

[Newfane (Olcott), Niagara Co.]

Taking Down Bell Recalls History of Old Olcott Church

OLCOTT, Feb. 25—The removal of the bronze and silver bell from the tower of the old Universalist church, located in Lockport street, recalls to mind something of the early history of this old church was purchased about a year ago by the Olcott Volunteer firemen and the interior of which is at present being remodeled for their permanent headquarters.

The bell, which has not rung for eight years when services were discontinued, was cast in Troy, N.Y. by the Jones Bell company in 1858 and is 33 inches in diameter, weighing 1,200 pounds. Its removal yesterday occupied the entire day, the firemen joining the work. It was placed inside the church pending its sale, the proceeds of which will be used to improve the property.

The church building is a brick structure erected in 1858. It is 40 by 50 feet, with basement, and was dedicated in 1859, the Rev. J. H. [James Harvey] Tuttle of Rochester, preaching the dedicatory sermon.

The church society was organized in 1838 with 42 members. The first meetings were held in the Wesleyan Methodist church, was later was converted into a two-family apartment house. The first preacher was the Rev. R. [Royal] H. Pullman, of Albion, a relative [brother] of the inventor of the Pullman Palace car [George W. Pullman]. The Sunday school was organized in 1839 with 60 scholars and the trustees were three of the early settlers of the village, James D. Cooper, Benjamin Stout and A. T. Lane.

When the building is completed, the fire truck and apparatus will be housed in the basement and the second floor will be used for assemblies. The Olcott firemen are planning a formal opening of the structure at the time.

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