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## HISTORY OF ORLEANS COUNTY CHURCHES

by  
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### Town of Kendall

The area which is now the Town of Kendall was settled a little later than other parts of Orleans County. Land was not offered for sale there as early as in other towns. Also it was densely wooded and swampy and was avoided by the pioneers when more accessible land was plentiful. The first settler in the town was Samuel Bates, who in 1812 took up land next to the eastern boundary, about midway between the present north and south borders of the town. He cut some trees and erected a cabin in the clearing. The following year he cleared about two acres and sowed wheat among the stumps. In 1814 he brought his family from Vermont and for a year they were the only people in the town. They did have a few neighbors in Monroe County.

A few pioneers came in 1815 and others followed each year thereafter. Among those who settled near the Bates family were Amos Randall, Adin Manley, Benjamin Morse, Rev. Stephen Randall, Dr. Theophilus Randall, Caleb Clark and several of his brothers, and others. Here, on the farm of Amos Randall, the first schoolhouse in the town was built and the first cemetery located. They were intelligent people, interested in education and religion, and in national and world affairs and willing to work for the best interest of their new neighborhood. About 1820, long before their own land had been transformed into profitable farms, they formed a Public Library Association, the first in Orleans County. Members bought shares and made extra gifts until they were able to purchase 75 books which were read throughout the area. No one could afford to take a newspaper so several joined together to subscribe for one which was read by all. Some one had to go to the nearest Post Office at Clarkson to get the paper and other mail. The first religious services in the town were conducted by Rev. Stephen Randall, a Methodist preacher.

In the schoolhouse on the Randall farm, the first Church in the Town of Kendall was organized in 1828, by the Rev. Eli Hannibal. This was the Freewill Baptist Church which in 1967 is the Morton Baptist Church. Two years later a Methodist Society was formed in the same schoolhouse. In 1833 the two Societies joined in building the Union Church, which was the first in the town. Actually it was located on the Monroe side of County Line Road and some members of both groups lived in Monroe County.

Soon after the founding of the first two Churches, others were organized in various parts of Kendall. During the nineteenth century 13 Churches of 9 different denominations were formed in the town, but not all of them existed at the same time. Only four of them are active in 1967. These are Morton Baptist Church, Kendall Methodist, Kendall Mills Methodist and Concordia Lutheran Church of Kendall. Eleven church edifices were erected. Of these three are still in use as churches, ~~three~~ are used for other purposes, two were torn down and three burned down in the present century. Of the 3 destroyed by fire one was the Kendall Mills Methodist church which was promptly rebuilt.

The history of the 13 nineteenth century Kendall Churches follows, also that of one recently organized Church.

## Free Will Baptist Church - Morton Baptist Church

The first Church in the region which later became the town of Kendall, was organized in the schoolhouse on the Amos Randall farm in 1828. It is referred to in County history as the East Kendall Church but in Free Will Baptist records for the Holland Purchase in 1829 it is listed as the Clarkson and Sweden Church with 50 members, Eli Hannibal, pastor. The membership came from both Orleans and Monroe Counties. Rev. Hannibal who was born in Fairfield, Conn. was ordained as a Free Will Baptist Minister on June 12, 1824. He came to the Monroe - Orleans area as a pioneer preacher and proclaimed the word of God wherever he could assemble a congregation in barns, schoolhouses, cabins or in the forest. He organized many other Free Will Baptist Churches in both counties, while continuing to serve the East Kendall Church as pastor for forty years or more.

In 1833 this Church joined with a Methodist Episcopal Society which had been organized in the same schoolhouse, in building a union meeting house. In the agreement drawn up at the time the two societies were to have equal use of the building regardless of the amount of money contributed. It was also agreed that at any time it was not in use by either society it was to be open for the use of any denomination that might wish to hold services there. When completed the church was dedicated by a Methodist minister. The two Churches held their services on alternate Sundays and held an annual joint covenant meeting. They shared the building for about forty years.

The Free Will Baptists were an active growing Church for many years under the leadership of their consecrated pastor. Membership reached 126 at one time. But about 1868 or 69 when Rev. Hannibal retired because of old age, the Church declined in both religious fervor and membership. For about seven years services were not held regularly. The Methodist Church also became weaker at this time. Rev. Eli Hannibal died at his home in Waterport, August 27, 1876 at the age of ninety-six and a half years.

Rev. Bathrick began a series of evangelistic services about this time which resulted in a number of additions to the Church including some members of the M. E. Church who had dropped out a few years before. In February 1877 the Church reorganized as the Free Will Baptist Church in East Kendall. Three years later under the pastorate of the Rev. J. B. Randall money was raised to build a parsonage on a site, just south of the union church, donated by the Barrows family. The Free Will Baptists now had complete use of the union meeting house but as they were increasing in membership they began to consider erecting a new edifice.

On July 4, 1889 the trustees met to decide the matter of a new church. The Barrows family offered to sell a suitable site for \$150. The pastor, who was Rev. Schoonover, was authorized to circulate a subscription for funds. In this way \$2,610 was raised and the trustees proceeded promptly to erect the building. Architect Addison Farbs drew plans for a fee of \$25 and the foundation was constructed by Charles Kendrick for \$160. The cornerstone was laid in September and the building completed by Edwin Bliss of Holley in December at a cost of \$1,675. Pews and pulpit furniture were purchased from a Grand Rapids, Michigan firm and installed so that the

new church was dedicated in January, 1890. Shortly afterward a bell was hung in the belfry. A few months later the old union church was sold to a Presbyterian Society which organized at East Kendall in May, 1890.

The congregation enjoyed their new place of worship and membership increased but there was no place for social gatherings. A few years later Robert and Julia Johnson donated funds to build a social hall. This was completed in 1895 and named Johnson Memorial Hall. In November that year, pastor and congregation joined in a Thanksgiving dinner after service, the pastor, Rev. Tanner, furnishing the oysters for the occasion. A Ladies Aid Society had been organized in 1886. After Johnson Hall was available many ice cream socials and oyster suppers were held, sometimes for fellowship and also for money raising. Few women of that period worked for wages so the only way they could contribute to the support of their Church was by using their culinary and sewing skills and organizational ability to put on public suppers and sales of hand made articles. Also active at this time were two other groups, the Sunshine Philathea and The Golden Rule. The young people were active in a Christian Endeavor Society. In 1895 the name of the Church had been changed from East Kendall to the Morton Free Baptist Church.

By 1913 the once strong Free Will Baptist denomination had ceased to exist in this area. The Church at this time reorganized and incorporated as the Morton Baptist Church and affiliated with the American Baptist Convention and the Monroe Baptist Association. During 1919-20 improvements to the property included the installation of electric lights in the church, parsonage and Johnson Hall. Membership was increasing at that time.

The Church carried on her usual program during the depression years without making many improvements to the property. The Church had continued to grow and by the 1950s the need for more space and more modern facilities for the educational, social and religious programs was becoming urgent. It was not until late in 1955 that plans for solving the problem were decided upon. Johnson Hall was razed and a Sunday School and service building was erected as an addition to the original church edifice. It was dedicated as MacQueen Hall in October 1960. Members had given generously of time and money to complete the project and it was with great rejoicing that the mortgage was burned in January 1961. The oldest member of the Church, Mrs. Laura Kenyon took part in the ceremony.

The original building was completely redecorated during 1963-64 and a new organ installed in the sanctuary. The organ was given by Mr. Fred Wilkinson in memory of his wife. During 1966 the parsonage was repaired, remodeled, redecorated and made into a fine modern, convenient home. In 1968 the membership is about 150 and the pastor is the Rev. Robert A. Phillips. Organizations are the Sunday School, BYF and the Golden Rule Class through which the women of the Church do White Cross work, present missionary programs and work on many Church projects. In addition to meeting the expenses of their own programs the Morton Baptist Church supports the missionary work of the American Baptist Convention, Monroe Bapt. Assoc. projects and the Orleans Ministry of Concern. Members are involved in many community services.

1968 Officers: Clerk - Mrs. Wm. Burtchfield, Treas.-Randall King, Financial Sec. - Miss Dorothea Maibaum, Trustees - Vernon Root, Mrs.



Ray Joyce, Mrs. Edward White, Thomas Spring, Chesta Joba;  
Deacons - Mr. and Mrs. Milford Cliff, Mr. and Mrs. George Morey,  
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Purvee, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Skutt, Mr. and Mrs.  
Gerald Wahl; Organists - Bruce Keeney, Mrs. Harold Skutt, Choir  
Director - Mrs. Robert Keyser.

Pastors: Revs. Eli Hannibal, Bathrick, J. B. Randall, C. A.  
Hilton, Edwin Pimlot, F. O. Dickey, Hiram Schoonover, V. M. Tanner,  
J. W. Moore, F. T. Osborn, R. D. VanAlstine, William Slocum, A. J.  
Osborn, G. H. Hobart, C. F. Eddy, Eddie Eanes, Paul Collier,  
Park Rushford, Donald MacQueen, D.D., R. David Higgs, Robert A.  
Phillips 1966 -

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### The M. E. Church of East Kendall

The first Methodist Episcopal Class in the Town of Kendall was formed in 1830 in the schoolhouse on the Amos Randall farm. This was later known as the East Kendall M. E. Church. The earliest religious services in the region were conducted by the Methodist preacher Stephen Randall who had taken up land there. He was perhaps the first pastor of this Church which was formed some years afterward. County histories state that it was always served by the pastor of the Kendall Village M. E. Church but that Church was started at least a year after this class which met in the Randall schoolhouse.

Services were held for three years in the Schoolhouse. In 1833 the Methodists joined with the Free Will Baptists to form the Union Society to build a Union meeting house. This building stood on the Monroe County side of the County Line Road. Here the two Churches held services on alternate Sundays for more than forty years. It was their custom also to hold an annual joint covenant meeting. Many people attended service every Sunday, worshiping with equal reverence under Baptist or Methodist leadership. The Union Church was built and maintained in harmony without regard to the amount of money contributed by members of each group. The M. E. membership was considerably smaller than that of the Baptist Church.

One reason for the organization of so many small Churches in pioneer days, was that roads were nonexistent or nearly impassable during much of the year. Schoolhouses and churches were placed so as to be accessible to most of the settlers. By 1876 there was a good system of roads connecting all parts of Kendall. Methodist Conference then requested members of the East Kendall Church to attend services at the much larger Village Church and pastoral appointments at East Kendall were discontinued. Some members continued to attend the F. W. Baptist services at the Union Church. Officers of the East Kendall M. E. Church at the time their services were transferred to Kendall were: Stewards - Henry W. Bates and Gideon Randall; Class leader was A. J. Randall. Pastors are listed in the history of the Kendall Church.

## Kendall Methodist Church

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized as a result of revival services held in 1831, according to the HISTORICAL ALBUM OF ORLEANS COUNTY which was published in 1879. These meetings were held in the large barn on the farm of Ezra Spicer near the village later named Kendall. So many people were converted that it was long remembered as the "Big Barn Revival". The Revs. Knapp and Wallace were not "hit and run" evangelists, for they remained after the meetings were over and organized a Methodist Class with more than fifty members and Orman Spicer as local leader. They continued to hold regular preaching services for the class in the village schoolhouse until it was well established. The same history gives the names of other ministers who conducted services there prior to 1846 as: the Revs. Hiram May, Anderson, Cyrus Story, Wesley Cochran, R. C. Foot, Egbert Selleck, William Sever, Striker, and Whited. Why the date 1846 is mentioned is not clear, as there is nothing in the history of the Church to suggest its importance. It would appear that the first resident pastor of the Class might have been in 1840, for that year a lot was purchased and a parsonage built.

The Methodist Episcopal Class met in the village schoolhouse for more than 25 years but in 1857 a lot was purchased from Silas Simkins for \$100. On this site on the west side of Main St. north of the corners, the frame church was erected at a cost of \$2,500. It is not known just when the Class reorganized as a Church but on March 1, 1858 The Methodist Episcopal Church in Kendall was legally incorporated. The trustees at that time were Orrin J. Smith, Jacob Cocher, N. M. Requa, Nelson Coe, Anthony Blake, P. A. Simkins and L. B. Felt.

In 1868 the parsonage was sold and land purchased adjacent to the Church property on the south. Here the present parsonage was built at a cost of \$1,500. The Church continued to serve the religious needs of the congregation during the remainder of the nineteenth century but never increased the membership to any extent. A Sunday School had been organized early in the life of the Church and now in latter part of the century the women organized a Ladies Aid Society and Home and Foreign Missionary Societies.

During the pastorate of the Rev. L. D. Woodmancy at the turn of the century he led the Church in revival services which marked a spiritual high point in the history of the Kendall Methodists and brought 42 probationers into the membership. A few years later a series of improvements to the property were begun with the placing of stained glass memorial windows in the sanctuary. A furnace was installed in the parsonage and acetylene lighting in both church and parsonage. In 1913 the Kendall Fire Department joined with the church in building a large cistern in which to store water for fire protection. During the latter part of the second decade of the century the Sunday School became more active and enrollment increased as organized classes were formed. The new groups helped in having a new floor placed in the sanctuary and some alterations made and new pews purchased. Electric lights were installed, a new pulpit given by the choir and an old debt of \$650 paid off. The Rev. Guy Ovenshire became pastor in 1923. He soon organized a Boy Scout Troop and since that time many of the pastors have been active in Boy Scout leadership. At this time the Epworth League was strong as were the women's organizations and in fact the entire Church. also the property was in good condition.



With the 1930s came the depression and an end to most property improvements. As people had little money at that time to spend on pleasure and entertainment, the Church put more emphasis on Christian fellowship and arranged many simple home talent entertainments for community enjoyment. Although members were having difficulty in meeting minimum Church expenses, the Friendly Workers Class of women managed to raise money to install a bathroom in the parsonage. The Rev. E. T. Rowe served as pastor during five of the depression years. Mrs. Rowe organized a youth choir and Mr. Rowe is remembered as an excellent preacher and teacher and also as a willing and capable workman who shingled the Church roof.

In 1939, in accordance with action taken by General Conference, the word "Episcopal" was dropped from the official name of the Kendall Church. The long active Epworth League, was reorganized as the Methodist Youth Fellowship. The next year the several women's organizations were unified in the new Woman's Society of Christian Service, as suggested by Conference.

During World War II years the names of 50 young men were placed on the Honor Roll of those who were serving their country. With work at good wages available for all who wished to work, it was again possible to spend money on the church. The old furnace was replaced with oil heat, the sanctuary was redecorated, new light fixtures installed and memorial gifts made possible a new Hammond organ. The Rev. Paul Miller who closed a five year pastorate in 1950, had by his musical talent enriched services and by his Christian influence over young people had brought many into the Church.

With increasing membership and changing programs the need for additional space began to be considered. Discussion continued without action until in 1957, under the leadership of the Rev. Donald Weaver, the official board named a building committee. Appointed were George Lapham, Robert Wilson, Keith Bartlow, Harry Kronson, Robert A. Smith, Mrs. Howard Burt, Mrs. G. D. Forbes and Mrs. Robert Knapp.

On October 5, 1958, when the centennial of the church edifice was observed, ground was broken with appropriate ceremony for the erection of an annex. The two-story addition was designed to harmonize with the original church. It provided class rooms, a youth center, modern kitchen and the necessary heating plant and sanitary facilities. At the same time the old dining room was remodeled and enlarged. The cost of the entire project was \$34,000. The Rev. Jack James was the pastor in 1960 when the new building was consecrated by District Superintendent, Dr. Closson on March 6. Gifts of land by Albert Tomaschke and the estate of Alta Butler Hardesty added to the usefulness of the annex. During 1964 the parking area was enlarged with land given by Mrs. Clarence Schepler and the building debt was paid. The mortgage was burned with appropriate ceremonies led by Bishop Ralph Ward on November 22, 1964. More recently the sanctuary has been redecorated with paneled walls and new carpet. In 1968 the Church is considering the replacement of the 100 year old parsonage.

Kendall Methodist Church has a present membership of 115, nearly all of whom are actively involved in a full program of worship services, religious education and other Christian activities of the local congregation. Organizations are the Church School, the W.S.C.S. Men's Club, MYF, and Boy Scouts. The pastor is the Rev. Leon D. Smith.

The Church also supports Western New York Methodist Conference of



which she is a member and World wide Methodist Missions, and the Orleans Chapter of the Genesee - Orleans Ministry of Concern. Members also are involved in worthy community projects. The various officers, and Commission and Committee number about 100 and cannot all be listed here.

Trustees are: Clarence DeWaele, Marshall Mayes, Walter Reamer, George Hansen, Charles Snell, Robert Wilson, William Klick, Ralph Taber, Robert Porter: Lay Leader - Gerald Reamer, Lay Rep. to ann. Conf. - George Lapham, Church Treas. - Mrs. Robert Smith, Fin. Sec. - Mrs. Laura Osborn, Recording Steward - Mrs. George Hansen, Church School Supt. - Mrs. Clarence DeWaele. Mrs. Florence Cropsey, who had long been an active member has been named, Honorary Steward.

Pastors since 1846 : Revs R. C. Foot, Ralph Clapp, E. Clement, J. B. Lanckton, W. D. Buck, J. J. Gridley, J. H. Wallace, F. W. Conable, Wm. Cooley, A. W. Abel, J. Kennard, A. L. Buck, Milo Scott, N. Jones, J. McEwen, Wm. Barrett, G. W. Ferry, H. L. Newton, A. L. Maryott, S. S. Ballou, John Ager, G. E. Ackerman, E. J. Whitney, A. W. Hayes, H. E. Milliman, J. N. Simkins, Vosburg, J. W. Criswell, T. M. Williams, L. D. Woodmancy, J. H. Humphrey, W. F. Wells M. D., W. B. Robinson, J. W. Searles, D. C. Erwin, A. E. Matthews, P. P. Sowers, Guy Ovenshire, George Heath, Fred Bolander, Frederick Smith, E. T. Rowe, Clarence Nash, Raymond Draf-  
fin, Charles Taylor, Paul Miller, Kendrick, Philip Schaal, Jonathan Thornton, Edward Caldwell, Donald Weaver, Jack James, Bruce Gray 1961 - '63, Douglas Merchant 1963- '65, Kenneth Reynolds 1965- 1967, Leon D. Smith 1967-



## Kendall Baptist Church

A number of Baptists were among the early settlers in the section known as North Murray which later became the village of Kendall. They probably occasionally attended services in not too distant Baptist Churches in Monroe County or in Holley. By the summer of 1831 they decided to organize a Church of their own and called a council of pastors and delegates from nearby Baptist Churches to assist them. This council met with the group at the home of Reuben Roblee on August 31, 1831. The Rev. Zenos Case, pastor of the Holley Church, served as moderator, the Rev. Jirah D. Cole, as clerk and the Rev. H. Davis preached on this occasion. The organization formed that day was known as the North Murray Baptist Conference. The 18 constituent members were: Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Barker, Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Rice, Mr. and Mrs. William Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Drake, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Roblee, Mr. and Mrs. Stanton Burdick, Mrs. Lee, Deborah Densmore, Phebe N. Everts, Laura Burnett, Sophia Spencer and Amanda Collar. A week later the first covenant meeting was held. Articles of faith and practice and a church covenant, all in conformity with regular Baptist Churches, were adopted. The Rev. Jonas Woodard, who had come to this area as a Baptist missionary became the first pastor.

The Council of Churches met again on February 1, 1832, this time at the schoolhouse where services were usually held, and recognized the so called conference as a Baptist Church. About a month later, Cyrus Barker and Reuben Roblee were chosen as the first deacons of the Church and on April 7, the Lord's Supper was observed for the first time with the Rev. Zenos Case officiating. In September of the same year the Church was received into Monroe Baptist Association. The pastor, Jonas Woodard, and S. P. Soule and Byron Densmore were the delegates to that meeting.

Membership was growing and they were anxious to build their own meeting house as soon as possible. With this in view the congregation met on January 21, 1833 and incorporated under the laws of the State of New York as The First Baptist Society of North Murray. Soon after ward the society purchased the school property where they had been meeting. They moved the schoolhouse off the lot and in 1834 began to erect their meeting house. At this time membership in the Church had increased to 55.

A Congregational Church had been organized in the village in 1833 and they also needed a place for worship. As the Baptists were having difficulty raising sufficient funds to complete their building, the two groups decided to combine resources. In January 1835 a Union Society was formed which took over the task of finishing the edifice. The two Churches held their services there for about a decade until the Congregationalists decided to build a church of their own, and sold their interest in the union church to the Baptists.

When the town of Murray was divided in 1837 and the Town of Kendall erected, the North Murray Baptist Church changed her name to the Kendall Baptist Church. Orleans Baptist Association was organized in 1844 and at that time the Kendall Church transferred to this group. It was often difficult for small churches to secure pastors and at times the Kendall Church was without leadership. In February 1849, Warham Mudge, a member of the Church who had been assisted by the congregation in receiving his education at Hamilton College, was licensed to preach by the Kendall Church. In March he was ordained as

a Baptist minister at the Kendall Church and served as pastor for two years. He was followed by the Rev. Eleazer Savage who had ministered to the Church some years earlier. During his pastorate the Kendall Church entertained the Orleans Baptist Association at their 1852 annual meeting.

For some reason, the Kendall Baptist Church which grew so vigorously during the first few years after organization, never later won enough new members to replace the consecrated early workers in the Church when they were removed by death. Pastors usually served for short periods and often there were months with no pastoral leadership. The Rev. J. L. Smith came to minister to the flock in 1867 and remained for four years, the longest pastorate in the history of the Church, but when he left there was practically no flock. The few remaining members made no attempt to hold services and in 1873 an Advent Church was organized in the Baptist meeting house and leased it during the ten years of their existence.

In 1883, after the Advent Church went out of existence, an effort was made to reorganize the Baptist Church. The gifted pastor of the Gaines and Murray Baptist Church, Rev. H. H. Emmett, was engaged to conduct afternoon services. The person most responsible for reestablishing the Church was probably P. R. Woodcock. He was apparently a newcomer to the community, for he was not listed in a Kendall directory a few years earlier. Mr. Woodcock now served the Church as deacon, clerk and Superintendent of the Sunday School which in 1885 reported an enrollment of 62. As part time pastor Rev. Emmett increased attendance at the afternoon service and won new members so that in 1884 Kendall Baptist Church was readmitted to Orleans Baptist Association. In April 1885 Rev. Emmett closed his work with the Church as he felt the membership was strong enough to engage a full time pastor and that regular Sunday morning and evening services should be held. In June of that year the Church reported to Orleans Association that the Rev. J. M. Neville had been engaged as pastor and that attendance at two Sunday services and Sunday School was increasing. The renewal of the Kendall Baptist Church was short-lived, however, and by 1891 it had gone out of existence.

The Baptist meeting house had a much longer history. It survived both the Baptists and Congregationalists who united in building it, served as house of worship for a number of other Church societies, and later was used for commercial purposes. Kendall Universalists used the building for more than 20 years, and the Lutherans from 1891 until their own edifice was ready for use in 1896. In 1901, after a disastrous fire destroyed most of the business section of the little village, the old church was converted into a hardware store. After standing for 80 years on the northwest corner of the village square, the building was moved down by the railroad tracks and used as a bean house by a produce house. It burned down in 1926.

Pastors who served the Kendall Baptist Church were ; Rev. Jonas Woodard, Edmond Goodnough, Daniel Dye, Eleazer Savage, A. Mason, George Walker, Robinson, Inman, J. J. Fuller, Charles Clutz, Warham Mudge, William Putnam, Eleazer Savage, Benjamin Warren, J. D. Clark, A. J. Ball, L. Brasted, William Putnam, J. L. Smith. After 1883 Rev. H. H. Emmett, J. M. Neville,



## The Congregational - Presbyterian Church of Kendall

A Congregational Church was organized in the schoolhouse in the settlement then known as North Murray, on January 14, 1833. This group joined with the Baptists in January 1835 to form a Union Society to complete the meeting house which the Baptists had started to build the preceeding year. This was the first house of worship in the village. Here the Baptists and Congregationalists held their services on alternate Sundays for about nine years. There are few records of this Church and the names of the founders and earliest pastors are unknown.

Apparently the Congregational Church prospered during those early years, for in 1844 they sold their interest in the union church to the Baptists and proceeded to build their own edifice on the east side of Kendall's Main street. The Rev. Kinmore was pastor at that time. On August 10 of the same year the members voted to adopt the Presbyterian form of Church government and to change their name accordingly. As soon as their building was enclosed and home made benches built, the Presbyterians began to hold services there. It was several years before the church was completely finished.

The History of Orleans County which was published in 1879 gives the names of the pastors of the Presbyterian Church and of officers serving in 1850. The Rev. Joseph Buttoph succeeded Rev. Kinmore about 1845 and after two years was followed by Rev. Roswell Brooks. Ruling elders in 1850 were Steuben S. Forbes, Seth Cook and W. L. M. Mead who was also Church Clerk. The deacons were Samuel Pettibone, Seth Cook and Leman N. Smith. Membership was then 60.

It was often difficult for small Churches to secure pastors and after Rev. Brooks preached his farewell sermon on August 14, 1853, the Church was without a minister for three years. Services were held at irregular intervals whenever a preacher could be engaged. The Rev. David Powell was called to the pastorate in August 1856 and served until early in 1860. The Presbyterians were again without leadership for nearly two years until November 1861, when the Rev. G. D. B. Miller began a one year ministry. He was the last pastor to serve the Church. There are no records of the religious programs or activities of this Church during its lifetime. The organization was kept up for a few years after 1862 with occasional services conducted by supplies. With no new members coming in to replace the faithful who were removed by death or who united with active Churches in the community, the Church had ceased to exist by 1870.

The Presbyterian Church of Kendall endured for only about 35 years but the edifice they erected still stands and serves a useful purpose after nearly a century and a quarter. It was used as a House of God for less than 25 years but was the home of a strongly religious temperance society for nearly 60 years. A number of temperance organizations flourished in Kendall during the nineteenth century. Kendall Lodge of the International Order of Good Templars was organized in 1868 and holding meetings in various buildings for a decade, purchased this church in 1878 and fitted it for their needs. A few years after the I.O.G. T. lodge had disbanded, the Kendall Fire Company acquired the building in 1947 and remodeled it completely for their use as a garage for fire trucks and social meeting place with modern kitchen.



## Kendall Mills Methodist Church

The roots of this Church, which until 1939 was known as the Methodist Protestant Church of Kendall Mills, go back to a class organized in Kendall District IO schoolhouse in 1844. This school house stood on Norway Road a little over a mile south of the lake. Here, a Rev. Payne started a Methodist Protestant class with about 25 members and served as pastor of the group for a year or more. This small branch of the Methodist Episcopal Church in American had split off and organized as a denomination in 1830.. It is possible that Rev. Payne was a missionary sent by the Methodist Protestant general conference to start Churches in recently settled western New York. Churches were organized in Niagara and Monroe Counties and in Orleans County Clerk's office, there are incorporation records of three M. P. Classes in addition to the Church in Kendall. The incorporation notice for the Carlton Class is signed by O. C. Payne, who may have been the same man. However, there is no historical record of these classes so they apparently did not continue to meet.

The Methodist Protestants continued to hold services in the schoolhouse and the Rev. Isaac Fister followed Rev. Payne as pastor. In 1848, Rev. Fister started a second class at Webster's Mills, as Kendall Mills was then called. John Bovee was the local leader of this class which soon absorbed the members of the first group. It is not known how long Rev. Fister served as pastor, as the Church has no records for the next thirteen years. It is known that the schoolhouse at Kendall Mills was the usual place of meeting. There is in the County Clerk's Office a record of incorporation which reads as follows: " The Methodist Protestant Church met at the usual place of Worship in the Town of Kendall and incorporated as the Methodist Protestant Church of Kendall and Clarkson Circuit. March 27, 1850."

In 1861 the Rev. Seymour D. Kingsley became Pastor and served for six years. At that time the membership was reported as being 41. No reference is made in Church records to an 1856 incorporation. County Histories state that the Methodists of Kendall Mills legally organized as a Church and Society at the schoolhouse on February 18, 1868. Trustees elected at the meeting were: G. C. Bridgeman, Matthias Ladue, Robert McCreary, Martin Webster, Alexander Cary, Chandler Manley, Philander Buckley, W. T. Brooks and Simon VanGeiser. They made immediate plans to erect a meeting house.

Chester Perry donated a lot on the west side of County Line Road and the Church edifice was erected there at a cost of \$3,700. A Free Methodist Church which had been organized a few years earlier helped raise the necessary funds. The church was dedicated in January, 1869 and the two congregations held their services on alternate Sundays. For some reason the building was extensively repaired and remodeled only nine years later and was rededicated on July 18, 1878 by the Rev. T. B. Dodd, pastor of the M. P. Church of Wolcott in Wayne County.

Membership never exceeded 50 but the Church often had a resident pastor during the nineteenth century and a parsonage was purchased at an unknown date. A local farmer, Oren P. Wildey, sometimes preached when the Church was without a pastor. Ministers who served the Church during the rest of the century after Rev. Kingsley left were: Revs. A. O. Hutchinson, Chester K. Akeley, W. H. Farnham, Bert Partridge, Wm. Richards, A. G. Bloomfield, C. K. Akeley. S. A. Baker, A. H. Kinney, D. L. Vaughan, F. W. Grafton, A. M. Woodward, W. L. Kellogg, George Winegard, F. H. Colby.



Soon after the turn of the century the women of the Church determined to purchase a bell to ring out the call to worship over the community. They accomplished their purpose by working hard for many months, making quilts and doing all sorts of needlework to sell. The building was rather neglected for many years, especially during the depression and in 1948 the congregation undertook major repairs and repainting of both interior and exterior of the church. New carpeting was also purchased. Most of the funds were obtained from the sale of the parsonage. During the present century it had been impossible for the membership to support a resident pastor so the pastor of a Monroe County Methodist Protestant had been engaged to give part time leadership. In 1939 the Methodist Episcopal Church, North and South, and the Methodist Protestants merged to form the Methodist Church. The Kendall Mills Church dropped the word "Protestant" from their name and became a part of a Methodist pastoral charge.

In 1949 the congregation was so pleased with the improvements to their building made the previous year that they decided to continue the work by constructing a basement. The financial drive for necessary funds met with such success that the work was begun promptly. The new basement provided a community room and space for Sunday School classes but it soon proved to be unusable much of the time because of water seepage. It was some years before the trouble was corrected.

Just after the sanctuary was redecorated in 1948, Mrs. Winifred Manley had a beautiful memorial stained glass window installed. Soon afterward Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Farrington bequeathed money for stained glass windows throughout the building. As interest in improvements continued, a complete new lighting system was installed and Robert Bissell electrified one of the old reed organs. Later trust funds of \$5,000 each were willed to the Church by Mr. Frank Webster and his sister, Mrs. Winifred Manley.

Finally in 1960 and '61 the problem of water seepage in the basement was corrected and the rooms were refinished. In November members were planning for a rededication service and starting on preparations for the annual Christmas party to which every child in the neighborhood was invited. On November 11, 1961, smoke was seen pouring from the rear of the church, and although the Fire Department was called and firemen from Morton, Kendall, Hamlin and Holley quickly arrived at the scene, the fire was out of control and the 93 year old church on which so much labor and money had been spent in recent years, was soon only a pile of rubble.

The congregation held several meetings to seek Divine guidance in planning for the future. It was decided to rebuild and during 1962 a Building Fund Campaign was successfully carried on and the following year a neat frame church with social and Sunday School annex at the rear was erected. Cost of the new building was \$18,200. It was consecrated for use on October 20, 1963, and the dedication ceremonies held in 1965. Pulpit furniture was given as memorial gifts and chairs were used for seating. The congregation is still working to complete their church as they want it. The belfry and steeple was built in 1967, The bell, given by the ladies of the Church many years ago, was the only thing saved from the fire and everyone was happy when the old bell was hung in the new belfry. In 1968 new pews are being installed. When the plans for building were being made and carried out in 1962 and 63 the trustees were: Robert Bissell, A. Clarence Raynor, Fred Porter, Roger Howe.

In April 1968, Kendall Mills Methodist Church has a membership of 24. The pastor is the Rev. Elton C. Davis who is also pastor of the



Hamlin Methodist Church. The Church is in the Rochester District of Western New York Methodist Conference. Present Officers are : Recording Sec. - Mrs. Ernest Skellen, Financial Sec. - Mrs. Ellsworth Porter, Treas. Cur. Exp. - Alan Wais, Treas. Benev. - Mrs. Arthur Burt, Trustees - Ellsworth Porter, Earl Buck, Thomas Witt. Mrs. Ellsworth Porter is President of the Ladies Society and Mrs. Arthur Burt has served as organist for many years. Sunday Morning services are at 9:30, Sunday School at 10:30.

Pastors who have served the Church since 1900 have been the Revs. J. C. Clough, M. S. Scriber, E. H. Betts, E. C. Weaver, G. C. Weaver, L. G. Bowen, W. L. Post, F. C. Rogers, Paul S. Miller, P. D. Schaal, J. M. Thornton, E. C. Caldwell, D. L. Weaver, J. E. James, B. C. Gray, E. R. Ferris Jr., Wm. Cooper, Elton C. Davis-1966 -

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#### Kendalls Mills Free Methodist Church

A Free Methodist Society was organized at Kendall Mills in 1860, probably by Rev. Loren Stiles, Jr. who organized the Church at West Kendall at that time. William Nichols was chosen class leader and Samuel Ladue served as steward. They held their services in the school house or in the homes of members for some years.

In 1869 the Free Methodists joined with the Methodist Protestants in building the church at Kendall Mills, and used the building part of the time. County histories tell little about this Church except that the membership was small and it was always served by the West Kendall pastor.

They must have won some new members, perhaps from Monroe County, in 1882, for that year they decided to erect a meeting house of their own. They built on a lot a short distance over the line in Monroe County at a cost of \$1600. They continued to worship there for nearly forty years until most of the early members had passed away and the few remaining could no longer support the services. The Rev. Clarence L. Silvernail attended to the details of closing the Kendall Mills Free Methodist Church in 1921 during his pastorate of several years at West Kendall. The building was used as a Community hall for a number of years but was torn down some years ago.



## Kendall Universalist Church

A Universalist Church was among the several Kendall religious societies which existed for a short period during the nineteenth century. Actually there were a number of Universalists in the area at an early period and about 1832 they began to meet occasionally in one another's homes for discussion. After the Baptist meeting house was built in 1835 they sometimes held services there when a Universalist preacher could be secured. In 1840 this informal society engaged the Rev. Stephen S. Miles to conduct regular Sunday services in that church. He left after two years and the group again met irregularly for more than a decade.

On October 30, 1854, at a meeting called at Campbell's hotel in Kendall for that purpose, the Rev. John J. Austin organized a Universalist Church with 70 members. The Society was legally incorporated that same day. Abraham Odell was elected chairman of the meeting and Rev. Austin served as clerk. Abraham Odell, W. R. Bassett and Alanson Whitney were elected trustees. David Jones and William R. Bassett served as inspectors of the election and signed the incorporation petition at the County Clerk's office. The newly organized Church invited Rev. Austin to serve as pastor. He accepted and remained as leader of the Church for eight years.

The Universalist Society purchased a lot on the east side of Main Street from Alanson Whitney in the spring of 1855. A substantial framedifice was erected there by Carlton Bridgeman at a cost of \$2,300. Hitching sheds were built north of the church soon afterward, which stood for a century before being torn down. The new edifice was dedicated in the fall of 1855 and prospects appeared bright for the Kendall Universalist Church.

After the Rev. J. J. Austin closed his ministry with the Church in 1862, however, the Universalists were without a pastor for ten years and no regular services were held. Finally in 1872, the Rev. Nelson Snell, who apparently was serving another Church, was engaged to conduct services half of the time. He served in this way for two years after which there were no more regular services and the Universalist organization went out of existence a few years later.

The building the Universalists erected in 1855 still stands after 113 years and much neglect. It was used by the Lutherans for their services for three and a half years after they organized in 1887. After again standing empty for some time it was acquired by the Town of Kendall for use as a Town Hall and storage of equipment, in the late 1890s. It was used as a voting place and for Town board meetings for many years. For some years it has used <sup>been</sup> only as storage space and in 1968 is in a deteriorating condition.

*moved to the Cobblestone museum complex  
1978*



## West Kendall Free Methodist Church

The First Free Methodist Church of West Kendall was organized in the fall of 1860 by the Rev. Loren Stiles Jr. of Albion. He was holding two day meetings in the West Kendall M. E. Church, which attracted a large attendance. After the morning sermon on the second day he organized those who wished to become Free Methodists into a new Church. Among those who joined that day was Moses N. Downing who became the first pastor, and many members of the M. E. Church. The dissension which caused the forming of Free Methodist Churches was in Genesee Conference, and the two West Kendall Churches appear to have worked together in harmony even though the Free Methodists had taken a majority of the members from the M. E. Church. They held services on alternate Sundays in the M. E. meeting house for nearly a decade. Shortly after organizing, the new Society appointed G. W. Holmes as their delegate to the first Free Methodist Conference, which was held in Rushford in November, 1860. By the end of the first year the Church had a membership of about 100.

The Free Methodist Church legally incorporated at a meeting called for that purpose at the M. E. Church on October 18, 1866. G. W. Thomas, Nelson Coe and N. S. Bennett were elected trustees. The following year they purchased a small house and an adjoining one and a half acre lot at a cost of about \$1,000. In 1876 they repaired and enlarged this parsonage.

In 1869 the Rev. John W. Reddy, who was then pastor of the Church, gave the Society a lot on which to build. Here, on the south side of the road, just west of West Kendall Corners, the Free Methodists erected a substantial frame church. The building, completely furnished, and the hitching sheds cost \$3,700. The edifice was dedicated on November 11, 1869 by the Rev. Benjamin F. Roberts, who had been elected general superintendent of the Free Methodist Conference.

A Sunday School was organized in 1870 with Addison Bennett as superintendent. A few years later an average attendance of 120 was reported. Addison Bennett was later elected as general superintendent of Conference.

The Free Methodist Church of Kendall which started out so enthusiastically, however, never gained many new members and as the older members began to pass away membership declined and at the close of the century was down to fifty.

Pastors who served during the nineteenth century were; Revs. M. W. Downing, A. G. Terry, Henry Hornsby, G. W. Coleman, C. D. Brooks, H. Hornsby again, I. C. White, J. W. Reddy, G. W. Marcellus, William Manning, Otis O. Bacon, M. D. McDougal, C. C. Eggleston, Wm. Ingleby, John O'regan, Wm. Manning, A. A. Burgess, W. W. Brown, L. D. Perkins, and Wm. Manning a third time.

Kendall Free Methodist Church entered the twentieth century a smaller but very active Church with a well organized Sunday School which was a member of the Carlton Sunday School Association. This organization met quarterly and presented programs for the instruction and inspiration of Sunday School officers and teachers. The Kendall Church was frequently host to the annual Camp Meeting of Genesee Free Methodist Conference which was often held in a beautiful beech grove on the Hardenbrook farm. As many as seventy tents were often in the grove. In addition, many local people attended the daily prayer and preaching services and people of all denominations drove from miles



around to come to some of the meetings. The welkin really rang at camp meeting time as many voices joined in enthusiastic singing of the old Methodist hymns!

During the years the Church entertained their Annual Genesee Conference and many of the quarterly District meetings. Both Church and community were known for their generous hospitality. The members kept their building in good repair so that it was always an attractive and dignified House of the Lord.

The Free Methodist denomination ceased to grow after some of the reasons for its organization were removed by the abolition of slavery and the gradual liberalization of the autocratic diocesan rule of the M. E. Church. Kendall Free Methodist Church became weaker with the passing years, as long active members died or became inactive because of illness or old age. One who had long served the Church with devotion, Mrs. Sarah Parker, was 98 years old and had been living in Albion for some time when the Kendall Church closed in 1964.

The white church at West Kendall stood vacant for a few years. It is now used as a cabbage storage, having been purchased in 1967 by Cole Hardenbrook.

There is no complete list of pastors who served the West Kendall Free Methodist Church during the present century but among them were William Manning Jr, G. S. Chamberlain, Clarence L. Silvernail, who served during the early 1920s and was followed by a Rev. Johnson. Also Revs. Robinson, A. G. Miles and Warner. Rev. Miles served a second pastorate during the closing years of the Church's life.

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#### West Kendall M. E. Church

A Methodist Episcopal Class was organized at West Kendall at an unknown date, possibly at the time of the big barn revival. They probably met in District No. 3 schoolhouse, north of West Kendall until they built a meeting house in 1846. This was located on the west side of the road just north of West Kendall Corners. It was always a part of the Kendall charge.

West Kendall Free Methodist Society was organized in this church and the M. E. membership was greatly reduced at that time as many withdrew to unite with the new Church. However, the two groups lived together in harmony and the Methodists allowed the Free Methodists to hold their services in the meeting house for about nine years, until the Free Methodist church was built.

At the close of Rev. William Barrett's pastorate in 1871, Conference decided that the small number of members of the West Kendall Church should thereafter attend services at the Kendall Methodist Episcopal Church. The West Kendall group kept up their organization for a time after their local services were discontinued. In 1879 their leader was H. C. Fish and stewards were Isaac Stimus and George Smith.

The church which the West Kendall Methodists built in 1846 at a cost of \$2,000 stood for more than a century. It was purchased by West Kendall Good Templars Lodge in 1892 and used for many years as the I.O.G.T. meeting place and social hall. After that organization disbanded it was used for some years as a community center. Later it stood empty for a time and was finally torn down by William Rushbroo



## The Advent Church of Kendall

The Kendall Advent Church was one of two of that denomination organized in Orleans County. It was formed in the Baptist meeting house in the village, on June 3, 1873. This Church existed for less than a decade and is the only one in the town which did not erect a building but it is interesting for several reasons.

The Advent denomination was preoccupied with contemplation of the second coming of Christ. They studied the Bible for clues and attempted to predict the date of His coming and the end of the World. Although several predicted dates had passed without incident the movement did not die out. During the last half of the nineteenth century, whenever world events seemed especially deplorable, new converts were won to the Advent Church.

Twenty-three persons were organized as the Kendall Church by Mrs. L. M. Stoddard, who remained as the leader of the Society for about a year. She preached to another group who met at a Schoolhouse in Murray, during that time but did not succeed in forming a Church there. As the Baptist Society had become too weak to support services at that time, the Adventists took over the building and spent \$500 in making needed repairs. Officers elected were: trustee - D. C. Higgins Burre Naess, Andrew Labar, A. B. Townsend, Noah Elwell; deacons - Judson Knight and Orman Spicer; Treasurer - John Vandermark; Clerk - D. C. Higgins. A Sunday School was soon started with Orman Spicer as superintendent. Among the officers were a number who had long been active in older Kendall Churches.

The Church was without leadership for several months before Elder Stevens served as pastor for a short period. The third pastor was Elder Milton R. Miles who also served for less than a year. After his departure in April 1877, a local member, Elder Morris Owen, took over the leadership of the Church, preaching every two weeks for some years. In 1877 also, W. H. B. Rowe was elected as Sunday School superintendent and increased the attendance. In 1878 the Church reported a membership of 50 and Sunday School enrollment of 100.

There are no more records of Kendall Advent Church and it had apparently gone out of existence when the Baptists reorganized in 1883 and again used their meeting house for services.



## Concordia Lutheran Church

Concordia Lutheran church is the youngest of the nineteenth century Churches organized in the Town of Kendall, which are still active in 1968. It is also the largest.

Large numbers of German people came to America at different periods but few came to Orleans County until after 1880. Some time after that date a number of newly arrived families settled in the Town of Kendall. Other families continued to come for a few years. Few of these people spoke or understood English. A Lutheran minister came from Rochester to hold German language services for them and found that they wished to have a Church of their own at once. On May 17, 1887 the Rev. C. N. Conrad of Rochester met with 23 men from the German settlement, at the home of Christian Schepler and organized this Church. The first officers were: Elders - Carl Reimer, John Wolf and John Krueger Deacons - John Schepler, William Behnke, Christian Schepler, Fred Hilbrecht and Julius Kludt. They rented the church which had been built by the Universalists who no longer used it, for \$40 a year. For a few Sundays, afternoon services were conducted by pastors of other Lutheran Churches.

The Rev. John J. Heissler was called June 20 to become the first pastor. Membership began increasing at once. Two years later Spring Hall was rented and a parochial school started there by the pastor. In 1890 a schoolhouse was built on the Universalist church grounds, with the privilege of moving it when the Lutherans secured land of their own. That same year the women organized a Ladies Aid Society with Mrs. Fred Hilbrecht as the first president.

In November 1891 the unused Baptist meeting house was rented and services moved to that location. The following spring the Lutherans purchased their present lot on the east side of Main St. a short distance south of the railroad tracks. They immediately moved their schoolhouse there and began to make plans for erecting their Church edifice. There was some delay in proceeding with building but in December 1895 the trustees signed a contract with H. L. Cole of Holley for the construction of the church for \$1,800. Work was begun in the spring and was completed so that the Church was dedicated on June 28, 1896. A Young Peoples Society was organized that spring and their first gift to the Church was a baptismal font which is still in use.

With their own place of worship a reality, these good German farmers next turned their attention to the faithful horses who brought them to Church. Sheds to shelter them during services were authorized in 1897. It was decided that each member should build his own section. The following year records state that a bell was hung in the belfry at a cost of \$75. Considering the usual cost of a church bell one wonders how the Lutherans managed to buy at that price. A house was purchased for \$1,500 from Charles Scharp, in January 1902 for use as a parsonage. The young Church, in the course of 15 years, had now acquired a fine property, adequate for their needs at that time.

Until 1910 the German language was used in all of the Church services. By this time, however, there were many young people in the Church who had never lived in Germany and they wanted to have services in English. Pastor Hartwig retired in 1910 after serving the Church for nine years. When pastor Misch was called the following year he was asked to conduct bi-lingual services. Membership was growing and



after a few years the congregation began to improve their Church edifice. The first pipeorgan was installed at a cost of \$1,000 and a choir loft built. A few years later the need for space for social programs and Sunday School was becoming urgent. As the parochial school had been discontinued and the hitching sheds were no longer needed, they were torn down in 1926. The salvaged lumber was used in building a parish hall. Later, stained glass windows were placed in the church and new entrance steps constructed. As members prepared for the 65th anniversary of the organization they redecorated the sanctuary and put in new pews. A nursery room and modern sanitary facilities were provided at that time.

After all of the German speaking early members of Concordia Lutheran Church had passed away all services were conducted in English, probably about 1941. The Rev. Ernest H. Rieck served the Kendall Church for 15 years in two separate pastorates. When he retired he made his home in Medina and often attended services in Kendall or supplied the pulpit when needed. In 1958 he was voted the Honorary title, Pastor Emeritus.<sup>12</sup>

Early in 1962 members of the Church undertook a number of projects in preparation for the 75th anniversary in May. Much of the electrical wiring and lighting was replaced, all of the buildings were freshly painted, the steeple repaired and new hymnals purchased. Also a new two-manual organ was installed by the Delaware Organ Co. of Tonawanda, at a cost of \$5,200. Special anniversary events were held throughout the rest of that year.

During 1967 the parsonage was completely remodeled and redecorated and made into an attractive modern home. In 1968 plans are being considered for enlarging the parish hall to meet social and religious educational needs of the growing congregation.

In 1968 Kendall Concordia Lutheran Church has a confirmed membership of 237, representing families in an area with a radius of 25 miles from the Church. She is a member of Upper New York Synod of The Lutheran Church of America. Organizations through which Church work is carried on are: the Junior and Senior Choirs; the United Lutheran Church Women who relate the local members with the work of the Church at large, the Ladies' Aid which helps with many local projects; the Fellowship Club, a young adult group which is responsible for equipment for the Sunday School; The Luther League for teenagers, and the Sunday School. The congregation also sponsors Junior and Senior Confirmation classes taught by the pastor. In addition to supporting the local Church program, the members support Lutheran World Action, the Orleans Chapter of the Genesee - Orleans Ministry of Concern and various community projects.

All organizations are under the jurisdiction of a Church Council of 12 members elected to three year rotating terms. The pastor is chairman of the Council. The present pastor is the Rev. Edward Mangelsdorf. Council members are: Donald Diltz, Milford Bonke, Mrs. Roger Herman, Mrs. Robert Woodcock, Burley Hart, Leon Herman, Everett Jurhs, Charles Tomascke, Jerry Ecker, Donald Koza, Rudolph Kludt, Charles Cater, who is also Secretary; Richard Nowack-Treasurer.

Pastors: Revs. John J. Heitssler, F. J. Teegen, Johannes Flierl, H. R. Grabau, W. T. Junge, E. R. Wanerke, H. H. Hartwig, A. C. Misch, E. R. Rieck, C. J. Reichardt, H. A. Hunzinger, J. C. Krahmer, E. H. Rieck, Teofil Bartnicki, M. F. Arndt, C. E. Butterer, Rudolf Nilson, Edward Mangelsdorf July 1967 -



## First Presbyterian Church of East Kendall

This Presbyterian Society was the last Church to be organized in the town of Kendall during the nineteenth century. The hamlet of East Kendall grew on the east boundary of the Town, about two miles from Lake Ontario where the first settlers in the area took up land. Here on the Hamlin side of the County Line Road, the two earliest Churches to be organized in the Town, The Free Will Baptist and a Methodist Episcopal Society, had built a union meeting house in 1833 and worshipped there for many years. After good roads had been laid out Methodist Conference that the small Methodist Church disband and the members join the larger M. E. Church in Kendall village in 1876. The Baptists continued to use the union church until 1889 when they built a new edifice farther south. The following year a few Presbyterians in the vicinity decided to organize and on May 31, 1890 formed the First Presbyterian Church of East Kendall with 13 members, in the old union meeting house.

They purchased the property from the Baptists soon afterward and erected an attractive edifice on the site, incorporating much of the old frame work into their new building. It was completed at a cost of \$4,500 and dedicated on September 10, 1891. Quite an accomplishment for 13 people. In 1894 when LANDMARKS OF ORLEANS COUNTY was published, that history reported that the Rev. George Strassenburgh, who was also an M.D. was the pastor and that membership had grown to 31 with a Sunday School enrollment of 65.

After their energetic beginning, however, the East Kendall Presbyterian Church soon ceased to grow and by the end of the century was beginning to decline. A few faithful members tried to keep the Church alive for more than a decade but according to an old newspaper clipping it closed at the end of 1914. The meeting house the Presbyterians of East Kendall built was more durable than their organization. Before disbanding they sold the building to the Morton Grange which refitted it for their own needs. After the Grange died out, Morton Fire Company acquired the building, and repaired it for use as their meeting place and recreation hall. A garage was built on for housing equipment. The former church burned down in 1965.

## MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, KENDALL MILLS.

T This Church was organized in 1956 and is the only Kendall Church formed in the present century and the only Negro Church in the Town of Kendall.

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church was organized by the Rev. Frank F. Cotton in July of that year in the home of Amos Cowart. A house and lot on the south west corner of the County Line and Creek Roads was purchased in 1957 and remodeled as a place of worship. A kitchen and bathroom were installed. One who was active in the organization and the work of the Church until his death in 1966, was Mr. Violin Lee. Members of his family have continued to be active in the Church, and gave the few facts about it which could be obtained when this history of Churches in the Town of Kendall was compiled in 1967.

Many of the members and officers of the Church and the pastor live in Rochester. The exact number of members could not be obtained but the congregation was about 2200 at the close of 1966. The Church maintained a Sunday School and was planning to improve the property.

The Rev. HARVEY STAR had followed Rev. Frank Cotton and the Rev. Earl Johnson who came next has continued to shepherd the growing Church. Officers in 1967 were: Gailey Smith - Assist. Pastor, W. Gilchrist is chairman of the Board of Deacons, Sylvester Talem - Treasurer and Deacon, Hubert Holloway S. S. Superintendent and Deacon. Other Deacons are, Willie Holloway, Dan Parish, Sam Jones, Mr. White and Mr. Robertson. Bertha Lee Parish - Church Clerk.

Sunday Worship services at 11 a. m. and Sunday School at 10 a. m.

The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle of Saturday September 12, 1970 announced that Mt. Olivet Baptist Church of Kendall Mills will dedicate their new \$30,000 edifice on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. with appropriate ceremonies followed by a dinner. A number of neighboring congregations were planning to participate in the dedication. The new concrete block, two story building was built to accommodate all the Church activities of the congregation of about 450. The building had been erected under the pastoral leadership of the Rev. Earl Johnson. The old building where the congregation had worshipped for 13 years was torn down soon afterward.