



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
22 CHURCH STREET
GOUVERNEUR, NY 13642

FPCGH-10c
WATERTOWN TIMES, JULY 28, 1892
THE CORNER STONE
CEREMONIES OF UNUSUAL INTEREST AND LARGELY
ATTENDED AT GOUVERNEUR'S NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Gouverneur, July 28, (1892)

The exercises in connection with the laying of the corner stone of the New Presbyterian church in this village were held yesterday afternoon. The edifice is being erected on the site of the old one on Main street. The location is the finest in Gouverneur. The outside dimensions of the new church are 126x101 feet; the auditorium 60x80 feet and the seats are to be arranged in the amphitheatre style with a capacity of seating 750 persons. The floor is to be inclined, with the pulpit platform in the center of the auditorium and the choir loft directly back of it, raised two feet above the pulpit. There will be a Sunday school room on the right, 66x42 feet in size, connected with the auditorium with sliding doors. Its capacity will be about 400 persons, so that when the two rooms are made into one the capacity will be 1,100 persons.

The Sunday school room will be arranged in modern style. The class rooms will be placed along the sides of the room proper and will be well lighted and airy. The ladies parlor will be directly under the Sunday school room, and will be large and convenient. The edifice is to be constructed entirely of Gouverneur marble and will cost about \$60,000. The inside finish is to be of chestnut.

At 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon a fair-sized audience considering the extreme heat of the weather assembled in front of the new church to witness the laying of the corner stone. The exercises were conducted by the pastor, Rev. W.F. Skinner. The following was the program: Reading of the scriptures Rev. D. Munro. Deacon James H. Rutherford read a list of the contents of the copper box placed in the corner stone which was of weighing about 2,000 pounds and one side was marked "1892." On a stone on the opposite side of the arch to the entrance of the church is the date 1817 representing the time when the society was organized in Gouverneur.

The list of articles were the bible, catalogue of First Presbyterian church of Gouverneur, list of congregation, trustees, societies' members, etc., 1892; topic card of the Young People's Society of the Christian Endeavor; list of active and associate members of the society; list of the junior Christian Endeavor society; Weekly calendar of services; historic sermon (delivered) declined at the last morning service held in the old church by Rev. W.F. Skinner, April 10, 1892; out of the new church with the description of the same; photograph of old church by Charles Cunningham; estimate cost of lot and edifice \$60,000; directory of the M. E. church, Gouverneur, N.Y., October 1890, Rev. S. T. Dibble pastor; members and officers of the Baptist church, July 22, 1892, Rev. D.D. Munro, pastor; members and officers of the Episcopal church, Gouverneur, N.Y., Rev. James A. Dickson, rector; register of the Gouverneur seminary and union school, 1891-92; a history of Gouverneur, past and present, by Mrs. C.A. Parker; list of town officers; list of village officers; copies of the Watertown Times, Northern Tribune, Herald-Times and Free Press; list of the builders, contractors and superintendents of edifice; specimens of polished marble presented by John Benham and John Webb jr. ; specimen of talc presented C. A. Millett; the name of A. G. Bagley, the architect; the order of exercises at the consecration of the Riverside cemetery and the odes psalms sung on the occasion; a copy of the Christian papers, New York Evangelist and Chicago Interior.



The cornerstone was laid by the pastor, Rev. W.F. Skinner, according to the ritual of the Presbyterian church. Prayer was then offered by Rev. Dibble.

At the close of the exercises at the church, the congregation adjourned to Union hall where the following exercises were carried out: Hymn by the congregation. Hon. Geo. M. Gleason spoke briefly for the trustees, Robert Markwick for the society and John Webb for the congregation. Rev. L. Merrill Miller, D.D., of Ogdensburg then delivered an able and eloquent address on the laying of the corner stone. The exercises were brought to an end by the benediction.

The work on the church is progressing rapidly and when completed will be one of the most magnificent houses of worship in Northern New York.