

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian

CORNERSTONE OPENING
HOLLEY M.E. CHURCH

VOL. VII No. 32

8-9-85

On Tuesday, July 20, 1889 the cornerstone of the former Methodist Episcopal Church in Holley was laid with appropriate ceremonies. The program included singing by the choir, a prayer by Rev. E.E. Chambers, Presiding Elder of the Genesee Conference, scripture lesson by Rev. J.N. Simpkins, address by Dr. Seeger of Albion, prayer by Rev. Mr. Barrett of Kendall and a benediction by Rev. Dr. Colborne of Albion. During these ceremonies a tin box was placed in the cornerstone which contained the following articles as described by the Orleans American: 1. Bible, 2. Methodist Hymn book, 3. Methodist Discipline, 4. Minutes Genesee Conference, 5. The Christian Advocate, 6. The Northern Christian Advocate, 7. The Sunday School Advocate, 8. The Missionary Advocate, 9. Catalogue of M.E. Literary Institution, 10. List of Annual Conferences, 11. Number of M.E. Church Members in U.S.A. 12. Names of government officials, 13. Village Trustees' names, 14. Church trustees' names, 15. Holley Bulletin.

Deputy Church Historian Ronald Herlan in his course of research, conducted last January with the aid of a metal detector, was able to locate the tin box in the unmarked cornerstone. On April 13, 1985 with removal of a single stone, the sealed tin box was revealed. William Root is shown here in the photo observing the hiding place of the tin box in the southwest corner of the church tower. The intervening 115 summers, autumns, winters and springs had taken a harsh toll of both the tin box and its contents. The items in the box are now being treated by Dan Clement of Ithaca, a professional paper conservator. When his work is completed, the tin box and its crumbling pieces will be placed within a special plexiglass container where the items will be permanently preserved among the collection of historical artifacts at Desciples Methodist Church. There they will remain as testimony of the former Holley M.E. Church before its merger with the Clarendon M.E. Church a few years ago.

