



"Remove Not the Old Landmark!"

Early notes from the secretaries' and treasurers' records of The Elder Grey Meeting House-Cemetery Association.

Thanks to the minutes and reports prepared by Ella Bradeen, Ethel Downs, Ethel Bradeen, and Raymond Bradeen.

October 27, 1924: Bert and Ella Bradeen suggested that money be raised for the much-needed repair of the Meeting House. *From their idea came the present association...* Indeed, money was raised, local merchants stepped forward, and labor was donated. Maria Kimball gave the paint; Ladies Aid of North Waterboro gave proceeds of a supper towards the windows; Carll Brothers gave a discount on the roofing; Mr. Marble gave a discount on the shutters; Elwin Carll gave a 20% discount on curtains and paper; Elmer Day, Harry Swett, Chester Chadbourne and Herbert Bradeen gave work to put the old church in its present condition.

August 29, 1926: *Mrs. Eva Shapleigh had invitations printed for a Pilgrimage Service to be held ... And there was a house full. Rev. Lester Holmes gave the address; Fannie McDaniel talked on the past, and Maria Grey Kimball talked on the present.*

The future will be for all to see that the old house of God is kept in its present condition and still be a monument to those asleep in death across the way. It was announced ... that there would be no collection taken. But if anyone wanted to give, the plate was on the table. And a goodly sum was received, of \$26.51.

August 7, 1927: *In the morning a business meeting was held and various plans were discussed, one being to form an organization to be called the Elder Grey Meeting House Association. ... Rev. Elmer West called the attention of the meeting to the necessity of having the association incorporated under the laws of the state of Maine – and it was so voted.*

At 1:30 the meeting was opened with a selection by the choir from East Waterboro. ... Rev. Elmer F. West of East Greenwich R.I., a Waterboro boy, gave a most able address... His reference to old associates, teachers and friends of his boyhood days was most affecting.

July 31, 1928: A business meeting was called

to order by Trial Justice Ernest G. Knights. A motion was moved and seconded that the chair appoint a committee of three to draw up the by-laws. Maria Grey Kimball, Ethel S. Downs and Eva D. Shapleigh. Ella Bradeen was made secretary, and Ethel Downs was made treasurer.

August 5, 1928: *Mrs. Maria Kimball introduced the Rev. Howard O. Hough of the First Radio Parish Church of America. ... The House was full and many that could not get in. The Treasurer reported that \$10 was paid to the minister, and the insurance premium was \$18.75 for three years.*

August 4, 1929: *The singing was led by Oscar Woodward and everyone sang their best and made the hilltop ring with songs of long ago. After the meeting closed, everyone met their old friends and all said a lovely afternoon had been spent.*

August 3, 1930: *Rev. Hilda Libby Ives of Portland delivered the address. Before she opened her meeting, she asked all the gentlemen in the House to remove their coats as it was a very hot afternoon and she knew that they would all be much more interested in her talk. During the business meeting that followed: President Fannie McDaniel reported on the plates for the pews. Moved that the corner pews be placed back in place by next year.*

August 7, 1932: The Treasurer reported that \$14.45 was spent painting the pews and \$9.40 for “restoring old pew.”

August 6, 1933: A moment of silent prayer was observed for those who had gone beyond during the past year. The chair spoke particularly of our late secretary, Ella Bradeen. Ethel Bradeen was elected Corresponding Secretary to replace Ella.

August 5, 1934: Fannie McDaniel was in charge of the pew plates, which would cost \$1.50. Mr. West moved that the Saturday preceding the next Pilgrimage Sunday an exhibit of old-fashioned things and a picnic be held. Concert in the evening.

August 4, 1935: It was voted to appoint Fred Goul as Supt. of the Cemetery, he to receive \$15 annually for his services. Upon motion of R. H. Bradeen, it was voted to change the title of the Elder Grey Meeting House Association to the Elder Grey Meeting House-Cemetery Association and to instruct the Secretary of State to correct his records accordingly. Mrs. Hall reported for the program committee that the exhibit of antiques and concert of August third was well attended and enjoyed by all.

August 2, 1936: Services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. M.J. Twomey of Waterboro, assisted by the Rev. Jones of Limerick, the Rev. West of

Somersworth, and the Rev. Cooney of Waterboro. Dr. Twomey’s address, “Old Doorways,” was most appropriate for such an occasion.

August 1, 1937: H. S. Chadbourne and Maria Gray Kimball agreed to secure an appropriate bronze tablet ... to be fastened to the front of the old Meeting House. The cost not to exceed \$35.

August 4, 1940: Harry Chadbourne reported that the boulder has been set and as soon as the money is forthcoming the tablet will be purchased. The meeting house roof was painted at a cost of \$15 for the paint and \$10 for the labor. The chimney was removed at a cost of \$2. \$5 was paid to Edward Emery for the delivery of the boulder.

August 3, 1941: Harry Chadbourn ... announced that the tablet would be unveiled after the religious service—also that special thanks were due Raymond Bradeen and Dr.



Wood for making the tablet a reality. Raymond Bradeen presented the organization with a quit claim deed signed by Ralph and Mabel Emery granting to the society the church building and the land on which it sets. Although the church has been on this site since 1832, the Association had no title to the land.

At the conclusion of this service, after fitting remarks by the chairman, Harry Chadbourne, the tablet was unveiled by Charles Stedman Grey of Boston and John H. Sinkinson of Scarsdale, great grandson and great, great grandson, respectively, of the Rev. James Grey. \$2 was paid for drilling the boulder for the tablet, and \$35 paid for the tablet. A like amount had been collected for this expense.

August 2, 1942: The secretary reported a balance on hand of \$.60. Fanny Mills McDaniel recalled that two who sang in the choir in the old days are still living – Lavonia Parcher and Fanny McDaniel.

August 6, 1944: It was suggested that a list of boys in the armed services from this parish be drawn up. Prayers were offered for the following who are in the service of their country: Dr. Allan Davis, John Downs, Roger Downs, Sydney Estes, Waldo Emery, Stanley Goodwin, Arnel Lawrence, Robert Lord, Manfred “Meadows” Middleton, Charles Marble, John Marble, Paul Marble, John Sinkinson, Willis Webber.