

1865, to Easter, 1868; C. M. Nickerson, from July, 1868, to Aug. 8, 1869; George Heaton, from May 1, 1870, to Nov. 1, 1872; H. B. Gardner, from Jan. 1, 1873, to July 1, 1875; W. De. I. Wilson, from July 1, 1875, to the present time, July 8, 1879.

Erastus P. Smith was a lay reader here for thirty years, and officiated in the absence of pastors. He received orders at the age of about sixty years, having refrained from doing so earlier from his father's repugnance in the matter. His baptism—Dec. 25, 1831,—is the first one recorded in the Parish register.

The first confirmation recorded took place July 31, 1832, when 23 received the holy ordinance at the hands of Bishop Onderdonk.

The church was remodeled during Dr. Foote's rectorship. Previously the pulpit was built up against the wall in the ecclesiastical style of architecture commonly known as "Bishop Hobart's three-decker." This was removed and a more modern one substituted and the seats, which were arranged in semi-circular form, were changed.

The total number who have been confirmed is 288; baptized, 471; marriages, 85. The present number of communicants is 121; families, 70; and individuals, 240.

*The Methodist Episcopal Church of Guilford* was organized Dec. 6, 1841, at a meeting held in the Methodist meeting-house in the village of Fayette, (Guilford) for the purpose of incorporating a religious society, at which Rev. Charles Harris presided. Albert Cornwell and Stephen B. Stead were chosen judges of election, and Stephen B. Stead, Ozias Bush, Albert Cornwell, Cyrus Comstock, Abijah Cornwell, Jr., Levi Yale, Abel Cornwell, Roswell R. Bush, and John Denison were elected trustees. It was incorporated as *the Methodist Episcopal Society of Fayette*.

The church edifice was built in 1840 and enlarged and repaired in 1874.

The church and the Guilford Center church have been on the same charge since their organization. The membership of the charge is 172 and 9 probationers.

Services were held regularly previous to the organization, but we have no information as to the pastors prior to the building of the church. Since then the following named pastors have served the charge: Charles Harris and Philip Bartlett, 1840-'41; Revs. Davis, Stockley and Silsby, 1842-3; Andrew Peck and R. S. Rose, 1844-5; C. Starr and Addison Queal, 1846-7; C. Starr, M. M. Tuke and S. Moon, 1847-8; John Crawford and William G. Queal, 1849; White and Francis D. Higgins the latter of whom married here Luciette Hendrick, 1850-1; Charles Starr, 1852-3; Walter Jerome, 1854-5; William Southworth, 1856; L. G. Weaver, 1857-8; Ellis D. Thurston, 1859; Austin S.

Southworth, 1860-2; William R. Cochrane, Sept. 1, 1862, to April 22, 1863; William G. Queal, 1866; William Burnside, 1866-8; Lyman Sperry, 1869-71; Ira B. Hyde, 1872-3; D. R. Carrier, a part of a year; E. W. Caswell, 1874-5; T. P. Halsted, 1876; A. M. Colegrove, 1877-8; and E. L. Bennett, the present pastor, who commenced his labors in the spring of 1879.

*The Baptist Church of Guilford* was organized as the *Baptist Church of Fayette*, June 3, 1843, as a branch of the church in Oxford, and was composed originally of Russell Dibble, Salina Dibble, Susannah Smith, Susan Merchant, Abigail Laraway, Loritta Cable, Eliza Saunders, Anthony Williams, Polly Williams, John Edson Dibble, Elizabeth Guy and Hammon Guy, who were then residing in *Fayette* and vicinity and were members of the church in Oxford. Six others had joined during the year four by letter and two by baptism, viz: Alonzo Hendrick, Clarinda Hendrick, Frances H. Morgan, Mary L. Smith, by letter, and Daniel Dibble and Henry Van Cott, by baptism.

Rev. E. G. Perry was the first pastor. He closed his labors April 27, 1844. The latter date they resolved to form a Sabbath school, and a Mr. Gorham, from Madison University, was to visit them for that purpose and to preach for a few weeks.

June 8, 1844, they resolved to organize as a separate church, and Russell Dibble, John Hull, Jr., Alonzo Hendrick and John M. Wilcox were appointed a committee to draft articles therefor. June 30, 1844, articles reported by the committee were adopted. July 21, 1844, the Church of Oxford was petitioned for permission to withdraw for that purpose. The names affixed to that petition, in addition to those already given, are: Gardner Wade, Harrison H. Van Cott, George Knapp, Roxana Brant, Elizabeth Hull, Salome Wade, Esther Hendrick and John Hull, Jr. Aug. 27, 1844, the covenant of the Oxford church was adopted, and they were recognized by a council which convened at the house of R. Dibble, and was composed of the following delegates: Elder O. Bennett, Sylvanus Moore, Benjamin Randall, Seth Curtis and William Willcox, from the church in McDonough; Deacon S. Yale, Uriah Yale, Elam Yale and Mark Yale, from the Second Guilford church; David P. Willoughby and Leontes Hendrick, from the church in Coventry; Lyman Root, Samuel Root, John Perry, David Hayes, John Gray and Randall Maine, from the church in Oxford. Randall Maine was chosen Moderator and David Hayes, Clerk of the council. Elder O. Bennett gave the right hand of fellowship. In that year they united with the Chenango association. Sept. 7, 1844, Russell Dibble and John M. Willcox were chosen deacons.