

Interesting Items from the Old Records

First mention of erecting the present building was made in a letter from Samuel D. Bower dated December 5, 1859. In accepting a call from the Church he wrote: ". . . I would also add that I think my usefulness in the community would be much enhanced by the erection of a vestry as a suitable place for holding conferences and other social meetings . . . This work from what I have known of the feelings of your people will doubtless be accomplished."

The Ordination of Samuel D. Bower took place October 17, 1860. The record includes the following comments "He begins his work in Winthrop under very favorable circumstances. The people have evidently been preparing to receive him. Some \$2000 have been expended in that preparation. The sheds, the fences, the walks - everything about the meeting house seemed to put on a new face and to be wearing a smile for the new pastor. A fine vestry has been erected which contains besides the usual room an apartment in which the ladies meet and a study for the pastor . . ."

Remodeling the chapel was first contemplated on July 21, 1903. The clerk's record reads as follows: "Art. II. Under this article there was an informal discussion on the matter of selling the church building and enlarging and remodeling the chapel. Voted that the Business Committee be instructed to see what can be done towards selling the Church and purchasing land near the Chapel."

The Meeting House was sold November 5th, 1904 for \$1000 after a previous offer of \$800 was rejected. In Preparation for selling the church, deeds to the pews were secured from members of the church and parish. One such deed reads in part as follows: ". . . I do hereby remise, release, bargain, sell and convey and forever quit-claim unto the said Cong. Church of Winthrop its successors and assigns forever, all my right, title, and interest in and to a certain pew in the Cong. Church. To Wit - Pew numbered sixty nine (69) . . . Also my right, title and all interest in and to the said meeting house and lot on which it stands as was granted by The First Parish and Society by their deeds Of warranty.

The vote to remodel the chapel was taken September 14th, 1904. "Specifications . . . prepared by the architect . . . were read by the clerk. Voted to accept the plans . . . and that the Chapel be re-modeled this fall. Voted that the Business Committee . . . be authorized to purchase the necessary piece of land (7 x 40 ft) in the rear Of the Vestry lot of Mr. Parsons."

The first item of business at the meeting of September 14, 1904 was this: Voted that it is the desire of the Church that the pastor (Rev. A. K. Baldwin) shall take no part in any football game this season.

Thanks to the Universalist Church was voted December 28, 1904 "for their kindness in allowing us the use of their house of worship during the past weeks." It is presumed that the remodeled church was ready for occupancy at that time, three and a half

months after the vote was taken to remodel the original building. The Universalist Church was located toward the rear of what is now the A & P Store parking lot.

The "new Church" was first referred to in the records of the Annual Meeting held January 9, 1905. "The pastor next spoke on the matter of placing a window in the new church as a memorial to Mrs. Sarah Reed Wood, a benefactor of the Church, and Mrs. Lizzie Kelly and Mrs. J. H. McIlroy were elected a committee to raise funds for that purpose.

The dedication of the remodeled church was held in conjunction with the ordination of the pastor, A. K. Baldwin. Following the ordination in the afternoon, came the dedication ceremony in the evening. The date was April 5, 1905. The program included these items:

Prelude	Mrs. L. E. Jones, Organist Levi Ronald Jones, Violinist
Contralto Solo	"The Golden Threshold" Mrs. Ronald C. McIlroy
Prayer of Dedication	Rev. Chas. Harbutt
Address	Rev. E. L. Marsh, Waterville "Normal Evangelism in the Modern Church"

COVENANT MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH IN 1776

Jonathan Whiting	Amos Stevens	Sara Floyd
Elias Taylor	Ebenezer Davenport	Abigail Stanley
Joseph Stevens	Joseph Baker	Sarah Delano
Nathaniel Floyd	Gideon Lambert	Abigail Hall
Samual Frost	Nathaniel Stanley	Dorcas Baker
John Chandler	Josiah Hall	Susanna Smith
Pease Clark	Ransford Smith	Mary Stevens
Thomas Allen	Mary Taylor	Anne Hall
Jonathan Davenport	Elizabeth Stevens	Susanna Lambert