

Around the Corner

The program of dedication of our local Congregational churches new room brought to mind memories of our village's and its churches early history.

Nineteen original families from Poultney, Vermont in 1836 by the 1880's had been increased by other, many from New York State.

Church life played an important part in all its social activities, according to a good New England custom the bank was founded by one of our merchants and located in the back of his dry goods store. Many years bearing his name Homer G. Barber.

Another Merchant, Henry Martin born a year before his parents came here, the Wells R. Martins added much to the musical culture of his church.

Buying goods in New York once a year, he also attended grand Opera there and here his church choir was composed of many of the leading people of the community.

His wife, daughter of a Judge Jones who later retired here, was a woman of beauty of face and charm of manner.

She and Dr. P. L. Green's wife led in the campaign to build a new parsonage, driving about the county to raise funds. Their youngest child Edith Martin Biggs of Caro attended the exercises Sunday. The minister at that time was Dr. David Benton a graduate of Edinburgh University and it was said enough bedrooms were planned to accomodate their four children.

Olivet college was attended by many of our village's High School graduates. At one time there were thirteen students there from our village, that was in the early 90's.

Many of the settler's children attended the academy at the chapel, later going on to Olivet. The teacher, W. U. Benedict was a Yale University graduate. Later the mid week prayer meeting was held in the chapel, the long seats, still there were the seats then used.

A childhood memory of the writer is the family of Ernest Sprague coming into the church; Mrs. Sprague, a Potter of Lansing, wearing her beautiful olive green silk wedding dress, tight fitting with modest bustle, one son Milton, is still a resident of Vermontville.

Also the Will Griswold family of five children, Ruth with brown pigtailed, and among them one small youngster, who later went west to find fortune, Graham whose generosity makes his old churches new enlargement possible.

The above was written for us by Mrs. Juliette Gehman.

Three generations of the Griswold family came for the dedication services of the new "Griswold Room" Sunday