

# The Building of St. Paul's

By Marion Greenhalgh

Continuing with our Bicentennial Celebratory Year, below is a brief history and description of the building of our current St. Paul's Church, part 1.

On May 21, 1883, the Vestry agreed that a third and bigger St. Paul's Church should be built. It was to be of gray limestone brought from the Onondaga Indian Reservation and the second St. Paul's church, and designed in the "decorated" or second period (Middle) English Gothic style. The architect would be Henry Dudley of Brooklyn, NY. Early in July, St. Paul's bought the Alexander lot (lots four and five of Block 112) on the southwest corner of Fayette and Montgomery Streets, and recorded the deed in the Court House. Final plans for the church were approved with special regard being given to the supporting columns in the nave and to the tower. Financial troubles delayed the actual construction of the church, and then winter continued the delay.

In April, 1884, a construction contract was given to Leamy Brothers of Syracuse, general contractors and builders. On June 25, the church cornerstone was laid with a ceremony including Bishop Frederick Dan Huntington and other church rectors, and in which Rev. Henry Roswell Lockwood stated that in keeping with the wishes of many of the parish, the cornerstone in the old church would be used in the new. The old cornerstone was placed below the new cornerstone. Also, within the new cornerstone was placed a one cubic foot copper box into which was deposited the contents of the old, perfectly preserved, together with current memorabilia, including an engraving of the church as of 1842 and a picture of the same as it was before demolition.

*continued*



# The Building of St. Paul's



*continued*

The cornerstone was then swung into place upon a ten-dollar gold piece. On July 24, 1885, the spire was completed. The interior of the church is 96 feet in length, 64 feet in width, and 59 feet at the highest point. It consists of a nave, chancel and transepts. The nave is divided by a center and two side aisles and ten columns of Nova Scotia polished granite, each bay having a span of 18 feet. According to Vestry Minutes of November, 1885, this was the pew arrangements: the inside halves of the front pews on the center aisle were reserved for the Rector and Bishop, respectively. All other pews were leased or rented, except the last six ranges on the center aisles and the last three on the side aisles – these were “free”.

On December 13, 1885, Bishop Huntington dedicated the church (which only took eighteen months to build), and opened it for worship. In addition, a formal announcement was made at this service transforming St. Paul's into a Diocesan Cathedral and Bishop's church. Pew No. 49 was set apart for the use of the bishop's family on all occasions of public worship. The bishop's wife, in a letter to their son, mentions that the bishop 'will not be satisfied until it is a free church, with daily service, but it will take time to bring it about and much patient waiting'.

