

Churches in the Parlor

John McAllister & Brother of Philadelphia

By; Dr. William Allen Zulker

“Churches in the Parlor” by William Allen Zulker, was published in *Stereo World* magazine, March/April 1998, Volume 25, Number 1. pgs. 12 ff.

Above the tower of City Hall, overlooking Philadelphia, PA, stands the gigantic thirty-seven foot high statue of William Penn whose dream was to create a community of “brotherly love” (Philos-Adelphos in Greek).

A devout Quaker, Billy Penn believed that everyone should be able to worship as one pleased. Born in England in 1644, he personally experienced the effect of opposing the state religion – The Church of England – as he was imprisoned three times, once in the Tower of London, for preaching and writing in favor of Quakerism. Philadelphia, the city he founded in 1682, was destined to become a center of religious freedom as churches of many different faiths were built. There was room for all in Penn’s town. When a certain Episcopalian priest criticized Penn for allowing a Roman Catholic Mass to be publicly celebrated, Penn strongly defended an impartial liberty of conscience to “Jesuits and papists” as well as to all others.

In the days before the advent of radio, television, sports arenas, and automobiles, the Church played a very significant role in the life of the city and its people. For many it was the focal point of community activity outside the confines of their homes. The Church was not only the proclaimer of the “Good News” and the instructor of “Right Living,” but it was also a magnet drawing together strange combinations of people in corporate worship. The rich and the poor, political leaders and commoners, all laid aside their distinctions as they sang hymns, read the Bible, and prayed together.

The Church also symbolized the highest and best in life, not only in morals and ethics, but also in the arts. Church music and architecture inspired the heart and mind to look beyond the tyranny of the present moment. Their beauty and excitement idealized the future.

It is not surprising then to note that the Church was the tallest, the largest, and the most magnificent building in the community. Seating accommodations in the Church were only secondary; its silent yet visible majestic presence primary. It was a well-designed reminder that life is not confined to an earthly existence and that overshadowing all of life is each person’s religious faith and commitment.

The importance of the church in the 19th Century was particularly noted by the photographers and stereographs in the developmental years of the new art of "picture-taking." In Philadelphia, John Moran and others photographed both the exterior and interior of many churches. Many of these photographs were sold by the famous McAllister firm. *The evening Bulletin*, on Wednesday, December 19, 1860, carried an article titled, "The Church in the Parlor-A Capital Idea." It read in part as follows:

McAllister and Brother, the well-known Opticians, North 725 Chestnut Street, have originated an idea in the line of their business that cannot fail to come very popular, and the first successful fruit of which they have just introduced to the public. They have had faithful photographic views taken, for the stereoscope, of the interior of a number of churches of the city... and the sacred interior is brought literally, so far as the optics are concerned, to the parlor of the possessor.

The McAllisters, though Presbyterians, did not limit their photographic attention to only Presbyterian Churches. They were astute businessmen who sensed the interest that parishioners of any church would have in purchasing three-dimensional pictures of their own places of worship. Thirty different churches pictured on stereographs produced by McAllister and Brother from 1860 to 1864 have been viewed by this writer. Some of these are at the Library Company in Philadelphia and others at the Library of Congress in Washington. These include: Protestant Episcopal 16, Baptist 3, Presbyterian 4, Roman Catholic 2, and 1 each of Reformed Presbyterian, Lutheran, Unitarian, United Presbyterian and Reformed Churches. In addition, there is a noted stereo-picture of the officers and members of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church from May 16 to June 1, 1861. The reverse side of the stereograph lists the names of the 153 ministers and the 111 ruling elders who were commissioners to the General Assembly.

The McAllister name is well-known to collectors of photographica. John Sr., born in Scotland in 1753, came to America in 1775 with his brother William and temporarily settled in New York. The British invasion of New York provided the impetus for the brothers to quickly move to New Jersey and then on to Philadelphia. John's first business was the manufacture of whips and canes until a friend, Benjamin Franklin, persuaded him to expand his stock of goods to include spectacles and other optical devices. By 1796 his business at 48 Chestnut Street advertised "a large assortment of spectacles, reading glasses, concave glasses, goggles, and...new glasses in old spectacle frames." Shortly after the turn of the century, his son John graduated with honors from the University of Pennsylvania, at the remarkable age of 17 years, and joined his father in business. He married the daughter of William Young, who was the Vice-President of the United States from 1823 to 1825. The reputation became widespread as they supplied bifocals for George Washington, President Thomas Jefferson, President Andrew Jackson and other dignitaries such as Chief Justice Tilghman, Count Joseph Bonaparte, and

Henry Clay. The Wills Eye Hospital reports that McAllisters made the first eye-glasses to correct astigmatism.

The father, John McAllister, Sr., was a devout Christian who served as a ruling elder for 45 years in the Associate Presbyterian church. A receipt for his payment of \$9 for the annual pew rental of the church in 1829 is on file at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia.

While still in business at the turn of the century, John McAllister, Sr. and a friend identified only as J.K. conducted a five-week preaching tour throughout parts of Pennsylvania and Maryland for the purpose of "setting forth the Gospel." His handwritten diary reported the details of the 462 miles they traveled, the 23 meetings they conducted, the names of families from whom they obtained accommodations, and other interesting anecdotes.

Upon the father's death in 1830, John Jr. managed the optical business until his own retirement in 1835. The business then passed to William Young McAllister, the grandson, until his brothers Thomas Hamilton and John Allister McAllister joined him in 1852. Others associated with the McAllisters were Walter R. Dick and John White Queen. Cohen's Philadelphia City Directory of 1860 listed John Jr. as a "gentleman" apparently indicating that though worthy of recognition, he was now retired from business. His retirement at age 49 gave him ample time to continue an active life with numerous interests. It is reported that he was the first paying-babysitter in the pioneer daguerreo-type studio of Robert Cornelius. The political debates which occurred in the Congress of the United States were particularly stimulating to his inquiring mind.

Because he was an avid collector of old pamphlets, newspapers, maps, and manuscripts, many sought him out for information he had collected and carefully filed. His many scrapbooks of newspaper clippings on file at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania have provided considerable information for this writer. His practicality led him to devise a system for the numbering of houses and streets which is still in use today in many cities and towns. The famous Wills Eye Hospital of Philadelphia honored him by electing him to the advisory capacity of Manager, prior to the formation of a Board of Directors. He also contributed generously to the University of Pennsylvania and was its oldest living alumni when he died in 1877 at the age of 91. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania appropriately recognized the loss of one of its most respected members for fifty years in a memorial notice quoted in part as follows: "He did justly; he loved mercy; he walked humbly with his God."

The McAllister's business expanded to include a wide variety of optical items including stereoscopes and stereographs. McAllisters, familiar with many photographers who had their shops on Chestnut Street, collected their works and sold them from 728 Chestnut Street, where they boasted of the largest shop-window in Philadelphia. Their catalog of February, 1858,

shows drawings of a Brewster type viewer of mahogany with brass tubes (eye pieces) for just \$2 each or \$21 per dozen.

The 1861 catalog issued by McAllister and Brother advertised a listing of 106 different glass stereographs that could be viewed by a stereoscope, or through a stereopticon projector. The slides sold for \$12 per dozen. In addition, they listed 170 views on either glass or paper mounts, colored or plain, with prices ranging from \$3 to \$21 per dozen. It is interesting to note that though the catalogs were selling photographs they included only engraved drawings of photographs. Printers did not learn the process of transferring actual photographs to the printed page until several years later.

The series of stereographic pictures of Philadelphia Churches produced by McAllister and Brother was a natural result of the family's involvement in the life of the church. It seemed to be a means of highlighting the significance of the church in the development of the city of Philadelphia. This photographic history more than equals the value of any written record. It captures and reconstructs the Past as it was, without the encumbrance of words or interpretations. It is self-interpreting.

Along with the stereographs of churches, the McAllisters carefully recorded additional data on the reverse side of each card including the dates when the churches were organized, the cornerstones laid and the buildings dedicated; the style of the architecture and the name of the architect; the size of the buildings; the seating capacity; the height of the towers; and the names of ministers as well as others including the sexton.

One famous architect, Thomas U. Walter, Esq., was the architect of the U. S. Capitol Extension in Washington, the State Capitol Building in Nashville, Tennessee, as well as Girard College, the U. S. Bank (Custom House), the Church of the Epiphany, Trinity Church, and the Third Reformed Dutch Church, all in Philadelphia.

John Notman was the architect of the Church of the Holy Trinity, built in 1857. It is one of Philadelphia's landmarks today, still with an active ministry. Notman was also one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Institute Architects.

Of the 30 churches photographed and published by McAllister, 14 still exist in the same location, more than 120 years later they are:

- The Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul at Logan Square.
- Christ Church, 2nd Street above Market.
- First Reformed Presbyterian, Broad Street between Spruce and Pine. Original building demolished and rebuilt in 1897 as Chambers-Wylie Memorial Presbyterian Church.

- Old Swedes Church (Gloria Dei at Delaware and Christian)
- St. Peters, Third and Pine.
- St. Stephens, 10th between Market and Chestnut.
- West Arch Street Presbyterian, 18th and Arch.
- West Spruce Street Presbyterian, 17th and Spruce (now the Tenth Presbyterian Church).
- Church of the Holy Trinity, Walnut and 19th Streets.
- St. Andrews, 8th Street North of Spruce (now St. George's Greek Orthodox Cathedral)
- St. Lukes, 13th below Spruce.
- St. Malachi, 11th above Master.
- St. Mark's, Locust between 16th and 17th Streets.
- St. Pauls, 3rd between Walnut and Spruce.

Two of the oldest churches in Philadelphia are Old Swedes' Church and Christ Church. Both have impressive histories. Old Swedes (Protestant Episcopal), also known as Gloria Dei Church, was organized in 1677. The building was erected in 1700 at its present location (Wicaco) at Delaware Avenue and Christian Street. At first there was considerable disagreement among the Swedes, who were divided as to the best location for the church. Some wanted it at Wicaco and others at Passyunk. They settled the matter by choosing lots. Two pieces of paper were prepared with Wicaco written on one and Passyunk on the other. After being shaken in a hat and thrown on the ground, one was taken up and opened. The name Wicaco appeared. Dissension ceased at once and all joined in singing a hymn of cheerful praise.

Christ Church (Protestant Episcopal) at 2nd Street above Market included among its worshipers Betsy Ross, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and many other famous persons from colonial days to the present. The Church has been in continual usage as a place of worship for over 250 years. A present day comparison of the Church edifice with the stereographs of December 1860 shows very little change in either the exterior or interior with the exception of electrical lighting. The original church built in 1695 was replaced by the present structure erected on the same site in 1727. The steeple and chimes were added in 1754. In 1708, Queen Anne of England presented a silver flagon, cup, and paten to be used in the celebration of Holy Communion. McAllister stereographs pictured these vessels, still possessed with pride by the church today.

The Church of the Intercessor, another Protestant Episcopal Church, was built in 1859 at Spring Garden Street below Broad. The large sanctuary, 64 feet by 100 feet, was

described as “being lighted at night by a gasallier, containing 104 burners, which gives a clear and steady light.”

Trinity Church, on Catherine Street between 2nd and 3rd, was dedicated in 1822. The Rt. Rev. Bishop White disapproved of the organization of this new parish because of its location, considering it impossible for the church to succeed in that area of the city. His predictions were proven wrong as the church became very successful and found it necessary to enlarge the sanctuary.

The First Reformed Presbyterian Church began in 1798 and held worship services in two locations before erecting the third edifice in 1854 at Broad Street between Spruce and Pine Streets where it continues its present ministry as the Chambers-Wylie Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Samuel Brown Wylie, D.D. and his son Rev. Theodorus W.J. Wylie were both ministers of the Church, with the father serving 50 years from 1802 to 1852 and the son from 1843 to 1860. The present edifice, built in 1901, was designed in the early English Gothic style with clerestory. This writer, a clergyman, has often been the guest preacher in this church and in the Tenth Presbyterian Church at 17th and Spruce Streets known to the McAllisters as the West Spruce Street Presbyterian church which once had a 250 foot steeple. The Church was made famous in the 20th Century through the ministry of nationally known Bible teacher Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse, and presently of Dr. James Montgomery Boice. Few churches today can boast of the beauty of this Gothic sanctuary and its original Tiffany stained-glass window.

The Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, (Roman Catholic) located at Logan Circle was begun in 1846 and not completed until 1863. This magnificent edifice is 136 feet wide, 216 feet long, and 104 feet high. The dome rises 240 above the pavement. When Pope John Paul II visited the United States in 1979 a special platform was constructed in front of the Cathedral where Mass was celebrated before several thousand observers. Additional millions watched via world-wide television, a photographic phenomenon just a few scientific leaps beyond the optical skills of the McAllisters.

The church series of stereographs furthered the success of the McAllister family business which spread from Philadelphia to New York City. In 1865, one of John Jr.'s sons, T.H. McAllister, located his establishment at 49 Nassau Street and became a leading distributor of magic lanterns, lantern slide series, microscopes, and stereopticons. The zoetrope, anamorphoscope, parlor kaleidoscope, and polyprism were only a few of the exotic optical devices sold by McAllister through his 136 page catalog.

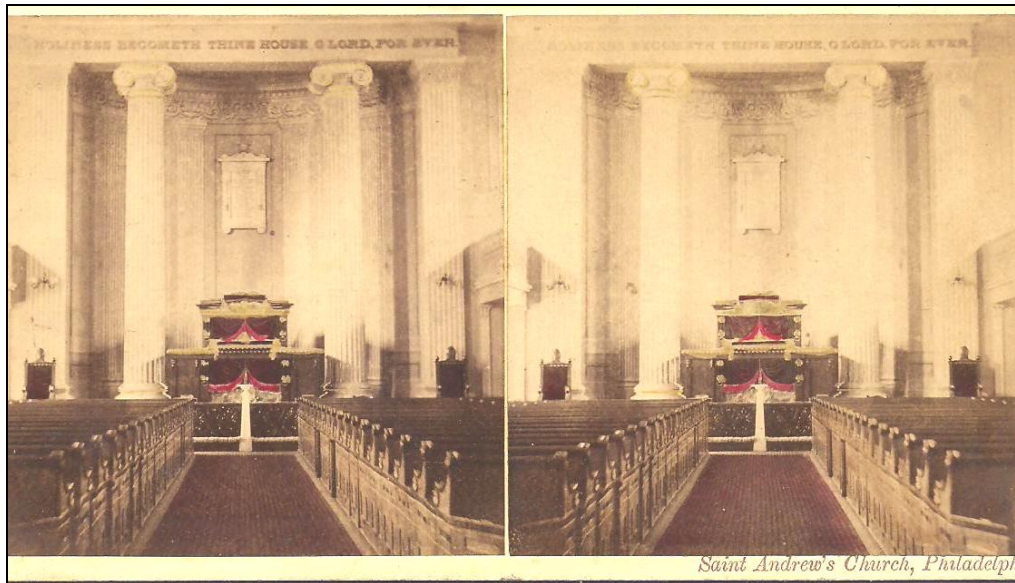
The contribution of the McAllisters to the field of the optics, and particularly to a variety of photographic forms, is immeasurable. In addition, the stereographs of Philadelphia churches by McAllister are a reminder to the present day stereo photographer of the importance of capturing on film a rapidly disappearing present. Who knows, or can estimate, the value of the photographic heritage some photographer will leave for a future generation by the pictures one takes today.

MC ALLISTER STEREOGRAPHS

These sixteen stereographs accompany the article above "Churches in the Parlor" by William Allen Zulker, published in *Stereo World* magazine, March/April 1998, Volume 25, Number 1. pgs. 12 ff.

All views from the author's collection

(1) McAllister & Brother, October 1860, "Saint Andrew's Church, Philadelphia." Still standing north of Spruce on 8th Street, the structure is now St. George's Greek Orthodox Cathedral. This view, looking straight up the center aisle toward the altar, is typical of many of the McAllister. church stereos.



175

Saint Andrew's Church,

(PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL.)
Philadelphia.

Is situated on the west side of Eighth Street north of Spruce Street.

The Corner Stone was laid September 5th. 1822, and the building rapidly completed from plans furnished by John Haviland Esq., and consecrated by Rt. Rev. Bishop White, May 31st. 1823.

The Front is one of the most perfect specimens of the Grecian Ionic order taken from the Temple of Bacchus, at Teos. The building is 130 feet in length, by 65 feet in breadth.

Rectors.

GREGORY TOWNSEND BEDELL, D. D., from 1822 to 1834. Died August 30, 1834.
JOHN ALONZO CLARK, D. D., from 1835 to 1843. Died November 27, 1843.
THOMAS MARCH CLARK, D. D., from 1843 to 1847. Now Bishop of the Diocese of Rhode Island.
WILLIAM BACON STEVENS, M. D., D. D., from 1847 to present time.

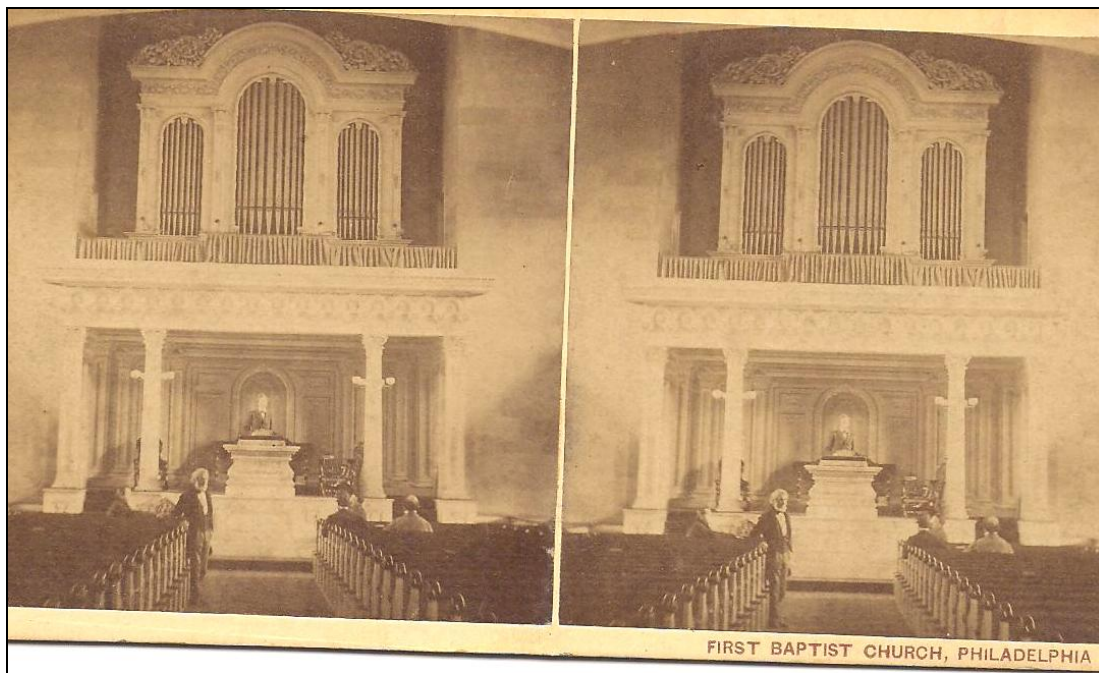
NUMBER OF COMMUNICANTS, SIX HUNDRED.
NUMBER OF SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHOLARS, SEVEN HUNDRED

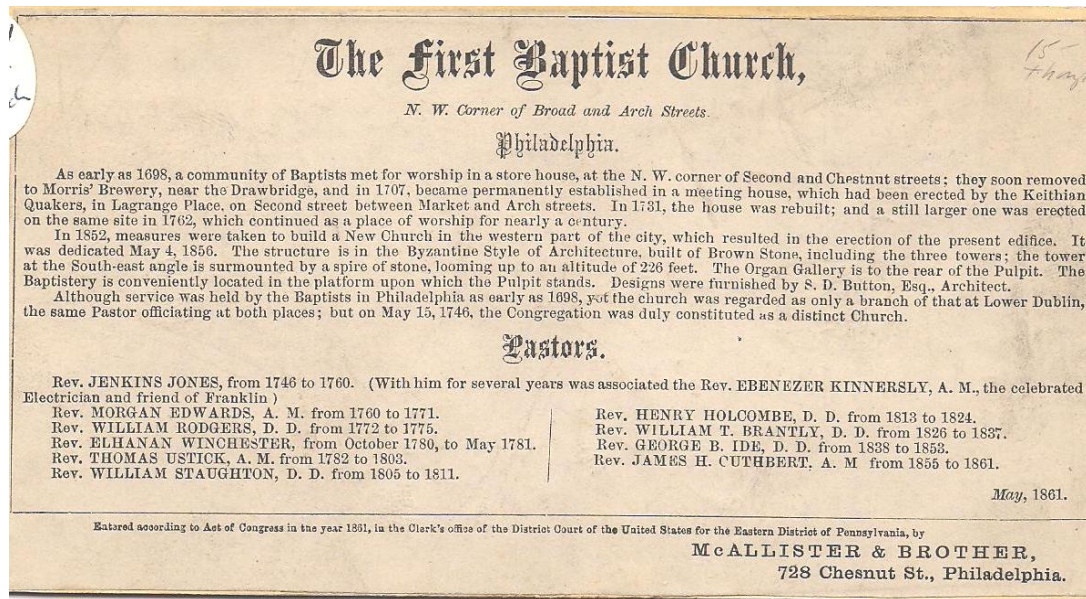
October, 1860.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1860, by McALLISTER & BROTHER, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

A typical obverse view from McAllister's Churches series. Some provide more historical background on a particular congregation's church building or buildings, and many include lists of past rectors or pastors

(2) McAllister & Brother, May 1861, "**First Baptist Church, Philadelphia.**" This includes some people patient enough to remain immobile for the duration of the doubtlessly very long exposure required to capture an interior image on the wet plates of the day.





(3) McAllister & Brother, March, 1861, "First Unitarian Church, Philadelphia." Dedicated in 1828, the unadorned white marble structure contained one of the largest organs (by Standbridge) in the United States.



First Unitarian Church.
(N. E. Cor. Tenth and Locust Streets.)
Philadelphia.

The First Unitarian Society in Philadelphia, was formed in June, 1796, by fourteen persons. The founders were John Vaughan, James Taylor, William Turner, Ralph Eddowes, William H. Smith, Ralph Eddowes, Jr., Peter Boult, Samuel Darch, Josiah Evans, Thomas P. Jones, John Eddowes, Thomas Astley and Rev. William Christie.

An act of incorporation was obtained January, 1813, and by a new charter bearing date March, 1824, the title became the "First Congregational Society of Unitarian Christians in Philadelphia."

The first place of public worship was a room in the University of Pennsylvania, afterwards in the Universalist Church, Lombard Street above Fifth, (Mr. Christie officiating,) then in Carpenter's Court, and subsequently in a room in Church Alley. In March, 1812, the corner stone of the first church on the present location was laid but the building being subsequently found too small, it was succeeded by the present edifice, which was dedicated November, 1828. Until 1825, religious services were conducted by no regular pastor, Mess. Vaughan, Christie, Eddowes and Taylor, successively officiating.

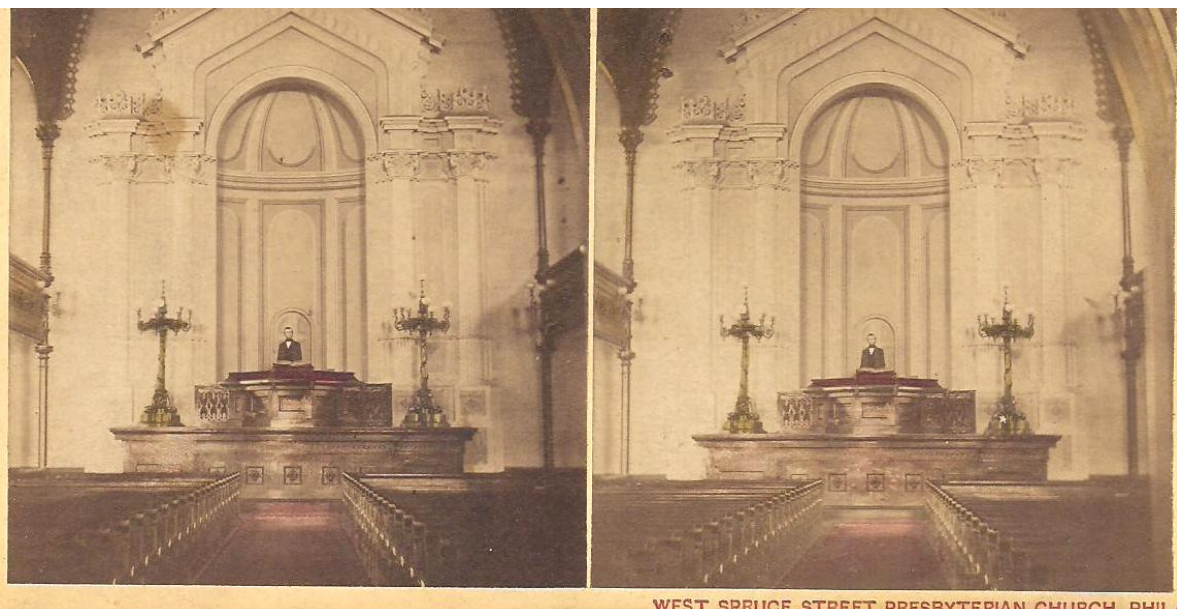
On the 12th January, 1825, William Henry Furness was ordained as pastor. The building is of white marble, the architecture external and internal chaste, but devoid of the ornate, and unaltered from the original design. The organ, (one of the largest in the United States at the time of its construction,) was built by Standbridge.

PASTOR—REV. WILLIAM HENRY FURNESS.

March, 1861.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1861, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, by
McALLISTER & BROTHER,
728 Chesnut St., Philadelphia.

(4) McAllister & Brother, March, 1861, "West Spruce Street Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia." Now known as the Tenth Presbyterian Church, this 1857 structure still stands at 17th and Spruce Streets and is one of the Philadelphia churches in which the author has served as a guest preacher.



WEST SPRUCE STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. PHILA.

West Spruce Street Presbyterian Church.
South West Corner of Spruce and Seventeenth Streets.
Philadelphia.

The Byzantine style which prevails in this building, affords a pleasing variety to the usual character of the Church architecture of our city. The designs were furnished by Mr. John McArthur, Jr., Architect of Girard House, House of Refuge, La Pierre House, Presbyterian Board of Publication, Franklin Market House, &c.

The material of the edifice is brick, with brown sandstone for dressings. At the northeast corner is a tower 25 feet square, surmounted by a spire 250 feet in height.

The Lecture Room, Sunday School Apartment, Trustee's Room and Pastor's Study, are contained in an addition at the southern end. The Audience Chamber is 66 feet wide, by 80 feet long, with a well proportioned and highly ornamented vaulted ceiling, 50 feet high at the centre.

The Corner Stone of the Church was laid April 26, 1855; the Lecture Room opened for service, May 18, 1856; and the Main Edifice on the first Sunday in January, 1857.

Pastor.
 Rev. WILLIAM P. BREED. Installed June 4, 1856.

SESSION.—John S. Hart, James Imbrie, Jr. Morris Patterson, George Junkin, Henry D. Sherrerd
 DEACONS.—John McArthur, William L. Mactier, Charles O. Abbey.
 SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.—George Junkin.

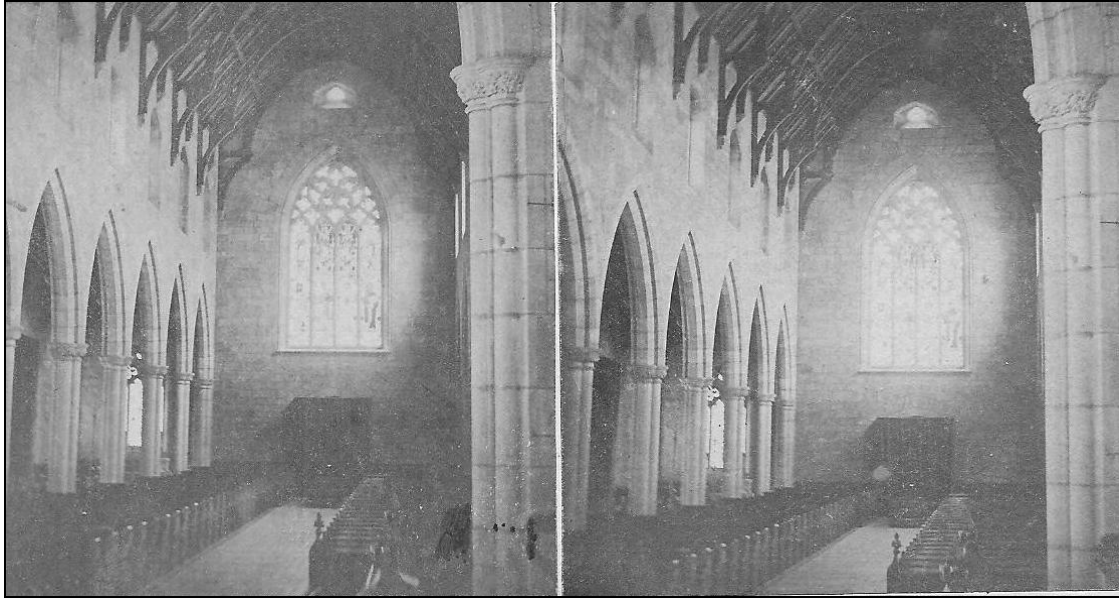
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McALLISTER & BROTHER,
 728 Chesnut St., Philadelphia.

EX. COLLECTION OF
 VIV & RON LOWDEN

(5) McAllister & Brother, December, 1860. **“SAINT MARK’S CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA.”** The 1849 church still stands on Locust between 16th and 17th Streets. Its Gothic style architecture is well documented in this view which shares some similarity with the contemporary but photographically superior work of G.W. Wilson in England. (See SW Vol. 8 No. 2. Vol. 21 No. 5)



18

Saint Mark's Church,

(PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL.)

Locust Street, between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets,

Philadelphia.

This beautiful Gothic structure is remarkable for the purity of the style, and for the simplicity and chasteness which characterize the whole building. It is constructed entirely of freestone, the inside walls being lined with the same; the wood work throughout is of solid oak.

On the south side, near the west end, is the tower through which is the principal entrance. The tower with the spire, is 170 feet in height, and of stone from the base to the apex.

The interior of the building is 138 feet in length. The chancel is 38 feet deep, by 23 feet 6 inches wide. The nave is 23 feet wide, by 100 feet long. The north and south aisles are each 14 feet wide, by 100 feet long.

The windows are filled with stained glass, executed by the Messrs. Gibsons, and are elegant specimens of taste and skill.

Mr. John Notman, Architect, furnished the plans for the building, and it was erected under his immediate superintendence.

The corner stone of Saint Mark's church, was laid by Rt. Rev. Bishop Potter, on Saint Mark's day, April 25, 1848; and the church opened for service, October 21, 1849.

Rector.

Rev. J. P. B. WILMER, from 1849 to the present time.

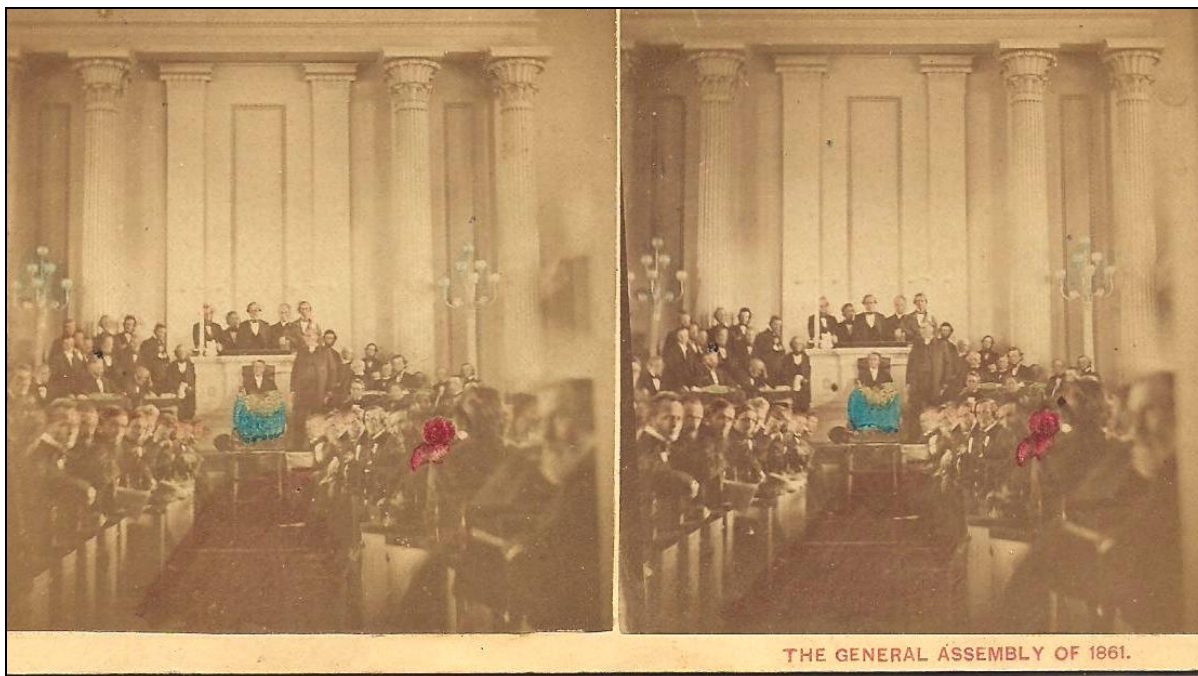
December, 1860.

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McALLISTER & BROTHER.,
728 Chesnut St., Philadelphia.

The church is well-known for its "Lady Chapel" and its silver altar given by Rodman Wanamaker in memory of his well-loved first wife Fernanda who passed away early in their marriage.

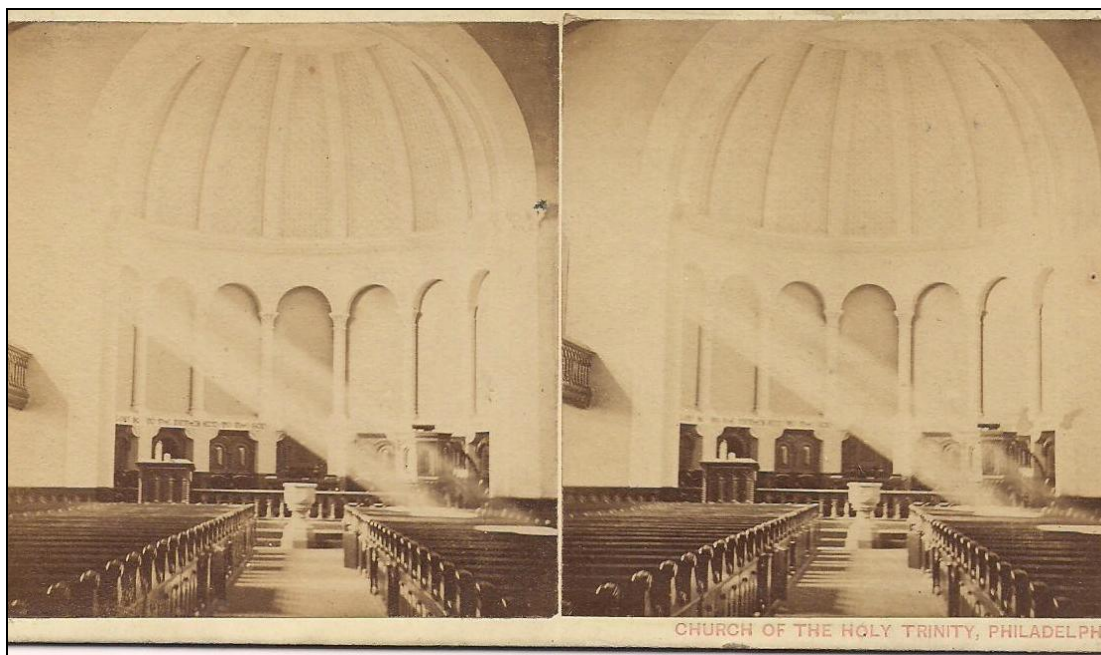
(6) McAllister & Brother, "**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1861.**" Gathered in the **Seventh Presbyterian Church**, the officers and members of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church held a well-disciplined, rigid pose for this rare indoor group shot. The back lists the names of the 264 people in attendance (even those not visible).

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(7) McAllister & Brother, December, 1860, "CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, PHILADELPHIA." Shafts of sunlight enhance this view, lighting the pews just in front of the pulpit. The next view in the series was taken from the front, looking back through the same shafts of light toward the organ loft above the

main entrance. The church, by architect John Notman, was only one year old when the view was made and still stands at Walnut and 19th Streets.

(View #1 - Chancel)



1971
A

Church of the Holy Trinity,

(PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL,)

Southwest corner of Walnut and Nineteenth Streets,

Philadelphia.

The Church of the Holy Trinity is one of the latest and finest additions to the church architecture of the city. The building is constructed of stone, in the style generally known as the Norman. The front on Nineteenth street presents three doorways deeply recessed and highly enriched; over the main door is a circular rose window filled with stained glass. At the Northeast corner, is a massive tower with a base of 32 feet, which is intended to be surmounted with a beautiful spire 230 feet high.

The audience chamber is 118 feet in length, by 68 feet in width, with a vaulted ceiling 60 feet high in the centre. The Galleries are supported on powerful truss brackets, and columns being thus dispensed with, an unobstructed view of the chancel is afforded from all parts of the church. The Chancel is semi-circular, having a width of 34 feet, and a depth of 17 feet. It is lighted through stained glass at the apex. The pulpit is outside of the Chancel, at the north side. The reading desk is at the opposite side. The Font is of very neat design.

At the western end of the main building, and of corresponding architecture, is a substantial building containing ample accommodation for the Sunday Schools, etc.

Mr. John Notman, Architect, furnished the design for the building. Mr. N. is also architect of St. Mark's church, Calvary Presbyterian church, etc.

The stained glass is by Mr. Gibson.

The corner stone of the church of the Holy Trinity was laid by Rt. Rev. Bishop Potter, May 25, 1857, and the church was opened for worship, March 20, 1859.

Rector.

A. H. VINTON, D. D.

December, 1860.

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(8) McAllister & Brother, December, 1860, CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, PHILADELPHIA. Shafts of sunlight enhance this view, lighting the pews just in front of the pulpit. The previous view in the series was taken from the back, looking forward through the same shafts of light toward the chancel and the

pulpit. The church, by architect John Notman, was only one year old when the view was made and still stands at Walnut and 19th Streets

(View # 2 – Organ Loft)



CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, PHILADELPHIA.

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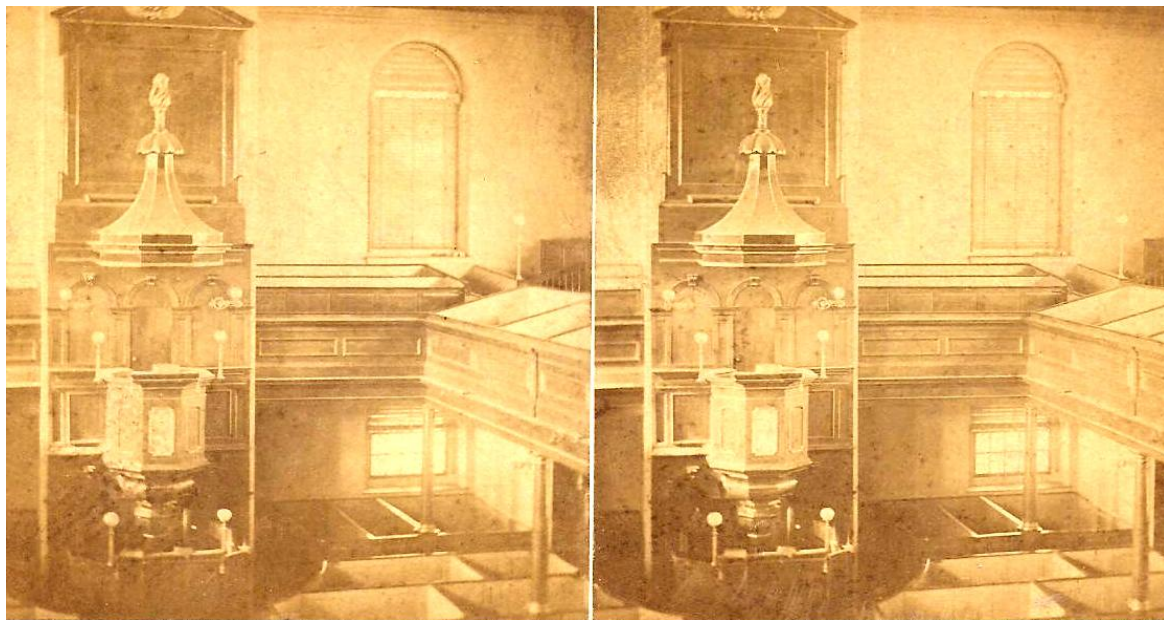
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McALLISTER & BROTHER.,
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(9) McAllister & Brother, December, 1860, "SAINT PETER'S CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA." This church, already 99 years old in this view, remains at 3rd and Pine Streets. According to McAllister's text on the

back, "The interior of the church has received but few alterations from the original design, and with its high backed pews, antique pulpit, etc., is a well preserved specimen of a church of the olden time."



SAINT PETER'S CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA

CR 1860

Saint Peter's Church,

(PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL.)

Southwest corner of Third and Pine Streets.

Philadelphia.

In June, 1758, the vestry of Christ Church resolved to erect a new church "at the south end of the city, on a lot of ground lately granted by the honorable proprietaries of the province for that purpose;" and the following persons were appointed a committee to superintend the building of the same, viz: Joseph Sims, Dr. John Kearsley, William Plunsted, Jacob Duché, Alexander Stedman, James Child, Evan Morgan, Redmond Conyngham, Attwood Shute, John Wilcocks, Samuel McCall, Jr., James Humphreys, and William Bingham (*see Dorr's History of Christ Church*.)

Under their direction St. Peter's Church was built, and opened for public worship, September 4, 1761, on which occasion a sermon was preached from the words, "I have surely built thee a house to dwell in," by Rev. William Smith, D. D., Provost of the College of Philadelphia, (now the University of Pennsylvania.)

The building is of brick, sixty feet in width, by ninety feet in length. In the year 1842, a tower and spire were added at the west end, to accommodate a chime of bells, which had been donated to the church, by the late Benjamin Chew Wilcocks, Esq.

The interior of the church has received but few alterations from the original design, and with its high backed pews, antique pulpit, etc., is a well preserved specimen of a church of the olden time.

In the church-yard, are interred the remains of Rev. Jacob Duché, the first chaplain to Congress; Commodore Decatur; and other eminent men.

Christ Church and St. Peter's were originally united in one corporation, to which St. James' Church was added in 1810. St. James' Church was separated in 1829, and St. Peter's Church in 1832.

Rectors.

Rev. ROBERT JENNEY, LL. D., 1761 to 1762. Died January, 1762.

Rev. RICHARD PETERS, D. D., 1762 to 1775. Died July 10, 1776.

Rev. JACOB DUCHE, D. D. 1775 to 1777. Died January 3, 1793.

Rt. Rev. WILLIAM WHITE, D. D. 1779 to 1836. Died July 17, 1836.

Rev. WILLIAM H. DeLANCEY, D. D., 1836 to 1839. Now Bishop of the Diocese of Western New York.

Rev. WILLIAM H. ODENHEIMER, D. D., 1840 to 1859. Now Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey.

Rev. GEORGE LEEDS, Rector at the present time.

December, 1860.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1860, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, by

McALLISTER & BROTHER,
728 Chesnut St., Philadelphia.

(10) McAllister & Brother, December, 1860, "**CHRIST CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA.**" Erected in 1727, the church included among its worshipers Betsy Ross, Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. It remains in regular use at 2nd Street above Market



4973

Christ Church,

(PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL.)
Second Street, above Market,
Philadelphia.

The first Church was built in 1695—the present edifice was erected on the same site in 1727. The steeple was finished, and a chime of eight bells put up in 1754.

Rectors.

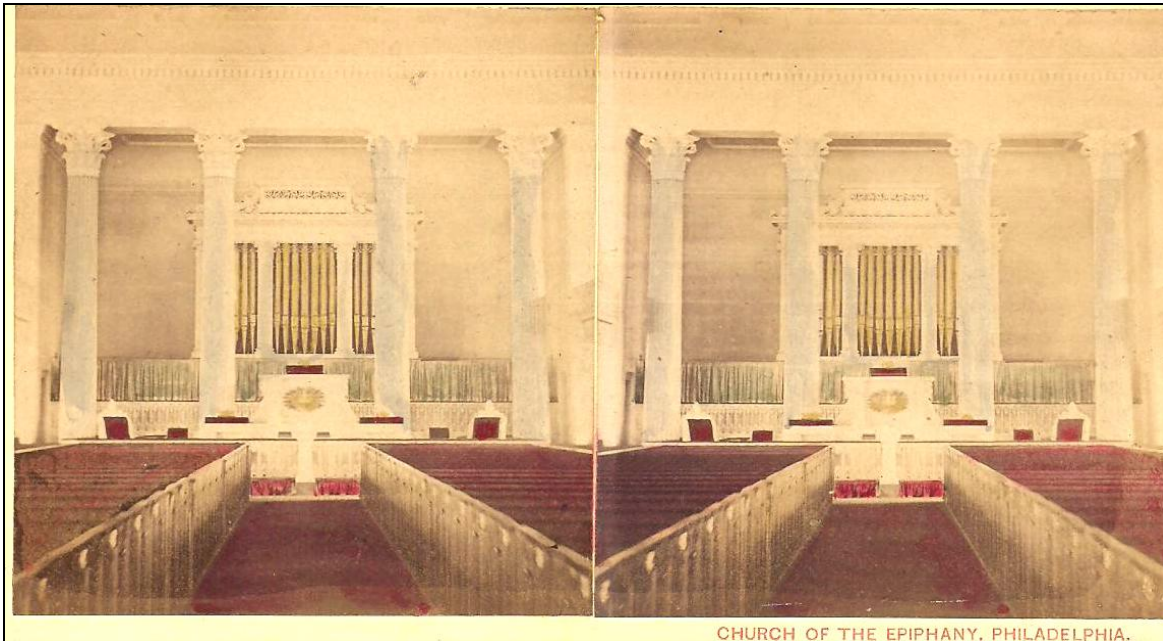
<p>Rev. WM. CLAYTON, 1695 to 1699. Rev. JOHN VICARY, 1719 to 1722. Rev. ARCHIBALD CUMMINGS, 1726 to 1741. Rev. RICHARD PETERS, D. D., 1762 to 1775. Right Rev. WILLIAM WHITE, D. D., 1779 to 1836. Rev. BENJAMIN DORR, D. D., from March, 1837 to this time, December 1860.</p>	<p>Rev. EVAN EVANS, D. D., 1700 to 1718. Rev. RICHARD WELTON, D. D., 1724 to 1726. Rev. ROBERT JENNEY, L. L. D., 1742 to 1762. Rev. JACOB DUCHE, D. D., 1775 to 1777. Rev. JOHN WALLER JAMES, 1836.</p>
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Bishop White was baptised in this Church, and ministered here sixty-four years. Benjamin Franklin appears to have been a pewholder from 1730 to 1790. Washington and his family worshipped here from 1790 to 1797.
In this Church the first two General Conventions met in 1785 and 1786, to frame an Ecclesiastical Constitution.
The General Convention which met here in 1789, on the 16th of October, ratified, set forth, and established the "Book of Common Prayer, and Administration of the Sacraments," &c., "and declared it to be the Liturgy of the Church." For numerous other interesting historical facts, see "Dorr's History of Christ Church, from 1695 to 1841." 12mo., pp. 430.

December, 1860.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1860, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, by
McALLISTER & BROTHER,
728 Chesnut St., Philadelphia.

(11) McAllister & Brother, October, 1860, "**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, PHILADELPHIA.**" Designed by Thomas U. Walters, architect of the U.S. Capitol expansion, this church opened in 1834.



CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, PHILADELPHIA.

Church of the Epiphany,

(PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL,)

N. W. Corner of Chestnut and Fifteenth Streets.

Philadelphia.

A large imposing edifice with a portico of the Doric order, erected from plans furnished by Thomas U. Walter, Esq., Architect of Girard College, U. S. Capitol Extension, etc., etc. The Church edifice is 140 feet in length, by 70 feet in breadth. The basement and the rooms in the adjoining vestry building, afford ample accommodation for Sunday School Classes. The Pulpit and Choir are lighted by a sky-light.

The Congregation was organized October, 1833, and incorporated February 12th, 1834. The Church was opened for public worship August, 1834, and consecrated by Bishop White, October 12th, 1834.

Rectors.

Rev. STEPHEN HIGGINSON TYNG, D. D., from 1833 to June, 1845.

Rev. JAMES HENRY FOWLES, from August, 1845 to March, 1854. Died March 25, 1854.

Rev. DUDLEY ATKINS TYNG, from April, 1854 to November, 1856. Died April 19, 1858.

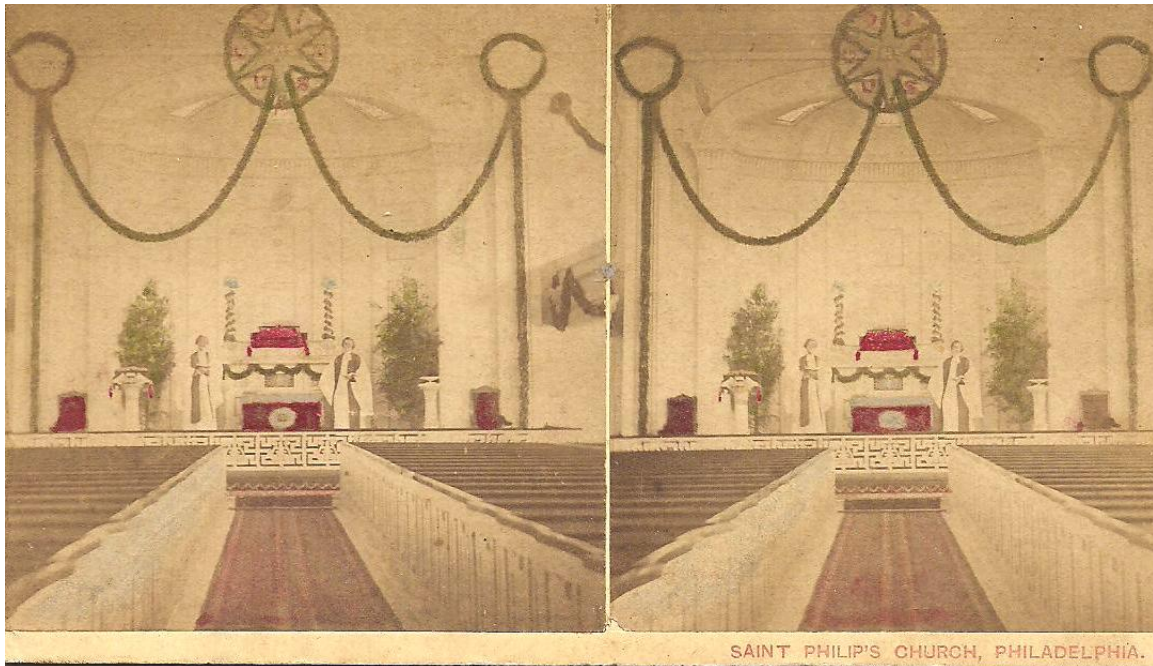
Rev. WILLIAM OTIS PRENTISS, from July, 1857 to July, 1858.

Rev. JOHN W. CRACRAFT, from February, 1859 to the present time.

October, 1860.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1860, by McALLISTER & BROTHER, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

(12) Mc Allister & Brother, February 1861, "St. Phillip's Church, Philadelphia." It was designed by Mr. Johnson, Architect



Saint Philip's Church.
(PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL)
Vine Street, north side, above Eighth Street.
Philadelphia.

The charter of the church is dated July 28, 1840. The corporators were Joseph H. Seal, John C. DaCosta, John W. Claghorn, W. J. A. Birkey, George W. Aspinwall, Henry Farnum, Wm. Welsh, John Farr, Wm. H. Newbold, J. Fisher Leaming, Joseph S. Burnett, Mordecai D. Lewis, Caleb Jones, Wm. T. Lowber, Jacob Reese, Jr., Wm. P. Cresson, James Casey, John Welsh, Jr., Stacy B. Barcroft, James S. Newbold.

The Corner Stone was laid October 16, 1840, and the Church consecrated October 1, 1841, by Bishop H. U. Onderdonk.

The building is 102 feet in extreme length, by 68 feet in width, and was erected from plans furnished by the late Mr. Johnson, Architect. A Portico of the Grecian Ionic order graces the front. The interior has been much commended for its neat and cheerful appearance. There are sittings for 1150 persons. The total cost for the building, ground and furniture was about \$50,000. The Church is free from debt.

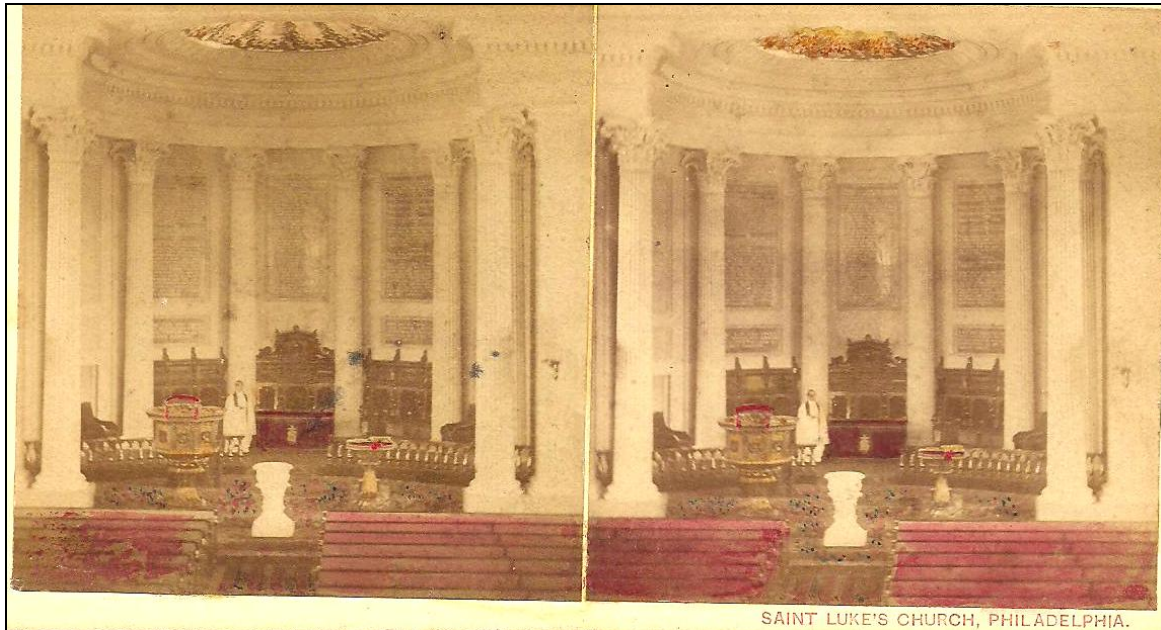
Rectors.
Rev. EDMUND NEVILLE D. D. from 1841 to 1849.
Rev. CHARLES D. COOPER. from 1850 to the present time.

ASSISTANT MINISTER—REV. REESE F. ALSOP.
RECTOR'S WARDEN—JOSEPH H. SEAL.
ACCOUNTING WARDEN—WILLIAM WEBB.

February, 1861.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1861, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, by
McALLISTER & BROTHER,
728 Chesnut St., Philadelphia.

(13) Mc Allister & Brother, December 1860, "St. Luke's Church, Philadelphia." It was designed and erected under the superintendence of Thomas S. Stewart, Esq, Architect, and consecrated on October 1, 1840.



CR1860

Saint Luke's Church,

(PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL.)

Thirteenth Street, below Spruce,

Philadelphia.

This Church edifice, which was designed and erected under the superintendence of Thomas S. Stewart, Esq., architect, presents a fine specimen of the Grecian Corinthian order.

The front exhibits a portico resting upon an elevated base. The building is 67 feet wide by a total depth of 150 feet. The audience chamber is 62 feet by 77 feet, with galleries around three sides. The Chancel is 25 by 36 feet. Height of ceiling, 32 feet. The church contains sittings for 1300 persons. The basement and rear building afford ample accommodations for Sunday School and lecture room purposes.

The corner stone was laid May 24, 1839, and the church consecrated October 16, 1840, by the Rt. Rev. H. U. Onderdonk, D. D.

Rectors.

Rev. W. W. SPEAR, D. D., from 1840 to 1845.
Rev. M. A. DEWOLFE HOWE, D. D., from 1846 to present time.

December 1860.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1860, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, by

McALLISTER & BROTHER,
728 Chesnut St., Philadelphia.

(14) 1860. "St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia." Designed by William Strickland, Esq., Architect, and opened March 9, 1823.



4911

St. Stephen's Church,

(PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL,)

Tenth Street, between Market and Chestnut Streets.

Philadelphia.

The Church presents a specimen of the Gothic Architecture of the Middle Ages, and was designed by William Strickland, Esq., the Architect of the U. S. Bank, (now Custom House,) Philadelphia, State Capitol, Nashville, Tennessee, etc., etc. The edifice is 102 feet in length, by 61 feet in extreme breadth. The corner-stone was laid by Rt. Rev. Bishop White, May 30, 1822; the building was consecrated February 27, 1823, and opened for regular service on March 9, of the same year.

Within a few years past, the chancel, has been greatly improved, and the Church is adorned with a beautiful Monument by Steinhauser to the memory of the children of E. S. Burd, Esq., and with other noble works of art.

Rectors.

JAMES MONTGOMERY, D. D., from 1823 to 1834. Died March 17, 1834.

HENRY WILLIAM DUCACHET, M. D. D., from November 30, 1834 to the present time. *26 years*

October, 1860.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1860, by McALLISTER & BROTHER, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

(15) Mc Allister and Brother, 1860. "St. James' Church, Philadelphia." Consecrated May 1, 1809.



79
McAllister
used

Saint James' Church,

(PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL.)

Seventh Street, between Market and Arch Streets,

Philadelphia.

2500

At the commencement of the present century, there were but three Episcopal Churches within the bounds of the old city proper, viz: Christ Church, St. Peter's, and St. Paul's, all situated in the extreme eastern portion of the city. Christ Church and St. Peter's which constituted one corporation, erected St. James' Church, in the year 1807, to accommodate those members who had removed to what was at that time considered the western part of the city. Messrs. Peter Browne, Samuel Wheeler, John Morrell, Francis Gurney, Joseph Sims, and Henry Hawkins were appointed the building committee.

The Church was consecrated May 1, 1809, by Rt. Rev. Bishop White. The building is 60 feet in width, by 90 feet in length, with a tower at the eastern end. The interior is extremely neat and imposing. The chancel window is by Gibson; the organ by Hall & Labagh.

In the tower is a bell with the following inscription: "Presented by the Union and Hand in Hand Fire Companies, 1752. Thomas Lester made me." It was presented by these companies to the College of Philadelphia, (now the University of Pennsylvania) of which Dr. Franklin was a principal patron, and when no longer needed by that institution, was transferred to St. James' Church.

Christ Church, St. Peter's and St. James', were united in 1810, and remained so until 1829, when a separation took place, and St. James' became an independent parish; by the articles of separation, Bishop White who had been rector of the United Churches, was to be continued as rector of St. James'.

Rectors.

<p>Rt. Rev. WILLIAM WHITE, D. D., 1809 to 1836. Died July 17, 1836.</p> <p>Rev. HENRY J. MORTON, D. D., 1836 to the present time.</p>	<p>Rev. WILLIAM A. MUHLENBERG, D. D. Now Rector of the Church of the Holy Communion, New York.</p> <p>Rev. WILLIAM H. DeLANCEY, D. D. Now Bishop of the Diocese of Western New York.</p>
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Previous to the separation of the united Parishes, the following assistant ministers of the corporation officiated in that capacity, in St. James' Church.

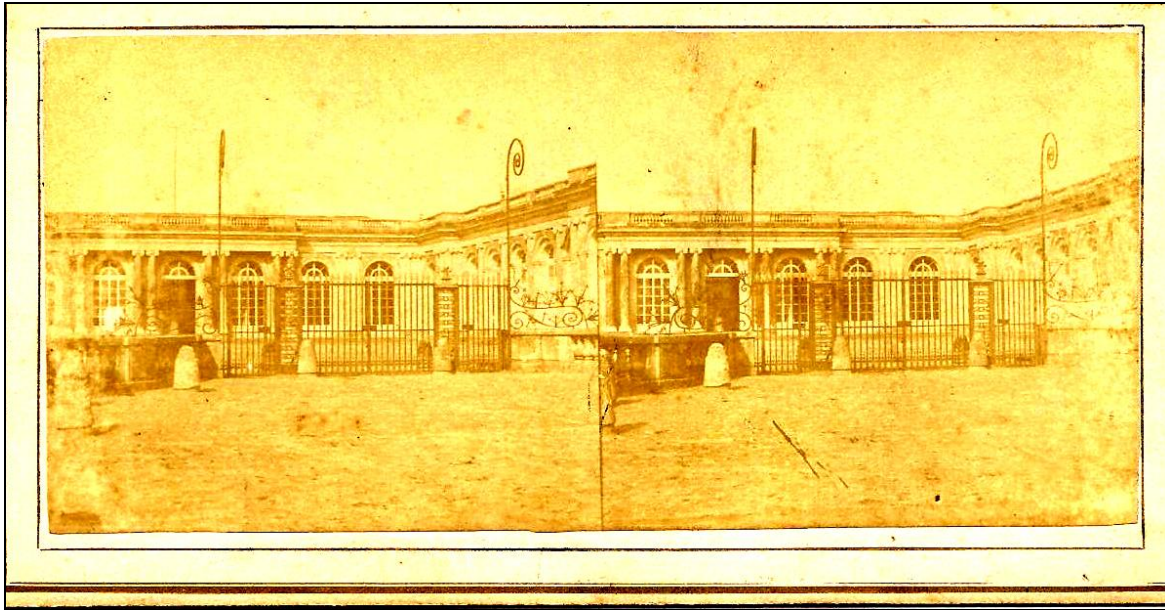
<p>Rev. ROBERT BLACKWELL, D. D. Died February 12, 1831.</p> <p>Rev. JAMES ABERCROMBIE, D. D. Died June 26, 1841.</p> <p>Rev. JACKSON KEMPER, D. D. Now Bishop of the Diocese of Wisconsin.</p> <p>Rev. JAMES MILNOR, D. D. Died March 8, 1845.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">December, 1860.</p>
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Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1860, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, by

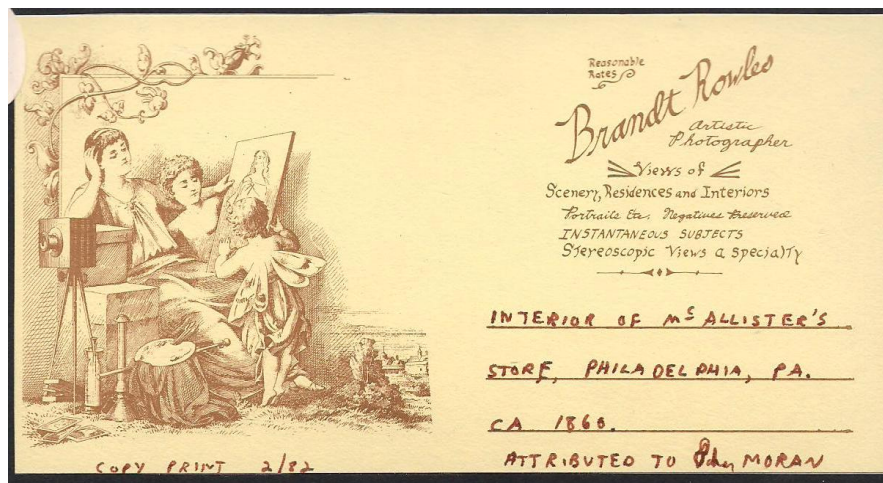
EX. COLLECTION OF
WIV & RON LOWDEN

McALLISTER & BROTHER,
728 Chesnut St., Philadelphia.

(16) Though this next stereograph is not part of the “Churches in the Parlor” series, it is an interesting photo taken at the Grand Trion in Versailles, France built for Louis XIV. Realizing that stereo photography began early in the 1860’s, this is undoubtedly one of the earliest photos taken at the famous site. It was sold by Mc Allister & Brother with the store label on the reverse.



(17) Attributed to John Moran, this interior view of **McAllister & Brother's store at 728 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia** reveals a wide variety of stereoscopes available for examination by customers. Note the pile of views on the left side of the table. The view also appears on page 74 of *Stereoscopes: the First One Hundred Years* by Paul Wing. Copy Print by Brandt Rowles



END

Dr. Zulker is the former Assistant to the President at Eastern University, St. Davids, PA, where he served for several years as curator of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Stereoscopic Research Library and as NSA Regional Director for the Delaware Valley.