

**A HISTORY OF ST.  
ANDREW'S CHURCH,  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN**

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A History of St. Andrew's Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan by Arthur Lyon Cross

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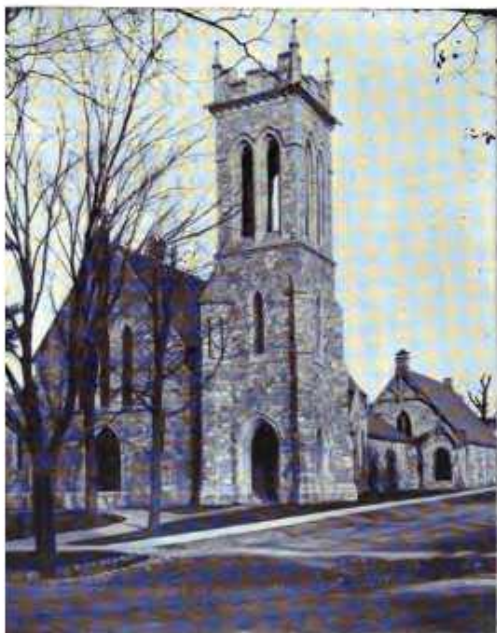
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ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH AND CHAPEL



## PREFATORY NOTE.

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When the eve of St. Andrew's Day, 1903, was chosen to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of St. Andrew's Church, Ann Arbor, the present writer was asked to read a paper on the origin and subsequent history of the parish. The following account grew out of what was prepared for that occasion. The Right Reverend George D. Gillespie, bishop of western Michigan, had already prepared the way. On 7 November 1869, at the last service in the old church building previous to moving into the present edifice, Bishop Gillespie, then rector of the parish, delivered a historical sermon in which he presented, with considerable fulness of detail, all that he could gather relating to the subject. His address was subsequently printed in the *Reports of the Pioneer and Historical Society of the State of Michigan*, volume IX, pp. 141-155. Aside

from the printed and manuscript material still extant, he had the advantage of personal interviews with men and women, no longer living, who had been identified with the history of the parish from its first foundation. General Edward Clark, particularly, was of incalculable assistance to the bishop. Although General Clark and many others have passed away, some still survive whose memory reaches back almost to the earliest years. Mrs. Chapin, for instance, General Clark's niece, and the oldest baptized member of the congregation, has contributed much, both from her own recollections and by the generous proffer of the papers of the Clark, Kingsley, and Chapin families, to throw light on obscure points. The parish should congratulate itself that for some years Miss Corselius, one of its members, has been laboring with great industry and skill to collect and preserve information that otherwise would, in the course of time, have been lost beyond recovery. A portion of this she has already presented in a paper read at a monthly

sociable in Harris Hall, which was printed in the *Ann Arbor Argus* in the issues of 17, 19, 20 June, 1899.

Aside from the studies of Bishop Gillespie, Miss Corseius, and the reminiscences of some of the older parishioners, the chief sources of information are the parish registers, the reports of the various rectors to the annual diocesan convention, and, above all, the Vestry Books. Unfortunately, the two former do not reach back further than 1834, and no trace can be found of any vestry records earlier than 1843. The *Manual and Annals of the Diocese of Michigan*, compiled by Bishop Gillespie while secretary to the convention, and published in 1868, contains a history of the diocese by the Reverend Benjamin H. Paddock, afterward bishop of Massachusetts, and a list of the rectors of St. Andrew's, together with a brief chronology of events by the Reverend Professor George P. Williams. A series of delightful reminiscences by the Honorable C. C. Trowbridge, containing much valuable information on the begin-



nings and early history of the diocese, was published in the reports of the Michigan Pioneer Society, Vol. III, pp. 213-222, under the title of "The Episcopal Church in Michigan." For recent events the scrap book of Hobart Guild has proved useful.

Deeming it impracticable to cite specific references for every statement in the following work, the author takes this occasion to state that he has been dependent, in varying degrees, on each and all of the authorities mentioned. For the earlier part he has been obliged to draw very freely at times on Bishop Gillespie, and if in places he seems to repeat what has already been so well done, his excuse is that it seemed necessary in the interests of completeness and unity, and desirable from the fact that the bishop's paper is published in a form not generally accessible to the members of the parish. The author, moreover, realizes that his account will appear bare, impersonal, and lacking in local color. But this is inevitable in the case of one who is comparatively a newcomer in the commu-

nity, deprived of all the advantages of ancestral connections and ancestral traditions in the field which he has been prevailed upon to enter. But as his work loses thus in vividness, he trusts that it may gain somewhat in impartiality and sense of perspective; and, at least, the local records, so far as they are extant, have been faithfully studied.

The fact that some of them have perished should be an urgent reminder of the necessity of seeking to preserve memorials of the past, which increase in value with each passing year. Local history in England and on the continent has long been studied by trained and learned investigators with steadily growing interest, and much matter of vast genealogical and institutional importance has been in this way brought to light. Our country is relatively so new and its local centers are so widely distributed and so infinitely great in number, that rarely will a single one, by itself alone, compare in significance with any in the old world. Nevertheless, each

plays a part, if only a minor one, in the great drama of American history; and, therefore, the importance of preserving local records and putting together local annals cannot be too much insisted upon. It is to be hoped that the present study, humble as it is, may be an incitement to some parishes, hitherto negligent in their duty, to repair the fault before it is too late.

In conclusion the author wishes to state his obligations to the many old residents of Ann Arbor and parishioners of St. Andrew's who have so generously assisted him; to Miss Corseius for many suggestions and additions, notably for the complete list of wardens, vestrymen, secretaries, and treasurers in Appendix II; to Colonel Dean and Professor George W. Patterson, for their kindness in reading proof; and, most particularly, to the Rector, by whose energetic and efficient coöperation his task has been immeasurably lightened.

ARTHUR LYON CROSS.

ANN ARBOR,  
April, 1906.