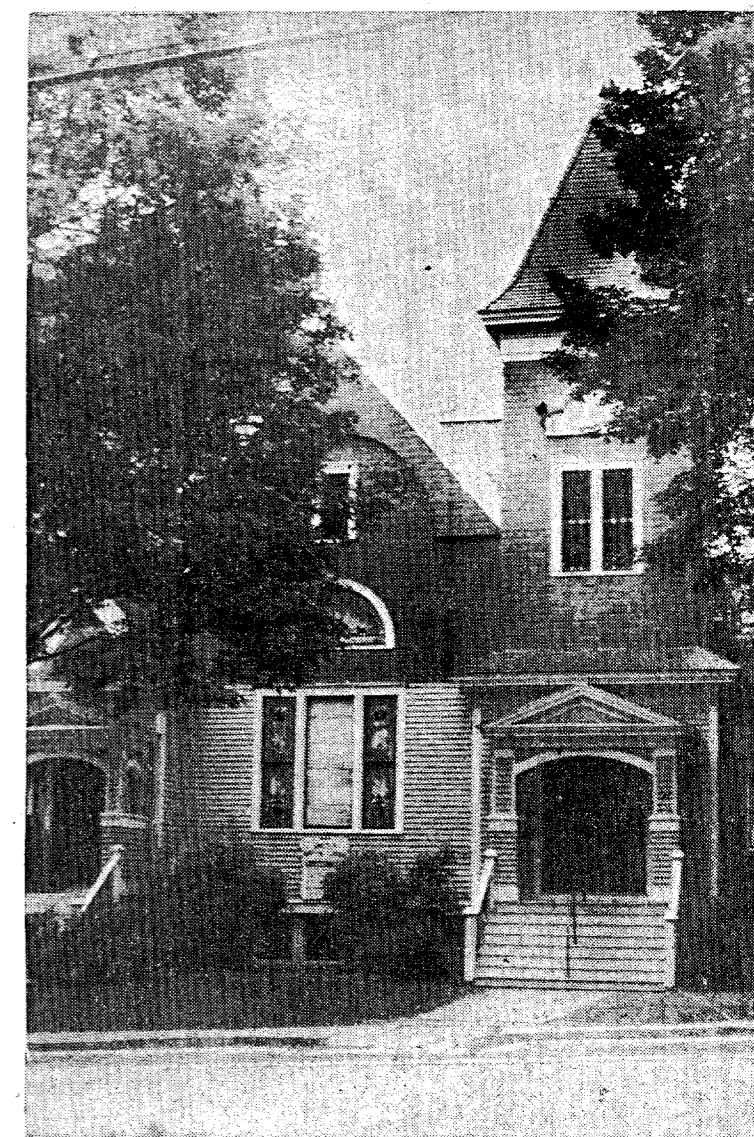
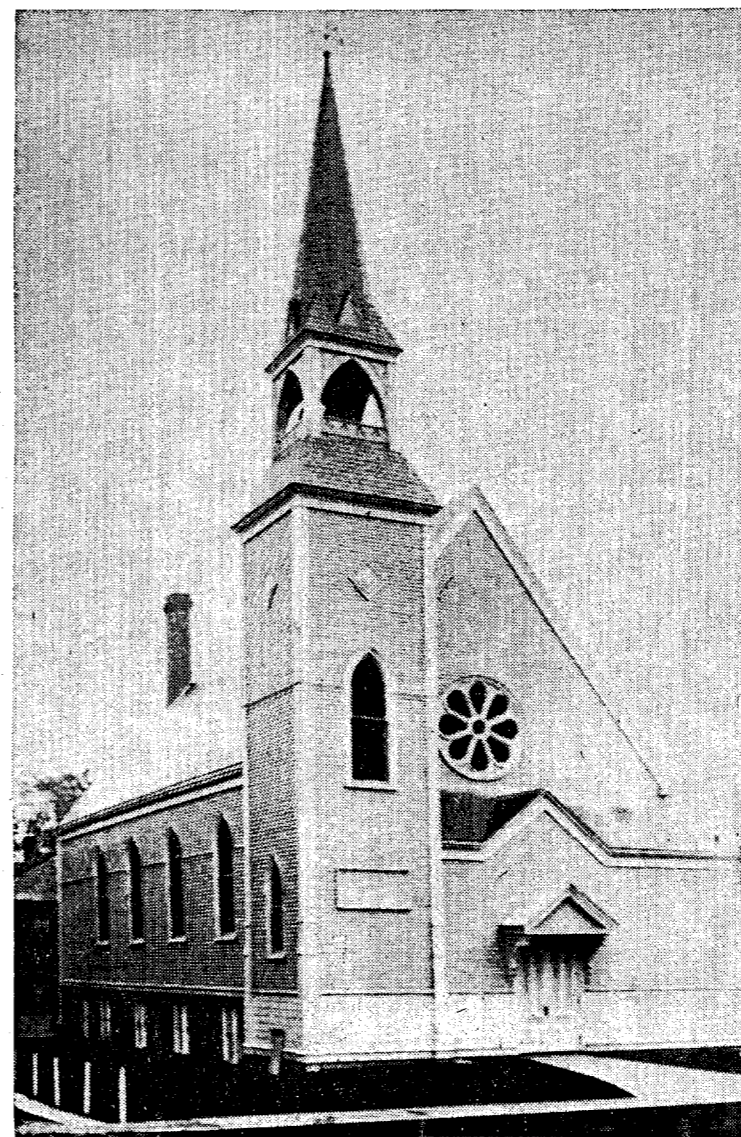
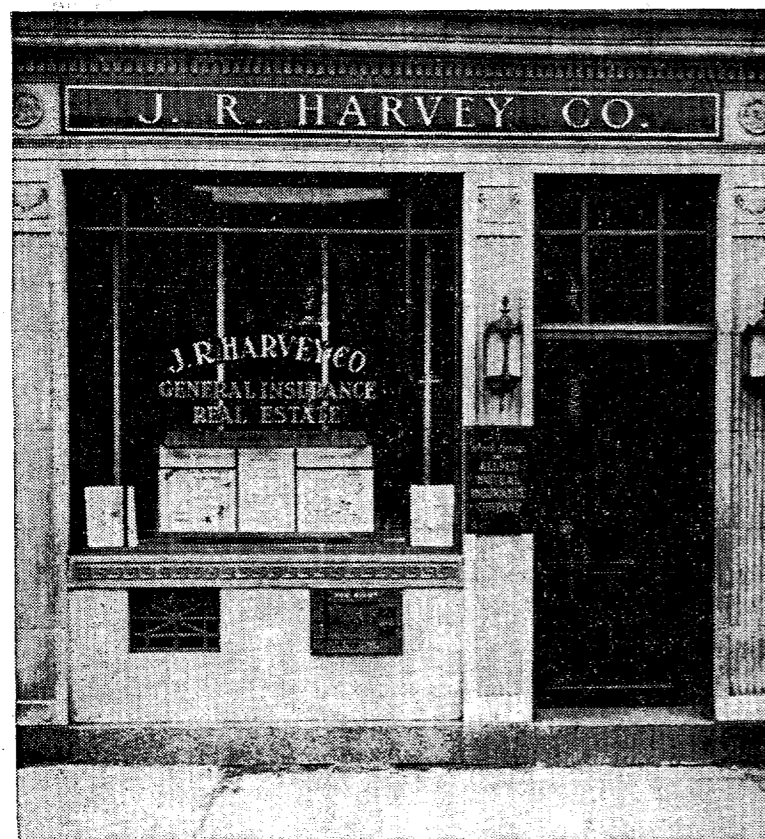


The

ALLIED MUTUAL

Insurance Company



The congregation of the Military Street Baptist Church has had two houses of worship since its organization here in 1867. Edifice at the left is the original building which was destroyed in the disastrous fire of 1902. At the right is the structure which replaced it, as it has been added to in the intervening years.

Military Street Baptist Church Started Here In 1867 With 9 Members

By Mrs. C. W. Towers

In response to a request made by persons of Houlton holding the Free Baptist Faith, on May 8, 1867, M. H. Tarbox, George Haskell, George Gellerson and John Grant, ministers of the Free Will Baptist denomination, met in council at the Congregational vestry in Houlton Village and organized a Free Baptist Church of nine members. These members were: Elijah Ebbett, George Drake, Elizabeth Ebbett, Mehitabel Brown, Hannah Chalmers, Mary Lunt, Isabel Kinney, William Kinney and William P. Kin-

The Free Baptist church was among the three churches that were burned. Several members of the church also lost their homes. On May 31, 1902, a parish meeting was held and it was unanimously voted to rebuild the church. On January 4, 1903, the first services were held in the vestry of the new church edifice. In the meantime, while the people were without a church, they worshipped with the Congregationalists, whose church had not been damaged.

The dedication of the new church was held September 13,

pastor of the church from 1914 to 1918 and during his pastorate the 50th anniversary of the church was celebrated. Rev. E. C. Jenkins served from 1918 to 1920. Then Rev. F. C. Hartley returned to Houlton and served as our pastor from 1920 until his death in 1935, having served the church for a total of 25 years. Rev. Merritt L. Gregg, who came during Mr. Hartley's last illness, served as pastor two years.

Rev. Martin T. Storms served from 1937 to 1945. During the year of 1938 a new organ was installed at a cost of \$3,050. During his pastorate, two memorials were given, one, the electric cross, in memory of P. S. Berrie, who was director of our choir for over 30 years, which was given by his children. The other, two murals, presented in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Shaw, by their son George Shaw.

Rev. Harold W. Carpenter served as pastor from 1946 to 1953.

sixties. George S. Gentle was associated with Mr. Bradford for a short time in the earlier days of the company. He changed his business operations here, and in Presque Isle until the 1890's when he returned to Houlton and again became associated with the Bradford insurance agency.

ONE COMPANY 90 YEARS

The longest period of the agency's association with any one company is with the Hartford Fire Insurance Company which they have represented over 90 years. The files of the agency contain a copy of the original letter granting the commission of agent for Houlton and vicinity to John H. Bradford.

The closing paragraph of the missive, signed by George M. Coit as secretary, is laden with best wishes for the firm's success. It says, "Trusting you may be abundantly successful in securing business large in amount and good in quality and that our future busi-



The Allied was organized in 1934 as a Mutual company, the oldest form of insurance in this Country.

It is owned and operated by and for its policyholders through a board of twelve Directors elected from its members.

During the twenty-three years the Company has been in business, it has paid \$555,077.46 in claims for losses and has returned \$162,984.27 in dividends to policyholders. As all policies have been written at regular standard rates, the amount of dividends represent the savings to our insureds.

The Company writes Fire, Automobile and Plate Glass insurance.

We wish to thank the many policyholders for their confidence and patronage which has made it possible for the Company to show a steady growth through the years.



Our warmest greetings to the citizens of Houlton on their
SESQUICENTENNIAL
 and to the Centennial Year of the
HOULTON PIONEER TIMES

OFFICERS

J. R. HARVEY.....President

RALPH M. TIDD..Vice President

K. H. LINCOLN.....Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Nathaniel Barker...Presque Isle
 Albion Blake.....Waterville
 Arthur B. Clark.....Belfast
 Elmer C. Davis.....Rockland

J. R. Harvey.....Houlton
 G. E. Howard, 2nd..Dover-Foxcroft
 Frank H. Lancaster.....Bangor

K. H. Lincoln.....Houlton
 K. H. Palmer.....Island Falls
 C. A. Stitham.....Mars Hill
 R. M. Tidd.....Houlton

Established 1934

Home Office, 64 Main Street, Houlton



bel Brown, Hannah Chalmers, Mary Lunt, Isabel Kinney, William Kinney and William P. Kinney. By them the covenant of the "Treatise" was adopted and William P. Kinney was chosen clerk.

Very soon after the church was organized, new members were added to the membership. On May 11th the first new additional members were taken in.

FIRST PASTOR

The first pastor was Rev. M. H. Tarbox, who served from the first day of the organization to January, 1869. The first two deacons chosen were George Drake and George A. Lewis.

In 1868, a parsonage was built near the church. Revs. W. S. Stockbridge, Henry Preble and Thomas Kinney filled the pulpit until 1878, when Rev. F. H. Peckham came to the charge. His salary was \$350. He was a great help to the denomination in Aroostook. Rev. Mr. Lowden, a brilliant young man followed. Rev. Burton Minard was next. He was a strong man and had warm friends and bitter foes. Rev. J. E. Gosline came next, an able man who healed the division in the church. Rev. Robert L. Dustin became pastor in 1892.

LOCATED NEAR RICKER

The church, as it was originally organized, was located on the so-called "Hill", which was near Ricker Classical Institute. It had a steeple 108 feet high with a cannon ball from old Hancock Barracks on the top.

The trustees of Ricker purchased the old church lot and moving the church was commenced August 15, 1893.

During the moving project, services were held in the Y.M.C.A. hall from August to October 1893. Then the group met with the Methodist people until the last Sunday in October of the same year. On that day the first service in the church was held in its present location.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. George E. Loudon that the first bell was placed in the belfry. On February 13, 1893 Brothers Judson Brewer and John D. Stairs commenced work on a baptistry in the church. On February 16, 1893 the work was completed and on February 19th 18 were baptized in it.

DESTROYED BY FIRE

It was on May 17, 1902 that the great fire swept over the young town of Houlton, destroying a large part of the business and residential section of the town.

The dedication of the new church was held September 13, 1903, with a special afternoon service at 2:30.

REV. HARTLEY IN 1904

On October 19, 1902, Rev. Merritt L. Gregg commenced his services as pastor of this church, remaining here until September 11, 1904. Rev. F. Clarke Hartley followed and served as pastor for ten years, leaving to answer a call to Truro, N. S.

It was in 1909 that the church purchased a lot on Kellaran Street and built a comfortable parsonage. It was first occupied in September 1909 by Rev. F. C. Hartley. A bequest of \$1,000 by John Seeley made the new parsonage possible.

In the fall of 1911 the new pipe organ was installed at a total cost of \$1,500. \$500 was contributed from the Carnegie Organ Fund and the remaining \$1000 was earned and presented to the church by the Young Ladies Guild. In 1912 a motor and blower were installed for supplying wind to the new organ. Prior to that time the manual efforts of some able youngster in the congregation was required.

During 1911 the walls of the church were rebuilt, the interior of the basement of the building was changed somewhat and a new furnace installed. The registers were shifted to the walls. In the fall of 1910 the Boys Club was organized and this group later developed into the Boy Scouts.

September 24, 1916, the first Every Member Canvas was put into effect. It was also during this same year that the pastor presented each member with a copy of the Church Covenant.

On March 10, 1922, a banquet, prepared and served by the men of the church, was given to discuss proposed plans for enlarging the church building. On March 21, 1922, at a special business meeting, the authority was given to the trustees to proceed with the work of enlarging the church building. Work started April, 1922 and was completed in time for Rally Day Services on the first Sunday in November. The cost was \$13,226.44, including a new heating plant for both the old and the new parts. It was this heating plant, or furnace, which blew up during 1934 leaving a debt of \$600, for which the Ormsby Class worked hard and paid off.

Rev. Clifford T. Clark served as

their son George Shaw.

Rev. Harold W. Carpenter served as pastor from 1946 to 1953. During his stay extensive repairs were made on the church and the parsonage. Just recently two silver candle holders, for the communion table, have been presented as a memorial of the late Deacon Harry B. Crawford by his widow, Mrs. Annie Crawford.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Rev. John A. Quigg came to serve this church November 1, 1953 and shortly after his arrival the 50th anniversary of the present church building was held and a full week's program was carried out beginning with the anniversary sermon on Sunday and closing with a fellowship supper on Friday.

Rev. M. A. Gregg who was pastor in 1903 was present for this occasion and had a part in the program.

Our church increased in membership and was greatly blessed by Mr. Quigg's faithful ministry and his resignation in August 1956 was accepted with sincere regrets.

In the interim until December 1st Maj. Charles Massey, chaplain at L.A.F.B. supplied most acceptably until the coming of our present pastor, Rev. Robert Decker.

Mr. Decker, whom we feel was destined for the position has proven himself worthy and the church is ever going forward under his faithful leadership and his ministry is being crowned with great success.

The church has recently had an extensive amount of redecorating done, this having been brought about by the efforts of some of our own church people, who also did a commendable piece of work in repairing and redecorating the parsonage, putting it in very fine condition.

**Geo. S. Gentle Co.
 Founded Here In
 The Year 1864**

The Geo. S. Gentle Company, which lays sound claim to the distinction of being the oldest insurance agency in Aroostook County, dates its beginning as far back as 1864. This means that, in this Sesquicentennial year of the Town of Houlton, this insurance agency has been providing insurance protection throughout Aroostook County for the past 94 years.

The company was founded here by John H. Bradford in the early

antly successful in securing business large in amount and good in quality, and that our future business intercourse may be mutually pleasant and profitable, we remain"

A few years after Gentle rejoined the agency, a partnership was created under the firm name of Bradford, Gentle and Ludwig, with the late L. O. Ludwig associated with the agency.

At the death of the founder and senior partner, the firm was continued but under the agency name of Gentle and Ludwig. For some time the offices of the company were located on the second floor of the present Houlton Savings Bank building. This partnership was continued until 1900 at which time Mr. Gentle took over the business and conducted it alone until 1910.

In that year Murdoch B. McKay and Frank M. Hume were admitted to partnership in the company and the agency again became a three-way partnership until 1920 when Mr. Gentle retired, and disposed of his interest to the other two members of the corporation.

NEW PARTNERS

Before entering the insurance business, Mr. McKay had for several years previous, been employed in the office of the Post Office during the time when his partner, Frank Hume, was postmaster.

The same firm name has been maintained throughout the years. At the time Messrs McKay and Hume became active partners in the business, it was located on the second floor of the Almon H. Fogg Company building and there it remained until the new Masonic building was erected here in 1919. The firm then moved to Market Square and had its offices in the east end of the street floor of the new building, next to the Temple Theatre.

Despite an expanding business, the agency maintained its offices in this location for more than 30 years. The need for more space was recognized but an adequate and satisfactory spot was not readily available in Houlton. It was not until the new Woolworth building was erected and its former quarters between the Houlton Trust Company and the First National Bank became vacant, that advantageous quarters became available.

MOVED IN 1948

The Geo. S. Gentle Company moved into its present location in August, 1948.

The first change in the person-

(Continued on Next Page)