

A SMALL HISTORY OF THE WEST GOULDSBORO UNION CHURCH

Margaret Ashe Blaisdell

The controversy is over concerning the building of the West Gouldsboro Union Church. The Society has a deed from Elizabeth S. Shaw and Nathan Shaw, husband, to the West Gouldsboro Union Church Society, dated June 15, 1888. The deed was registered August 8, 1888.

This whole area of land was deeded to Elizabeth S. Shaw by Nathan Shaw on June 1, 1868. It was recorded November 13, 1877.

From newspaper notices in the Ellsworth American, there is the following information:

July 12, 1888: The ladies of this village, known as the West Gouldsboro Union Church Society, have made a beginning to build a Union Church here. They have purchased a lot of Mr. Nathan Shaw, and have most of the lumber for the frame and covering on hand. We shall be indebted to them for our celebration of the Fourth. May success attend their efforts.

Aug. 30, 1888: The West Gouldsboro Union Church Society have commenced building their church under very favorable auspices, having nearly enough funds on hand to complete the outside.

Oct. 25, 1888: The Union Church Society have commenced again work on the Church. They received quite a donation last week. Two of the heirs of the late Robert G. Shaw of Boston gave one hundred and fifty dollars. This donation came very timely as with what funds

they already have it will go far toward finishing the outside of the church.

Nov. 8, 1888: Our Union Church Society seems to be in luck, having had another donation. Last Thursday afternoon the steamer brought a nice vane, the gift of John S. Emery, Esq., of Boston, to whom the Society sends many thanks. Yesterday the party engaged in shingling the roof, finished the steeple and placed the vane in position. Work on the Church will now be suspended till next season, for want of more funds, the money in the treasury having been all expended.

May 2, 1889: The ladies of the Union Church Society held a fair and plate supper at Tremont Hall last Thursday afternoon and evening. The proceeds of which are to be used toward finishing the outside of the church. Carpenters are now at work on the outside.

Oct. 31, 1889: Mention of the grounds being graded.

May 22, 1890: Money raised to paint the outside of the Church.

Aug. 14, 1890: Mention of a gift of a clock for the Church from Mrs. Crawford of Boston.

Oct. 30, 1890: The ladies of the Union Church Society are again in luck having bought last week the pews for the new Church on advantageous terms and now they hope to have the inside finished during the coming winter.

Aug. 27, 1891 (*Article in the Ellsworth American.*) The Union church at West Gouldsboro was dedicated with appropriate and interesting services on Thursday, the 20th inst. Excellent music was rendered by the choir, a thoughtful and scholarly sermon was preached by the Rev. Samuel A. Eliot of Denver, Col., a most catholic, fervent and spiritual prayer of dedication was offered by Rev. Dr. John F. Moors, Unitarian missionary for New England, and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Mr. Weed of the Methodist Episcopal church at Sullivan. The assemblage then adjourned to partake of a basket picnic collation on the lawn at the house of Mr. Shaw, after which, at 2 P.M., they gathered again at the church and listened to a history of the movement that resulted in the building of the church from Mr. Wyman of the Divinity school at Cambridge, Mass., and an account of the structure from the president of the building committee. Mr. Allen of the Bangor Theological Seminary presided, and addresses were made by the Rev. Mr. Savary of So. Boston, the Rev. Dr. Moors, Rev. Dr. Ropes and other clergymen present. In the evening a sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Ropes. The church is a handsome structure, beautifully situated and tastefully finished, with seating capacity for 200. It is open to all Christian denominations for service and marks an era of progress, improvement and Christian fellowship.

From records written at a later date, we believe that the ladies who were members of the Union Church Society at this time, and who made application for incorporation were: Mary S. Kinglsey, Helen Stevens, Hannah Kingsley, Ada A. Gouldsboro, Nellie S. Bunker, Mary A. Shaw, Elizabeth S. Shaw, Annie J. Sargent, Eunice A. Jones, Clara A. Hill, S. D. Sargent, Isabelle Stevens and Emma Kingsley, all of West Gouldsboro.

On July 29, 1933, it was decided that the old Certificate of Incorporation was in error. A new Deed turned up in 1903 and a new Certificate of Incorporation on July 29, 1933.

The officers were:

Fletcher T. Wood	Gouldsboro	President
Allen Kingsley	Gouldsboro	Vice-President
Frank P. Noyes	Gouldsboro	Treasurer
Pauline Wescott	Gouldsboro	Clerk

The Trustees were:

Cecil G. Rosebrook	Gouldsboro
Clara A. Hill	Gouldsboro
Harry P. Ashe	Gouldsboro

All of West Gouldsboro in said Town of Gouldsboro.

On August 15, A. D. 1933, Sanford L. Fogg, Deputy Attorney General, signed the Certificate. It was registered August 21, 1933, Book 4, Page 450 in the Hancock County Registry of Deeds. Also, in the State of Maine Office of the Secretary of State, Augusta, Maine.

September 2, 1933, a copy of the Record of the within Certificate of organization, duly certify by the Register of Deeds, Hancock County has this day been received and filed in

this office. Recorded in Vol. 5, Page 231 of Records of Corporations. Attest, Ruth S. Bradford, Deputy Secretary of State.

Notes

West Gouldsboro Union Church, our church land, goes back a hundred years as of June 15, 1992. This Deed was registered August 8, 1888, the Register W. B. Campbell, Witness, Hanah A. Hill and Peter L. Hill, Book 226, Page 312 at the Hancock County Registry of Deeds, Ellsworth, Maine.

The next Deed was November 13, 1903. It was recorded November 14, 1903, Book 399, Page 164. This Deed was signed by Charles H. Wood, Justice of the Peace, and Register W. B. Campbell. We used this Deed for years. We didn't know about the 1888 Deed.

In the Book, Historical Researches of Gouldsboro, Maine, Page 76 it says, "The Ladies Sewing Society built with aid from those interested, a Union Church, dedicated in 1892."

Also in the Town Register, Census 1911, Page 61 - The Union Church at West Gouldsboro has built largely through the efforts of the Ladies Sewing Society from 1888 to 1892. They didn't have 1888 in there, but that was the Deed year.

We think the 1888 Deed measured from the Center of the Main Road to Winter Harbor and the Center of the Cemetery Road. We think the 1903 Deed was measured from the edge of the Property rather than the Center of the Road. Many old Deeds measure that way.

*Weekly newspaper still serving the area.