

**A HISTORY OF THE FIRST
CHURCH AND
SOCIETY OF BRANFORD,
CONNECTICUT, 1644-1919**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9781760575106

A history of the First Church and Society of Branford, Connecticut, 1644-1919 by J. Rupert Simonds

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

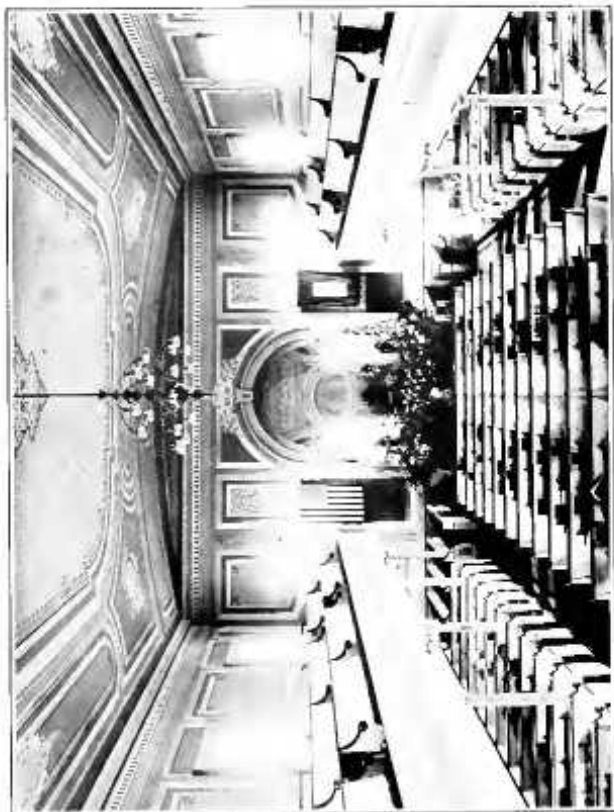
Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

J. RUPERT SIMONDS

**A HISTORY OF THE FIRST
CHURCH AND
SOCIETY OF BRANFORD,
CONNECTICUT, 1644-1919**



CHURCH SANCTUARY, EASTER, 1919

A HISTORY
OF THE
FIRST CHURCH AND SOCIETY
OF
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT
1644-1919

BY
J. RUPERT SIMONDS

THE TUTTLE, MOREHOUSE & TAYLOR CO.
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

TO HIS MANY BRANFORD FRIENDS, IN RECOGNITION
OF THEIR REPEATED KINDNESSES DURING THE
PERIOD WHEN IT WAS HIS PRIVILEGE TO
OCCUPY THE PULPIT OF THEIR HISTORIC
CHURCH, THE AUTHOR WOULD GRATE-
FULLY DEDICATE THIS RECORD OF
THEIR UNUSUAL AND GODLY
HERITAGE

CONTENTS

Dedication	iii
Foreword	vii
"The Place of the Tidal River"	1
The Pioneer Days of John Sherman	7
Abraham Pierson, Pilgrim and Apostle	19
John Bowers and the Years of Famine	35
In the Days of Samuel Russell	43
Philemon Robbins—"Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake"	69
Two Minor Prophets	112
The Ministry of "Father" Gillett	124
Jacob G. Miller—An Interlude	148
A Variety of Leaders	150
I. Elijah C. Baldwin	150
II. C. W. Hill	158
III. Rev. Cyrus P. Osborne	160
IV. Rev. Henry Pearson Bake	163
V. Rev. Thomas Bickford	168
The New Century	172
Thru Troubled Waters	179
War Records: There and Here	184
Appendix	189

FOREWORD

It is always an interesting experience to endeavor to relive the days which are long since gone, and it has been an unusually fascinating one, to the author, to follow thru, in spirit, the growing life of this historic church. Never a dull page has he found in its annals, and it will be the fault of the raconteur, and not of his material, if there be dull pages in this little book. He has endeavored simply to retell the story which unfolded itself to him as, day by day, he thumbed the pages of the ancient records, and supplemented their narrative with stray details, gathered from scattered books. It is his hope that, in weaving the tale together and in striving to give sequence to its chronology, and perspective and emphasis to its body, that he may not have deprived the reader of too much of its original romance. The shaping of the tale has been a work of love, and the sole prayer of the author is that the reader may see what he has seen, and may realize the preciousness and the inspiration of his heritage. May his imagination be touched, and may he find, in these pages, no dull chronicle of unfamiliar men and days, but a living presentation of the deeds and characters of his own fathers.

In offering this story to the Branford people and their friends, the writer makes no apology for his wholesale borrowing of former material, nor even for using the veritable language of others.