

CHAPTER XVIII

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

On July 25, 1865 the Congregational Church was founded in Presque Isle. Present for that meeting were Rev. E. G. Carpenter, pastor of the church in Houlton and agent in Aroostook County for the Maine Missionary Society and the Rev. A. C. Adams, pastor of the Lewiston Falls (Auburn) Church, who acted for the Congregational organization of the State. The only members at that time were these: C. F. A. Johnson, Sarah C. Johnson, George Curtis, Jr., E. E. Parkhurst, Eliza Curtis; Mr. Curtis was elected clerk and treasurer, while the deacons were C. F. A. Johnson and Mr. Curtis.

The following is taken from the Loyal Sunrise dated July 26, 1865:

The Congregationalist Meeting House recently finished in this village was dedicated last Sabbath in the forenoon. A very large congregation, completely filling the house to its utmost capacity, including extra seats in the aisles, was present. We noticed persons from Lyndon, Maysville, Mapleton, Fort Fairfield, Mars Hill, Houlton and Linneus. The platform was occupied by the Rev. Messrs. Carpenter of Houlton, Adams of Auburn, Copeland of Nobleboro, Purington and Pitcher of Maysville, and Trewin of Fort Fairfield. The exercises which were very interesting were as follows:

Invocation by Rev. Mr. Trewin  
Anthem by choir  
Reading of the Scriptures by Rev. Mr. Carpenter  
Hymn read by Rev. Mr. Adams  
Sermon by Rev. Mr. Adams  
Address to the people by Rev. Mr. Carpenter  
Voluntary by the choir  
Benediction by Rev. Mr. Copeland

The text of the Sermon was Isa. 2:23. "And it shall come to pass in the last day the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountain, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it."

"And many people shall go and say come ye, and let us go unto the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, and he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

The speaker said this is prophetic of the increase and spread of true religion. It was written more than 2600 years ago, at a time when the true worship of God was confined to a territory scarcely larger than the State of Maine. But the prophet was the good time coming, when the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in top of the mountains, when the religion of the Bible shall be spread over all the earth...

Mr. Carpenter made an address to the congregation, in which he alluded to the difficulties and obstacles which have been overcome in building the house. It was commenced five years ago, has been very much more expensive, has cost more than was at first contemplated, but by the liberality of many at home and abroad, and the blessing of God the house is completed, and all bills are settled, or the means provided for paying them except about \$236, which on appeal made to the congregation by Mr. Carpenter was provided for with the exception of about \$45.

Mr. Carpenter made honorable mention of Hon. Sumner Whitney who gave the site for the house, and R. S. Locke, Esq., a former resident of this village, who gave \$500 in lumber and materials for the building. About \$1600 has been contributed by citizens of this town, and the balance from persons abroad. Among those who reside elsewhere and liberally contributed are Wheelright & Clark of Bangor, \$250; Dea. J. S. Johnson, Bangor, \$75; E. D. Jewett, St. John, \$50; Dea. J. Washburn, Worcester, Mass., \$200; R. P. Buck Esq., N. Y., \$100; Hon. H. Boody, N. Y. (pledged) \$100; Capt. Geo. F. Patten, Bath, \$75; Major Harwood, Bath, \$50; Wm. Chase, Portland, \$50; Central Congregational Church, Bangor donated a handsome Communion Service by the hand of Dea. J. S. Wheelright. The house was furnished with hymn books, each pew, the desk and orchestra being supplied by the Central Congregational Church of Bath.

The building is a neat structure, 40 by 60, with a basement under the whole ten feet high, and intended as we suppose for a vestry. The house has 44 pews, or slips of a size to conveniently seat four persons each.

The pews are to be rented annually, and the pew rent to be appropriated to support of the ministry. Mr. Carpenter stated to the people that it was expected that one half of the Sabbaths the house would be occupied by a Congregationalist clergyman, and the other Sabbaths it could be occupied by others. We did not understand whether the rent of the pews would be appropriated to compensating all who should occupy the pulpit or only the Congregationalists. Mr. Carpenter also stated that the organization of a church was contemplated either a Congregationalist Church or a Union-Evangelical Church, composed of all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ of every evangelical denomination who desire to unite in such a communion he was ready to aid in either, just as the people should desire. He was ready to give in and give up his denominational name for the sake of Christ. If others would step in and take the field, and supply the religious wants of Presque Isle, he was ready to step aside and leave the work to others, if so be that it be done.

The first acting pastor was Rev. W. Leavitt. Since that time the following have served as pastors of this church:

- Rev. F. D. Austin - - - - - 1866-1870
- Rev. D. Warren Hary - - - - - 1871-1873
- Rev. Spencer Bonnell - - - - - 1875 (Student)
- Rev. Arison Blanchard - - - - - 1878 (5 months)

Rev. Charles Stowe	- - - - -	1879 (6 months)
Rev. W. S. Kimball	- - - - -	1880-1881
Rev. George Christie	- - - - -	1883-1887
Rev. Edgar Warren	- - - - -	1887-1888
Rev. John G. Hall	- - - - -	June-Nov. 1889 (student)
Rev. C. E. Hardwood	- - - - -	Feb. 1890-Dec. 1892
Rev. Charles Harbutt	- - - - -	Sept. 1893-1899
Rev. John A. Spencer	- - - - -	1900-1902
Rev. Dorral Lee	- - - - -	1902-June 1904
Rev. Arthur L. Golden	- - - - -	Dec. 1904-1907
Rev. David Wallace	- - - - -	1907-Jan.-1910
Rev. James Gregory	- - - - -	Jan. 1910-1922
Rev. Christian Groezinger	- - - - -	Feb. 1923-Nov. 1930
Rev. William Doidge	- - - - -	1931-1934
Rev. E. Milton Grant	- - - - -	1934-1940
Rev. Thomas Cornish	- - - - -	-

## CHAPTER XIX

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Catholic Church had its beginning when a group of French people came to settle along the banks of the Presque Isle Stream from somewhere along the St. John Valley and brought with them a strong faith as well as a strong body. These people did not have a church but attended their services at the home of Thomas Thibodeau which was located on what is now North Main Street. The first priest to say the Mass for them was Father Siveron of St. Luce, who came here once a month. This was about 1873.

After Father Siveron came Father Ryan of Houlton who said Mass twice a month in Academy Hall. After him came Father Talbot who made his home with Dan McEacheron and Solomon Bourgoyne. In 1884 came Father Audet from North Lyndon. He came monthly, due to the long distance to travel. It was during his coming here that the people felt the need of a church. Therefore, they bought a church, located where the Pipes home is today on Normal Avenue from the Baptist Society, blessed and dedicated it to Catholic use. Not having a regular pastor to look after the affairs of the church, the people elected what is known in French as "des sendic", similar to the town assessors of today. They collected and counted the money and took care of the church. Some of these were Thomas Thibodeau, William Dionne, Alex Willette, Fred Willette and Joseph Michaud. They usually served three at a time. They held this position until the coming of Father LaRiviere who changed it to the present system.

In 1885 Father Hamel came from Fort Fairfield to say the Mass once a month in the church given to God by the hard work of these French people.

The first resident priest here was Father Marchand. He made his home with Solomon Bourgoyne. It was during his stay here that the first Catholic church burnt...but their great faith and spirit were not lost in those flames but were made stronger. Father Marchand purchased the ground directly opposite the old church and upon which stood a livery stable. He renovated this stable and made what is today the rectory. However, when the people asked him to build a church he refused, saying he was too young to take the responsibility which would be incurred in the building of a church.

After Father Marchand came Father LaRiviere who built part of the church which stands today. It was very simple but beautiful. Its beauty was that it was paying homage and tribute to Him above... Father LaRiviere stayed here for approximately some ten or fifteen years. Next came Father DeCasey who only stayed a short time as did Father Chabot and Father LeGannet who succeeded him. The next priest who stayed a greater length of time was Father Renaud who remained here for about ten years, more or less.



Father James A. Hayes succeeded Father Renaud in 1913. He remained here the longest of any of the preceding priests which was seventeen years. His memory, I am sure, will be revered by all those who remember him regardless of creed. He left here, a man broken in health, but undying in spirit. He was indeed one of the most loved pastors of the Church of Nativity. His parish consisted of 1500 members.

Succeeding Father Hayes came Father Daniel J. Feeney in the late part of 1930. In this same year Father Feeney made some improvements on the church because it could not hold its increasing congregation. The length of the church was increased, allowing the church to increase its seating capacity from 352 to 480. A new floor was laid and new pews were installed throughout. The basement was converted into a Parish Hall for social activities. A steam heating plant was installed and a new enlarged porch was built. The rectory was renovated as well. It has both a senior and a junior choir. The name was changed from Church of Nativity to St. Mary's Church, which means the same thing. The present Catholic Church on Normal Avenue is an imposing structure. Father Feeney has been here eleven years, coming here from Portland, a graduate of Portland High School, class of 1912. From 1915-1921 he studied philosophy and theology at Grand Seminary in Montreal after attending Holy Cross College from 1913-1915. From July 1921 on he taught at St. Mary's High School in Orono, subsequent to which he went to Marquette University in Milwaukee for advance work in education. He served as superintendent of Parochial Schools for the Diocese of Maine, and is greatly admired by everyone who knows him.

The Catholic Church has gone a long way from the first. Its membership has grown to approximately 1700 and it has a building of which the people can be proud...

CHAPTER XX

UNITARIAN CHURCH

The following is taken from the Star Herald City of Presque Isle Edition dated February 1940:

"The first services of the Unitarian Church were held in Presque Isle in 1875. Rev. Elisha Gifford was the minister and the services were held in the Congregational Church, located where the present church now stands.

"Rev. Gifford came here with his wife, four sons, Frank, Waldo, William and Ted, and a daughter Iris.

"The Unitarian and Congregational Churches united in the first year to hold services in Johnson's Hall, located on the corner where the Northern National Bank building stands.

"Rev. Gifford was here for three years. Frank Gifford, it will be remembered, wrote the book, 'The Belle Islers'.

"The Unitarian Church, the one located on State Street, was built in 1855. John Wilson was the carpenter and V. E. Howe did all the wiring for the church.

"The first minister after the church was built was a Rev. M. P. Bean. He was followed by Rev. Cookson, who came here from Springfield, Mass.

"The dedication exercises, very impressive, drew people from within and without the State, one of the visitors being Hannibal Hamlin of Bangor, one of the past vice-presidents of the United States. The dedication services included a distinguished speaker from Boston, Rev. Minot Savage.

"After Rev. Cookson, Rev. Carlo Stevens served the church. Rev. Miles S. Hemmingway then assumed the duties as minister. The choir at that time consisted of the following: Ade DeLaitte, Mrs. G. A. Parsons, Mrs. Hemmingway and Russell Howard. Mr. Russell Howard is the only one of this quartet that is now living.

"In 1890, Rev. Isaac F. Foster was minister of the church, and he was followed about two years later by Rev. Frank Gilmore who was beloved by all who knew him. He was quite a ball player too. His sermons drew a packed congregation. After Gilmore came an Englishman, Rev. E. Rattenburg Hodges.

"Rev. Walter E. Lane was the next pastor. He was followed by Rev. Brennan and Rev. Thomas E. Chappelle, who was here for three years. It was this time that the Glidden house was purchased as a parsonage, just north of the church, and which is now rented to Dr. Griffeths.

"Rev. Chappelle was followed by Rev. Robinson and Rev. Edwin Bronon; Rev. Dwight Morey served for two or three years, then Rev. Arthur Coxon assumed the pastorate of the church and he was followed by Rev. Paul Meader who was the last resident minister of the church

"But, several years ago, Rev. T. Barton Akeley, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Akeley, preached several times at the church when he was here visiting his parents.

"The local church members are associated with the Arcostook Association of Religious Liberals, V. E. Howe serving as President of that organization in 1938.

"Thus passes into history probably the most picturesque church in Presque Isle.

"On Dec. 22, 1937, the church property was sold to Miss Mary Oak. A few months ago the local Masonic Lodge purchased the church property from Miss Oak."

CHAPTER XXI

CHRISTIAN ADVENT CHURCH

The first preacher of the Adventist faith in Presque Isle was Rev. James Lenfest who lived in the town for the years previous to 1877, the year in which he died. Rev. John Hutchinson also held services in the town and village. In about 1893 Jamesy Tracey came to Presque Isle. He was a man of strong convictions and an adventist in faith. Being anxious to have the particular doctrines in which he believed brought before the people and not being a preacher himself, he prevailed upon the Adventist Mission Society to send a tent and worker to this town.

During the summer of 1901, Rev. John Currier of Mass., Rev. Wyett of Washburn and Rev. Brewster of Rockland held meetings in a tent. As a result of these meetings twenty-seven were baptized and Aug. 13, 1901 a church was organized with forty members. The banquet hall of the old Masonic building on Fort (State) Street was secured and services held there for a time after words in Hones Banquet Hall.

Rev. Wyett was the first pastor; afterward Miss Retha Glover, a lady preacher, ministered to the little flock.

Rev. William Churchill of Crouseville took the care and responsibility of building the church which was erected in 1905 on a lot on Park Avenue in Gouldville. On January 14, 1906 the little chapel was dedicated.

From June 1908 to Feb. 1910 Rev. George Osman of Worcester, Mass. was pastor, followed by Rev. Charles F. King of Portland, Maine who occupied the pulpit from June 1910 to Feb. 1913.

Rev. John Lawrence of Massachusetts came to the church in Aug. 1913 and remained a year and a half. Rev. Charles Lynn Smith, a young man from Vermont, came with us in June 1915.

It was through Rev. G. A. Osman's faithful efforts that the personage was built and partly paid for, but because of adverse circumstances it was deemed best to dispose of the personage.

The little church has suffered through the removal of some of its best workers and members, and time and death have done their usual work. So out of the original forty members at this date (1917) only seven remain.



CHAPTER XXII

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The following brief history of the Episcopal Church is copied from the Star Herald City of Presque Isle Edition dated February 1940:

"Rev. W. H. Washburn conducted the first services at first were held monthly and then were changed to weekly ones taking place in the Masonic Hall. In 1875 the Mission was organized, and in the following year the church building was consecrated. Rev. Rodney M. Edward served for ten months after Mr. Washburn. Rev. Hudson Sawyer who followed him did much in the development of the church, Mr. Sawyer founded and built St. John's School, which attained a high standard of efficiency. For some time after Mr. Sawyer left, the successive Principals of the St. John School served the church until Rev. William G. Elmer took charge in 1886. In 1892 Mr. Elmer was succeeded by Rev. Arthur N. Turizan, who was followed by Rev. Charles F. Sweet in 1894. It was during Mr. Sweet's pastorate that St. John's School was closed, allowing the clergymen to give full time to their Parish.

"From 1898 to 1901, Rev. Harry Hudson was minister of the church and he was followed by Rev. W. A. Sparks in February 1901 who served until December 1904.

"Parker Manzer was the next minister serving until 1912. From 1912 to 1916 the church was served by Rev. James W. Tripp.

"Rev. E. M. Weller of Caribou attended the church for a while in 1916.

"In 1917 Rev. George A. Hunt served St. John's Church, continuing in that capacity until sometime in 1919. It was during Mr. Hunt's pastorate that St. John's became a Parish.

"From March to December of 1919, the church had as its minister Rev. J. M. Neifert.

"From 1920-22 Rev. L. C. Morrison was pastor of the church and from 1922-25 Rev. A. J. Langlois was minister. From 1925 to June 1933 Rev. Francis Bliss was minister of the church. In February 1934 Rev. H. B. Pulcifer came as minister staying until June 1936, when he was succeeded by Rev. Paul Gordon Favor."

At the present time Rev. John MacFarlane is the pastor.

CHAPTER XXIII

METHODIST CHURCH

The following article of the history of the Methodist Church is taken from the city edition of the Presque Isle Star Herald dated February 1940, and I quote:

"The first ministers in Aroostook were Methodist preachers.

"In 1833 Alphonso Rogers preached in Houlton, from which he travelled to every point in the county where he could find a human dwelling place. In 1839 Rev. Pingree came to further the work begun by Rogers. Camp meetings were carried on during the summer in a grove on the Aroostook River, near Parkhurst Siding.

"In 1890 the church was built at Spragueville under the leadership of Rev. Cassius C. Whidden. After the organization of the Presque Isle church, Spragueville was supplied by its pastor.

"In 1902 the Rev. E. O. Smith, a local preacher, organized a class meeting composed of eight persons, at the home of H. R. Glidden, Third Street, at which place it was held each week until the family moved to Tacoma, Washington. The class meeting thus organized increased in membership until in May 1904, Albert Hartt became pastor and organized a church which met for worship in Pythien Hall, and later in Odd Fellow's Hall, until the close of his ministry in 1907.

"In February 1907, a meeting was held with presiding Elder D. B. Dow at the home of H. R. Glidden, to consider plans for securing a lot and building a church. The work was placed in the hands of a committee composed of Athill E. Irvine, G. Ben Whidden, and George W. Billington. Rev. James Irvine succeeded Mr. Hartt and work began immediately. The committee secured the Ryan Homestead, Academy Street, moved back to Epworth Street for a parsonage, and the following year built the church. The church was dedicated January 10, 1909; Bishop John W. Hamilton and District Superintendent John Hatch assisted in the dedicatory services. The entire cost of the church was \$11,000, three thousand of which was pledged at the time of dedication.

"Fred Gamble was appointed to the church in 1909. Mr. Gamble was a refined Christian gentleman, and both he and Mrs. Gamble made themselves felt in every worthwhile enterprise in the community.

"Mr. Gamble was succeeded in 1911 by Rev. G. Edward Allen, a man of wide learning, and with great ability as a preacher. During his pastorate the basement of the church was finished and the Eastern Maine Conference was entertained in 1914, with Bishop Hamilton presiding.

"In the fall of 1915, Rev. M. E. Osborne came here from the New England Conference in exchange with Mr. Allen. During the pastorate of Rev. C. R. Carleton, who succeeded Mr. Osborne in the fall of 1917, the church purchased the new parsonage, the old parsonage

remaining to be administered by the Ladies' Aid Society.

"In 1921 Rev. William Snow was appointed pastor and served until the spring of 1925. These were mostly years of great financial depression, when little new work was undertaken, but it was also a time of close fellowship among the members of the church. Rev. A. B. McAllister followed Mr. Snow from 1925-1927. This was a period of great growth and activity for the Ladies' Aid; \$2,500 was paid on the parsonage debt, and the church was painted both inside and outside.

"Rev. H. S. Thomas was with the church in 1927 to 1934. During this period the church made rapid growth in every direction. The remaining \$2,000 of debt was paid, and extensive improvements were made in the property, including a new floor in the dining room, hardwood floors in the auditorium and vestry, lighting fixtures and pipe organ. Also a mimeograph and a film projector was added to the equipment of the church.

"Mr. Thomas was succeeded by the Rev. Harry Whitely, who served the church for two years. During his pastorate the Spragueville church was repaired and regular Sunday and mid-week services held.

"In 1936, Leslie Craig was appointed pastor, serving the church very acceptably for three years when he resigned to enter business.

"Rev. Chauncey Wentworth, the present pastor, came in June of last year. He is a graduate of Brown University and Boston University School of Theology, and is well fitted both in mind and spirit to carry on the work of the church.

"It has been thirty-one years since the church was dedicated. Starting with only eight faithful men and women, it now has a membership of two hundred. On a recent Sunday morning the church was filled with worshipers. The church school is graded with departments for all ages. There are boys and girl scout troops to care for the youth of the church. The Ladies' Aid and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society are also well organized and look after their various departments of work.

"No longer is it called the Methodist Episcopal Church but just the Methodist Church. The members are eagerly looking forward to the general conference in the spring, when all the new plans for organization will be ratified. Then with millions of others the church members will be working as a United Methodist Church.

MINISTERS

1833-1839 .....Rev. Alphonso Rogers  
1839.....Rev. Pingree  
1889.....Cassius C. Whitten  
1892.....Nelson R. Pearson  
Sept. 1895.....Henry E. Dannack  
May 1896-April 1897.....M. H. Sipprelle  
1898.....I. G. Cheney  
1900.....R. J. Remick  
June 1901-April 1902.....R. C. Stevens  
April-Dec. 1902.....George A. Stott  
Jan. 1903-April 1904.....E. O. Smith (dates confused here)  
April-1907-Jan. 1909.....James H. Irvine  
Jan.-May 1909.....Aaron Kinney  
May 1909-April 1912.....Fred K. Gamble  
April 1912-Sept. 1915.....G. Edward Allen  
Sept. 1915- Nov. 1917.....Melville E. Osborne  
Nov. 1917- April 1921.....Charles R. Carleton  
April 1921-April 1925.....William Snow  
April 1925- April 1927.....Ambrose R. AcAllister  
April 1927-1934.....Hayward S. Thomas  
1934-1936.....Harry Whitely  
1936-1939.....Leslie Craig  
1939-1940.....Chauncey Wentworth



## CHAPTER XXIV

### BAPTIST CHURCH

History of the First Baptist Church; history of the Free Baptist Church; their union; present history of the United Baptist Church.

The Presque Isle First Baptist Church has had a long and interesting career. It is believed that it was the first church of any kind to be organized in northern Arcostook. It began on March 19, 1843.

Those early meetings were held in a log school house in what was then called the Moses Rose district, being three miles out on the Houlton Road on the farm of that name, just opposite the residence of Harvey McGlaufflin...records of the first nineteen years were lost and it is impossible to trace the history...but it is known that Rev. J. P. Roberts was the first pastor and Deacon Moses Rose was clerk.

Rev. S. Besse became pastor December 13, 1862 and resigned on August 11, 1866. From that time until July 10, 1869 the church was without a pastor. On that date, Rev. E. Nugent became minister and served until May 7, 1875. In 1872 the first meeting house was built on the east side of Main Street on the lot now occupied by the W. R. Pipes residence. The pastors serving the church from May 8, 1875 to 1882 were: Revs. G. S. Sargent, J. F. Morris, George Seeley, Mr. Preston, J. H. Pershley, Herbert Tilden, and J. W. Follett. Mr. Follett served from 1879 to 1882.

A period of decline in the church was suffered from November 1882 until April 1886. The meeting house was closed during that time and it was sold to the Catholic Society who used it for a parish house for a number of years until it was destroyed by fire.

During the period from April 1886 to Sept. 1887, the Rev. C. E. Young of Caribou preached every two weeks. Rev. E. L. Caulkins became pastor on Sept. 19, 1887 and served the church faithfully until August 1898 when he went to Yarmouth to accept a call there.

Services were held the first year in the Free Baptist vestry and for two years in the Congregational Church. It was during the pastorate of Rev. Caulkins that the Second Church edifice was erected, standing on the corner of Church and Second Streets now used as an undertaking parlor by R. W. Wight. On June 27, 1890, this building was dedicated with very impressive ceremonies, and included a dedication hymn written for the occasion by Rev. Caulkins.

In December of 1898, Rev. Cecil Deane became pastor and continued in that capacity until November 1901. Then for a short time the church was served by Rev. C. E. Young and Rev. Nathan Hunt, state missionaries. Rev. A. W. Lorimer came to the church May 18, 1902 and served until 1905.



The sixtieth anniversary of the church was observed on Thursday March 19, 1903, with impressive ceremonies.

Rev. E. L. Cates was called to the church in 1905 and remained until 1909. He was followed by Rev. Whittaker who served two years. In 1911 Rev. Mr. Clark accepted the charge, remaining here until the close of 1913. He was then succeeded by Rev. W. P. Palmer who stayed until 1915 when the church united with the Free Baptist Church, completing a service of nearly seventy-five years.

#### FREE BAPTIST CHURCH

The earliest record of the Free Baptist Church of Presque Isle to establish a church dates back to the October session of the Springfield Quarterly Meeting, when the council of ministers was chosen consisting of Rev. Moses Stevens, Rev. Thomas Kinney and Rev. Lincoln Given, who met in the old Academy building Nov. 5, 1859, according to a notice published in the Aroostook Pioneer of Nov. 1st. The council organized by choosing Rev. Moses Stevens moderator and Rev. Given, clerk.

The following persons presented letters and constituted the first membership by adopting the covenant and articles of faith of the Free Baptist denomination: Sylvanus Hatch, Ruth Hall, Elizabeth Pratt from Lydon church, Grace Getchell, Mrs. Harriet Getchell from the Fort Fairfield church, Nathaniel Gammon, Edee D. Gammon from the church at Phillips, Thomas E. Dow, Mrs. Polena Dow from the church at Vienna. Nathaniel Gammon was elected clerk, and the monthly conference established on the Saturday preceeding the first Sabbath in each month, which has been continued to the present time.

#### PASTORS

Since the time of organization, the church has received to its membership 260. During this time the church has had for pastors: Colomore Purrington, for over ten years; J. W. Carr, for six years; G. M. Park, L. E. Hull, C. W. Foster, N. Minard, for a few months; J. E. Gosline; A. F. Schermerhorn; David Boyd; E. Trevor Cook; and George M. Park, who has been its pastor for the past three years.

The following have been its clerks: Nathaniel Gammon, Dennis Foster, G. M. Morgan, Fennie O. Rowe, Bertha Rand, Jennie M. Rowe, Lydia Burlock, and Effie Blanchard.

The following have served as deacons: Nathaniel Gammon, Benjamin Creasy, Thatcher Smith, T. M. Richardson, N. J. Johnson, Joseph Belyea, Miriam Rowe, Charles Guiou. Its present membership is 71...On January 1, 1880, Rev. George Park, who had accepted a call from the Fort Fairfield and Presque Isle churches entered upon the pastorate. At that time the church was worshipping in the old Academy building. This was upon one side of the village, and but few of the village people attended. The services were soon transferred to Johnsons' Hall on Main Street, where the congregation worshiped until Dec. 1880 when the vestry of the present Free Baptist church was opened with a public service.

## BUILDING OF THE CHURCH

Up to this time there had not been a Free Baptist Church edifice owned by the Free Baptist exclusively north of Houlton. There was a house of worship in Bridgewater known as the Smith Meeting House, but this belonged to the Free Baptist Conference of New Brunswick. As this was the first house of worship built and owned by them in northern Aroostook, it may be interesting to its friends to recall its origin. It had its birth in the home of Deacon Thatcher Smith. On a February day in 1880, there were gathered as invited guests, Daniel Smith and wife, Daniel Stickney and wife, Geo. M. Park pastor of the church and perhaps R. J. Smith and wife. The need of a house of worship was discussed and some offers made. Daniel Stickney, being a correspondent of a certain local and state papers wrote a local that the Free Baptist were to build a church.

The summer following the present lot was bought of John Allen, at the price of \$400.- (he contributing \$100) and the work was begun.

At this time there was not a church in the county, I think, with a vestry and the idea or need of one was to some preposterous. But the ladies of the church, perhaps relying on the judgement of their pastor more than their own desires, agreed to become responsible for the expense of the vestry and subscribed their \$300 for it.

(F.) B. and A. M. Smith were employed to do the work, and with good judgment, economy and interest the church was built, without the steeple, the vestry finished and ready for occupancy December 1880..

## THE CLOCK

Here comes the bit of history which gave to us our town clock. One day I met upon the bridge on Bridge Street the worthy John Allen, father of Mrs. Warren Pratt and Grandfather of Col. C. P. Allen of our village. I said to him, "Mr. Allen, you have been interested in the building of our church, and it is here that you have prospered and gained your property. Would it not be well to leave a memorial to your memory by giving a clock to be placed in its steeple?"

He replied in the familiar expression he so often used, "Ah, indeed, Mr. Park, that would be fine. I had been to Bangor, and returning stopped over night at Lincoln. I was sick and could not sleep, and at every hour I heard the clock strike. It was company for me. I will think about it."...Some weeks later and just before he left for his usual winter trip to California he called on me and placed in my hands a little slip of paper...upon which was written:

"To whom it may concern: This is to certify that in case of my death during my trip to California, or before my return, I desire the executor of my estate, or my heirs to purchase a clock to be placed in the tower of the Free Baptist Church of Presque Isle.

November 1880

John Allen"

THE BELL

After his arrival there he sent the following note to me:  
Riverside, Dec. 2, 1880

Rev. Mr. Park

Dear Sir:

I will suggest the following. It is well known that I have proposed to furnish a good clock to be placed on your church, and now as your church members have taxed themselves largely to erect the building, and considering the clock is not merely an ornament to the church, but really a lasting benefit to the village, would it not be just and right for them to contribute a good bell, and keep both insured to the full value of both bell and clock, so that if lost by fire will be replaced on a building there or some other place in the village. At any rate, somebody must be holden for the safety of both.

Very respectfully yours,  
John Allen

But Mr. Allen lived to return, and the clock arrived. In the meantime a subscription paper had been written by the late Dr. G. H. Freeman, and circulated and money raised and a bell purchased... At the next town meeting in March 1882, I think it was, at the request of the Society the town accepted the clock and bell to care for and voted to keep the same insured for their full value and keep the clock in repair...

The following newspaper clipping speaks for itself:

"Presque Isle.---Our correspondent (G. H. S.) writes: During the past week a town clock has been placed in the tower of the Free Baptist Church which strikes as well as indicates the hour. This clock cost \$450 and was presented to the town by John Allen, Esq., of Maysville, a generous old gentleman of eighty-one. Such spirit is and ought to be appreciated. It is the only town clock in the county. A few weeks ago a new bell weighing 1000 pounds and costing \$280 was mounted in the same church. The funds for this were raised by subscription. This church building when finished will be the finest and best structure of the kind in the village. Its erection is due almost wholly to the tireless efforts of the Rev. Geo. M. Park, and for which that gentleman deserves the thanks of the entire community. Indeed, it is safe to say that had it not been for him, neither church, clock nor bell would have been forthcoming for several years, at least. Just such workers are needed in every community." ...

Presque Isle, Nov. 16th. The installation of the Rev. A. D. Paul as pastor of the Free Baptist Church of this village which took place Tuesday, was attended by a large congregation, both of persons interested in the event as members of the church and also by many people outside the denomination. The exercise of installation were of a pleasant character... Rev. Mr. Park extended to the new pastor the right hand of fellowship...

THE UNION OF THE BAPTIST  
and  
THE FREE BAPTIST CHURCHES

The union of the Baptist and Free Baptist Churches of Presque Isle into one church has proved a good move in many ways...During the year 1915 it was frequently spoken of...One of the churches, the Free Baptist, had just been enlarged, modernized, with a nice pipe organ, costing but a little less than \$2000 placed in the choir; and with the repairs and enlarged annex making a church, valued at \$20,000 with a seating and vestry capacity large enough to accommodate both churches, though with no room to spare for the congregation or Sabbath School when united.

The pastors were in favor of the union. The larger voted to invite the smaller to come with them and form a new organization. They met, chose a committee of five from each church, to take their creeds and covenants only slight verbal changes and additions from the one to the other, without any conflict in opinion. They voted unanimously as a committee to recommend to the two bodies, to unite as the "United Baptist Church of Presque Isle", deeding all property to the United Baptist parish when formed.

All previous organizations disbanded, new ones formed with a unanimity so satisfying to all, that it surpassed all expectations...

The result is a congregation of 450 to 500 every fair Sabbath, frequently forcing the bringing in of extra seats; a church membership of around 300; an increasing men's class, ladies' classes, and young ladies' classes. Also of the Ladies Aid Society--90; the Ladies' Missionary Society is growing in size and in the value of outside work.

The budget of all expense is paid regularly Sunday after Sunday. The social meetings are largely attended and very helpful and interesting.

The church is doing more in the line of outside benevolences and mission work for those in need than ever before. Isn't this an example of what may be done?