

June 1954

A. M. E. Zion Church

Corner Smith and Cottage Streets

Poughkeepsie, New York

E. RAPHAEL MICHAEL, MINISTER

PARSONAGE: 62 COTTAGE STREET

TEL. 3329

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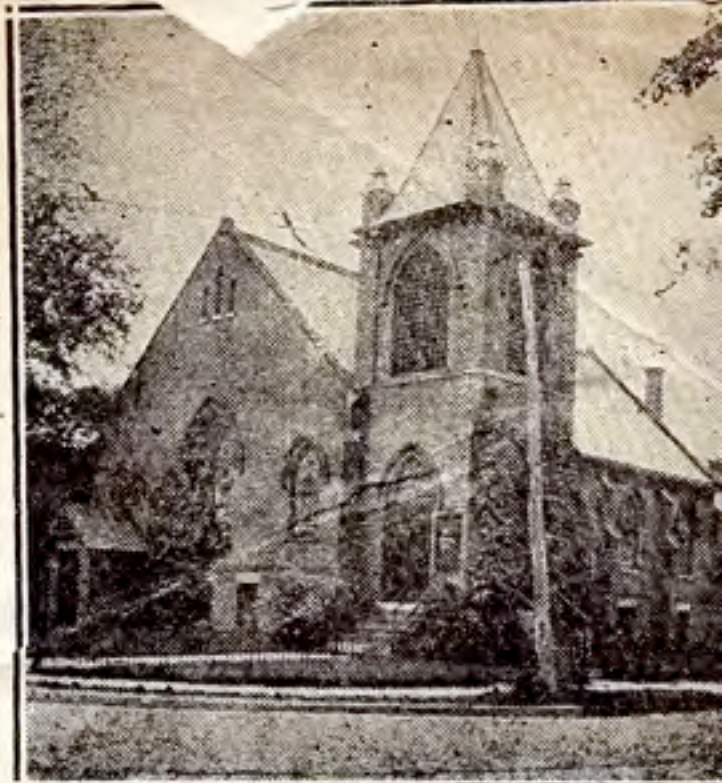
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COLUMBUS BROWN, TREAS.



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 attches 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 existance 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. brotheren, 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 brotheren 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 existance 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: T'is 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 Douglas entitled "Life and Times of Frederick Douglas". 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, baptizims, 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 Second Episcopal... conference had to offer to the churches of this the Second Episcopal... district. Among them were: The Rev's Jacob Thomas, Father Decker, Robert... 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 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 testimonial 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 interesting 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 Allen, Daily 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 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, Dela Bolin, Robert Clair, Helen Carman, Lena Anderson, Louise 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, Rena 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, Julie Atkins, Alice Bolin, Mrs. Alice Bolin, Miss Blanche Bolin, Miss Della Bolin Mrs. M. N. Baxswell, 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 Lula 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 scarce 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.

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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 their 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, Scottland 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, Catharine 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 Catharine St. He was a great man for celebrations and to recognize every passing event, however insignificant they might have been, by some party or reception 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. Rhoades, 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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... Church, Rev. W. P. ... Church, Rev. J. R. Hall, Trinity ... Church, Rev. L. S. Harris, Ebenezer Baptist Church, our ... Rev. L. G. Hanson and Rev. Clarence ... Bureau from ... church is ... and ... Rev. Judd. The principal address ... by the Rev. W. M. Smith. Other ... ministers were Rev. John Jackson and Rev. Lewis H. Taylor. It was a ... day with ...

In 1937 during the pastorate of Rev. J. M. Brannnd 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 Boars #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 ~~chosen~~ ^{one} of the ~~board~~ ^{board} of Trustees.

... and limited ... it continues to be ... industrial world. Military science moves on at an ... of the laboratories of the world, principally the United States of America, ... Soviet ... and undoubtedly the United Kingdom of Great Britain ... ever increasing ... Our ... fought in ... since Crispus Attucks fell victim to the ... of Boston ... Surely some of them must have been ...

... that the veterans that were in our church of the Civil War were Elmy Potter and Isaac Daniels; in the Spanish American War ... crossed the border with ... Co. I accompanied ... in Golden and Walter Bradford mounted ... the 10th U.S. Cavalry and were with Col. Teddy Roosevelt in ... on San Juan Hill. Many members went away to World War I before it called every able bodied man between certain ages. The ... 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 one of its members to meet and praise God for Victory. Sister Quetta Petrice 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 (LNU) Petrice, trustee and member here. Among the casualties of our church can be recalled Pvt. Isaac Battle of the 1st S.Y. and Pvt. Albert Ware of the 2nd S.W. Mrs. Louis Hest who is the widow of the Pvt. marching with us. The fields of France and of Iwo Jima dotted with young of this age men which mark the graves of those who have fought and fallen, while many have returned to The States ...

M.E. Church, Rev. Wm. P. Shwartz, 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". Social 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 staggering 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 Issac Daniels; In the Spanish American War Harry Davis crossed the boarder with Poughkeepsie's Co. K commended 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 Vistory. 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. Issac 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 Imo 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 Paar 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 120th 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, unflinching mid-week prayer service, controlled work of all auxiliaries and a progressive childrens program, we are going constantly forward. Under his administration ~~her~~ 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 sink 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. Dorothy 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. Issah 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 ~~Green~~, William Green, Mrs. Margaret Green, Miss ~~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 Gloris 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. Thegaslonia Magill, Mrs. Rena B. Magill, Robert Ma Mrs. Cecelia Magill, Mrs. Bessie May, Arthur S. May, Herbert May, Mrs. Carol Lee Maize, James Maize, Robert Mallory, Lee Mc Intosh, Mrs. Lydis Mc Intosh Mrs. Lucille Mc Gue, Miss Barbara Ann McGue, Miss Dorothy McGue, Miss Rebecca McGue, Miss Barbara McIntyre, Charles Moore, Miss Alice Moore, Henry G. Mrs. 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. Lu Miales, Rev. E. Raphael Michael, Alexander Moore, Miss Theresa Ann Moore Mrs. Sarah Osterhoudt, Mrs. Unette Patrice, John Patrice, Walter Patrice,

L. J. C.

Mrs. Myrtle Patrice, Willie 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, Felmore 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 glorification 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

C. J. A.

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 bulwark the late Rev. Benjamin Judd, the donor the late Hon. Wm/ W. Smith and the honor and credit of ourselves.

Clarence Tunison Anderson

W. J. A.

History of the A. M. E. Zion Church of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

On November 12th 1937 this church completed 100 years of its organization in Poughkeepsie; this fact is mentioned in the History of Poughkeepsie by the Platts, also by Rev. L. H. Taylor, an ex-pastor of this church and is attested by the following public record; Vis KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that the male members of the congregation that sttedly meet for devine worship at the Lancaster School House in the Village of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County in the State of New York persuant to due notice given, did assemble at the aforesaid school house on the 12th day of November 1837 for the purpose of organizing themselves under the title of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Poughkeepsie according to provisions of an act of the legislature of the State of New York for such purpose made and provided, whereupon the Rev. William H. Bishop was called to act as chairman and William M. Dichason, John Taber and Nathaniel Blout as inspectors of the election, and John Cole was appointed Secretary. The meeting then resolved to organize themselves under the above title and to elect three trustees who should serve for one year or until others be elected in their place. Whereupon at the balloting for that purpose the aforesaid inspectors declared that Ezekiel Pine, Uriah Boston and Peter Lee were elected to serve as the first trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AND SEALS THIS 12TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 1837.

William H. Bishop, Chairman
 John A. Cole, Secretary
 STATE OF NEW YORK
 DUTCHESS COUNTY

On the 12th day of November in the year 1837 before me, David V. N. Radcliffe, Supreme Court Commissioner and authorized to do the duties of a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of said county, personally appeared the within named William H. Bishop and John A. Cole to me known to be the same persons described in and who executed the within instrument and who severally acknowledged the execution of the same for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, all which I certify according to the Statute.

David V. N. Radcliffe, Supreme Court Commissioner.

This was the beginning of our church, and there are those still living today who distinctly remember Mr. Uriah Boston one of the original

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trustees of this church who served on its board 100 years ago. He is described as an old fashion aristocrat with the bearing and manner of the better bred of that period.

The old Lancaster School house stood on the North side of Church Street between Market and Academy Sts.; it afterward became the Church Street public school and is now owned and occupied by the Germania Singing Society. Earlier, it has been learned, these citizens of Pougjkeepsie worshiped with the congregation of the Washington Street M.E. Church, at Mill and Washington Sts. and upon withdrawing themselves, organized their own society in the old Lancaster School house.

From public records available it would seem that the old church on Catharine street was built about 1840, because the Dutchess County Clerk's records show that on July 3rd 1840 the First African Methodist Episcopal Church gave Solomon V. Frost a mortgage for \$450. and this mortgage was signed by Peter Lee, one of the three original trustees, as president of the Board of trustees, and was afterward assigned to Gaius C. Burnap and was satisfied thereafter, and the description of the land in the mortgage corresponds with the description of the old church property on the west side of Catharine Street and the money thus raised by the mortgage was undoubtedly used to build the old structure. The fact that the Catharine Street church was established in 1840 is carved in a ^{small} bronz tablet serving as a paper weight in the home of Miss Grace Deyo. Also a newspaper article written in April 1860 refers to the old catharine street organization which has existed for twenty years. In those days it was known as the property at Mansion Square.

There is very little chronicled of what took place during the first twenty years of existance, but it is quite certain that the church was very much alive, and that there was harmony at times and also discontent. A division occurred in the congregation sometime in the 1850s when a certain faction accused the Catharine St. organization of driving them out of their property at Mansion Sq. to a hired tenament on Main Street, so from that time on there were two societies

of the church which was organized in the old Lancaster School House in 1837. The Main Street A. M. E. Zion Church and the Catharine St. A. M. E. Zion Church. For awhile the Main St. Society appeared to have the larger membership and congregation. They also made some appeals to the public for financial assistance with some success. But when the Catharine St. organization with its smaller following sought to make public appeal, they were bitterly attacked by the Main St. brethren accused of not representing any regular and religious organization, but of holding the property occupied by them by force, and not by law and right, 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 representing their plea to the public and aiming relentless attack upon the other.

The following were the trustees of the Main Street A. M. E. Zion Church

James Davis	Abraham Bradford
Angevine Deye	Leonard Du Bois
Joseph Wright	

The following were the trustees of the Catharine St. group

Isaac Deye	Abraham Bolin
James Treadwell	Stephen Smith
Thomas Gray	

Those fine Christian Brethren were contending for public sympathy in those days of 1860.

Later a proposition to bring about a union of the two societies by the Catharine Street group was rejected by the officers of the Main St. group. The population did not warrant the existence of two colored churches and together they could make a stronger appeal to the public with the idea of building a new church. Main Street continued to carry on until their numbers dwindled down to such an extent that they were compelled to abandon their Main St. abode and region with the Washington St. M.E until they passed out of the picture one by one. I think the last one retaining her membership there, faithfully, died just a couple of years ago in the person of

Many returned to Catharine Street, increasing the congregation, and they received much recognition from the public and succeeded in the project of rebuilding. The corner stone was laid in 1860 while the Rev. Jacob Thomas was

L. J. A.

pastor.

With the Civil War came local enlistment of soldiers for the cause of the Union. Draft riots occurred right here in Poughkeepsie with bitter animosity directed toward the colored population and their church. When a mob threatened to burn it down, some of its male members, with the permission of Mayor Innis, patrolled Catharine Street night and day for sometime, with fire arms, prepared to protect it with their lives. After the war was won a huge freedom rejoicing meeting was held in the church presided over by Isaac Deyo who presented as speakers James De Garmo,

Handwritten notes:
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Property of
C. T. Anderson

By James C. Bolin, Jr.

For a person or an institution to reach one hundred years of existence is a noteworthy achievement and one meriting due and proper celebration and felicitation.

One hundred years ago is a long span and while the customs and beliefs of the people have changed somewhat in that time, nevertheless the everlasting truths upon which this church was founded and purposed to promulgate and to assist in placing on a more firm foundation in the world, remain the same.

To most of us to day the people and the events of one hundred years ago are mythical; we picture them to ourselves as being different from the people of the present, but in what way different we are unable to explain, but when we think or try to think of the people who formed the society of this church at the time of its founding and their manner of life, the same strange, mysterious feeling creeps over us as does when we read of the early history of America and the doings of the Pilgrim Fathers, but they were the same kind of people as we are to day, moved and motivated by the same impulses, with the same hopes, disappointments, joys and sorrows; the people, the human beings, are the same and the only things that have changed in this one hundred years are the customs, the beliefs and the manner of life.

One hundred years ago and on down the years the people of this church were more religious, more devout than those of to day and they had a sincere immovable belief in the existence of a Supreme Being and his dominion over the world and over the affairs of men and they lived for the most part a fearing life in accordance with their simple belief.

In those early days and down to within a comparatively recent period the church had three services a day on Sundays, besides the Sunday school and the minister was expected to and did preach three sermons each Sunday.

There were at least two nights each week when religious services were conducted, class nights and prayer meeting nights.

A great institution of the church here in Poughkeepsie and a part of its regular worship required by its Discipline or the resolution and acts of the conference under the jurisdiction of which the church functioned, was The Quarterly Meeting.

Quarterly Meeting Sunday was a banner day in the old Zion Church down on Catharine Street; on that day every member and every attendant at the church made it his and her business to be present at the services and people attended from all around the surrounding country, from out in our county, from Hudson, Kingston, New Paltz and other places in Ulster County, from Fishkill, Baxtertown, Newburgh, Peekskill and even New York City and Brooklyn.

Quarterly Meeting Sunday was a day when about every member of the church living in Poughkeepsie had company for Sunday dinner and every such person expected it, welcomed it, enjoyed it to the full and was always amply prepared for it so far as the gastronomic part of the day was concerned.

There are those living who recall those happy reunions at such times of those old time members and friends of Zion Church and it seems to day that they were beautiful from the sincerity radiating from every act and word of the participants.

On those occasions most always the presiding elder of the district would conduct the services and do the preaching, sometimes one or two visiting pastors besides the presiding elder would be present and sometimes the bishop himself would be present to carry on the services and you can be sure that on those old fashion Quarterly Meeting days God was praised in

on Church by supremely happy hearts. In the early part of the past seventy years distinguished bishops presided over the conference to which our church belonged, and they were distinguished for their ability, their learning, their character and their devotion to Christianity and the church.

Perhaps the most outstanding bishop over this church since its founding was bishop Joseph J. Clinton, a man of very distinguished appearance, with the bearing and the grace of a bishop, always immaculately garbed in ministerial attire, a wonderful executive and a learned, eloquent and convincing preacher.

He was the bishop over the conference to which this church belongs for a good many years and was probably one of the most respected and best loved minister anywhere.

There followed him as bishop Bishop Moore, a highly educated man of exceptional ability and although an humble, self effacing man modest and retiring in his general association with people he was one of the most learned and eloquent preachers of his time.

There are those living to day who recall that on occasions when it was announced in the daily papers that Bishop Moore would preach in Zion Church the city newspapers would send reporters to the church to report his sermons.

In the early days and on down through the years Zion Church has been blessed with earnest, sacrificing, hard working ministers, and it can be truthfully said that during the hundred years of the existence of The A. M. E. Zion Church in the City of Poughkeepsie the breath of scandal has never touched one of its ministers from the beginning down to the present time.

Perhaps they were not all highly educated either generally or theologically, but they were honest, sincere, God fearing men, leading their flock the best they knew how.

Among the old time ministers of this church are recalled the names of ~~Robert T. ...~~ man; Joseph Thompson, who was a distinguished looking man and had been educated both for the ministry and in medicine, he was both a preacher and a doctor of medicine; William H. Decker, who was presiding elder over this district for many years after his pastorate here, and Jacob Thomas, who was a forceful and eloquent preacher and one of the best executives in this conference.

Sixty odd years ago a minister by the name of Josiah Smith had charge of this church. He was a good man and a good minister, but a great stickler for being on time; he was a Canadian by birth and had been a cook on a whaling vessel for years before he became a minister and time was of the essence of everything he did.

When he first took charge of this church he told his congregation that the church services on sunday evening and sunday afternoons would start in the afternoons at four o'clock and in the evenings at 7.30 and on sunday evening when half past seven arrived promptly he would begin the services; maybe at half past seven there might be a half dozen persons in the church and they would be the old stand bys of the church; it did not make any difference at half past seven the services started, the hymn was given out, and if there was no choir and no body to start the singing of the hymn, he would start it himself and sing it himself, pray, announce his text and go ahead and preach.

In those days the major part of the congregation would come marching into the church somewhere from 8.15 to 8.30 and some of them later, and by the time the bulk of the congregation became comfortably in their seats Mr. Smith was announcing the closing hymn and pronouncing the benediction.

The congregation, the most of whom could have been in church on time, did not like this but Mr. Smith never stopped it, and by nine o'clock sunday evenings church was out.

The Rev. Mr. Smith had other ideas about time which some of those who are living to day very vividly recall. These old fashioned ministers made regular calls on their parishioners through the week and one person now living in this city can really recall some times winter mornings when he would be starting the kitchen fire for his mother, hearing some one coming with a cane through the hall leading from the front around to the kitchen door of his father's house, then a heavy rap on the door and when he opened the kitchen door lo! and behold there was Mr. Smith, making a pastoral call. He would come in wait for the rest of the family to get up and come down stairs and many times after breakfast was ready and he would be asked to breakfast his invariable and roguish reply would be "No I thank you, I have my breakfast in the morning"

But you can imagine the inward thoughts of a kid nine or ten years old up in the cold making the kitchen fire to have a social caller at that time in the morning always before seven o'clock and in the winter time too.

However, the old gentleman had travelled all over the world on board of ships, had been about in every country in the world, and he was a most entertaining and interesting person.

The old time members of that early church some of them come back in memory, Isaac Deyo, Ann Gould, Mrs. Calder, the present William Haff's grandmother, Peter Atkins, the father of Mrs. Lena Anderson, and Mr. Atkins's wife, William Smith, the father of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Tunison, who too was a great worker in the church, Ann Lawrence, Robert Clair, Mary Ellen Hardenburgh, Abraham Bolin and his wife, Alice Ann Bolin, and many others who were ever faithful to the church and made many sacrifices in time and from their meager means to support and carry on the church.

One hundred years ago the inhabitants of this city who worshipped together and who finally founded this church worshipped in the old Lancaster School House which stood on the north side of Church Street between Market and Academy

and that spot that these early citizens of Poughkeepsie worshipped together and it was here that the A. M. E. Zion Church of Poughkeepsie, N. Y. was organized which is attested by the following public record, viz; KNOW ALL MEN by these presents that the male members of the congregation that statedly meets for divine worship at the Lancasterian School House in the Village of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County and State of New York, pursuant to due notice given did assemble at the aforesaid school house on the 12th. day of November, 1837, for the purpose of organizing themselves under the title of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Poughkeepsie, according to the provisions of an act of the Legislature of the State of New York for such purpose made and provided whereupon the Rev'd. William H. Bishop was called to the chair and William M. Dichase, John Taber and Nathaniel Blount as inspectors of the election and John A. Cole was appointed secretary.

The meeting then resolved to organize themselves under the above title and to elect three trustees who should serve for one year or till others be elected in their place.

Whereupon after balloting for that purpose the aforesaid inspectors declared that Ezekiel Pine, Uriah Boston and Peter Lee were elected to serve as the first trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie.

Given under our hands and seals this 12th. day of November, 1837.

William H. Bishop, Moderator. (L. S.)
John A. Cole, Secretary (L. S.)

State of New York,

Dutchess County,

On this 12th. day of November in the year 1837 before me, Dav-