



# Bethinking of Old Orleans

Vol. XXIV

By C.W. Lattin, Orleans County historian

No. 43

10-25-02

## Milestone for Gaines church

On Nov. 10, the Gaines Congregational United Church of Christ will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its church building. An 11 a.m. service, a 12:30 p.m. luncheon and a 2 p.m. Remembrance Anniversary Program will make up the festivities.

The present church was dedicated on Sept. 14, 1952. The original church building on this site, built in 1834, burned down on Christmas Eve 1950. The cause of this blaze was due to a new oil burner which had malfunctioned.

Members of the congregation were undaunted. They held their Christmas worship service in the Gaines Grange Hall and began to rebuild the present church almost on the embers of the old. Plans were promptly made for the building and funds were raised to add to the insurance money. Col. Ball and William Woolston were hired as carpenters. Many hours of volunteer labor were contributed to help clear the site, help with construction and haul building materials from various places. A large old parsonage which was not in use was sold to raise more funds for the project. The women of the church worked very hard to promote funds for new

furniture and other equipment. The basement was completed by February 1952 and the sanctuary by late that summer.

Our photo shows participants in the dedication program from 1952. From left are Lester Canham; Building Committee, Fred Bates; Soloist, Rev. Earl I. Hamlin; Prayer of Dedication, Everett Barnum; Presentation of Key to church, Fay Hollenbeck; Building Committee, Rev. Ronald Place; Minister, Dr. Winthrop Hudson; charge to the congregation and Rev. James A. C. Moore representing the denomination who gave the address.

The round stained glass window in the background was a gift to the church in 1952 from Cary B. Fish in memory of his parents, Tracy A. Fish and Lottie M. Fish.

From the last paragraph of the Litany of Dedication used 50 years ago we find: "In gratitude for all these who have given, labored, planned and shared for God's favor and protection for the inheritances of the past, with the sense of the nearness of those we have loved, and to the Glory of God: We dedicate this church."