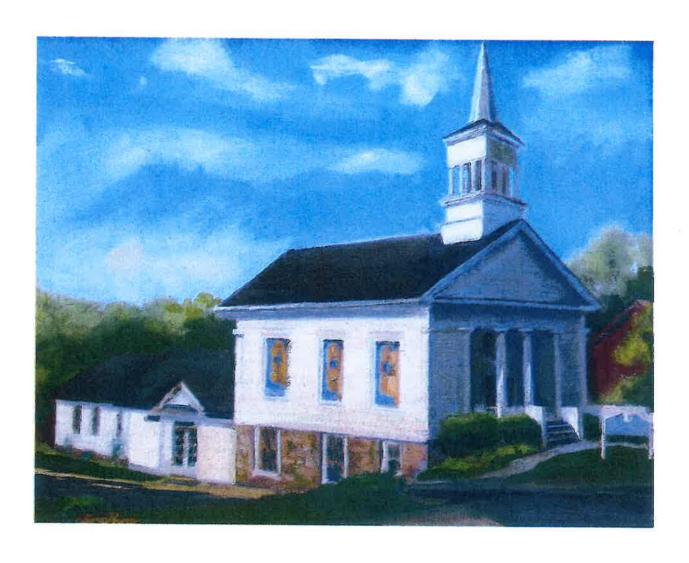
OMHPC at 165 years

a period of outreach, continuing action and service by the church family



Original oil painting by Cynthia Pagano for the 150th Anniversary of OMHPC

OMHPC at 165 years - an update: 2005-2020

The history of the Otisville - Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church is a dynamic one. Rather than going back to the origins which have been covered in earlier anniversary celebrations at 100 years and 150 years, this updated history is a recounting of some of the activities of the church and its many groups since 2005 when the milestone 150th anniversary was celebrated. It's a story of continuing action and service by the church family to its members and to the greater community. The period has been under the leadership of Jeff Farley who continues now as the longest-serving pastor of OMHPC. The congregation cares about others and works to soften some of the hardships faced by God's people far and near.

The projects and undertakings of the Deacons and church members have been in response to the needs of the local community, the wider area, the nation and beyond our shores. When flooding and raging streams have caused devastation in the region, teams from the church have gone to help clean up the damage. From Roscoe to Texas to North Carolina and Louisiana, OMHPC volunteers created response teams and traveled to help others to restore a semblance of normality to their communities.

The congregation has helped with flood buckets, donations of cleaning supplies and financial assistance through the PCUSA. A team of volunteers traveled to Haiti in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake in Portau-Prince and also raised funds to purchase supplies. The congregation has also supported a member's efforts in Africa to develop better sources of water and to fence in gardens.

Other important works undertaken by the Church community are the Deacons' 5K Run which has raised money for worthy causes such as Habitat for Humanity and the Brittany Miller Foundation. The church participates with the school district's backpack program sending food home with

students whose families are struggling. The Deacons operate a food pantry which serves more than 30 families as well as the annual Thanksgiving basket program. OMHPC also conducts services at Park Manor nursing home in the Town of Wallkill.

In recognition of our veteran members, there are periodic "legacy luncheons" after the 11 a.m. service. Members of the congregation also help in the community doing small projects that help others. Some of the assistance has been trimming hedges, pressure washing and cleaning up.

Since the 150th Anniversary Celebration, OMHPC has adopted new technology. Large screens have been placed in the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall to assist with the service while providing an in-house experience for those who have difficulty seeing, challenges of mobility or have child care needs during Sunday services. Services have been expanded to include 8:30, 9:30 and 11 o'clock gatherings. EMPOWERkids and EMPOWERyouth, our children's ministry programs, are an integral part of our church community and mission.

The Memorial Garden by the parking lot has been cleared of some brush and is an area of quiet reflection. The bench donated by the family of Ron James, has been relocated within the Garden. A new more permanent structure has been added for Church activities such as the Live Nativity held every Christmas season.

Other efforts at building a Church community have included the Prayer Shawl ministry. The group which met until COVID-19, has provided nearly 1,000 prayer shawls and blankets for those in need of comfort. Prayer shawls are also given to newly baptized children and adults.

The quilting group has extended their talents to making and donating pillowcases to emergency housing, KindQuilts for ill children and during the COVID 19 pandemic, masks and scrub hats.

OMHPC groups have participated in the Walk

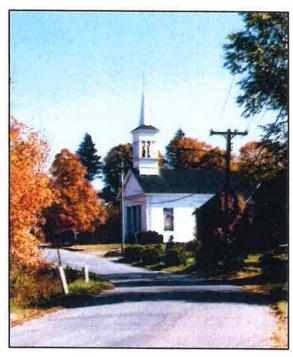
for Habitat for Humanity, Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk, Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and meals for local warming stations.

Bringing the joys of our church to the community has been rewarding. OMHPC has presented

Mystery Dinner Theatre Drama productions, Christmas music Concerts, Trunk or Treat events and the Live Nativity. College care packages are sent to students away from home for the first time.

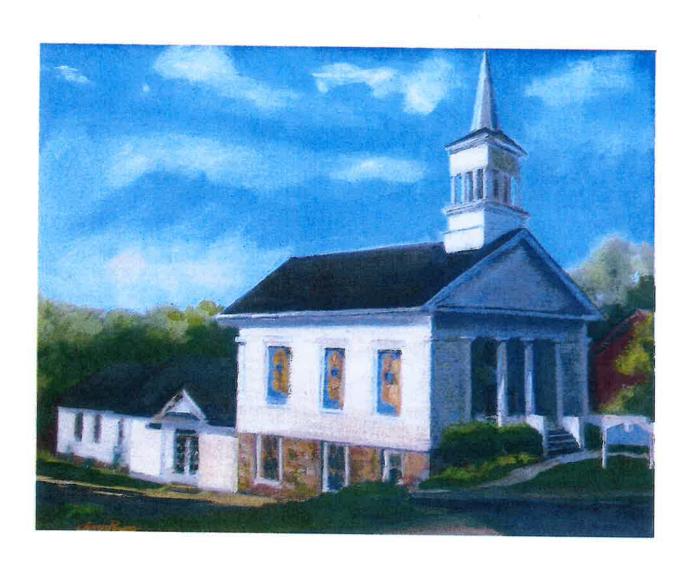
Due to health and safety concerns during the COVID 19 pandemic, most of the church's activities have been temporarily suspended. In spite of the challenges of the pandemic, our Deacons continue to serve the community's ever-growing need for the food pantry. The 3 Sunday services became an on-line service with a small team of musicians and a technology crew aiding our energetic leader, Jeff. Sunday worship is on line at YouTube and FaceBook. There is Sunday evening outdoor worship in the Orchard St. parking lot.

Two views of OMHPC. The photo on the right was taken around 1990 during the height of the Fall season. The bottom photo was taken in September 2020 and reflects our continuing programs even during a pandemic.





OMHPC at 150+ years a celebration of progress and service



Pastors at the Presbyterian Church in Otisville, NY

Rev. Moses H Wilder*

Rev. William W. Page *

Rev. William R. S. Betts

Mr. F. W. Farries *

Rev. F. W. Farries **

Rev. Robert Craig

Rev. J. Service

Rev. Sylvanus R. Queen

Rev. Robert J. Diven

Rev. F. E. Taylor *

Rev. Jacob Klaasse

Rev. John S. Laing

Rev. Luther B. Plumer

Rev. J. Lewis Evans *

Rev. Grant Sension *

Rev. Edward Musselman

Rev. Henry G. Stammer

Rev. John S. Laing

Rev. Merrill R. Nelson

Rev. Victor Alfsen

Rev. Merrill R. Nelson

Rev. David R. Kennedy

Rev. Lary B. Small

Rev. Ronald S. James

Rev. Paul Otto Boger

Rev. James Albert Stuckey

Rev. Jeffrey B. Farley***

March 13, 1858 - May 2, 1859

May 1859

December 1862 – April 1865

May 1865- April 1868

May 19, 1868 - Feb. 1, 1871

May 1, 1871 - March 31, 1884

Oct. 15, 1884 - March 1892

September 1, 1892 - July 1, 1895

September 19, 1896- July 25, 1898

October 1898 – September 1903

September 1904 - May 1906

November 17, 1907 – April 30, 1914

August 1, 1914 - September 16, 1917

May 8, 1918 - December 1, 1919

December 1919 - May 1920

November 1, 1920 - March 16, 1923

July 1, 1920 - November 30, 1924

December 1, 1924 - May 31, 1941

October 30, 1941 - Jue21, 1942

October 4, 1942 – August 15, 1943

January 16, 1944 – October 7, 1945

February 12, 1947 – March 3, 1951

November 1, 1953 – May 31, 1957

October 15, 1957 – October 31, 1966

April 2, 1967 - April 30, 1971

January 1, 1972 - August 31, 1982

September 4, 1983 - present

^{*}stated supply

^{**}ordained & installed 5.19.1868

^{***}ordained 10.9.83, installed 10.30.83

Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church at 150 years

history of the Otisville-Mount Hope Presbyterian Church contains some elements from the history of three churches founded in Otisville and the Town of Mount Hope. The first Presbyterian Church was organized in 1791 and was named the Deerpark Four Corners Church which was erected in the center of what is now the Plains Cemetery in Otisville which was then in the Town of Deerpark. In 1822, some of the members of the Deerpark Four Congregation left and started a new society in Mount Hope. Mount Hope had become a business center as a result of the establishment of a stage line. A new building was erected in Mount Hope in 1833 and as Mount Hope thrived, Otisville declined and the Deerpark Four Corners Church building went to decay and was eventually torn down.

Fortunes reversed as the New York and Erie Railroad extended to Otisville in 1845. Commercial growth in Otisville rebounded. The Methodist Church was organized and a building was erected in Otisville in 1848. Several members who had withdrawn from the Deerpark Four Corners Church when most of that congregation moved to Mount Hope became members of the Methodist Church.

In the summer of 1854, some of the people who had been Presbyterians and joined the Methodist congregation began to turn back to their Presbyterian roots. Seven of those former Presbyterians met on April 8, 1855 and formed the First Presbyterian Church of Otisville. Ephraim Loomis gave the property where the Otisville-Mount Hope Presbyterian Church now stands to this new congregation to erect a building. In 1856, the building was completed.

Rev. T. D. Wood was the first preacher to fill the pulpit. Rev. William Betts was installed as the first pastor in 1862. At different times during the early years of the congregation, the Otisville Presbyterians shared a pastor with the Methodist Church, the Mount Hope Church, the Congregational Church in Howells and the Scotchtown Presbyterian Church. In 1899, the Otisville and Mt. Hope congregations agreed to share the expense of a pastor. It was agreed that Otisville would pay 2/3 of the salary and Mount Hope would pay 1/3. Each congregation would receive service from the pastor in proportion to the amount of money provided.

In 1905, the Otisville congregation could afford to hire their own pastor without the aide of the Mount Hope church and in 1907, Rev. John S. Laing was hired. The congregation grew to 110 members and the Sunday School enrollment was 112.

In 1914, Rev. Laing left the pulpit in Otisville. Over the next ten years, there was a succession of pastors for relatively short terms. In 1924, Rev. Laing returned to Otisville and remained for 17 years. During the 1920's the sanctuary was remodeled. A balcony was removed and the windows were replaced with the colored glass windows which are still present. The two entrances to the sanctuary were removed and a the single entrance that is now present was installed. The pipe organ was removed.

In 1932, the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Hope and the Otisville First Presbyterian Church merged to become the Otisville-Mount Hope Presbyterian Church. The building in Mount Hope was sold to the Grange. After the Rev. David R. Kennedy left the pulpit in 1951, the Hudson River Presbytery appointed Rev. Lary Small as acting pastor in 1953. He was present for the 100th anniversary Celebration in 1955. Ronald and Lois James came to Otisville soon after the congregation was beginning its second century of service. Rev. James was just out of seminary and he and Lois were the parents of a young son. Their enthusiasm was contagious. That generation of young people still reminisce about adventures and activities they enjoyed while Ron James was here. Three of their four children were born while the family lived in Otisville. They were truly a part of the community and church family for nearly ten year when they chose to accept a call to the Presbyterian Church in Yorktown Heights.

A decision was made to replace the manse on State Street with a new one next to the church on Orchard Street. Many individuals and groups gave generously of their time and money to complete and pay for the new manse. The note was burned soon after the completion of the manse in 1967.

Paul and Barbara Boger and their twin daughters were the first to occupy the new manse. The Sunday School and the Youth Group continued to flourish. Sunday School classes met in the church, in the basement of the manse and one class met in the Daughters of America Hall across the street. Paul Boger Jr. joined the family during the four years the Bogers served the

congregation.

James Stuckey came to Otisville from the Riverside Church in New York City. He had taught at the McCormick Seminary in Chicago and was active in special programs in drama and the arts. Jim Stuckey was very active in the community. He was an early member of the Otisville Ambulance Corps. He was a visitor to anyone who was ill or in need in the Otisville area regardless of whether or not they were a member of the congregation. He served as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery and was active in Presbytery affairs. After serving the Otisville Congregation and the Community for nearly ten years, Jim accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church in Port Chester, New York.

Rev. Lee Gartrell served the congregation well as an interim pastor for one year during 1982 and 1983. Shortly after Rev. Gartrell left in 1983, the steeple was reinstalled on the church. The original steeple was removed after a storm had damaged it in the early 1920's.

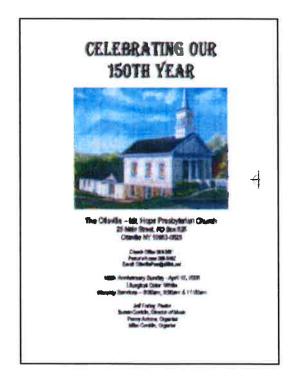
Jeffrey B. Farley and his new wife Susan came to our congregation in the fall of 1983. Rev. Farley has continued the tradition of pastors of the Otisville-Mount Hope Presbyterian Church participating in the community. Rev. Farley has been very active with the Scouting Program and our congregation now sponsors Troop 1. During the twenty-one years that the Farley Family has participated in the life of the congregation, their family grew with the addition of two children, Brian and Katie. And as the Farley family flourished and grew, so did the building and the congregation.

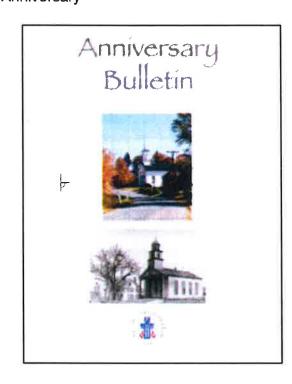
Since Rev. Farley has been pastor, the church was re-sided and ramps were added to make the building accessible to those with special needs. In 2002, a large, multi-room Christian Education Center was opened and a new parking lot was built across from the church on Main Street. In 2004, the pews were refinished. Each of these projects was substantial and required leadership and the full support of the congregation.

Today, under the guidance of the Rev. Jeffrey B. Farley, there are 265 members with an active Sunday School program. There are three Sunday Morning Services which include many choirs, musicians, actors and at times dancers. The church hums with the activities of Scouts, youth groups, Bible study, Women's Auxiliary, a village nursery and others. Our congregation has come a long way from the seven who organized in 1855. We are 150 years old and still growing.

Anita and John Goldsmith

Bulletin cover for 150th Anniversary





OMHPC Scrapbook of highlights

THE TIMES HERALD 3. S.C.O. S.D. Wednesday, December 15, 1965



The circle of salvation

Text and photos by Lynne Godwin





Standing beneath a huge Christmas wreath, the Rev. Edward D. Angell, left, and the Rev. Renald S. Jumes anjoy a mament of fellowship.

A crecke standing by its side, the Otisville-Mt. Hape Presbyterian Church is brightly lit before the mission service.

OTISVILLE Text by Virginia Valenti

Being a minister in a small village like Otisville is a reasonably secure life. Whyshould a man jeopardize his safe ty and sacrifice his dignity to join the Negro's tight for the vote in a Mississippi town?

The answer of the Rev. Ronald A. James, who returned to Otisville Wednesday after a week in a Hattlesburg jail, is: "it's the church's responsibility to put itself on the side of man everywhere and to stand with these people."

And Mr, James, 33, pastor of the OtisvIlle-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church, stood with the Negro. He picketed for the Negro in Hattiesburg and he went to jail for the Negro.

Hattiesburg police called him "white nigger," and people opened their windows to curse him as he walked down the street. But he thinks he accomplished his purpose, which was to get as many Negroes as possible to register to vote.

At last count 270 Negroes registered to vote in a city with a 35,000 population, 35 per cent of which is Negro.

Mr. James went to Hattiesburg Jan, 22 at the request of the Hudson River Presbytery. With 91 other ministers and Negro and white students he picketed the Forrest County Court House in Hattiesburg, as voters were registering.

He said white residents and police used intimidation tactics and threats of economic reprisal to keep the Negroes from registering. These tactics worked well enough to scare many Negroes into not registering, Mr. James said.

Negroes were allowed to enter the courthouse, but they were photographed and questioned at the door, and then they had to submit to a long registration procedure, he said.

We demonstrated in front of the courthouse to give the Negroes support, and we also talked to Hattiesburg's clergymen but only received the cooperation of two Negro ministers, Mr. James said. He said white clergymen felt it wasn't the church's place to participate in the Negro's fight.

Last Wednesday, Mr. James and nine other ministers were arrested for marching outside the police barricades in front of the courthouse. Police charged them with parading in arestricted area and obstructing pedestrian traffic.

Mr. James spent a week In a Hattiesburg cell and was sentenced to four months in jail. He was freed on a \$750 appeal bond put up by the Hudson River Presbytery. The Forrest County Court has jurisdiction on the appeal.

Mr. James knew that his disobedience of the law would bring arrest.

"One doesn't always obey the law in an irrational

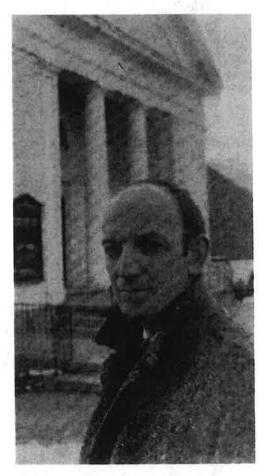
situation where justice is provincial. We felt the highest identification with the Negro would be to go to prison," Mr. James said.

To prison, they went. The eight white ministers in one cell, and the ninth, a Negro, in a segregated cell. With the exception of being cursed at, the ministers were well-treated, Mr. James said. But not all demonstrators who were arrested were treated the same, he said.

Police put a Yale law student in a cell with two drunks, and told them the student was a "nigger lover." The drunks beat the student severely, while the police looked the other way, Mr. James said.

Although Mr, James thought some white Hattiesburg residents were receptive to his way of thinking, he found the general situation "pessimistic."

"Most of the white people there range from hostile to patronizing. I don't think they will change," he said.



Rev. Ron James stands in front of the Presbyterian Church in Otisville after returning from Mississippi.

TH-Record photo by Manny Fuchs



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Minister's Arrest Reported Special to The New York Times

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WHITE PLAINS, Jan. 29 The Presbytery of the Hudson June 2 River reported the arrest today of one of its ministers in previous Haltiesburg integration ing drive.

Presby- Medga Simultaneously the tery announced the beginning to acc of an \$4,000 "objective survey author of the problems and needs in asked race relations in the seven men o counties which the Presbytery encompasses." The cost will be shared equally by the Presbytery and the Urban League of Was Westchester County.

The Presbytery consists of from 1111 churches of 42,000 members later. in Westchester, Rockland, Put- a teles nam, Orange, Dutciess, Sullivan the w and Ulster Countes.

The minister arrested is the Ralph Rev. Ronald James, pastor of preims the Otisville-Moun: Hope Pres- lifted byterian Church.

119th St. Fire Kills Man

NYTimes, Jan. 30,1964, p 15, col.1

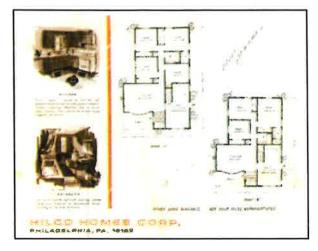
Evangelism Award

Gene Turner, representing the Synod, presents an award to Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church for the efforts at evengelism. Jeff Farley accepts the award for the church as Sue Farley and Adam Battles look on.



A new manse for OMHPC







Glenn Patterson, left, general chairman of the Builtding Fund of the Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church, puts a match to the note on the manse. Mrs. Elizabeth Shand of Otisville fund treasurer, and the Rev. Paul O. Boger, pastor, watch on the manse porch, as the "paid in full" note goes up in flames. The manse was built two years ago. Renovations on the church are nexxt on the list.

Source: TH-Record, Sunday, September 15, 1968

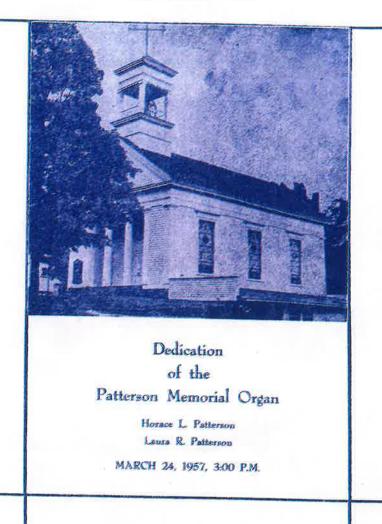
Sunday school teachers

(c.1960)



Organ Dedication, March 1957

Otisville - Mount Hope Presbyterian Church OTISVILLE, NEW YORK



Patterson Organ Dedicated In Otisville Church

Sunday, March 24, marked the occasion of a dedication service in the Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church in memory of the ate Mr. and Mrs. Horace Patterson. The Patterson memorial organ was given by the members of the Patterson family in memory of their parents, Horace L. Patterson who died in 1938 and Laura L. Patterson who died in 1956.

The impressive dedicatory serivce was interspersed with scripture reading, prayers, and ritualistic response, followed by an impressive inaugural musical program.

At the console of the new Baldwin organ were Graham Metzger, playing a prelude and hymns, and Mrs. Elsie Ferguson who played special selections. Philip Del Pizzo of Middletown was so loist. The Mount Hope Church was filled with friends and relatives honoring the memory of

Mr. and Mrs. Patterson. The recital program included the following: Psalm 19: "The

Heavens Declare the Glory of God" by Marcello, Pastorale by Foote Mrs. Ferguson, "Ye People Rend Your Hearts" from Mendelssohn's "Elijah," the Twenty-Third Psalm by Malotte, Mr. Del Pizzo, "The Evening Star" by Wagner, and the Chorale and Minuet from Boellmann's Suite Gothique, Mrs.

Mendelssohn's "Be Thou Faithful" from St. Paul, Mr. Del Pizzo.

Numbers also included Johnston's "Evensong," Mrs. Ferguson; "King Ever Glorious" from the Crucifixion by Stainer, Mr. Del Piz 20; Dubois' "In Paradise," Mrs. 20; Dubois' "In Paradise," Mrs. Ferguson; "The Lost Chord" by Sullivan, Mr. Del Pizzo "Toccata" by DuBois, Mrs. Ferguson, and "Bless This House" by Brahe, Mr. Del Pizzo.

(Excerpt from the program)

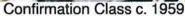
Response: We dedicate this organ.

Minister: To bear up the melody of psalm and hymn and spiritual song in such wise that men may go forth from this house of God with high resolve to do His holy will:

Response: We dedicate this organ.









Church cooks up turkey supper

Smiling at a handmade Raggedy Aady is Dawn Little, 10, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Little of Wurtsboro. On hend with other dolls are Mrs. Archie House of Otisville, center, and Mrs. Blake Newkirk of Middletown.

The women are two of the chairmen for the annual turkey supper and fair of the Otisville-Mt. HopePresbyterianChurch, planned for Saturday at the church. The dinner will be served family style from 5 to 7.

Handmade dolls, aprons, and pillow cases will be among the Items for sale of the fair. There will also be baked goods and candy.

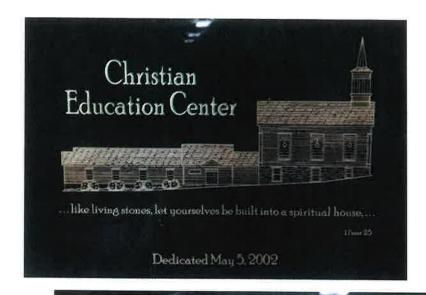
Mrs. Louis Mann is general chairman. Other chairmen are: Mrs. Stephen G. Pierson and Mrs. Wesley Hunter, sitchen; Mrs. William Wanser and Mrs. Paul Fink, dialing room; Mrs. Archie House and Mrs. Blake Newkirk, facey booth and baked goods; Mrs. W. James Francisco, candy Mrs. Glenn R. Patterson, tickets; and Mrs. Curtis Daily, publicity.

The public is invited.





The 2005 Ron James Humanitarian award was presented to Gerri Cash by Sam Tucker. Lois James congratulated Gerri Cash for her dedication and service. The award is given in honor of the late Rev. Ron James.



Room to Grow Memorial Room Classrooms Bathrooms Niursery Storage

The Congregation of the
Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church
recognizes the efforts of many members and friends
of the church who have made this
Christian Education Center
possible through their hard work, generosity and
love of God.

We deeply appreciate the work of our volunteers and leaders:

Tom Antona, General Contractor
Pete Antona, Plumbing Dave Budd, Paving Ben Burnett, Finishing
Josh Bush, Surveying Ed Cristello, Electric Don Decker, Sidewalks
Jim DeWinter, Engineer Jeff Grebeldinger, Design Frank Ketcham, Parking
Chuck Krogslund, Treasurer Jerry Sherman, Architect Robert Yuengling, Chairman
Jeff Farley, Pastor

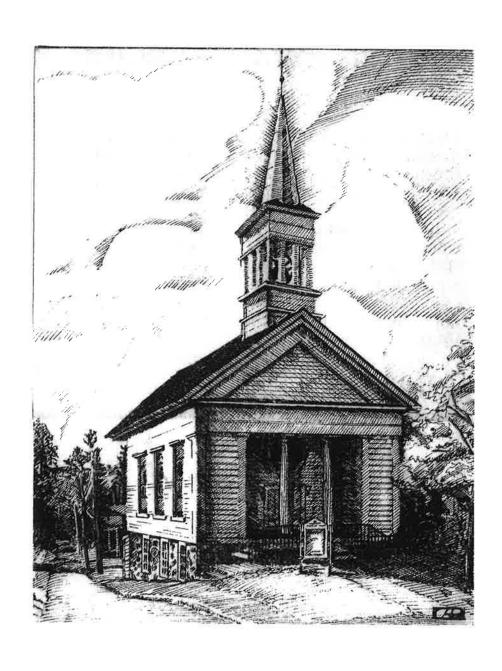
Special recognition for planning and stewardship is given To the members of these committees:

Challenge 2000

Ellie Busser Chuck Krogslund Sue Petak Phil Saler Chris Yuengling **New Building Task Force**

Tom Antona Rick Baker Dave Budd Jeff Grebeidinger Frank Ketcham Don Wanser Robert Yuengling Phil Saler, Treasurer

Otisville - Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church Centennial Year — 1955



PRESS RELEASE

Otisville Church Names Centennial Committee

OTISVILLE — Sub-committees were named at a meeting of the centennial committee of the First Presbyterian Church, last week at the home of Glenn Patterson, chairman of the committee for the 100th anniversary celebration, the centennial will be observed the week of Sept. 11. Committee chairmen chosen included the Rev. L. B. Smith, program speakers; Mrs. Shirley Sausville and Mrs. Harriet Francisco, preparation of church journal and advertising; Archie House, honor roll; Mrs. Laura Patterson, invitations; Mrs. Elizabeth Shand and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Holley, collection and display of church historical objects; Mrs. Myra Newkirk, history; Mrs. Carrie Writer and Mrs. Florence Walker, Sept. 14 dinner committee; William Walker, seating; and Mrs. Edna Crandall, publicity.

(Unknown source - possibly the Middletown *Times-Herald*)

The Centennial was celebrated over two Sundays in September 1955 (Sunday bulletins begin on p.13)

Otisville - Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church Church Pastors 1855 - 1955

Rev. Moses H Wilder

Rev. William W. Page *

Rev. William R. S. Betts

Mr. F. W. Farries *

Rev. F. W. Farries **

Rev. Robert Craig

Rev. J. Service

Rev. Sylvanus R. Queen

Rev. Robert J. Diven

Rev. F. E. Taylor *

Rev. Jacob Klaasse

Rev. John S. Laing

Rev. Luther B. Plumer

Rev. J. Lewis Evans *

Rev. Grant Sension *

Rev. Edward Musselman

Rev. Henry G. Stammer

Rev. John S. Laing

Rev. Merrill R. Nelson

Rev. Victor Alfsen

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Rev. David R. Kennedy

Rev. Lary B. Small

*stated supply

March 13, 1858 - May 2, 1859

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December 1862 – April 1865

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May 19, 1868 - Feb. 1, 1871

May 1, 1871 – March 31, 1884

Oct. 15, 1884 – March 1892

September 1, 1892 – July 1, 1895

September 19, 1896- July 25, 1898

October 1898 – September 1903

September 1904 – May 1906

November 17, 1907 – April 30, 1914

August 1, 1914 – September 16, 1917

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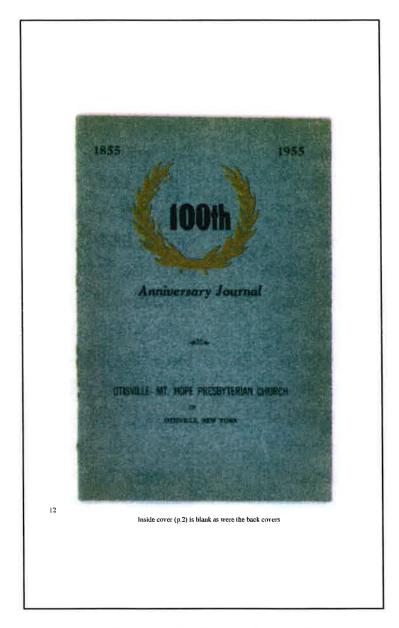
October 4, 1942 - August 15, 1943

January 16, 1944 – October 7, 1945

February 12, 1947 – March 3, 1951

November 1, 1953 – May 31, 1957

^{**}ordained & installed 5.19.1868



Cover of the Centennial Booklet

GREFTINGS

This Historical Booklet has been prepared to commemorate the One Hundredth Anniversary of the lounding of the Otisville-Mt. Hope Preshyterian Church, formerly known as the Fiste Preshyterian Church of Otisville, New York, It has a two-fold purpose:

First, as a souvenir to those who are already familiar with the colorful history of the church. Secondly, as a source of information to those who have been affiliated with the church for some time but have never had an opportunity to find out more about it.

Much of the success of this journal is due to the friendly co-operation of huniness and professional people who have taken advertising space, and to Friendly Boosters. You can help their and the church by showing your appreciation.

Space does not permit us to mention individually all those who have had a hand in the preparation of the Journal, However, we particularly want to thank Mrs. Shirley Sausville, and Mrs. Herries Francisco, Co-chairmen of the Journal Committee, for their untiring efforts to make the journal a success.

LARY BAKER SMALL.

100th Anniversary Journal 1955 Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church

A history of the Church's first 100 years

by Myra Newkirk

At a point where Otisville now stands, a village was commenced at an early date, which for many years was known as Deerpark Four Corners. It was the chief place of business for the surrounding region. A Presbyterian Church was erected at about the center of Plains Cemetery in 1791. This church flourished until 1822 when the population of the settlement was drawn to Mt. Hope by the construction of a tumpike there.

The village of Mt. Hope at this time became the second largest town in this region, and the people there who had once been connected with the Deerpark Four Corners Presbyterian Church came together and started a new society. A portion of the members of the old church could not agree to the change and withdrew from the congregation.

A new church was erected in Mt. Hope in 1833. The Deerpark Church was allowed to go out of existence and the building went to decay. What remained of this old church was torn down, and the timbers were used to construct a barn on the farm of Joseph Mitchell.

In 1845 the New York and Erie Railroad was extended to the village of Otisville, which for a time became its terminus. The consequent growth of the village rendered it desirable that provision should be made for the spiritual wants of the people. Measures were taken to establish here, again, the stated ministrations of the Gospel.

An Otisville society connected with the New Jersey Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized and a place of worship was erected in 1848. Several of the families once connected with the Deerpark Church (but separated from it because of its removal to Mt. Hope) united with the Methodist Church. But in the summer of 1854 some of these people who had left the Presbyterian Church began again to turn their attention to the church of their fathers.

These seven heroic women and one brave man met together and on the 8th day of April 1855 formed the First Presbyterian Church of Otisville:

Mrs. Pamela Cook, wife of Avery Cook
Mrs. Sara Ann Dodge, wife of A. S. Dodge
Mrs. Keseah Dunning, wife of B. W. Dunning
Mrs. Sophie Gerow, wife of William Gerow
Mrs. Frances Loomis, wife of Ephriam Loomis
Mrs. Esther McBride, wife of James McBride
Mrs. Charlotte Beyea, • wife of Daniel Beyea
and B. W. Dunning

Thus was fulfilled the Prophecy of Isaiah, fourth chapter, first verse, which says, "Seven women shall take hold of one man."

This group interested others in the enterprise and a building was started where the church now stands. Land for the structure was donated by Ephriam Loomis. A high hill had to be taken down, and the building was completed in 1856. The first preacher in the new church was Rev. T. D. Wood. The first pastor to be installed was the Rev. William Betts in 1862.

At about this time, previous to the building of the first schoolhouse, the District School, as it was called, was held in the basement of the Presbyterian Church for three years. Among the students who attended there were Joel Northrup, Joe Fields, John Fields, John Carwithin, and Horton Easton.

The Rev. Betts served the church until 1865. He was followed by the Revs. Farries, Craig, Service, Queen, Diven, Taylor, and Klasse.

In 1899 the project of the union with the Mt. Hope Church was begun. At that time it was voted that Otisville pay two-thirds of the pastor's salary and Mt. Hope one-third and each receive his services in the proportion. At that time the minister's salary was \$600.

In 1905 the finances of the church were very low. Two woman (Grace Boyd and Lulu Northup) were given authority to canvas the congregation for funds to meet the financial needs of the church. Their efforts were successful. In 1907 the Rev. John S. Laing became the pastor and it was soon decided to carry on without the financial aid of the Mt. Hope Church.

By 1910 there was a membership of 111 and a Sunday School that numbered 112. In 1914 the Christian Endeavor Society had 70 members.

In the year 1914 Rev. Mr. Laing asked to be released from his labors in Otisville. After that came a succession of supplies and pastors among whom were Revs. Luther Plumer, Lewis Evans, and Grant Sension. In 1920 Rev. Edward Musselman took up the task. He remained three years. Then in 1924, Rev. Mr. Laing returned as pastor and continued to serve for seventeen years. In 1924 a kitchen was added to the church and since then has been well furnished with modern equipment and conveniences.

In 1932 the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Hope consolidated with the First Presbyterian Church of Otisville. Since then it is known as the Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church. The old edifice at Mt. Hope was sold to the Otisville Grange in 1934. In 1941 Rev. Laing's wish to retire was granted.

During the following summer the pulpit was supplied by various persons. In the fall of 1 941 the Rev. Merrill R. Nelson took over the pastoral duties. He remained for only one year and was succeeded by Rev. Victor Alfsen. After a short stay he, also left to take up mission work in Alaska. At this time Rev. Mr. Nelson returned and an arrangement was made with The Howells Congregational Church whereby they would share the services of our pastor. Mr. Nelson remained for one and one-half years and then departed for Minnesota to work in the Home Mission Field. At this time the title of Pastor Emeritus was centered on Rev. John S. Laing in appreciation of his long and faithful service in the Church.

In 1946 came the Rev. David R. Kennedy. He remained until 1951, serving our church and Howells Congregational, as well.

After the departure of Mr. Kennedy an agreement was made to have union services with the Otisville Methodist Church, alternating the services in the two churches. Rev. Robert Bowering, the Methodist pastor, cooperated willingly until 1952 when he was transferred by the Methodist Conference to another field.

In 1953 the Rev. Lary B. Small was appointed as acting pastor of the Otisville-Mt. Hope Church by Hudson Presbytery. He has conducted the spiritual life of the church efficiently and with marked success. All organizations of the church are flourishing and its membership is increasing.

Indeed, our church has progressed a long way in the past one hundred years, and with the help of Almighty God and the continued determination and faith of us all, we believe it will continue to be an inspiration and help to the community for many years to come.



Rev. John Laing and Rev. Lary Small at the Centennial Celebration,

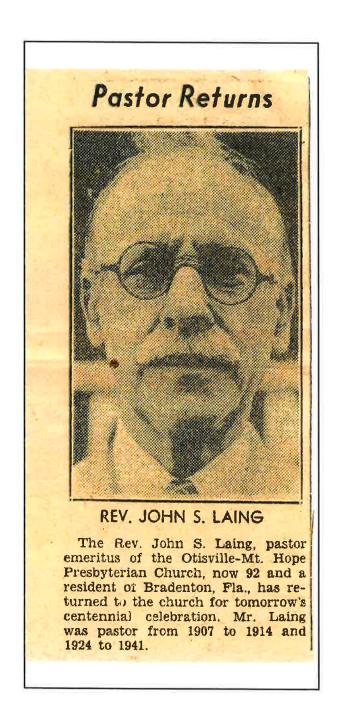
Church Centennial Attracts Visitors

OTISVILLE — A buffet luncheon will follow the special Centennial service at the Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church next Sunday, bringing to a close the week-long celebration.

After the reception following last Sunday's service, motion picture films of the church and Otisville residents were shown by Mrs. Carl Mitchell.

Centennial guests this week have been Mrs. Hattie J. Tate, with her daughter and son, of Brooklyn; Mrs. J. Van W. Smith, visiting with her sister, Miss Lydia Wade; Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Parsells and daughter, Lynn; Mr. and Mrs. William Weinberg of Sayville, N.; Mr. and Mrs. Blake Newkirk of Newburgh; Mr. and Mrs. John Kump and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Turfler of New York City; and Mrs. Ira Smith and son of Monroe.

The Rey. John Laing, the church's pastor emeritus, of Bradenton. Fla., with Mrs. Laing, are staying with their daughter, Mrs. Jean Mitchell.



Otisville Church Memorials Are Dedicated Sunday

The Otisville - Mt Hope Presbyterian Church had at the 11 o'clock
Sunday morning service a dedication ceremony. A new communion
table was dedicated in bonor of all
those who served in the late war,
as a memorial from the church
subscribers, a cross in memory of
Anthony George, by his wife, Eva
George, and the Baptismal Font
given by Ray Glass in memory of
his wife, both deceased having
passed away within the past year.
Mr. Glass is now a Port Jervis resident with business affiliations in
New York.
The pastor, the Rey, Larry B.

The pastor, the Rev. Larry B. Small, conducted the ceremonies with responses by the congregation.

Mr. Small in making a ples leading up to the coming 100th anniversary of the church, that the regular attendance at church services be doubted by then. With every member bringing in another this can be done. Also the pastor asks if it is too much to ask of anyone to spend one hour a week at the church for worship when we all have so many blessings bestowed on us week in and out.



From the Middletown *Tiimes-Herald*, Sept. 9, 1955

Otisville Church Honors Members For Long Service

Special recognition for long sersize to the church was made to some of its order communicants at a buffet disner following the final contennial merice of the Otisville-Mt Hope Prerbyserian Church Sun-

Mt. Hope Pressysterian Church Bunder, morning.

American Resity roses were prepared as a taken of appreciation to Mr. and him Henry A. Holley, for the lengest continuous active membership of both husband and wife — resary 60 years each; to Mr. and Mr. Stanton Rockwell, this for 36 years have regularly presented the Communion service, and to Mr. Sciewell as the oldest fixing Elder; to Mrs. Grace House for 35 years acrice as church organist, and to Mrs. Laura Petterson, who at the age of 70 is still activing an object treasurer, memherving as objects from members of the board of trustees, and beacher in the Euroday School.

Honorable mention was made among others of Glenn Patternon, general chairment of the 100th annual of the 10th annual of the 10th

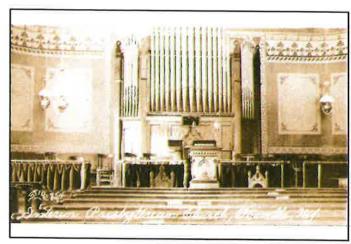
Specially constitues; Mrs. Shirley Specially and Mrs. Harriet Fran-cisco, co-chairmen of the anniver-Frank Writer and Mrs. Ronald Walker, who were responsible for tice amovementy Claner which Ind-

the amivement claner which fol-lowed the nettice and for the brucheou the previous Sunday.

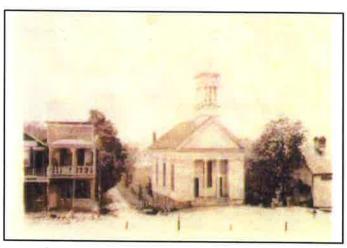
Paster Receives Gift:

The Rev. Lary B. Small, paster, and presented a piece of luggage by the congression in appreciation of his efforts on behalf of the contetunial

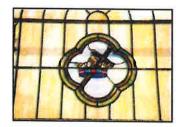
The church was filled to overflowing with residents and homecaning members from as far as
Ohio, Piorida and California. The
Bry David S. MacInnes, executive
of the Symod of New York Prob, tery, delivered the aermon.
A symopeia of the church's history and his own ministry was given
at the dinaser by the Rev. John S.
Laing who at the age of 92 traveled from Piorida to be present. The
Women's Association of the church
prepared and served the dinner.
The centennial closed with the
singing of sories and hymna.

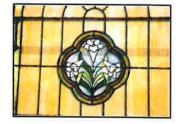


Interior of Otisville Presbyterian c. 1900



View from across Main Street Note the two entry doors. The sanctuary had a balcony.

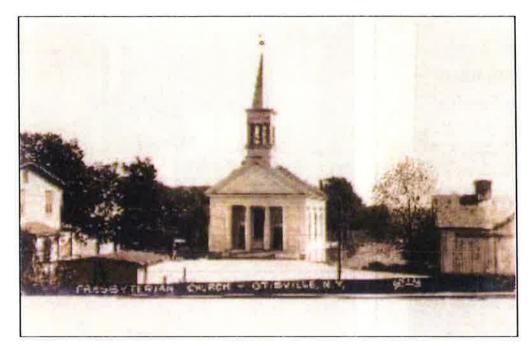




Before electricity, the original windows were clear glass.







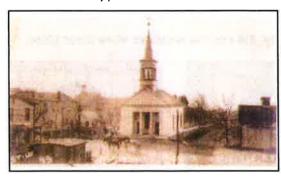
This photo was taken from the top of a railroad car.

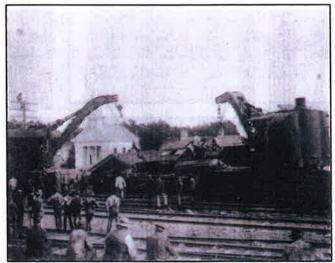


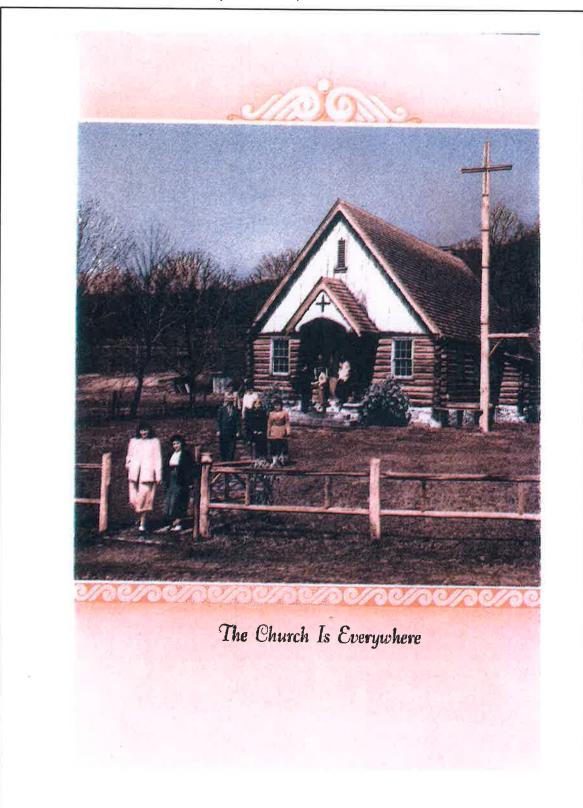
The church was built on property donated by Ephraim Loomis. The building was completed in 1856. Loomis' barn in the photo was destroyed by a fire and rebuilt. This barn collapsed under heavy snow after the Church Centennial.

BELOW: a locomotive derailment just above the church's Main St. parking lot

Carriages could drop off worshippers at the door.







ONE HUNDREDTH AFRIVERSARY SERVICE OTISVILLE - MT. HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 11, 1955, 11 A. K.

GUEST OF HONOR

Rev. John S. Laing, Pastor 1907 - 1914; 1924 - 1941

The second secon

"Holy Hour Organ Prelude Call to Worship, Invocation, Lord's Prayer Hymn 11 "Come, Ye That Love the Lord" Responsive Reading 524 Cloria Patri Scripture Reading Rev. Robert Bowering Rev. John S. Laing Prayer Choral Response An hem "Lift up Your Heads" Emerson "Qule tude" Mallard Offertory Doxology "Now Thank We All Our God" Hymn 424 The Rev. David R. Kennedy Sermon Pastor 1946 - 1951 Hymn 219 "Faith of Our Fathers" (Congregation Seated) Benediction Choral Amen Organ Postlude "Exalt His Name" Cooke

Pollowing the service, reception down-stairs.

NOTICES

Memorial flowers have been given today as follows:

In memory of Louise Corwin, by her sister, Krs. Sylvia Butzgy.

In memory of Mrs. E. L. Walker, and Mrs. Kenneth Walker, by Mr. and Mrs. Harry You-

In memory of Mrs.E. L. Walker, by her husband and family.

The Pulpit Scarf and Bible Markers being used for the first time today, have been given by Edna and Fred Crandall, Cpl. Harold L. Benton, and Ramon Benton, in memory of Harold L. Benton Sr., and Richard J. Benton.

Following the service today, all are invited downstairs for an hour of fellowship and a bite to eat.

The second Centennial Service will be held next Sunday at 11 A. M. The preacher will be Rev. David R. MacInnes, Executive of the Synod of New York. A buffet luncheon will be served downstairs after the service. We hope you will come back next Sunday.

Our Dwelling Place

OMEWHERE we must come to rest. Our fearful and feverish spirits, buffeted and bewildered, must find a home. Sidney Lanier, in From the Marshes of Glynn, declares:

As the marsh-hen secretly builds on the watery sod, Behold I will build me a nest on the greatness of God. . . .

In the early part of the last century a young man wandered at sunset one day among the Massachusetts hills, lonely and fearful of the future. He had just left home to find work in his chosen profession. Suddenly against the crimson sky he sees a lonely bird, winging its solitary way southward. He watches it till it is gone. But the moment is not gone. For William Cullen Bryant this instant became a guidepost for life. If an unseen power would guide a lonely bird, it most certainly would lead him too. You recall these lines from To a Waterfowl:

He who, from zone to zone, Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight, In the long way that I must tread alone Will lead my steps aright.

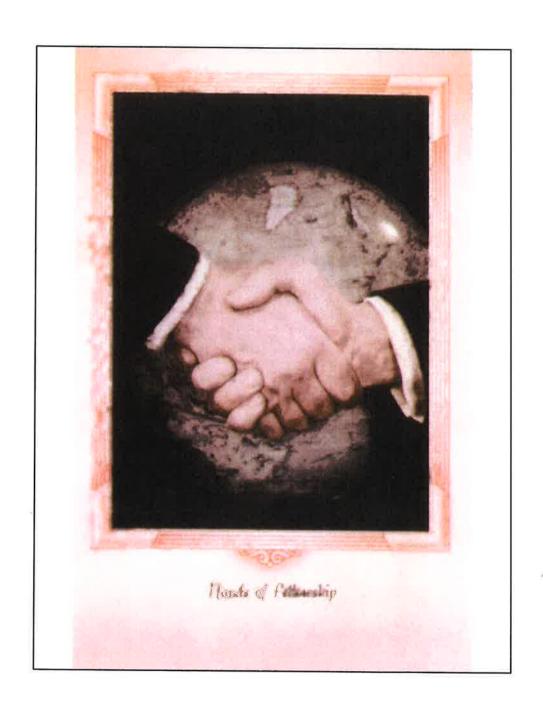
Centuries ago the Psalmist in the ninetieth Psalm reassured himself and his people, "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations."

Every Sabbath millions of people wend their way to a village church, a wayside chapel, a soaring temple, to hear the words of eternal life and to meet Him who is the Living Word. They go to find rest for their souls, a home for their spirits, an abiding dwelling place.

We come to Him who reassures us, "Come unto me . . . and I will give you rest."

No. 5504, Lithia In U.S.A

Bulletin for September 18, 1955 The cover



ONE HUYDREDYE ACMIVERSARY SERVICE OPISVILLE - P. BOFE P ESPETERIAN CHURCH Sunday, September 18, 1955, 11 A. M.

Rev. Lary Bolor Suall Mrs. Orace House

Einister Organist

Organ Prelude Andente Religiose Stults Call to Worship, Invocation, Lord's Preyer Hymn 47 "Our God, Our Help" Responsive Reading 531 Gloria Patri Scripture Reading Rov. John S. Leing Prayer Mr. Leing Cheral Response Anthem - I Will Lift Up Mine Syes Lens Donology
Hymn 57 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"
Sermon The Rev. David S. HacInnes
Executive of the Synod of New York
The Tord is Good Dale Anthem The Lord is Good Dale Hymm 140 "The Church's Ope Foundation" Eunediction (Congregation Seated) Choral Amen Organ Postlude Sacred Memories Eagser

Buffet dinner and social hour downstairs after the service, to which all are invited Many of the floral pieces today have been given in memory of loved ones departed, or in honor of loved ones still living. They are as follows:

By the Fatterson children, in memory of their father, Horace Patterson, and in honor of their mother, Laura Patterson ess By Clifford and Amelia Fersells, in honor of their mother, Lalu Parsells ass By Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bronner, in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bronner Sr. and Mrs. And Mrs. Fred Cross est By Mrs. Fred Newkirk and family, in memory of Mrs. Newkirk's husband, Mr. Fred Mewkirk sta By Mr. and Frs. Archie House, in memory of Mrs. Neuse's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William House ass By Mr. Broje Osterdahl and Mrs. Doris Osterdahl Runnalls, in memory of Mrs. Osterdahl, wife and mother, and Carl Osterdahl, son and brother ass By Frank J. and Carrie V. Writer, in memory of Mrs. Writer's parents, Benjamin H. and Ella K. Writer's parents, Benjamin H. and Ella K. Writer's parents, Benjamin H. and Ella K. Writer's parents, Benjamin H. and Hrs. Bond, Mr. Wial Francisco ass By Mr. and Mrs. Bondl Walker, in memory of Mrs. Walker's parents, George and Anna Miller ass By Mrs. Jean Hitchell and Mrs. Jean Doty, in memory of Mrs. Mitchell's mother, Mrs. Jehn S. Leing and husband, Mr. Andrew Mitchell.

The boquet of red roses have been given by the Wesen's Association, in henor of all the older members of the church

The Restored Fellowship

HE WHOLE world is a tene of broken is flowchise. Men are created at the image of God, to live in follow-ship with our hother as children of God. But the family is badly broken. Nation is pitted against nation, race against race class against class, and even creed against creed. Man, whose most basic distinction has in his being a member of the class of mankind, tends to exaggerate subordinate distinctions and to forget that he is a man.

To restore or heal the broken fellowships of the world is the urgent need of the hour.

There are people who believe fear can do it. If nations and people are alraid enough of each other they ought to behave. And a race in armaments is not Let us be realistic enough to concede that this may be a cause for peace, for even in a home children may cooperate in the tasks of the household because they fear punishment from their tather. Nations may cooperate in the work of the family of nations because they fear the strength of one member. But at best fear only holds in check; it never coments. Fear only breeds resentments suspicious and at last a reckless bravado, which at any moment may set the world after.

Our Christian faith enters with a revolunt party idea for man's communal life on earth. Men can get together, but only in God, in His sight, we are all of equal and extend worth. This He confirmed when He gave His only begitten Son, Joses Christ, to pay on the Cross the same high prior for every one. If we have life with God, through Joses, then the inescapable corollary is that we most seek to restore a tellowship with one another. This is to option which we may reject if we choose, this is the task. And to this task we bring a new and radical approprial of all men, and in Han a love for all men. In this newness a fellowship can be restored.

Centennial Celebration in the news

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Mrs. Grace House, organist



Pastors gather after Anniversary service:

L - R: Rev. John Laing, Rev.Robert Bowering and Rev. Lary Small



Hostesses: L. (unknown) and Mrs. Lary Small on right.

Pastors through the years



Rev. Victor Alfsen and family, October 1942 - October 1945

Rev. Paul Boger and family, April 1967 to April 1971





Rev. Jacob Klaasse and his family served in Otisville from September 1904 - May 1906







Rev. David Kennedy & family February 1947 - March 1951



Rev. Jim Stuckey at wedding ceremony gives the blessing



Rev. Lary Small, November 1953 - May 1957 Pastor during the 100th Anniversary.

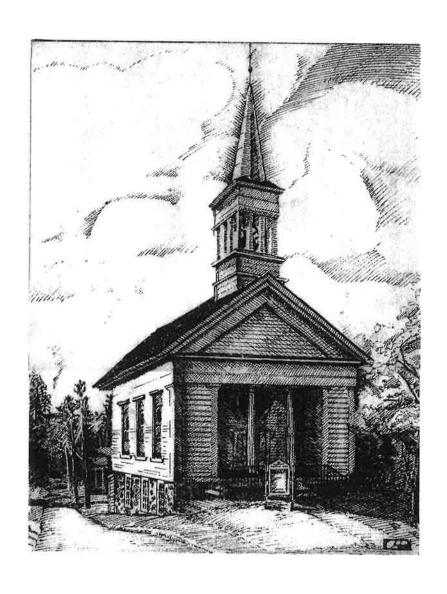


Rev. Merrill Nelson January 1944 to October 1945

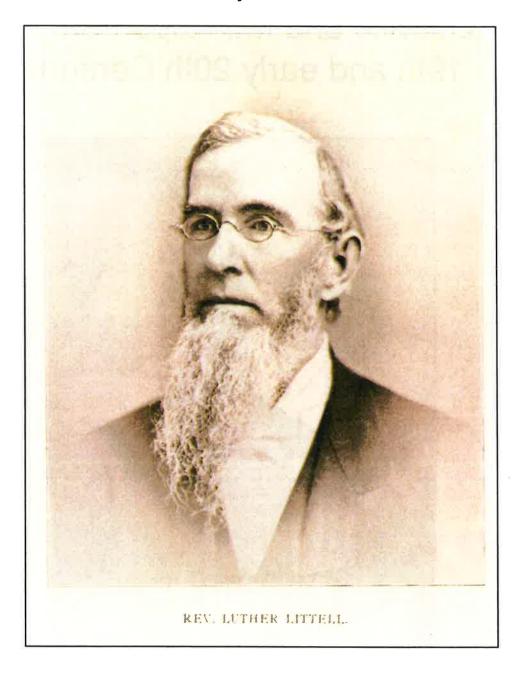




Historical documents of the First Presbyterian Churches of Otisville and Mt. Hope from the 19th and early 20th Centuries



Rev. Luther Littell Brief histories of Two Churches Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church Otisville Presbyterian Church



Portrait and Biographical Record of Orange County, New York. Chapman Publishing Company, The University of Wisconsin, Madison. 1895, p 638.

Church history by Rev. Luther Littell, pastor

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MOUNT HOPE

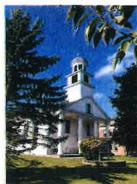
had its origin in the last century. On March 25, 1770, Oliver Delancy. Esq., of the city of New York, executed a deed or perpetual lease, conveying to Messrs. W. Gillett, David Smith, and Simeon Marsh fifty acres of land lying in the town of Deerpark, to he held in trust for the use of a Protestant minister, "who must be elected and chosen by the tenants and freeholders for the time being residing in said town, to do divine service and preach the word of God among them." March 2, 1771, David Johnston, Esq., also of New York, executed a deed, conveying to the same persons in trust, for the same purpose and on the same terms, twenty-five acres of land lying next to the previous lot. This land lay near the locality long known as Otis' Factory. There was at that time no regular Presbyterian Church in the town of Deerpark. Two congregations, however, assembled regularly for religious worship. One was of the Baptist communion, and was served by Rev. Eleazer West. The other held services and had occasional preaching at the house of Elijah Reeve, a large stone house near Otis* Factory, recently removed. After the close of the war of the Revolution a law was passed by the Legislature of New York, April 20,1784, enabling congregations to incorporate. In accordance with this, Feb. 9,1785, the congregation worshiping at the house of Elijah Reeve met, and were regularly incorporated by the election of the following six trustees, viz.: David Smith, Sr., Joshua Corwin, Sr., Joseph Smith, John Ketcham, William Shaw, William Rose. They assumed the corporate name of "The Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church in Deerpark." Steps were at once taken to secure possession of the land conveyed by the deeds of Messrs. Delancy and Johnston. It was occupied by Mr. West. But as the Baptists had failed to secure an organization, after some arbitration and the payment to Mr. West of ten pounds as remuneration for improvements made by him, the land was yielded to the trustees of the organized body. A portion of it was used for a time as a place of burial, but no building was erected thereon. After this, upon application by Messrs. Thomas White and Wm. Shaw, Lewis A. Scott, Esq., of New York, gave the promise of a deed for five acres of land on "The Plains," near the present village of Otisville, for the erection of a house of worship and other church purposes. The deed for this land was given ten years afterwards, in March, 1795, by the executors of Mr. Scott, and conveyed a clear title to the trustees of the church. A portion of the lot had in the mean time been fenced in and used as a place for burial, and the whole of it is now used for that purpose, and known as the "Mount Hope Cemetery."

It was not, however, till 1791 that a house of worship was erected on this land. It was built under a subscription-paper headed "For a Presbyterian Congregational Meeting-house." The house was not finished for several years. This building was a very plain structure, about fifty feet square, with lofty pulpit and high-backed seats, and without paint. It was used for purposes of worship more than forty years, until about 1835, when it was removed from the ground and put to other uses.

In the mean time there had been large removal of Presbyterians to Mount Hope, mostly from Long Island. Rev. Mr. Kerr, of Goshen, preached occasionally for the congregation. The church as yet, so far as is known, had only a *civil* existence. Just when its first board of elders was elected is not known, as the first book of records of Session cannot be found. The question of the ecclesiastical connection of the church was settled Sept. 3, 1792, when by a large majority of votes the congregation resolved to join the Presbytery of New York. A considerable

Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church, 1835 to 1933 (The building was later sold to Otisville Grange. It was destroyed in a fire in 1948)

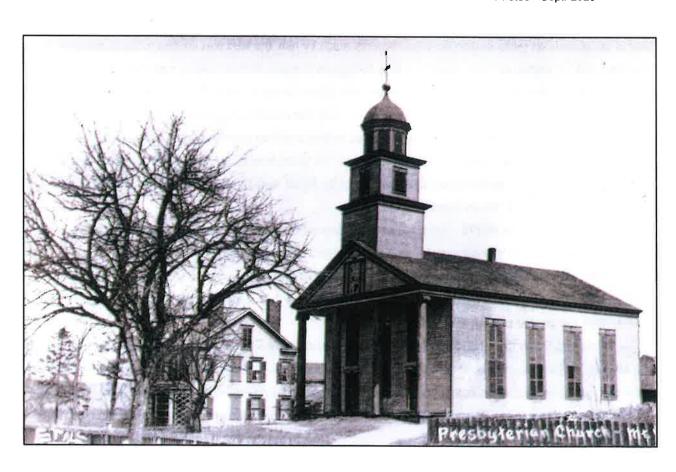




The First Presbyterian Church of Montgomery (1831) is of the same design as the church in Mt. Hope (1835)



Photos -- Sept. 2020



portion of the people had a strong preference for Morristown Presbytery or Platform, the latter body being an association chiefly of Congregationalists. It is probable that about this time the first elders were elected, William Shaw, William Rose. The matters disposed of, the congregation, April 1, 1793, made a "call" upon Rev. Jonathan Freeman, then of Hopewell, to become their pastor for one-third of his time. Mr. Freeman accepted, and was installed the first pastor of the church, Aug. 29, 1793, by a committee of the Presbytery of New York, consisting of Revs. Kerr, Close, and King, and Elder Reuben Hopkins. His pastorate was not successful. Contending elements existed in the church. The Congregationalists had become a well-defined party and claimed the property. Appeal was made to the courts, which confirmed the title in the trustees of the Presbyterian Church, after which the Congregational element drew off and formed the church now worshiping at Howell's. * (*This conflicts somewhat with the account of the Howell's Church, which is drawn direct from their ancient book. We leave both that the facts may appear by comparison.) The pastoral relation of Mr. Freeman was dissolved by Presbytery April 19, 1797.

In 1801 the Rev. Mr. Baldwin, for many years the pastor of the church at Scotchtown, served the Mount Hope Church a part of his time. June 10, 1803, Rev. Benjamin Prime became pastor of the church, preaching three-fourths of his time. After several years the relation was dissolved. Mr. Prime resided in the community until his death, June 26, 1823.

During this period the church languished, having only 17 members. Three persons were now elected to the eldership, who served the church long and faithfully in that office. They were Alexander Bodle, Marshal Stigney, and John Boyd. But a brighter day was now to dawn upon the hitherto struggling church. Oct. 2, 1816, Rev. William Blain was installed its pastor. He preached also a part of his time at Ridgebury. Mr. Blain was the first student who entered the theological seminary at Princeton. Under his effective ministry the church enjoyed its first revival of religion, resulting in large additions to the membership. After six years of successful labor, in 1822, Mr. Blain accepted a call to the church in Middletown. When he left the Mount Hope Church it was united and strong, with a membership of 117. Four elders were added to the Session during his pastorate, viz.: Joshua Penny, William S. Little, David Swezey, and Abijah Norris. Mr. Blain was a man of high character as a preacher and pastor, and after leaving Middletown was for many years pastor of the ancient church of Goodwill. During the two years following Mr. Blain's removal, Rev. Thomas Grier, of Westtown, acted as stated supply for one-half his time.

In 1824, Rev. Edwin Downer, a young man from New Jersey, became pastor. He remained four years, in which time there were 17 additions to the church. Failing health compelled him to relinquish the charge Oct. 22, 1828. He continued to reside many years in the bounds of the congregation, but at length removed to Westfield, N. J., his native place. He died May 31, 1868 in the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church of that place, just as he was commencing service. Following him, for a short time, Rev. James Russel acted as stated supply, but declined to become the pastor.

In 1829, Rev. Sylvester Swezey became stated supply of the church. By his efforts the Congregational Church, which years since had gone out from the congregation, were induced to unite withe them in support of one pastor. The two congregations worshipped together, as Mr. Swezey preached alternately in the church on the "Plains" and the building of the Congregationalists, long known as the "Yellow Church" near the village of Mount

Hope. The union seems to have been a happy one, and during this time the church enjoyed its second revival of religion, resulting in the addition of 57 persons to its communion. this union ceased when Mr. Swezey left, in the spring of 1833. He was soon succeeded by Rev. Andrew Thompson, who had been serving the churches of Nyack and Greenbush, in Rockland County. As early as 1811 the tract of 75 acres deeded to the church by Messrs. Delancy and Johnson was sold, under an order granted by the chancellor of the State, and the money placed at interest. With these funds a parsonage was purchased in the spring of 1833, consisting of a house and 25 acres of land, lying near the village of Mount Hope. This as first occupied by Mr. Thompson. With his coming the subject of the erection of a new house of worship was discussed. The village of Mount Hope had now grown to be a thriving place of considerable business importance, and here the congregation decided, not without strong opposition, to erect its new building. It was a neat edifice, 70 by 45 feet, with spire, and sittings for over 400 people, built at a cost of \$4000. The building was the exact counterpart of the then new house of worship at Montgomery, in this county. It was finished and dedicated early in 1835, when the old church on the Plains was abandoned. After a successful pastorate of five years Mr. Thompson died, Feb. 27,1838, and was buried upon the Plains. He was a man of thorough culture and high character as a preacher, and left his impress upon both the church and the community. He was the father of A. P. Thompson, now of Port Jervis.

He was succeeded by Rev. W. G. Johnston, a Scotchman, who was installed pastor in 1839. He remained about two years. For two years following there was no pastor, until May 8, 1842, when Rev. Edward B. Edgar, who had accepted a call, was installed. Under his labors the church assumed a higher position. Regular contributions to the great missionary enterprises were commenced; the interests of the Sabbath-school were advanced; the church grew stronger in piety and influence. Thirty-six persons were added to the membership during his pastorate of eight years. Amid the general regrets of the people, Mr. Edgar left early in 1850 to become pastor of the church in Westfleld, N. J., where for twenty-two years he labored successfully. He is now living without charge at Plainfleld, N. J.

His immediate successor was the present pastor, Rev. Luther Littell, who came to the congregation a young man, direct from the theological seminary at Princeton. He was ordained and installed pastor of the church by the Presbytery of Hudson, Sept. 26, 1850. During the thirty years of this pastorate there have been five seasons of special religious interest, resulting in additions to the church varying from 10 to 60 persons. The Sabbath-school grew to more than double its former number, and the yearly contributions to religious and benevolent objects were much increased. In these years, at various times, the congregation has expended over \$1500 in renovating their house of worship. On May 2, 1864, by act of the Legislature, the corporate name of the church wan changed from the "First Presbyterian Church of Deerpark" to the "First Presbyterian Church of Mount Hope." Such change seemed desirable, as, by changes in the towns, the church had long been miles away from the boundaries of the town of Deerpark. Also, in the spring of 1867, by order of the court, the recent parsonage premises were sold, and a more convenient and spacious house, with four acres of land, lying near the church in the village, was purchased at an additional cost to the congregation of \$1000. During this period of thirty years there have been 229 additions to the church. But, as in all our rural churches during these years, there has been a heavy drain upon the membership of this church by death and removal of families to railway villages, so that the membership of 160 a few years since has now declined to 120. During the last two pastorates the following

persons were chosen to the eldership, viz.; John K. Davis, Barna Horton, Robert Thorn, Joshua Corwin, Daniel T. Boyd, A. W. Mapes, J, W. Canfield. Some of these persons are deceased, others have removed to other churches. At present the officers are as follows; Pastor, Rev. Luther Littell; Elder, John K. Davis, Daniel T. Boyd, Alsop W. Mapes; Trustees, Charles Mapes, John Borland, Danl. T. Boyd, Theodore Moore, Isaac E. Ketcham.*

• Upon the church history given above it should be remarked that the pastor appears to trac the same church organization that is given the part in the account of Howell's Congregation Church. (See Wallkill.) It seems that both claim the same origin, and that each is the legitimate successor of the one church of 1782. The old book, still preserved at Howell's, bears unmistakable evidence that the organization was Congregational at the outset, though it might have been somewhat Presbyterianized at a later period. There seems no better way than to let the two accounts stand as they are prepared. If they are in any respect conflicting that very fact may lead both to the exact truth in the case.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OTISVILLE

effected a legal organization June 27, 1855. The proceedings were signed by Daniel G. Beyea and Benjamin W. Dunning. The trustees named in the certificate were William A. Gerow, A. Sidney Dodge, Dr. Avery Cook, John Mulock, James McBride, Daniel G. Beyea, and John N. Dunning.

The church was organized March 24, 1855, by a committee of the Presbytery of Hudson, consisting of Messrs. Daniel T. Wood, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Middletown; 0. M. Johnston, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Denton; and Augustus Seward, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Port Jervis, together with George M. Newman and Moses Sawyer, elders in the Denton Church. The following persons united with the church at its organization, namely: Mrs. Pamela Cook, wife of Dr. Cook; Sarah Ann Dodge, wife of A. S. Dodge, Esq.; Mrs. Kezia Dunning, wife of B. W. Dunning, Esq., Mrs. Sophia Gerow, wife of Wm. A. Gerow, Esq., Esther E. McBride, wife of James McBride, Esq.; Mrs. Frances Loomis, wife of Ephraim 0. Loomis, Esq.; Mrs. Charlotte Beyea, wife of Daniel G. Beyea, Esq., who presented letters of their membership in good standing in the Methodist Episcopal Church of the place, together with Benjamin W. Dunning, who made profession of faith. These eight persons constituted the First Presbyterian Church in Otisville.

The first elder elected was Benjamin W. Dunning.

On April 18th following the church was taken under the care of the Presbytery of Hudson.

A suitable house of worship was erected at a cost of over \$5000, on a lot given for the purpose by Ephraim S. Loomis, Esq., on the west corner of Orchard and Main Streets. The building was completed Sept. 24,1856, was dedicated to God for public worship.

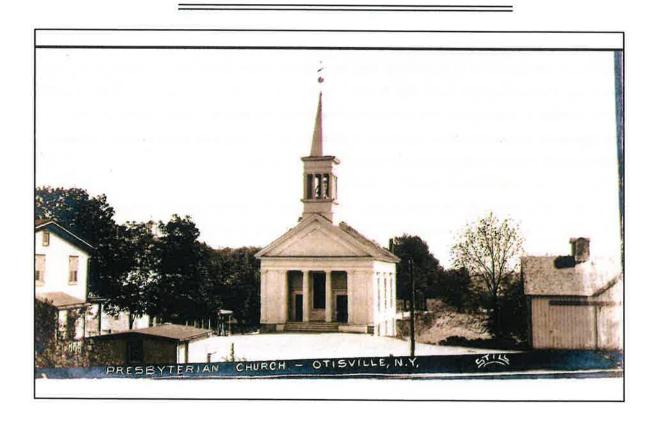
The congregation had much to contend with during the first years of its history. A heavy debt rested upon it, the membership was small, it had no pastor to feed the flock, yet it increased steadily, and bravely met every discouragement until March, 1858, when Rev. Moses H. Wilder was invited to supply the pulpit for one year. During the next twelve months the Bev. Wm. W. Page supplied the pulpit also with ability. In December, 1862, the Rev. Wm. R. S. Belts accepted a call to become the pastor of the church; this office he discharged faithfully for

three years, resigning April 18, 1865. Two years afterwards Rev. F. W. Farries was invited to preach as a supply for one year, at the end of which time he was called to be the pastor, which relationship continued until Feb. 1, 1871, when the pastoral relation was dissolved amid much regret of the congregation. Rev. R. H. Craig was then called to the pastorate of the church, May 1, 1871, which relationship is still maintained by an affectionate people and a devoted pastor. A debt of \$1500 resting on the church building was liquidated Jan. 1,1870, and in 1874 the laudable enterprise of erecting a parsonage was entered upon with much zeal by the congregation. It was completed at a cost of \$3000, and occupied in the following year, but with a debt of \$1200 remaining. At the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of the church this debt was all paid, the entire congregation subscribing liberally, even the children of the Sabbath-school being glad to take a part in the work.

Among the good friends of the church who have passed away stood the late Ephraim S. Loomis, Wm. A Gerow, and S. A. Dodge.

The elders of the church at present are J. K. Austing, D. G. Beyea, A. L. Corwin, H. Willis, G. Beebe, and S. N. Gerow.

Two revivals of religion have taken place during the history of the church, one under the pastorate of Rev. F. W. Farries, in connection with the efforts of the evangelist, Mr. Parker, when about thirty persons united, chiefly on profession of faith; and the other in 1876, when the present pastor, Rev. R. H. Craig, received thirty-nine, nearly all on profession of faith. A prosperous Sabbath-school is maintained in the church, taught by devoted teachers; the society is free of debt; the people are united; and altogether there is mush to be hoped for in regard to the Presbyterian Church of Otisville.



A biographical sketch: Rev. Luther Littell, Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church

Rev. Luther Littell, pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Mt. Hope, was born April 21, 1824, at New Providence, N. J., and is the seventh in the family of ten children born to John and Mary (Conkling) Littell. His father was also a native of New Providence where he was reared, and where for many years he was engaged in the mercantile business. He was also a surveyor, and did a great deal of work in that line in his native county. He was quite a literary man, and in his political views was originally a Whig, but afterward became a Republican. In political matters he always took an active interest, and for about forty years was Justice of the Peace. He also served his county in the Legislature for two terms. In the Presbyterian Church, of which he was a member, he served as Elder for many years, always taking a great interest in religious affairs. He death occurred when he was seventy-five years of age. His parents were also natives of New Jersey, and the family history dates back to Anthony Littell, who came from near London, England, to this country about 1700. Our subject had an uncle, a brother of his father, who was a Colonel in the War of 1812, and for whom our subject was named.

Mary Conkling, the mother of our subject was born in Basking Ridge, N. J., and her death occurred at the age of eighty-seven years. She was an active member of the Presbyterian Church, and always had at heart the interest of her Master's cause. Notwithstanding her extreme age, she was a well preserved woman up to the time of her death. Her family history dates back to the time when Amos Conkling came from England, in 1642s, and settled in Massachusetts. (See the Littell Genealogy, prepared by John Littell in 1852.)

When our subject was about ten years of age his parents sent him to a boarding-school at Plainfield, N. J., later to Bloomfield for one year, thence to Madison, that state, where he pursued his studies until seventeen years of age, and then entered Princeton College, from which he graduated in 1844, when twenty years old. Soon after graduating

he began teaching in Westfield (N. J.) Academy, where he remained one year, the went to Rising Sun, Md., where he remained two years, teaching in a select boarding-school. At the expiration of this tie he entered the Princeton Theological Seminary, where he graduated in 1850. Later he came to Mt. Hope, where he was ordained to the ministry, and was pastor of the church until 1881. A call was then received from the Presbyterian Church at Holt, Mich., which he accepted, and where he served as pastor for three years. Later he went to Morrice, in the same state, where he remained five years. When he was called to Michigan he had served as pastor of the Mt. Hope Church for thirty-one years. After being away about ten years, he was persuaded by some of the old members to return and again take up the work at this place. During his absence the case had in a measure declined, and it became necessary that some one should take hold of the work and build the church up again.

On the 3rd of May, 1853, Mr. Littell was united in marriage with Miss Mary Ann Hall, of Penn Yan, Yates County, N. Y., and to them were born three children all of whom have passed to the better world. Charles H. died at the age of twenty-three years one week after his graduation from Princeton College; Frank Hall died at the age of fourteen years; and Anna M. died in infancy.

In his political views Mr. Littell is a stanch [sic] Republican, and take quite an active part in local politics. But it is to the ministry that his talents are given. For nearly a half-century he has been proclaiming the Gospel of the Son of God, and the good that he has done and the souls that he has saved will never be known until eternity.

Source: Portrait and Biographical Record of Orange County, Chapman Publishing Co. 1895. pp 639-640

Note: Find obituary for Rev. Littell inMiddletown <u>Daily</u> <u>Press</u>, Dec. 29, 1899.

Subject: Otisville and its Environs

Presented toMiddletown and Wallkill PrecinctHistorical Society afterDelivery on Apr. 3, 25

byRev. E. Frank Fowler D. D.

[Excerpted]

Religious Services

The first preaching service held in this vicinity was in 1780 by the Reverend Amzi Lewis who came from Florida, N.Y. He was a member of the Morris Presbytery of New Jersey, at long intervals preaching services were held until 1787 when all record of them ceases until 1791 when. the Shawangunk and Deerpark church was built at about the center of the front of the Plain's Cemetery. * From June to September in 1792 it was served by Metheusala H. Baldwin and Johnathan Freeman both of whom were Licentiates.

In the latter part of 1792 the name of the church was changed to the Deerpark Presbyterian church, being so organized by one Rev. Kerr of Goshen, N. Y.

Johnathan Freeman was installed on August 28, 1792 at Hopewell, N.Y. and the next day he was installed as pastor of the Deerpark Presbyterian church which he served for five years.

Benjamin Prime was installed as pastor in June 1803 and served until April 1807.

William Blain was installed October 2nd, 1816 and served until 1822.

Shortly after this the church as a corporate body was allowed to go out of existence and the building went into decay. Before it was abandoned its name had been changed from the Deerpark Presbyterian church to the Deerpark Four Corners church, what remained of the old church was torn down in 1833 and the timbers in the frame were used to make the frame of the barn on the Andrew Mitchell farm now occupied by his son Joseph Mitchell. (24—30 Mt. Hope Ave)

The village of Mount Hope at this time had become the second largest town in this section and the people there who were formerly connected with the Deerpark Four Corners church came together and started a new society, others joined them. They erected a church at Mt. Hope which remains to this day.

In 1847 Otisville was an appointment in the New York Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church the society consisting of a class of twenty five members and was under the care of the Rome and Wantage circuit over which Rev. Richard Van Horn was Pastor and the Rev. C.E. Hill was the junior preacher. Services had been held for a number of years but in 1847 they organized into a church, electing trustees and at a subsequent meeting decided to build a church, which they began that same year. It was to be thirty four by sixty eight feet and to cost nineteen hundred dollars. It was completed on Dec. 24th, 1848 and soon after dedicated. At the New York Conference of 1848 Otisville was set off and placed in the territory of the New Jersey Conference where it remained until the spring of 1857 when it became an appointment in the Newark Conference where it still remains. (18 Highland Ave.)

There was no Presbyterian society in Otisville from 1833 to 1854 when in the month of April the following persons met together and formed the First Presbyterian church of Otisville and were taken under the care of the Hudson Presbytery.

Mrs. Pamela Cook wife of Dr. Avery Cook.
Mrs. Sarah Ann Dodge wife of A. S. Dodge.
Mrs. Kesiah Dunning wife of B. W. Dunning.
Mrs. Sophie Gerow wife of Wm. A. Gerow.
Mrs. Frances Loomis wife of Ephriam S. Loomis.
Mrs. Esther E. McBride wife of James McBride.

* 23 Mount Hope Road

Mrs. Charlotte Beyea wife of Daniel Beyea. Benjamin W. Dunning

These seven heroic women and this one lone brave man thus fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah the fourth chapter and the first verse which says "Seven women shall take hold of one man", they interested others in the enterprise and a building project was started on the spot where the church now stands.* A high hill had to be taken down and the building of a church began which was completed on September 24th, 1856.

The first preacher of the newly formed Presbyterian church was the Rev. T.D. Wood, the first preacher called by this young church was the Rev. A.D. Peloubet, in December 1862 the first pastor to be installed was the Rev. W. R.S. Betts.

The Little Red Schoolhouse soon came, the first one being located down on the Plain's south of the First Presbyterian church of Deerpark on the spot where the Wiggins lot is now situated in the Cemetery. No record of the teachers of this school has been left. (25 Mt. Hope Ave. Plains Cemetery)

Later came the District school located on the old road from Otisville to Middletown, it stood below the Cadwell crossing about four hundred feet on the left side of the road. Its first teacher was Helen Jane Cadwell, she was followed by B.F. Hill who was one of the most popular teachers in the county. (33 Kelly Hill Road).

In the midst of his greatest success he suddenly died Sept. 29,1870 and he was held in

such high esteem that the teachers and scholars of Orange County erected a fine Monument to his memory, at the head of his grave where it stands today in the Plain's Cemetery. The third teacher was the wife of B.F. Hill.

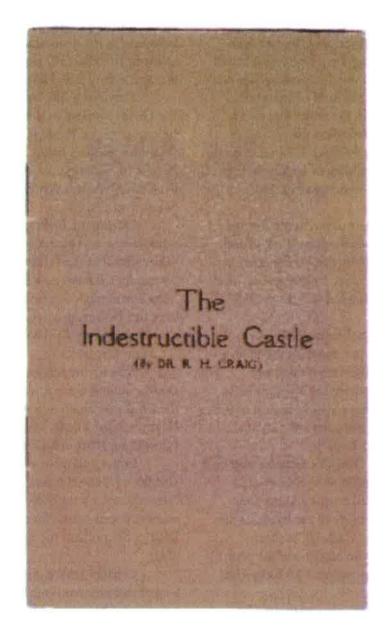
Previous to the building of this schoolhouse the District School as it was called was held in the basement of the Presbyterian church for three years the teachers being H. Poorhouse, Harrison King and a young man by the name of Green who lived where Aaron Writer Jr. now lives. (4 Sanatorium Ave.)

During the first three years after the new schoolhouse was occupied Mrs. Basset held her select school in the brick block over where Schneider's Bakery now stands, the same time Miss Sincebaugh was holding her select school over her Fathers grocery which was in the building now occupied by Karl Mitchell as a butcher shop. (17 Main Street).

Among the scholars who attended the District school when it was held in the basement of the Presbyterian church was Charles Loomis, Joel Northrup, Joe Fields, John Fields, John Carwithen, Horton Easton.

In the hollow where the east end of the Erie and Jersey Tunnel is now situated was a pond formed there by the Fall rains which when frozen made a skating pond for the scholars of the new District School and the Kelly Hill was the coasting place.

Otisville where it now stands was settled by Isaac Otis merchant from New York and the town was named after him, he lived on the Robert Robbins farm.



Rev. Robert Craig, Pastor May 1, 1871 - March 31, 1884

In April of 2005, Edward Sisson, grandson of Rev. Robert Craig, gave the booklet pictured above to the Otisville - Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church

Special thanks to Nancie Craig and the Mt. Hope Historical Society for arranging this gift.

The Indestructable Castle

I dreamed that I was wandering alone in a strange land. The day was hastening to its close, and I was greatly troubled because night would soon be on and I homeless and without a friend. My fears proved by no means ground-less, for in a moment "a horror of great darkness" came upon me, an insupportable weight rested upon my heart, and I cried in despair, "0, for a light to guide me in this unspeakable night!" The sound of my voice alarmed me, and looking, around to see if any human being was near, my eye was arrested by a light in the distance. At first I thought it a star, it shone with a flame so steady and brilliant: but as I peered through the darkness, still drawing nearer, I saw that it was a lamp suspended above the door of a large building, which I found to be a castle. Then I thought of the Psalm, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet." As I drew still nearer this other text came into my mind, "The entrance of Thy word giveth light."

I now approached the door hoping that some pitying one within would offer protection to a poor stranger, but before I had time to knock the door swung open and a gentle voice said tenderly, "Come in and welcome." Then the words of the hymn flashed across my mind, "Come to the light, 'tis shining for thee." I found the castle a structure of wonderful strength and beauty, and to all appearances very ancient. On inquiry I learned that it had stood for three thousand six hundred years, counting from the time they began to build it. The period of the build-ing, from the laying of the foundation to the completion of the work, extended over seventeen hundred years, and the number of architects who completed the sixty-six distinct

departments was just forty, all noted for their great wisdom and piety.

Wherever I gazed I was captivated with so much design and beauty combined with great durability, and I asked how it came to be so. My guide informed me that the plan, even to the most minute detail, was designed by one great mind, that enemies had plotted its destruction from the first, and that the great Architect intended it to stand through all time.

"Surely no intelligent being would think of destroying a building so noble as this," I said. "It seems that the grander the building the more they plot to destroy it." he replied. "Only a few centuries ago a powerful enemy entered, with large forces. tried to deface its beauty and then set it on fire; but there was little of the combustible in it, and the fire could not consume ityou see; that gold and silver enter chiefly into its construction. At another time it was locked up by pretended friends, and no one was allowed to enter it, under penalty of death-the design was to let it crumble into ruins by mere disuse, but it stood Just the same. Only, of course, its lamps went out and the country around was left in total darkness for a long time. till a great man rose up with giant strength and broke the bolts in pieces and opened the door."

By this time we had ascended to the top of one of the high towers. "Of course, no one attempts its destruction in these days. People ought to be proud of such an ancient castle as this," I remarked. My guide, smiling, said, "They dislike this castle because these lights, which never go out, throw their rays far and wide across the land, helping poor benighted pilgrims like yourself to a place of safety. Many deeds of darkness are continually being done outside; robberies and murders and other wicked acts are committed

constantlyin the darkness of this world, and the light from this castle is all that hinders these bad men from greatly multiplying their accursed crimes. Without the light, all around us would be scenes of the most horrid cruelty and woe; for they love the darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil." "Are there any enemies around the walls tonight?" I asked. "Look and see for yourself," he replied, at the same time touching a key with his finger by which he turned on a flood of light that to me appeared as bright as day. Looking over the parapet, I saw a company of men around the walls, each with a little bag slung over his shoulder and a hammer in his hand, pounding away at the rock which formed the foundation of the building. "Who are these and what are they doing?" I cried. These are a species of geologist," said he. "They have hammered continually at this rock for years, but never vet succeeded in undermining the walls. They are volunteers in the service of the arch enemy, and they aim to chip away the foundation, which is sometimes called the Mosaic Rock—its right name is the Rock of Ages—succeeding in this, of course the building would fall. No, no, they can never succeed. Not even a single chip have they broken off yet, though they work day and night. When they strike very hard, however, a sort of dust rises up in their eyes and somewhat blinds them; but that is all the harm they can do."

"It's singular they persevere so long, when so very unsuccessful," I re-marked. "Well, when they succeed in making a dust they think they are gain-ing something; be-sides, when one party becomes tired it withdraws and a new company takes its place. Look further out," he said, pointing beyond, "and you will see another class of enemies." I looked, and behold, what seemed a great army covered the plain. They were commanded by a man of dark and distorted visage, whose face was

marked with a constitutional sneer. As they approached, the general commanded a halt. He then ordered them to surround the castle. With his trumpet to his lips he cried, "Ready, soldiers, sneer!" And the whole army sneered. I laughed aloud, and my guide seemed much amused, also. As soon as I could recover my speech I asked why they sneered, and if these great warriors expected to destroy a castle so fortified by a sneer?

"Such is the object of their attack," he assured me. "They pretend to see flaws and even great defects in the plan and in construction of the castle. They claim that much of it is offensive to their refined taste, and want a new, modern building suited to the present civilization, without a dungeon for criminals in it. As battering-rams, shells and other explosives of all kinds have failed, they now employ this novel method, thinking to bring the castle in disrepute, and so cause it to be abandoned. 'Ridicule,' they say, can accomplish more than an army of half a million."

At the same moment, looking further out over the plain, "Who are those venerable men approaching with arms full of books?"

I asked. "They seem to me like poets and philosophers, sages, who look through their golden spectacles, as if in veneration of so ancient a castle, who would protect rather than destroy it."

He replied, "These claim to be learned men, indeed. They are trying to prove by their books (some of them were written by themselves) that these walls were not built in seventeen hundred years, that the castle is not as solid as its history claims, that pseudo-architects built it for some bad purpose, and that its light makes the land far darker than it would be without it." "What good will that do them?" I asked in surprise. "No good, but much

evil," he said. "They, too, seek to bring the castle into disrepute, and then it can be destroyed, they think."

"If all these enemies are so determinately united against this castle, shall it not fall sooner or later?" said I, sadly. All these enemies so different seem in league," I said.

"Come with me," he replied, and taking me by the hand he led me into a secret apartment called the "archives"; then from an inner drawer taking out a roll, handed it to me, saying, "This is the charter given by the King of kings; open it and read." It was written on heavy parchment, with letters of gold, and having the King's great seal in blood red stamped upon it. I unrolled it and read, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my Word shall not pass away."

"Exactly so," he replied.

"What of these other men dressed in the

garb of religion, who stand over against the entrance," I asked. "They are religious by profession," he said, "but they are there to bar the way against pilgrims—those that are entering in they hinder. They claim that it is hurtful to the common people. The true reason is, they become enlightened in mind, independent in action, insubordinate to the head of their order, if allowed free entrance here, and so they keep them out. In olden times they burned alive all who tried to enter; now they merely hurl papal anathemas at them and thus frighten them away."

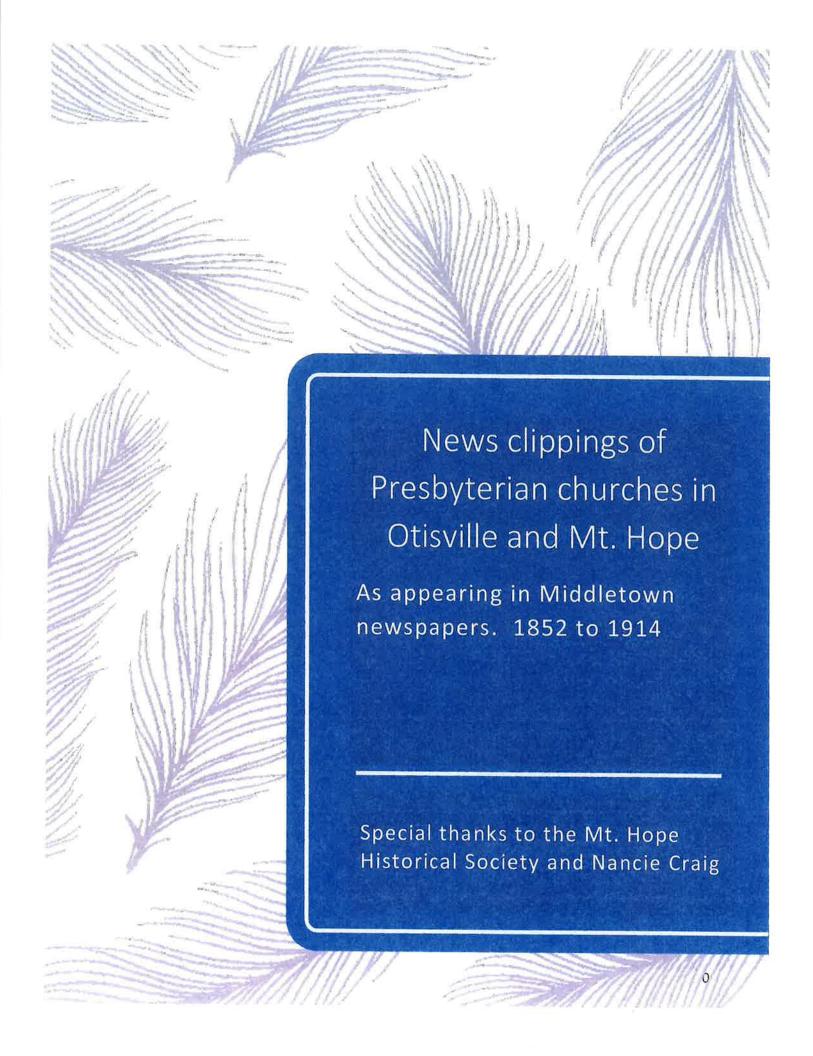
I awoke. It was a dream. "What can this indestructible castle be?" I said musing over what I had seen, and a spiritual voice answered to my wondering soul:

"It is the Bible!"

(Plainfield, N. J.)



View across Loomis' meadow. The First Presbyterian Church is left of center.(c. 1895)



The Whig Press, May 19, 1852

Hudson Presbytery. Old School Assembly...(was represented by)... Edwin Downer (of) Mount-Hope

The Whig Press, Aug. 30, 1853. p. 1

Mt. Hope Churches and Pastors. - There are five church edifices erected and dedicated for religious services within the limits of this town. One Old-School Presbyterian, located in the village of Mount Hope, under the pastoral charge of Rev. Luther Littelle [sic]. Two Methodest (sic) Episcopal—one located in the village of Otisville, the other near Finchville over both of which Rev. J. R. Adams presides. One Congregationalist, located about half a mile northeast of the village of Mount Hope, over which Rev. A. Downs presides, in connection with the neat and more recently erected edifice at Howell's; and one Old School baptist located at Vernon, under the pastoral charge of Elder Gilbert Beebe. This edifice is somewhat dilapidated, and a new church is now being erected in its stead.

The Whig Press, Jan. 31, 1855 MOUNT HOPE

There has been quite a brisk business going on recently in the selling of property in the village of Mount Hope. Among other, Rev. Edwin Downer, a highly-esteemed citizen, has disposed of his property, preparatory to his anticipated removal to Fairfield, Conn.

The Whig Press, March 21, 1855

Improvements in the Mountain Village. Otisville, March 17, '55

Mr. Hasbrouck – A great event has taken place with us, but before I relate the particulars I will say be not alarmed, it is nothing serious—on the contrary, it is an

event over which many in our village are rejoicing; and I feel sure you will agree with me when I say they have good reason to rejoice. Our citizens are not unlike the rest of mankind, and when an event like the one I am about to relate *does* happen, they will readily be excused if they give sudden vent to their feelings, when we consider how seldom such things occur. But, perhaps, you are getting impatient to know what has really happened; so I will keep you in suspense no longer.

Our enterprising townsman, E. S. Loomis, esq., who, by the way, is not the least tinctured with "old fogyism," has, within the past week, had surveyed and put in market about twenty new building lots on the west side of the village, fourteen of which have been sold. And I would here state that, if there is any person desirous of locating in our romantic little village, by immediate application, they may succeed in securing a desirable location. They must apply very soon, or they will be too late. Those who have purchased, I am informed, intend to erect beautiful dwellings upon their lots.

Who says Otisville is not progressive? On the corner of the new street to be opened, the erection of a new church is contemplated, and for which object a meeting is to be held in the village hall on Saturday next for the purpose of effecting an organization.

Yours, w.

The Whig Press September 24, 1856

(CHURCH DEDICATION)

"The First Presbyterian Church, Otisville, will be dedicated to the service of Almighty God, on Wednesday, the 24th of September inst. Dedicatory sermon by Rev. Augustus Seward, of Port Jervis. Services to commence at 11 o'clock, a.m. A general invitation is extended.

Orange County Press

May 1, 1867

"Otisville Church. – The congregation of the Presbyterian Church at Otisville have obtained the services of the Rev. Mr. Ferris [sic] as pastor of that church. No regular church services had been held there for the past two years, until quite recently. We understand that the congregation have raised \$1,000 for the services of the new minister, together with enough to purchase a new cabinet organ.

Orange County Press

May 20, 1870

Otisville Items.

Last Thursday afternoon, Mr. C. H. Wiggins and Agent Hayt, in behalf of the ladies of the Presbyterian Church of this village, presented the Rev. Mrs. Farries with one of Singer's superior Sewing Machines. ...

There will be no service in the Presbyterian church next Sunday, owing to the sudden death of Mr. Farries' brother, who was accidentally drowned in Canada on Tuesday last.

L.

Orange County Press June 3, 1870 DECORATION DAY AT OTISVILLE.

Floral Offerings – Addresses, & c., & c.
The citizens of Otisville paid great
honor to our fallen braves on commemoration
day.

At half-past five, P.M., the procession was formed in front of the Presbyterian Church, and then proceeded to the

MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY,

where sleep the honored dead. The procession was headed by a flag bearer, (the flag being at half-mast) and eight young ladies who carried the floral offerings, then the relatives of the honored dead, soldiers and citizens. The memorial services were introduced by strewing the grave of Lieutenant Willis, after which the Rev. Mr. Lit tell of Mt. Hope offered a very affecting prayer.

Willis H. Wiggins delivered the opening address.

ADDRESS BY WILLIS H. WIGGINS.

My countrymen and friends of the fallen brave; The time, the place, the surroundings, one and all, combine to weave around us threads of tenderest affections, and to imbue our souls with high and holy offerings. Today in union of sentiment and of felling, with thousands throughout our blood bought, persevered land, we have assembled together to pay our vows before the shrine of bravery; and to wreath the tomb of one who was true to himself and to his native country, and while we strew these choice gifts of Nature upon this mound, let us remember it is the grave of one who died that America might live.

Lieut. Willis was brave; he loved freedom; he trod the fields of carnage. He glanced upon the starry flag, his springing steps advanced, and he marched to the cannon's mouth, while the life blood warm and wet dimmed the glistening bayonets.

In the battle of Chancellorsville, most bloody and terrible of the war, five messengers of death pierced his flesh, and two passed through his garments.

AFTER THE ADDRESS

the graves of Private J. H. Corwin, J. H. Boyd and Seth Moore were decorated, the band which had previously arrived, played a dead march at each grave. After the graves

had been strewn, the procession returned to the tomb of Lieut. Willis, where addresses were then made.

MR. GEO. WIGGINS, JR.,

being introduced, said:

"How shall I describe the feelings of those who stand beside the graves of those dear to them, who had fallen battle. He spoke of Private J. H. Corwin as being doubly a soldier, for he fired the first gun in the Mexican war. He spoke of Private Boyd and Moore, as among that number who lingered upon beds of sickness in the Hospitals. He spoke of the ladies as being first at the tombs of our soldiers, to decorate their graves with flowers." The

REV. MR. FARRIES

followed with a few appropriate remarks. He said that "although he was not a citizen of this country yet, he approved of this day's observance." He entered into the spirit of the occasion, and spoke of the great victories that were achieved as a nation. Then the band gave some music, and

THE BENEDICTION

was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Haggerty. As we left that sacred place where our nation's dead repose, we could not but feel that we had stood side by side with our fallen brave.

The young ladies upon the decoration committee who strewed flowers and garlands upon the graves of our honored dead, are worthy of many thanks for the great interest they manifested in regard to our fallen brave in this community. Their sad young faces as they stood over the soldier's grave, contrasted beautifully with the delicate hued flowers they bore in their hands. The music for the occasion was furnished by Mr. Geo. Beyea, of New Vernon, and others to whom many thanks are due.

Orange County Press

July 8, 1870, p 1

The Celebration at Otisville, Middletown, July 5, 1870.

Editors of the Press -- There being no general observance of the Fourth in this village, it afforded us the pleasure of visiting our neighboring hamlet, Otisville, and witnessing the patriotic demonstrations of her citizens in celebrating the National Anniversary. At 1:30 o'clock P. M., the bell of the Presbyterian Church was rung, to announce that the exercises were about to commence.

THE CHURCH

was soon filled to overflowing by a very respectable and intelligent audience. The building was handsomely decorated for the occasion, by having the American flag beautifully adorned with evergreens, and the portrait of Washington and the Continental soldiers. Upon the stage were seated the executive committee, the speakers, clergy, Prof. Campbell and choir, the New Vernon Band, and aged citizens. Sam. Vanton, Esq.

PRESIDENT OF THE DAY,

introduced the exercises by making a few appropriate remarks in regard to the observance of the day, advancing the noble truth that America and her free institutions were guarded by the Supreme Judge of the World; and as the Congress of seventy-six appealed to the God of Battles for the rectitude of their intentions, and as Washington bowed in the forest and asked his Maker to guide his country through the fire of war, so upon this occasion, beneath the roof of this sanctuary, he deemed it proper that prayer should be offered,. The Rev. T. S. Haggerty, of the M. E. Church, offered a very impressive prayer for the welfare of the country.

THE READER

George Wiggins, Jr., Principal of the Public School, read the Declaration of Independence in a clear and distinct tone of voice. Its most interesting and eloquent passages were properly emphasized, bringing out the immortal document with all its inherent beauty and power, sending a thrill of delight through the audience.

Master Willie Mullock sang the origin of Yankee Doodle in a style that indicated he was fired with that youthful love of country which animated the youths of seventy-six.

THE ORATION

By School Com. B. F. Hill was one of the finest productions for the occasion that we ever listened to. He introduced his remarks by giving a historical account of the origin, progress and termination of the revolutionary war. He then spoke with earnestness and pride of the unprecedented rapidity of our country's development, of its intellectual and physical resources. He described with power and effect the influence of our free institutions upon other nations, and spoke more particularly of our educational advancement, and the means for promoting it. He paid a high tribute to pedagogical professions, saying that it was rising in dignity and character. He closed with a most beautiful apostrophe to the flag.

THE ADDRESS OF WILLIS H. WIGGINS

was truly eloquent and patriotic. He said that when Thomas Jefferson grasped the pen and wrote that great document, which liberated us from despotism, he left a land mark...

Orange County Press September 23, 1870

Religious.

--The Rev. Mr. Littell, Pastor of the First Presbyterian church in Mount Hope, late of the First Presbyterian Church in Deerpark, will on next Sabbath give a historical account of that church from the date of its organization in 1785, to the commencement of his pastorate in 1850, and in the following Sabbath will continue the account through his pastorate of twenty years.

Orange County Press October 7, 1870

HISTORICAL SERMON.

The Presbyterian Church of Mount Hope.

the removal of its families to the railroad The historical sketch of the Presbyterian church of Mount Hope, and the review of his pastorate of twenty years, recently delivered by the Rev. Mr. Littell, were listened to with interest by the congregation. Some facts stated may be of general interest.

This church was incorporated in the year 1785. Its first house of worship was erected on "the Plains" in 1791, its second in the village of Mount Hope in 1834. During the period of eighty-five years since its organization it has had eight pastors, and several stated supplies. These pastorates have all been short, except the present one, varying from two to eight years. The pastorate of Mr. L. has been for the most part harmonious and pleasant. The church has suffered much by constant drain in towns. As evidence of this change by death and removal, as far as could be ascertained, there were only twelve persons

present on the recent anniversary Sabbath who attended the services of ordination twenty years ago. During this period the pastor stated he had preached not less than 1,500 sermons, besides evening lectures and short addresses. There had been four seasons of special religious interest and revival, resulting in additions to the church of ten, twenty, twenty-five and sixty persons, successively. When he took charge of the church there were 100 members, since that time 178 persons have been received, making an average of about nine a year. The report to Presbytery last Spring showed a membership of 158. The Sabbath school has advanced in the number of its scholars from forty to over one hundred, while the contributions to the benevolent enterprises of the church, and its other pecuniary resources, have increased more than 100 per cent. He has attended 238 funerals, riding hundreds of miles in fulfilling this service, and has married 272 persons.

The church has a convenient and commodious parsonage, purchased but a few years since. Its house of worship is at present in need of considerable repairs, which it is hoped it will soon receive. And the hope is that the future of this ancient church may be a least no less prosperous than the past.

Orange County Press December 2, 1870

China Wedding at Mount Hope.

The twentieth anniversary of their marriage was celebrated by Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Mapes, of this town, on Monday evening, 21st ult. A company of some 250 persons were present, and all seemed to enjoy the occasion with much zest. Cheerfulness was the order of the evening. The bride of twenty years was clad in a dress of pearl silk, the same she wore on the occasion of her marriage, and it was remarked by some of the guests that the happy couple appeared will

nigh as young now as then. Numerous elegant gifts from friends, in the way of sets of china, silver goblets, vases. Family Bible, etc., were placed upon the table. Refreshments were abundant, as usual in their home, and were attended to with eagerness.

During the evening congratulatory remarks were made by Rev. Mr. Littell, their pastor, and numerous good wishes were offered by their numerous friends. It was understood to be also the twentieth anniversary of Mr. L.'s first attempt in saying the marriage ceremony, since they were the first couple he united in the holy bonds.

At least three recent brides, with their bridal wreaths, were observed in the company. The whole affair was a success, and the numerous friends departed, late in the evening, leaving many kind benedictions with the happy couple and their interesting family.

Orange County Press May 26, 1871

Otisville Items.

At a meeting held in Good Templars Hall Saturday evening, May 20, Dr. R. Farries was called to the chair and C. J. Tymeson appointed, Sec'y.

It was resolved that Decoration Day be observed in this place. The procession will form in front of the Presbyterian church, and then proceed to the Mount Hope cemetery. Rev. R. H. Craig will make an opening prayer, after which the graves of the departed Heroes will be decorated.

Addresses may be expected from Rev. L. Littell, J. B. Brady, C. J. Baxter, and Geo. Wiggins, Jr. Ladies will please contribute flowers &c., and consider that it is for a good cause and that it is for those who laid down their lives in defence of their country. Contributions of flowers &c. may be left at the store of F. S. Tymeson, on Tuesday morning.

W.

Orange County Press June 9, 1871

DECORATION DAY AT OTISVILLE.

Interesting Ceremonies – Addresses – The Graves Decorated.

Correspondence of the PRESS.

The citizens of this village and vicinity paid great respect to the honored dead on Commemoration Day.

The procession formed in front of the Presbyterian Church at 5 p.m., and thence marched to the Mount Hope Cemetery. At the grave of Lieutenant Willis, Rev. Mr. Craig made an impressive prayer. The floral committee-Misses Ella Wheat, Etta Fields, Mary Quackenbush, Frances Vanduzer, Ida Tymeson, Emma Beyea, Emma Wiggins, Carrie Buchanan, Mary E. Braun, Mary Beyea—decorated the graves of the fallen brave, the band playing a dirge as they went from grave to grave. After strewing the mound of Lieut. Willis, the unknown soldier, and privates Corwin, Boyd, Burns, and Moore, Rev. Mr. Littell spoke of this observance as being very beautiful. "The flowers that we placed upon the soldier's grave had a language. There we place the little forget-me-not, which shows that the honored dead will ever live in the hearts of their countrymen. Four of the gallant dead who sleep beneath this sod I have known. I have been to them a pastor, and have pointed them to the great Captain—Christ Jesus."

Rev. Mr. Brady was next introduced. He said that he was a stranger to the brave boys who gave their lives to the nation, yet he knew they were true to the great interests of the country, for this day's observance proved that they were brave and valiant soldiers. He alluded with a great deal of feeling to the grave of the unknown soldier. The peroration was grand, eloquent, sublime, and impressive.

C. J. Baxter, teacher of the public school of Otisville, was the next speaker. Mr. B. having been a soldier in the army, knew well

what his fallen companions had suffered. He spoke as follows:

"Friends of the town of Mount Hope: I am happy to be present on this occasion; happy to meet you all and to have heard the pleasing and appropriate address of the speakers who have preceded me. As I came up to this place, keeping step to the time of martial music, and engaged in the beautiful and appropriate service of strewing the graves of the patriot dead with flowers, my thoughts were carried back to the spring of 186l, to the time when passions fierce and dark raged

He spoke of the cause of the war, showing that some who were in positions of honor and trust were found plotting treason, and also showed the beneficent influences that have resulted from the great civil war; "and this day we look forward to an honorable and a long-abiding peace. Then meet it is that we should strew the soldier's resting place with flowers—beautiful flowers—for worthy are they of the fairest that the green earth bears."

in men's hearts."

George Wigging, Jr., then followed in a short address:

"Another year has rolled away, and we have again assembled within the quiet cemetery to pay our tribute of respect to those who gave their lives that we might enjoy the precious boon of liberty, This occasion recalls to mind the days when the bugle notes

of war echoed and re-echoed throughout our domain. It recalls the answer that our brave boys gave when the summons came, 'To arms! to arms! your country is in danger!' It brings to remembrance the true and worthy daughters of the republic who did everything in their power to comfort, cheer, and inspire our brave boys, who were fighting to defend our country."

Then, addressing the Decorating Committee, he said:

"My young friends, when war raged in our land, you were too young to realize the danger and to give words of cheer to our brave boys. But now that the bright star of peace has returned, you come with flowers, culled by your own hands, and deck the soldier's grave. This is a worthy deed, and it is one that I hope you will never forget,' but write it indelibly upon the tablets of your memory. Fellow-citizens, by the memory of the honored dead, and in justice to the empty sleeve, the weeping widow, the mourning child, and the unmaimed soldier, let us be true to our country, and

"Year after year our hands shall bear Immortal flowers in vernal bloom, To adorn the soldier's tomb, Till God shall call us home to share Immortal life beyond the tomb."

The New Vernon band played patriotic tunes between the addresses.

The young ladies upon the Decoration Committee are deserving of many thanks for the great interest they manifested in regard to the fallen braves in this community, and also to others who gave their aid to promote the cause. We would return thanks to Mr. John Mullock and Master Albert Ketcham for their most valuable services.

The Orange County Press February 2, 1872

Otisville.

Uncle John Willis, of Otisville, has presented a valuable "Regulator" clock to the Presbyterian Church in this village. This is not the first generous present which he has recently made to the same church. Many thanks to him

Orange County Press January 9, 1874

Otisville.

The Sabbath School children of the Presbyterian Church in Otisville were treated to their annual Christmas entertainment on Wednesday evening. 24th ult. The decoration of the church with evergreens and mottoes was more than usually attractive, and the Christmas tree bore more abundant fruits than ever before. The house was crowded with the friends of the school, and the children enjoyed the occasion remarkable, especially the distribution of the presents from the tree. The school is in a flourishing condition, and can commend the good and regular attendance of its teachers and scholars as well as any other school in the country. Judging from the value of the presents given in this pleasant way we can infer that purses in Otisville are not difficult to open in the frosty days about Christmas.

The Orange County Press May 15, 1874

Otisville.

A grand wedding took place in the Presbyterian Church Thursday afternoon of last week at 5 o'clock—Mr. A. R. Gumaer of Port Jervis to Miss Ella Mulock of this place. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Luther Littell, of Mount Hope. The bride was dressed in a traveling dress of gray poplin. Immediately after the ceremony the newly married couple started for Washington on Train 2. The bridesmaid was Miss Lizzie Corwin, of Howells, while the groom was backed up—so to speak—by Mr. George St. John of Port Jervis.

The Jubilee Singers, a colored troupe, will sing in the Presbyterian church, May 19th. Part of the proceeds for the benefit of the

Parsonage Fund, and the other part for the benefit of a colored school in Wilmington, N. C.

The Orange County Press September 18, 1874

Otisville.

The peach and ice cream festival came off in the basement of the Presbyterian Church as advertised. It was truly a delightful occasion, and we observed that during the entire evening there was not to be seen a single person so stoical as not to enjoy the pleasure of the evening or one so temperate as to refuse a dish of peaches or a plate of ice cream. The company was highly respectable, as usual, and the fare was unexceptionably good. The proceeds, we understand, amounted to between \$50 and \$60. L. A. Seybolt, one of the oldest residents of Otisville, was buried on Friday last. The funeral services were conducted at the old homestead where Mr. Seybolt had been born and died. The company was large. The deceased was 79 years old.

Middletown Daily Evening Press, April 14, 1875

Mount Hope.

The pulpit of the Presbyterian Church in this village was some time since the recipient of a timely gift, in the form of an elegant new Bible and Hymn Book. The Bible, a large quarto, was procured through an agency by the pastor's son, C. H. Littell, while the Hymn Book is the gift of the young people of the congregation, procured by the efforts of Mrs. Hattie M. Ketcham and Miss Lillie Mapes. The latter is the "Presbyterian Hymnal," the new hymns and tune book published a few months since by the Presbyterian Board of Publication, under the direction of an able committee of the General Assembly. It is an admirable book, believed to

be equal, if not superior, to the best of the books of the kind heretofore offered for use in the churches. Its great popularity is evinced by the fact that over 80,000 copies were sold during the first four months after its publication. It has been introduced as the book of praise in the following eight churches of Hudson Presbytery, viz: Ramapo, Monroe, Chester, Goshen, Hamptonburgh, Otisville, Mount Hope and Milford, while the matter of its introduction is under advisement in some other of the churches.

Middletown Daily Evening Press

Thursday, April 29, 1875

Otisville.

A spelling match took place on Thursday evening of last week in the basement of Presbyterian church, under the management of Prof. Goldsmith. Twenty-five words were chosen by Rev. Mr. Craig to be spelled by all who had a desire to win the prize—a gold pen awarded by our friend John Fields, Esq. The prize was won by Miss Nellie Easton. They then changed the programme by standing up and spelling down. A youth by the name of Hurbert Ketcham had the honor of standing up the longest. ...

Rev. Mr. Craig has moved into the new parsonage. It is a very large and commodious house.

Orange County Press March 31, 1876

Otisville.

(From our special correspondent.)

The Orange County Press April 7, 1876

Otisville.

From our regular correspondent. 1776—centennial tea party—1876. The ladies of the Presbyterian Church propose to have a centennial tea party in the basement of the church on Thursday evening, April 13th. If stormy, the next fair evening. The various committees on dress, supper, relics, &c., have been appointed. A pleasant time is expected.

Middletown Daily Press July 3, 1876

Otisville.

[Correspondence of the Press]

Services in commemoration of our National Anniversary were held in the Presbyterian Church last evening. The pastor, Rev. Mr. Craig, gave a history of the church for the past hundred years. Addresses appropriate to the occasion were also made by Prof. Willis H. Wiggins and Geo. Wiggins, Jr., Esq. The music was well rendered by the choir—Mrs. A. S. Dodge presiding at the organ.

[Note: Identical article appeared in *The Orange County Press*, July 7, 1876]

The Orange County Press November 10, 1876

Otisville.

[Correspondence of the Press]

The congregation and friends of the Rev. R. H. Craig, of Otisville, were prompt in their attendance at the parsonage on Thursday evening, October 26th, and left behind then a substantial token of their

liberality in the shape of \$130. Evidently neither Centennial excursions nor politics, nor even "hard times" have in the least tightened the purse strings of the good people of Otisville in making up a present for the pastor.

The Orange County Press November 1876

A FIRE IN OTISVILLE,

[Correspondence of the Press]

Thanksgiving day, a little after one o'clock Charles W. Loomis' barn was discovered to be on fire. He succeeded in removing his three horses and some of his farming tools. His hay, a two-horse wagon, horse rake, land roller, a quantity of potatoes and turnips were burned. Origin of the fire unknown. Insured for \$500 on the building and \$300 on the contents. About fifty feet from the barn stands the Presbyterian Church, which by the efforts of the people and the favorable direction of the wind, was saved. Considerable damage was done to the inside of the church by taking our stoves, carpets, etc. If the church had burned, nothing could have saved the main part of the village, from Northrop's corner to Galen Otis' house. Elder Uptegrove's house being in the direct line of the fire, had the burning shingles on the roof several times, but water was promptly used, and no damage was done. Fire was also kindled between Wm. H. Hill's blacksmith shop and the M. E. Church, but was discovered in time to prevent any damage.

It is very unfortunate for Mr. Loomis, and one of the luckiest escapes for Otisville possible.

Orange Co. Press March 6, 1877

Communion services were held in the Presbyterian Church Sunday morning. Four were admitted to membership. In the evening the service was devoted to song. Without wishing to be invidious, while everything was meritorious we cannot withhold the need of praise due to Mrs. Harry Reed, Mrs. A. W. Dodge, Miss Mary Wickham and John L. Wiggins. The pastor, Rev. Mr. Craig, made some well chosen remarks, but the crowning feature of the occasion was the solo, "Arise and Shine," by Miss Katie Halstead. It was a beautiful production, appropriate in sentiment, and Miss H. rendered it in a manner that few can equal and none excel. Miss Emma Wells presided at the organ.

(publication unknown)

March 29, 1877

Rev. Luther Littell of Mt. Hope, today by the Erie brought home his son Charles who was recently stricken with paralysis at Princeton College. The young man is recovering slowly and bore his journey well.

Middletown Daily Press June 26, 1877

PERSONAL NOTES.

Rev. Luther Littell, of Mount Hope, was yesterday called to Summit, N. J., the residence of his brother, where his son Charles was taken ill after graduating at Princeton. Although unable to finish his studies entirely on account of his health, President McCosh very properly allowed his degree, which he went to Princeton to take. The excitement and exertions of

commencement week seem to have overcome him.

Middletown Daily Press July 3, 1877

The Funeral of Charles Herbert Littell.

The funeral services of Charles Herbert Littell were held at the New Providence Church, N. J., on Saturday afternoon last at 2 o'clock. The procession moved from the house of Mr. William Littell, uncle of the deceased, after the reading of the Scriptures by the Rev. J. D. Bruen, and prayer by the Rev. Charles Beattie. At the church addresses were made by the Rev. D. N. Freeland, Ludlow D. Potter, D.D., and Rev. Charles Beattie, while other services were taken by the pastor of the church, the Methodist minister of New Providence and the Rev. Mr. Bruen; after which the remains were borne by the hands of relatives, all young men, among whom was the Rev. William L Littell, of Setanket, L. I., a cousin of the deceased. The whole occasion was one of tender interest to all, but of deep sorrow to his parents, and yet of rich consolations. He was a young man of fine talent and noble impulses, whose collegiate course had been a very successful one, in which he had won signal honors; who was at the same time an earnest Christian, and hoped to serve his Master in the ministry of reconciliation. Cut down in the bright morning of his life, the blow seemed a crushing one to those who were looking for him to be their successor in carrying forward the Master's work, yet He who had called him to all these honors and usefulness on earth, bade him come up higher, and although to remain might seem more needful to those who loved him so well, yet to him it is better to be absent from the body that he might be present with the Lord.

The remains were laid in the cemetery of the New Providence Church, where also rest the ashes of his ancestors and of his brother Frank, who died about six years ago, and a sister who died in her infancy. Our afflicted brother has the deepest sympathy of his friends to this crushing grief.

Middletown Daily Press July 13, 1877

Rev. and Mrs. L. Littell have returned from New Jersey, where they have been stopping since the burial of their son.

Middletown Daily Press September 7, 1881

A meeting was held Monday evening in the basement of the Presbyterian Church to arrange for a singing school this fall and winter. After a careful canvas of the sentiments of those present, Mr. Campbell was elected teacher of the school by a large majority.

Middletown Daily Press March 10, 1884

The necktie party at Mrs. Green's takes place on Wednesday evening, 12th inst.; not on Tuesday evening, as one of the Otisville correspondents erroneously stated in Friday's PRESS... The ice storm has done considerable damage in this vicinity. The telegraph wires from Dr. Writer's to Mount Hope are down in a number of places...Rev. R. H. Craig filled the Rev. Mr. Botsford's pulpit at Port Jervis Sunday...

(The Press, in a follow-up, detailed that the party would be at Mrs. I. Y. Green's on Tuesday, March 11th and for the benefit of the Presbyterian Church)

Middletown Daily Press March 13, 1884

Resignation of Rev. R. H. Craig Accepted.

The congregational meeting called by Rev. R. H. Craig and held in the Presbyterian church, Otisville, on Tuesday evening last, decided to comply with the pastor's request by uniting with him in asking to Presbytery of Hudson to dissolve the pastoral relation between him and his church. Presbytery meets there to decide whether Mr. Craig shall remain with his present charge or be released and transferred to the Presbytery of Lackawanna, in order to become pastor of the Hawley Presbyterian Church.

Middletown Daily Press March 17, 1884

The Resignation of Rev. R. H. Craig
-Complimentary Resolutions.

The following resolutions were adopted at a meeting of the congregation of the Presbyterian Church at Otisville, of which Mr. J. J. Hickok was Chairman on Sunday evening March 16th:

WHERAS, The Rev. R. H. Craig acting under what he believes to be the direction of the Head of the Church has asked this church

and congregation to unite with him in obtaining a dissolution of the present pastoral relation, with a view to the acceptance of a call to a church in another Presbytery.

Resolved, That while we concur with him in this request we do it with great reluctance, believing that the severance of a relation that has been so pleasantly maintained for nearly thirteen years, is a serious detriment and disaster to the church.

Resolved, That we .put on record this expression of our hearty appreciation of the services he has rendered us as a faithful expounder and preacher of the word of God, a diligent pastor, in the care he has taken of the interests of his flock, a sympathizing friend in adversity, an upright citizen, and a gentleman.

Resolved, That we commend him to the confidence and esteem of the church that has been so fortunate as to secure his services and will follow him with our prayers

That the blessing of God may complete the work he has begun while here, and prosper Him in all future undertakings.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Rev. Mr. Craig, and also to the PRESS.

Middletown Daily Press March 27, 1884

Otisville (Correspondence of the Press)

-- The Ladies' Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church will give a New England supper in the basement of the church on Wednesday evening, April 2d. All are cordially invited. If stormy the supper will be held the next fair evening.....Rev. R. H. Craig preaches his farewell sermon next sabbath.

Middletown Daily Press April 8, 1884

Otisville. (Correspondence of the PRESS)

The pulpit of the Presbyterian Church is now declared vacant.

Middletown Daily Press June 19, 1884

Mr. Alsop L. Corwin, a prominent citizen of Otisville and elder in the Presbyterian Church made a pleasant visit to his former pastor, the Rev. R. H. Craig, at Hawley, Pa., as he passed through, early in the week, on his way to visit relatives at Pittston, and other parts of Pennsylvania. The congregation of the Presbyterian Church at Hawley, Pa., has just built a new stable and carriage house for the pastor Rev. R. H. Craig

Middletown Daily Press June 25, 1884

How They Treat a Former Orange County Pastor in Michigan.

The friends of Rev. Luther Littell, acting pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Holt, arranged for him and his wife a genuine "surprise" on Saturday evening last. But a day or so previous, one of the energetic ladies of the church had casually learned from Mrs. Littell that that day was the anniversary of her marriage. With this fact as a starting point word was passed around quietly but rapidly among the people to gather at the parsonage on Saturday evening. Accordingly about eight o'clock, as the pastor and his wife were sitting quietly at their table, engaged in reading, the quietude was suddenly broken by the sound of

voices just outside the door, singing a familiar Sunday school song. Hastening to the porch, what was the pastor's surprise to seek by the pale moonlight a crowd of his friends, filling the yard even out to the gate. With a start and exclamation at the sudden apparition, the company were invited in by the pastor, and soon filled the house to the number of some 75 or 80 persons, bearing packages, boxes, bundles, etc. It proved to be a real "surprise," and all seemed thoroughly to enjoy their complete success in this regard.

Scarcely was this first act over the house lighted and the company settled down to lively social chat, when surprise No. 2 took place. An elegant lounge of solid walnut moldings and richly upholstered, was rolled into the room in front of the surprised pastor and his wife. A neat speech was made by Prof. Geo. Decker, principal of the public schools of the place, conveying the congratulations of the company in view of the wedding anniversary and presenting the elegant article of furniture, together with a set of silver knives and forks, in the name of the assembled friends, as tokens of their warm regard and high esteem. Feeling response was made by the pastor, expressing gratitude for the valuable gifts, and warm appreciation of the kindness of the donors, shown in ways so pleasant, and involving, by prayer, heaven's blessing upon their hearts and homes.

Refreshments were then served to the company by the ladies, in a style and with an abundance to prove their ability and skill to provide a first class entertainment on the shortest notice. After two or three hours of genuine social enjoyment, the company bade the surprised couple good night, and separated to their homes. The surprise was voted a complete success and the occasion one of real enjoyment.

Ingham Co. News

Middletown Daily Press July 14, 1884

Otisville.

Correspondence of the PRESS.

The Presbyterian Sunday school goes with the Presbyterian School of Middletown Thursday to Shohola Glen. All are invited to go; 75 cents for the round trip. A grand time is anticipated....

Middletown Daily Press August 16, 1884

Mount Hope.

Correspondence of the PRESS

The summer festival of the Mount Hope Presbyterian Church was held in the church building on Wednesday evening last. It was a very successful affair, and formed the leading social event of the week. The church was tastefully decorated with flags, myrtle and other evergreens. Peaches, cream and other delicacies were provided in abundance and met a ready and appreciative reception from the large number of people present. The receipts were about \$70. The net proceeds are to be applied to a fund being raised for repairing and painting the church—a work that is much needed.

Middletown Daily Press November 3, 1884

Mount Hope (Correspondence of the PRESS)

...Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald invited the male members of his congregation to take dinner with him, Friday, Oct. 24th, at the same time giving them a gentle hint that his corn was not husked. About twenty accepted his invitation and did ample justice to a very substantial

repast and before they left nearly finished husking a three-acre field of very fine corn.

Middletown Daily Press November 13, 1884

Otisville.

(Correspondence of the PRESS.)
The congregation of the Presbyterian Church have called a pastor, Rev. John Service. His installation will take place in the Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, Nov. 19th, at 1 p.m., when a commission of the Presbytery of Hudson will conduct the installation services, the Moderator to preside. Rev. Mr. Cobb will preach the sermon. Rev. Mr. Bonner will deliver the charge to the pastor, and Rev. Mr. Forsyth will deliver the charge to the congregation....

The Daily Argus February 18, 1885

Otisville

Correspondence of the ARGUS and MERCURY.

Rev. R. H. Craig, formerly of this village, now stationed at Hawley, Pa., buried his little son Edward, one of his twin children, at this place yesterday.

Middletown Daily Press February 19, 1885

Otisville.

Correspondence of the Press

There will be a dime party at the house of Daniel G. Beyea, on next Tuesday evening, Feb. 24tth, for the benefit of the Presbyterian Church. All are cordially invited to attend. ... Rev. R. H. Craig, of Hawley, Pa., formerly of this place, brought one of his twin children here for interment Tuesday.

Middletown Daily Press February 20, 1885

Mount Hope

(Correspondence of the Press)

Edward P., infant son of Rev. R. H. Craig, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Hawley, Pa., died of congestion of the brain on last Saturday at 3 o'clock. The funeral services were held in Otisville on Tuesday of this week, and were conducted by Rev. Thos. Fitzgerald, of Mount Hope. The interment was in the Mount Hope cemetery. The father left Hawley early on Tuesday morning with the remains. Owing to the severe storm of Monday, trains did not connect and he was delayed 3 hours. A large number of friends, nearly all of Mr. Craig's former congregation, together with the pastors of the village churches waited anxiously at the church and railroad depot from one till half-past three for the arrival of their former pastor, who was bringing his dead back to them for burial. And when he came, they crowded around, grasping his hands with many expressions of love and sympathy. When the casket was opened, there were not loud expressions of grief, but as the bereaved pastor took his last farewell of all that was mortal of his beloved child, tears proved how deeply every heart in that assembly was touched.

"It is well with the child." God grant that the stricken father as he returns to his sorrowing household, may be enable to say with Scotland's great pulpit orator on returning from the funeral of a beloved child:

"We shall all go home to our Father's house,

To our Father's house in the skies, Where the hope of our souls shall have no blight,

Our love no broken ties.

We shalt roam on the banks of the river of peace,

And bathe in its blissful tide, And one of the joys or our Heaven will

be

The little boy that died."

Middletown Daily Press January 28, 1886

Otisville

Correspondence of the PRESS

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church will hold a dime social Thursday evening at the residence of Mr. Daniel Beyea. All are cordially invited. ... The Rev. Mr. Ferris, of Ottawa, Canada, who has been for some time out of health, and who is at present the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Dodge will preach next Sabbath morning in the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Ferris was formerly pastor of this church, and many will have the opportunity of hearing him again. Sabbath evening there will be a service of song.

OBITUARY

Alsop L. Corwin

Correspondence of the Press

Mr. Alsop L. Corwin died at his home at Otisville, yesterday afternoon at 1:30. His funeral will be held at the house Thursday afternoon, 3d inst., at 1:30 with interment at Hillside cemetery, Middletown,

Mr. Corwin was born in Mt. Hope township, nearly 80 years ago, and here he has lived all his long life. Few men have had better health for so many years. He had been very well, for one of his age until four or five months ago. For the last two months he had been confined to the house. Heart failure brought on general debility, and he grew weaker and weaker until he quietly breathed his last. He will be greatly missed by his friends and neighbors, and all his neighbors were his friends. He was an honest, kindhearted man, an industrious, useful and highly respected citizen. Having made a public

profession of his faith in Christ in early life, he has lived and died a humble, consistent Christian. For nearly 25 years he served the Presbyterian Church at Otisville, as ruling elder, and he was active in every good word and work.

Middletown Daily Press July 17, 1894 OTISVILLE

(Special to the Press)

The famous cantata of "Red Riding Hood" will be rendered in the Presbyterian Church, by the children of Otisville under the direction of Prof. C. H. Campbell, Thursday, and Friday evenings, July 19th and 20th. There will be laughable scenes. The wolf and grandmother are a host in themselves, and well worth the price of admission. Tickets 25 cents, reserved seats 35 cents, children 15 cents. Proceeds for the benefit of the Christian Endeavor society.

Rev. Frank Chadwick and wife have gone to visit the bride's parents in Bayonne.

Middletown Daily Press

February 14, 1895

(Special to the PRESS)

Remember that the Mount Hope singing school closes its season by a concert, to be given next Tuesday evening, Feb. 19th, in the Presbyterian Church, at that place, with a chorus of 75 voices and several soloists. The concert will be under the direction of Ernest T. Winchester. Admission, 25 cents, children, 15 cents. If stormy, the concert will be held the following Tuesday night.

Middletown Daily Times June 1895

Correspondence of the Times.

On Tuesday night, June 11 the Sunday school will give a lawn festival at the home of the Supt. Of the school, Mr. E. E. Cortright. Refreshments consisting of ice cream, strawberries, cake, bananas, oranges, candies, lemonade etc., will be served. The spacious lawn will hold a great many people – let it be filled. Let all come and enjoy themselves.

The Argus June 18, 1895

Correspondence ARGUS and MERCURY

- -- The C. E. festival was fairly attended. In a financial way the society has done better, but the young people had the satisfaction of serving a very fine quality of cream of their own manufacture to all those who were present, and the praises received were very gratifying to them as beginners.
- -- Rev. S. R. Queen preached his last sermon as pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Sunday morning. The evening service was conducted by the C. E. Society. Reports were read by Misses Edna Beyea and Mira Green, delegates to the county convention at Monroe. The reports were well written and helped to make the meeting a very interesting one.
- -- A large number of the friends of Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Queen, were at the depot, Monday morning, to wish them "bon voyage." The Sunday School class of which Mrs. Queen had been teacher was well represented. She is a lady of exceptional worth, and those who knew her best loved her most. They have gone from our village carrying with them the best wishes of many

friends. They sail on June 29th, intending to spend a year abroad.

--The Ladies' Aid Society will meet with Mrs. Frazier, Thursday afternoon.

Middletown Daily Times June 25, 1895

Mt. Hope.

Correspondence of the Times.

June 24. – The Mount Hope, Maple Dale and Finchville schools together with the Mount Hope Sunday school will picnic at Midway Park, Saturday Aug. 29. It is expected that a large delegation will attend and a good time will be had. Those who are to take the special cars provided by the company will meet at Franklin Square at 9:30 a.m.

- -- The ladies' monthly missionary meeting will be held at the parsonage on Wednesday, at 2:30. Subject, "Africa." All ladies cordially invited.
- --Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald preached in the Presbyterian Church at Otisville, on Sunday, and will preach again on next Sunday declaring the pulpit vacant.

Middletown Daily Times July 1895

Correspondence of the Times. July 6 -- A lawn party will be held at the residence of Mr. Chas. Loomis July 11. Half the proceeds will be laid aside for the organ fund. If stormy it will be held the next pleasant eve.

Middletown Daily Times May 8, 1896

Mount Hope.

Correspondence of the Times.

May 7 – Rev. Luther Littell attended the burial of Mrs. Sidney Hulse on Saturday at the Plains Cemetery, and the funeral of Mr. Robertson in Centreville on Sunday.

-- Rev. Luther Littell is spending a few days this week at Princeton and New Providence, N. J.

-- Mrs. Littell, who was taken ill after Mr. Littell left town, is improving.

Middletown Daily Times May 15, 1896

Mount Hope.

Correspondence of the Times.

May 13 – Rev. Luther Littell gave an account of his visit to Princeton at the Sunday evening service.

-- Mr. Everett Cortright attended the Sunday school convention at Chester on Wednesday. Mrs. Cortright took charge of the school for the day.

--Miss Kate Woodward attended the Sunday school convention at Chester.

--Rev. Luther Littell attended the funeral of Mr. James B. Hallock on Tuesday.

Middletown Daily Times May 30, 1896 PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON

A Pastor Ordained and Installed at Otisville,

CLERGYMEN WHO PARTICIPATED

Next Stated Meeting to be Held at Amity—Rev. Mr. McGowan to Go to Pine Plains—

Monticello Church to be Supplied for Six Weeks.

Correspondence of the Times.
According to appointment Hudson
Presbytery met at Otisville, Tuesday, May 19, at 11a.m. Revs. Luther Littell, J. C. Forsythe, C. H. Park, Chas. Beattie, Britain, Bonner, Taylor, Yeomans and Pape and Robert I.
Crawford were found present. The moderator, Rev. Adolph F. Pape, of Nyack

German church, presided. The examination of Rev. Robert Joseph Diven, a graduate of Auburn seminary, recently received into the presbytery, was completed and sustained. The call to him, and his ordination and installation constituted the afternoon service of the day.

In this service the moderator presided. The sermon was preached by Rev. Chas Beattie, D. D. of Middletown, from Acts. 3, 1. The charge to the pastor was given by Rev. D. F. Bonner, D. D. of Florida, and to the congregation by Rev. Luther Littell of Mount Hope. The ordaining prayer was by Rev. Edward Miller, a son of this presbytery and now professor of Church history in Auburn Seminary. Bro. Diven, by his examination in presbytery and his recent associations with Otisville church, has made a very favorable impression.

Middletown Daily Times July 24, 1896

Mount Hope.

Correspondence of the Times.
July 23 –The funeral services of Ollie Fuller were held at his father's home on Friday afternoon and were conducted by Rev.
Luther Littell, assisted by the Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald. Friends were present from Port Jervis, Otisville and Middletown. The gifts of flowers were numerous and handsome. The little white casket was thickly covered with them. It was carried from the house by four of his young schoolmates. Ollie will be missed

very much from school and Sabbath school, as he was a constant attendant at both.

Middletown Daily Times July 28, 1896

Mount Hope

Correspondence of the Times.

--Charles H. Mattison assisted Rev. Luther Littell with the services on Sunday evening and gave a good discourse on the subject of "Personal Responsibility."

-- A treat has been secured for the people of our vicinity. The Y.P.S.C.E. has arranged for a first class stereopticon exhibition to be given in the Presbyterian Church in this place, Thursday evening, July 30, at 8 o'clock. The popular "Ben Hur", will be illustrated by 78 magnificent dissolving views, beautifully illuminated with the new light acetylene. Prof. Fisher will give a short exhibition of fancy club swinging under colored lights. A wagon will be run from Otisville to bring those who have not conveyances and will carry free those who present tickets. The lecture is highly commended and we hope that everyone will take advantage of the unusual opportunity. Proceeds will be devoted to church expenses. Admission: 25 cents, children 10 cents.

--Rev. Luther Littell and wife expect to go away the last of the week and remain over two Sabbaths, so the church will be closed for the first two Sundays in august. Prayer meeting in the school room, as usual, under the direction of the C. E. Society, Wednesday evening. The meeting will be led by Mr. E. E. Cortright, and the following week by Dr. Kinch.

Middletown Daily Press January 8, 1898

TWO MINISTERS NEARLY FROZEN.

REVS. LITTELL AND FITZGERALD HAVE A ROUGH EXPERIENCE.

They Get Fast Into a Snow Bank While on Their Way to Mount Hope From Middletown—Recovered After Being Thoroughly chilled.

The Revs. Luther Littell and Thomas Fitzgerald, of Mount Hope, the former the pastor of the Presbyterian Church there, the latter now living on a farm just east of the village, not having any charge at present, had a severe experience in attempting to reach their homes, Saturday night, and both were nearly frozen to death.

The reverend gentlemen had driven to this city in the morning, where they put their horse out and proceeded by train to Montgomery to attend the funeral of Rev. Dr. Forsythe, which was held Saturday afternoon. They returned to this city in the evening and called at the home of Rev. Dr. Beattie. Mrs. Beattie insisted on their remaining all night, remarking that the roads might be badly drifted and that it was a cold night.

Messrs. Littell and Fitzgerald concluded they would brave the elements, however, and started for Mount Hope during the early evening. They proceeded as far as the neighborhood of the home of the late Silas Vail, and there their horse ran into and became fast in a snow drift. The dominies worked hard in trying to get their rig out of the drift, but their effort was too much for them. After working for about an hour and finding that they were becoming numbed with the cold, it was decided that Mr. Fitzgerald should make his way to Mr. Chas. Vail's home and seek assistance. Mr. Vail's hired man happened to look out of his window and

saw a man making his way through the snow toward the house. He called Mr. Vail's attention to the fact and Mr. Vail told him to open the door and see what he wanted. When Mr. Fitzgerald staggered up to the door, he was well nigh exhausted. Mr. Vail recognized him and invited him in. He was so chilled that he could hardly tell what had happened, but managed to make the fact known that Mr. Littell was out in the sleigh.

Mr. Vail and his man hastened to the rescue of Mr. Littell, and got him to the house. They then shoveled out the snow and released the horse and sleigh, and put them up for the night.

Messrs. Littell and Fitzgerald were so chilled with the cold that it was two hours before they got warm. They were given good care at Mr. Vail's home, where they remained over night, and proceded home Sunday morning. Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald's ears were frozen.

Orange County Press May 27, 1898

Resignation of Rev. Luther Littell. Rev. Luther Littell on Sunday presented his resignation to the congregation of the Mt. Hope Presbyterian church, and it was reluctantly accepted. Mr. Littell has been in poor health since he came near freezing to death last winter, when attending the funeral of Rev. Mr. Forsyth, of Montgomery. He was present at the service Sunday, which was conducted by Rev. Mr. Diven, of Otisville, but was so feeble that he could hardly read his resignation.

Rev. Mr. Littell was installed pastor of the Mount Hope church on Sept. 25, 1850, and has been the pastor continually since, except a few years when he was in Michigan. It was his first charge and very naturally the deepest affection has always existed between himself and his people. He has been an earnest, faithful servant of the Master and he closes his

ministry at the age of 74 with a record of duty well done. Such as one may well be proud of.

Middletown Daily Press December 8, 1899

Mount Hope

(Special to the PRESS.)

--Rev. F. E. Taylor will preach in the Presbyterian church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, and the quarterly communion service will be observed. ...

--Rev. and Mrs. Luther Littell spent Thanksgiving at the home of Mr. Alsop Dodge in Otisville....

Middletown Daily Press December 27, 1899

HYMENEAL

Mapes-Beyea.

The marriage of Mr. Jesse E. Mapes, of New York city, youngest son of Mr. Oscar W. Mapes, of Mapledale, to Miss Edna Marsh Beyea, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. Wright Beyea, was solemnized at 2 o'clock this afternoon, at the bride's home in Otisville. Only relatives and immediate friends witnessed the ceremony which was performed by Rev. R. J. Diven, of New Hamburgh, N. Y., a former pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Otisville, assisted by the present pastor, Rev. F. E. Taylor. The obligations were sealed with a ring, carried by little Willie Smith of Brooklyn, acting as page. Bessie B. Mapes, the bright little daughter of Mr. Winfield S. Mapes, was maid of honor.

The bride was also attended by her Sunday school class all attired in the purest of white. They carried streamers of evergreen between which the bride and groom were ushered into the presence of those assembled as witnesses

the happy event. The bride appeared very charming in a gown of white.

After a fine wedding repast Mr. and Mrs. Mapes left on Erie train 2, which stopped at Otisville on a special order. They will divide their honeymoon between the metropolis and Poughkeepsie.

The groom is the junior member of the firm of Mapes Brothers, engaged in the dairy business in New York. He associated himself

Middletown Daily Press December 29, 1899 Obituary.

Rev. Luther Littell. (Written for the Press.)

Rev. Luther Littell, for many years pastor of the Mount Hope Presbyterian Church, died at his home in that village about 6 o'clock Thursday morning, aged 76 years.

"Of all the thoughts of God that are Borne inward unto souls afar Among the Psalmist's music deep, Now tell me if there any is For gift of grace surpassing this, 'He giveth his beloved sleep.""

Thus after a quiet night at the dawn of Thursday morning, the spirit of Rev. Luther Littell was called home. Rev. Mr. Littell was born April 21, 1824, at New Providence, N. J., and was the seventh of a family of ten children born to John and Mary (Conkling) Littell. His father was also a native of New Providence where for many years he was engaged in the mercantile business. He served as an elder in the Presbyterian church for many years. Death occurred when he was 64 years of age.

Rev. Mr. Littell's grandparents were also natives of New Jersey, and the family history dates back to Anthony Littell who came from near London, Eng. to this country about 1700. An uncle of the deceased for

whom he was named was a colonel in the war of 1812.

Mary Conkling, the mother of the deceased, was born at Basking Ridge, N. J. She died at the age of 87 years.

Rev. Mr. Littell was married on the 3d of May 1853 to Mary A. Hall of Penn Yan, N, Y., who still survives him. Three children were born to them all of whom have passed to the better world. Charles H. died at the age of 23, one week after graduating from Princeton college Frank H. died at the age of 14 years. Anna M. died in infancy.

When a boy, Mr. Littell attended boarding school at Plainfield, N. J., also at Bloomfield and Madison. At the age of seventeen he entered Princeton College, from which he graduated in 1844. He then taught three years before entering Princeton Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1850.

Later that year he came to Mount Hope and was ordained an installed pastor of the church, Sept. 25, 1850. This pastorate extended to 1881, followed by a call to the Presbyterian Church of Holt, Mich., where he remained five years.

About this time a call was extended to return to Mount Hope, which he accepted and he was pastor of the church till February, 1898, when because of ill health he resigned.

It will be two years Monday, Jan. 1st, since Rev. Mr. Littell in company with Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald attended the funeral of Rev. Mr. Forsythe at Montgomery. On their return they found they could not make their way through the drifted snow, and nearly frozen, they sought shelter at the residence of the late Silas Vail. This shock produced a strain on the heart from which Mr. Littell has since suffered. He, however, kept up good spirits and at no time was confined to the bed but was ready to talk pleasantly with those whom he saw, and to perform any duty to the best of his ability. He possessed a wonderful faculty of remembering faces and names, and made one feel he had an interest in him

personally and he wanted everyone to live a true life. He not only was a friend to many, but many were friends to him too. He was always well remembered by friends now living away from our village when his congregation gave him a reception, and the last Christmas tide, he received \$50 from friends and relatives. Mr. Littell will long be missed by many.

In his political views Mr. Littell was a staunch Republican and took quite an active part in local politics. But it was to the ministry that his talents were given. For nearly half a century he proclaimed the gospel of the Son of God, and the good he has done and the souls that he has saved will never be known until eternity.

The funeral will be held Monday Jan. 1st, at 2 p.m., at the Presbyterian church Mount Hope. Friends will meet at the parsonage at 1:30 p.m.

Middletown Daily Press January 9, 1900

OTISVILLE

(Special to the PRESS.)

The large congregation at the Presbyterian church Sunday morning heard an interesting monthly report from their trustees. Each report of the board has been encouraging. At the Christmas exercises of the Sunday School lately the people of the church were pleasantly surprised by the Otisville Dramatic Club in the form of a large street lamp. Appropriate acknowledgement was made qt the time by the president of the board of trustees. In their last meeting the board decided on a course which, if carried out, will be more acceptable doubtless to the dramatic club than thanks. They propose, that if six other citizens of the village will do as much they will have the lamp before the church lighted every evening. This is a forward move. Who will be the first six?

The union service of the two churches held in the Methodist church in the evening, was well attended. The united choirs led the congregation inspiringly in the singing....Union meetings will be held each evening this week, except Saturday. The service Tuesday night will be in the Methodist church. Tomorrow (Wednesday) evening wagons starting from the Methodist church at 7 o'clock, will take many to the union meeting at the Mount Hope church. After Wednesday the services will be held in the Presbyterian church of Otisville....There is a rumor that a Literary and Musical Society is to be organized in our town. Success to it.

Middletown Daily Times February 13, 1900

Mount Hope

Correspondence of the Times Feb. 12.—Messrs. Southwell, Cooper, Coxe and Pratt of the Middletown Y. M. C. A., were at the Presbyterian Church, Sunday evening, and took leading parts in the worship. The remarks of the first three gentlemen were not only enjoyed, but earnestly heard and, by many, considered. A large congregation was present. Mr. Pratt and Percy Northrup, of Otisville, swelled the volume of the music with their cornets. Special meetings will be held in the church every evening this week except Saturday. Rev. Dr. Beattie may be present one evening. The pastor's brother, Rev. R. H. Taylor, of Westtown, will speak Thursday and Friday evenings.

A successful sociable was held at the home of John Seybolt, Thursday evening last, under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society, of the church. Notwithstanding the inclement weather about forty persons were out, and a good time was had.

The Y. M. C. A. boys were pleasantly entertained at tea Sunday evening by Miss Woodward, assisted by Miss Langdon and Mrs. Edward Smith.

[in the same issue]

Otisville.

Correspondence of the Times

Feb. 12. – No prayer meeting will be held in the Presbyterian Church Wednesday evening on account of the special meetings in progress in the Mt. Hope church. Some wagons will take those ...(unreadable)...who wish to go, to the meetings at Mt. Hope.

--No worship will be held in the Presbyterian Church next Sunday evening. The Board of the church suggested that the pastor be left free to be at the meeting at Mt. Hope that evening.

--The series of meetings were continued successfully in the Methodist Church last. Week.

--The ladies of the Presbyterian Aid Society have been busy the past week recovering the cushions of the church pews.

Middletown Daily Times Feb. 13, 1900

.....-No prayer meeting will be held in the Presbyterian Church Wednesday evening on account of the special meetings in progress in the Mt. Hope church. Some wagons will take those ... who wish to go, to the meetings at Mt. Hope.

No worship will be the in the Presbyterian Church next Sunday evening. The Board of the church suggested that the pastor be left free to be at the meeting at Mt. Hope that evening.

Middletown Daily Times February 15, 1900

--Several vehicles conveyed members of the Presbyterian Church to Mount Hope, Sunday evening, to attend worship in that village, where a series of revival meeting are now in progress.

--Rev. Frank Taylor preached a very able and impressive sermon in the Presbyterian Church Sunday morning. The text chosen was, "They Crucified Him." It was a thoroughly enjoyable and beneficial sermon.

Middletown Daily Times March 6, 1900

Otisville.

Correspondence of the Times. March 5 – Over thirty persons assembled at the Presbyterian parsonage Saturday afternoon to meet Mrs. C. A. Goodale-Fairchild, and Miss Emma B. Shafer, the President and Secretary respectively of the Orange County Women's Christian Temperance Union. Owing, as was afterwards learned, to illness, neither of the ladies was able to be present. Mrs. White consented, at the last moment, to fill the breach with the report of the last State Convention of the Union held at Binghamton. In addition to this the following persons took part in the program: Miss Mae Updegrove began the exercises with a pleasant piano solo, which was followed by the devotional portion, led by the President, Mrs. E. E. Taylor, who asked Rev. Stuart Molineaux to lead in prayer. Revs. Taylor and Molineaux sang a duet. This was followed by a stirring recitation by Miss Otto. Miss Drake played a piece on

the mandolin, and the program closed with an instrumental duet by Mrs. Tymeson and Miss Nellie Robbins. After a brief business meeting refreshments were served, and those present engaged in a pleasant social time. ...

The Literary and Musical Society held its second meeting at the Presbyterian parsonage Friday evening. The meeting was largely attended. A constitution was adopted. The following officers were elected: President, Louis Mapes; Secretary, Mrs. Andrews; Treasurer, Mrs. Molineux. An interesting program was given. All present seemed enthusiastic in their interest in the society. The next meeting will be held at the Methodist parsonage March 23. ...

The Christian Endeavors will hold an oyster supper in the social rooms of the Presbyterian Church, Friday evening, the ninth inst.

Middletown Daily Press March 20, 1900

Otisville

(Special to the Times.)

...At the Presbyterian church last Sabbath, eight were received on profession of faith, seven of whom were baptized. ...

The Sunday school of the Presbyterian church conducted service in the church, Sunday evening. The attendance was good, and the program was much appreciated. Next Sunday morning the Littell Mission circle will have charge of the church service. That Circle held a very interesting and helpful meeting at Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Tymeson's, Saturday afternoon. ...

The choir of the Presbyterian church with a number of friends, were pleasantly entertained at Mr. King's home last Friday evening. After the customary drill, refreshments, music and social intercourse were heartily enjoyed by all. ...

Middletown Daily Press March 31, 1900

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Mary Littell.

Mary, widow of Rev. Luther Littell, died Friday night at 8:30, at her home in the Presbyterian parsonage at Mount Hope. Death was due to a stomach trouble, which with one of her advanced years soon resulted fatally. She was stricken Tuesday night and appeared to go into a semi-conscious state.

Mrs. Littell was about to remove to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she has several nieces residing. Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald was assisting her in making the arrangements for her departure.

Deceased was 81 years of age. Her maiden name was Mary Ann Hall, and she was married May 3, 1838, at Penn Yan, N. Y. Three children, now all deceased, were born to the couple. Charles H. died one week after graduation from Princeton College, Frank H. died at 14 years of age, and Anna M. died in infancy. Rev. Mr. Littell died December 27th last.

Funeral notice appears elsewhere.

Middletown Daily Press

(Date of publication unknown) **IN MEMORIAM**.

James Craig, of Otisville
Editors Press: - Sir: It is with deep regret I read the obituary of my friend, Mr. James Craig, of Otisville, which appears in your issue of the 20 inst. Mr. Craig moved to Otisville early in my ministry there and from that time till the end of pastorate he was one of my most sincere friends. He was seldom absent from public worship and was always

most appreciative of my pulpit ministrations. A close intimacy was soon formed between us, and it grew stronger as the years passed. I found him to be a man of remarkable ability—well read, a clear thinker and able to form a just judgment on all questions of the day. He was a man of fine sensibilities true to his professions and generous to a fault.

When I left Otisville and moved to Pennsylvania we kept up our intimacy by regular correspondence. Mr. Craig's letters consisted not of local gossip and trifling personalities but discussed questions which occupied statesmen, philanthropists and theologians, written in such perfection—of grammar, spelling and diction—that they might have been set up in type without editorial correction. Indeed, I have sometimes read his letters critically to see if I could detect and error of any sort, but not one have I ever found.

It is some months since I had the pleasure of seeing him last, but then, though confined to his bed, his thoughts were still running on intellectual subjects, and he called me back to his bed side more than once to ask my opinion regarding the "two witnesses" spoken of in the eleventh chapter of Revelation. For a hard working man, Mr. Craig, saw a great deal of the world in his busy life. He told me that he was in London at the coronation of Queen Victoria, and was so near her carriage in the procession that he saw the large drops of perspiration on her face and could have almost touched her as she passed by.

I much regret that I shall see his face no more; but I rejoice at the same time that he has met again that loved one, whose memory he cherished with remarkable tenderness all through these years as the young wife of his first and unchanging affections.

R. H. Craig. Amity, N. Y., March 23, 1900.

Middletown Daily Press April 6, 1900

OTISVILLE

(Special to the PRESS.)

-- Rev. Homer Tope, Ph. D., of Poughkeepsie, delivered an eloquent lecture in the Presbyterian church last Saturday evening in the interest of temperance. Mr. Tope is superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League for this and several adjacent counties.

---The annual meeting of the Presbyterian church was held Wednesday. The reports of treasurer indicated a healthy condition of the church financially. A vote of thanks was given the trustees and also to the women of the Ladies' Aid Society for renovating the cushions in the pews and making several new ones; also to Mrs. Bailey in particular, who contributed the material for this work. Mr. C. J. Tymeson was re-elected trustee. Rev. F. E. Taylor was elected for the ensuing year. A unanimous vote was taken not to ask financial assistance from Presbytery.

--The W. C. T. U. will meet with Mrs. Park, Saturday at 8 p.m. Worship in the Presbyterian church Sunday at 11 a.m. The Christian Endeavors will have charge of the evening service.

Middletown Daily Press April 13, 1900

MOUNT HOPE

(Special to the PRESS.)

---Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald, Mr. John Littell and son returned Wednesday evening from the burial of Mrs. Luther Littell at New Providence.....Rev. F. E. Taylor will preach in the church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

The mid-week prayer meeting has been changed from Wednesday to Thursday evenings.

--The household goods of the late Rev. Luther Littell will be sold at auction at the parsonage some day next week.....Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald has sold several tons of hay and is delivering it to the State Hospital at Middletown.

Middletown Daily Times April 8, 1903

Otisville

Correspondence of the Times April 6 –The following named persons have been appointed to act as a committee in purchasing a piano for the parlor of the Presbyterian Church viz: G. H. King, S. J. Boyd, Rev. F. E. Taylor, Misses Nellie Robbins, Iva Loomis, Mrs. Ella Tymeson.

--Services appropriate to Palm Sunday were observed in the Presbyterian Church Sunday. An excellent sermon was preached by the pastor, Rev. F. D. Taylor. There was an organ voluntary by Miss Nellie Robbins vocal quartet –"Thy will be done" --- by Misses Taylor and King. Mrs. Alfred Ketcham and Mrs. White and vocal solo – "Green palms" – by Iva Loomis.

Middletown Daily Times April 9, 1903

Otisville.

Correspondence of the Times.
---Mrs. Ella Tymeson, the
Superintendent of the L. T. L., gave a
reception in the lecture room of the
Presbyterian Church, Saturday afternoon,
from 3 to 6 p.m. Seventy-five children were
served with refreshments. During the
afternoon Misses Northrup and Beyea gave
several recitations, Miss Iva Loomis a piano
solo, Miss Reta Northrup rendered a vocal

solo. Games were indulged in by the pastor and children. It was near sunset, and something of the early evening glow rested on the tiny guests. On all sides was the rare beauty of the Shawanga Mountains, and the setting sun shed a golden glory on the white walls of the church, which was surely a beautiful picture to photograph in memory.

Middletown Daily Times April 18, 1903

Otisville.

Correspondence of the times.

April 16. ... The Easter service held in the Presbyterian Church Sunday evening was one of great rejoicing and praise. As usual it was largely attended. The edifice was beautifully decorated with Easter lilies, palms, Boston ferns, potted plants, etc. "The Conquering Redeemer," a complete service for Easter, was rendered in a charming manner by the Sabbath school and choir. Among those who took part in the program were Ella Norrthrup, Emma Horton, Nellie Carter, Agnes Carter, Reta Northrup, Horace Ketcham, Carrie Ketcham, Jesse Otto, Reta Northrup, Harriet Beyea, Elizabeth White, Rev. F. E. Taylor and Rev. Dr. E. F. Fowler. Miss Nellie G. Robbins was organist.

Middletown Daily Times April 21, 1903

Otisville.

Correspondence of the Times.

--The junior singing class meets every Monday afternoon in the lecture room of the Presbyterian Church, with Rev. F. E. Taylor as instructor. It is earnestly hoped all the children will take an interest in music and be present at every meeting.

Middletown Daily Times Sept. 9, 1904

Musicale at Otisville.

Held in the Presbyterian Church – Program was Well Rendered – Social and Financial Success.

(From our Otisville Correspondent.)

Notwithstanding the fact that a large number of our citizens were out of town Monday, a large audience was present at the musicale held in Otisville Presbyterian church. The church was prettily decorated with tropical plants, sweet peas, lilies, etc.

The following program was well rendered:

Piano duet, Dropping Violets, Millicent Ketcham, Nellie G. Robbins; vocal solo, "Blue Bell," Sarah Loomis; recitation, Miss Kitty Smith, of Wurtsboro; piano duet, Mrs. Bethel, of New York and Miss Reta Northrup; vocal duet, Maud and Helen Greenleaf; paper, Life of Chopin, Mrs. Charles Loomis; vocal solo, Anna Cockrill;; recitation, Frances Ogden; piano solo, Miss Mae Uptegrove, of Schenectady; vocal solo, Redemption, Millicent Ketcham; paper, Life of Padersiski, Mrs. Edward Robbins; vocal solo, Enter at the gate, Mr. Flanning, of Lakewood, N. J., recitation, Mis Lulu Northrup; piano duet, Miss Clara Manning, of Guymard, and Miss Mae Uptegrove; vocal solo, "For all Eternity," Retya A. Northrup; recitations, Miss Sadie McClurd.

The singing by the little tots was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The piano duets received loud applause, and numerous encores.

The recitations were rendered in a creditable manner. The piano solo by Miss Uptegrove was full of tenderness and expression. The vocal solos by Misses Northrup and Ketcham were sung very sweetly. Especial mention should be made of Mr. Flanning, who traveled two hundred miles in order to fill his engagement. He possesses a full, flexible, baritone, which was

greatly admired. Next year he will complete his musical studies in Paris. We hope he may favor us again.

The ushers were Misses Clara Greenleaf and Carrie Cockrill.

We wish to extend our thanks to all who contributed or assisted in any manner, and to Mrs. Bethel, who is stopping at Hillside Manor, for her kindly assistance.

It proved to be a success both socially and financially.

Middletown Daily Times September 30, 1904

Otisville.

(Correspondence of the Times.)

The autumn leaf social will be held in the lecture room of the Presbyterian Church instead of the manse as previously announced. A regular supper will be served for 25 cents. As this is for a worthy cause, it is hoped there may be a large attendance. An interesting program will be rendered. Remember the date, Tuesday evening, Oct. 4....

--Rev. Theron Brittain occupied the Presbyterian pulpit Sunday morning and gave an interesting sermon.

Middletown Daily Times September 30, 1904

--Services will be omitted in the Presbyterian Church Sunday.

Middletown Daily Times October 18, 1904

Otisville.

(Correspondent of the Times.)

Oct. 17.—Mrs. Wheeler, of Newburgh, County Superintendent of L. T. L. Work, will reorganize a branch of the above in this village, Friday afternoon, at the close of the public school, in the lecture room of the Presbyterian Church. All young people are requested to be present. She will also hold a

mothers' meeting at 7 p.m. at the above mentioned place. Mrs. Wheeler will be heartily welcomed by all.

--Rev. Jacob Klaasse, of Illinois, is expected to arrive in town this week and will occupy the Presbyterian manse, which is being renovated prior to his occupancy. He will occupy the pulpit Sunday morning, Oct. 23. It is earnestly hoped he may be greeted by a large attendance. We sincerely hope those who have been complaining because we have had no regular pastor or service will be present every Sabbath.

Middletown Daily Times October 18, 1904

...The C. E. expects to hold a fair near the holidays for the purpose of obtaining money to have the Presbyterian Church repainted. Give them a call before visiting the city for gifts, as we are sure your wants will be satisfied. ...

Rally day was appropriately observed in the Presbyterian Church Sunday evening and was largely attended. The church was prettily decorated with autumn leaves, flowers, fruits and vegetables. The following program was well rendered:

Processional Opening Chorus

Song—Praise the Lord School

Responsive Reading.

Prayer: Rev. Dr. Fowler

Song – A Sound in Every Breeze

School

Recitation --- Doing Duty Nellie

Carter

Exercise – Basket of Summer Fruit Five girls

Recitation Theodore Writer

Song – Christ our Captain School

Exercise – Little One and Larger Ones

Five Children

Recitation Ansel King

Song – O, Heavenly King School

Exercise - Sheaves Seven Girls

Recitation - Corn and Lilies (sic)

Emma Horton

Flag Exercise Six Girls

Song - To the Harvest School

Recitation Allen King

Song – Dewdrops Bright Four Girls

Recitation Horace Ketcham

Song – Our Father's Praise School

Offertory.

Remarks Rev. Dr. Fowler

Recitation – Treason Paul Otto

Exercise - In Union There's Strength

Six Girls and Boys.

Recitation Hiram Elliott

Song—Marching On School

Recitation Florence Boyd

Exercise – Flag and Cross Nine Boys

and Girls.

Song - We Will Follow Thee

School

Many thanks are extended Misses Lulu Northrup and Grace Boyd for their untiring effort, and to Rev. Dr. Fowler for his kindly assistance.

Middletown Daily Times December 6, 1904

THE DRIFTWOOD SALE.

Held in Presbyterian Church at Otisville Last Week – Middletown Merchants Contributed Liberally.

(From our Otisville correspondent.)

The Driftwood Sale, which was held in the Presbyterian church Thursday and Friday evenings under the direction of Miss Lulu Northrup, President of the E. E. Society, was a grand success both socially and financially, the receipts amounting to \$140.35

The room had been beautifully decorated for the occasion by Decorator Dromgoole and presented a charming spectacle as on entered. Among the most noticeable were the Ladies' Home Journal

booth, consisting of red and black crepe paper; the Fancy Article Booth of yellow and white crepe paper; the useful and Ornamental Booth of lavender and white paper; the Candy Booth of national colors.

The tables were enclosed in the luncheon room by an artistic and attractive fence of black and red crepe paper. A chicken pie supper was served the first evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who partook. All the booths did a thriving business.

The second evening another large audience was present to enjoy the farce, "Not a Man in the House," which was given by Mrs. Arthur Tymeson, Misses Reta Northrup, Jessie Otto and Antoinette Loomis. All acted their different parts to perfection and were loudly applauded. The above was given under the direction of Mrs. Alonzo Ogden.

The following program was rendered: Piano duet, Nellie Robbins, Lena Cockrill; vocal solo, Sara Loomis; recitation, Carrie Ketcham; vocal solo, Eva Miller; recitation, Paul Otto, vocal solo, Anna Cockrill; piano duet, Reta Northrup, Nellie Robbins. Light refreshments were served.

Following is a list of the Middletown merchants who donated articles: France & Hathaway, Kernochan, Youngs, Morris B. Wolf, Hanford & Horton, The Mohican Store, McMonagle & Rogers, Charles Wolff, Jr., Leo Barnett, Edmond & Van Sickle, Dayton, Galloway, Ayres & Galloway, L. R. Wallace, F. M. Pronk, Brink & Clark, Weller & Demerest, Startup & Quackenbush, Ogden & Shimer, Brink & Clark, A. Samuels, Charles A. Ketcham, James A. Smith, Carson & Towner and L. Stern.

Many thanks are extended for the generous donations, also for the liberal patronage of the public and to any who assisted.

Middletown Daily Times December 29, 1904

A large audience was present at the Presbyterian Church Saturday evening to greet Kris Kringle. At the conclusion of the program, which was heretofore published, sleigh bells were perceived and with a whoa! The dear old fellow entered and made a direct route for the Christmas tree, which was pronounced by all beautiful. All were kindly remembered, including pastor and wife, superintendent, teacher and pupils, ten teachers, nineteen on the cradle roll. A vote of thanks is extended...Mrs. Charles Roesch and her assistants who labored so faithfully to have it a success, and to Miss Antoinette Loomis for the Christmas decorations, which were charming and consisted of evergreens, Christmas bells, a background of dark material concealed by stars the most prominent being the Star of Bethlehem, a bank of evergreens on which "A Merry Christmas" was firmed, After the distribution of gifts, Santa departed and all returned to their respective homes wishing all "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

... Miss Mary Simonds, of Grand Rapids, Mich., has arrived at the Presbyterian manse, where she expects to remain during the winter. ...

The members of the Presbyterian choir will meet at the home of Miss Pearly Beyea Saturday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Middletown Daily Times April 21, 1905

Several men from Port Jervis have been engaged in repairing the Presbyterian Church steeple, which was damaged by lightning last summer. ...

A party to which all the children of the community are invited, will be held at the Presbyterian parsonage Saturday, April 19. All children welcome.

Middletown Daily Times May 5, 1905

A young gentleman from the Wanamaker Church in Philadelphia called at the Presbyterian Sabbath school Sunday morning.

The men from Port Jervis who repaired the Presbyterian Church steeple are anxious to accumulate wealth rapidly, having charged \$58. Unless they return and complete their task properly they will not receive the stated sum.

The choral class will meet in the Presbyterian lecture room Monday evening, May 8.

Middletown Daily Times May 9, 1905

Otisville

(Correspondence of the Times)

May 8. – A red, white and blue social will be held at the residence of Mr. Morse, Tuesday evening, May 9th. An interesting program will be rendered. Supper will be served for twenty cents. Proceeds to purchase new hymnals for the Presbyterian Church as the present ones are in a badly dilapidated condition.

Middletown Daily Times May 26, 1905

Otisville.

(correspondence of the Times.)

Presbyterian choir rehearsal will be at the residence of Mrs. Roesch Saturday evening, at which time the Children's Day music will be practiced. All members attend without further notice. ...

-- The many friends of Rev. Frank E. Taylor, of Tallapoosa, Ga., will be delighted to learn that he contemplates visiting the scenes of his dear old home in town. While

here he will occupy the Presbyterian pulpit in the morning; in the evening at Mt. Hope.

Middletown Daily Times May 29, 1905

Otisville.

(Correspondence of the Times.)

May 29. – The members of the Presbyterian choir and their friends were charmingly entertained by Mrs. Charles Roesch, Saturday evening. Photographer Herbert Sayer took a flash light of the party after which light refreshments were served. All declare Mrs. Roesch to be an ideal entertainer. ...

- -- The W. C. T. U. will meet with Mrs. Charles Wheat Saturday at 3 p. m., at which time reports will be given by the superintendents of the different departments.
- -- "Junetide," a program for Children's Day will be rendered in the Presbyterian Church Sunday, June 4th. All are welcome.
- --Probably twenty automobiles passed through here Sunday.
- -- A strawberry and ice cream festival will be held in lecture room of the Presbyterian Church, Friday evening, June 2nd, under auspices of the C. E. A cordial welcome is extended the public. ...
- --Persons who are willing to contribute flowers towards the decorating of our dead heroes graves, kindly leave same at the Presbyterian Church early Tuesday morning as the L. T. L., and all the children of the village are invited to march to the cemetery and place them on the last resting place of our fallen brave.
- --Members of the Choral Class are respectfully invited to meet Monday evening in the Presbyterian Church for rehearsal at 7:30 o'clock.

Middletown Times Press September 25, 1906

Otisville

--Mrs. Bailey, national speaker and reformer, addressed a meeting in the Presbyterian and M. E. churches, Sunday, which was very interesting and instructive.

--Nine members of the W. C. T. U. attended the convention held at Middletown the past week. ...

--Mrs. MacEldowney, of Boston, charmed the audience in both the M. E. and Presbyterian churches, Sunday, by sweetly rendering "The City Beautiful."

--The members of the Presbyterian congregation were amazed Sunday to learn that Rev. Frank Diehl, the pastor, had severed his connection with the church rather abruptly, which was a great surprise to his many friends.

Middletown Daily Press

(Date of publication unknown) *IN MEMORIAM*.

James Craig, of Otisville.

Editors Press: - Sir: It is with deep regret I read the obituary of my friend, Mr. James Craig, of Otisville, which appears in your issue of the 20 inst. Mr. Craig moved to Otisville early in my ministry there and from that time till the end of pastorate he was one of my most sincere friends. He was seldom absent from public worship and was always most appreciative of my pulpit ministrations. A close intimacy was soon formed between us, and it grew stronger as the years passed. I found him to be a man of remarkable ability—well read, a clear thinker and able to form a just judgment on all questions of the day. He was a man of fine sensibilities true to his professions and generous to a fault.

When I left Otisville and moved to Pennsylvania we kept up our intimacy by regular correspondence. Mr. Craig's letters consisted not of local gossip and trifling personalities but discussed questions which occupied statesmen, philanthropists and theologians, written in such perfection—of grammar, spelling and diction—that they might have been set up in type without editorial correction. Indeed, I have sometimes read his letters critically to see if I could detect and error of any sort, but not one have I ever found.

It is some months since I had the pleasure of seeing him last, but then, though confined to his bed, his thoughts were still running on intellectual subjects, and he called me back to his bed side more than once to ask my opinion regarding the "two witnesses" spoken of in the eleventh chapter of Revelation. For a hard working man, Mr. Craig, saw a great deal of the world in his busy life. He told me that he was in London at the coronation of Queen Victoria, and was so near her carriage in the procession that he saw the large drops of perspiration on her face and could have almost touched her as she passed by.

I much regret that I shall see his face no more; but I rejoice at the same time that he has met again that loved one, whose memory he cherished with remarkable tenderness all through these years as the young wife of his first and unchanging affections.

R. H. Craig. Amity, N. Y., March 23, 1900.

Middletown Daily Press March 31, 1900 OBITUARY

Mrs. Mary A. Littell.

Mary, widow of Rev. Luther Littell, died Friday night at 8:30, at her home in the Presbyterian parsonage at Mount Hope. Death was due to a stomach trouble, which with one of her advanced years soon resulted fatally. She was stricken Tuesday night and

appeared to go into a semi-conscious state.

Mrs. Littell was about to remove to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she has several nieces residing. Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald was assisting her in making the arrangements for her departure.

Deceased was 81 years of age. Her maiden name was Mary Ann Hall, and she was married May 3, 1853, at Penn Yan, N. Y. Three children, now all deceased, were born to the couple. Charles H. died one week after graduation from Princeton College, Frank H. died at 14 years of age, and Anna M. died in infancy. Rev. Mr. Littell died December 27th last.

Funeral notice appears elsewhere.

Source unknown-

Obituary for pastor in Otisville 1871-1884. D. Sept. 11, 1913

REV. ROBERT HOUSTON CRAIG, LL.D.

Born in County Antrim, Ireland, of Scotch Covenanter stock.

'Brought up in the Presbyterian Church, becoming a member at the age of sixteen.

Educated in the local school and the classical academies of Ballymoney and Belfast, also by private tutors, one of whom was W. E. Mulgan, Vicar of Templecarran and Kilroot. Took full course of training in Dublin National Training College, 1864. Taught in Mosside, Belfast and Kilroot until 1868, when he resigned to enter Princeton Theological Seminary, in 1868. Remained three years, graduated 1871. Licensed to preach by New Brunswick Presbytery 1870 Ordained by Presbytery of Hudson June 27, 1871, as pastor at Otisville, N. Y. Released 1884. Presbytery Lackawanna installed, Hawley, 1884; released 1888; Presbytery Lackawanna installed, Bennet Church, 1888; release 1892; Presbytery Hudson installed, Amity, N. Y>,

1892; released 1909. Retired to Plainfield, N. J.

Wrote general articles for New York "Observer" for thirty-six years, poetry and prose, Belfast "Witness," Ireland, "Church at Home and Abroad," "Christian at Work," "American Messenger," secular papers.

Gale College, Mrs. Legum Doctor (LL.D.), 1900. Married July 31, 1873, Miss Rachel McFetridge. Attended General Assembly in Brooklyn, St. Louis and Kansas City.

Moderator Hudson Presbytery 1878-1897, moderator Lackawanna Presbytery 1887, Treasurer of Hudson Presbytery and chairman of Committee on Ministerial Relief for many years.

While in Plainfield his health gradually declined until on September 1, 1913, he was stricken with apoplexy, from which he never recovered. Died September 11, 1913, and his remains were interred in Hillside Cemetery, Plainfield. His pastor, Rev. C. E. Herring, Ph.D., assisted by Rev. Lewis Bond, conducted the funeral services at his home, 259 Leland avenue, and accompanied his remains to the cemetery.

Particularly sympathetic with sick and suffering, he was greatly revered as a pastor and preacher and was noted for his success in promoting the temporal as well as the spiritual prosperity of the people under his charge. In Otisville a new parsonage was built and paid for; in Hawley the church building renovated; in Bennet, also, a fine, new parsonage was erected, and in Amity the church building was improved and a pipe organ installed.

He was a man of peculiarly engaging personality and made many friends during his residence in this city.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Middletown Times Press April 22, 1914

OTISVILLE

...Rapid progress is being made on the new High School building.

While in the discharge of his duties at the sanatorium, James Runnalls was kicked by a horse which has necessitated his remaining at home for several days. Mr. Runnalls is also employed as sexton of the Presbyterian Church, which office he has filled for nearly 40 years. On account of the above-mentioned injury, it was necessary for Theodore Writer and Jesse Runnalls to ring the church bell and pump the pipe organ, which they did remarkably well. ...

Presbyterian Church Notes. ... The teachers' meeting, which was held Friday evening, was largely attended. ... Prayer meeting will be held Wednesday evening.

-END-