

Church History <sup>of N. B.</sup> 1664 - 1920

Mount Zion A.M.E. is one of the oldest organization among the colored people of New Brunswick. The congregation commenced to hold religious services in 1827 at ~~different~~ <sup>different</sup> places, finally a church was built on Dunsinon St. The congregation is small but regular services ~~are~~ are held. The present pastor was ~~Rev. Samuel~~ Rev. Samuel L. Sturges.



The Laurentien Hotel Montreal, Canada

Mt. Zion Church started in Terry  
One Room Building

When the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church of N.B. was established in 1827 the only other church north of Penns. Railroad was St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church. Mt. Zion worshippers brought faggots with them to make the fire but according to church records, "Sometimes the spiritual fire would be so great that other heat was not necessary."

Joseph Hoagland, who donated the land on which the original church stood, and which ~~the~~ is still part of the present church property served as pastor until the N.J. Conference of the A.M.E. Church began sending ministers to Mt. Zion. These ministers were known as the Trenton Circuit. In those days men sat on one side of the church, women



on the other, and officers in the  
"Amen Cornu"

During its 137 year history there have  
been over 60 pastors because the term  
of service was limited and many  
pastors served for less than three  
years. Mt. Zion has survived and  
grown through many crises. Members  
of the congregation are able to look  
back now and laugh about ~~the~~ some  
of the financial predicaments which  
seemed far from funny at the times.

\* For example in 1872 there were 63 members.

The year's contributions totaled \$42  
in dollar money" (so designated because  
contributions were made in other forms  
also) which was \$524.75 short of the  
amount needed to pay the pastor's  
yearly salary.



The lovely church at 25 Division St. bears little resemblance to the original church which was a tiny frame one room building set far back from the street. At that time the church ~~ground~~ grounds also served as a burial grounds. The tombstones were removed during one of the church's many renovations. As the church grew the yard disappeared entirely, and the front steps now touch the sidewalk. The church was rebuilt for the first time in 1861 and the sum of \$1,233.25 was borrowed to finance construction. A security church trustees signed a bond binding themselves and their possessions for twice the amount borrowed if the money were not repaid within the given time.

This mortgage was repaid in 1868.

Evidently it wasn't possible to get much for the amount borrowed even in those days, for the building was condemned by city officials 10 years later, and in 1878 a new mortgage had to be drawn and the church ~~was~~<sup>had</sup> to be rebuilt.

Since that time both the exterior and interior of the church have undergone almost continual improvements. Mt. Zion is boasting a membership well over