

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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HULBERTON METHODIST CHURCH

HULBERTON

N. Y.

*Old Home
Day
Thursday
June 29
1911
at
the*

Methodist
Episcopal
Church



The Methodist Episcopal Church and Society of Scio was incorporated on February 8, 1830. That was before the name was changed in 1835 to Hulberton in honor of I.H.S. Hulbert, a leading business man in the hamlet. There was already no other Scio Post Office in New York State so for the Federal Government to establish a post office here, the name change became necessary.

While still Scio, the Methodists built a meeting house in 1830 on a lot donated by Joseph Budd on the east side of the street. The accompanying photo shows the meeting house (church) as it appeared around the turn of the century.

From "History of Orleans County Churches - Town of Murray" by Helen Allen, we find the following interesting information: "As soon as the building was enclosed, rough loose boards laid for a floor and rude benches built, it was used for services. The members continued to use the building in that condition for several years. The church was completed and more suitably furnished in 1836 at a total cost of \$2,000. It was common practice at that period for churches to sell the pews to members as a means of paying the cost of building. Joseph Budd purchased the first pew in the newly completed church. The two-day quarterly District Conference was held at this church at about this time. Joseph Budd was said to have entertained sixty of the visiting brethren overnight in his home. Most of them had to sleep on the floor.

"The M.E. Church of Hulberton, when it was completed in 1836, had a large seating capacity for the size of the building, as galleries were built along the sides of the meeting room. A high pulpit

reached by several steps was placed between the two entrance doors at the west end and the choir loft was at the opposite end. The congregation purchased a bell for the church in 1852, from Minieley & Sons Bell Co. of West Troy. For many years it was rung at 6 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. every week day and for the worship services on Sundays. The bell also tolled the age of all who died in the vicinity. Lyman Littlefield served as sexton and bell ringer for many years, receiving \$60 per year for punctually performing his services every day.

"In 1870 the church was remodeled and redecorated. Galleries and high pulpits had gone out of style by that date so they were torn out. The pulpit was placed on a low platform at the end of the room opposite the entrance doors. In 1890 an addition was built on the east end of the church to provide a social room and space for Sunday School classes."

The Hulberton Methodist Church ceased to hold regular services in 1945. Eventually, stained glass windows and pews were given to a church in Rochester and the bell was purchased by St. Joseph's R.C. Church in Lyndonville. Consequently, this venerable old edifice deteriorated over time and was eventually removed in 1969.

In architectural terms it was Federal in Style and typical of the first church buildings erected by the pioneer settlers of this region over one hundred sixty years ago.

At one time there were three churches in Hulberton, all operating simultaneously, including the Methodist, Free Methodist and St. Roccas R.C. Church which is the only one that remains.