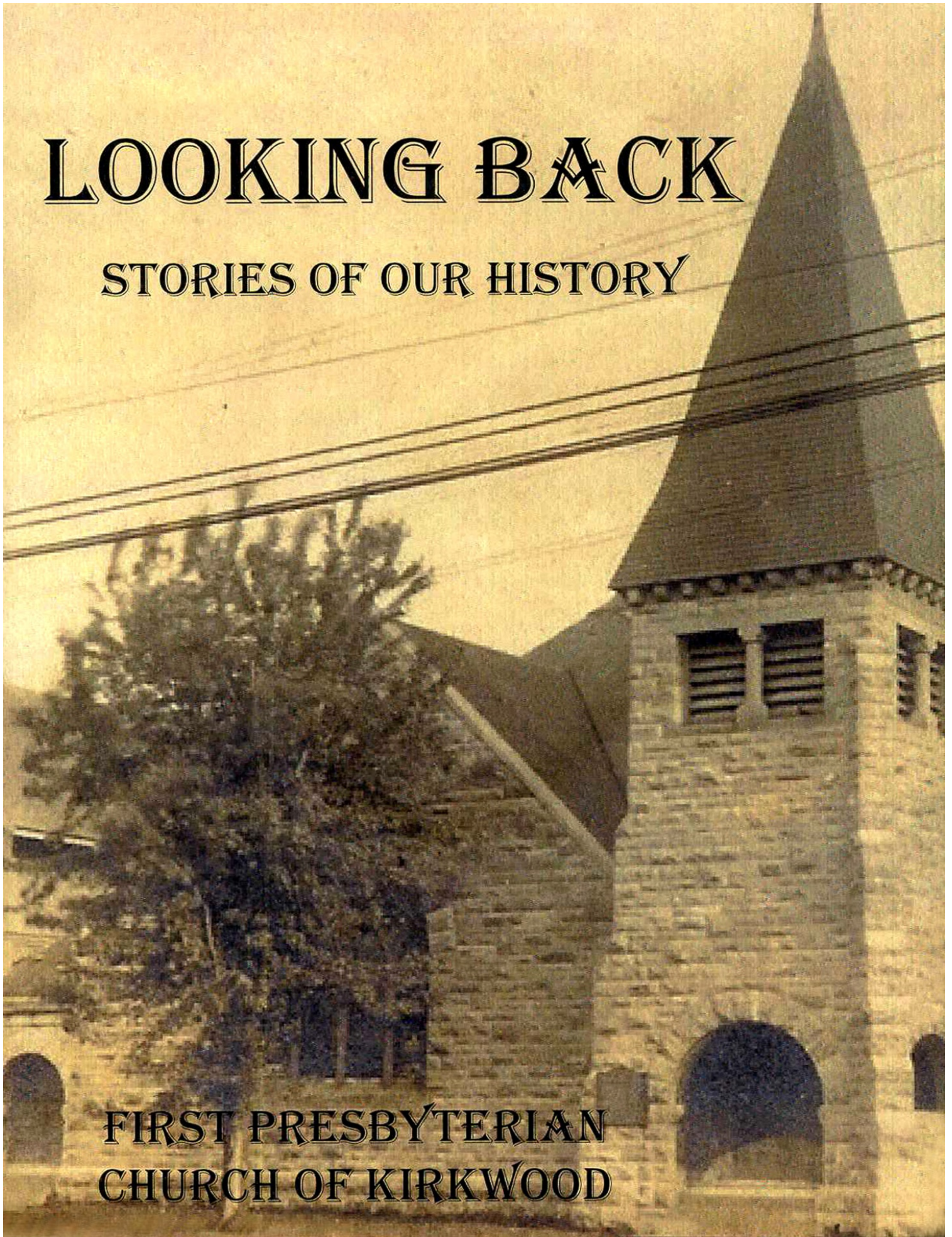


LOOKING BACK

STORIES OF OUR HISTORY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF KIRKWOOD





The 1889 Sanctuary in approximately 1939



The Manse at 120 E. Adams in approximately 1939

LOOKING BACK HISTORY



These articles are published in booklet form as the result of finally cleaning out the basement during the virus pandemic in the spring of 2020. I had come across several three ring binders of data compiled during the period before the celebration of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood in 2004.

At the time, Bruce Woodruff and I had been asked to find and write some brief articles about the history of the Church, which could be used as inserts in the Sunday morning bulletins leading up to the celebration on September 24, 2004. As a result, approximately twenty articles were printed and utilized. Now, sixteen years later, it seemed appropriate to combine all of the pieces into one booklet and clarify any errors or add additional information.

Bruce Woodruff's work writing about half of the articles was a testimony to his excellence as an attorney and his eloquence as a writer, but also to his commitment and endurance while struggling with very serious health issues. Unfortunately, he passed away in November 2004, just a few months after the Church anniversary.

The Red Rose logo as suggested by anniversary chairwoman, Barb Byerly, was used on all of the articles and correspondence in 2004. Therefore, in this booklet, the logo appears on those stories

which were used in 2004. Articles without the rose logo are new additions or additional information that has been located.

Particular attention is drawn to the expanded story of our first pastor, Dr. John R. Warner, as a result of the information provided by fellow Kirkwood Pres member, Hugh McCaughy. His families lived in the Gettysburg, PA area and were members of the same church that Dr. Warner served as pastor through the Civil War.

Particular attention is drawn to the expanded story of our first pastor, Dr. John R. Warner, as a result of the information provided by fellow Kirkwood Pres. Member, Hugh McCaughey. His families lived in the Gettysburg, PA area and were members of the same church that Dr. Warner served as pastor through the Civil War.

These articles just touch the surface of the rich history of this church and are not meant to be a complete history. Too many stories remain. However, the dedication and perseverance of both ministers and congregations throughout the ups and downs of our history are a testimony to God's will being done.

Ned

Edward C. Cleveland
Spring 2020

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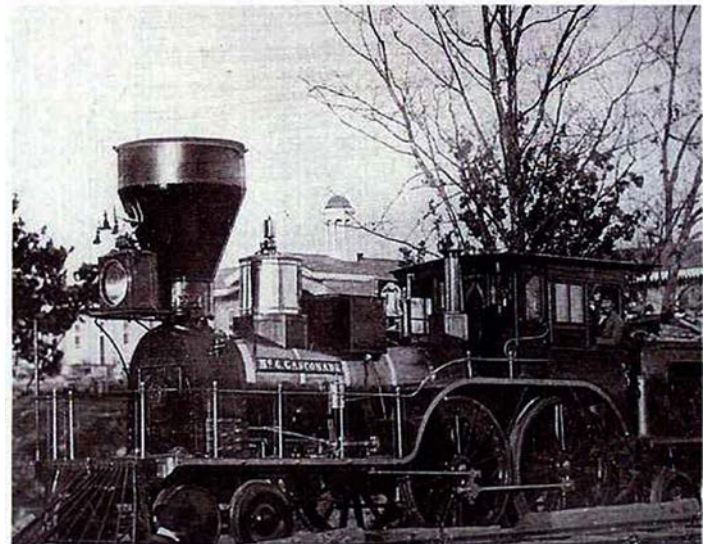


IN THE BEGINNING

Our city was only one year old when our Church was formally organized on September 24, 1854. We weren't the first church in Kirkwood, but the third since the St. Peters Catholic Church was already 20 years old by then and the Olive Chapel of the African Methodist Episcopal Church had been chartered the year before. The town of Kirkwood was mighty new, having been laid out in forty square blocks, with the first plat recorded on May 31, 1853.

The impetus for a town 13 miles from the City of St. Louis had come from the completion of the first leg of the Pacific Railroad on May 11, 1853. You could ride to St. Louis from Kirkwood or back to Kirkwood for 40 cents. The entire 40-block town (240 acres in all) had been purchased by the Kirkwood Association, a collection of St. Louis business men, for the total sum of \$19,200!, or \$80.00 per acre.

In the first sale of lots in May of 1853, 132 acres of the original tract were sold at more than twice the value paid by the Kirkwood Association just the year before. So naturally with settlement starting and with the help of the Presbytery, a group was organized to start a Presbyterian church in the new community. The first session minutes indicate that the first six members were Harry and Marsena Singleton from the Second Church, St. Louis, Rueben and Rebecca Beman from the Central Church, and Robert A. Yeats, William G. Sale and M. Harriet Fenton from the Des Peres Church.



No. 6, the Gasconade, was one of the first engines on the Pacific Railroad

Initially church services were held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Singleton located at the southeast corner of present Adams and Dickson Avenues. Two and a half years later, in January of 1857, the Kirkwood Association donated land to the Church on the southeastern corner of Adams and Webster (now Kirkwood Road). A plain brick church was erected on the site facing Webster Avenue approximately where the old tower is located today. The only picture that has been found of the original brick building is shown on the next page. The undated photograph was taken about 1887, just before the building was demolished or moved to allow construction of the new stone church building. Unfortunately we can't tell from the picture if there was a steeple on the structure, but based on similar church buildings of the era, a short copula and cross were probably constructed.

The building appears to be about sixty feet long and around thirty feet wide. In the picture, holes have been cut into the brick walls, probably for moving the building. It was quite common to move buildings in that era and it is possible that the structure may still exist somewhere in the Kirkwood area

Authors: Bruce Woodruff & Ned Cleveland

Credits: Dahl, June Wilkinson A History of Kirkwood MO, 1851-1965, Kirkwood Historical Society, Publisher Kirkwood, A Pictorial History, G. Bradley Publishing Co.

Pictures: Church Archives

The picket fence seen at the right was described about ten years earlier as having been "adorned with rambler roses that bloomed in the summer for all to enjoy."



This is the only known picture of original brick church built in 1856

**This additional information was gathered
after the original article was written in 2004**

There are several bits of information which have come to the author's attention since the writing of the original article in 2004.

The picture of the locomotive "Gasconade" is in itself, an interesting story. It was built in 1854 in Taunton, Massachusetts and transported by ship to New Orleans. There it was off loaded and moved to a riverboat and transported up the Mississippi River to St. Louis. Then it was unloaded and pulled off the levee and down the streets of St. Louis to Fourteenth Street and the Pacific Railroad terminal. Although it was not the first engine for the rail line, it did operate through Kirkwood in the very early years. Just think of the effort required to lift a locomotive on and off ships and boats then drag it down the street for fourteen blocks.'

The two gentlemen who formed the Kirkwood Association, Hiram W. Leffingwell and Richard S. Elliott were partners in the firm of Leffingwell & Elliott Real Estate located at 10 West Chestnut in St. Louis. Their business started in 1849 at a time when prosperous St. Louisans were fleeing the cholera epidemic of 1848 and the new Pacific Railway was struggling to build the first track heading west out of St. Louis.'

They had several small developments in St. Louis, but in 1851, they formed the Kirkwood Association knowing that under the guidance of railway chief engineer, James P. Kirkwood, a route had been selected. Originally Mr. Kirkwood had three different route options surveyed. But the one selected was probably the most difficult route because of the change in elevation of 250 feet "up Kirkwood hill". This required "pusher" engines for almost one hundred years. Politics and business interests were the driving force involved in the route selection.²

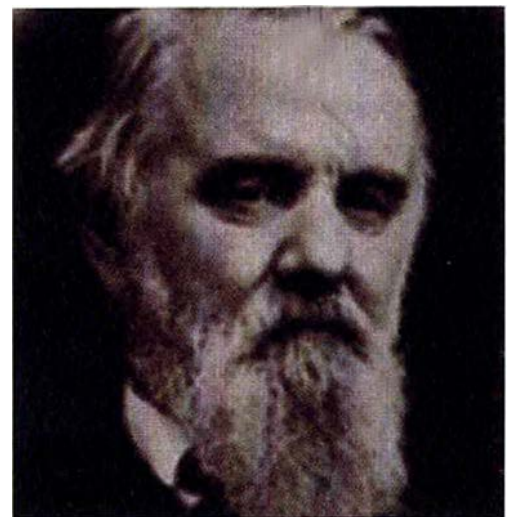
Leffingwell and Elliott's plan was to gather a group of investors, to purchase land along the proposed

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT "IN THE BEGINNING"



**Hiram W. Leffingwell
1809-1897**

rail line and sell home lots in a controlled real estate development. The three land owners selling property in 1852, included Owen and Catherine Collins (120 acres), Abram and Mary Mitchell (80 acres), and Thomas and Rachel Walsh (40 acres). The total cost was \$19,200 for 240 acres or an average of \$80 per acre.'²



**Richard S. Elliott
1817-1890**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT - IN THE BEGINNING - CONTINUED

The Kirkwood Association laid out the streets 60 feet wide and parceled out lots for auction on May 28, 1853. Buyers arrived by train on track that had been laid only two weeks earlier. The sale was very successful for the developers with 132 acres sold for a total of \$47,017.30. By the end of 1853, three fourths of the parcels had been sold and construction had started on large country homes.²

In addition to the new construction, there were numerous existing farms surrounding the new community. One of those of interest to us was the Singleton farm located east of the new development of Kirkwood. The location today is the house on the southeast corner of Dickson and Adams. This was the farm of Henry and Marsena Singleton and it is where the Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood was organized. We have recently found in the archives, letters written in 1939 and in 1944 from both John B. Singleton and his wife, Mary Sutherland Singleton to pastor Rev. Ralph D. Evans. They provide a great deal of background and



Mrs. Marsena Singleton, wife of Henry Singleton. Both were original founders of the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

history of one of the founding families.³ John was the grandson of the founders.

Grandson John Singleton was born in 1856, two years after the church was founded and was 88 years old in 1944. Quoting portions of his letters: (pardon his spelling and grammar)

In the 1939 letter:⁴

Grandfather (Henry Singleton) died in the midst of the Civil War. He inherited in early life, a plantation with slaves. After the war of 1812, in which he was a captain, he freed all of his slaves and some years later moved to St. Louis, MO with his family and several former slaves. His family were Virginians and southern sympathizers (sp). After his death, a Northern minister was called and began preaching politics. He proclaimed from the pulpit that slave holders and southern sympathizers (sp) were doomed and damned to be burned in fire and brimstone forever. Father and Mother took the family to the Episcopal Church and we were members for over fifteen years where we heard no politics. Through Grandmother's influence and more of a Christian atmosphere, we returned to the Presbyterian Church."

In the 1944 letter⁶

"My grandfather (Henry Singleton) on my father's side was married twice. The first wife had eight children, four sons and four daughters, all born in Virginia. - my father was one of them. She died, age 34 leaving a young family. They had moved to St. Louis MO, not long before his wife died. Several years later he married Marsena Robb—a widow with one child—a girl. When this girl was 17 years old, she and my father were married and raised family of 7 children. They built a house on four acres (sp) of the home farm which house is still there. Before moving to the country all of grandfather's sons and dauers(sp) were married." "The old house has not been changed much—two rooms were added facing the west—upper and lower rooms.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT - IN THE BEGINNING-CONTINUED

*The original house faced south with a large front yard - with a large upper and lower front porch-about eight rooms in the original house. There were 20 acres in fruit of many kinds (100 acres altogether). A large two story cabin two rooms 20 feet square and four smaller rooms, about a 100 feet from the main house used ?? farm hands- original farm home. I have seen the large 20 ft. sq. front room piled about 2 feet high with cherries for market."*⁶

*"I do not remember about the Early Services. Kirkwood was only a small villiage(sp) at the time—most of the members of the congregation lived some distance, such as Robt Yeats, Wm. G. Sales and the Fenton's those families I remember and others lived south of Kirkwood on the Gravois road which runs down to the Meramec River at Fenton where the Fenton family lived. There used to be a bridge across the river, I suppose there is one yet. Some families lived north west of Kirkwood near the village of Des Peres where there used to be and may be now a Presbyterian Church, and our people "Presbyteries" had to drive over there to services and bury their dead. Shortly before the Civil War Father moved the bodies and monument to Oak Ridge near Kirkwood, where my wife is buried. I have not been to Des Peres--called De Para in English-- since I was 7 years old. I could not know if one there could have a record of any kind about Kirkwood Church."*⁶

He relates further *"Some time before I left K-D, Mr. Jeness showed me a memo book or record..."*⁶ "Rev Jeness was pastor at Kirkwood from 1903-1909 and therefore, the Singletons had left the church and Kirkwood thirty years before writing their letters. The address on their 1939 letter was 1516 East Marquette Rd., Chicago, Illinois."³

One further note in his 1944 letter was interesting regarding Hiram Leffingwell. He states:⁶

" Mr. Leffingwell was a prominent resident of Kirkwood. He was a lawyer, had a family two sons and wife was politician and was not closely associated with the church. He saw the trouble they were have about music and being a good performer on the violin he offered his services and was accepted. He was U.S. Marshall in the St. Louis

*district. He was appointed under U.S. Grant and served for many years."*⁶



Donor plaques on the wall of the old sanctuary

It is interesting that in his letter, John Singleton mentions that "our people "Presbyteries" had to drive over there to services and bury their dead:' He probably was referring to the old Presbyterian church and burial ground on Geyer Road, north of Manchester. We know that three of the original seven founding members at the Singleton house on September 24th 1854, had transferred from the Des Peres church. So it becomes logical that, years later, they probably they wanted their loved ones moved to a cemetery closer to Kirkwood. It's interesting that grandson John who would have been about six to eight at the time that his father moved the bodies and families' monuments, and yet he seems to have remembered the occasion.

The errors that have occurred in written histories of the church regarding a possible cemetery behind the original church, may have been caused in part, by his letter in 1944. Also, in the church basement of the 1889 sanctuary, were about four large engraved plaques with names on then of early church members, looking very similar to head stone monuments from a cemetery.' We still have them and they are plaques honoring major donors.⁶

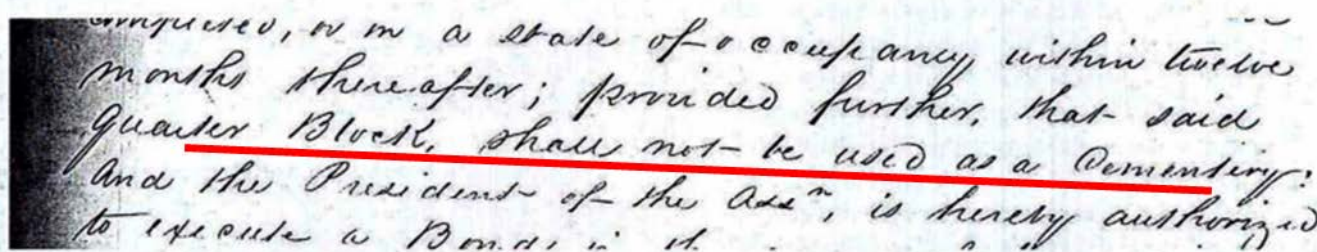
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT - IN THE BEGINNING –CONTINUED

Comments regarding a possible cemetery do not occur prior to the 90th anniversary in 1944. Finally, historical plats and maps of the area from that time period, show the manse located behind the original church and approximately where the present sanctuary is located.

Finally one last observation. The timeline of events is interesting regarding the formation of the church. The auction for the first land sale occurred on May 26, 1853, and the Kirkwood Association granted land to the three Trustees to build a church on October 31, 1853. The Trustees were not at that point even an official church, and that did not happen until September 24th 1854, almost a year after receiving a commitment from the Kirkwood Association. It becomes apparent that Mr.

Leffingwell and Mr. Elliott felt it was important to have churches in their new development. This author was allowed to view and handle the original Minute Book of the Kirkwood Association at the Missouri Historical Society archives on Skinker Avenue in St. Louis. The grant of the land to the church occurs on page 36 of the minute book and grants the quarter block on the southeast quarter of Lot 24 which is not where we ended up. Later corrections in the minutes, move us to the northwest quarter of Lot 14.

By the way, the grant of land includes the provision "....that said quarter block shall not be used as a cemetery"



...acquired, or in a state of occupancy, within twelve months thereafter; provided further, that said quarter block, shall not be used as a Cemetery. And the President of the Assⁿ, is hereby authorized to execute a Bond in it.

Page 36 of the Kirkwood Association Minute Book gifting land for Church
..."provided further, that said quarter block shall not be used as a Cemetery,"

Credits

1. Kirkwood, A Pictorial History, G. Bradley Publishing, Inc.
2. Dahl, June W. A History of Kirkwood, Missouri 1851-1965
- 3 Church Archives, First Presbyterian of Kirkwood, MO
4. Singleton, John B. letter of September 21, 1939 to Rev. Evans-letter in Church archive
5. Singleton, Mary Sutherland letter of September 21, 1939 in Church archive
6. Singleton, John B. letter of September 8, 1944 to Rev. Evans-letter in Church archive
7. Minutes of the Kirkwood Association, Missouri Historical Society, page 36

Picture Credits

10. Kirkwood, A Pictorial History, G. Bradley Publishing, Inc.
11. Glass Slides, Church Archives, First Presbyterian of Kirkwood, MO
12. Church Archives, First Presbyterian of Kirkwood, MO
13. Barnes, Bud Missouri Historical archives, Jefferson City
and *Minutes of the Kirkwood Association*, Missouri Historical Society, page 36



WHY IS OUR CHURCH LOCATED HERE

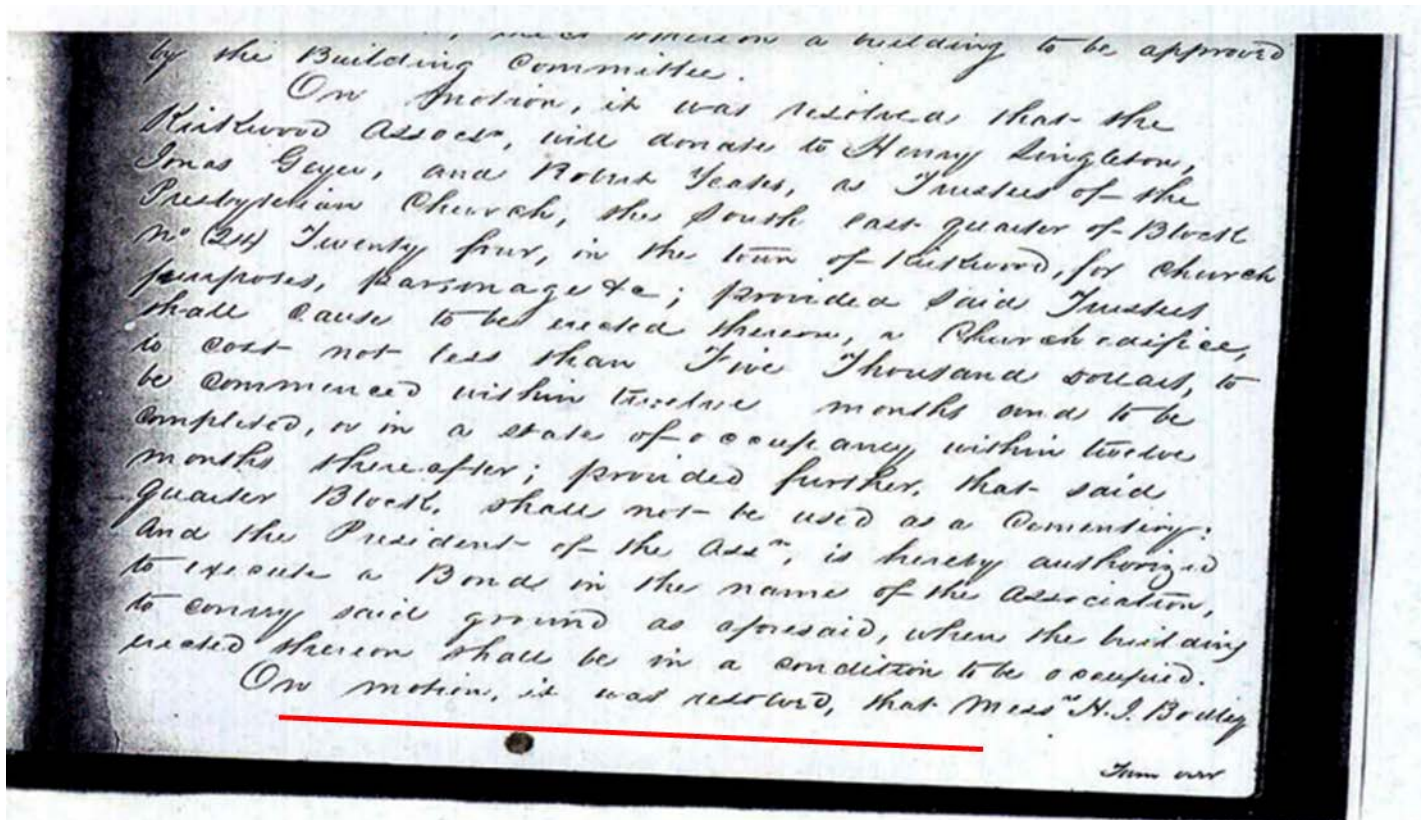
On September 24, 1854, our church was founded down the street, at the home of a Mr. and Mrs. Henry Singleton located at the southeast corner of what is now Adams and Dick-son Avenues. At the time, Adams ended at Film-ore, two blocks east of the present Kirkwood Road. Some people in Kirkwood feel that the present house does incorporate portions of the original building.

After two years of meeting in various homes and buildings, the church trustees, having already subscribed \$1,600 to erect their own church building, approached the Kirkwood Association with a request

to purchase land. (Author note: This is incorrect. see previous article) We have a photocopy of the original Kirkwood Association minutes from October 31, 1853, where the motion is made to give the church trustees our original quarter of a block of land.

It is interesting and reads as follows:

"On motion, it was resolved that the Kirkwood Assoc. (association), will donate to Henry Singleton, Jonas Geyer, and Robert Yeates, as Trustees of the Presbyterian Church, the south east quarter of Block No.(24) Twenty four, in the town of Kirkwood,



WHY IS OUR. CHURCH LOCATED HERE? .. CONTINUED

for church purposes, parsonage etc.; provided said Trustees shall cause to be erected thereon, a Church edifice, to cost not less than Five Thousand dollars, to be commenced within twelve months and to be completed, or in a state of occupancy within twelve months thereafter; provided further, that said quarter Block, shall not be used as a cemetery; and the President of the Assn. is hereby authorized to execute a Bond in the name of the association to convey said ground as aforesaid, when the building erected thereon shall be in a condition to be occupied."

According to Mr. Elsey Hamilton, St. Louis County historian, only one other church in St. Louis County received a donation of land in the same manner and that was in 1870 for the Salem Methodist Church in Ballwin. All other churches have had to purchase their own land. Our land was donated and a plain brick church building was built near the site of the present tower, facing Webster Ave.(Kirkwood Road). Although we don't know its cost, (remember that it had to

exceed \$5,000), we do know that a debt of \$1,283 still remained in 1876. Notes in earlier church histories, include memories of members who worshiped in the original building. They described the hard straight pews on either side of the center aisle and the pump organ at the back of the church. There still remain two chairs in our present building, located in the small lounge off the parlor, which were apparently used by the elders who sat at the front of the small sanctuary in the 1870's. The chairs have been lovingly restored recently several years ago. Also some of the silver serving and communion sets in our lounge date back to the original brick church. And that's why our church is located here. We were given this plot of land!

Authors: Bruce Woodruff & Ned Cleveland

Source: Kirkwood Association Minutes, Pg. 36
October 31, 1853, Missouri Historical Society

Church archives



The original 1856 Brick Church

**This additional information was gathered
after the original article was written in 2004**

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ABOUT OUR ORIGINAL CHURCH

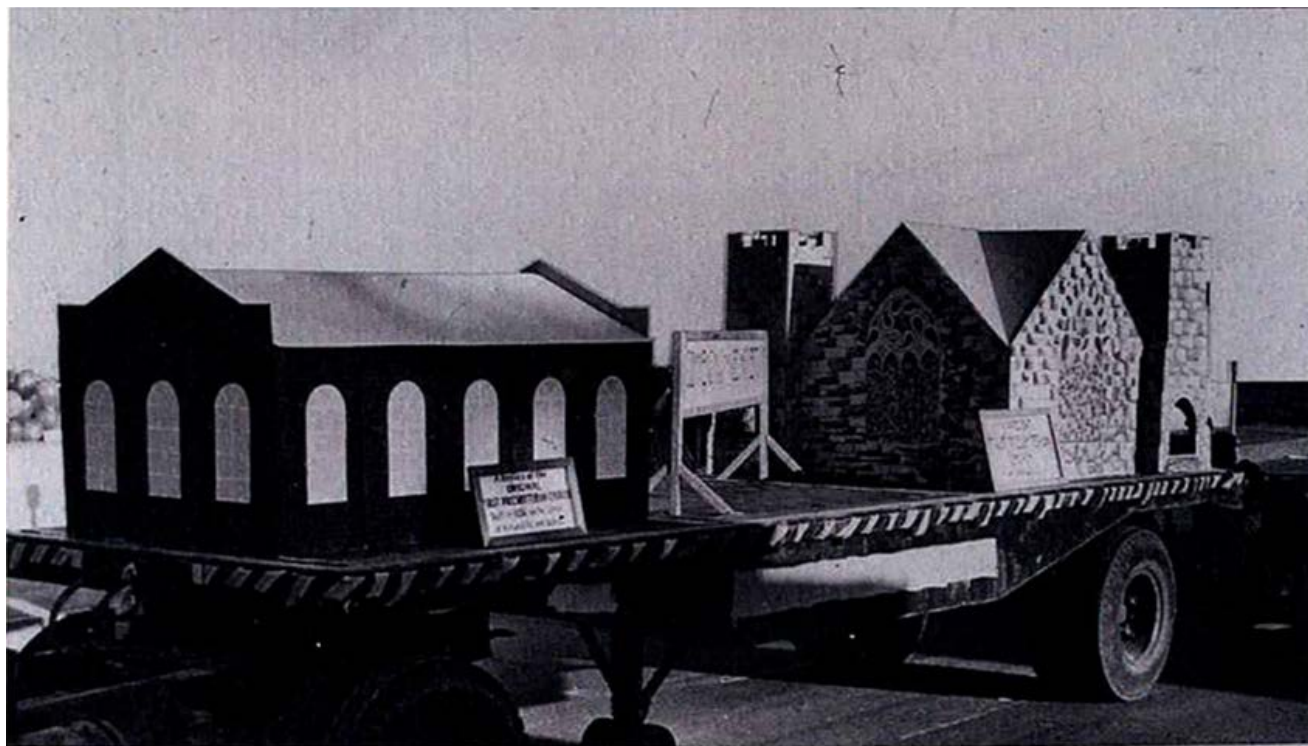
Today in the archives, it seems that we only have one picture of the original brick church and it is almost impossible to determine much information about the appearance and details of the building.

Looking at the picture through the several trees that effectively block the view, we can only state that is a brick structure with five windows on the sides and front entrance with several steps leading to the front door. We notice also, the several holes in the wall which we will address later.

One of the surprises that occurred while rearranging some of the archives was the discovery of thirty-eight glass slides in a box. These slides were originally used in 1944 for the 90th anniversary celebration and again in 1954 in the centennial events. Because these are original glass and not 35 mm slides, it was the author's decision

to take them to Shillers Camera and have them digitally reproduced before they deteriorate any further. The slides include photos of many of the ministers and other church activities.

One of the slides was of a parade float constructed on the back of a flatbed trailer and was extremely interesting. It shows models of the early brick building and the then current 1889 stone sanctuary building. The 1856 building model shows a rectangular brick structure with parapet walls at the front and back and five large windows on the side. The sign on the float reads "A Replica of the Original First Presbyterian Church" and in smaller letters, "Built in 1856 on the corner of Kirkwood Rd. and Adams".



Parade float showing original brick church

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ABOUT OUR ORIGINAL CHURCH - CONT.

Another intriguing item are the holes that appear near the ground in one or more locations on what is assumed is the north wall of the brick building.

At first glance, one assumes that since the photograph is over a hundred and forty years old, that the holes are spots on the camera lens or in the re-production of the photo through the years. However, in looking carefully at blow ups of the large hole, it does appear that bricks were removed and the outline of the bricks is uneven, showing individual bricks and a spot on a lens would be more uniform. Also, looking at the glass slide from 1944, shows that same whole detail.

In 2004, when the articles were written for the sesquicentennial, a story was related to the author by an older member, that he had heard a rumor somewhere, that the building was moved over unto west Jefferson Ave. instead of being demolished. The explanation was that the holes were being cut into the

wall to insert steel beams for lifting and moving. That assumes that the picture was taken right before moving. In that era, it was fairly common to move a house, but moving a brick and mortar structure that large, would be unusually difficult. Right now I would discount that theory.

In the archives, there is a written comment in the 1944 slide descriptions, probably written by Dr. Ralph Evans, stating

"I have often wondered what the large holes were in the side of the Church. We had a carpenter doing some work here about 2 weeks ago who said he remembered the little brick Church. I asked him if he knew "yes" he said, "they were bothered with dry rot in the floor joists and finally broke out those holes in the wall to give it ventilation" Maybe his explanation was right, but we have no signs that the 'dry rot' ever got into their religion"



Close up picture of holes in wall - Picture is blurred because of magnification



WHO WAS OUR FIRST PASTOR?

The name John R. Warner doesn't mean very much to most of us today. Also a look at his picture from over a century ago leaves us rather cold. Yet he and his family led interesting and fascinating lives. Our first, full time pastor, was indeed a dedicated and faithful servant who remained here at First Presbyterian, longer than any other minister, twenty seven years!

Prior to arriving in Kirkwood in 1867, he had endured one of the most horrific events in our country's history. He had been a minister at a church in Gettysburg Pennsylvania. Imagine the shock and trauma of that battle where there were over fifty thousand casualties in a few days of fighting. Then coming a few years later to the very quiet town of Kirkwood, Missouri.

For the first thirteen years after its founding, the church had visiting circuit preachers and lay ministers. As the town of Kirkwood grew and over sixty new members had joined the church, the need for a full time pastor was recognized and a call was made to the Rev. John R. Warner. He was officially installed on November 1, 1867 and immediately things began to happen. He recognized that this church needed legal status in the state and urged the elders to register and incorporate. So, a month later on December 23, 1867, the Clerk of the Circuit Court of St. Louis County received and approved the incorporation of "The First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood". Obviously they expected more Presbyterian churches and wanted to claim the title of "First".

The Warner's had one daughter, Mary, who grew up living in the manse on Adams behind the church. After Mary married and bore two children, they lived with the Warner's in the manse until his death in 1894. The granddaughter, whose name was Marianne Moore, went on to become one of America's foremost poets and was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1951.



Rev. John Riddle Warner

Dr. Warner was active in the Kirkwood community, including serving on the board of directors of the Kirkwood Seminary, a school for women across the street from the church. With his leadership, he guided this church through a period of dramatic growth, including the construction in 1888 of the stone church, whose tower remains today.

A newspaper account on February 16th 1894, in the St. Louis County Watchman, stated that "Rev. John R. Warner is now convalescent from an attack of pneumonia". Unfortunately he did not recover, but died on Tuesday, February 20th according to the death notice in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

WHO WAS OUR FIRST PASTOR - CONTINUED

The following article appeared in the Watchman on the following Friday:

Later accounts mention descriptions of the church with "it's mourning drapery and wealth of lovely white flowers." The Watchman continues with a description of the funeral service held at 2:30pm Thursday, February 22nd 1894 in the church as follows: "The funeral of Rev. Dr. Warner which took place on the 22nd drew together a large concourse of mourning friends, for during his 27 years residence here the godly man greatly endeared himself to the people. Each of the four protestant resident ministers took part in the services: the choir sang sweetly of his favorite hymns. Mrs. Jacob Ricker, presided at the organ. Dr. Nichols, his lifelong friend gave a faithful, tender and true tribute to his loved brother" .

The paper also tells us that Rev. Dr. Nichols accompanied Mrs. Mary Warner Moore (Dr. Warner's daughter) on the long sad journey back to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania where he was interred.

Authors:

Bruce Woodruff & Ned Cleveland

Sources:

St. Louis County Watchman February 16,&22 March 2, 1894

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, February 21, 1894

Dahl, A History of Kirkwood, Chapters 8

Published by The Kirkwood Historical Society, 1965

**This additional information was gathered
after the original article was written in 2004**

Since the original article was written in the spring of 2004 for the one hundred and fifty year anniversary, a great deal of additional

information has come to light on Dr. John Warner. We now know some of his personal history as well as the history of the church he served before First Presbyterian of Kirkwood.

Thanks to information from fellow Kirk-wood Pres member, Hugh McGaughy, who in June of 2004 had received information from Laurie Woods, the wife of a cousin who lives near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and is a member and historian of the Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church just outside of Gettysburg. This is the church that Rev. Warner had served from the period of 1857 to mid-1867.^{1 3}

In contacting Hugh recently (spring 2020) about the data from 2004, I discovered that Hugh's relationship goes much deeper, in that his father grew up in the Lower Marsh Creek Church and his grandfather was also a member. Hugh's grandfather, as a young boy, was at the ceremony which dedicated the Soldiers' National Cemetery when Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg address on November 19, 1863, just three and a half months after the battle.

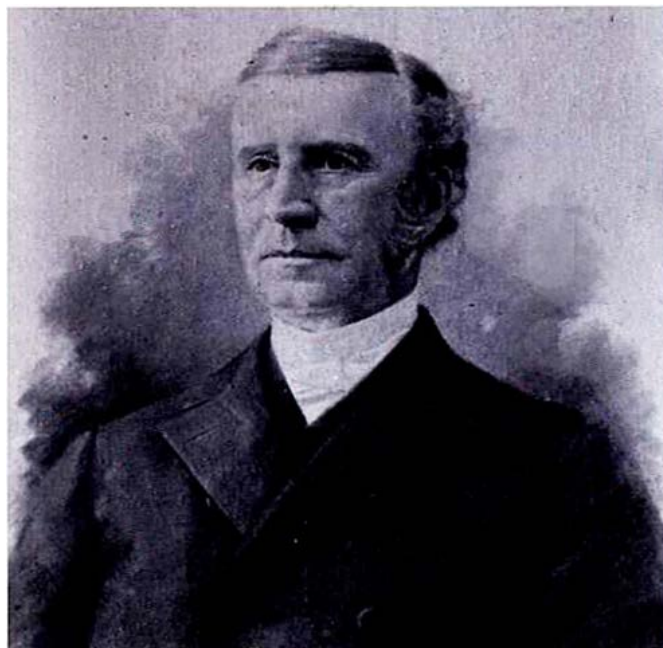
The data sent to Hugh was a trove of information about Warner's relationship with LMCC (Lower Marsh Creek Church), but also provided names and locations to pursue with additional research. Through the miracle of internet search engines, we were able to find numerous articles written recently in The Gettysburg Times newspaper and a paper from that era, Star and Sentinel.⁴

John Riddle Warner was born in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania on September 30, 1826 and graduated

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT DR. WARNER

from Western University in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania in 1845 at the age of 19. He received his theological training in the seminary of the Associate Reformed Church in that city. In 1848, at the age of 22, he was ordained to the ministry and for several years served the Associate Reformed Churches in Pottsville, Philadelphia, and Chambersburg Pennsylvania. He was 'stated supply' for three years of the Gettysburg and 'Hill' congregations.

In April 1858, the Rev. Warner was received into the Presbytery of Carlisle, at which time he accepted a call from the Huntertown (Great Conewago) and Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian congregations to be their pastor.'



Rev. John Riddle Warner

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT DR. WARNER...CONTINUED

Newspaper articles appearing in the Star and Sentinel as follows: ^{3 4}

Monday June 8, 1857-

"Church News - The committees of the Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church and the Great Conewago congregations of the Presbyterian Church appointed to confer with each other, have agreed to unite the two congregations under one pastoral charge. Both congregations have been without a pastor for some time."

Monday October 19, 1857 ^{5 6}

"Church News - The two Presbyterian congregations of Great Conewago and Lower Marsh Creek have been united into one pastoral charge, and have called the Rev. Mr. John R. Warner, of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, who has had charge of the Associate Reformed Churches in Gettysburg and the "Hill": for some time past, to be their pastor. He has accepted the call, and entered upon his duties. He will probably make his residence in Gettysburg, it being a central point."

A few years later, Rev. Warner met and married the joy of his life, Jenny Craig and they were married, again as reported in the Star and Sentinel: ^{7 8}

Monday May 7, 1860

"Married May 2, 1860, at Locust Hill, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, by the Rev. Craig, D.D., pastor of the Presbyterian Church of the Upper West Conococheague, Mercersburg PA. the Rev. Warner of this place to Miss Jenny Craig, daughter of the late William Craig, deceased."

Their time together was brief, but a daughter, Mary, was born on April 11, 1862 before tragedy struck and his wife, Jenny died at age 23.



Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

**The Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church
near Gettysburg, PA as it appeared in 1860¹⁰**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT DR. WARNER...CONTINUED



The Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church as it appears today.
The church was founded in 1748 and the stone building shown here
was built in 1790 with members bringing stones to the church with them each Sunday.

She is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Gettysburg PA and the inscription on the marker at her grave reads as follows: ⁹

In Memory of
Jenny Craig Warner
Of Precious Memory
Wife of the Rev. John R. Warner
Died September 30, 1863
Aged 23 years

A note appeared in the Star and Sentinel on Tuesday October 6, 1863 ⁹

"Died, September 30, 1863 , Jenny Craig Warner, the wife of the Rev. John R. Warner, of this place `Gettysburg, in the 23rd or 28th (difficult to read in newspaper) year of her age.

"CIVIL WAR APPROACHES

In 1863 as the Civil War raged closer and Confederate General Lee pushed into Pennsylvania, Rev. Warner had moved all the church records to Chambersburg to protect them. Unfortunately, almost the entire town of Chambersburg was burned by the invading Confederate army and the records were lost. During the Battle of Gettysburg, the Lower Marsh Creek Church was seized by the Confederate troops and used as a field hospital. ^{10 11 12 13}

He had been right in the middle of the bloodiest battle of the Civil War, was ministering to soldiers and his congregation, had his church building plundered, lost his wife and now had an eighteen month old baby to care for.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT DR. WARNER...CONTINUED

As you can imagine, that is more than most could endure, however Rev. Warner rose to the occasion, pulled his congregation and church building back together, and made arrangements for Jenny's family members to care for the baby.

Among the many problems facing civilians after a major battle in their area, are the financial strains of rebuilding lives and property immediately after a conflict. Perhaps because ministers were provided with only a minimum salary or financial support in normal times, the Rev. Warner became a part-time lecturer and battlefield guide, perhaps to supplement his income. In fact, he wrote a lecture on the battle that achieved so much acclaim that he was invited to present it before the House of Representatives in Washington D.C. on May 18, 1864, with President Lincoln attending.

Evening Star
(Washington, District of Columbia)
Page 3, May 18, 1864 ¹⁴

"Oration on the Battle of Gettysburg"

"Our readers will bear in mind that the celebrated oration on the Battle of Gettysburg, by the Rev. Mr. Warner, will be delivered this (Wednesday) evening at 8 o'clock, in the Hall of the House of Representatives. President Lincoln and a number of the Cabinet have signified their intention to be present. The subject is one of thrilling interest to every American citizen, and it is said by those who have heard the oration to be handled in a masterly manner:"

A similar newspaper article appeared also in the *National Republican* (Washington DC)
on page 2 on May 18, 1864 ¹⁵

His reputation grew as a lecturer and battlefield guide and later on May 9, 1867 a Congressional delegation led by Speaker of the House, Schuyler Colfax, toured the battlefield with the Rev. Warner. In a letter submitted to the New York Independent, later reprinted in the Gettysburg Star and Sentinel of June 19, 1867, Representative Colfax wrote: ^{16 17}

"I was fortunate, on arriving here this afternoon, in finding that my valued friend and associate, Mr. McPherson, the deservedly popular Clerk of the House, who resides here, had arranged that Rev. J.B. Warner should accompany us. Mr. W is a Presbyterian minister of this borough, who was a deeply interested spectator of those eventful days of July 1863; who has since then studied most thoroughly all the movements of the divisions, corps, and armies, conversed with all the generals, Union and Rebel, who have visited the battlefield, and who is therefore a walking encyclopedia out history."

AFTER GETTYSBURG

In a history of the Rev. Warner in the files of the Adams County Historical Society it states that: ¹⁸

"Ironically, Warner's growing reputation as an eloquent lecturer ultimately led to his leaving Gettysburg for a Presbyterian Church in Kirk-wood, Missouri, who called him following a lecture in St. Louis in the spring of 1867. Why he chose to move so far away is not dear, though perhaps the tragic death of his wife, Jennie Craig in September 1863, at the age of only 28 (other records show 23), left too many painful memories."

This author thinks that there had been strong urging or recruiting by Gen. Albert G. Edwards who was a relatively new member of the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church and had joined the Church in October 7, 1864. General Edwards grew up in Springfield, Illinois and knew the Lincolns quite well. (Edward's brother, Ninian W. Edwards was married to Elizabeth Todd, a cousin of Mary Todd Lincoln. General Edward's cousin, John Todd Stewart, was Abraham Lincoln's law partner and later in 1842 Mary Todd married the future president in Ninian and Elizabeth Edward's home.

After the Civil War, General Edwards had become a very prominent businessman in the banking and financial field and a well-known St. Louis citizen. On April 9, 1865, only six days before he was assassinated, President Lincoln had appointed General Edwards as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT DR. WARNER...CONTINUED



Painting of young A. G. Edwards²⁴

As an Elder of the growing church in the new "suburban" community of Kirkwood, he undoubtedly was very persuasive in his efforts to lure this well-spoken and relatively well known minister. To date, no known correspondence between the two has been located, although later the two worked closely in the church for many years.

In 1867, the original brick church building was about ten years old and the Sunday attendance numbered close to one hundred. They were in dire need of a full time pastor. The Rev. Warner accepted the call and the session minutes record that Rev. John R. Warner arrived in Kirkwood and assumed his call on Sunday, July 21, 1867. He served this congregation twenty-seven years, longer than any other pastor.

Rev. Warner realized that the original brick church, built in 1857, was now bulging at the seams as the congregation continued to grow as the city of Kirkwood grew. The construction of the "new" stone sanctuary was finished in 1889, and is a tribute to his leadership

According to a note in an article published on page 4 of the November 1, 1858, Gettysburg Times, he was

awarded his Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) from his Alma Mater (Pittsburgh Theological Seminary) in 1879 ²⁰

As the years passed, his daughter, Mary, grew up in Kirkwood, attended Mary Institute and later married John Milton Moore who was an engineer-inventor. and they then moved to Ohio. Unfortunately, he suffered financial ruin in the failure of a stove manufacturing business. After suffering a mental breakdown, he was committed to a psychiatric hospital. Mary, who was pregnant with their second child, returned to Kirkwood to live with her father. The older son was John Warner Moore and his new-born sister, born November 15, 1887, was Marianne Moore. She never met her father.

Near the end of his pastorate, Dr. Warner was dearly loved and honored by his congregation, as shown in the newspaper article in the

St. Louis Globe-Democrat
page 9, Wednesday November 16, 1892 ¹⁹

Rev. Mr. Warner's Silver Jubilee

The article states that after numerous speeches and tributes,

"twenty-five beautiful young ladies entered the Church, each carrying a tray of brand-new silver dollars, and marching down the aisle to the pulpit and placed then at the feet of the pastor. Dr. J.B. Warner made a very touching response. The guests later repaired to the lecture room, where a magnificent banquet was spread for 300 people"

The twenty-seven years of pastoral care and the growth of the congregation of the Kirkwood church went by quickly, and it was with dismay and grief when the congregation learned that Dr. Warner was sick with pneumonia for about ten days before passing away at his residence on Tuesday, February 20, 1894, at the age of 67. An article in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat of Wednesday, February 21st, states"

it is said that the deceased caught cold while conducting a funeral service with uncovered head on a very rainy and disagreeable day, and that the affliction developed into pneumonia. ²²

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT DR. WARNER...CONTINUED

Death Notice in the St.
Louis Watchman

TERMS,

Watchman.

February 23, 1894.

LOVED AND WON. — Ms. Moix and Julia Niehaus to be Married To-day. — ar Much Opposition the Parents	Kirkwood. The death of Rev. John R. Warner, although not unexpected, was a sad blow to his many friends here, where for 28 years he had ministered to the Presbyterian Congregation most acceptably. They are sorely bereaved, for their own loss, and that to his daughter, Mrs. Mary Moore, and her two little children, who were the constant companions of their dear grandpa. Mrs. A. C. Orrick and daughter will leave for Memphis to visit on Sunday night next.
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The St. Louis County Watchman of February 23 1894 carried a description of the funeral service held at 2:30 PM on Thursday, the 22nd , in the sanctuary of his church." ²⁰

" The funeral of Rev. Dr. Warner which took place on the 22nd drew together a large concourse of mourning friends, for during his 27 years residence here, the Godly man greatly endeared himself to the people. Each of the four protestant resident ministers took part in the services. The choir sang sweetly of his favorite hymns. Mrs. Jacob Ricker, presided at the organ. Dr. Nichols, his lifelong friend gave a faithful, tender and true tribute to his loved brother."

The paper also tells us the Rev. Dr. Nichols accompanied Mrs. Mary Warner Moore (Dr. Warner's daughter) on the long sad journey back to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. On Saturday, the 24th, his body was interred in Evergreen Cemetery beside his wife, Jennie Craig, who had died in 1863. ²⁰

The inscription at his grave reads as follows: ²¹

In memory of John R. Warner, D.D.
Born September 30, 1827
Died February 20, 1894

Shortly after the funeral, his daughter, Mary Moore, moved out of the manse and back to Carlisle, Pennsylvania where she taught school and, in her later years, moved to New York to live with her daughter, Marianne, who became a Pulitzer Prize winning poet.

Mary Moore died July 9, 1947 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg beside her parents. Marianne died in New York in February 5, 1972 and is also buried in the family plot in Gettysburg.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT DR. WARNER...CONTINUED

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17.	Bates, Samuel P. History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, 5 Volumes, Harrisburg, PA 1869-1871
18.	Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA. , History of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church. Date unknown
19.	St. Louis Globe-Democrat, newspaper, St. Louis, MO Wednesday November 18, 1892, page 9
20.	St. Louis County Watchman February 23, 189421.
21.	MacPherson, B.F.M. Rev. John R. Warner, D.D., The Gettysburg Times, Nov. 1, 1958, page.4
22.	The Moderate, A. G. Edwards, www.gather.com/viewArticle.jsp?arti
23.	A. G. Edwards & Sons (AGE) corporate history, Wikipedia
24.	1890 oil on canvas portrait by Carl Gustav Waldeck depicting A.G. Edwards as Brigadier General of the Missouri Militia. He was appointed in 1861 at age forty-nine,
25.	Session Minutes, First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, July 21, 1867
26.	Letter from Mary Warner Moore (age 66) to Rev. Henry Little, Jr. dated November 17, 1929 in the Church archives.



TURMOIL IN THE RANKS?

It is rather dull to read the session minutes in the church archives during the period following the Civil War. After our first full-time pastor arrived in 1867, the minutes were brief and more organized. One wonders if Rev. John R. Warner, the new minister, wanted the entries to be concise and proper, but not necessarily reflect any controversy or disharmony. Most minutes related to admission of new members, such as the following of

Friday, October 14, 1870:

"Session met at the call of the moderator after public worship and was opened with prayer by Mr. D. Keith. Members all present. A certificate of standing and dismissal from the Methodist Episcopal Church, Quincy, Ill was presented by Mr. A.C. Grubb and Mrs. Sophie Grubb, which was read and on motion, they were according to their desire, unanimously admitted to member ship in this church. Closed with prayer by General Edwards. John R. Warner, Moderator"

There are however, some interesting moments, such as the entry added a year after it happened with the following entry by Rev. Warner"

"The following item which properly belongs to the acts of the year 1870 for prudential reasons on the part of the pastor was not then inserted. It, of right belongs to the session to have its insertion here as part of the history of the case of Mr. J. W Sutherland:"

The minutes go on to detail a confrontation between the elders at a session meeting in October 1870 as follows:

"...After an informal conversation on the state of religion in our church, in which circumstances encouraging and discouraging to us all, we freely discussed. A. G. Edwards stated as his clear conviction that it was "the duty of Mr.

John W Sutherland to resign his office as ruling elder in this church." It was not charged by General E., nor by any one present that Mr. S. was "chargeable either with heresy or immorality," but that in his opinion, an opinion in which the session unanimously concurred, that he had become unstable in his official character to a number of the members of the congregation. Mr. Sutherland very positively declined to accede to the proposal of the session. After a long and frank, yet a very kind expression of opinion and of feelings, the matter was indefinitely laid upon the table."

But that wasn't the end of the controversy with Mr. Sutherland. A year and a half later in January 1872, there were more "problems" and a committee was appointed to investigate a new rumor. By June, after several reports and more meetings, the session adopted a motion detailing the offense and since Mr. S. would not resign as an elder, the matter was referred to the Presbytery for action. Finally on June 30th, Sutherland submitted a letter resigning as an elder if the matter were dropped and not referred to Presbytery. The session quickly accepted.

And what was the "aggravated offense" that caused Mr. Sutherland to lose his office? As listed in the motion by General A. G. Edwards,

"! ...which dissatisfaction has been increased by his attendance of late upon the theatre in St. Louis..."

Don't you wonder which theatre it was and what or who was playing? And interestingly, both A.G. Edwards and J.W. Sutherland had served together as Trustees for the Town of Kirkwood only a few years before. Both families remained active in the church

Authors: Ned Cleveland

Source: Archives-Session Minutes 1870-85

First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood



DID WE HAVE A CEMETERY?

In earlier church histories and even on our website today, there is mention of a cemetery or burying grounds located along Adams Ave at the rear of the original brick church. It was said that this grave-yard was used by members of the congregation for several years. Some histories also state that when a new stone church was built in 1888, the remains were moved to Oak Hill Cemetery. Perhaps this actual happened as mentioned in some of the earlier histories, but the facts as available now, tend to cast doubt on the existence of this cemetery.

In fact, in a church history written apparently in 1964 for the 110th anniversary, the author states that "We now doubt the existence of a cemetery behind the brick church and believe the error (if it is such) may arise from a statement in a letter we have just found, which refers to the still existing graveyard around the little Des Peres Church on Geyer Road.". Remember that three of the founding members of our church, came from the Des Peres Church as well as others in succeeding years.

Perhaps the most significant fact is the recent examination of the minutes of the original Kirk-wood Association, authorizing the donation of land for our church, which specifically state "...provided further, that said quarter Block, shall not be used as a cemetery;..." Thanks to efforts by the late Bud Barnes, we now have for our church archives, a photocopy of that original document from the Missouri Historical Society.

It also appears to have been the policy of the Kirkwood Association to prohibit cemeteries with-in the original town limits since there are no other church graveyards in the City of Kirkwood. By the way, St. Peters Cemetery was located outside the original city limits.

This author recently visited with Ms. Tawny Kresse of Forever Oak Hill Cemetery and viewed the ledger book of the original Oak Hill Cemetery for the time period until 1889. There are not any apparent entries to reflect the movement of remains from our churchyard. And finally, a land map from the City of Kirkwood, dated 1878, does not show any cemetery behind the church. Only the manse, occupied by Rev. John R. Warner is shown along Adams, approximately where our present sanctuary is located. Just as a clarification, it should be mentioned that our present memorial columbarium in the courtyard, is not classified as a cemetery by the city and state.

Author: Ned Cleveland

Picture: Kirkwood Association Minutes 1853-185

Sources:

Kirkwood Association minute book page 36
located at the Missouri Historical Society

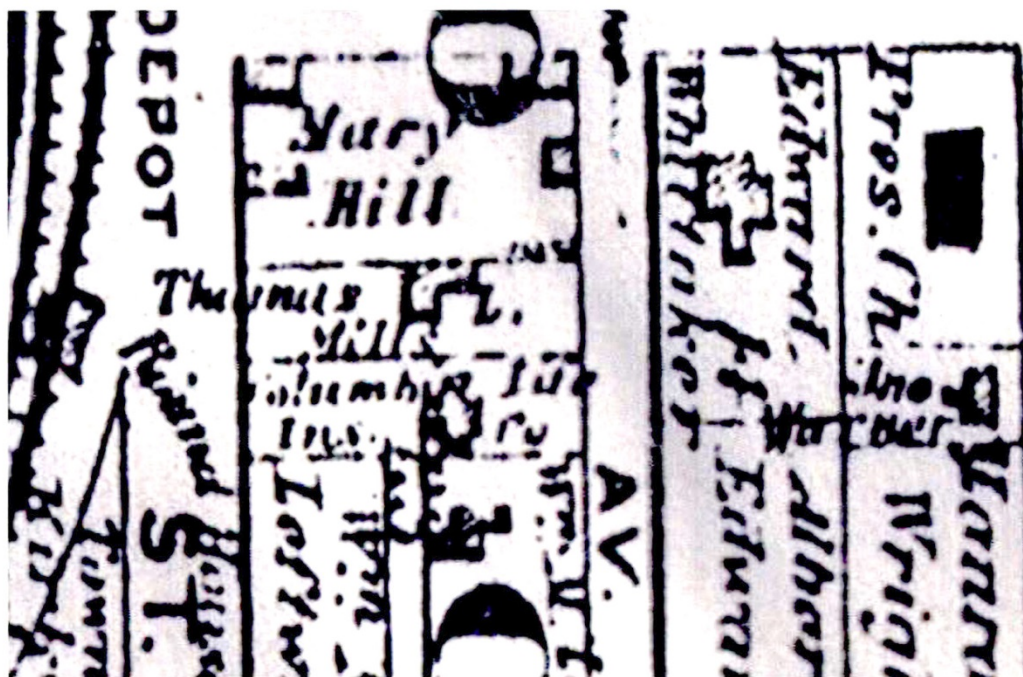
Church archives

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WHY WE DID NOT HAVE A CHURCH CEMETERY...CONTINUED

...acquired, or in a state of occupancy within twelve months thereafter; provided further, that said Quarter Block, shall not be used as a cemetery: And the President of the Assⁿ, is hereby authorized to execute a Bond in it.

Copy of the original resolution by the Kirkwood Association of October 13, 1853 page 36 gifting the land to the Trustees with a provision not to allow a cemetery

In addition to the above deed restriction by the Kirkwood Association, a visit by the author to the Kirkwood Historical Society at Mudd's Grove provided a compelling piece of evidence that there was no cemetery. While ascending the rear upstairs steps, there on the landing wall was the framed original plat of the First Addition to the Kirkwood Association of Kirkwood. Inspecting the plat closely, shows a house (manse) located on the same quarter block as the Church. The date on the plat for the new lot auction is Tuesday, June 9th 1868. Dr. Warner had arrived just the previous summer. A close-up photo of the 1868 plat is on the last page off this article.



The above is a copy of the City of Kirkwood map of 1878. It is the earliest map of the entire city. This close up of the church and Rev. John Warner's house in the right hand side, just below the church. Note the horizontal printing, J. Warner to the left of the manse.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WHY WE DID NOT HAVE A CHURCH CEMETERY...CONTINUED

An additional item to consider is the fact that on January 15, 1890 in the annual congregational meeting, the purpose was to officially deed the property to the "new" church corporation. The entire story of the problems and errors in transferring ownership of the land and buildings from the original Trustees to a church corporation which didn't exist because of filing errors and finally into the new corporation, is well detailed in the article "When the Church was born again" by Bruce Woodruff.

His article states:

"At the same meeting, the Church was directed to convey to Pastor Warner a property which was originally conveyed in 1875 by the Church, which according to the law didn't exist at that time."

(This property was evidently Pastor Warner's residence.)

In trying to understand exactly how this error about a cemetery behind the early church crept into the various histories written in the last seventy years occurred, this author feels that in many cases, it's human nature. When asked at an approaching anniversary, most of us look back at what has already been written and use those facts as gospel.

I believe two items triggered this misunderstanding. First are the four or five large stone tablets, about a foot and a half in height and three foot wide, are of white stone or concrete and are engraved with single names and rest against the wall in the Church archives. They look like tombstones and are unbelievably heavy and impossible to move. The one that I was able to tilt and look, at had the name, Albert G. Edwards engraved. It was not until months later that I realized what they were used for. In pictures of the interior of the 1889 Church, these tablets appear on the front side walls of the sanctuary and were probably the result of significant financial contributions of support for the building project. And General A.G. Edwards is buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

The second reason for confusion about the possible cemetery occurred as a result of a letters written in 1939 and 1944 from John B. Singleton to our minister at the time, Rev. Ralph D. Evans. John was the grandson of Henry and Marsena Singleton in whose farm house the initial members met and formed The Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood in 1854.

At age 88, John struggled to remember some details, since he was born two years after the church started and would have been a very young boy. However he did grow up in the church and was a life time member. In his letter, he talks about how some members joining the church, who previously had attended the Presbyterian Church in Des Peres

"to drive over there (Des Peres) to services and bury their dead. Shortly before the Civil War Father moved the bodies and monument to Oak Ridge near Kirkwood, where my wife is buried."

Three of the Founding members, Robert Yeats, Wm G. Sale and M. Harriet Fenton did transfer from the Des Peres church and it's possible that people moving into Kirkwood would prefer to have their loved one in a cemetery closer to their homes. I believe that when John Singleton referred to Oak Ridge, he probably meant Oak Hill cemetery as it is now known. Perhaps mention of relocating bodies caused historians, seeing what looked like tombstones in the archives, made the mistake in assuming that there had been a cemetery. The first mention is in a 1949 history written by Lewis Moore and has occurred in each history since then.

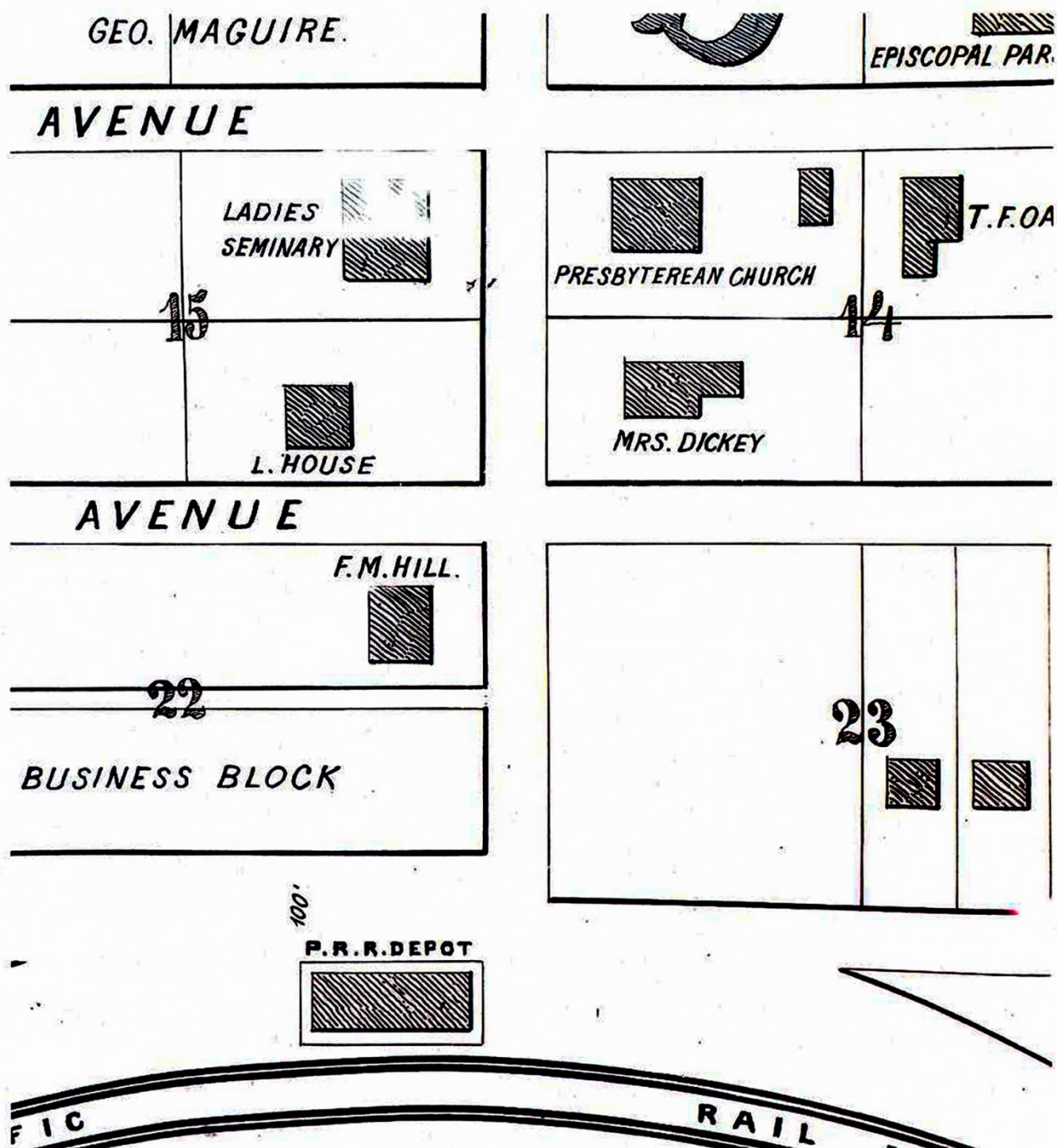
We now know that there never was a cemetery behind the church and that the manse was located there.

Author: Ned Cleveland

Source: Church archives, Singleton letters 1939 & 1944

(See Kirkwood Association plat from 1868 showing manse located behind church on next page)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WHY WE DID NOT HAVE A CHURCH CEMETERY...CONTINUED



Picture of the actual plat by the kirkwood association promoting an auction on june 9, 1868. The plat is framed and mounted on the rear stairway landing in mudd's grove, home of the kirkwood historical society. Note that there is a manse located to the east of the church building, both located in the northwest quarter of lot 14.



WHEN THE CHURCH WAS BORN AGAIN

Who owns the church property? Simple question, simple answer. The First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, the Church Corporation, of course. But not so fast. While for many years the church family thought there was no question, as it turns out the status of the Church and the question of who really owned the property was in limbo for 20 years!

Here's the story: Just after our first pastor, Rev. John R. Warner, was installed on November 1, 1867, a congregational meeting was called to authorize the official incorporation of the Church and eventually transfer title to the Church property to the original trustees of the new corporation. (You will remember that the church property at Adams and Kirkwood Road was given to 3 trustees for the benefit of the church by the incorporators of the village of Kirkwood.) The congregation approved the new Articles of Incorporation and they were duly filed and approved by the Circuit Court of St. Louis County on December 23, 1867. While it took some time because one of the original trustees had died, finally on March 23, 1869, the Church property was officially transferred by deed to the First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood. All was well—but was it really?



The church continued to grow in the 70's and 80's and by 1887, it was obvious that a new larger church building was needed. The original title to the church property contained a clause that in the event the Church was dissolved or failed to preserve the organization for one year, the property would be conveyed to The Board of Trustees of Westminster College. It was necessary, therefore, to remove this cloud from the title in order to build the new church and this was accomplished through a Quit Claim Deed recorded on October 15, 1887. Now all was well. Again, not so fast.

Money was raised, an architect was commissioned, and construction proceeded and by January of 1889 the partially completed church was occupied. Now it was time to arrange a loan to complete construction and naturally a Deed of Trust needed to be created to secure the loan. WHOOPS! A title search revealed that the incorporation of 1867 was flawed, because the Articles of Incorporation had never been recorded with the Missouri Secretary of State. The church corporation didn't exist! In the 20-year lapse of time, state law had changed and there was no way to correct the record. Of course, all the original trustees were dead. The whole process occurring 20 years before was an absolute nullity! Nor was anyone alive to convey the property even if a corporation existed. What to do?

A lawyer and church member, A. N. Edwards, undertook the job of straightening the matter out and he did it skillfully. In proceedings filed in the Circuit Court of St. Louis County culminating in an order entered in June of 1889, one William Din-gas was appointed as a special successor trustee to the long deceased trustees.

Simultaneously a new First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood was incorporated. To give all this credibility the Court appointed an attorney, Mr. K. Lee Mudd as its "next friend" and he blessed the entire proceeding.

WHEN THE CHURCH WAS BORN AGAIN...CONTINUED

Subsequently, at the annual meeting of the Church congregation held on January 15, 1890, special Trustee Dingas was directed to deed the property from the Kirkwood Association to the new Church corporation after securing the consent of the Board of Trustees of Westminster College. At the same meeting the Church was directed to convey to Pastor Warner a property which was originally conveyed in 1875 by the Church, which, according to the law, didn't exist at that time. (This property was evidently Pastor Warner's residence.)

One more detail had to be addressed. The Articles of Incorporation filed in June of 1889 provided that all church property was vested in the Board of Trustees rather than the Corporation.

By an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation filed for the record on May 28, 1890, Article VI of the Articles of Incorporation was amended to transfer ownership of all church property from the Trustees to the Corporation.

And so the loan was made, the new Church was completed and the First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood was BORN AGAIN!

Authors: Credits: Bruce Woodruff

History: June Wilkinson Dahl, A History of Kirkwood, MO., 1851-1965, Kirkwood Historical Society, Publisher.

Church archives



Sunday School Picture 1908



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR PEW RENTAL?

As our present day membership talks, thinks and prays about the new building construction, we thought it interesting to look back at our history. Through the years church finances been difficult at times. Many creative ways have been used to raise funds at First Presbyterian. Today the annual stewardship drive provides a sound financial basis for operations. However, years ago finances depended primarily on the collection plate.

In the 1880's as the community of Kirkwood grew rapidly, the original small brick church was bulging at the seams. A new larger building was needed and the congregation agonized over the building costs. After voting to proceed, the cornerstone was laid in October of 1888. The "new" stone building, of which only the bell tower remains today, was completed in eight months. The building cost \$15,331.94. Most of the funds were raised during construction leaving a debt of \$4,980.30 according to the final report of the Building Committee. There were many donations from the entire Kirkwood community including those of the architect Mr. Cairns.

However, a debt still remained. To raise additional funds the trustees authorized an auction to select pews which would then be subject to a rental fee. On June 21, 1889, nine days before the first service in the new stone church, our archives report a "large number of the congregation was present and adopted a plan by which premiums were paid for choice pews." The auction was successful because \$127.00 was raised. Annual reports in subsequent years continued to report "pew rental" income.

Although at the time many churches also used similar methods of pew rental, perhaps we can be thankful that the practice has long since disappeared. We now don't have to worry about sitting in someone else's pew.

Authors: Ned Cleveland

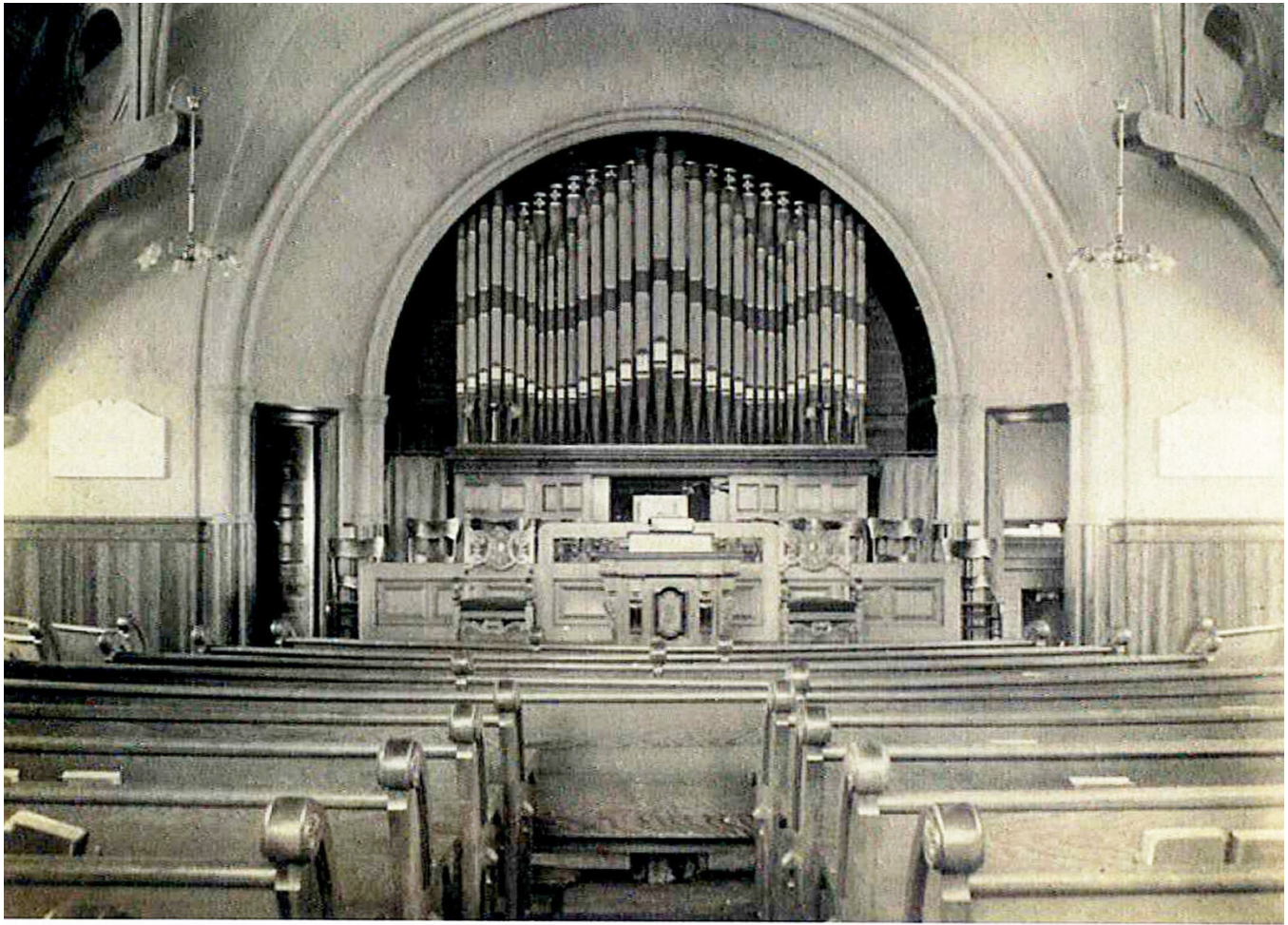
Source: Dahl, A History of Kirkwood, Published by
The Kirkwood Historical Society, 1965

Pictures: Church archives



First Presbyterian Church at turn of century

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR PEW RENTAL?...CONTINUED



The Sanctuary with pews to rent

Actually, the above picture was probably taken after 1902 since that is the date that the light fixtures were installed. You will notice then hanging from the wood truss on each side of the ceiling. Also interesting is the door on the right, appears to open into a room with what appears to be a fireplace. Perhaps this was originally the pastor's office.. Other interesting features of the sanctuary include the hanging curtains at each corner of the choir area. Also it appears that the first five rows of pews were continuous across the front and then behind that is a center aisle with seating on each side. Does that mean the bride goes down the side isle?



OUR FIRST ELECTRIC LIGHTS!

In 1901, electric lights were amazing and wonderful things. Imagine the dramatic change in light level that could be achieved by only turning on a switch. There would be no more hand lighting and extinguishing of oil lamps, No more trimming of wicks and cleaning of lamp soot. The modern age had arrived.

Notes in our archives from the church treasurer on January 8, 1902 show that \$219.25 was paid to furnish and install the new electric lights in the building. Apparently money was contributed to finance this major project, since his records also indicate receipts of \$215.00. Prior to this time, the disbursements were for "oil and sundries", which undoubtedly indicated the use of kerosene or coal oil as it was known, for lighting in the church.

Electricity was new in Kirkwood. In 1900 the voters had approved a bond issue for the construction of a "lighting plant". The new facility was located on the southeast corner of Monroe and Taylor and constructed at a cost of \$2,138.00 for the building. After installing the coal boiler and generating equipment, the plant began producing electricity in the spring of 1901. Customers were charged on a per light basis, with a special charge, if electric fans were also utilized. This "fan service" allowed electric fans to be mounted on the walls of churches, which provided some relief on hot summer days. Of course, the traditional cardboard fans with local advertising on them were still in use for many years.

The arrival of electricity in Kirkwood was the beginning of many "modern" changes as the City entered the twentieth century. Although Kirkwood does not generate its own electricity any more, it is the only municipally owned electric utility in the St.

Louis area and it continues to provide a very significant income to the city.

We believe that the photograph shows the original electric lighting fixtures installed in 1902 only a few months after the arrival of municipal electricity. The lights in the old sanctuary were changed several more times in the following years as more modern and efficient forms of fixtures became available.

Authors: Ned Cleveland

Source: Dahl, A History of Kirkwood, Chapter 12
Published by The Kirkwood Historical Society 1965

Picture: Church archives





AND THE MUSIC PLAYED ON

Music has always been a very special part of religious services throughout our church history, and the congregation has enjoyed

a robust accompaniment by various organists who have lent their talents on Sunday mornings.

Well, perhaps not always, as we learn from letters of remembrances from older members years ago. According to John R. Singleton's letter to the church in 1944, the original founders lacked an organ, but Hiram Leffingwell "saw the trouble they were having about music and being a good performer on the violin he offered his services and was accepted."

Mrs. Singleton comments in a letter in 1939, about Leffingwell's musical contribution " ...he furnished the music with his violin until an organ was bought."



Mary Barr Ricker, our longest organist

In a letter written November 17, 1929, Mary Warner Moore, Rev. Warner's daughter who grew up in the manse behind the brick church remembered " Our organ was in the back of the church. Mr. Henry Butler our organist and sometimes Miss Mary Sneed-. while a loved old sexton pumped earnestly and painfully hurried by having had over confidence that Mr., Warner would preach all right and a long time. When Uncle Joe died, Jacob Wood took Uncle Joe's place."

Mary Moore also mentions Mary Barr Ricker and says " Perhaps someday, I may hear Mary Barr Ricker draw forth music from the new organ, as she did from the one that was new in 1892... Mary Ricker was the organist for the longest period of time, and played from the 1880's until the 1930's. When the 1889 sanctuary was built, a new organ was installed and then another in 1929 during the Sunday School two story building addition. We do know that Albert Edwards contributed \$10,000 for the 1929 organ in memory of his brother, George. Edwards who was very active in the church.

We have had five different organs in the church history, all of which have provided inspirational music and accompaniment to the choir and congregation.

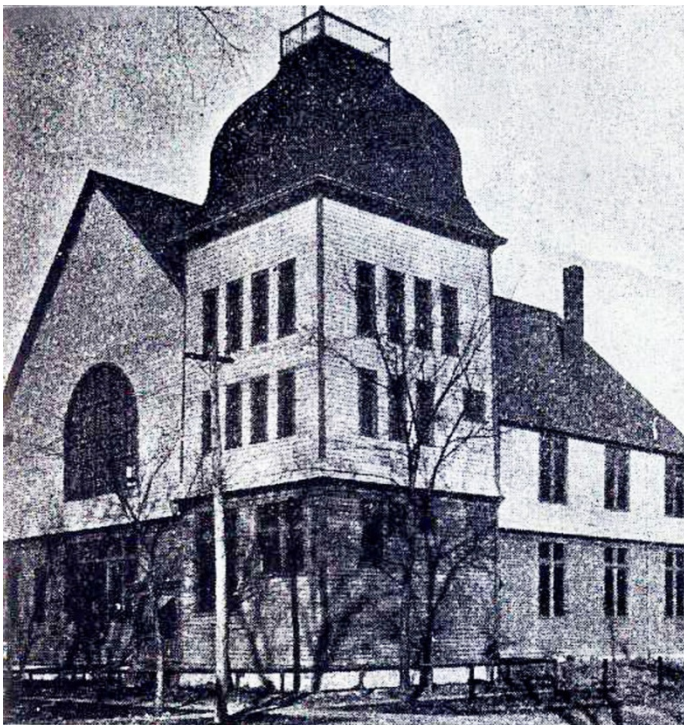
Author: Ned Cleveland

Source: Church archives



THE DAY OUR CHURCH ALMOST BURNED DOWN!

Directly across the street, on the site of the present Commerce Bank, at the turn of the century, stood the Kirkwood Armory. This large wooden structure built in 1892 was used to provide indoor drill space for Company C of the First Regiment of the Missouri National Guard (from Kirkwood) as well as many civil and cultural activities. Because the building was really the only structure able to accommodate large gatherings of people, the building was used for minstrel shows, theatricals, traveling displays of merchandise and the annual Flower Show Re-member, Kirkwood and the surrounding areas were home to a major floral industry.



The Armory Building across the street

In order to keep the Armory floors and woodwork shining, oil and wax were used extensively and unfortunately these oily rags provided the downfall of the building by spontaneous combustion. In fact, it was on the opening day of the St. Louis World's fair, April 30, 1904, that the whistle at the Kirkwood electric generating plant blew, signaling a fire.

Because there was no organized fire department and only a volunteer bucket brigade, help was requested from the St. Louis Fire Department. Unfortunately, by the time the horse drawn steamer arrived from St. Louis, the fire was totally out of control. It was such a large and dangerous fire, that the house next door on Adams was lost and the wind carried sparks across Adams setting fire to the wooden sidewalk in front of the church. The reports indicate that only the strenuous efforts of a number of men saved the roof of the church from catching fire.

As a result of this fire, a volunteer fire brigade was organized within a week and the City then provided "350 feet of hose and a hose carriage": This was the beginning of what later became the Kirkwood Fire Department. Fortunately, the church sanctuary, whose bell tower still stands, was built of stone construction, except for the roof, and suffered no serious damage.

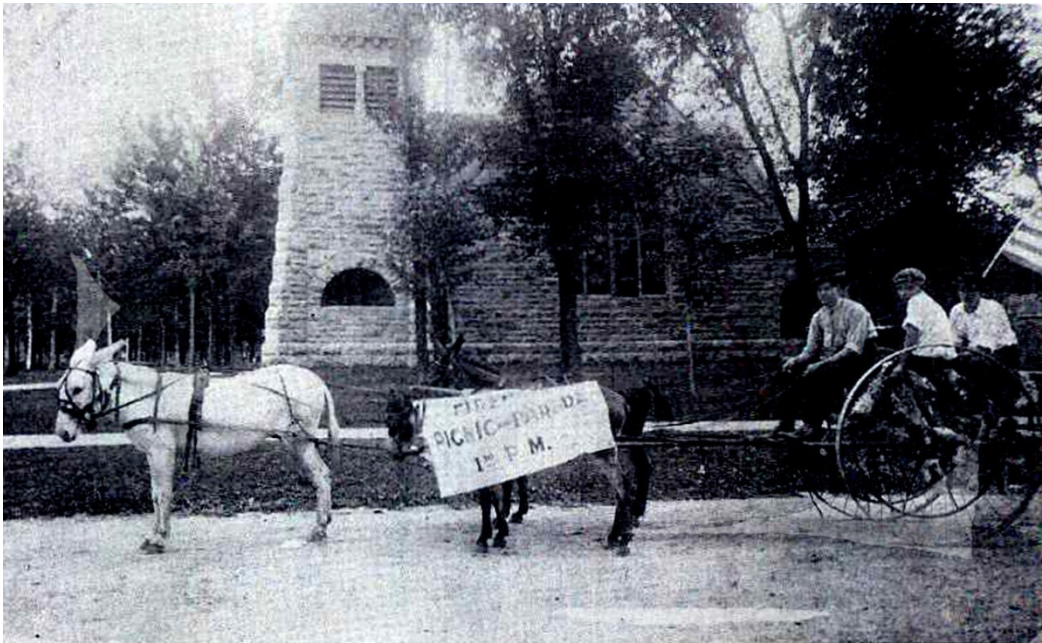
Authors: Ned Cleveland

Source: Dahl, A History of Kirkwood, Chapter 7 Published by The Kirkwood Historical Society, 1965 and Church archives Pictures Pioneer Bank Kirkwood, A Pictorial History, Published by G. Bradley Publishing

Byerly, Barb Kirkwood Missouri, The Greentree City, A Pictorial History, Published by Messenger Printing, David Jones

THE DAY THE CHURCH ALMOST BURNED DOWN...CONTINUED

The original volunteer fire brigade was formed a few weeks after the Armory fire in 1904 and existed until 1918 when the city hired a full time department and built a fire station at 122 West Argonne.



Volunteer fireman in parade to raise funds to support the new volunteer fire department



Volunteer firemen in 1905



THE DAY THE TRAIN CAME TO CHURCH

Yes, that's right! The train actually did come to the Church and we have a picture (albeit grainy) to prove it. At a meeting (2004) of elders, the author reported that in his search through the Church history, he had discovered that sometime in the past railroad tracks were laid up Kirkwood Road and a steam engine backed up the street in front of the Church. He challenged those elders to find the picture. And someone did! Helen Anderson accepted the challenge and not only found a picture, but also newspaper accounts which told the whole story. We are forever grateful for her work.



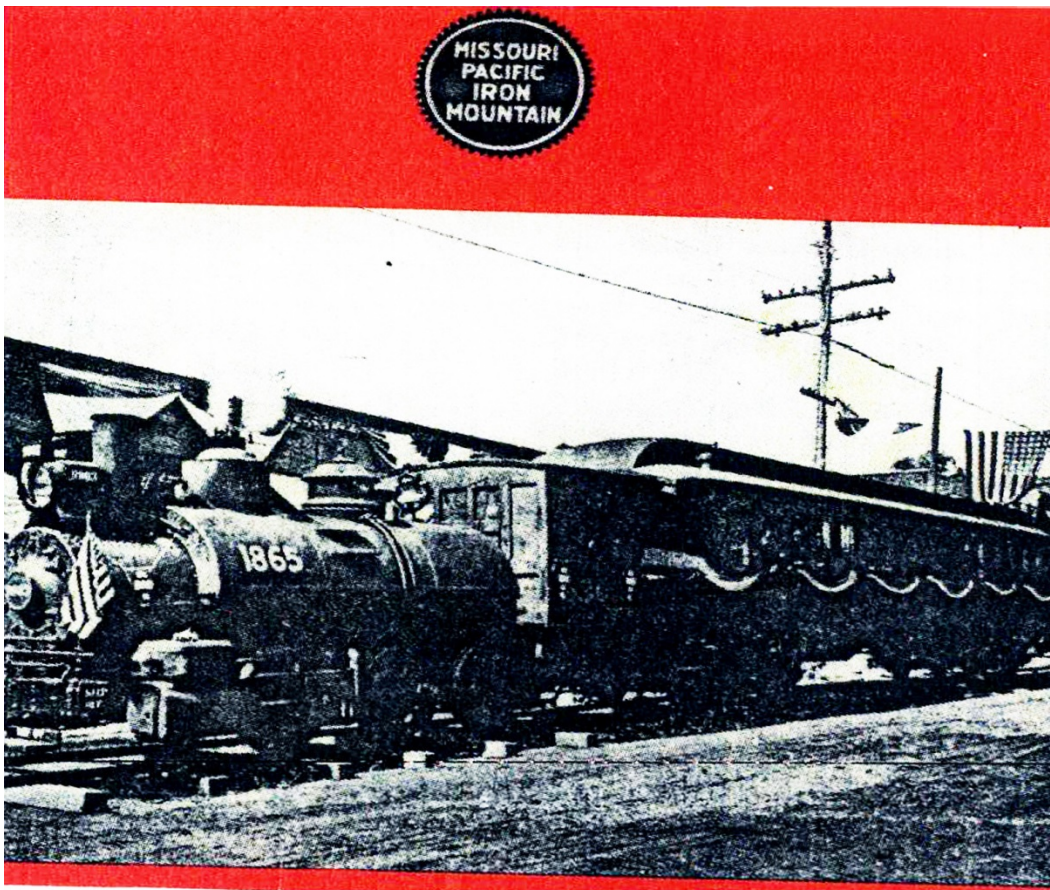
Very Poor Picture of the Train at the Church. Copied from newspaper photo (poor quality).

The occasion was Kirkwood's Golden Jubilee, its fiftieth birthday party, held on September 30, 1915. As re-ported in several issues of the Kirkwood Courier, this was really a gala occasion in Kirkwood's history. There was a parade over three miles long including state militia, many bands, floats, automobiles decorated to the hilt, horse drawn wagons, high school and elementary school children and local dignitaries including Kirkwood Mayor Joseph Matthews and St. Louis Mayor Henry Kiel. A large pit was dug on the south side of Main Street (now Argonne) and sides of beef were barbequed to feed the large crowd. Military drilling along Main Street followed the parade. It was reported that the hungry soldiers immensely enjoyed the barbecued beef.

THE DAY THE TRAIN CAME TO CHURCH...CONTINUED

The highlight of the evening was a historical pageant depicting the development of the area from the earliest times to the present. Over 500 school children participated in the proceedings. Scene one portrayed the Indians and the coming of Marquette and Joliet in the 17th century. Scene 2 welcomed the Spanish and French settlers and featured an ox cart driven by two live oxen, which had been driven the 80 miles from Potosi, Missouri, to participate in the pageant. Scene 3 reenacted the creation of Kirkwood and arrival of the first train carrying the 40 city founders. Days before the event temporary tracks had been laid on Kirkwood Road for about 3 blocks right past the Church. In this scene the 1865 steam engine was actually fired up and steamed the short distance to the pageant's giant stage on the Oakwood Lawn a few yards north of the Church, and disgorged actors portraying various roles in the establishment of the town. The last scene represented present day Kirkwood and, of course, closed with a salute to Old Glory and a singing of "America."

The Golden Jubilee was perhaps the greatest celebration in Kirkwood's long history and, as the picture attests, The First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood was there!



Better picture of the old train in 1915 backing up the street in front of the church.

Authors Ned Cleveland

Credits Kirkwood Courier of September 25, 30th, October 3, 1915. Above picture showing engine from 1865 from unknown source, could be the Missouri Pacific Railroad archives or the Kirkwood Historical Society archives.



OUR MEACHAM PARK CHAPEL

Did you know that our church maintained and supported two missionary chapels in the Kirkwood area. One was located in Meacham Park and the other on Big Bend road near the bottom of the hill between Sappington and Berry roads in what was then still Glendale (be-fore for it became the City of Oakland).

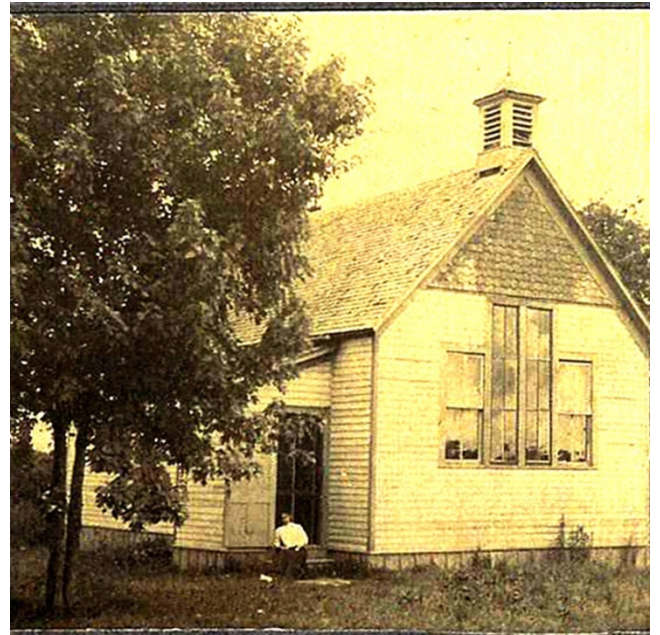
This is in the time period of 1903 to about 1909 when Dr. Perry V. Jenness, who was a strong advocate of missionary work. In looking through our church archives, we discovered a wonderful letter written in 1981 by an 84 year old woman, Mrs. Lucie Doerner Kranefuss. She wrote the church and enclosed a picture of a girl sitting on the steps of a chapel, sponsored by the church, in Meacham Park.

The letter expresses gratitude to our church for the fact that

"your church built & sponsored a little chapel in Meacham Park." She continues, "This little chapel was built about 1900. I shall never forget what that little chapel meant to us. As we grew older, we never failed to mention just that. It was instrumental in giving our first formal training in religion. We had dear parents who were Christian, but thought a formal training was necessary, so you had sent, every Sunday afternoon three dedicated members, namely, Ethal (Ethel) & Ray Bender and Mary Emily Kincaid whom we admired very much. I think, there too was a lady who played the piano, Ms. Misseldine."

Her older brother, Ollie, at age 16, was the caretaker who kept the chapel clean and warm in winter.

"Every Sunday, we were dressed in our Sun-day Best, as there was nothing too good for God. We, with our nickel tied in the corner of our hankies, so as not to lose it, was our minor contribution at that time. I suppose nickels were not easy to acquire then. Then on Thursday evening you furnished a prayer meeting which my mother enjoyed so much...At roll call, each was to reply by saying a verse from the bible. I own such a bible given to me by your church for perfect attendance. I still have & treasure that bible."



The Meacham Park Chapel 1905

OUR MEACHAM PARK CHAPEL...CONTINUED

Her letter continues on about special events that meant so much to a small child, such as Christmas, Easter and a special church sponsored picnic at O'Fallon Park. She talks about a picture taken at that picnic showing the church members standing with her and her three sisters and younger brother. She was really proud that all of them were dressed up and not wearing overall jeans. She has kept that picture all of her life.

Mrs. Kranefuss family moved from Meacham Park to St. Louis city when she was about nine and she then grew up in the Methodist church, but later moved back to Kirkwood and lived at 9 Orchard Lane. Her youngest sister, had a baptism certificate from the church and she was given the first and middle name of Mary Emily in honor of church member Mary Emily Kincaid, who worked so long as a teacher with the children at the Meacham Chapel.

She also mentions that her older brother Ollie, suffered health problems and was sent to live with an uncle in Denver. He sought out the local Presbyterian church and was quite surprised and pleased that the minister was Rev. Perry V. Jeness who had left First Presbyterian in Kirkwood in 1909 to answer a call in Denver. As a result, her brother, Ollie, became involved as a youth leader in the Denver church, until his unfortunate death at age 24.

She concludes the letter " Sorry if I have bored you, (but I) just wanted you to know what your little chapel meant and did for us. You may keep the picture if you so desire... God works in mysterious ways"

It's really a tribute that for almost seventy-five years, she had still kept the picture of the church picnic and her Sunday school bible. I want to believe that is her as an eight or nine year old, sitting in front of the Chapel.



Author: Ned Cleveland
Source: Mrs. Lucie Doerner Kranefuss letter.
of 1981 in church archives



THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING

In November of 1928, plans were being developed to address the growing pains of the Church and the need to expand the Sun-

day School capacity to meet the needs of a growing church. World War I was over and the troops returned home to the expanding suburban community of Kirkwood.

Architectural estimates and drawings were presented to the congregation, who authorized proceeding in June of 1929. The work was to include construction of a new Sunday school building to accommodate 500 children and a "Fellowship Hall" to hold 300 people. A kitchen was also included along with a new pipe organ for the sanctuary and a new steam heating system for all buildings. The total projected cost was \$60,000.00.

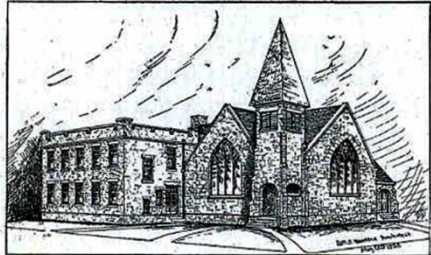
Since the economy was strong with the "roaring twenties", it was anticipated that the Church could easily raise some of the funds and the balance be acquired in the form of a mortgage. The commitment of the members was a pledged amount of \$37,243.13 to be paid in installments over a three year period. The Trustees proceeded with the construction contract for \$55,000. and borrowed \$65,000. from Farm and Home Savings and Loan Association. There was also an outstanding loan on the manse property of \$10,000 which was rolled in the Farm and Home loan for a total of \$65,000 to be paid back monthly (\$747.50/mo.) for 136 months.

Unfortunately, the bottom fell out on the economy when the stock market crashed and the country plunged into recession. The impact on the church was also devastating. By 1932 almost \$7,000 pledged by the congregation was delinquent and the Trustees were forced to borrow \$2,000 more from the Kirkwood Trust Co. to meet the church expenses and service the debt.

Refinancing the loan with Farm and Home, resulted in lower monthly payments (\$567.00/mo.) but extended the debt out to 180 months. The water was rising financially. In the following years the situation got worse resulting in staff reductions of salaries, cutting many programs and services and struggling to survive.

DO YOU LIKE IT?

First
Presbyterian
Church



Kirkwood
Missouri

You can't tell much about it, though, by just standing there on the corner. Come Inside!

WHAT?

1. A New Sunday School Building, to accommodate a school of 500 and dinner gatherings of 300, with adequate kitchen and work-room facilities, and with the necessary office space for conducting the clerical business of the whole church and its various departments, including new equipment necessary.
2. A Completely Re-decorated Auditorium, including re-finishing of walls and wood-work throughout and a new floor surface.
3. A New Pipe Organ.
4. A New Steam Heating Plant for the church building as a whole.
5. Total Cost, allowing ten per cent for shrinkage in pledges, \$60,000.00.

HOW?

1. Come to the eleven o'clock service next Sunday morning, June 9th.
2. Make your monthly (or weekly, if you prefer) pledge for the very most that you can give, covering the period of forty months. (Neither names nor amounts will be made public.)
3. Watch the thermometer rise with the warmth of our combined determination.
4. Join in the hymn of thanksgiving.
5. Total Raised, \$ - - , well, what do you say? (And make it personal.)

Your Presence Next Sunday Morning Builds It

Fund raising brochure for new Sunday School building

THE GREAT DEPRESSION & NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL BLDG..CON'T

In a 2004 interview with Bob Wells, former fifteen year Clerk of the Session, he related several stories told to him by member Maude Berger, widow of John Torry Berger. "During the depression, times were very tough for the church financially. In order to avoid embarrassing anyone who failed to put something in the collection plate when it was passed, they stopped passing the plate during the service and instead mounted a "collection box" that was placed at the back of the church to allow those who could give, to contribute on their way in or out."

The following letter was sent to all 116 pledging families of the congregation:

Nov. 22, 1932.

A crisis has been reached in the life of our Church. Unless the members pay to the trustees monthly beginning November 20, 1932 sums totaling \$815.50 we may lose our church property which had a valuation in 1929 of over \$200,000.00 and which today still has a valuation of over \$100,000.00 and we may also lose our church identity because of the inability to continue operation.

Portion of a Trustee letter to the congregation

Farm and Home Savings and Loan of Nevada, Missouri, which later became Community Federal Savings and Loan, located in Des Peres, held the mortgage on the church and manse and kept writing letters seeking payment. Finally, John Torry Berger, the attorney representing the church, wrote back, stating that the church would like to pay, but just could not at this time, and if Farm and Home wanted to, they could come and just take the church. They responded that they didn't want to own a church and please to do the best effort to pay.

For a period of time the church was able to at least pay the interest portion of the debt and the property was never foreclosed, thank goodness !!

Author: Ned Cleveland

Source Church archives, Letter dated November 22, 1932 from Board of Trustees to congregation



BUILDING THE NEW SANCTUARY

One of the great similarities between the sesquicentennial and the centennial celebrations of the First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood is the fact that both events have coincided with bold and badly needed building programs. In 2004 the Church is embarking on a program to bring the rest of its facilities up to the standard established by the preceding generation, 50 years ago.

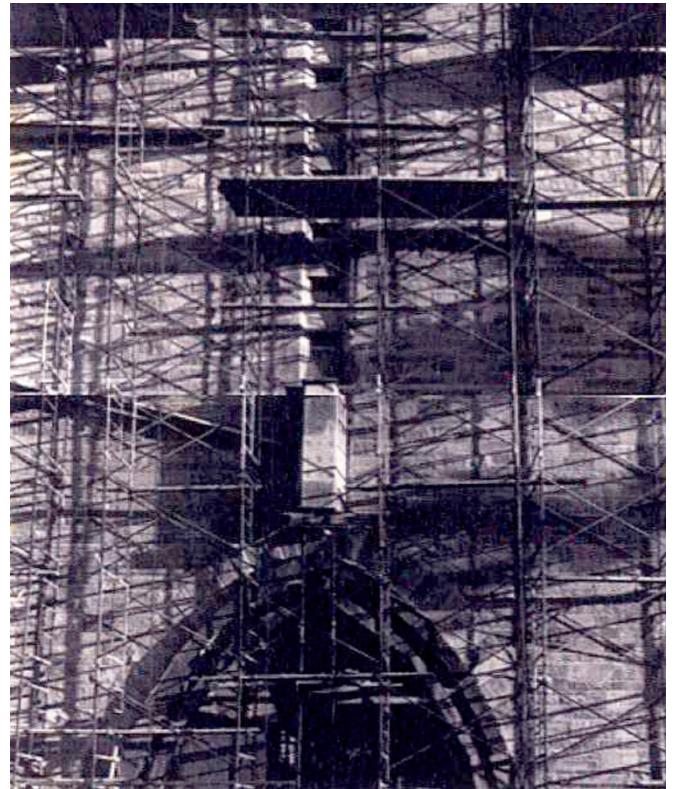
Like our present building plans, rumblings of the need for a new sanctuary had been heard for years, but it was not until the arrival of Dr. Donald H. Stewart in September of 1953 that plans began to coalesce. As a part of his call, Dr. Stewart secured a promise from the congregation to spend at least \$600,000 on a new building. When Dr. Stewart arrived the Church had over 2100 members and every Sunday three services were held in the old sanctuary, which had a capacity of 370. (By the time the new building was ready two more services had been added and held in Fellowship Hall for a total of five every Sunday.)

Plans were made to solidify the enthusiasm for a new building program at the 100th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Church through a weeklong celebration held in September of 1954. The festivities culminated on September 26, 1954, in an outdoor church service on the Pitman School grounds across the street from the Church. In the meantime architects Wilbur Campbell and Bob Fisher, both Church members, were asked to sketch a ground plan and an elevation view from outside and inside the proposed church. Over 3,000 chairs were brought in for the September 26th service and Dr. Ralph Waldo Lloyd, Moderator of the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., was invited to preach the sermon. Dr. Stewart in eloquent words penned in a letter to the congregation on the 125th anniversary of the Church, described how the event unfolded:

"The weather was good. Expectation, exultation, and anticipation filled every heart. The choir and congregation sang their hearts out. The sermon challenged us all.

At the close of the service we were all ushered into Fellowship Hall to view the Architects' sketches.

That did it!"



**The front entrance to the Sanctuary
under construction in 1957**

BUILDING THE NEW SANCTUARY ...CONTINUED

As a result, the building committee, chaired by Warren Trask, went right to work. Fred Farrow lead the finance committee to devise ways to pay for the new building. A plan to issue and sell \$750,000 in 5%, 20 year bonds was settled upon. The marketing and sale of the bonds was accomplished by Church members without an underwriter, thereby saving thousands of dollars in costs. Interestingly over \$300,000 worth of bonds were purchased by non-church members responding to newspaper ads.

Will Campbell and Bob Fisher, neither of whom had ever designed a church before, took five weeks off from their regular practice and went to Colorado to prepare the final designs. Working with the building committee the plans were finalized and necessary congregational approvals obtained. A ground breaking ceremony was held on July 8, 1956. All who attended were asked to bring a spade but the report was that while many attended few brought their spades.

While the bond sale was successful, original cost estimates proved to be low. When the cost reached \$ 800,000 it caused considerable concern. However, through efforts of the memorial committee, personal fund raising by Dr. Stewart and the ready response by members of the congregation the necessary funds were obtained. Total cost of the project was reported to be \$950,000. The new sanctuary was finished in time for a Christmas service held on December 22, 1957 and all marveled at the beauty of the new structure

The happy ending to the building project came in 1971 when the last of the 20 year bonds were retired. Many will remember that Sunday when the Church was filed with balloons which were all released at once, rising up to the sanctuary ceiling where many stayed for several weeks reminding all that the project had been successfully completed. Let us hope that as the new building program goes forward we can match the enthusiasm and dedication evidenced by the congregation 50 years ago.

Authors: Bruce Woodruff

Credits: Two unsigned Church histories found in the archives. The first published round 1967, shortly after Dr. Stewart had retired and entitled "Know Your Church Recent History"

The second document was a publication commemorating the 125th anniversary published in 1979 and containing a letter written by Dr. Stewart, entitled 'Message from Dr. Donald H. Stewart, 1953-1967, Pastor Emeritus.'



OUR OWN PULITZER PRIZE WINNER

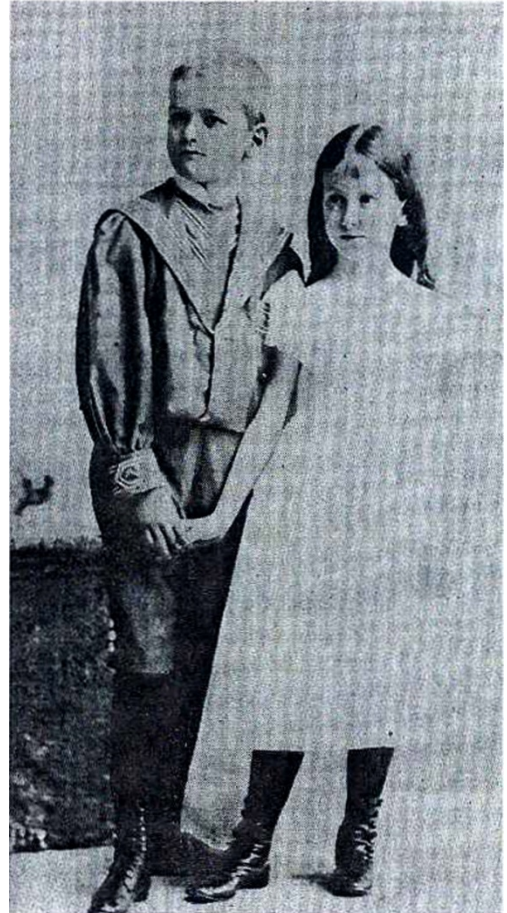
That's right, it is Marianne Moore who was the granddaughter of our first minister, the Rev. John R. Warner. She lived with her mother, brother and grandparents in the Warner's home which was located on the site of our parking lot.

The Rev. John R. Warner had been called to our church in 1867 following a national speaking tour resulting from his experience as a minister at the Battle of Gettysburg. His only daughter, Mary Warner, grew up in Kirkwood and attended Mary Institute. She later married an engineer-inventor, John Milton Moore, who suffered financial ruin in the failure of a stove manufacturing firm in Ohio where they lived following their marriage. After his business failed, he suffered a mental breakdown and was committed to a psychiatric hospital. Mary Warner, who was pregnant at the time, returned to Kirkwood with her young son John Warner Moore. Her daughter Marianne was born in Kirkwood on November 15, 1887. She never met her father.

Rev. Warner was our longest serving minister. Following his death in 1894 Mary Warner returned to Carlisle, Pennsylvania with her two children where she accepted a teaching position. Marianne later attended Bryn Mawr College graduating in 1909 with degrees in biology and history. Her love of poetry and sonnets began at the early age of seven while still in Kirkwood, blossomed in college in the student literary magazine, and continued to grow as she taught school in Carlisle. Finally, after a summer in Europe, she succumbed to the desire to write and moved to Greenwich Village in 1915 and began working at the New York Public Library.

The period of the twenties and thirties was an exciting time for the creative arts and Marianne was in the middle of the activities.

She became editor of *The Dial*, an influential American journal of literature and the arts. In this role she became friends with many of the famous and well-known authors of American literature including Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot and many others.



John & Marianne Moore, grandchildren of Dr. Warner

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT MARIANNE MOORE

She continued to write poetry, literary articles and letters throughout her life. She was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for poetry, the National Book Award in 1952, and numerous other literary awards. She was a prolific letter-writer, sometimes producing up to 50 letters a day.

Marianne's mother died in 1947. She appears to have been Moore's closest friend and Marianne regarded her as almost a collaborator on her poetry. Marianne Moore died in New York on February 5, 1972.

One of her closest friends was T. S. Eliot who also was from St. Louis and almost the same age.

Both of their grandfathers had been prominent ministers who were acquaintances. Also Eliot's grandfather had founded Mary Institute where her mother had attended school.

Among the possessions found in her apartment at her death was a St. Louis Cardinal warm-up jacket. In 1968 she threw out the first ball for opening day at Yankee Stadium. She was an avid baseball fan and a lifelong Presbyterian (a good combination.).

Authors: Ned Cleveland

.Source: St. Louis Post-Dispatch April 15, 1977
The Academy of American Poets



Marianne Moore, Poet

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT MARIANNE MOORE

This additional information was gathered after the original article was written in 2004

She was Kirkwood's quirky poet. As mentioned in the original article, Marianne Moore was involved in everything in New York as a poet and writer.

In addition to her influence on young poets and writer, she was involved with other unique and different projects and interests.

She was an avid baseball fan of the Cardinals, the Yankees and the Brooklyn Dodgers. In fact, she threw out the first baseball to open the Yankee season in 1968. Living in Greenwich Village, she became famous for her cape and tricorne hat. She wrote the liner notes for Muhammad Ali's record, I am the Greatest!.

There have been various attempts to honor Marianne Moore's life and work in St. Louis. She does have a star on the Walk of Fame on Delmar Boulevard in University City, but there are no known memorials in Kirkwood. In the June 2, 2017 issue of the Webster-Kirkwood there was a front page story of Miss Moore and editor Don Corrigan expressed the feeling that the appropriate location for a plaque honoring Marianne Moore, was the First Presbyterian Church where she spent her early years.

Author Ned Cleveland

Source St. Louis Post-Dispatch April 5, 1977

The Academy of American Poets website Webster-Kirkwood Times June 2-8, 2017



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT MARIANNE MOORE

This additional information was gathered after the original article was written in 2004

While writing the additional information about Dr. Warner's granddaughter, I wondered what happened to her brother after they left Kirkwood, What I found was as interesting as Maianne's career.

John Warner Moore was born in 1886 in Newton, Massachusetts before his parents, Mary (Rev. Warner's daughter who grew up in Kirkwood) and her husband, John Milton Moore had moved to Ohio. There, his father was committed to a psychiatric hospital shortly after failing in business. His mother and the two young children, returned to St. Louis to live with her father in the manse located behind the church at 120 East Adams. In 1894, after the death of Rev. Warner, the family moved back to the Pittsburg area to live with relatives. Later they lived in Carlisle, Pennsylvania where his mother taught school. He attended Yale's Sheffield Scientific School expecting to be an engineer like his father.

After graduating in 1908, John taught for several years at the Pingry School in Elizabeth, New Jersey where he boarded with a family who were relatives of William F. Halsey, (later Admiral "Bull"

Halsey) who had also attended the Pingry School in his youth. Moore decided to enter Princeton Seminary in 1911.

Graduating in 1914, he served as assistant pastor in Baltimore and in 1916 was called as pastor of the Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church in Chatham, New Jersey, As a bachelor in the manse, his mother and sister joined him living there and assisting in parish activities. Because of the outbreak of war in Europe, John Moore had joined the Maryland Naval

Militia while still in Baltimore and now was being called to active duty as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy

He was commissioned a Lieutenant Junior Grade in 1917 and spent the next thirty-one years as a Chaplain serving on multiple ships and shore duty stations, including in both World War I and II. In 1918 he had married Constance Eustis, who later had four children. Life for a career military family is not easy as they get dragged about the country to different duty stations, but he

advanced steadily in rank, retiring as a full "four striper" or Captain.

His service record was impressive throughout his career, with his assignment during the war on Commander in Chief, Admiral Chester Nimitz's staff, as Fleet Chaplain with 550 Navy chaplains serving under him. Interesting also, is the fact that he had served as ship's chaplain aboard the USS Arizona just a few years before the attack on Pearl Harbor. The sunken ship is now the Pearl Harbor National Memorial with 1177 sailors entombed aboard. Captain John Moore died in 1974 and was buried with his wife and full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery

CAPTAIN JOHN WARNER MOORE, USN



Author: Ned Cleveland|

Credit:

<http://moore123.com/chaplain-john-warner-moore-usn>

website of Marianne Moore Poetry



OTHER 20TH CENTURY RENOVATIONS

During the 20th Century there have been a number of changes to the facilities of Kirkwood Presbyterian in addition to the completion of the new sanctuary in 1957. First, some modifications were made to the stone church built in 1889 during 1904 when the Church celebrated its fifti-eth anniversary. The present "old" education building was completed in 1929, about the time of the stock market crash. As a consequence and as late as 1937, the mortgage placed on that building to complete construction was in default and even the interest was unpaid. (Pastor Ralph Evans, who served from 1937-45, happily reported that the mortgage holder could not afford to foreclose on a church and eventually the mortgage was paid.) A second educational building was built in 1950 during the pastorate of Dr. Marion F. Stuart to take care of a burgeoning Sunday School population and also to provide a larger Fellowship Hall.

Other projects followed the building of the new Sanctuary. For those newer church members and those "oldies" with short memories, there were two significant building programs in the 1980's. The first stirred quite a controversy. By the late 1970's the old stone church had fallen into disuse and was badly in need of some kind of attention. What to do with the decaying, but historic building? One group wanted to restore the building and use the old Sanctuary as a chapel for small weddings, funerals, etc. Another group wanted the old building torn down and the land used for other church purposes. An ambitious and costly plan was proposed, but was turned down. A new compromise plan was proposed and the Renaissance Fund Committee was created to raise money for the project. With regard to the old stone church, it was decided to remove the building, but to leave the bell tower (also called the Norman Tower), restoring it as a reminder of the 1889 church. David Schoeffel headed the Renaissance Fund effort and Bob Dykstra chaired the Building Committee to implement the plan.

Before the project was ready to move ahead a Salvage Committee was created in March of 1980 chaired by Bud Korum and assisted by Judy Roberts to devise ways of equitably disposing of salvageable items from the old Sanctuary and in the process raise money for the Renaissance Fund. The project was divided into two phases: the first to dispose of the building contents and the second to see what economic use could be made of the stone, wood paneling, windows and doors. The whole effort proved to be quite successful.

A church in Lake St. Louis bought many of the pews. The 1929 Edwards Memorial Organ was sold to the Kirkwood Baptist Church which renovated, installed and dedicated it in July 1984. The stained glass windows were removed by the Mithera Glassworks. The west window and the small lunette and five shapes from the south window were kept by the Church and sold with other artifacts at a silent auction to church members. The other windows were sold and installed in the Old Spaghetti Factory Restaurant in Cincinnati, Ohio. A lunette window was purchased by the Roberts family, donated to the Church, and installed over the west doorway of the narthex where it can be seen today. Parts of the west window were donated by Dr. and Mrs. Joseph West in honor of their parents and installed in the transoms over the lounge and what was then the senior pastor's office. These windows were removed during the 1989 construction and are somewhere in storage today. In January 1981, as a result of its work, the Salvage Committee presented \$15,500 from its sales to the Renaissance Fund.

OTHER 20TH CENTURY CHURCH RENOVATIONS ..CONTINUED

The Renaissance Fund continued its work and soon raised enough money to complete the contemplated projects and to donate \$150,000 as the Church's participation in the Presbyterian Major Mission Fund. Among the physical improvements were the demolition of the old church, the restoration of the Norman Tower, remodeling of the Fireplace Room and installation of an adjacent kitchen, remodeling the kitchen off Fellowship Hall, adding rest rooms, renovating portions of the "old" and "new" education buildings, providing a ramp to Fellowship Hall from the south parking lot and landscaping.

The project was completed with such dispatch under the guidance of Bob Dykstra's Building Committee and the work of the Renaissance Fund that anticipated expenditures for interest payments during construction were not needed. One final note. Tom and Judy Roberts, who were married in the old church, bought part of the walnut paneling which was over the altar in the front of the church. Tom used the wood to make a bed which can now be found in the master bedroom of the Roberts' lovely cabin in the country.

The last project, named Progress '88 and Action '89, included installation of the elevator, installing offices for the entire staff on the second floor of the new Sanctuary building, installation of a new phone system, relocation of the library and creation of a Bride's Room. The entire cost of \$523,730 was funded with pledges, and transfers from the Special Gifts Fund, Memorial Fund and Reserve Fund. The successful project was chaired by Judy Roberts and Anne O'Connell

Authors: Bruce Woodruff

Credits:

Materials from the files of Judy Roberts, printed materials from the church archives announcing the creation of the Renaissance Fund, brochure prepared for the 125th anniversary, and interviews with Dave Schoeffel and Judy Roberts.



OUR WONDERFUL OLD CHAIRS...

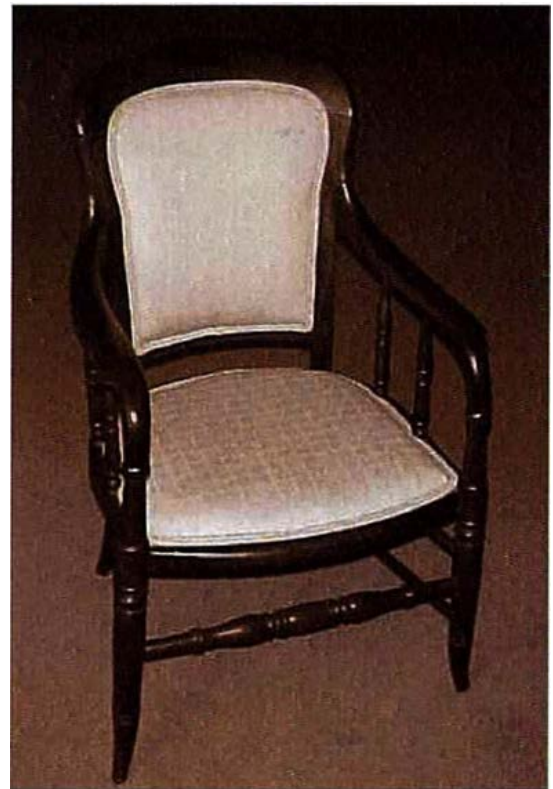
Have you ever noticed the two wonderful old chairs that are located in the lounge area? We think that these two chairs are about a hundred and thirty years old and were used in our original brick church. A number of members have told stories of these chairs and your authors have attempted to verify the details, but with limited success.

According to most reports, they are referred to as the Ambler chairs since they were in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. King Ambler for many years. Member Miriam Zukoski, was told by the late Jane West, that Mrs. Jacquelyn Ambler, claimed to have rescued two mahogany arm chairs from the church cellar where several additional chairs had already been broken up for kindling wood. Because she worked as a curator at the St. Louis Art Museum and realized the historical value of the chairs, Mrs. Ambler stored them for many years in the attic of their house on Gill Ave. Her husband King Ambler was an attorney and was quite active in the church, assisting in many legal matters, especially during the depression. According to Mrs. Ambler, the chairs were used by the Elders who sat at the front of the church during the communion service in the original brick church..

We don't know when the chairs were re-Limed from the Ambler's to the church. The chairs were reupholstered during the renovation of the lounge and member Jack Loire was instrumental in re-gluing the chairs recently.

Attempts to verify the age of the chairs resulted in an evaluation by antique expert, Ruth VanGoor who said that they probably date to the period after the Civil War and would have been covered with black leather upholstery. She also felt that they are of a commercial or liturgical design and are probably authentic. A visit to an upholster in South St. Louis who does museum work, verified similar opinions.

As one of the projects for the Sesquicentennial, the authors feel that it would be wonderful to preserve these chairs and provide a suitable plaque or marker under each chair. To be authentic, they should probably be upholstered in black leather. Besides the two chairs, there may be some silver communion serving pieces, which are from the original church. What a wonderful thing to try and identify and preserve these few items from our one hundred fifty year history!



The old Ambler chairs

OUR WONDERFUL OLD CHAIRS...CONTINUED

In addition to the Ambler chairs in the previous article, the church has additional interesting chairs which although hisotical, look very un-comfortable.

There are two decorative chairs show in the pic-ture below were located in the corridor below the sanctuary before the major constrution program of 2007 when the chapel, sunday school and fellowship hall were all constructed. I hope they survived.

These chairs were originally used in the 1889 sanctuary and one is pictured in the picture. They may have even be used in the first brick church, however we have no interior pictures inside that first church.



Old decorative chair from 1889 sanctuary

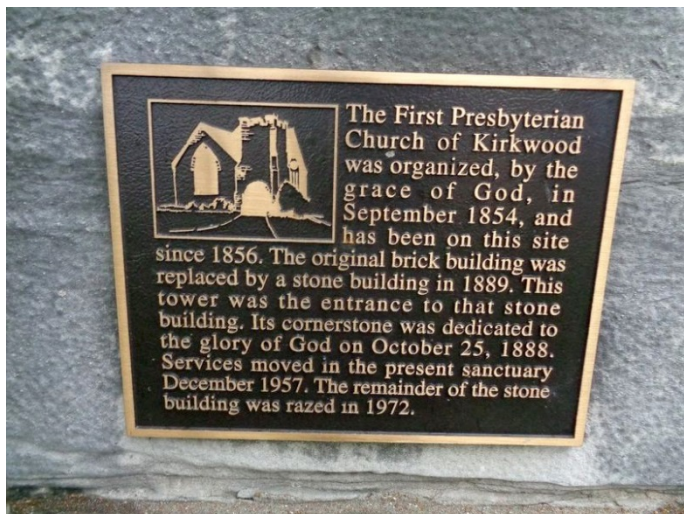


Interior of 1889 sanctuary showing chair



Original pew from 1889 sanctuary

Author: Ned Cleveland
Picture: Church archive



MINISTERS THRU THE YEARS



1. Rev. Dr. John R. Warner
1867-1894



2. Rev. Dr. Henry C. Evans
1894-1903



3. Rev. Perry V. Jeness
1903-1909

No Picture
Available

4. Rev. John Southall
1909-1913



5. Rev. Frank H. Given
1914-1918



6. Rev. Dr. John C. Berger
1920-1927



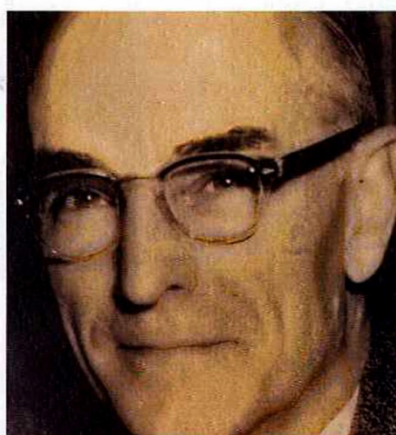
7. Rev. Dr. Henry Little Jr.
1928-1937



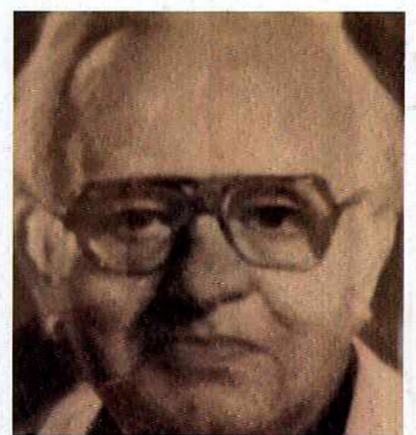
8. Rev.. Ralph D. Evans
1938-1945



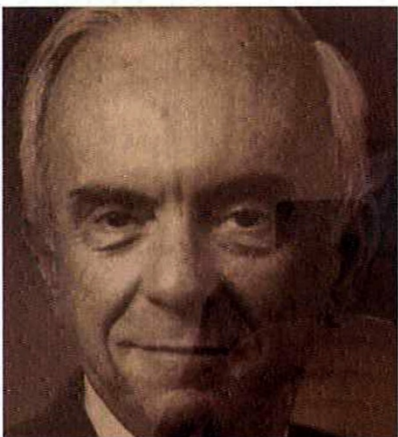
9. Rev. Dr. Marion F. Stuart
1946-1962



10. Rev. Dr. Donald H.
Stewart
1953-1967



11. Rev. Dr. Ralph E. Kipp
1967-1983



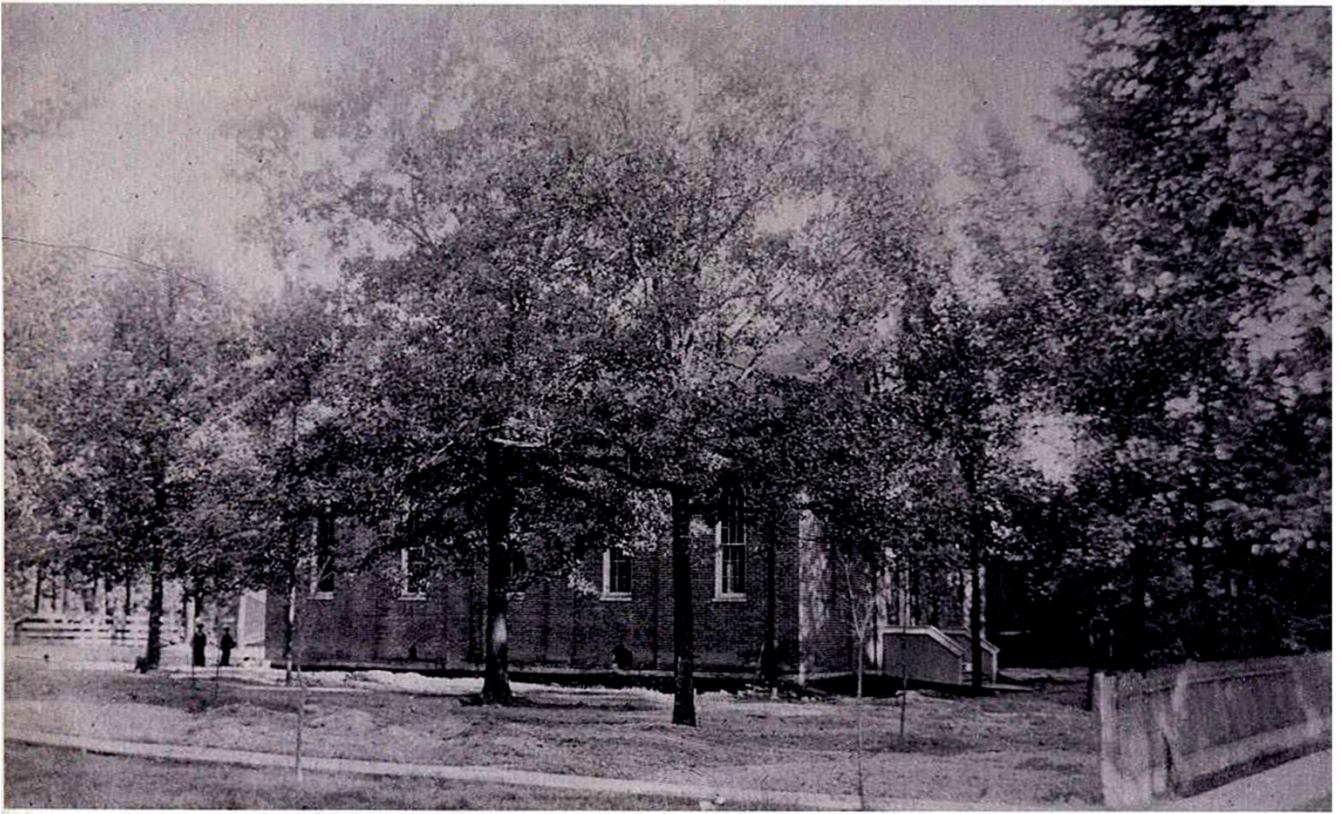
12. Rev. Dr. Lewis E.
Thomas
1983-1995



13.. Rev. Dr. Brewster M.
Gere
1998-2005



14. Rev. Dr. David Holyan
2007-



The original brick church built in 1856 with white picket fence”adorned with rambler roses”



80th Anniversary Dinner in 1934 in Fellowship Hall of the 1929 Sunday School Building

THROUGH THE YEARS

1848	Cholera epidemic sweeps St. Louis
1849	Leffingwell & Elliott form real estate firm
1852	Kirkwood Association formed with 40 investors
1853	May 11th -First train of Pacific Railroad reaches Kirkwood
1853	May 26th-First land auction held. 132 of 240 acres sold
1853	October 31st-Kirkwood Assn. deeds land to three church trustees
1854	September 24th-First Presbyterian Church organized in Singleton home
1856	Brick church building constructed and occupied
1857	Kirkwood Association officially deeds property to church
1867	Rev. John R. Warner, first full time pastor, arrives
1888	Work begins on new sanctuary. Brick building demolished.
1889	New stone church and meeting room completed
1889	Legal incorporation problems resolved,. New name: First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
1894	Dr. John R. Warner dies, Rev.Dr. Henry C. Evans becomes pastor
1901	Electric lights installed in sanctuary
1903	Dr. Perry V. Jeness, new pastor
1903	Women's Missionary Society begins, becomes the Women's Association
1903	Church supports missionaries in China and Philippines
1904	Fire burns Armory across street. Church roof saved by volunteers
1904	Mission chapel built in Meacham Park-conducts services
1906	Mission facility on Big Bend east of Oak Hill Cemetery-conducts services
1909	Rev. John Southall, begins as pastor
1914	Rev. Frank H. Given, begins as pastor
1920	Rev. Dr. John C. Berger, begins as pastor
1928	Rev. Dr. Henry Little, Jr. begins as pastor
1929	Work begins on two story Sunday School building and new organ for sanctuary
1929	Stock market crash. Difficult financial times for church. Almost forfeit building
1932	Church women sew clothes for Red Cross for relief of out-of-work families
1938	Rev. Ralph D. Evans begins as pastor
1941	Wartime rationing curtails many activities
1946	Rev. Dr. Marion F. Stewart begins as pastor
1951	Growth requires new Sunday school & Fellowship Hall building program
1953	Rev. Dr. Donald H. Stewart begins as pastor
1955	New Sanctuary built.with new stain glass windows & new organ
1967	Rev. Dr. Ralph E. Kipp begins as pastor
1983	Rev. Dr. Lewis R. Thomas begins as pastor
1987	Church office moves upstairs into new facility
1998	Rev. Dr. Brewster H. Gere begins as Pastor
2007	Rev. Dr. David Holyan begins as pastor
2007	Building program to replace 1929 & 1951 buildings with new structures
2008	New organ for sanctuary