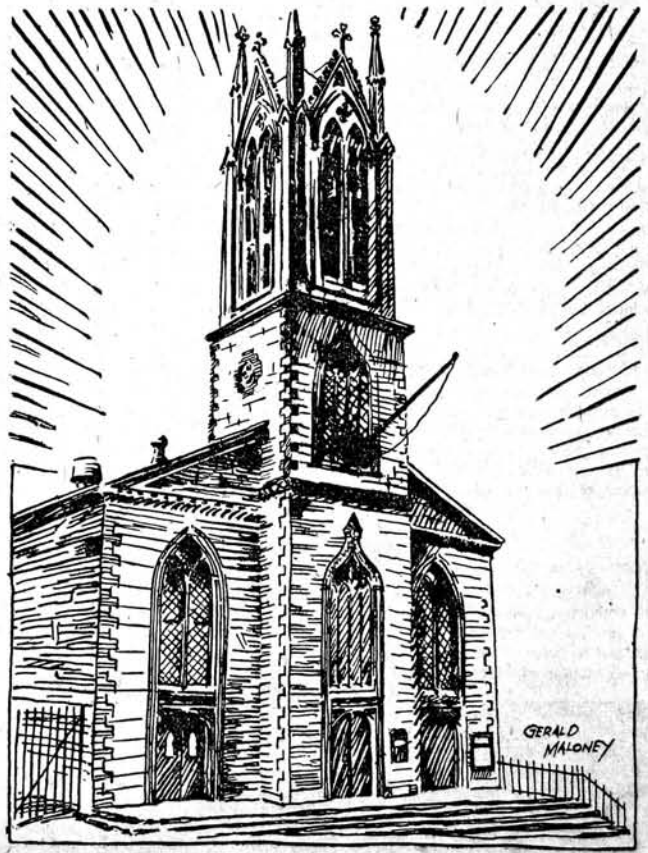
Seven years earlier, July 14, 1817, a group of 20 worshippers adopted the corporate name Episcopal at a meeting held in a small schoolhouse on the east side of the river. They elected Col. Nathaniel Rochester, founder of the city, as senior warden of the new church.

In 1820 they built a wooden structure, at a cost of \$1,260, on the S. Fitzhugh St. site. The original name of this church was "St. Luke's Church, Genesee Falls." Parishioners not only contributed their money but also lumber, furniture, tinware and shingles. The first church contained 40 pews.

An increase in the size of the congregation forced the construction of the present church. Dimensions of this building are 53x73 feet, with a center tower which rises to a height of 90 feet. The material which makes up the two corners of the tower and the corners of the body of the church is described as "red freestone." Gray stone brought to the city from Auburn forms the rest of the front. The architecture is Gothic.

The final cost of the church was \$10,400. The present pulpit was built in 1836. In 1925, the building was remodeled and a parish house put up in the rear of the church. The church will hold 800 persons.

The Rev. Frederick M. Winnie, rector of the church, is the 10th in the church's history. He has been at St. Luke's 19 years. He came to Rochester to be ordained after graduating from theological seminary.





LO! THE TOMB IS EMPTY—Shown rehearsing an Easter pageant, "The Way of Light," under the watchful eyes of their rector, the Rev. Frederick M. Winnie, are these members of St. Luke's Episcopal Church School. Left to right, they are: Ruth Ihrig, portraying Mary Magdalene; Joan Cooper,

as the other Mary; Judith Smith, as the Angel; and John H. Baker, as Peter. Written and directed by Jane Stebbins, the play will be presented tomorrow at 7:30 p. m. (The "SPQR" represents the seal of the Roman soldiery on guard at Jesus' tomb.) People of all denominations are invited.

Steeped in History

TIMES UNION MAR 24 1951

Easter Pageants at St. Luke's Episcopal Traditional As Its 127-Year-Old Sanctuary

By DON YERGER
Times-Union Church Editor

Easter pageants at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Fitzhugh and Broad sts., are almost as traditional as its edifice which dates back to 1824.

Tomorrow at 7:30 p. m. in the Sanctuary, children and young adults of the Church School will present a pageant, "The Way of Light," written and directed by Jane Stebbins, parish member and teacher of a boys' Sunday School class.

For years past, St. Luke's has been noted for the splendor of its Easter and Christmas pageants, and tomorrow night will be no exception when the church will be packed to the doors by members and guests from all parts of the city.

The Church School choir of 20 girls will aid the cast with a musical program.

There'll be no shortage of costumes as St. Luke's has amassed a tremendous wardrobe through the years. Amateur photographers will be there, too, so as to permanently

record the event on colored slides for future showings.

Agnes M. Hamilton, director of religious education and parish visitor, has quite a collection of slides taken of pageants, picnics, and church activities of other years.

The pictures, snapped by various members of the church, are shown periodically to young people's groups, and by PTA organizations. The slides serve as an historical record of church events.

• • •
ADDITION TO festivities tomorrow night will be the annual display of a gigantic "golden cross," which will contain over 200 mile boxes filled with contributions by boys and girls enrolled in Church School classes. The Cross will be lighted and draped with Spring flowers.

The money will be used to support U. S. and foreign mission work of the Episcopal Church. Last Easter the children contributed \$390.23. Nationally, through such mile boxes,

the Episcopal Church raised over a million dollars for missions in a three-year period.

Church School children will be provided soon with "new curriculum" material being furnished by the Department of Christian Education of the Episcopalian National Council, of which the Rev. Dr. John Heuss is director, Miss Hamilton said.

St. Luke's Church School has 166 active boys and girls and a staff of 31. With its membership scattered all over the city, the children represent 37 different public schools. Young people have organized two social, recreational and worship groups. One, called Younger Churchmen, is for high school age students. It has a membership of 20 and meets every other Sunday. The other, called the Downtowners, for those 18 to 35 years of age, has a membership of 50 and meets once a month.

• • •
ST. LUKE'S operates as a typical parish church and also caters to the downtown community, the Rev. Fred-

erick M. Winnie, rector, said.

The church has a communicant listed strength of 710, the Rev. Mr. Winnie reported. Major emphasis is on parochial work such as ministering to families.

"We have more young people and younger parents in attendance at services than at any time during my pastorate," he said. (The Rev. Mr. Winnie has been rector since 1933. He served as assistant rector from 1930 to 1933.)

"St. Luke's has maintained itself admirably through the loyalty of its families and today is entrenched strongly in the heart of downtown Rochester, despite the population trend toward the suburbs."

The Rev. Mr. Winnie pointed out that an average of 350 persons attend Sunday services. Often, there are many transients from downtown hotels at the rites, he said.

Active in community affairs, St. Luke's for several years has been the downtown site for noonday Lenten services sponsored by the Rochester Episcopal Diocese.

Its Women's Auxiliary, a missionary group, meets each Tuesday during the day at the parish house for an educational program. Members also do sewing work for missions and hospitals.

• • •
FAMILIARLY KNOWN as Rochester's oldest standing public edifice, St. Luke's is steeped in tradition.

On July 14, 1817, a little band of God-fearing men and women met in a log school house on the banks of the Genesee to form Rochester's first Episcopal church.

The 20 people present elected a vestry. Col. Nathaniel Rochester was named senior warden, with Samuel J. Andrews junior warden. The corporate name of the new church was "St. Luke's—Genesee Falls," the title it still bears today.

For three years the group continued to meet in the school house until parishioners purchased the present site and erected a wooden structure with 40 pews at a cost of \$1,260 and much of their own time and labor.

Four years later, 1824, the present church was built at a cost of \$10,400. In 1925 it was remodelled and a parish house was built at a total cost of \$100,000. Again in 1946, St. Luke's raised \$22,950 for repairs to the aged structure.

RVF
History, Church
No. 184
R.F. Nov. 5, 1922
St. Luke's

Rochester in Pictures



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OLDEST of the churches of Rochester is St. Luke's Episcopal Church in South Fitzhugh Street, of which the Rev. Dr. Samuel Tyler is rector. The church came into existence as a result of a meeting which twenty men held in a school house in the Town of Brighton July 14, 1817.

At that time "St. Luke's Church of Genesee Falls" was organized. In 1820, a small wooden church was built from subscriptions totaling \$1,270, of which \$238 was in cash and the rest in goods, labor and lumber. "N.

Rochester," founder of the city, gave \$200 in lumber.

The little church was occupied for the first time on Christmas Day, 1820, and was consecrated by Bishop Hobart in 1821. The church grew so rapidly that the little church was moved to the rear of the lot in 1823 and the erection of the present building begun. It was opened for worship September 4, 1825, and consecrated September 30, 1826.

The exterior of the church has been little changed in appearance during the more than a hundred years that it has stood.

Religion

D.&C DEC 19 1966

St. Luke's Reopens Restored Sanctuary

By MARY MCKEE
Democrat and Chronicle
Religion Editor

The scene at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.,

this past weekend was more than 100 years old.

Only modern garb and elements of liturgical reform reminded worshipers of the year 1966.

Rochester's oldest standing public building was reopened Saturday after being closed for many months for extensive redecoration in preparation for the congregation's sesquicentennial observance next year. Through careful planning and research the narthex and sanctuary have been restored to the original design of the Gothic edifice erected in 1824.

Joint Worship Services

During the summer services were held in the parish hall, and for nearly three months the congregation has held joint worship at its "parent church," First Presbyterian, 101 Plymouth Ave. S.

Using Presbyterian liturgy, the services were led alternately by Rev. Frederick Winnie, D. D., rector of St. Luke's, and Rev. George Hall, a Methodist faculty member of Colgate Rochester Divinity School. (The pulpit of First Presbyterian Church has been vacant since the resignation last spring of Rev. Fred Luchs, D.D.)

Founders of St. Luke's in 1817 were members of the two-year-old Presbyterian congregation, first religious society organized in what was then known as

NEW LOOK FOR ST. LUKE'S — Open Communion rail, lightened walls and a free-standing altar are among the

changes in St. Luke's Episcopal Church, reopened over the weekend after closing for months for redecoration.

Rochesterville, who wished to hold Episcopal services. Instead of causing an unhappy split within the congregation, the Presbyterian brethren wished them well. It proved to be the first act of nearly 150 years of friendship.

Instrumental in the restoration was the accidental dis-

covery of a century-old photograph as files were being cleaned out for the coming celebration. Inscribed with the words, "St. Luke's Church, Rochester, draped after the assassination of President Lincoln April 14, 1865," the picture shows a narthex with a light interior, fresco work on the east

wall and a sanctuary without choir stalls or an organ.

The last major renovation of St. Luke's was in 1924. At that time the organ and the choir were moved from the rear balcony and crowded into the small sanctuary. The wall behind the "double-decker" pulpit was lined with dark paneling

and the pillars painted dark brown.

Worshipers at the first service Saturday, the ordination of the assistant minister, Rev. H. Bruce Lederhouse, to the Episcopal priesthood, or the services yesterday viewed the restoration carried out under the

Please turn page



Rev. H. Bruce Lederhouse
Communion with old silver

St. Luke's Reopens Restored Sanctuary

From Page 1B

D. & C. DEC 19 1966

direction of Harley McKee of Syracuse University.

Among the changes: marbleized pillars with tops crested in gold, duplication of the original fresco work on the east wall, lightening of all walls and ceiling, removal of the dark paneling from the sanctuary, return of the choir and organ to the rear balcony where a new organ screen has been installed, redesigning of the chancel rail with the addition of center gates for processional purposes, gold-leaf gilding of arches and moldings to give character to ceilings, installation of a widened free-standing altar to permit Communion celebration with the priest facing the congregation, filled in the window of the Tudor arch above the altar with the stone of the sanctuary wall, reglazed the wood of the canopy and balconies and the addition of a gold cross above the pulpit.

Cost of the redecoration or the financial sources which made it possible were not made known. David Babcock was general chairman of the building program.

General contractor was John Pike. August Vetrano was the

artist responsible for the stonework, gilding and marbleizing the columns. Plaster work was done by James Byrnes, and the architect was Robert Bridges.

Rt. Rev. George W. Barrett, D.D., bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, co-celebrated the Communion with The Rev. Mr. Lederhouse at his ordination. For the occasion they used the hand-wrought tankard, patens and chalices made for the parish by a New York artisan, Marquand, in 1827, and a ciborium given to the church by First Presbyterian on St. Luke's 100th anniversary.

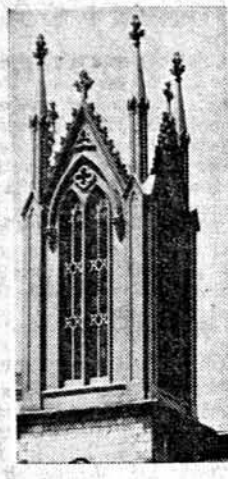
Dr. Winnie chose the dedication litany yesterday from a Church of England text, "The Grey Book." Its words asked that within the church the tempted may find help; the sorrowful, comfort; the weary, rest; the aged, peace, and the young, inspiration.

In future weeks the rector said he will speak of how the changes of building reflect the "liturgical movement sweeping across Christendom."

During the anniversary year the "mother parish" of four Episcopal churches will be the scene of evensongs, civic receptions and a historical exhibit.



Antiques



Two silver plates are among the gifts given to St. Luke's Episcopal Church (left) for use at social events. They were made in the late 1700s during the reign of Louis XVI of France. One plate (left) shows his portrait and the other a likeness of Marie Antoinette.

Silver Plates *Drop* Gift to Church

By JOAN LYNN SCHILD

Two silver plates, made during the reign of Louis XVI in France, have been presented to St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

In the center of each of the pierced plates, which measure ten inches in diameter, are two portraits, one of Louis XVI and the other of Marie Antoinette. Around the edge of each, garlands tied with bow-knots are looped up to form medallions, enclosing the bust

of four unidentified gentlemen who are presumably members of the court of Louis XVI.

Included in the gift is a three-piece tea set in the Georgian style, a Victorian plated tea urn, a pierced oval basket.

All are the gift of a life-long member of the congregation, who prefers to remain anonymous. She was disturbed by the necessity of borrowing silver for the many social occasions, she said, and wanted to do something about it. The silver came to her from relatives, many of who were the original members of the congregation and would be happy to have it used by St. Luke's.

• • •
NOW the oldest public building in the city, St. Luke's is celebrating its sesqui-centennial by restoring the building to the way it looked in 1865.

It was organized in 1817, with Col. Nathaniel Rochester as one of its wardens. After several years of worshipping in a schoolhouse, a wooden building was erected in 1820. This frame building was removed to the rear of the lot in 1823 and a stone church was built in the Gothic style.

An old photograph was discovered at Eastman House of Photography in 1966 which showed the chancel as it looked in 1865 draped in black at the time of the assassination of President Lincoln.

It is the earliest picture extant of the interior and with old records formed the basis of the restoration. The columns are marbled with gilded capitals and the chancel adorned with plastic Gothic details and painted to resemble stone.

D.&C. OCT 23 1967

150th Year For St. Luke's

St. Luke's Episcopal Church's congregation, worshipping in Rochester's oldest public building, marked its sesquicentennial yesterday with quiet prayer, joyous music and the spoken word.

St. Luke's, 17 Fitzhugh St. S., built in 1824-25 at a cost of \$10,400, was founded by 28 pioneers in March 1817.

The anniversary evensong yesterday was the climax of months of observances and restoration of the church's interior.

Principal speaker at the service was Rt. Rev. Lauriston L. Scaife, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York, parent body of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester. Noting that St. Luke's has been the

"custodian of precious memories and historic associations," he spoke of the reason for the continued existence of the church, citing fellowship, faith and worship.

Rt. Rev. George W. Barrett, D.D., bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, reminded the parish its role is to minister to the secular city without becoming "entirely secular."

Among the festive songs performed yesterday was Vaughn Williams' "The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune," composed for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in Westminster Abbey in 1953.

Members of the parish had an anniversary dinner and historical drama Friday night at the Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word.

LANDMARKS

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Throughout 1987 the Times-Union will profile various area landmarks to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Landmark Society of Western New York. The society has provided a picture and a brief comment on each structure's history and architecture.

The oldest community building still standing in Rochester, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., was built in 1824 and still serves a congregation scattered throughout the city and its suburbs. The parish was formed in 1817, and the first church, a frame building, was erected in 1820 on a lot set aside for a church by Col. Nathaniel Rochester, who was also one of the parish's first wardens.

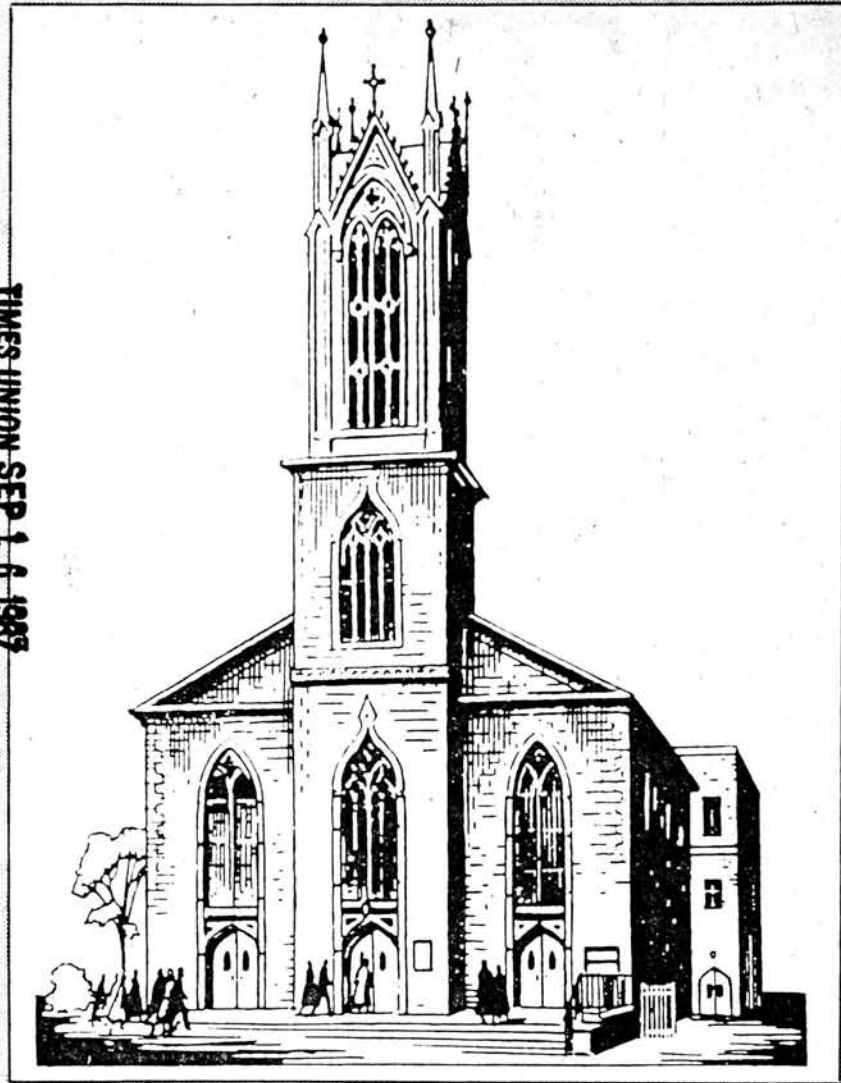
In 1824, the building was moved to the rear of the lot, and construction began on the stone edifice designed by Josiah Brady, an accomplished New York architect. The building cost over \$10,000, a considerable sum then, and boasted the first organ and first church bell in town. First services were held in September 1825, the same year the Erie Canal, which ran alongside the church, was completed.

The first Sunday school occupied the original wooden church in the rear. Two new Sunday school buildings followed in 1832 and 1865. In 1925, the present Parish House was constructed under the leadership of the Rev. Samuel Tyler. Today, in addition to the church offices, Tyler House is home to several active social agencies.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is an unusually early example of the 19th century Gothic Revival style. Although its rectangular plan, pedimented gable front and slightly projecting tower conform to the then popular New England meetinghouse style, its pointed windows, pinnacles and many interior details are of Gothic origin. The present wooden tower, which replaced a simpler early tower in 1856, exhibits elegant, high Gothic fillgree, pointed gables, and delicate finials.

The church is constructed of

TIMES-UNION SEP 16 1987



Drawing courtesy of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

roughly dressed gray limestone from Auburn, with red Medina sandstone quoins, window and door trim, and watertable. The marble-like interior walls and columns are actually painted to simulate pink marble and blue-veined marble respectively.

The interior is dominated by the sanctuary, starting with the elaborate tracery plaster work above the cross, and followed by the decorative, carved wooden canopy, rear panel and tiered pulpit, reading desk and altar, all in the Gothic style. The altar rail forms a rectangular enclosure in front of the chancel. The sanctuary furnishings were all installed between 1836 and 1844. The ceiling features intersecting vaults with carved ribs. The side aisles and galleries are divided from the nave by clustered columns made of cast iron and painted.

In 1966, the interior was re-

stored to its present beauty based on an old photograph showing the chancel as it looked in 1865 during memorial observances of the assassination of President Lincoln.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is in the City Hall Historic District.



A copy of the above sketch, suitable for framing, can be obtained by sending \$1, to cover postage and handling, to the Landmark Society, 130 Spring St., Rochester, N.Y. 14608.