

HISTORY OF CHRIST CHURCH,

GREENSBURG, *Pennsylvania*

1822—1907.

To My Vestrymen:--

James E. Keenan, Senior Warden,

Joseph K. Barclay, Junior Warden & Treasurer,

S. F. Potter, Secretary,

John Barclay.

Charles H. Fogg,

Daniel L. Hilty,

Lloyd B. Huff,

H. D. Jamison,

Whose friendship, loyalty and parochial statesmanship have been a constant inspiration during my seven years rectorate, I inscribe and give this record to their parish.

H. Hobart Barber,

Rector.

All Saints 1907.

This matter was dictated from notes to a stenographer during my last weeks in Greensburg. She reproduced the matter in type-form. There was not time for superintending the production of a corrected copy. The author regrets that the matter has to be turned over to the Vestry in its present form.

H. Hobart Barber

A FOREWORD.

There is nothing in the discovered history of this parish more than in many others that entitles it to be written; but that is not the point. What is of record here is a part of our history as a Congregation, and is, therefore, of interest to us and will be to our children.

The sole purpose of this history is to put into a connected and permanent form such papers and records of parish events, together with ^{the record} ~~that~~ of its work, as are in need of preservation, or may be of use to those who come after us.

It is to be regretted that the information for this record is so incomplete. There are no "Minutes" of any meeting prior to 1831; this leaves the first nine years of our parochial existence,- glorious years of vision, hope and struggle.- without comment by the Vestry. Not only is the record of this period wanting, but one is constantly coming across great gaps and silences in the "Minute Book". For instance on "April 25, 1840, the Vestry resolved to proceed to collect subscriptions for the present year". No action is reported upon this resolution; not a word is heard from them until September 11, 1848, when they reappear, not with the cash, but with a new "resolution to collect \$250.00 for the support of the rector".

In my effort to ^{gather} ~~collect~~ all the information possible, I have carefully examined the Journals of the Diocese of Pennsylvania from 1784 to 1865, and those of the Diocese of Pittsburgh from 1865 to ¹⁹⁰⁷ ~~date~~,

hoping to throw the cross lights of rectorial comment and Episcopal mention upon our local records; ~~necessarily~~ ^{necessarily} The information gained from the Journals is ^{necessarily} almost all statistical.

Transcripts of valuable notices from the files of the "Westmoreland Republican" (now Democrat), founded in 1799, have been given me by the present courteous Editors, Messrs. Vogle and Winsheimer.

After consulting with Miss Ann Johnston, and Mrs. Mary Taylor Kistler, also with George A. Allison, son of our first Janitor, I have been able to reproduce a sketch of the first Christ Church. Miss Johnston and Mrs. Kistler are daughters of two of our first Vestrymen Alexander Johnston and Jehu Taylor, respectively. These women are still living though well along in their eighties, and are both communicants of this parish*.

As we are this year (1907) celebrating the ter-centenary of the planting of English Civilization and Christianity on these western shores, I shall preface our local history with a chapter on the history of the Colonial Church, connecting the Parochial with the National, and the National with the Universal.

H. H. B.

* Miss Anne Johnston died Jan. 15, 1908