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THE  
MEMORIAL HISTORY  
OF  
HARTFORD COUNTY  
CONNECTICUT

1633-1884

EDITED  
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PRESIDENT OF THE CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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TOWN HISTORIES

*PROJECTED BY CLARENCE P. JEWETT*

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of a new meeting-house led to its division, in 1818, on the passing of a vote by a small majority (44 to 37) to locate the new house on the spot now occupied, in West Avon. This decision was hastened by the burning of the old meeting-house in December, 1817, as was supposed by an incendiary. On the passage of this vote the minority seceded, and in the same year organized the parish now known as East Avon, under the name of the United Religious Association of Farmington. The separation was finally made with kind expressions of Christian love and fellowship, and the new church was constituted by the Hartford North Consociation, the Rev. Abel Flint, Moderator, as the third church in Farmington. Besides erecting their meeting-house, the new society raised by subscription more than \$5,000 for a permanent fund to support preaching. Upwards of \$15,000 was raised for church purposes, in this population of less than a thousand, within a year after the secession of the new church.

By the addition to the parish of Northington in May, 1817, of the "new lots" known as Lovely Street and Whortleberry Hill, the centre of population had been moved westward, and the division just recorded became inevitable. But by this removal of the old society to the westward, and its loss of nearly half of its eastern members, it was placed in a position of comparative hardship and trial. About sixteen years later a church was organized in Collinsville, and in 1841 another in Unionville; so that the old parish, now become the first church of Avon, lost, in the twenty-five years following the burning of its first house of worship in 1817, fully two thirds of its territory and more than one half of its financial strength. And yet it has had a large measure of prosperity, and liberally maintained church privileges.

In 1820 the Rev. Ludovicus Robbins became Mr. Hawley's colleague. He was succeeded in 1824 by the Rev. Harvey Bushnell, who became pastor of the church on Mr. Hawley's death in 1826, remaining till 1834. He was followed by the Rev. John Bartlett (1835-1847), whose successors have been as follows: Rev's Joel Grant, 1848-1852; William S. Wright, 1853-1859; J. M. Smith, 1859-1864; William M. Gay, 1864-1866; William M. Atwater, 1866-1868; A. Goldsmith, 1868-1876; William Howard, 1877-1880, and S. D. Gaylord. Of the last five only Mr. Atwater was regularly settled. The present membership of the church is about one hundred and forty, or four times the number after the separation in 1818.

The pastors of the East Avon (originally Farmington third) church have been Rev's Bela Kellogg, 1819-1829; Francis H. Case, 1830-1840; Stephen Hubbell, 1840-1853; J. S. Whittlesey (acting), 1853-1854; Henry M. Colton (acting), 1855-1857; E. D. Murphy, 1859-1864; George Curtis, 1866-1868; H. G. Marshall (acting), 1869-1871; C. P. Croft (acting), 1873-1875, and N. J. Seeley. The number of members at the formation of this church was thirty-one. About four hundred and fifty have been added since that time, and the present membership is one hundred and ten.

The Union Baptist Society of Northington was organized Sept. 9, 1817, and built a house of worship in the following year. No church was organized till 1831, when one of twelve members was constituted.

*Bela Kellogg*