

## ALL SOULS' REMINISCENCES

Brooklyn had a population of less than 100,000 when All Souls Universalist Church, originally "the First Universalist Society of Williamsburg," was organized. We have multiplied our inhabitants by twenty since then. Conditions have changed in many sections. The old Eastern District has experienced mutations. Yet will its former influential families be strongly represented at the seventieth anniversary exercises of All Souls in the church at Ocean and Ditmas avenues, in Flatbush, today. Wilsons and Slocums, Baileys, Prices, Helmls, Bryants, De Longs and others will appear in the rising generation. The "Pageant" to be presented tomorrow night, showing the history of the church, was the work of Edwin B. Wilson, a grandson of Benjamin W. Wilson, long superintendent of All Souls Sunday School. It should be very impressive.

Founded in 1845, with a little chapel in Second street as a place of worship, All Souls put up three years later a church building on Fourth street, and in 1873 dedicated the structure so long used on South Ninth street, near Bedford avenue. The Rev. Bernard Peters, afterward owner and editor of the Brooklyn Daily Times, was its pastor for eight years. Then came five years under the Rev. A. [Andrew] J. Campbell, D.D., and nineteen years under the Rev. Dr. Almon Gunnison, later president of St. Lawrence University. The Rev. Dr. John Coleman Adams served eleven years, the Rev. Dr. L. Ward Brigham, twelve, and the present pastor is the Rev. A. Eugene Bartlett, D.D., who has a right to be proud of his predecessors. The removal to Flatbush took place in 1905.

Few churches in Brooklyn have stirred the warm loyalty of members and parishioners as All Souls has. Standing for the faith of a small denomination, it has always been liberally Christian. The Rev. Sylvester Malone, a universally esteemed Roman Catholic priest, was a speaker at its fiftieth anniversary. In a large sense All Souls is identified with what is best in the City of Churches.

*Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, New York NY, Sun. 5 Dec 1915

Transcribed on 28 Feb 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY