

June 1954

A. M. E. Zion Church

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Corner Smith and Cottage Streets

Poughkeepsie, New York

E. RAPHAEL MICHAEL, MINISTER

PARSONAGE: 62 COTTAGE STREET

TEL. 3329



History of the A.M.E. Zion CHURCH as prepared by Clarence T unison Anderson

DURING THE 100th Anniversary of The Chartering of Poughkeepsie as a City instead of a village, we have been asked to delineate some expression which could be termed the history of the AME Zion Church during this period of time in Poughkeepsie,

Surely there was a church for the worship of God conducted by the colored people of this area and its existance is evidenced not by carefully kept records but by bits of information and pictures found in the catches and corners of homes of some of our oldest families/

Of course it is known that the denomination which we follow was founded by John and Charles Wesley of London in 1739 and our group of about 15 or so persons visited the Wesley's there in London to get organized for the religious work to be carried on thru the years/ This Wesleyan Methodist Church is a non-conformist denomination, its constitution is Presbyterian in character. So Mr/ Wesley took much time to direct these new -comers to strict adhearence to a religious way of life, and to organize for the work with Ministers, Trustees, Stewards, Class Leaders, and singing and praying groups/

Our group formerly worshiped with the Washington St/ Methodist Church, but withdrew in 1837 to form a United Society which met in the Old Lancaster school building in church st. (now Germania Hall) until 1840 when they moved to 102 Catherine St. in a one story frame building situated back in a lot. This building was formerly used as an elementary school for colored children was ended here in 1837. The continued use of this property was the beginning of our church. So it was in 1840 that the first Africa Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was established in Poughkeepsie. This information was carved on a small bronze tablet, which served as a paper weight in the home of the late Miss Grace Deyo a member of one of our oldest families. This makes it authentic that meetings were started in a church of our own in Poughkeepsie 101 years after the meeting with the Wesley's in London. I regret that we were unable to find the names of any of the officers or leaders who chartered this movement in Poughkeepsie. It would have been valuable information without question, however it is the general belief that the meeting place of the first Society in Poughkeepsie as a church was the original frame edifice which constituted the rear section of the old church building which was at 102 Catherine Street. In those days it was known as the property at Mansion Square and was called the Catherine St. AME Zion Church. A newspaper article published in April 1860 refers to the Old Catherine St. organization which has existed for over twenty years. It is gleaned from this that the first place of worship for our church in this City was the Old Catherine St. Church, or the so called property at

Property of
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Mansion Square.

There is very little chronicled of what took place during the first twenty years of existence in Poughkeepsie, but it is quite certain that the church was very much alive. There was harmony at times and discontent at other times. The discontent resulted in a split which occurred sometime in 1850's when a certain faction accused the Catherine St. organization of driving them out of their property at Mansion Square to a hired tenement in Main Street. So from this date we are confronted with two societies of this great church which grew out of that United Society started in 1739 with the aid of Mr/ Wesley. (The Main St. AME Zion Church - and the Catherine St. AME Zion Church)

At first the Main St. Society appeared to have the largest membership and to attract the greater number of colored people to their meetings. They also made some public appeals for financial assistance, from white people, with some success. However, when the Catherine St. organization with its smaller following, sought to make public appeal for their benefit, they were bitterly attacked by the Main St. brethren, accused of not representing any regular and religious organization, but holding the property occupied by them by force and not by law and right, and thus being unworthy of any sympathy or consideration of Christians and of Public aid.

In the early part of 1860 a bitter newspaper debate occurred between the two factions, each presenting their plea to the public, and aiming relentless attack upon the other. It may be interesting to know the names of the officers - Trustees of each of these churches launching these attacks. The undersigned trustees of the Main St. AME Zion Church were: James Davis, Abraham Bradford, Angevine Deyo, Leonard DuBois, and Joseph Wright. The undersigned Trustees of the Catherine St/ AME Zion Church were: Isaac Deyo, Abraham Bolin, James Treadwell, Stephen Smith, and Thomas Gray. These fine Christian brethren were contending for public sympathy in those days of 1860. Some members active in our church today can recall an ancestor who was carrying on in those days 90 odd years ago, and they can take heart and renewed ambition to continue to carry on the good work which was so notably started by them.

The Catherine Street organization sought to make a proposition to bring about a union of the two Societies, because the population did not warrant the existence of two colored churches, and together they could make a stronger united appeal to the public with the idea of building a new church. But the Main St. officials declared the proposal in the resolutions and continued to carry on until their numbers dwindled down to such an extent that they were compelled to abandon their Main St. abode and return to the Washington St. AME Zion Church until they passed out of the picture one by one. Up to a few years ago, the last of their group, a nice little woman would come in from Arlington to attend services at Washington St. Church. When she died some years ago, it is understood that she left all her possessions to that Church. She is believed to have been the last of the renegade group. Many of them had returned to Catherine St. and helped to increase their numbers so favorably that they received much recognition from the public and succeeded in the project of rebuilding. The result was the laying of the cornerstone in the same year 1860. This was a notable event, participated into by all of the white clergy of the City. The Rev/ Jacob Thomas was then pastor of the Colored Society.

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The new addition and the old edifice, 102 Catherine St. were later sold to Lucilius Mosely, local realty owner, and converted into a tenement for 10 colored families, and later destroyed by fire. (year?)

As I remarked before, the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone was a notable event, and the speeches by the white clergymen attending, showed much sympathy, and praise for colored people undertaking the project. The members also took prominent parts and the choir sang very appropriate hymns, one was the following:

Behold the sure foundation stone, which God in Zion lays,
To build our heavenly hopes upon, and His eternal praise,

Chosen of God, to sinners dear, We now adore thy name:
We trust our whole salvation here, Nor can we suffer shame.

To foolish builders scribe and priest, Reject it in disdain:
Yet on this rock the church shall rest, and envy rage in vain.

What though the gates of hell withstood, Yet must this
building rise: 'Tis thine own work, almighty God,
And wondrous in our eyes.

This church proved to be a very important center for the colored population, not only for religious meetings, but also social and politically. In those days American history was being made reviewing the condition of existing human slavery in this country. Many meetings were held in Old Zion by the abolitionists, and some of the speakers heard were the same individuals mentioned in the book by Hon. Frederick Douglass entitled "Life and Times of Frederick Douglass". These years were nearing the great Civil War, and the politics of that time was freely discussed in Zion. The horrors of slavery, Determination to have it outlawed, Annexation of new states to the union, whether they should be slave or Free, Dred Scott Decision, Missouri Compromise, Abraham Lincoln for president, and possibility of Civil strife.

When the War came on, Zion withstood the storm, because when the attitude regarding the purpose of the war changed from "The preservation of the Union" to "The freeing of the Slaves", enlisting of soldiers for the Union Army became very difficult and draft riots occurred right here in Poughkeepsie with bitter animosity directed toward the colored population, and their church. A mob of haters came up from the lower section of town determined to burn the Negro Church, but Civil Authority intervened and they failed to accomplish their purpose.

Zion withstood the ravages of the war and in January 5, 1863 a big meeting Rejoicing for Freedom was held in recognition of President Lincoln's "Emancipation Proclamation", presided over by Mr/ Isaac Deyo, who presented as speakers, James M/ DeGarmo, and Hon. George W/ Sterling, and Dr/ Jay Parker. This was one of the many enthusiastic meetings held in Zion.

In the following years, innumerable events took place in the church including a variety of important public meetings. REVIVALS, festivals, fairs, concerts, baptisms, marriages, funerals, receptions to noted men and women of the race and all the events of human life. Very frequently our church was selected to entertain the New York Annual Conference under different Bishops, but principally under the leadership of Bishop J. W. Hood. Thus the church was freely used by the city's colored population.

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was favored by a succession of ministers, the most eminent the
ference had to offer to the churches of this the Second Episcopal
strict. Among them were: The Rev's Jacob Thomas, Father Decker,
Birshmore, Je E. Talbert, Adam Jackson, W. H. Abbott, J. Holiday,
Thomas Johnson, Chaunciford Fairfax, Florence Randolph, W. R. Lawton,
Benjamin Judd, Clarence Van Buren, H. Winifred Allen, J. H. MacMullen,
Lewis H/ Taylor, J. M. Branch, Arthur E. May and E. Raphael Michael.

Also during these years our church was favored with the services of
several ~~musicians~~ organists. Mrs. Helena Rhoades Glasby was one of the
earlier musicians; others were Mrs. Alvaretta Bolin Deyo and her brother
Paul Bolin also, her sister Mrs. Della Bolin Lawrence. Mrs. Sadie Rhoades
Le Fever served as organist for over 40 years and was honored at a testi-
monial before her death a few years ago. This reception was one of the
grandest events ever held in Zion: it seemed as though the entire town
had turned out to honor Mrs. Sadie Le Fever. She can be remembered only
as a faithful organist but for a parallel service of equal duration
supervising the young people who have been reared in our city. It is interest-
ing to note that this branch of service to our church was almost monopolized
by two prominent families and the prospects look bright for the continuance
of the same family strains in that capacity, because in the present
generation of the Bolins and the Rhoades can be found some talented
musicians. In fact our present organist Mrs. Bertha Rankin is a worthy
representative of the Rhoades family. A few of the choristers could also be
mentioned, namely A. Jones, James Deyo, Warner J. Ellis, John H/ Jones,
Rev. W. H. Abbott, Miss Nellie Smith, Lareinda Harden Brown, Mrs. Pearl
Baily and Mrs. Ethel Anderson Cooley. The church was famous for its good
singing. Mrs. Mattie May Rose and Mrs. A. E. May.
Local preachers were John Thomas, Isaac Daniels, Isaac Deyo, Mrs. Josephine
May, Mrs. Francis Johnson Goodman, E. Hautman and Rev. L. H. Foster.
Sunday School Superintendents were Mrs. Alice Bolin, Abran Bolin, Mrs. Nancy DuBoise
Lawrence, Mrs. Alice L. Judd, Mrs. Mary E. Tunison, Mrs. Lena Anderson,
Rev. W. H. Abbott, Mrs. Sadie R. Le Fever, Yarbrough Chapmon and Dr. R. W.
Morgan. Some Class Leaders in the older days were Isaac Deyo, Wm. Deyo,
John Francis, William Heady, Abram Bolin, John Jackson, Larinda DuBois,
Mrs. J. E. Tolbert, Andrew Johnson and Buck Mayfield.

In 1891 the old church was remodelled at a cost of \$3,033.51. The
Total amount and over was raised. \$600. was given by the efforts of the
church members and the other churches of the city and Philanthropists
contributed large sums. The largest single contribution was from the
First Presbyterian Church \$1,034.86; another from the First Reform Church
\$446.34. Other churches contributed substantially and their was some
Vassar legacy of \$476.25 received at that time. \$3,248.51 was raised leaving
a balance of \$232.26 in the treasury. A good complete job was done, paid
for and enjoyed by the congregation for twenty or more years until Rev.
Benjamin Judd, thru his keen conception of the philanthropic spirit of
the Hon. Wm. W. Smith, persuaded him to build for the colored Methodist a
new church, the one in which we now worship at Smith and Cottage Sts.

Before leaving Catharine St. I wish to mention some of the names of
persons who were active there in the early 90's. Some comprehensible
records were kept of the workings of the church by the then secretary of
the Board of Trustees Warner J. Ellis and his assistant Walter M. Jackson.
In 1890 we find as Trustees Jasper Jackson, R. H. Harrison, Sam Contee,
Elzi Potter and Peter Atkins. In 1891 Jasper Jackson, R. H. Harrison,
Samuel Contee, Davis Smith and Peter Glasby. In 1892 Davis Smith, Peter
Glasby, Jasper Jackson, Henry B. Anderson and Warner J. Ellis/

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In 1894 David Smith, Peter Glasby, Jasper Jackson, Mrs. Renda DuBois and Warner J. Ellis. Advisory board Rev. Isaac Deyo, Wm. Deyo, & Robert Claire. In 1895 Jasper Jackson, Hannah Rose, Catherine Du Boise, Harriet Tembrook and W. J. Ellis. Advisory board: Wm. Deyo, Charles Lawrence and Robert Claire. A membership list in those days included: Ann Lawrence, Rinda DuBoise, Wm. H. Smith, Catherine DuBoise, Mary J. Gould, Samuel Contee, Amanda Yoemans, Hannah Rose, Emiline Grant, Mary E. Waters, Nancy Jiles, Isaac Deyo, Mary F. Atkins, Wm. Deyo, Cora Contee, Harriet Tembrook, Mary E. Claire, Peter Atkins, Harriet Peterson, Isaac Daniels, Christine Waters, Abram Bolin, Blanche Bolin, Alice Bolin, Della Bolin, Robert Clair, Helen Carman, Lena Anderson, Louisa Deyo, Robert Harrison, Rachael Harden, Blanche Potter, Sarah Wright, Jasper Jackson, Jane Barnes, Catherine West, Jane Smith, Nellie Smith, Elzy Potter, Sarah Jacklyn, Melissa Potter, Lina Southerland, Renna Harden, Edith Lowe, Bertha Potter, Lina Jackson, Mattie Lofton, Sarah Gould, Mary Fuller, Eva Peterson, Laura Bowman, Grace Deyo, Aida Potter, Debbie Potter, A.J. Bryant, Samuel Contee, Peter Atkins. Some of the deaths recorded by Mr. Ellis are: Wilhelmina Potter Sept. 24, 1891, Louisa Smith Feb. 14, 1892, William Waters Apr. 24, 1892 and during 1893-94 Ann Lawrence and Peter Atkins and Robert Harrison became insane. In those days the receipt and expenditures were reviewed at every trustee meeting. The Pastor was paid, Organist was paid, and the Sexton was paid. It is recorded that Mrs. Rachel Harden, mother of the late John Harden grandmother of Mrs. Bessie Payne, was the sexton of the church for a long period of time. Early reports recorded having raised \$900. during one year, and expending with a small balance. The total indebtedness carried that same year was \$250, which is much different from today. It is interesting to read the names of persons who, like today, contributed some in debt defraying rallies. In 1894 over \$200. was collected from the following: Mrs. M. Atkins, H. B. Anderson, Mrs. Lena Anderson, Martha Allen, Julia Atkins, A. Bolin, Mrs. Alice Bolin, Miss Blanche Bolin, Miss Della Bolin, Mrs. M. N. Maxwell, Mrs. M. N. Bryant, Mrs. Mary L. Bowman, Walter Bowman, Mrs. Louise Brown, Samuel Contee, Mrs. Carman, Chas. Cooley, Mrs. Chas. Colley, Mrs. Mary J. Colden, M. E. Claire, W. F. Colden, Mrs. M. E. Colden, Miles Carness, Rev. Isaac Deyo, Mrs. Rinda Du Boise, W. H. Deyo, Isaac Deyo, Catherine DuBoise, John R. Davis, Mrs. A. Dixon, Mrs. J. E. Deyo, Mrs. L. DuBoise, Miss Kate Dorsey, Mrs. Gary A. Deyo, Warner J. Ellis, Mrs. A. Freeman, Miss Maggie Fountain, Miss E. Fuller, Peter Glasby, Mrs. Mary J. Gould, Mrs. S. Gills, John Grant, Mrs. Sarah Gould, Wm. H. Garnet, Wm. Haff, Miss Jessie Haff, Fred Holmes, Miss F. Henderson, Mrs. Mary Hackley, Mrs. Jasper Jackson, Jasper Jackson, Wm. Johnson, Mrs. C. Kenyon, Charles Lawrence, James K. Lewis, Miss Rose Lowe, Wm. Marlowe, Wm. F. May, John Marshall, Mrs. E. Potter, Emma Price, Miss L. Rogers, Mrs. Hannah Rose, Miss Lulu Richardson, Robert Russell, David Smith, Miss Hattie Smith, Miss Nellie Smith, Miss Jane Smith, Mrs. Mary E. Smith, James Smith, George Smith, Fred Schoonmaker, Mrs. Hattie Tembrook, Cornelia Taylor, Charlotte Taylor, Delia Vaughan, Geo. West, Henry Waters, Mrs. Julia Weldon, Mrs. Sarah Wright, Nathan S. Wye, Mrs. Jessie Wye, Mrs. C. M. West, Miss Julia West, Miss Grace West, Mrs. H. West, Mrs. Mary E. Waters, Mrs. Geo West and Warren Yoemans. This list shows that many contributed to the church in special rallies who were not regular members and carriers of the burdens of church work. Many of those named are well known to some of the older members of our church; many still alive are sitting somewhere and can be pictured in their usual positions as they attended functions of the church. These things took place in the early 90's during the pastorate of Rev's Adam Jackson, J. Holiday, W. H. Abbott, Thomas Johnson and the early term of Chaunciford Fairfax.

Warner J. Ellis can be highly commended for his constant and complete service as secretary of the Board of Trustees in the early 90's. The minutes he wrote were a definite record of the workings of the official board and the church. His work may be considered a literary gem and a worth while example to future secretaries who might be so honored by the suffrage of his fellow members.

Rev. C. Fairfax was here for a long term and the usual activity of the church continued. Rev. W. R. Lawton and Mrs. Florence Randolph followed for short periods until Rev. Benjamin Judd came and put in a long term.

There is another family that I found to be very active from the early existence of the church until early in 1900 and that is the family of Abram Bolin. They served in almost every capacity in the life of the church. The value of thier progressive leadership was shown on the official board, classes for prayer and praise, sunday school and choir. The concerts and entertainments they gave were of the finest quality because they were highly talented along literary and musical lines. I regret that the church cannot claim the family name upon its membership roll of today, if only for historical continuance, but we do have the Bolin family represented in direct descendency in the families of Gary Mendez and Mrs. Ella Chapmon.

The following are some who have served on the Board of Trustees: James Davis, Abraham Bradford, Angevine Deyo, Leonard Du Bois, Joseph Wright, Isaac Deyo, Abram Bolin, J. Treadwell, Stephen Smith, Thomas Gray Peter Atkins, S. Contee, R. H. Harrison, Jasper Jackson, Rinda Du Bois Catherine Du Bois, Hannah Rose, Harriet Tenbrook, Mrs. Sarah Vermong Ed. May, Nellie Le Fever, Mary J. Colden, Walter M. Jackson, John Francis Wm. Deyo, Wyatt Jones, Homer Francis, Andrew Johnson, Henry B. Anderson John E. Miller, Robert Washington, James K. Lewis Sr, Wm. Marlowe, David Smith, Warner J. Ellis, Yarbrough Chapmon, Elzy Potter, Nathan S. Wye Sylvanus Jacklyn, George Davis, David Wright, William Heady, L. B. Hortman George Johnson, Edward Jackson, Samuel Le Fever, Charles Pierce, Clarence T. Anderson, John Hadden, Henry Schoonmaker, James K. Lewis, Jr. Dr. R. W. Morgan, Scotland Cassell, Thomas Long, Thurston Magill, Walter Patrice, Percy West, Clifford West, Jr. Henry G. Morris, Jr.

In 1905-6 there about, during the pastorate of Rev. Fairfax, the old parsonage at 28 Cottage Street was presented to the church by Wm W Smith to be used as a home for the ministers. Prior to this presentation the pastors had resided in various places rented by the church. Places were secured on North Clinton street, Catherine Street and Pershing Avenue. Rev. Abbotts home was rented from Wm. Deyo for \$8.00 per month. 28 Cottage Street is one of the cherished gifts from Mr. Smith. It is a large roomy house and deep lot with some fruit trees. It is now occupied by a tenant. Rev. Judd resided at 28 Cottage St. during his entire Pastorate here from 1909, and held many noted events in the old church in Catherine St. He was a great man for celebrations and to recognize every passing event, however insignificant they might have been, by some party or redeption for publicity in the papers.

He was here with the reputation of Church Builder, having left monuments to his memory in every place he had pastored. Mr. Chapmon's history told how persistent he was with very little encouragement from his church members and officials to have the new church erected. How he visited Mr. Smith time and time again, pleading and persuading until Mr. Smith gave and gave until he could give no more. Those who were close to Mr. Judd during these trying days knew well strenuously he worked. Some of those closest to him were Yarbrough Chapmon, Buck Mayfield, Mrs. Lena Anderson, Miss Sadie R. Rhodes, William Deyo and Jasper Jackson/

Cornerstone for the new church was laid Nov. 9, 1910. At this time \$20,365.00 had been raised; the \$20,000. was Mr. Smith's initial contribution and the balance was brought in by members of the congregation. The ministers of the City taking part in the services were Rev. Fred H. Deming of Washington Street

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U.S. Church, Rev. Wm. P. Smith, Protestant Church, Rev. A. B. Hall, Trinity M. Church, Rev. L. S. Harris, Ebenezer Baptist Church, our presiding officer Rev. L. C. Mason and Rev. Clarence Van Buren from our church in London who later succeeded Rev. Judd. The principal address was made by the Hon. Wm. W. Smith. Other visiting ministers were Rev. John Jackson and Rev. Lewis H. Taylor. It was a gala day with great interest in the exercises.

In 1937 during the pastorate of Rev. J. M. Brann nd the church celebrated its 25th Anniversary, that is of the Smith Street building when great ceremonies were held for one week. Many of the faithful workers were honored. At that time appreciation was given to Mrs. Sadie R. Le Fever for her continued devotion as organist and chorister, and to Mrs. Cynthia Atkins for skillful leadership of the Christian Endeavor and cheerful cooperation with all other activities, to Mrs. Lillian Jacklyn and her members of Stewardess Board #1, Mrs. Leila Jones and her members of Stewardess Board #2, to Mrs. Elizabeth Le Fever who directed the Missionary Movements of the church, and like many others, duplicates her services in many other groups in the church, Bros. John Jackson and Buck Mayfield for their faithful class leadership, Dr. R. W. Morgan and his teaching staff in the Church School for their patience and devotion in guiding and directing our children, Mrs. Melissa Potter and her associate leaconnesses for keeping the altar sacred on devotional occasions, to Mrs. Mabel Chapmon who always took pride in competitive leads for Fund Raising affairs, and to Yarbrough Chapmon the only survivor of those whose names are inscribed on the tablet of Love and Memory to the Hon. Wm. W. Smith, and who was then chairman of the board of Trustees.

Science and industry have made great strides, and the world is now a more compact and limited organism. It continues to be a center in the industrial world. Military science moves on at an amazing pace and out of the laboratories of the world, principally the United States of America, proceed the United States, Soviet Union, and England and undoubtedly the United Kingdom of Great Britain are engaged in ever increasing competition. Our war here fought in every part of this republic since Christmas 1941 fell victim to the British gun at Boston Common. Surely some of them must have been killed.

We know that the veterans that were in our church of the Civil War were Mary Potter and Isaac Daniels; in the Spanish American War Mary Davis crossed the border with Poughkeepsie's Co. It commanded by Major John E. Bogue and Capt. in Golden and Walter Bradford mounted horses in the 10th U.S. Cavalry and were with Col. Teddy Roosevelt in the charge on San Juan Hill. Many members went away to World War I because it called every able bodied man between certain ages. The same obligation was required for World War II with Germany & Japan as enemies. At the close of the 2nd World War was "V Day" and this church was once for its members to meet and praise God for Victory. Sister Martha Patrie in her testimony thanked God for the preservation of her six sons who had entered the conflict and lived through it. At that time one of her sons was the ranking U.S. Officer to return to our church, Lieutenant Walter (Bud) Patrie, trustee and member here. Among the casualties of our church can be recalled Pvt. Isaac Battle of the 1st S.W. and Maj. Albert Hays of the 2nd S.W. Mrs. Maria Hays who is the widow of the Maj. Hays is with us. The fields of Flanders and of Iwo Jima dotted with young white crosses which mark the graves of those who have fought and fallen, while many have returned to the States as heroes.

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M.E. Church, Rev. Wm. P. Schwartz, Presbyterian Church, Rev. A. D. Ball, Trinity M.E. Church, Rev. C. S. Farris, Ebenezer Baptist Church, our Presiding Elder Rev. L. G. Mason and Rev. Clarence Van Buren from our church in Hudson who later succeeded Rev. Judd. The principal address was made by the Hon. Wm. W. Smith. Other visiting ministers were Rev. Adam Jackson and Rev. Lewis H. Taylor. It was a gala day with great rejoicing and in the evening a big concert was given in the Cathering street church with appearance of the best local talent. Dedication took place the following year Nov. 26, 1911 with great ceremonies which were fully described in Mr. Chapmon's history. Another addition to the church is the parsonage at 62 Cottage St. which was opened after completion on Dec. 13, 1914. It was called by the then Pastor Rev. Clarence Van Buren "Shepherds Haven". Special exercises were held during the week with preaching, entertainment, prayer and praise services. The building committee which worked with Rev. Judd were Jasper Jackson, Mrs. Mary J. Colden, Miss Sadie R. Rhoades, Mrs. Lena Anderson, John Ed Miller, William Deyo, John H. Jones, Walter M. Jackson, Andrew Johnson, Samuel Contee, William Marlowe, John Harden, Mrs. Jane Bolin, Henry Schoonmaker and Harbrough Chapmon.

Rev. Judd served the church until June 1914 when he was succeeded by the Rev. Clarence Van Buren since retired and living in New Mexico. He was followed by Rev's H. Winifred Allen, J. H. Mac Mullen, Lewis H. Taylor and J. M. Branch; all deceased. Under their administrations the church affairs leveled off and finally slumped into an aggregating indebtedness. There were National calamities during these years. A great depression was followed by two major wars which took a noticeable interest away from the church.

War had become man's greatest industry, even while deliberations for disarmament and limited armament proceeded. It continues to be preeminent in the industrial world. Military science moves on at an amazing pace and out of the laboratories of the world, principally the United States of America, presumably the United Socialist Soviet Regime of Russia and undoubtedly the United Kingdom of Great Britain come weapons of ever increasing deadliness. Our men have fought in every war of this republic since Crispus Attucks fell victim to the British guns at Boston Commons. Surely some of them must have been Zion Methodist.

We know that the veterans that were in our church of the Civil War were Elzy Potter and Isaac Daniels; In the Spanish American War Harry Davis crossed the border with Poughkeepsie's Co. K commanded by Major John K. Sague and Calvin Colden and Walter Bradford mounted horse in the 10th U.S. Cavalry and were with Col. Teddy Roosevelt in the charge on San Juan Hill. Many members went away to World War #1 because it called every able bodied man between certain ages. The same enlistment was required for World War #2 with Germany & Japan as enemies. At the close of the 2nd World War was "V Day" and this church was open for its members to meet and praise God for Victory. Sister Unetta Patrice in her testimony thanked God for the preservation of her six sons who had entered the conflict and lived through it. At that time one of her sons was the ranking U.S. Officer to return to our church, Lieutenant Walter (Tut) Patrice, trustee and usher here. Among the casualties of our church can be recalled Pvt. Isaac Tuttle of the 1st W.W. and Cpl. Albert Hart of the 2nd W.W. Mrs. Doris Hart who is the widow of the Cpl. worships with us. The fields of Flanders and of Iwo Jima are dotted with rows of white crosses which mark the graves of those who have fought and fallen, while many have returned to The States and receive a heroes welcome. The

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Many of our men and also women have participated in the Korean Campaign which is still unsettled. Our hopes and prayers are that a Third World War will be averted.

The church has and is surviving these wars. The Rev. Arthur E. May started his administration here in 1937 and remained for 15 years which was the longest term ever utilized by a minister in this church. During the first two years the indebtedness was completely liquidated, from then on improvements took place. New heating systems were installed in both church and parsonage. The old organ was replaced by an Electronic Hammond organ with Belfry Chimes. A Choral club was trained by Mrs. May which was often called upon to sing at the Annual Conferences at various cities. The club also sponsored the big concerts which brought celebrated artists here to the Poughkeepsie High School for Fund Raising. Those heard were The Southern Airs, The Mariners, Roland Hayes and several concerts by The De Paul Infantry Chorus. In 1949 the church suffered a serious fire disaster early one Sunday morning. It started by some defect in the furnace room. At the time we were unfortunate in not having sufficient insurance coverage to recover from the damage of over three thousand dollars, but we were aided and we are especially grateful for the immediate assistance given us by the churches of our city and the many civic organizations to relieve us in this major catastrophe. By the untiring efforts of Rev. May and Dr. R.W. Morgan of the Trustee Bd. the church was restored to its former beauty through new insurance arrangements with local agencies and State Commission. In 1950 a new restaurant cook range was purchased and installed in preparation for the entertaining of the 128th Annual Conference which was conducted very successfully with Mrs. Cynthia Bradley as chairman. When Rev and Mrs. May came to the church in 1952 they were alone, because three of the children had gotten married and the other was away studying medicine. The church prospered under the pastorate of Rev. A.E. May.

We are now enjoying the pastorate of the Rev. E. Raphael Michael, a product of the largest educational institution conducted by our denomination, the great Livingstone College of Salisbury, N. C. He has brought Zionism in its full realism to us in the conduct of this charge. With organized classes and class leaders, unfailing mid-week prayer service, controlled work of all auxiliaries and a progressive childrens program, we are going constantly forward. Under his administration there is no one left out of the program of religious work. There is a job for everyone. There is a continuous building up of the congregation, especially the youth who form wonderful singing groups. There is a touching scene when the babies are brought to the altar in a group for communion service, while the church sings "Bring them in, Bring them in, Bring the Little Ones to Jesus". The pastor has initiated this joyous setting. There is work for everyone with Pastor Michael. Your place could be found by consulting Dr. Robert W. Morgan, Chairman of Trustee Board and Supt. of the Church School; Henry G. Morris, Sr. Chairman of the Steward Board; Mrs. Marian Foster, Chairman of the Stewardess Board; Mrs. Margaret Michael, Pres. of Home and Foreign Missionaries; Thomas Long, Pres. of Usher Board; Mrs. Rebecca Morris, Pres. of Progressive Club; Mrs. Ernestine White, Pres. of Get-To-Gether Club; Mrs. Florence Long, Pres. of Pastors Aid Society; Wilbur Stevens, Pres. of Mens Club; Mrs. Romaine James, Pres. of Senior Choir; Mrs. Bertha Rankin, director of the Chapel Choir; Mrs. Florence Long, director of the Junior Choir; Mrs. Anna Morris, Supt. of Buds of Promise; Mrs. Mary Leatherbury, Pres. of Deaconess Board; Miss Nora E. Haythe, Sec'y of the Praying Band and Pastor Michael for all in all cooperation.

During this administration there has been installed a new sinks in both parsonage and church kitchens, a new furnace in the church, a baptismal fountain and a cross and candle set in the altar. The clubs which raised money for these improvements were the Deaconesses, Usher Board and the Mens Club. On the membership list today can be found the names of Mrs. Flora Abbott, Eli Allen, Mrs. Miriam Allen, Mrs. Stella Allen, Mrs. Dorothy Anderson, Edward Anderson, Miss Francis Anderson, Mrs. Mrs. Frieda Anderson, Clarence T. Anderson, ~~Mrs. Robert Anderson~~, Lubins Anderson Jr. Mrs. Cynthia Atkins, Lewis Atkins, Mrs. Lizzie Bayles, Mrs. Carrie Baskerville, Mrs. Mozell Berry, Mrs. LeHilda Bostick, Miss Roslyn Bowman, Miss Carol Bowman, Miss Barbara Bowman, Raymond Bradford, Miss Loretta Bradford, Mrs. Naomi Bradford, Mrs. Minnie West Bradford, Mrs. Estelle Brown, Columbus Brown, Mrs. Geneva Bundy, Charles J. Carpenter, Mrs. Elsie Carpenter, Mrs. Edna Caristardo, Mrs. Anna Carey, Mrs. Emma Campbell, Scotland Cassell, Sr. Miss Glenda Cassell, Russell Cassell, Scotland Cassell, Jr. Raymond Callaway, Mrs. Raymond Callaway, Miss Janette Cave, Miss Georgia Caston, Miss Gloria Castro, Yarbrough Chapmon, Mrs. Ella Chapmon, Miss Ernestine Clark, Mrs. Julia Clauson, Mrs. Katherine Clark, Mrs. Genevieve Coleman, Miss Estelle Collins, Mrs. Jeanne Wright Cooper, Mrs. Eva Colden, Miss Barbara Connors, Mrs. Grace Colden, Chester D. Frederick, Miss Gwendolin Cropp, Miss Cristie, Mrs. Emma Davis, Miss Hattie Daniels, Mrs. Ida Dewey, Richard Dewey, Mrs. Geraldine Dixon, Mrs. Adelia Douglas, Mrs. Anna Belle De Boise, Mrs. Julia Duncan, Mrs. Doris Duncan, Miss Grace Jackson Douglas, Mrs. Louise Fitzgiles, Mrs. Sadie Fowler, Walter Fowler, Rev. Isiah H. Foster, Mrs. Marian Foster, Miss Betty Freeman, Miss Vhelma Freeman, Robert Freer, Mrs. Ethel Frye, Mrs. E. Vivian Frye, Miss Sandra Frye, Arbie Gay, Mrs. Mamie Gay, Mrs. Vivian Gatewood, James Gordon, George Gould, Mrs. Rose Gould, William Green, Mrs. Margaret Green, Miss Gertrude Green, Miss Barbara Green, Miss Peroda Green, Miss Jean Green, Philip Green, Mrs. Kathleen Green, Mrs. Gene Green, Herbert Gray, Mrs. Malene Green, Ivory Hanna, Mrs. Donna Harris, Stanley Harris, Miss Joyce Hanna, Miss Nora Haythe, Mrs. Doris Harte, Miss Marcel Harris, William Harris, Melvin Harris, Mrs. Julia Herndon, Mrs. Edna Herndon, Benjamin C. Hill, Carl Hill, James Hill, Mrs. Irene Hill, Miss Darlyess Hill, Edward Hill, Vincent Hill, Mrs. Norma Johnson Hill, Gilbert Hill, Miss Jerry Hill, Mrs. Sarah Higgenbotham, Billy James, Charles James, Mrs. Ella Jameson, David Jackson, Mrs. Lillian Jackson, Miss Jean Jackson, Miss Gloria Jackson, Miss Lola Jackson, Miss Evelyn Jackson, Vincent Jackson, Miss Dolores Jackson, Macie Jackson, Stanley James, Mrs. Romaine James, Fred Johnson, Ralph Johnson, Mrs. Dorothy Johnson, Edward Johnson, James Johnson, Mrs. Gertrude Johnson, Miss Hanna M. Johnson, Miss Rose Johnson, Mrs. Barbara Coleman Johnson, Mrs. Arvilla Green Johnson, Mrs. Captoria Jones, Rusia Jones, Mrs. Marie Jones, Mrs. Elizabeth Green Jones, Mrs. Leila Jones, Mrs. Willie J. Jones, Mrs. Cornelia Johnson, Nelson Johnson, Cortland James, Miss Dora Kye, Miss Ethel May Knox, Miss Philie Knox, Mrs. Elizabeth Le Fever, James K. Lew, Mrs. Ethel Lewis, George Leatherbury, Mrs. Mary Leatherbury, Mrs. Martha Leatherbury, William H. Leatherbury, Mrs. Isabelle Lee, Mrs. Alida Lewis, Miss Elizabeth Lawrence, Mrs. Florence Long, Thomas Long, Russell Long, Richard Long, Mrs. Estelle Logan, Joel Mayfield, Mrs. Cora MacGerald, Thurston Magill, Mrs. Thegssalonia Magill, Mrs. Rena B. Magill, Robert Magill, Mrs. Cecelia Magill, Mrs. Bessie May, Arthur S. May, Herbert May, Mrs. Lee Maize, James Maize, Robert Mallory, Lee Mc Intosh, Mrs. Lydia Mc Intosh, Mrs. Lucille Mc Gue, Miss Barbara Ann McGue, Miss Dorothy McGue, Miss Rose McGue, Miss Barbara McIntyre, Charles Moore, Miss Alice Moore, Henry G. Morris, Rebecca Morris, Henry G. Morris, Jr. Mrs. Anna Morris, Mrs. Caroli Mendez, Miss Patricia Mendez, Gary Mendez, Jr. Dr. R.W. Morgan, Mrs. Lucy James Morgan, Robert Morgan, Jr. Miss Ann L. Morgan, John Miales, Mrs. L. Miales, Rev. E. Raphael Michael, Alexander Moore, Miss Theresa Ann Moore, Mrs. Sarah Osterhout, Mrs. Unette Patrice, John Patrice, Walter Patrice,

Ant. C.

Mrs. Myrtle Patrice, William Parker, Kenneth Penfield, Mrs. Carol Penfield,
 Mrs. Bessie Mae Phillips, Mrs. Sussie Phinney, Mrs. Nellie Potter,
 Miss Gwendolin Potter, Miss Barbara Potter, Mrs. Lucy Franklin Powell,
 Mrs. Mamie Pierce, Miss Joan Price, Mrs. Beulah Price, Mrs. Margaret Pulliam,
 Mrs. Bertha Rankin, William Rankin, Mrs. Lillian Reynolds, Conrad T. Reilly
 Mrs. Josephine Reilly, John Reynolds, James Reed, Mrs. Josephine Rice,
 Mrs. Lavella Green Richardson, William Robinson, Mrs. Lillian Saunders,
 Edward Saunders, Mrs. Sarah Sawyer, Miss Loretta Schoonmaker, Walter Sharp,
 Mrs. Emma Sharp, Mrs. Dorothy Singleton, Mrs. Shirley Simon, Mrs. Bessie Slade
 Mrs. Leora Smith, Miss Cora Spence, Mrs. Emily Spinner, Miss Agnes Stroman,
 Mrs. Georgie Stewart, Mrs. Francis Stevens, Julian Summers, Mrs. Edna Summers,
 Wilber Stevens, Mrs. Pauline Jones Taylor, Mrs. Carrie Thompson, Miss Dorothy
 Thompson, Mrs. Irma Toles, Mrs. Arlene Turner, Millard Turner, Edward C. Tyson
 Clinton Walker, Mrs. Arlene Walker, Mrs. Thelma Walker, Miss Shirley West,
 Clifford West, Jr/ Mrs. Mary West, Willis White, Mrs. Ernestine White, Willis
 J. White, Jr. William White, Mrs. Mary White, Mrs. Bertie Williams, Mrs. Mary
 Jones Williams, Pelmore Wood, Mrs. Louise Overbee Wood, Mrs. Jennie Wright,
 Mrs. Margaret Wright, Mrs. Gertrude Wortham, Miss Fannie Wright, Jackie Wright
 Mrs. Edna Wright.

The life of Poughkeepsie as a chartered City includes us, for in these
 years all of these possessions have come to us. A burial ground in Arlington
 and a church building in Catherine street, owned and sold. A house and lot
 at 28 Cottage St., Church parsonage at 28 Cottage St. and a beautiful modern
 church building on the corner of Smith and Cottage streets now owned free and
 clear of all incumbrance by the colored people who make Poughkeepsie their
 home. We should be proud of these possessions and the history that is attached
 to them, bringing back memory of the loved ones who have pioneered the work
 and who continued to carry on the work as long as they lived, and in passing
 from time into eternity have left us a common heritage of which we should be
 justly proud. Proud of the History attached to it recalling the succession
 of ministers who have served us, and by their individual traits and methods
 the people of Poughkeepsie have been abundantly benefited. They have not
 only made a building of brick and plaster but a record of the baptizing our
 young, the marriage of our children and the burial of our dead. Proud of the
 history which recalls the names of men and women who have, during these long
 years, served as trustees, stewards and stewardesses. It indicated the
 intellect which they possessed and the honor and esteem in which they were
 held by their fellow members, to be the product of their selection and suffrage
 to such honored positions in the church. Proud to recall a never ending list
 of members of the church, members of the congregation and residents of the
 city who have taken the work of the church seriously and have contributed
 regularly or otherwise of their services and means to the support of preachers,
 the running expense of the church and help to the poor. Proud of the music
 and entertainment which has taken place during the past. The vocal selections
 skill upon instruments, elocution and readings have been a charm and glori-
 fication of the talented of our race, such as would fail to be executed with
 such complete satisfaction and continuance anywhere but in our own racial
 group. Proud of the Sunday School Sup's and faculty who have covered these
 years with sacrifice and devotion to the children of our community, endeavoring
 to teach them the bible and examples of life from which they might shape their
 future/

We are in a new generation. We have come into possession of this heritage
 which has been handed down to us thru preceeding generations. A Church, two
 personages and much land, representing a value of some \$50,000.00. The
 faithful few who have survived opposition and criticism deserve much credit
 for still holding on to the ship of Zion and continuing to make history to
 pass on to future generations. In reviewing the activity of the church today

I would give appraisment to all who have mentioned as leaders of the various branches of activity in the church for they are the back bone. It is the lot of every member to toil and sacrifice for the support and maintenance of this institution. It is our ill fortune not to have huge endowments left us to depend upon, nor do we own large blocks of real estate from which to draw income, neither have we an invested capital in railroads, industrials or public utilities from which to receive periodic dividends. So it is up to us to marshal our resources and strength for the benefit of the church to maintain and keep it to the glory of its builder the late Rev. Benjamin Judd, the donor the late Hon. Wm/ W. Smith and the honor and credit of ourselves.

Clarence Tunison Anderson