

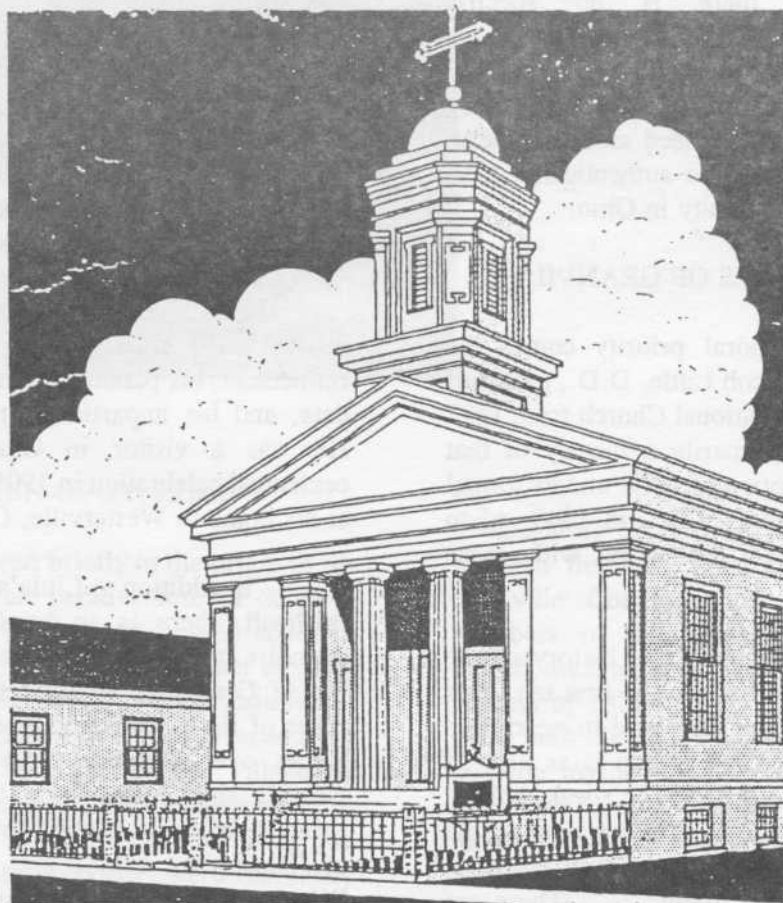
THE HISTORICAL TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANVILLE, OHIO, HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume IX Number 1

Winter: 1995

THE INFLUENCE OF ST. LUKE'S ON THE EARLY LIFE OF GRANVILLE



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH · Granville, Ohio

This Parish Founded May 9, 1827

This Historic Church Consecrated July 15, 1838

Architects: Benjamin Morgan and Minard Lafever

The Influence of St. Luke's on the Early Life of Granville

(An essay originally published in The Granville Times)

The following article was written for the St. Luke's Centennial celebration May 8-9, 1927, and was read by the Rev. W. C. Seitz, rector, at the Centennial dinner, served to about one hundred people in the church Saturday evening. It deals with the influence of St. Luke's on the early life of Granville.

It is a singular circumstance that in all the history which has been written about early Granville, Ohio, there is no specific interpretation of the influence of St. Luke's Episcopal Church on the early life of Granville. With possibly a few exceptions the early history of Granville has been recorded more minutely, more intimately, and more authentically, than that of any other community in Ohio.

EARLY HISTORIES OF GRANVILLE

First in temporal priority comes the history of the Rev. Jacob Little, D.D., pastor of the Granville Congregational Church from 1827 to 1864. This is primarily a history of that church from its inception in 1804, and its formal organization on May 1, 1805, to 1845, when Dr. Little concluded the work with these comments:

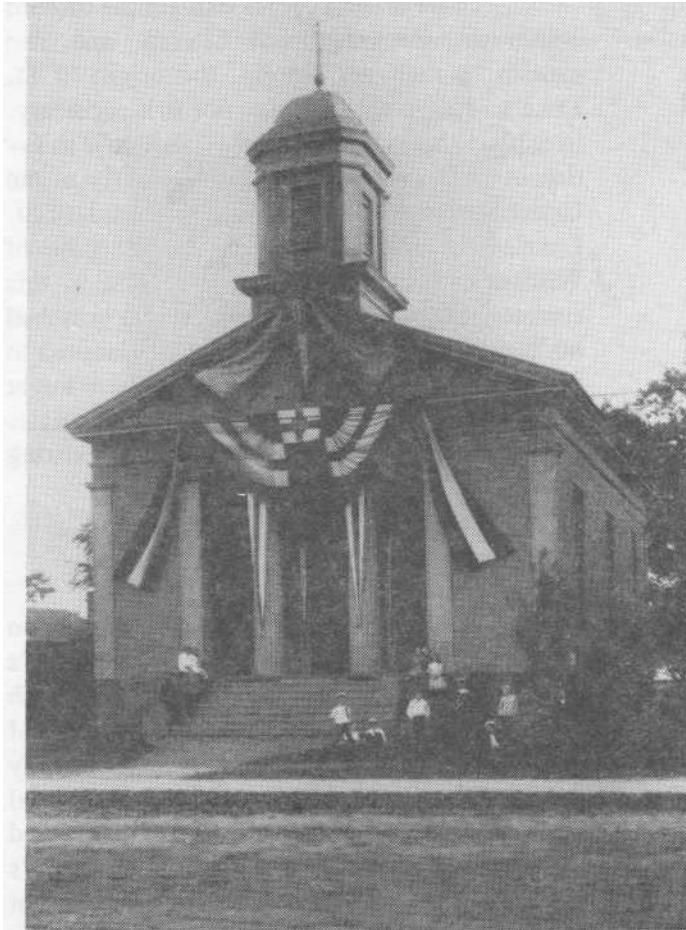
"I have now brought down the history of the church far enough to include the first ten years of pastoral labor in the place and to nearly ten years of the present time, which is as near as human nature can be expected to speak without prejudice. I undertook this history because the facts were fast going to oblivion and I saw no one disposed to rescue them. . . . These are generally correct, as they were first preached in New Year's sermons before those who witnessed them and now again they have been delivered in a course of historical lectures. . . . When ages have passed away, the early history of our churches will be like the story of the 'Mayflower' and Plymouth Rock. The history

of every church is so valuable that it should be written before the facts are irrecoverably lost."

Dr. Little's history, ending in 1845, does not comprise the complete period in which St. Luke's flourished most, but it does include the period of discord in the Granville Congregational Church which had, among its results, the formation of St. Luke's; and his account of that discord is accurate and impartial. Indeed, the entire freedom from prejudice in his history is as astonishing as it is admirable, for the conduct of some persons in the controversy was such as to provoke a less noble critic to caustic comment. Dr. Little, perhaps the most influential man in early Granville, was certainly a consistent Christian.

The most complete history of Granville is that of the Rev. Henry Bushnell, which recounts the story of Granville from 1804 to 1889, in which year it was published. I remember Mr. Bushnell well. To me he was distinguished chiefly for his gentleness, his refinement, his patient industry in accumulating data, and his impartiality in presenting them. He was a visitor in Granville during the centennial celebration in 1905 and died that year at his home in Westerville, Ohio.

In addition to Little's history and that of Bushnell, there is an astonishing amount of memoirs and reminiscences concerning the early life of Granville, all interesting and valuable. Most of these were published in the Granville Times over a considerable period of years. Notable among them are the recollections of Peter Richards, a member of St. Luke's, those of Theophilus Little, and those of William Wing. All told, these publications make a voluminous mass of authentic material. In it are to be found all the facts concerning St. Luke's from its formation through the years when it was most flourishing--from bud to bloom to fruit; yet in all this material I have found no discussion of St. Luke's influence on the early life of Granville.



St. Luke's decorated
for the Granville
Centennial in 1905

THE ORIGIN OF ST. LUKE'S

Let me advert briefly to the origin of St. Luke's. Beyond all peradventure of doubt it sprang from two sources--first, seed sown in receptive souls by Bishop Chase when as early as 1819, on his return from a visit to Zanesville, Ohio, quoting from his report, he "preached and performed divine service in the village of Granville. The audience, though assembled at about two hours' notice, were numerous and attentive. Further services were earnestly requested." There were subsequent services, by him and by the Rev. A. G. Baldwin in 1825 and 1826.

The second source was discord within the Granville Congregational Church. I have no space here to discuss the causes of that discord fully. Nor is an extended discussion pertinent to

my topic. Careless writers and shallow investigators have given as its cause a quarrel between the Rev. Ahab Jinks, pastor of the Granville Congregational Church and some members of the congregation. There was indeed, such a quarrel and it arose when, in the autumn of 1823, a brick parsonage which was being built for Mr. Jinks was nearing completion and the masons wished to lay the remaining bricks on Sunday, alleging that they feared the mortar would be spoiled by frost. Mr. Jinks consented to have the work done, declaring that he considered work done on a parsonage on Sunday in such an emergency justified.

The congregation, however, when they came to the morning service and saw the work going on were shocked by the desecration and denounced it in no uncertain terms. The resulting quarrel grew in bitterness until it rent

the church into four factions, three of which were later reunited to continue as the Granville Congregational Church and not, as has so often been stated, as the Granville Presbyterian Church. It did not adopt that name in 1872. Out of the fourth dissident group grew St. Luke's.

THE CAUSES OF DISCORD

This quarrel over the laying of bricks on Sunday has been written of repeatedly as the cause of the rupture of the Congregational Church into four factions. That is not true--it was the occasion rather than the cause. There were several causes. There was, first of all, a growth of irreligion both nationally and locally. Local irreligion was stimulated by the construction of the Ohio Canal which brought many Granville workmen and tradesmen into contact with rough and irreverent laborers on the canal.

Secondly, there was a growth in the habitual consumption of whiskey, which undermined the morals of the community. There were six distilleries in Granville Township! This evil continued until the Rev. Jacob Little, soon after his induction into the pastorate of the Congregational Church, began war against it. He organized, in 1828, the first temperance society west of the Allegheny Mountains and fought alcohol until it was conquered if not banished.

There was, thirdly, the illness of the Rev. Timothy Harris who, in 1808, was ordained and installed as the first pastor of the Granville Congregational Church, and died in 1822. During his ministry of fourteen years the church membership was increased by one hundred and fifty. His health, however, had never been rugged and for several years preceding his death he was unable to attend to his pastoral duties, the result being a decline in piety and cohesiveness on the part of members of his flock.

These several causes explain the discord within the Congregational Church, and also explain, though not wholly, the origin of St. Luke's. I have not the time, nor is it necessary, to explain that origin minutely. Suffice it to say that in 1827 twenty-three men, formerly of the Granville Congregational Church, organized St. Luke's Episcopal Church under the leadership of William G. Richards, M.D. Of him in this connection the Rev. Dr. Bronson, who preached his funeral sermon in 1852 says: "He labored to establish the Episcopal Church, that there might be means of grace for many of his associates who would not attend any of the existing churches."

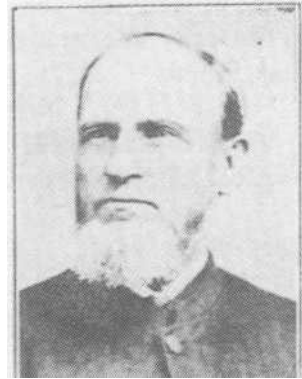
THE EARLY INFLUENCE

This brings me at last to the discussion of my subject, i.e., the influence of St. Luke's on the early life of Granville. Any such discussion must consist almost entirely of inference, deduction, and even conjecture on my part, for in all the mass of historical material regarding Granville, I have never discovered more than a few faint allusions to St. Luke's influence. This is a puzzle which I have not been able to solve, for Jacob Little, Henry Bushnell, Peter Richards, Theophilus Little, and William Wing were all, in greater or less measure, contemporaries of the men who founded St. Luke's and enlarged her parochial activities. They must have been profoundly impressed by the influence of the church which flourished so greatly for a considerable number of years.

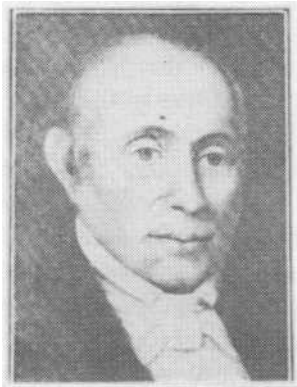
Let us contemplate the situation and give free play to speculation in appraising it. The twenty-three men who founded St. Luke's were all leaders in the community. They and many other communicants, for several decades following the founding of the church, were among Granville's most prominent and progressive figures in educational, social, religious, and economic affairs. The church which they formed in order to escape ecclesiastical discord and personal rancor



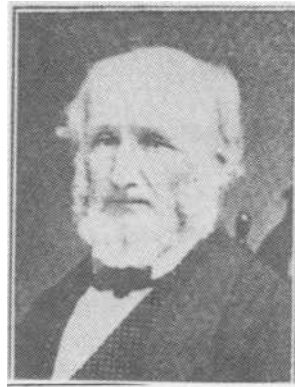
Bishop Philander Chase



The Reverend
Sherlock Bronson



Dr. William S. Richards



Anthony P. Prichard

Some of the persons important historically in the origin and development of St. Luke's Parish.

furnished their fellow citizens with a fine example of grace, harmony, and Christian brotherhood at a time when such an example was sadly needed. It must have given much encouragement to the Rev. Jacob Little and his co-workers in their labor to reunite the dissident factions of the Congregational Church and to wage triumphant war on rum, irreverence, religious apathy, and impiety. All the activities of St. Luke's were marked with cohesive concord. Her early history is not marked by a single bitter dispute.

GRANVILLE'S FINEST ARCHITECTURAL GEM

This phase of St. Luke's influence, though important, was incidental--a benign model rather than a progressive achievement. Such an organization, however, could not long be satisfied with passivity. The founders of the church soon began to plan for a building. By 1837, they had begun the erection of a church which when completed in July, 1838, had cost, with bell, organ, and furniture, \$7200.00, a sum in striking contrast with the cost of most Episcopal churches built in Ohio during that period, that cost being, on the average, about \$1000. Impressive proof of their ardor and determination is found in the fact that they carried forward their building plan to a successful conclusion in a period of pronounced financial depression in Granville due chiefly to the death of Lucius D. Mower, Granville's leader in commerce and industry. By the way, his brother, Sherlock Mower, contributed \$2500.00 to the building fund.

Such zeal, courage, and perseverance must have stimulated both individuals and organizations to march forward in spite of discouragement. And they built a church whose classic charm is as impressive today as it was one hundred years ago. It is Granville's finest architectural gem and is acclaimed by competent critics one of the most beautiful buildings in Ohio. Its loveliness has brought joy to all beholders who appreciate art, and must have refined the taste and inspired the faith of early citizens of Granville.

EPISCOPAL FEMALE SEMINARY

The progressive spirit of St. Luke's was again demonstrated in 1838 when, undaunted by financial depression, the Episcopalians bought the Baptist Seminary, "a female boarding-school," and conveyed it by deed to a board of directors, ten of the sixteen members of which were to be Episcopalians. This boarding-school had been started in 1834 by Charles Sawyer, who was obliged to sell it because of financial embarrassment. They operated it under the name Episcopal Female Seminary until 1861, when it was removed to Mansfield, Ohio, the Granville real estate attached to it being sold to the Baptists.

The Episcopal Female Seminary was conducted with much success in years when a similar institution, founded in Granville as the Granville Female Academy and rechristened the Granville Female College in 1860, flourished conspicuously. The Episcopal Female Seminary had accommodations for forty boarders. Its faculty was composed of "competent and experienced teachers." The equipment included a "museum and chemical and philosophical apparatus," and the school had "every facility for imparting a thorough and finished education." Its enrollment for 1851-52 shows thirty-seven pupils in the primary department and one hundred and five in the upper grades.

It was during the existence of this institution that St. Luke's reached its maximum membership, due chiefly to accessions from the students of the school. St. Luke's influence on Granville must have been greatly accentuated by its control of and co-operation with the seminary. Its students brought to the church and to the village also an uninterrupted infusion of new hope, new ideals, and new ardor.

"PART OF THE DIVINE PLAN"

In conclusion, it seems to me as it must seem to anyone who contemplates the history of Granville from 1827 to 1861, that St. Luke's was potent in enriching the early life of Granville religiously, socially, economically,

and educationally. Believing as I do, with the poet, that "through the ages one increasing purpose runs," and believing, further, that that purpose is part of the divine plan, I am persuaded that St. Luke's was destined by God to bring to early Granville a restoration of harmony, tolerance, courage, progress, and faith at a time when the community was in dire need of spiritual rejuvenation.

This appraisal, necessarily too brief to be comprehensive, may lead others to investigate the sources and extent of St. Luke's influence on the early life of Granville, an influence which has so strangely lacked interpretation.



OLD GRANVILLE BANK, STONE (at the left), EPISCOPAL CHURCH (in center), TOWN HALL (to the right).

The Editors of **The Historical Times** are pleased to publish this account of the origin, foundation and early development of the religious community of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. This fascinating narrative was written in 1927, the centennial year of St. Luke's, by Charles Browne White. It appeared in print in the collection of Mr. White's essays, **The Philosopher of Mount Parnassus**, published by the Denison University Press in 1948. Several essays from this anthology so central to the history of Granville have been re-published in this newsletter over the last few years. The Editors will continue to make Mr. White's original work available to our readers. Mr. White served as President of the Granville Historical Society.

The editors gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Marilyn Sundin, who typed the original copy from C. B. White's book, and Cookie Shields, who arranged the format for this issue. Marilyn Bolden kindly provided important historical materials for this issue.

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Extracts From The `Records of St. Luke's Parish



Agreeable to notice given a meeting of persons friendly to the Protestant Episcopal Church was held at the house of Revd Ahab slinks.

Granville. April 14th, 1827

We the undersigned do hereby agree to form ourselves into an Episcopal Church. according to the statute in such cases made and provided.

(signed) (JOS) FASSETT	W. S. RICHARDS
(H) IRAM BOARDMAN	A. P. PRICHARD
(JOTHAM) CLAPP	SYLVESTER SPELMAN
R. MARSH	CHANCEY HUMPHREY
JULIUS COLEMAN	L. D. MOWER
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(D) ANIEL HOWE	H. G. MOWER
(GEO) W. CASE	G. K. ACKLEY
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(J) LAMSON JR	J. L. ATWOOD
(JU) STIN HILLYER	E. GRIFFITH
(SY) LVESTER HAYES	H. C. WOODWORTH
(A) P. WIGHTMAN	HORACE WOLCOTT
(H) ARRY FASSETT	WM WING
(FR)EDERICK MORE	ELIAS GILMAN
(A)LLEN SINNFTT	JARVIS CASE
	ELIZUR ABBOTT

Notice is hereby given to all persons concerned that a meeting will be held at the meeting house in this place on Wednesday the 9th of May next at 2 o'clock P. M. for the purpose of organizing an Episcopal Church agreeably to the **statute** in such cases **made and** provided. Granville April 17, 1827.

[From the centennial history of St. Luke's Church.]



The only parish, since visited, is that of St Luke's, Granville. This was a second time visited in consequence of the completion of the new and beautiful church recently erected by that energetic congregation, and its readiness for consecration. The growth of that parish is worthy of special note. For several years, a very small number of intelligent Episcopalians had been sustaining the services of the Church at Granville, by lay-reading and the occasional services of the clergy at Gambier; and for a short time, by a small portion of the care of the Rev Mr Denison, at Newark. Little increase appeared in their numbers or strength. The parish was associated, less than two years since, with that of Utica, under the charge of its present Rector, and an effort was made to provide one half of his support. Since the last convention, it has ventured to undertake Mr. Bronson's whole support, for all of his services. It has been greatly blessed. One of the most beautiful, tasteful and commodious churches in the West has been completed, thoroughly, furnished with lecture room, organ, bell, and all other needful appurtenances. All are quite or nearly paid for. The Pastor is comfortably supported. The congregation has grown to nearly the filling up of the church. The word has been greatly blessed: many have been added to the communion of the Lord's table, who walk in love. The whole aspect of the parish, both in point of order, system **and regularity**, as to its external things, and as regards its healthiness and prospect of increase in spiritual things, is **remarkably** gratifying. On Sunday July 15th, I consecrated the Church, - assisted by the Rev. Messers Hard, Newman, Badger, Dyer and West, and instituted the Rev. Mr. Bronson as Rector of the **same**. The evening before, I had held the second confirmation since the last Convention, at which nine persons ratified the vows of their baptism..making 28 confirmed during the year.

St. Luke's was consecrated on July 15, 1838. Bishop McIlvaine wrote the above account of his visit. On February 16th and 17th of the same year, the Bishop also made pastoral visitations in Granville.
[From the centennial history of St. Luke's Church.]

THE ORDER
 OF THE
Annual Examinations
 AND
 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
 OF
GRANVILLE
EPISCOPAL FEMALE SEMINARY.

INSTRUCTORS.

REV. C. S. DOOLTTELL, A. M., RECTOR,
Intellectual and Moral Philosophy, and Evidences of Christianity

MRS. P. A. DOOLITTELL, GOVERNESS.

J. LINDLY, A. M., PRINCIPAL,
Mathematics, Logic and Natural Science.

MRS. M. M. LINDLY, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL,
Latin, French, Drawing and Painting.

MISS C. C. P. LERNED,
Instrumental and Vocal Music.

MISS M. E. OSBORNE,
Arithmetic, English Grammar, Natural Theology.

MISS E. A. SAWER,
Physiology, Botany, Zoology and Grammar.

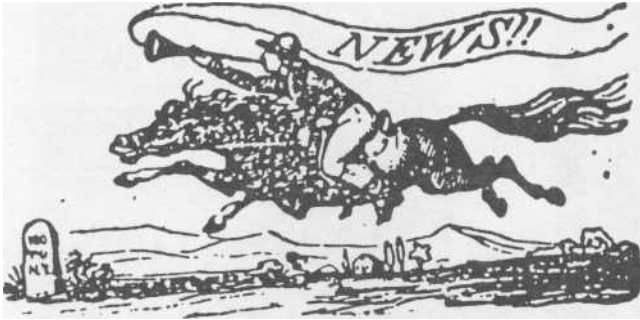
MISS SUSANNA EVANS, ASSISTANT,
Arithmetic, Geography and Penmanship.

N. B.—The Fall Term of this Institution will begin Wednesday, September 5th.

Granville, Ohio, June 15, 18 and 19, 1860.

Osgood & Pearee, Drs., Columbus.

The 1860 Examination and Commencement Program for The Granville Episcopal Female Seminary.



BILL UTTER'S
HISTORY OF GRANVILLE
REPRINTED BY THE SOCIETY

The Board of Management has received its shipment of newly reprinted copies of William T. Utter's well-written and informative *History of GRANVILLE*. The original publication appeared in 1955 at the time of the sesquicentennial of the village. Long out of print, the Society several years ago reprinted one thousand copies. The original reprinting was exhausted in 1993. Early last year, Board member Bob Seith arranged for the second reprinting. Copies are available at the Society's museum, the Denison University Bookstore and the Book Cellar in Granville.

FALL PROGRAM ON BUCKEYE LAKE

On September 26, Chance Brockway gave a marvelous presentation on the history and development of Buckeye Lake. 1994 was the one hundredth anniversary year of Buckeye Lake. In 1894, the Ohio Legislature determined that what had been called the Licking Summit Reservoir, then a source of water for the Ohio Canal, would now become a state recreation lake. Mr. Brockway, who knows more about the history of Buckeye Lake than anyone else we know, gave a wonderful talk illustrated with many slides from his extensive collection. Over sixty people filled the Old Academy Building for this first program of the 1994-1995 season.

Mr. Brockway also kindly contributed a four segment photograph of Granville from the early 1850's. This photograph, printed from an original glass plate years ago, was taken from the north side of Sugar Loaf bank looking east up West Broadway towards the center of our village. We intend to publish this four part photograph in a future issue of **The Historical Times**.

SPRING PROGRAMS

In March and April, the Society scheduled two programs centering on General William Tecumseh Sherman. On March 27, Professor Lorle Porter from the Department of History at Muskingum College discussed the Ohio Roots of the Sherman and Ewing families. On April 17, E. Chris Evans re-created for us an evening with "Cump." Society members will recall Mr. Evans's other very successful presentations for us, one on Licking County's original Medal of Honor winner, Leonidas Inscho, and last spring's fascinating discussion of the Newark Lynching.

OLD ACADEMY BUILDING
REFURBISHED

Under the watchful eyes of Buck Sargent, Dick Mahard and Jim Siegel, the Society has launched a massive restoration of the interior of the Old Academy Building. Much of the work has been completed.

The Board of Management expresses its gratitude to Buck, Dick, and Jim for their zealous work restoring a Granville historical treasure.

NEW MUSEUM LOOK

Gay Weinberg and the museum committee have worked hard to brighten up the interior of our museum on East Broadway. New carpet and new paint have helped enhance a beautiful space for the Society's holdings. Our appreciation to Gay and her committee.



From the Archives... a recent picture of the congregation of St. Luke's Parish.

1995 MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not renewed your 1995 membership to the GHS, please do so soon. Your involvement as a member supports all of the many activities undertaken by the society to preserve and enhance the rich and varied history of our community.

The annual dues remain at \$10.00

THE HISTORICAL TIMES

is a quarterly publication included with membership in the Granville Historical Society and is sent to all members.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Maggie Brooks, Florence Hoffman,
Anthony Lisska

Send questions, comments and
suggestions to:

THE HISTORICAL TIMES

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