

A Bishop's Visit to a Young Parish



By Amy Mangram



On September 12, 1827, Bishop John Henry Hobart consecrated the first St. Paul's Church in Syracuse. As Bishop of New York based at Trinity Church in Manhattan, Hobart was among the most influential Episcopal leaders of the early nineteenth century.

Traveling extensively across New York State by horseback, stagecoach, and canal boat, he helped establish and strengthen Episcopal congregations in the rapidly growing communities that emerged during the Erie Canal era. He also played a leading role in founding Geneva College, later renamed Hobart College in his honor.

Hobart's visit to Syracuse came at a pivotal moment in the village's development and in the life of the young parish. His presence affirmed both the promise of the growing community and the importance of its Episcopal witness. By consecrating St. Paul's, he formally connected the fledgling congregation to the wider mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church.

That historic act helped lay the foundation for what would become one of Central New York's most enduring Episcopal parishes, a church whose ministry and worship continue to serve the community nearly two centuries later.

