

Historical sketch  
of Northampton  
Pres. Church

Preface.

This sketch was drawn up after much research — some of the items were derived from the memories of old members of the church, and ~~the~~ former ministers — some from papers on file in the hands of the Clerk of Congregation — and partly from congregational & sessional records.

This was the first rough sketch from which a historical sermon was prepared — which was preached to the congregation Oct. 1860

Silas Johnson.

Worthington - Oct 20<sup>th</sup> /61-

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# Historical Sketch of the Presbyterian Church of Worthington

Worthington was first settled in 1803 by a colony composed of some 40 families from Massachusetts and Connecticut. They purchased 8000 acres of land in a body, which was divided into farm lots. In 1804 the Town of Worthington was laid out by Col. Jas. Kilbourne who acted as agent for the colony.

It would seem that a large proportion of the original colonists were Episcopalians, or at least inclined that way. Col. Kilbourne the moving spirit in the colony, was an Episcopal minister, and frequently officiated here — though for years before his death his whole influence was against all true religion.

Bishop Chase resided here both before and after he was consecrated

the First Bishop of Ohio - and continued to exert a powerful influence here in favour of his Church until he removed to Gambier to take charge of Kenyon College.

The ground was so completely occupied that no one thought of starting any other Church enterprise for a number of years.

Still there were a few who sighed to throw aside the rigid formality of Episcopacy, and to enjoy the sweet and simple services of their own Presbyterian Church. Thus it went on until June 18<sup>th</sup> 1816, at which time a Meeting was held in the house of Mr. Peter Barker, and the <sup>Presbyterian</sup> Church of Worthington was organized, consisting of eleven Members. Among those who joined at the first organization or within a very short time, were the following viz. John Smith and wife, Mrs Stanley, Mrs Cook, Job. W. Case & wife, Dan. Case & wife and daughter - Samuel Baldwin

and wife, Dr. Kilbourn & wife, Benj.  
Chapman and wife, E. Fuller, and  
Peter Barker.

Among other prominent presbyteri-  
an families, some of whom became  
members early and others more  
recently the following may be  
mentioned - Capt. R. Comstock,

Dr. Upson, <sup>John Abbot</sup> E. Mallery, C. Carpenter - The Youels, Parks,  
Wilson, Fullers, Bickets &c

The first ruling elders were -  
Samuel Baldwin, Job. W. Case, and  
Benj. Chapman. During 1818

John Youel and Sam<sup>l</sup> Abbot were  
added to the session - a few years  
later John Smith was elected elder.

But most of these have long since  
passed away to their last home, and  
all of them are gone from this  
session.

~~Nathan Carpenter removed  
within the bounds of this church during the  
year 1838, and was soon chosen to act  
as elder~~ During the year 1844 Mr.

Nathan Carpenter was ordained to the  
office of ruling elder

Wm. Youel (son of former Elder) was elected and ordained about the year 1840 - And in 1856 Benj. Noble was set apart to that office -

The session is now, and for a number of years has been composed of Nathan Carpenter, Wm. Youel, and Benj. Noble.

The little church for some time had no house of worship - Its organization and many of its meetings were in private houses - The little Band might have been seen coming together on the Holy Sabbath to <sup>sing</sup> and pray or hear a sermon read, or sometimes to hear the words of life from some Minister

For a while they worshipped in the upper room of the Academy, then in a small brick school house, where Dr. Noble's carriage house now stands - then Beers' Hall - and then a room on the Factory ground - And thus they wandered here and there, like <sup>Israel</sup> Israel of old, whenever they could find a place - until Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1822 when the Trustees of the Church rented the Masonic Hall for the term of six years

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and a half - It was fitted up in a  
tasteful style and was a very comfortable  
and pleasant place of meeting.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1828 the first pre-  
liminary steps were taken towards  
the erection of a House of worship -  
Rev. H. Hulbert (then the pastor of the church)  
was appointed Agent to solicit Donations  
for the purpose (probably from abroad)

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of Jan. 1829 it was resol-  
ved to make an effort to build, and Peter  
Barber, J. W. Case, Ed. Mallory, Dr.  
C. H. Wetmore & Dr. R. Ray were ap-  
pointed a committee to solicit sub-  
scriptions for the purpose - At an  
adjourned Meeting Capt. R. Comstock  
was added to that committee.

In two weeks they completed this work,  
at which time R. Comstock, Job. W. Case  
Peter Barber, Dr. Ray & E. Mallory were  
appointed a building committee.

This committee prosecuted their work  
with promptness and vigor, and fin-  
ished the house in little more than  
a year, so that the pews were ready to  
let on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 1830.

This same house is still used by the congregation though it was some years since remodded and there was added to it a neat vestibule, gallery and Belfry.

This church has had a large number of Ministers, though most of them have remained here only for a short time.

Rev. Ebenezer Washburn was probably the first stated supply. He labored here one half <sup>of his</sup> time from Feb. 1817 until the next year.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of Sept 1819 the congregation presented the ministerial services of Rev. John B. Whittlessey for two thirds of his time at a salary of \$334 per An.

Rev. Alex. <sup>Lowan</sup> was stated supply for the church for a <sup>very short time</sup> year at \$50, commencing with May 29<sup>th</sup> 1822.

Rev. Stephen Lindley preached here statedly in 1824.

Rev. Philand Hulbert was the first pastor of this church. He commenced his labors here in July <sup>1826</sup> 1826 — On the 2<sup>d</sup> of April 1827 a regular call was made out and he was soon after installed. The relation between him and the church was <sup>dissolved</sup> dis. during 1830



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The Rev. Messrs Jas & Henry Bells preached for this church during a part of 1831 & 1832.

Rev. Jas. Labaree supplied the church during 1833 - And Rev. Mr. Higbe a short time during 1834.

April 11<sup>th</sup> 1835 a call was presented to the Rev. Wm. Burton, but not accepted by him.

Rev. Simon Woodruff, the 2<sup>d</sup> pastor of this church, entered upon his labors during the summer of 1835 - and was installed Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> 1836. and was released from the church in April 1837.

On Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> 1838 the church took measures to procure the ministerial services of Rev. Alex. Cowen; but he remained only a short time.

April 1<sup>st</sup> 1839 The church made out a call for the pastoral labors of Rev. Timothy Stearns - and on July 2<sup>d</sup> 1839 he was ordained by the presbytery of Columbus and installed pastor of this church - He was the 3<sup>d</sup> pastor.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of Feb. 1842 he was released from the pastoral charge at his own request.

The Rev. John Donaldson commenced his labors in this church sometime towards the close of the year 1842 - and continued

his labors until sometime in 1846

After he left the church was supplied for six months or a year by Rev. S. K. Hughes.

During 1849 Rev. Thomas Woodrow D.D. commenced his labors in this church.

Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 1852 a regular call was made out which being accepted by him, he was installed by the presbytery of Columbus. He continued the pastor of this church until the year 1857 -

During the Summer of 1857 after Dr. Woodrow left the pulpit was supplied by the venerable Dr. Hoge.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1857 the Rev. Silas Johnson the present pastor commenced his labors in this church; and a call having been made out he was installed the pastor of the church by the pres. of Columbus.

As to the membership -

The church was organized with 11  
Prior to the time when Rev. Mr. Hultburt commenced his labors - from 1816 to 1826

there were received into the church - - - 30

During Mr. Hultburt's 4 years of labor there were added - - - 37

From 1830 - to 1835 we have no means of knowing the number of additions -

During Mr. Woodruff's pastorate - viz -  
from 1835 to 1837 there were added - 16

During the labours of Mr. Stearns  
from 1839 to 1842 there were added - 28

During the labours of Mr. Donaldson  
from 1842 to 1846 there were added 39

During the labours of Dr. Woodrow from  
1849 to 1857 there were added 35

During the labours of Mr. Johnson the  
present pastor from 1857 to the  
present time there have been added - 53

So that the total number received, as far  
as we have the means of knowing is 249

This church has enjoyed some precious  
seasons of refreshing from on high -

A very precious one was enjoyed during  
the pastoral labours of Mr. Hulburd -

Also one in the time of Mr. Johnson -

There were also seasons of more than ordi-  
ary interest under the labours of Mr.  
Donaldson, Dr. Woodrow and others.

Then to sum up -

- This church was organized in 1816

It has enjoyed the ministerial services

of 16 stated Ministers - and has had 5  
regularly installed Pastors -

It has received into its communion 249  
Members - And at this time the church  
stands as follows - Present Number of Members

Pastor - Rev. Silas Johnson (91)

Elders { Nathan Carpenter  
          { Wm. Yovel  
          { Benjamin Noble

Trustees { Capt. R. Constock  
           { Jas. M. Huson  
           { Wm. S. Park

Treasurer - Dr. A. Kilbourn