

September 23, 2001

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Henkel  
P.O. Box 39  
Robbinston, ME 04671

Dear Bob and Bobbi:

First, knowing that you are both from the New York area, I want to say that I hope no family or friends were involved in the tragic events of Sept. 11. Noel and I were personally "spared," although we do know people who have missing loved ones. What a horrific event! We hope that wisdom will prevail among our leaders and that they will be guided from above as they contemplate appropriate action to take.

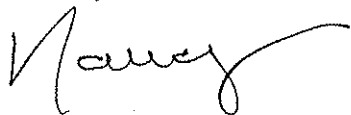
I feel very sheepish about the enclosed, which should have been sent to you several months ago!! It arrived over the summer, which is my busiest time (I went 23 days straight without a day off, and then we were on vacation for two weeks.) Still, it should have been forwarded to you -- and I apologize. You will also note that I am remiss in thanking the Rev. Studdiford, but I guess late is better than never.

Copies have been made for my two sisters. Here is the original copy I received from Rev. Studdiford, along with his original letter.

I was under the impression that my great aunt had written a small book. Evidently that is not the case, as I mention in my letter to Rev. Studdiford. Still, her account is interesting and perhaps something that would complement the Society's collection of records from the past.

I hope you are both well and enjoying this gorgeous fall weather. Thank you for all you are doing for the chapel. Cathy, Muriel and I are most appreciative.

Sincerely,



Nancy Christie

September 23, 2001

The Reverend Canon Linton Studdiford  
The Episcopal Diocese of Maine  
143 State Street  
Portland, Maine 04101

Dear Reverend Studdiford:

Please forgive me for not responding to your letter and enclosed materials in a more timely fashion. We are most appreciative of the hand-written copy of the history of the Grace Church in Robbinston written by Isabelle Steenstra for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary service. While I was under the impression that she had written a small book about the church's history, evidently this is not the case, as I'm sure our late mother would have forwarded it to you when the church was turned over to the diocese.

I have forwarded your letter and the copy of the history on to the Robbinston Historical Society, for their safe-keeping. All parties understand that no publication may be made of the material without prior written consent of the Bishop of Maine.

We believe that this history will be a welcome and helpful addition to the historical society's collection of materials about the Robbinston chapel.

Again, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Nancy Christie

c: Mr. Robert Henkel, Robbinston Historical Society  
The Reverend Susan LeSueur



# DIOCESE OF MAINE

LORING HOUSE

143 STATE STREET, PORTLAND, MAINE 04101-3799

TEL. 207 772-1953 FAX 207 773-0095

July 3, 2001

Ms. Christie  
P. O. Box 55  
Pittsfield, NH 03263

Dear Ms. Christie,

Thank you for your letter of June 4, and for the update on the progress being made by the Robbinston Historical Society concerning the former Grace Episcopal Church.

I am enclosing on acid-free paper a copy of the hand written pages by Isabelle Steenstra that are in our archives. We do not possess a book by Isabelle. Please note that this is for the use of the Historical Society, however, if they wish to publish or reproduce it they must have prior written permission of the Bishop of Maine.

I hope that this copy will be a useful addition to the Historical Society's collection of material about the Robbinston Chapel.

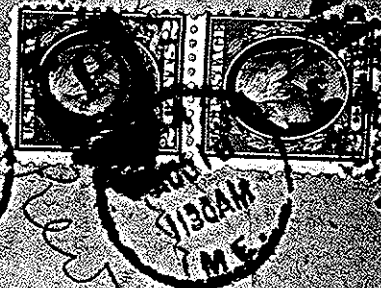
Yours truly,

The Rev. Canon Linton Studdiford

Enclosure

cc: The Rev. Susan LeSueur  
The Right Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen

**B. KABATZNICK**  
**Art and Gift Shop**  
**484-486 Boylston Street**  
Branch Store, 182 Boylston Street,  
**Boston, Mass.**



*Rev. L. H. Steenstra  
Robbinston  
Me.*

*Ministry of Grace Church  
Robbinston, Me. written  
by Belle Steenstra for  
50th Anniversary Service*

History  
of  
Grace Church (Episcopal)  
Robbinston, ME

by  
[Isa]belle Steenstra  
for [the]  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service  
[1929?]

N.B. This is an acid-free copy of the original hand written history owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, 143 State Street, Portland, ME 04101. The original is stored in the Archives, Parish Files, Grace Church, Robbinston. *No publication or other use may be made of this history without the prior written permission of the Bishop.*

July 2, 2001

1  
It was in the year 1786, a few years after the close of the Revolutionary War, that the Hon. Edward H. Robbins of Milton, Mass., afterwards lieutenant-governor of <sup>setts</sup> Massachusetts purchased the land on the St. Croix river known as township no. 4, and founded the ~~sett~~ settlement later incorporated as a town, and named Robbinston in honor of its founder.

~~as a Town and named  
Publication in honor of its  
founder.~~

The early records tell of activity in trading and ship-building. It is said that at one time fourteen ships were on the docks. At first, before the land was cleared, the shore formed the highway of communication. People travelled either by boat or on horseback along the beach. There are picturesque details of those pioneer days, of Indians hospitably sheltered over night in front of the big kitchen fire-place, of people sailing to meetings held in the log school-house near Liberty Point, of militia drilling during the War of 1812 in the field opposite the Mansion House.

There is an entry to the effect that on the proclamation of a fast day by Pres. Washington



they went over to St. Andrews and invited the Episcopal minister to hold service in the house of Gen. John Brewer, who later built the Mansion House, — presumably the first service conducted in Robbinston by a minister of our own Church.

The Congregational Church was early established. It has filled a place in the life of the town representative of the strength that denomination has always had in this State. We all remember the ~~first~~ <sup>earliest</sup> ~~building~~ building, visible far down the bay, & its spire hailed with delight by every home-comer, its magnifying pulpit and its clock bearing the date of the settlement of the town, a gift of Governor Robbins. ~~(copy)~~



4.

The older ones among us can easily close our eyes and people the pews again. Mr. Thos. Vose, the kindly postmaster, to whom on week days the children would listen with eager interest while he called the mail and we stood round <sup>ready</sup> ~~eager~~ to claim the family letters. There was Deacon Balkam, Mr. Albert Buck, Mr. John Brooks, and many others, men of strong character, descendants of the pioneer inhabitants.

In ~~the~~ one of the side pews sat a lady whom I would especially mention, since under God's guidance it is largely the result of her Christian character and loyal devotion to her church of her Virginia girlhood that we are gathered here today. Gentle, refined, amid the stern surroundings

of a New England town, Mrs Hunt was still the gracious Southern lady, loving above every other the Episcopal Church, yet joining in the worship ~~of the~~ <sup>of</sup> the community in which she lived.

It is now over fifty years since my father first came to Robbinston. Like everybody else, after the first visit he continued to come. He early made an attempt to hold a regular Sunday Service, giving as his motive that he was not willing to spend the whole season in Robbinston without doing something for the town. In particular, he wished to bring to Mrs. Hunt, so long deprived of them, the services of her own church. This first attempt took the form of a Sunday afternoon service held

at Red Beach <sup>the 6<sup>th</sup> there</sup> {there being - 9  
think - no public worship ~~held~~  
in that town. Selections were  
made from the Prayer Book  
which Mrs. Hunt had printed  
in pamphlet form at her  
own expense. This attempt,  
however, did not meet  
with success, and was ~~early~~  
soon abandoned.

Then came a summer  
when the Congregational  
Church was without a  
minister, and for one season  
my father preached in that  
church, using the familiar  
forms from the Prayer Book  
as a continuous prayer.

Just before the next  
effort came about 9 am  
not sure. It was about this  
time that the cottage opposite  
the Congregational Church, now  
occupied by Mr. Holmes, was  
bought by Mr. John Lambert,  
a Philadelphia Quakerman,  
who with his family came

to Robinson's Summer after Summer for a number of years. There was probably a spontaneous desire on the part of the few Episcopalians to have their own service. Arrangements were made to hold it in the school-house, which was done during four Summers morning and evening.

In appearance these services must have borne some slight resemblance to Quaker meetings. For, as I remember it, the men and women, doubtless acting under the impulse of early school day habits, stood either and seat themselves, the former by the "boys' door" on the South, the latter by the North or "girls' door". The school boasted no musical instrument, but this need was met by the loan of a small organ from the hotel of Mr. O'Brien, a Roman Catholic resident. And a regular Sunday evening sight, after

the lights had been fanned out at the end of service was this instrument borne homeward on the shoulders of Mrs. Hunt's two sons.

The department of music, indeed, was entirely in the hands of Mrs. Hunt's family. Her daughter was organist and chorister in one, and with such spirit and enthusiasm did she do her part that it might truly be said of her — as I have heard it said of a certain wonderful singer in Trinity Church that "while the minister preached at one end of the church, she preached at the other". Besides playing and singing herself Miss Hunt pressed into the service all the available talent of the neighborhood. The strains of "The gracious firmament on high" sung in that little school-house still ring in my ears.

It was then in Sept. 1881

These services were well attended, not alone by our few Church people; but in the evening especially, others formed the majority of the congregation. My father wore no surplice; everything was plain and simple. One lady recalls the passage <sup>through</sup> of the Red Sea illustrated on the blackboard. On several occasions his place was filled by theological students. The Rev. Paul Sterling and the Rev. <sup>Charles</sup> Maurice Abbotson stand out in my memory of those services.

It was there in Sept. 1881

that we held a memorial service for Pres. Garfield after we had shared with the rest of the country the daily newspaper reports of that long, anxious summer.

I think it was that same summer, the summer of 1881, that an attempt was made in the direction of forming a parish. I remember two enthusiastic meetings held in the living-room of our house, where perhaps a dozen men were gathered together. Mr. Lambert and Mr. Hunt were appointed wardens of the new parish. Our neighbors, Joshua and Abel Brooks were both present to the end of their lives <sup>were</sup> in faithful attendants upon the services of this church.

This parish formation, however, apparently lacking the canonical connection with the diocese, naturally became ineffective, especially as the church was open only during the summer.

The need was felt of a



more suitable building. The Lambert family had guests from Phila. Mrs. Hunt had friends visiting her from Norfolk, Va. All were interested. Money was raised amounting to over \$500.00. Of this \$15.00 was the gift of Dr. Geo. C. Shattuck of Boston, contributed through Miss Elizabeth Shattuck of Red Beach.

Beginning ~~the~~ work, however, was not dependent upon the funds in hand, for money was generously loaned by Mr. J. B. Sergeant of Phila, a brother-in-law of Mr. Lambert. He advanced whatever was needed, taking a mortgage on the church beyond for the amount beyond what the subscriptions covered. Before his death Mr. Sergeant liquidated this mortgage, so that the building is entirely free of debt. The deeds are held in trust by

Mr. Geo. H. Hunt and Rev. Mr. Steenaka

The church was built during the summer of 1882. Land was purchased at a cost of \$75.00. The building plan was - I think - procured through Mr. Nehemiah Marks a member of Trinity Church, St. Stephen. I do not know whether he drew it himself or employed an architect. Mr. Gordon of St. Stephen and Mr. Joshua Brooks of Robinsonton were the carpenters. The furnishing was mostly in the house of Mr. Lambert. This was of the simplest, a plain communion table and lectern of oak, the table rendered more churchly in appearance by the green altar cloth - it being always the Trinity season when services were in progress. This summer Mrs. Simchovitch has presented the church with <sup>an</sup> altar.

cross in memory of her father,  
 Col. Kingsbury, and of Dr. Nash.  
 The lamps were the gift of  
 Mrs. Hunt and of her brother,  
 Mr. Stephen Bonsal of Baltimore.  
 Mrs. Lambert gave the Communion  
 service. There was great enthusiasm.  
 Every one took hold and helped.  
 The beautiful embroidery upon the  
 altar cloth was the work of  
 Miss Hunt. Mr. John Lambert, Jr.  
 an artist by profession, stencilled  
 an ecclesiastical design upon  
 the windows in soft brown,  
 effective and charming. I am  
 sorry to say that his work  
 did not withstand indefinitely  
 the severe Maine winter.

One interesting gift were the  
 two lamps used on the organ,  
 presented by an old gentle-  
 man, Mr. Hinton, who as a  
 youth had fought against  
 Napoleon in the battle of  
 Waterloo.

The surprise was made by  
 Grace in the Lambert home.  
 I remember being summoned to  
 see on the buttons in order,  
 as Father explained, that I  
 might have a ~~hand~~ <sup>share</sup> in  
 the work.

Mr. Lambert's Philadelphia  
 rector, the Rev. Thos. F. Davies,  
 afterwards Bp. of Michigan, ~~and~~  
 with his family, spent part of  
 that summer in Robinsonston,  
 and was present for the  
 opening service of ~~Grace Church~~  
 on the first Sunday in  
 October, 1882. For the first  
 time in our services the  
 Lord's Supper was celebrated,  
 and the new building  
 was further consecrated by  
 the Sacrament of Baptism, -  
 Dr. Davies baptising the  
 rector's two younger children,  
 one of whom has since  
 accepted the ministry of  
 Grace Church as our suc-  
 cessors.

14.

¶ A few years after this Dr. Nash came to the shores of the Passamaquoddy, making his summer home in the adjoining town of No. Perry. For years the services of Grace Church were carried on regularly morning and evening. <sup>in the chance</sup> Dr. Nash always present, <sup>with</sup> my father at the morning service, speaking to us on alternate Sundays. words of cheer and inspiration. The evening service was attended by many besides our own church people, and the church was often filled to capacity, interest reaching a climax toward the end of the season. I never hear ~~from the evening hymns~~ ~~always carry me back in spirit to this little church.~~

Until her marriage a few years later Miss Hunt continued to be responsible for the music, after which Miss Mary Steenstra took up

the bell have devolved upon Mr. Hitchcock, who has performed them with fidelity.

During the Summer of 1884 and again in 1885, Bp. Neely visited the church and administered the rite of Confirmation, in all nine persons being confirmed. After one of these visits a reception took place at Mrs. Hunt's house, giving us <sup>all</sup> an opportunity to meet the bishop. — It is cause for rejoicing to us ~~all~~ that today after these many years we are again enjoying the privilege of a visit from the Bishop of the Diocese.

From time to time we have had the refreshment of a sermon from some visiting clergyman. Probably the most frequent contributions in this direction have been

that duty, followed in the course of time by our present organist.

For a good many years a small Sunday School was held in connection with the services.

As long as he came to Robbinston Mr. Stambert performed the duties of Sexton, going to the church every Saturday, accompanied by his big deer-hound, trimming and filling lamps, putting up numbers on the hymn-boards, finding and marking the lessons for the following day. At times he served as Lay-Reader. On Sunday mornings he rang the bell & passed the offertory plate - occasionally receiving the offerings on an open Prayer Book when by oversight the plates had been forgotten. Never once did he forget to time the length of the sermon! Of late years the duties of opening the church and ringing



made by two ministers who are present ~~here~~ <sup>for</sup> today, the Rev. Walter C. Roberts, and the Rev. Henry P. Ross. To Mr. Roberts this congregation is deeply indebted for what he has given us this summer of his own faith and spiritual insight.

On one occasion we had a sermon from Dean Hodges of the Cambridge Theological School. Also Prof. Brown preached here a sermon that on the following day called forth from one listener a note to the effect that "he lived in hopes of hearing him preach again"!

One summer after the church had been closed for the season, the Rev. Mr. Hand, ~~now settled in Bangor,~~ <sup>at that time</sup> rector of St. Anne's Church, Calais, anxious to minister to all within reach of his automobile, opened the church for a Sunday afternoon service.

Last summer a special afternoon service was held, and sermon preached at the request of the United Order of Red Men, who attended in a body.

In the memory of most of us who are gathered here today, this little church is still filled with the forms of those who have worshipped here in the past. Perhaps who knows how short the time may be before the revealing light of science shows that in very truth they are nearer to us than we know?

We seem now to have come to a parting of the ways.\* Without taking into account the somewhat chimerical hope, periodically shared by all the towns on Passamaquoddy Bay, that St. Andrews may one day become an important winter port, there are various directions in which

\* This part is a record of what accomplished in the past, and is not a prediction of the future.



## DIOCESE OF MAINE

LORING HOUSE

143 STATE STREET, PORTLAND, MAINE 04101-3799

Tel. 207 772-1953

FAX 207 773-0095

March 6, 1998

Mr. Harvey Cawley  
33 Spruce Street  
Carmel, Maine 04419-9755

Dear Harvey:

Thank you very much for the letters you sent concerning the history of Grace Church in Robbinston. I have put them in our files and they are a welcome addition to the small amount of information we have here on Grace Church.

I have indeed followed up our conversation concerning the Church Register with Elizabeth Maule, our Archivist, even though I know we have both looked in the archives for information previously. We found the chalice and a key to the building but that is all. I checked with Hank Hancock and his note to me (in his handwriting) indicated a log but it turns out that "log" was actually "key" when we deciphered his handwriting.

I know this is another disappointment for you, but all along I have just not been able to put my hands on a Grace Church register no matter where I looked. I can say that our archives is in quite good shape now and we generally know what we have and don't have and the register has certainly not turned up. Thanks again for your patience. If you find any additional information you'd like to include in the Grace Church file, we are always happy to have it.

Sincerely yours,

Sharon

Sharon W. Colgan

Executive Secretary to the Bishop

*My best hope of  
finding the Register is  
just up.  
Harvey  
See notes information  
Gaines Notebook*

March 2, 1988

Dear Sharon

These copies are about the Robbinston Grace Episcopal Church.. One page ,(both sides) is about the costs and raising the money to build the church. Another is a letter about the church. It appears to be a rough draft of a letter to someone unknown by someone unknown. It was written on the back of a letter to the Rev. Peter Henry Steenstra from a typewriter Co. in Boston . The date on this letter gives an idea of the time period, at least places the writing after 1907. I have tried to interpret the letter and have typed it so it can be read easier.

The letter appears be be trying to find a means of disposition of the church after the Parish organization disappeared. The letter may have been written by Peter Henry Steenstra's son Fredrick, maybe?

You said I could copy these for you so here they are .

Sincerely  
Harvey

Harvey Cawley  
33 Spruce St RR1 Box 2433  
Carmel, Me. 04419-9755

*Sent to Sharon @ Macie in Portland.*

*(see information sources notebook)*

# Christian Remember

That the Church enjoins the Sponsors to see that this child be taught as soon as he shall be able to learn what a solemn vow, promise, and profession he hath here made by them. And chiefly that they shall provide that he may learn

the Duty, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments.

and all other things that a Christian ought to know and Believe to his Soul's Wealth.

And that this child may be virtuously brought up to lead a

Godly and a Christian Life,

remembering always that Baptism doth represent unto us our profession, which is to follow the example of

OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST,

and to be made like HIM.

A God to glorify.—I. Cor. vi. 20.  
A Saviour to believe in and imitate.—Acts xvii. 31; I. Peter ii. 21.  
A body to mortify through the Spirit.—Romans viii. 13.  
A soul to save.—Phil. ii. 12, 13.  
The Scripture to search and meditate upon.—John v. 39; Ps. i. 2; Josh. i. 7, 8; Deut. xi. 18-21.  
Repentance to seek and perform.—Acts v. 31; Luke xiii. 3.  
Passions to subdue.—II. Cor. x. 5; Eph. iv. 21, 32.  
Sins to weep over and forsake.—Zach. xii. 10; Luke vii. 38; Prov. xxviii. 13; Matt. xxvi. 75.  
Graces and virtues to implore by earnest prayer.—Phil. iv. 6; Mark xi. 24; James i. 5, 6; iv. 2, 3.  
The old man to put off and destroy.—Eph. iv. 22; Rom. vi. 6.  
The new man to put on and to nourish.—Eph. iv. 23-24; I. Peter ii. 2, II. Peter i. 5-11.  
Mercies and deliverances to be thankful for.—Ps. lvi. 12, 13, ciii. 1-5; cxvi. 12-14.  
Works of charity to perform.—Matt. xxv. 35-40; Gal. vi. 10.  
A neighbor to edify.—Rom. xv. 2; Eph. iv. 29.  
A world to fear and yet to conquer.—II. Cor. vi. 17; I. John v. 4.  
Devils to combat.—Eph. iv. 12; I. Peter v. 8, 9.  
A hell to avoid.—Matt. iii. 7; Mark ix. 43-48.  
A paradise to gain.—Rev. ii. 7-10; xxii. 1-5.  
Time to husband.—Eph. v. 16; I. Cor. vii. 29-31.  
An eternity to meditate on.—Col. iii. 2; II. Cor. iv. 18.  
To prepare for death.—Luke xii. 20; II. Tim. iv. 5, 7.  
And to watch for the day of judgment.—Mark xiii. 32-37; II. Cor. v. 10.  
And all these must be met and performed not in thine own strength, which is perfect weakness.—II. Cor. xii. 10; Phil. iv. 13; but in the

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.



Gracie Amealia

Received

In Grace Church

Robbinston, Maine

Diocese of Maine

on Sunday, XIV after Trinity

the 24<sup>th</sup> day of August

In the Year of our Lord 1913.

Parents { Oliver W. Spearin

Nellie M. Spearin

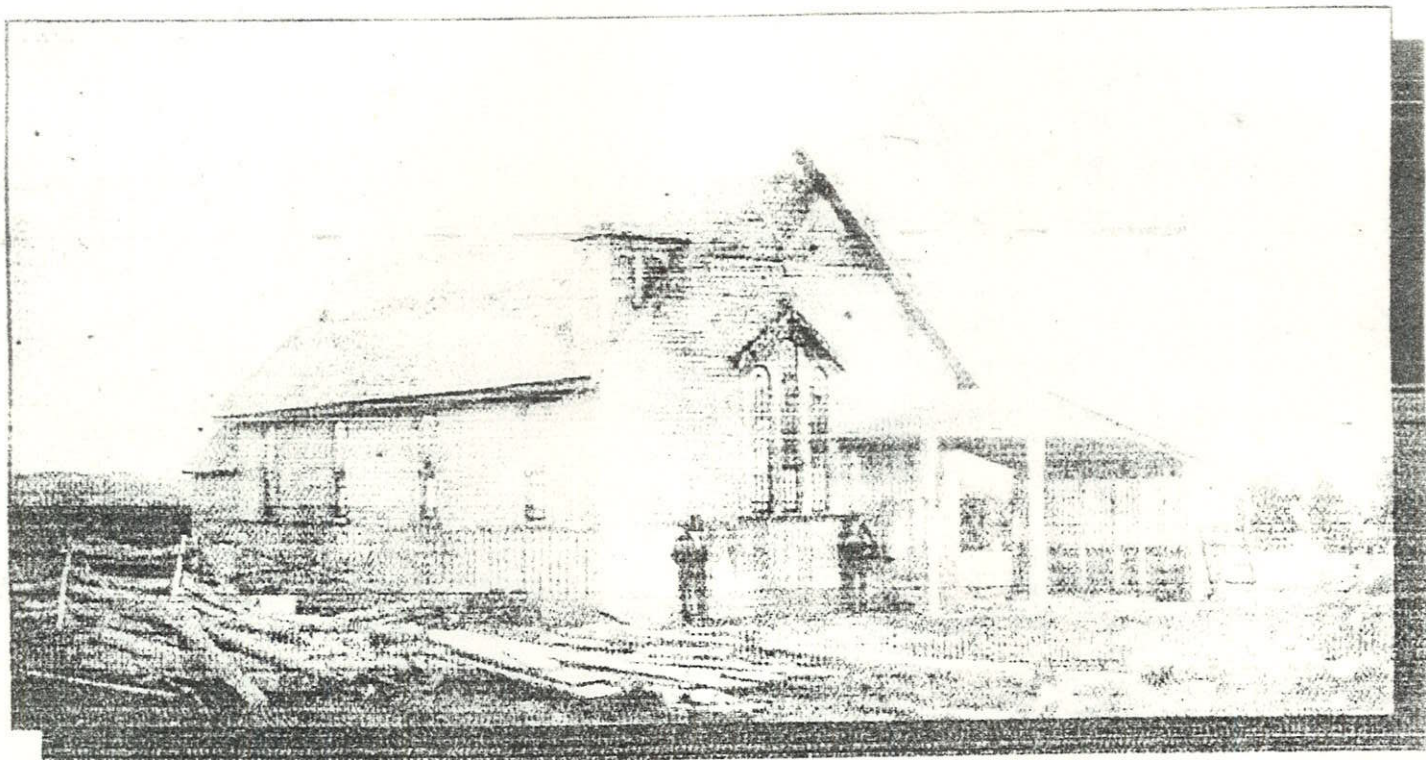
Sponsors { Edgar Campbell

or Edith M. Spearin

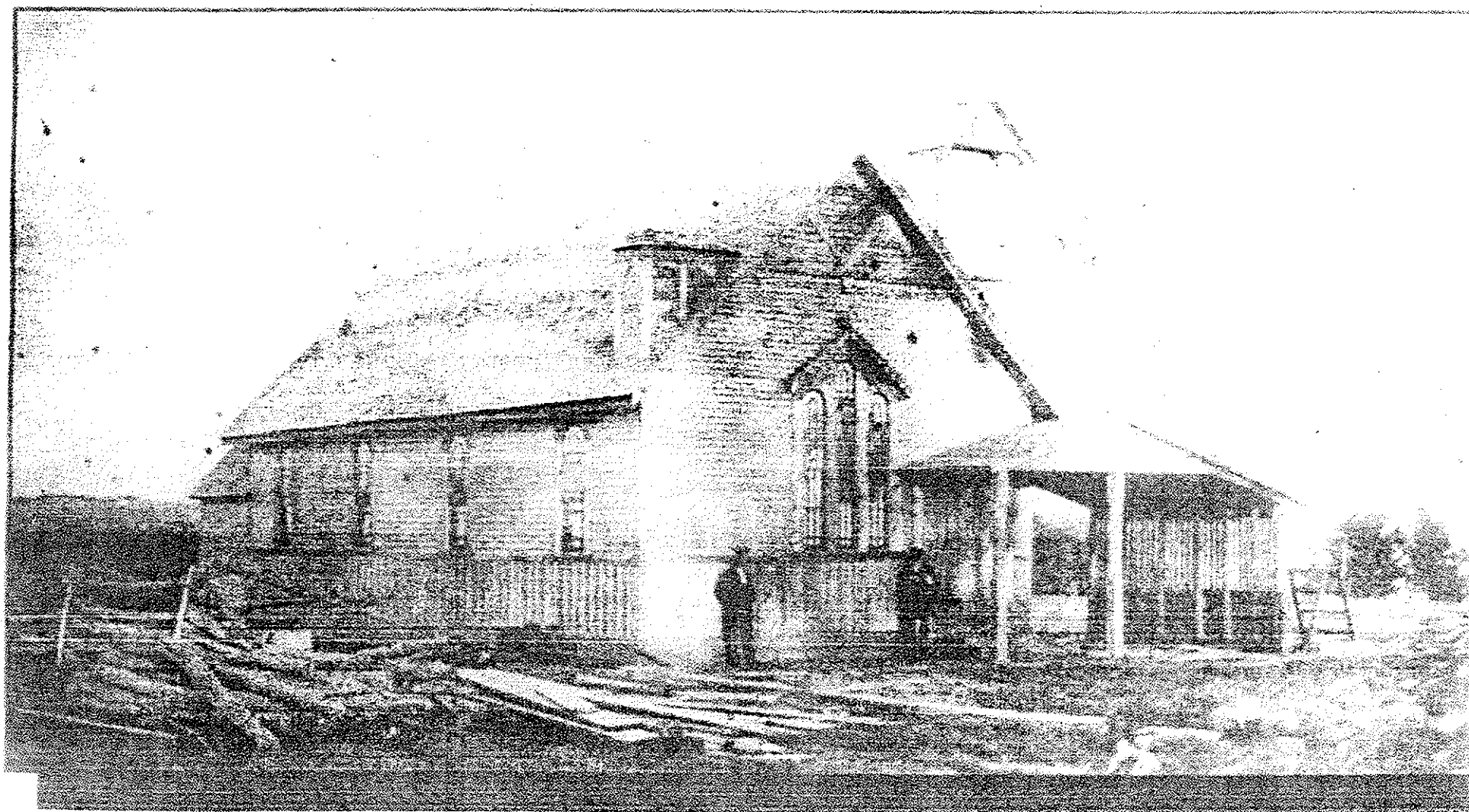
Witnesses { Parents

Frederick H. Steenhstra

Born July 6 1899 Recorded Parish Register No. 1 Page .....



Grace Episcopal Church under construction in 1882



**Grace Episcopal Church under construction in 1882**



This letter written on back of a correspondence from a typewriter Co. in Boston to Rev. Peter Steenstra of Cambridge Ma. Dated April 3, 1907 (copy of this letter on other side)

In 1882 some summer residents and permanent citizens purchased 1/2 acre of land and built a church for , especially for, summer use. A Parish organization after the model of the Prot. Epis. Church was formed and for some time kept up but has long since disappeared (as a parish Organization). Most of its members being dead. The church services have been kept up every summer.

A loan of \$700 to originate the debt was made by Jonathan D. Sargeant Esq. of Philadelphia in 1882 or 1883 (was 1882) for which a mortgage was given him, signed by "John Lambert", Warden (or perhaps "Treasurer").

Of this mortgage( which cannot now be found), Mr. Sargeant, the Mortgagee desires to have a "proper satisfaction" "made out and sent to me (him) as I intend giving it to the church.

So the church has now no legal organization. The best way I suppose will be to make out the deed of discharge or of gift or whatever may be the proper names and form to trustee, and as such the names of George H. Hunt of Calais and Frederick H. Steenstra of Mansville, Rode Island may be used.

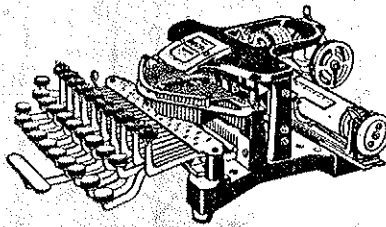
If for this purpose a copy of the Mortgage is registered the attorney can procure it from the registrtration of deeds in Machias.

Of course: The trust will have to be described as assigned for the holding of religious services according to the rites and forms of the P.E. Church in the U S .

One point more : The deed of the land was made out ,I think to John Lambert, but whether to him as "Warden or Treasurer or simply individual I do not know.

This  
Letter  
←  
Other  
Side

FREDERICK J. WILLIAMS  
Sales Manager



## THE POSTAL TYPEWRITER

THE ONLY PRACTICAL  
TYPEWRITER AT A  
REALLY LOW PRICE

**\$25.00**

HAS THE UNIVERSAL  
KEYBOARD WITH  
84 CHARACTERS

15 Court Square, BOSTON, MASS.

Rev. Peter H. Steenstra,

April 3, 1907.

Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

The superior merit contained in the Postal Typewriter over that of any other writing machine, new or second hand at a similar price, is conceded by everyone in a position to know. It is very strongly built and carries our fullest guarantee. Honest in price, service, material, and workmanship - the only REAL typewriter at a low cost.

Combines Universal keyboard, strong manifolding, mimeograph stencil cutting, visible writing, beautiful work, and prints from a ribbon - the same as all high priced machines. Practically accident proof and imperfect alignment impossible.

Convenient, durable, and portable - weighs ten pounds. Will do EVERYTHING any trust-built typewriter will do and save the purchaser \$75. cash. Thousands sold and never a dissatisfied user.

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There is no test like actual use. May we send you one for five days free trial? No obligation or expense attached to this except the small express charges.

Yours very truly,

POSTAL TYPEWRITER COMPANY.

F.J.W. - A.

*Frederick J. Williams*

We are making some special inducements this month in both price and terms. Send for booklet and further particulars.

Donations. as follows

W. H. Hunt	\$100.
W. H. Hunt towards Organ	44.60
J. Lambert	130 -
Mrs Hunt fundamps	42.44
Mrs Camp Norfolk \$20	} Collected by Mrs Hunt 40 -
J B Camp do 10	
Mrs Coffin Portsmouth 10	
	\$40

Cash Collected by Mrs Lambert	40.05
Miss Morris Phila	25 -
Le D. Sargent do	25 -
Per Rev S. S. Sturges	50 -
Rev Dr. Davis Phila	10 -
W. Marks Calais	10 -
Cash (J. C. T. \$5. H. H. \$1)	6 -
W. S. W. Hubbard per S. S. Sturges	10 -
W. R. L. Wintthrop Jr per do	25 -
Dr. Geo C. Shattuck per Miss Shattuck	15 -
	\$573.09

1882 Offerings as follows

Oct 1.	—	\$14.17
1883		
June 24	—	4.59
July 1	—	2.90
8	—	3.88
15	—	3.10
22	—	3.48
29	—	2.61
Aug 5	—	3.75
12	—	4.77
19	—	3.91
26	—	8.03
Sept 2	—	4.88
9	—	3.67
16	—	4.79
		<hr/>
		\$68.53
	20	

# Summary

Cost of Lot }  
Building & Furniture } \$1450.20

Donations }  
& offerings } 666.62  
are \$666.62

leaving a balance due \$783.58

Which has been met by  
a loan, from Mr. J. D. Sargent  
bearing interest, of \$750-  
& monies advanced }  
by Mr. Sargent } 33.58

Cost of Church, & its  
Furniture is as follows:

Ground \$75-

Building 967.16

Furniture viz }  
Carpet, Matting & Chairs } 2186.10

Lamps & Chandeliers 42.44

Organ 140-

Bibles & 14-

Insurance 5 yrs 21-

Interest 4.50

\$1450.20

# Summary

Cost of Lot } \$1450.20  
 Building & Furniture }

Donations }  
 & offerings } 666.62  
 are \$666.62 }

leaving a balance due \$783.58

which has been met by  
 a loan, from W. J. D. Sargent  
 bearing interest, of \$750-  
 & monies advanced } 33.58  
 by W. Sargent }

Cost of Church, & its  
 Furniture is as follows:

Ground \$75-

Building 967.16

Furniture viz } 186.10  
 Carpet, Matting & Chairs }

Lamps & Chandeliers 42.44

Organ 140-

Bibles & 14-

Insurance 5 yrs 21-

Interest 4.50

\$1450.20

In 1882 some summer residents and some summer residents and <sup>permanent</sup> ~~citizens~~ citizens of ~~beville a chapel church~~ purchased  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre of land and built a church to be used for services of the Prot. <sup>Ev.</sup> ~~Epis.~~ <sup>Ev.</sup> especially <sup>for</sup> summer use. A parish organization after the model of the Prot. Epis. Church was formed, and for some <sup>time</sup> years kept up, but has long since disappeared, most of its members having been dead. <sup>Church</sup> The services, <sup>however</sup> have been kept up every summer.

as I understand giving it to the Church -"

# Of course: the trust will have to be properly described, <sup>to be as defined for</sup> e.g. ~~for the use~~ <sup>for the holding</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>religious</sup> ~~services~~ <sup>services</sup> according to the rites and forms of the P. & E. Church in the U.S.



# Donations. as follows

W. H. Hunt	\$100	
W. H. Hunt towards Organ	44.60	
J. Lambert	130 -	
Mrs Hunt for lamps	42.44	
Mrs Camp for oil	\$20	} collected by Mrs Hunt
J. B. Camp do	10	
Mrs Coffin for oil	10	
	40 -	
	\$40	

Cash collected by Mrs Lambert	40.05
Miss Morris Phil <sup>a</sup>	25 -
L. D. Sargent do	25 -
Per Rev. Dr. Sterns	50 -
Rev Dr. Davis Phil <sup>a</sup>	10 -
W. Marks Latin	10 -
Cash (J. C. 7. 5. H. H. 41)	6 -
W. S. Hubbell pr. Dr. Sterns	10 -
W. R. C. Winter pr. do	25 -
Dr. Geo C. Shattuck pr. Miss Shattuck	15 -
	\$573.09

# 1882 Offerings as follows

Oct 1.	—	\$14.17
1883		
June 24	—	4.59
July 1	—	2.90
8	—	3.88
15	—	3.10
22	—	3.48
29	—	2.61
Aug 5	—	3.75
12	—	4.77
19	—	3.91
26	—	8.03
Sept 2	—	4.88
9	—	3.67
16	—	4.79
7	—	
		\$68.53





## DIocese OF MAINE

LORING HOUSE

143 STATE STREET, PORTLAND, MAINE 04101

TEL. 207 772-1953

August 26, 1985

Mrs. Walter H. Steenstra  
R.R. #2, Box 14648  
Laconia, N.Y. 03246

Dear Mrs. Steenstra:

Just a note to let you know the communion cup from Grace Church, Robbinston, as well as the church register and history did arrive safely.

This morning I opened up the box to check if everything was all right and it is. Bishop Wolf was very pleased to learn of these things and wants me to express his appreciation for these things and your action to perpetuate the church building.

I took the liberty of reading the register and the history. It was fascinating reading - both the 50th and 100th celebrations. All of this material will now be placed in the Diocesan Archives here at the Cathedral.

Warm regards,

Daniel P. Johnson  
Administrator

Front door Key to church sent also, inside the  
box holding the communion cup. On the <sup>sealed</sup> envelope  
holding the Key I wrote a note re the fact that  
the Bracketts were entrusted with the other Key  
by W.H.S. since they had been caretakers of  
the church for W.H.S.

R.M.S.

(Above is follow-up note to Mr. Johnson since  
he didn't list the Key & I didn't want it to  
be thrown away accidentally with the packing  
material)

R.S.

DIOCESE OF MAINE

*The Right Reverend Chilton R. Knudsen  
Bishop of Maine*



6-7-00  
Loring House  
143 State Street  
Portland, Maine 04101-3799

207-772-1953  
Fax 207-773-0095

*In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

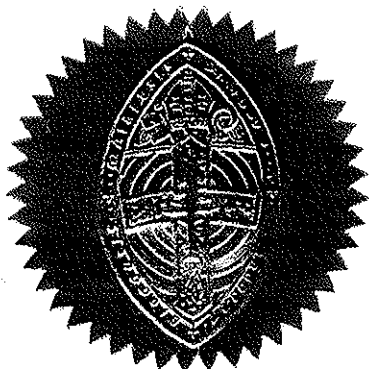
To the best of our knowledge and belief, this building was duly dedicated and consecrated and named Grace Chapel in the 10<sup>th</sup> month of the year of our Lord 1882.

The Sentence of Consecration has been in effect until this present date.

I, The Rt. Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen, XIII Bishop of Maine, do hereby revoke the said Sentence presumably issued by my predecessor, The Rt. Rev. Henry Adams Neeley, II Bishop of Maine, and do remit this building, and all objects remaining in it, for any lawful and reputable use, according to the laws of this land.

This building, having now been declared deconsecrated and secularized, I declare to be no longer subject to my canonical jurisdiction.

This Declaration, which is to be publicly proclaimed before witnesses gathered at the said building, is given under my hand and seal, in the City of Robbinston, State of Maine, and Diocese of Maine, on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, in the year of our Lord 2000.



*+ Chilton R. Knudsen*  
The Rt. Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen  
Bishop of Maine



# planned

re money making  
uture. On Febru-  
be a cake and  
o another basket-  
probably at the  
on Feb. 17.  
e Holy Land has  
ing to the people  
ethodist Church  
on. They are all  
and helping one

another. It is a benefit to both  
themselves and the community.

.....  
Sunday worship services of the  
Calais Methodist Church: Church  
School - 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Jr. & Sr.  
H.S. Bible Class, 9:30-10:15 a.m.;  
Methodist Youth Holy Land Group  
- 10:15-10:45 a.m.; Adult Bible  
Class, 10-10:45; Morning Worship,  
11 a.m. (nursery during worship).

## RDS

## E BY



### ure It Out For Yourself

*James A. Taylor*

*The United Church of Canada*

and I were trying to solve a small engineer-  
m. For his business, he had to work out a  
thematical formula, that would save him  
omplicated calculations, or trial and error  
a certain problem came up.

wasn't a difficult problem, in retrospect.  
engineer might well have given us the forced  
... off the top of his head. A skilled  
cian might have worked it out for us in  
ut we had to start from nowhere, working  
from basic principles and practical experi-  
e two of us spent a whole evening, batting  
and forth, struggling with trigonometry  
a and something he called a binomial

ly, we got the formula we needed. It took  
steps to get it all laid out on paper, so we  
rstand it.

e looked again at those 27 steps. We dis-  
didn't need that many. The whole thing  
been much simpler. Now that we knew  
we were doing, the process could be cut to just

hink back to the struggle we had, it seems  
e way we learn about God. We start from  
y experiences. We chase up blind alleys. We  
is answers. We discuss our misunderstand-  
ther people, as if they were really leading  
the truth.

we do discover God — or maybe more  
once God reveals himself to us — we look  
ee how simple, how straightforward, the  
h could have been.

hen our troubles start. We start to think  
i save other people in the time, the effort  
ould just follow our simple route to God.  
ght work if God could be reduced to a  
ut as we keep finding, God is much more  
uation — whether of figures, symbols,  
ords.



## • Grace Episcopal Church •

Grace Episcopal Church in Rob-  
binston was designed by Mr. Ne-  
hemias Marks of Trinity Church in  
St. Stephen. A Mr. Gordon from  
St. Stephen and Mr. Joshua Brooks  
of Robbinston did all the carpenter  
work. Many families from Red  
Beach, Robbinston and Perry gave  
freely of their time and money to  
make the first Episcopal church in  
Robbinston possible.

The first Episcopal service in  
Robbinston is believed to have been  
held in Gen. John Brewer's house  
during the War of 1812, according  
to a history written by Isabel  
Steenstra, daughter of the church's  
only regular minister. Later, ser-  
vices were held morning and even-  
ings in the summer at one of the  
town's school houses. Men and  
women, perhaps remembering their  
school days, sat on opposite sides  
of the room.

In 1881, two meetings were held  
in Rev. Frederick H. Stenstra's  
living room and a dozen or so men  
set out to raise money to build an  
Episcopal church.

Only \$500 was raised, so a  
mortgage was taken out on the  
church. The land was purchased for  
\$75 and the building was construct-  
ed during the summer of 1882. It  
was used the first Sunday in  
October.

Regular services were held by  
Rev. Steenstra and other Episcopal  
ministers who wished to donate  
their services. Since Rev. Steen-  
stra's death in 1935, occasional  
services have been held when an  
Episcopal minister is in the area.

Walter H. Steenstra, Rev. Steen-  
stra's son said: 'I believe the  
Episcopal Diocese of Maine will take  
it over when I, as the last trustee,  
pass on.'

## REQUIRED

## ADVERTISING ASSISTANT

An ideal part time opportunity for an imaginative  
Individual. Inquiries invited.





## DIOCESE OF MAINE

LORING HOUSE

143 STATE STREET, PORTLAND, MAINE 04101-3799

Tel. 207 772-1953

FAX 207 773-0095

September 19, 2000

Mr. John A. Churchill  
55 North St.  
PO Box 306  
Calais, Maine 04619-0306

Re: Steenstra Trust/Robbinston Historical Society

Dear Mr. Churchill,

Enclosed are three checks totaling \$32,574.46. These checks represent the proceeds of the Steenstra Trust. I have also enclosed documents that will give the Robbinston Historical Society some history of the trust and clarity around the restrictions as well. The letter from Ruth M. Steenstra clearly states that trust income only should be used in the upkeep of the Grace Church.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Laurie Kazilionis  
Financial Officer



# DIocese OF MAINE

LORING HOUSE

143 STATE STREET, PORTLAND, MAINE 04101

TEL. 207 772-1953

16 April 1986

Ms. Suzanne Craig  
Merrill Trust Company  
Exchange Street  
Bangor, Maine 04401

Dear Suzanne:

I believe we finally have information sufficient to release funds from Merrill Trust Company passbook #11 213-913-8 held for Grace Church, Rogginston, Maine, Walter H. Steenstra, Treasurer.

You will note from the enclosed copies of correspondence that Walter H. Steenstra is no longer alive and that his widow, Ruth M. Steenstra, Laconia, N. H., deeded the property in Robbinston to the Maine Episcopal Missionary Society. Her late husband was Treasurer and a trustee of this property.

Mrs. Steenstra also gave a sum of \$10,000 to be held in trust by our Trustees of Diocesan Funds, the income to be used to maintain the property.

At a later date at Mrs. Steenstra's request her attorney, Arthur Highswander, forwarded two savings passbooks, the proceeds from these passbooks to be added the monies in trust. One of the two passbooks is enclosed, #11 212-913-8.

I trust that all of the enclosed correspondence will be sufficient to release the funds as requested. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Daniel P. Johnson*  
Daniel P. Johnson  
Administrator

j/d

Oct. 1, 1984

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank-you for your letter of Sept. 20.

I am very happy that you, Chancellor Scribner, and Bishop Wolf are in accord with my husband's wish to transfer Grace Church to the Diocese of Maine. Its future was of great concern to him.

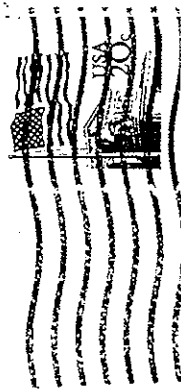
I realize an endowment of \$5,000 would not be sufficient now, so I propose a sum of \$10,000 to care for the property. Would this be a realistic amount and agreeable to all concerned? The Chapel is in good condition and I should think would need no repairs for some time.

This morning I talked with my lawyer, Arthur H. Nighswander of Laconia, regarding this matter. Since Mr. Nighswander knows Mr. Scribner personally, he will contact him by letter immediately. Perhaps they can resolve the situation so there will be no need for you to travel to Laconia.

As soon as Mr. Nighswander has more information, I shall be in touch with you. (I have the Parish Register, the silver Communion cup, etc. to turn over).

Sincerely yours,

Ruth M. Steenstra



RECEIVED  
100-7-11-84  
Mr. Daniel P. Johnson  
Loring House  
143 State St.  
Portland, Maine 04101

PIERCE, ATWOOD, SCRIBNER, ALLEN, SMITH & LANCASTER

ONE MONUMENT SQUARE

PORTLAND, MAINE 04101

207 / 773-6411

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JOHN O. NEWELL IV  
GREGORY D. WOODWORTH

LEONARD A. PIERCE  
(1885-1960)

EDWARD W. ATWOOD  
(1897-1977)

AUGUSTA OFFICE  
77 WINTHROP STREET  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330  
207 / 622-6311

January 9, 1985

Daniel P. Johnson  
Diocese of Maine  
143 State Street  
Portland, ME 04101

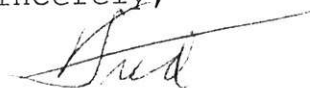
Dear Dan:

I received back from the Registry of Deeds, duly recorded, the deed from Martin Russell, Trustee, to The Maine Episcopal Missionary Society, of the real estate which the Trustees have held in Robbinston.

The question is where shall we put the original deed?

Key Bank holds the original documents of Trustees of Diocesan Funds. In the past, the original materials of The Maine Episcopal Missionary Society have been held there at the Bishop's office. I will make a copy of this material for my file, but I think we ought to have an understood arrangement about where documents of this type are to be kept. What are your suggestions?

Sincerely,



FCSJr/mcm



Arthur H. Nighswander, Esq.

Page 2

July 8, 1985

My thought is that it is hard to foresee the future and, sometime down the road, income might not keep the property in shape and it would be unfortunate to have money in the trust and not be able to do anything to the property.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred".

FCSJr/mcm

PIERCE, ATWOOD, SCRIBNER, ALLEN, SMITH & LANCASTER

ONE MONUMENT SQUARE

PORTLAND, MAINE 04101

207 / 773-6411

LEONARD A. PIERCE

(1885-1960)

EDWARD W. ATWOOD

(1897-1977)

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KEVIN F. GORDON  
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GREGORY D. WOODWORTH

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

AUGUSTA OFFICE  
77 WINCHROP STREET  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330  
207/622-6311

July 8, 1985

Arthur H. Nighswander, Esq.  
Nighswander, Martin, Kidder & Mitchell  
One Mill Plaza  
Laconia, New Hampshire 03246

Dear Arthur:

I have your letter of July 1 concerning the wish of Ruth Steenstra to make a gift of \$10,000 to be held in trust, the income to be used for repair and maintenance of Grace Church in Robbinston, Maine, and for the grounds.

The money should be given to the "Trustees of Diocesan Funds of the Diocese of Maine, a charitable corporation authorized and existing by virtue of the laws of Maine". I understand that Mrs. Steenstra, in discussing this matter with Dan Johnson, in the office of the Bishop here in Portland, indicated that she believed the income for \$10,000 would help to maintain the property.

With \$10,000 I would assume that we can realistically expect a net income of around \$700 per year under present interest rates. This should be enough to maintain the property if no major repairs are required. I would like to suggest that, in making the gift, Mrs. Steenstra specify that the income is to be used for the repair and maintenance of the Chapel in Robbinston, Maine, and the grounds, and that the money not spent in any year be added to the principal, and that the Bishop of the Diocese of Maine be authorized to direct and authorize the Trustees of Diocesan Funds to invade principal for the purposes of making repairs and maintaining of property if, in the Bishop's sole discretion, that is advisable.

PIERCE, ATWOOD, SCRIBNER, ALLEN, SMITH & LANCASTER

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PORTLAND, MAINE 04101

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GERARD O. FOURNIER  
KEVIN F. GORDON  
JOHN O. NEWELL IV  
GREGORY D. WOODWORTH

July 9, 1985


Daniel P. Johnson  
Diocese of Maine  
143 State Street  
Portland, Maine 04101

Dear Dan:

With reference to our recent discussion and your letter of July 3, I enclose herewith original deed, duly recorded, from Martin Russell, Trustee, to the Maine Episcopal Missionary Society, of the real estate held in Robbinston.

It is my understanding that this deed will be stored in the safe deposit box located at Key Bank, Canal Plaza, with other original Diocesan documents.

Sincerely,



FCSJr/mcm  
Enclosure

NIGHSWANDER, MARTIN, KIDDER & MITCHELL, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ONE MILL PLAZA  
LACONIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03246  
TELEPHONE 603-524-4121

WILLARD G. MARTIN, JR.  
BRADLEY F. KIDDER  
WALTER L. MITCHELL  
DAVID S. OSMAN  
ALEXANDRA T. BREED  
DAVID L. HARRIGAN  
JAMES L. BURKE  
MARGARET A. DEMOS  
LINDA G. PECK  
MITCHELL B. JEAN  
STEPHEN R. KAIN

ARTHUR H. NIGHSWANDER  
WILLIAM S. LORD  
DAVID L. KENT

OF COUNSEL

July 18, 1985

Fred C. Scribner, Jr., Esq.  
Pierce, Atwood, Scribner, Allen,  
Smith & Lancaster  
One Monument Square  
Portland, Maine 04101

Re: Ruth M. Steenstra/Grace Church, Robbinston

Dear Fred:

In further reference to your letter of July 8, 1985, I am enclosing a check from Ruth M. Steenstra to Trustees of Diocesan Funds, Diocese of Maine, in the amount of \$10,000, which is to be delivered by you to the Diocese if the following conditions are satisfactory. If not, the check should be returned to me. The conditions of the gift are as follows:

1. The sum of \$10,000 is to be held in trust, the income only to be used for the maintenance and repairs of the Grace Episcopal Church, Robbinston, Maine, and for the care of the grounds. Mrs. Steenstra is not agreeable to giving permission to invade the principal of the Fund.

2. Any income not used in any calendar year may be carried over into subsequent years retaining its character as income and may be used for the purposes of the trust in any subsequent year.

3. The fund should be identified as a gift from Ruth M. Steenstra in memory of her late husband, Walter H. Steenstra.

Please furnish me with an acknowledgement, either incorporating the conditions which I have outlined, or have the copy of this letter signed by the proper individual acknowledging receipt of the gift subject to the outlined conditions. I would also like to have a copy of the exemption letter to substantiate the gift for income tax purposes.

I am also enclosing two savings passbooks which Mrs. Steenstra found among her husband's papers. One is a Merrill Trust Company book #11 213-913-8, and the other is Calais Federal Savings & Loan Assn. #5682. I assume that the church will have no difficulty in obtaining the funds.

RECEIVED JUL 23 1985

Fred C. Scribner, Jr., Esq.  
July 18, 1985  
Page Two

Best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

*Arthur*

AHN/mbb

Encs.

cc: Mrs. Ruth M. Steenstra