

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

SURVEY USE ONLY

105039

1. Name of Site:

Common St. Johns Episcopal Church

- Archeology
- Architecture
- History

2. Location:

Street and Number Township Section
 20 E. Cherry 2 S 2

City or Town Zip Code Range ¼ Section
 Albion 62806 10 E ½ lot 19-20 Block A

County
 Edwards

3. Classification:

Category (check one) Integrity (check one)

District Building Altered Unaltered

Site Structure

Position (check one)

Moved Original Site

Status (check one)

Occupied Preservation work in progress

Unoccupied

4. Ownership:

Private

Public

Access to Public

Yes Restricted Unrestricted No

Present Use (check one or more)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Park
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (specify)

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name Phone Number

Church Property

Street and Number

City or Town

State County Zip Code

6. Description:

Condition

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? Yes No

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archeological Site (pre-Columbian)
- Archeological Site (post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-Present)
- Famous People (Give names and dates)

RELIGION



8. Specific Date:

Areas of Significance (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (prehistoric) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)
Use additional sheets if necessary.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: George C. Bassett Date: _____
Organization: Edwards Co. Hist. Soc.
Street and Number: 217 E. Main
City or Town: Albion County: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone Number: _____

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the " Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly assist from the Survey 's task.

Bibliography:

Roberston, Robert, Of Whales and Men, New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

The first services of the Episcopal church was held in a room at the log marker house in the early part of 1819. They were lay services read by Benjamin Grutt.

In the year 1820, there traveled through this country a Rev. Amos G. Baldwin remaining about six weeks. During his stay in Albion, he organized St. John's Church. He preached several sermons gathering the members together. He then traveled west.

The failure to obtain subsequent ministers led to the fact St. John's did not flourish for some years, therefore, the history of St. John's is lost for about eight or ten years.

This form of worship may flourish in cities and old settled countries, experience has shown it is almost impossible to preserve this form of church life in new settlements where churches; if kept up at all must depend principally on voluntary religious services rendered by the lay members.

No minister visited this community until 1838, when Rev. Benjamin Hutchins made his first visit.

Rev. Hutchins was born March 23, 1804 in Philadelphia. He was ordained by Bishop Wm. White in 1828.

In 1841, the Hutchins family returned to Albion from Philadelphia including wife, 2 children, and his father, Henry J. Hutchins.

A reorganization of St. John's was effected, with religious meetings held in the court house. March 28, 1842 a meeting was held, a vestry was formed, resolutions offered and carried.

In May 1842, a lot was deeded by George Flower and his wife to the church for the sum of 10¢.

Friday, September 2, 1842 the corner stone was laid, the church was completed prior to June 1843 as it stands today. June 24, 1843, the church was consecrated by Bishop Philander Chase.

In 1844, a subscription drive was made to purchase a bell, at a cost of \$38.00 127 years later the same bell calls the member to worship.

The first organ was purchased from St. James Church in Vincennes for \$150.--/

Rev. Hutchins passed away March 6, 1891. From Rev. Baldwin's visit to the present 35 different ministers have had charge of St. John's Church.

SIGNIFICANCE:

St. John's Episcopal Church of Albion was the first Protestant Episcopal church founded in this area. Benjamin Grut, a native of the Isle of Guernsey, is credited with reading Anglican services in the Albion Markethouse and in the Village of Wanborough early in 1819. Either in the same year or in 1820 the Rev. Amos G. Baldwin, Episcopal missionary, organized members into St. John's congregation. At that time he agreed to hold services every Sunday in a log cabin which had been built for a school in Wanborough.

There was a revival of the church in the 1830's and a reorganization in 1842. The Rev. Benjamin Hutchins started services here as a rector 1838. On Sept. 2, 1842, the cornerstone was laid for a new church on a lot given by George Flower and wife. The church, located one block south of the public square, was of hand made red brick laid on a foundation of stone quarried in the area. The building was completed and was consecrated by Bishop Philander Chase June 24, 1843. A bell was installed in 1844.

Father Hutchins served a long and faithful rectorship and retired in 1880 but continued to administer to the sick and afflicted. A reed organ was installed in 1847. If a minister could not be present on Sunday, services were conducted by a lay reader so that church was always open for worship.

Growth of the congregation was such that in 1879-80 sacristy was opened to the north to serve as chancel and sanctuary and probably the belfry tower was added at the southwest corner. Mr. Thomas Hall built a new altar and on Dec. 18, 1882, Bishop George F. Seymoure consecrated the additions. In 1890 the church was completely renovated. A rectory on a lot west of the church, a bequest from the John Brissenden estate was maintained for some time. Later a modern brick building was erected on a lot east of the church (the lot was a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Potter).

An outstanding choir performed in the church for some years. The guilds were also very active organizations within the church. They served not only spiritual needs but also as fund raising groups and as

centers for social life in the community. Some customs such as tolling of the funeral bell and the collection of pew rent have been discontinued.

The church, in continuous service since 1842 serves as a beautiful landmark in Albion and as a most valuable link between the past and the present.

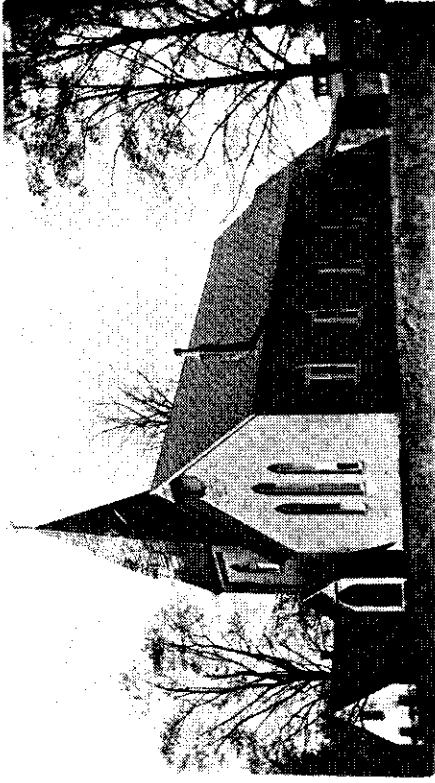
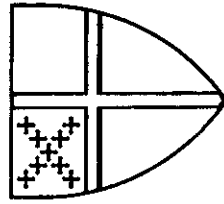
(Source: The Edwards County Resources Committee, Churches of Edwards County. No bibliographical data given and no page numbers assigned.)



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Albion, Illinois

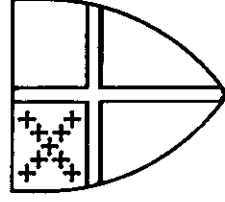
1843



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Albion, Illinois

1973



ST. JOHN'S ALBION
Baptized Members
June 24, 1973

Albion, Illinois:

Mr. George Bassett; Mrs. Diana Carrell;
Mrs. Thirza Crome; Mr. & Mrs. Frank Fisher
and Family; Mrs. Helen Hodgson; Mrs. Tom
James and Kirsty; Mr. Douglas Orr; Mr. & Mrs.
Philip Potter; Mrs. Helen Burrell Robinson;
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Waite & Family; Mr. & Mrs
Paul Waite and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Dennis
Yokel.

Bone Gap, Illinois:

Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Hudson and Family.

Carmi, Illinois:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Williams

Crossville, Illinois:

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph R. French.

Fairfield, Illinois:

Mrs. Brent Pole.

Fayetteville, North Carolina:

Captain & Mrs. David Matters.

Grayville, Illinois:

Mr. David Burrows; Miss Betty Coe; Mrs.
Lillian Coe; Mrs. Cecil Salisbury; Mrs.
Irene Sirko; Mrs. Harold Snyder and Family.

Mt. Carroll, Illinois:

Mrs. Richard Chamberlain.

West Salem, Illinois:

Mrs. Steven Marks
Mrs. Joseph Stoll.

In a very real sense Father Hutchins can be called the founding father. Through his efforts, St. John's Church acquired a firm foundation on which it has continued to exist for 130 years. A proof of the vigor of the early congregation is shown by the record of Father Hutchins pastoral work. At the time of his death it could be recorded that he had baptized 348 individuals, presented 148 persons for confirmation, performed 78 marriages, and officiated at 411 funerals.

There are many glorious dates and events to recall, but the main ones can be briefly mentioned. In 1882 a new Altar was built, and in December, Bishop Seymour consecrated the new chancel, sanctuary and altar. In 1890 a new floor was laid and varied colored glass was installed in the church windows, some of which remain to this day. The ceiling was removed exposing the beautiful beams of the vaulted roof, and the tower was renovated. It was at this time that the Gothic arch of red brick was built into the chancel. On November 30, 1916 the present brick rectory was blessed and named in memory of the Rev. Benjamin Hutchins, first resident priest in Albion. During the cures of Fathers Gill, Center, and Norman the church was renovated. In 1963 a three rank pipe organ, which had been at the church in Greenville, Illinois, was installed by a Seminararian, who is now the Rev. James McEvers of Herrin, Illinois. The Bassett residence across the street was purchased as a Parish Hall during the cure of Father Whitcroft, with a bequest left by Mrs. Edith Tennant, the daughter of the Rev. Doctor McClurkin.

The present Vicar, the Reverend Charles H. Sykes, assumed his duties in September of 1971.

Participants in the Service

June 24, 1973

Officiant and Preacher:

The Rt. Rev. Albert W. Hillestad, D.D.,
Bishop, Diocese of Springfield.

Psalmist:

The Rev. Nielson Rudd, Deacon-in-charge,
St. James, McLeansboro, Illinois.

Old Testament Reader:

The Rev. Anthony C. Viton, Vicar,
St. John's, Mt. Carmel, Illinois.

New Testament Reader:

The Rev. Charles H. Sykes, Vicar,
St. John's, Albion, and St. Alban's,
Olney, Illinois.

Acolyte and Crucifer:

Mr. David Burrows,
Grayville, Illinois.

Usher and Offering:

Mr. George Bassett, People's Warden;
Mr. Gerald Waite, Bishop's Committee,
Member-at-Large, Albion, Illinois.

Organist:

Miss Paula Waite,
Albion, Illinois.

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
Office of the Bishop
821 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois

June 4, 1973

Greetings to the Members and Friends
of St. John's Church, Albion:

It gives me great pleasure to offer
thanksgiving to God for the 130 years he
has granted us to bear witness to his love
and grace here in Albion. The founder of
this congregation, Bishop Philander Chase,
was one of the great witnesses of God and
Christ in his time. His zeal and devotion
serve as a standard, a leading banner, and
a guiding light to us today.

However, lest we are tempted to rest
on his merit and to glory in his accomplish-
ments of 130 years ago, we must make a
solemn accounting to God of our steward-
ship of his grace and goodness in our own
time. It is, therefore, my prayer that
together we may continue to bear witness
to God's glory in service to our fellows
and bring many to know him as Savior and
Lord here in Albion.

Yours in Christ,

+Albert W. Hillestad
Bishop of Springfield

GREETINGS FROM THE VICAR

June 22, 1973

My dear People and Friends:

In accepting the religious heritage which we have been given, may I share with you the fact that today The Episcopal Church in Albion is PEOPLE--professing their love of Christ in a particular place and in a particular way. The Dedication Anniversary Service which we celebrate rightly recalls the proud past, reflects our present day joy, and bears witness to the future mission of St. John's Church, now entrusted to the care and devotion of the present members of this congregation. While the memory of this historic event will be cherished for ever, may we, as Christian disciples, receive continual opportunity for spiritual growth within the Church, as well as physical involvement in the life of the community. Let us accept such God given responsibility in order that our heritage may be recorded--not just on pieces of paper for future reading and reference--but rather recorded in the personal relationships of every day living among our fellowmen.

May each of you be strengthened and guided by the presence of the Holy Spirit, and filled with the knowledge that together we go forth to do the work that the Lord requires of us--to love and serve Him as faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you!

Affectionately in Christ
The Rev. Charles H. Sykes+
Vicar.

ST. JOHN'S ALBION
1843 - 1973

"In the year 1821 or 1822, an Episcopal Missionary, the Rev. Amos G. Baldwin, traveling through this country stopped at the home of John Woods, preached several sermons in Albion, and gathered the Episcopalians together organizing a Church to be known as St. John's Church." This statement describes the beginning of the Episcopal Church in Albion, Illinois. From this account in THE EDWARDS, LAWRENCE AND WABASH TRI-COUNTY HISTORY, it is evident that the beginnings of St. John's goes far back in history. Although little is known of the early years of this struggling congregation, in 1838 the Reverend Benjamin Hutchins came to Albion for the first time. Before this great man would be called to his eternal reward, he was to spend almost fifty-three years in this attractive English community. In 1841 he came to stay, bringing with him, from Philadelphia, his wife and two children. Father Hutchins wasted no time in preaching the Gospel and baptizing. In his first three months he baptized fifteen people, and in one month alone, in 1842, he baptized another fifteen persons. The need for a Church building was evident and the corner-stone was laid on September 2, 1842. The following year the Right Reverend Philander Chase consecrated the sacred edifice to the honor and glory of God, on Sunday, June 24, 1843, the feast of St. John the Baptist. The good Bishop described this day in THE DIOCESE OF ILLINOIS CONVENTION JOURNAL, 1845: "June 24, 1843. Sunday. I consecrated St. John's Church (Albion), confirmed twenty-four persons, and preached myself, and administered the Holy Communion. The congregation was crowded. The fatigue to myself was such as I seldom, if ever before, experienced." It is this same building which today is the beacon of the Catholic and Apostolic Faith for three counties in South-eastern Illinois.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 20 E. Cherry St. Albion, Ill.
 The Right Reverend Albert W. Hillestad,
 Bishop, Diocese of Springfield
 The Reverend Charles H. Sykes, Vicar
 The Second Sunday After Pentecost
 June 24, 1973

The Dedication Anniversary Service
 From The Book Of Common Prayer

Organ Prelude	299
Ring of the Bells	p.21
Processional Hymn	p.23
Opening Sentence	p.24
A General Confession (kneel)	p.24
The Declaration of Absolution	p.25
The Lord's Prayer	p.445
Versicles and Responses	
Psalm 84:1-7 (in unison, standing)	
Gloria Patri	
The First Lesson: 1Kings 8:22-30	p.26
Magnificat	p.28
The Second Lesson: 1Peter 2:1-9	p.29
Nunc dimittis	p.30
The Apostles' Creed	
Versicles and Responses	
Collect for the Day (next page)	
Collect for Peace	p.31
Collect for Aid against Perils	p.31
Announcements	
Sermon Hymn	535
The Sermon: The Rt. Rev. Albert W. Hillestad	
Offertory Sentence	p.72
Offertory Hymn	276
The Presentation	p.73
A Prayer for Clergy and People	p.32
A Prayer for all Conditions of Men	p.32
A General Thanksgiving (together)	p.33
A Prayer of St. Chrysostom	p.34
The Pauline Grace	p.34
Recessional Hymn	568
Organ Postlude	

Please remain seated until candles are extinguished.

KALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Today: 5:00 P.M. Reception and refreshments served in the American Legion Building.
 Tuesday: 12:05 P.M. The Holy Eucharist.
 Afternoon visits by the Vicar.

Next Sunday: 8:30 A.M. Holy Communion and Sermon.

Collect for the Day: Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: We give thee thanks for the fellowship of those who have used it; and we pray that all who seek thee here may find thee, and be filled with thy joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Additional Service Music:

Versicles and Responses: Hymnal 601, p.699-703
 Magnificat: Hymnal 658, p.724-726.
 Nunc dimittis: Hymnal 673, p.730-731.

Grateful Appreciation To: Bishop Hillestad for his presence as Officiant and Preacher; Fathers Nielson Rudd and Anthony Viton for Service participation; Members of St. Mary's Guild for furnishing and serving refreshments; The Allion Journal Register and surrounding radio stations for news coverage.

Members Of The Bishop's Committee:

Mr. Arnold Hudson: Bishop's Warden,
 Mr. George Bassett: People's Warden.
 Miss Betty Coe: Secretary.
 Mrs. Thirza Crome: Treasurer.
 Mr. Gerald Waite: Member-at-Large.
 The Reverend Charles H. Sykes.

Prayer For The Week: Father of all mercies, we give you humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness.

History of St. John's Episcopal Church, Albion, Illinois

by the Rev. Thomas H. Whitcroft and George Bassett

September 1963

No history of the church in Albion would be complete unless a brief study were made of the origin and settlement of this village. The original settlement was at Warborough, a now extinct village lying about one and a half miles west of the present village of Albion. The original settlers came directly from England under the leadership of two English land promoters. Discension and over-crowding in Warborough brought three of the settlers to decide to found another community. On agreement the three set out from their homes one morning in October 1818 agreeing that the place where they would meet would be the site of the new town. They met in what is now the court house square at Albion, and thus founded the community of Albion, "a poetic name for England recalling the white cliffs of Dover.

The first services of the Episcopal Church were held in a room at the market house in the early part of 1819. This room was also used for a library. The market house was a four room brick building which stood on the southwest corner of the present court house square. These were lay services read by Mr. Benjamin Grutt, a native of the island of Jersey.

John Woods in his book Two Year's Residence in English Prairie, Illinois, written in 1822, records, "At Albion there is a place of worship in part of the market house, in which divine service is performed every Sunday in the forenoon. Prayers and a sermon are read by one of the inhabitants. I twice attended. The service was from the Church of England with some variations. I think they term themselves Unitarians." ¹

Services were also begun at Warborough. John Woods goes on to say, "In April 1820 it was agreed to have public worship at Warborough, and Sunday, 25th of April, divine service was first held in a log cabin that was built for a school room. Prayers from the service of the Church of England, with a few omissions, were read by one of the inhabitants, and a sermon by another. This meeting was well attended, and has been continued every Sunday in the forenoon at eleven o'clock, and those of the Church of England and the Quakers both frequent it." ²

The following is a description of Albion in 1819, which some feel is a bit exaggerated but it is the only one available to this writer, "I supped and went to bed in a hog-sty of a room, containing four filthy beds and eight

1. Thwaites, R. G., ed., Early Western Travels, A. H. Clark Co. Cleveland, O. 1904, p. 318.

2. ibid. p. 318f.

mean persons; the sheets stinking and dirty; scarcity of water is, I suppose, the cause. The beds lie on boards, not cots and are so hard that I could not sleep. Three in one bed, all filth, no comfort, and yet this is an English tavern; no whiskey, no milk, and vile tea, in this land of prairies At sunrise I rose from our filthy rest. Mr. Simpkins, a dirty idle wife, with sons and daughters, late of Baldock, Herts. are the managers of this private tavern. A better one of brick is building by Mr. R. Flower, who owns the former, from which Simpkins is about removing to Evansville, because he and family, though all poor, are above being at the beck and call of everybody, and pleasing nobody; and besides (says Simpkins) the great folks are too aristocratical for me, and endeavor to oppress their countrymen. This, I believe, is not true.... I walked around Albion. It contains one house only, and about ten or twelve log-cabins, full of degenerating English mechanics, too idle to work, and above everything, but eating, drinking, brawling, and fighting. The streets and paths are almost impassable with roots and stumps, and in front of every door is a stinking puddle, formed by throwing out wash and dirty water. A good market house, and a public library, is at the end, in which a kind of Unitarian worship is held on Sunday, when a sermon and the church service purified is read by anyone who pleased...."3.

The first priest to do work in Albion was the Rev. Amos G. Baldwin. He traveled through the wilds of this area in 1820 and 1821. It is recorded that he was in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1820 and laid the groundwork for the founding of Christ Church there. From there he traveled west probably stopping in New Albany and Princeton, Indiana. He stopped in Albion for six weeks staying at the home of Mr. John Woods, Sr., who had been layreading in Albion prior to Fr. Baldwin's arrival. While in Albion this missionary gathered the churchpeople into a congregation known as St. John's Church. He then traveled on to the west across Illinois, he being responsible for the beginnings of a work in Edwardsville and Alton.

George Flower describes these early days, "If I remember correctly, it was in the following year, 1820, that the Rev. Mr. Baldwin, an Episcopal Missionary, preached several sermons in Albion and gathered the Episcopal members together, and organized a church designated as St. John's Church. Mr. Pickering was an active promoter, and gave efficient aid to this early Episcopal organization, the life of which was of but short duration, in consequence of no subsequent aid being afforded it by visiting ministers. For however much Episcopacy may flourish in cities and old settled countries, experience has shown it is almost impossible to preserve this form of church life in new settlements where churches, if kept up at all must depend principally,

and sometimes altogether, on the voluntary religious service rendered by the lay members. It was no wonder, therefore, that the Episcopal Church should so soon go down in Albion at the early day." ⁴

Little is known of the church in Albion immediately after Baldwin's departure. No priest visited the community until 1838, at which time the Rev. Benjamin Hutchins made his first visit.

The Rev. Benjamin Hutchins was born in Philadelphia, March 23, 1804. He was educated at the University of Pennsylvania and the General Theological Seminary. He was ordained by Bishop William White, the first Bishop of Pennsylvania and the second American Bishop in Christ Church, Philadelphia in 1828. He did his first work as a missionary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Fr. Hutchins read in a printed missionary report that the Rev. Amos Baldwin had visited Albion in his missionary tour and that he had organized St. John's Church, and that the church people had appealed to the Board of Missions to provide them with a minister, but owing to the scarcity of men and/or money had been unable to do so. William Pickering, one of the founders of Albion, had since returned to New York City, went to his rector, the Rev. Dr. Milner, of St. George's Parish, to see what help he might be. Fr. Hutchins later read that the Missionary Board had, "become strengthened enough to do something for Albion but the answer came too late, for they had all gone over to infidelity." ⁵ It was after reading of this situation that Fr. Hutchins decided to come to Albion himself, which he did in March 1838, coming from Philadelphia with his wife by way of Louisville, Kentucky, and New Albany, Indiana. He held two or three services in the court house, but, being unable to find a dwelling, they left Albion and went to Vincennes, remaining there five months where his first daughter was born. During this time he visited Albion once, or oftener, each month for Sunday services.

Two brothers from Ireland, George and Joseph Williams who with their families constituted the church in Centerville, Walbash County, had written Bishop Chase asking for the ministrations of the Church. Bishop Chase directed Fr. Hutchins to minister to these churchpeople. These brothers later became members of the church in Albion, although an attempt was made in 1842 to get a priest to take over the work in Centerville as well as to begin one in Mount Carmel.

In 1841 Fr. Hutchins returned to Albion from Philadelphia bringing with him his wife, two children and his father, Henry J. Hutchins, a native of Barbados, who seems to have been a man of some means. A reorganization of St.

⁴. Reputedly from a manuscript of George Flower transcribed into the news item on Hutchin's Funeral, n. d.

John's Church soon followed, and several who were present when Fr. Baldwin had made his first visit rallied around the church banner. Children and grandchildren of early members were baptized in families. In the first three months here he baptized fifteen people; in October 1842 alone he baptized another fifteen, a sizable amount compared to the baptisms recorded in this church today. Fr. Hutchins unlike many of his contemporaries kept a complete and accurate record of all his sacramental administrations. Divine service was held at the court house and the first Sunday School instituted. On July 7, 1841, the Rt. Rev. Jackson Kemper, who had been elected six years prior to be Bishop of Missouri and Indiana made a Visitation to Albion and administered the sacrament of Confirmation to John Pickering, the first Confirmation in this mission. Bishop Kemper was the first man elected as a "Missionary Bishop," that is, elected by General Convention instead of the territory over which he has jurisdiction, and supported by the General Missionary Society and subject to its control.

A public meeting was held March 28, 1842, of the friends and members of the Church. Present were: the Rev. Benjamin Hutchins, H. J. Hutchins, David Hearsum, F. B. Thompson, M. D., Joel Churchill, John Brissenden, James Carter, Sr., John Pickford, Bryan Walker, W. C. Mayo, Hugh Ronalds, George Ferriman, Joseph and Robert Williams, the latter two constituting the church in Centerville. H. J. Hutchins was chosen as chairman and George Ferriman, secretary. The purpose of the meeting was for the official reorganization of St. John's Church. The following resolutions were offered and carried:

Resolved: That we organize a Protestant Episcopal Church in this village and proceed to the election of nine vestrymen.

Resolved: That the title of this church be St. John's Church.

Resolved: That the charter of incorporation proposed (the usual articles of incorporation) be adopted.

Resolved: That the following persons be elected vestrymen - viz. Henry J. Hutchins, Joseph Williams, George Ferriman, John Pickford, James Carter, Sr., David Hearsum, Joel Churchill, Robert Naylor and Samuel N. Dalby.

In May 1842 a lot was deeded by Mr. and Mrs. George Flower to the church for the sum of ten cents. The corner-stone for the new building was laid at solemn ceremonies on Friday, September 2, 1842. The procession formed at the Court House at 1:30 p.m. and included practically everyone in town. They

moved to the building lot south of the Court House. There the office for the laying of the corner-stone was read as follows:

Order of exercises:

1. Sentences of Scripture, Introductory Address, Prayer by the Rector.
2. The 84th & 132d Psalm to be given out by the Rev. Mr. Halstead & the congregation responsively.
3. List of Deposits to be read by the Senior Warden, & the box to be soldered.
4. The 99th Psalm to be sung, given out by the Rev. Mr. Halstead.
5. The box of Deposits to be handed by the Junior Warden to the Rev. Dr. Killikelly, who places it in the cavity of the Stone.
6. The Master Mason spreads the Mortar & puts on the Cap Stone.
7. The Stone is then struck three times by the ministers present.
8. The Rev. Dr. Killikelly offers prayer.
9. He also delivers an Address.
10. 25th Hymn 6 verses, given out by the Rector.
11. Benediction by the Rector.

The box within the corner stone contained: one copy of a Boston newspaper of 1842, a New York paper of 1842, a Bible, a Book of Common Prayer, a List of vestrymen and Wardens, a List of County and State Officers, Journals of the diocesan conventions of 1841 and 1842, a dime, an half-dime and a penny dated 1842.

The Rev. B. B. Killikelly, Rector of St. James' Church, Vincennes, Indiana and the Rev. B. Halstead, Rector of St. Stephen's Church, New Harmony, Indiana officiated with Fr. Hutchins at this ceremony. Dr. Killikelly laid the stone with solemn ceremonies in the name of the Holy Trinity.

A building committee had been formed consisting of Hugh Ronalds, George Ferriman, and David Hearsum. The church was completed prior to June 1843. The church as it stands today less the bell tower, sacristy, and sanctuary arch comprise the original building. This was constructed by local artisans of hand made brick. The entrance was at the liturgical west end of the church.⁷ The building had a vestry room, which Fr. Hutchins referred to as a 'robing room,' on the east end of the church. Here the Rector kept his books, papers and vestments. The church was furnished within with the chancel fixtures of a reading desk, baptismal font, pulpit, a communion table and an altar. "A

6. Actual handwritten program in Fr. Hutchin's handwriting.

7. East, west, etc. from hence forth in this paper direction will be given in terms of liturgical orientation rather than geographical.

handsome subscription as it was then considered was raised, a large portion of which was bourn by Mr. Hutchins himself.⁸ Street fairs were also held to raise funds for the church. Although there is no record of such it may safely be assumed that Henry J. Hutchins, the Rector's father, was a heavy contributor to this building project. Pew rents of \$4.00 per year per person were also charged to raise money for the church; this means of financing was common in those days and was continued in Albion for some years. When completed the structure was free from debt.

In June 1843, on the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, Bishop Chase arrived to consecrate the church. In his address to the convention of the Diocese of Illinois in 1845 he describes his visit briefly:

June 22, 1843. During this day, being on our journey to Albion, we were overtaken by a shower of rain, etc. In the afternoon, I met the Rev. Mr. Hutchins who conducted me to his father's hospitable residence in Albion. To this gentleman, the church in Albion owes much. The same evening after divine service, I addressed the congregation on their church; also, gave them a regular, my son reading prayers. June 23, 1843. At 10:00 o'clock A.M. the Rev. Mr. Hutchins performed the service, and my son preached. At 4:00 P.M. eight children were baptised, and the congregation addressed by myself. June 24, 1843. Sunday. I consecrated St. John's Church, confirmed twenty-four persons, and preached myself, and administered the holy communion. The congregation was crowded. The fatigu to myself was such as I seldom, if ever before, experienced.

In 1844 a subscription drive was made to purchase a bell, contributions ranging from twenty-five cents to \$5.00 were received and a bell purchased from a St. Louis firm in April 1844 at a cost of \$38.00. This bell was suspended in a small belfry at the west end of the church over the door and first called people to worship April 23, 1844. The same bell still calls the faithful to worship some 119 years later.

In the west end of the church was a choir loft. In 1847 apprently through the generosity of Henry J. Hutchins an organ was purchased from St. James' Church, Vincennes, and placed in the loft. A library was started in the back of the church under the loft, and church school classes met there.

8. News item on Hutchins' death, *op cit*.

9. The Diocese of Illinois Convention Journal, 1845, p. 4

The church in Albion seems to have flourished in spite of apparent friction between the Rector and the congregation. Although there is no record of such friction, oldtimers recall hearing of such and we note also that Fr. Hutchins would resign, only later to return to the pulpit a year or so later. During these periods when he was resigned he would continue to live in Albion. He was quite an outspoken man, especially in his early days. In 1845 the cure was taken by the Rev. T. S. Britton, evidently on his resignation Fr. Hutchins took up the reins again.

In 1847 the church was flourishing according to Bishop Chase's report to the diocesan convention, even though Fr. Hutchins had just resigned and the cure was vacant. "They have a flourishing Sunday School and a neat brick church with a bell and handsome enclosure, and are out of debt: on all which mercies from on High I cannot reflect but with grateful sentiments towards that excellent lay gentleman, Henry J. (sic) Hutchins, Esq. by whose instrumentality, as I am informed, nearly all these good things have been procured to St. John's Church." ¹⁰ The Rev. G. P. Comings from Jubilee College soon assumed this charge. He remained a little over a year, after which we find Fr. Hutchins administering the sacraments in Albion at Christmas, 1849.

In 1853 we find the Rev. William Clotworthy in charge. He obviously stayed only a few months, Fr. Hutchins resuming duties in 1854. In 1855 he resigned again. Bishop Whitehouse describes his visit to Albion in 1856: "My Spring visitation commenced with Albion, which I reached on Saturday, May 10th, and remained there until Wednesday, officiating at different times in St. John's Church. The Rev. Mr. Hutchins resigned the parish more than a year since; but is still resident there and his venerable father. He has rendered occasional services, but the church still continues without a regular pastor. On Whitsunday, May 11th, Mr. Hutchins assisted me in the service. I preached; administered the Communion, and addressed the congregation on the subject of Confirmation; for which rite, in consequence of the vacancy in the pastorate, no preparation had been made. In the afternoon, I again preached, and baptized the infant of Rev. Mr. Hutchins. On Whitsun Monday, I held morning service at 8:00 o'clock, preached, and afterwards, nine persons offered themselves for Confirmation, who were presented by Mr. Hutchins." ¹¹

10. ibid. 1847, p. 36

11. ibid. 1856, p. 9.

In 1857 tragedy struck the Hutchins family. Fr. Hutchins himself was "possessed of abundant capital and an inclination to engage in business... At one time he established a book store and purchased a \$5,000,00 stock, but the enterprise proved unprofitable." ¹² It was this bookstore venture which brought a great misfortune into their lives because in a shipment of books sent from Philadelphia came the dread Scarlet Fever germ which was the cause of the death of eight of his children. On April 24, 1857, William White Hutchins died at the age of 12; on the 28th, his youngest child died at the age of nineteen months; two days later Mary, almost ten years old subcombed to the disease; another two days, May 2nd Benjamin was the next to go, being only three years, eight months old, the next day Anna, age fourteen, died; the next day, Laura, age five died; the next day, May 5th, his oldest child, Sarah Jane, died being almost nineteen, and finally on the 31st of May, Elizabeth subcombed to the fever at the age of seven. In all he had lost eight children to the dread fever within thirty-eight days. It was said that after this misfortune, "Mr. Hutchins was never his former self." ¹³ Another child born to the Hutchins, Minnie May, in 1860, died two years later. In all the Hutchins had bourn twelve children and only one lived to maturity.

From 1860 to 1862 we find the church under the cure of the Rev. Robert Ryall, Fr. Hutchins taking over once more when the parish became vacant. Fr. Hutchins remained at the helm until 1880 when he retired for reasons of age, being well into his seventies. He was elected to the title and dignity of Rector Emeritus.

The cure was then assumed by the Rev. William Morrall. An expansion program was initiated under his direction. An extension was added to the east end of the church, probably by opening out the old 'robing room' which now formed the sanctuary and chancel. It was probably at this time that the narthex and bell tower were built at the northwest corner of the church and the cross and bell moved from the front gable and erected in the bell tower. In 1881 a new reed organ built by the New England Organ Company of Boston was purchased, a two manual instrument in a walnut case surmounted with decorative pipes, which some organ served the church faithfully until 1963. This organ was placed on the south side of the chancel and the choir moved forward into pews within the chancel near the organ. The choir gallery was then used for Sunday School classes and extra seating space. In September,

12. News item on Hutchins' death, op cit

13. ibid.

1882 the cure was taken over by the Rev. Henry Humphries; he continued the renovation program commenced by his predecessor. A new altar was built by Thomas Hall, churchwarden at the time and in December 1882 Bishop Seymour consecrated the new chancel, sanctuary and altar. At the same time a new chalice and paten, gifts of the Sunday School children were consecrated. During Morrall's stay an altar book, a leather Bible, a Bishop's chair, and the present altar cross were provided, the semi-circular pulpit and lectern were removed and replaced with a simple lectern stand on the north side of the chancel across from the choir.

Fr. Humphries resigned July 13, 1883, and left Albion in August using the new Altar Service Book for the first time at this last service. It is recorded that this book was purchased by the Sunday School for \$8.00. On leaving Fr. Humphries recalls the fine help that he received from the Rector Emeritus, Fr. Hutchins, who still resided in Albion: "I wish to record here the very great sympathy and assistance I have met with from the Rector Emeritus during the whole year past."

In September 1883, the post was assumed by the Rev. W. H. Tomlins. Fr. Tomlins was an Englishman. He has been described by an old-timer as, "tall, angular, and fussy." In 1884 services were started in Fairfield from time to time. In October one person was presented and confirmed in that community. The services continued sporadically until 1885. In January 1886 Bishop Seymour came to Albion to celebrate a special Eucharist in honour of Fr. Hutchins' fiftieth wedding anniversary. This was obviously a day of great celebration for the people of the community.

In 1887 and 1888 the church was led by the Rev. J. B. Blanchet. He resigned October 14, 1888, having served eleven months. The cure remained vacant until June 1889 with services held from time to time by the Rector Emeritus and John McClurkin, M. D., a native of Albion who had since moved to Mount Carmel where he operated a pharmacy.

On the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, 1889, the forty-sixth anniversary of the consecration of the church the rectorship of St. Johns was assumed by the Rev. J. B. Debbage, a native of Canada who labored in this area one year before returning to his native land. He was the first priest to have full charge of St. John Baptist Church in Mount Carmel as well as the responsibility for the Albion congregation. During his time Dr. McClurkin, who had served so actively as a lay-reader was ordained to the diaconate. Dr. McClurkin continued his medical profession in Mount Carmel

and remained in deacon's orders, giving invaluable service to churches throughout southeastern Illinois.

In August 1890, the Very Rev. John Norton Chesnutt became Rector of St. John's. In October of that year a program of renovation was instituted. The gallery at the rear of the church was removed with its stairway, a new floor was laid, varied colored glass was installed in the church windows, some of which remains to this day. The ceiling was removed exposing the beams of the vaulted roof, the tower was renovated. It was at this time that the Gothic arch of red brick was built into the chancel. The repairs came to a total of \$1,200.00. While the renovation was going on services were held in the Masonic Lodge on the southeast corner of the Public Square. The first service held in the renovated church was on New Year's Day, 1891.

Fr. Chesnutt was a native of Kentucky and had served in the Union Army under General R. B. Hopkins in the Civil War. He was a graduate of Nashota House and was ordained in St. Louis and served the Church of the Advent there and at the parish in St. Charles, Missouri, and at St. Peter's, Louisville, Kentucky before coming to Albion at the age of forty. He is pictured as a bearded man wearing a biretta, such hatwear being somewhat unfamiliar in those days. Fr. Chesnutt was obviously an 'advanced' churchman. Perhaps the first High Mass celebrated in this church was the occasion of Fr. Chesnutt's marriage to a local girl, May 23, 1892. In the service register he records, "Bishop Seymour officiating, ... Father Betts, Deacon, Fred, Burrell, Sub-deacon." It was at this service that altar lights were introduced for the first time. This caused a bit of a stir. Fr. Chesnutt records about a parish meeting held in September of that same year, "The Altar lights, introduced into the parish May 23, 1892, having caused some talk, the Dean asked the people frankly to state their grievances openly, if they had any, but no criticism of his administration was made and the meeting was harmonious." Another disturbance in the parish is noted in 1894; Fr. Chesnutt records in the Service Register: "Bishop Hale addressed the congregation and examined into rumors afloat about the Rector at the Rector's request. There was nothing proved against the Rector and peace reigned."

On March 6, 1891, the community and the church were saddened by the death of the aged and venerable Rector Emeritus. He was fast approaching his 87th birthday. Fr. Hutchins had lived in Albion for most of fifty-three years. In that time he had baptised 348 souls, presented 148 persons for confirmation, performed seventy-eight weddings, and buried 411 persons. No doubt there were

those who only saw the bad in him, his cantankerousness, his out-spoken manner, but we may be well assured that it was through his efforts as the de facto founder of this congregation and the continuity of his ministry in this community during its founding days/^{that} contributed greatly to the firm foundation which makes St. John's the church that it is today. Through his efforts and the help of his father St. John's had that firm base on which it has built. His retirement years were spent in this community visiting the sick and shut-in. He also attempted, in his latter years, to establish a church at Grayville; this attempt failed with his death. Fr. Hutchins has been pictured to this writer in his last years by an old-timer who remembered him. He was always a thin man, and in his last years could well be described as scrawny, slightly stoop-shouldered; he had trouble hearing and used a large tin ear-horn which he used to rap on the doors of those whom he visited, rapping quite impatiently if one did not answer promptly.

Fr. Hutchins was buried in the cemetery at Albion. The following is the news item covering the funeral: "At about 9:45 o'clock last Friday morning, March 6th, our venerable citizen, Rev. Benjamin Hutchin, Rector Emeritus of St. John's Episcopal Church, drew his last breath. The end was not unexpected as ever since he was injured by a fall on the 24th of January the fact was realized by his friends that death could be at the most delayed but a few months.... The Funeral occurred at three o'clock, Monday afternoon, the services being conducted by the deceased's intimate friend, the Rt. Rev. Bishop George Seymour, of Springfield, assisted by Arch Deacon Davenport of Cairo; Arch Deacon Frost of Alton; Rev. W. H. Tomlins of East St. Louis, Rev. R. S. Podmore, of Mt. Vernon; Dean Chesnut of Albion, and Doctor John McClurkin of Mount Carmel. It was perhaps the most imposing funeral service according to the Episcopal form of ceremony ever conducted in Southern Illinois. Departing from the established rules of the church the Bishop delivered an extemporaneous sermon replete with early-time incidents and lessons for the living drawn from the life of the deceased.... Mr. Hutchins has spent a comfortable living in Albion and has made himself poor endeavoring to make his church rich. It is to be hoped he can feel some compensation for his many years of hard toil, his many pecuniary losses and the severe family afflictions himself and Mrs. Hutchins have passed through...."

The clergy at the funeral wrote a memorial to Fr. Hutchins which is quoted in part below: "The Bishop, Rector, and clergy, deeply sympathizing with the especially bereaved, rejoice with exceeding great joy over the good example of our deceased brother. His was a notable life, in all the elements of true greatness, and his life and character and steadfast work remain a permanent monument of a notable and

faithful shepherd of souls... Here he remained for more than fifty years, going in and out among the people of every name, and example to the flock then in the wilderness of a true Christian pastor. Passing in review his blameless, self-sacrificing life, his zeal, devotion and love for his work, his enduring of hardships as a good soldier of the cross, his abundant labors, his steady unfaltering devotion to duty,.... the simplicity of his life and manners, his guileless character and loving service constitute a precious legacy to the Bishops, clergy, and laity of the whole church...."

The following was the tribute spread on the minutes of the vestry at their meeting, March 18, 1891: "Forasmuch as it has pleased Almighty God to take out of the world the soul of our Rector Emeritus, Rev. Benjamin Hutchins, the founder and first settled Rector of this congregation, We desire to render thanks to our Heavenly Father for our inheritance in the life and labours of his servant and so to follow his good example that with him we may be partakers of the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and our Saviour Jesus Christ. In his labours he was abundant; in a ministry in our midst for about fifty years. He spared not himself, spending and being spent in the care of the church and dying as he had lived at his post. Having fought in the good fight and kept the faith that his faithfulness and zeal were blessed with success in building up the church of God in this community is witnessed by all. How sadly shall we miss his beneficial ministrations cannot be told. What light and comfort and peace have gone with his presence for many years eternity alone will reveal. For this parish and his widow and son alike bereaved of a loving father and head, we implore the merciful assistance and consolation of our Heavenly Father...."

By March of the following year Dean Chesnutt had received subscriptions amounting to \$90.00 with which a Celtic cross of Italian Marble was to be placed as a memorial at the grave of Fr. Hutchins. This cross was erected in solemn ceremonies March 15, 1893.

On the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, June 24, 1892, the church celebrated their semi-centennial with a Eucharist at 10 a.m. and Evensong at 8 p.m. Dean Chesnutt delivered historical addresses appropriate to the occasion. A special offering was received for the church debt; the offering amounted to \$3.36 from the thirty-eight persons present. After the evening service there was an informal reception in the Rectory.

Money problems faced St. John's at this time. We find that at the vestry meeting in April 1894 Fr. Chesnutt submitted his resignation and stated the "terms upon

which he was willign to resign,"¹⁴ i. e., what settlement he would make for back stipend due. A committee of two were appointed to see what settlement could be made. At a parish meeting ten days later they agreed to borrow \$150.00 to pay the Rector for the six months that he had not received his salary, and that the Rector's Warden was "to write to the Bishop, to com (sic) as soon as posibal (sic)." ¹⁵ Fr. Chesnutt resigned June 1, 1894, with the words: "Here endeth my Rectorship! not all joy nor all service." ¹⁶

St. John's remained vacant for the following year, during which time services were conducted by the Rev. Horace B. Goodyear of Mount Carmel. Fr. Goodyear came over to Albion twice a month for which he was paid \$4.00 per trip. At the vestry meeting of June 30, 1895 called by the Bishop the Rev. Angelo Ames Benton was called to be Rector; he arrived in August and stayed until 1902. Dr. Benton attempted to straighten out the finances of the parish. Dr. Benton was an older scholarly man and took quite an interest in the arts. While here he founded two Shakespearean study groups which still exist today, one known as the Shakespear Club and the other the Twentieth Century Club. He also taught Latin in the Academy, a private school founded in this community by the Congregationalists and no longer functioning. He was said to be a pastor to the whole town. If anyone were sick, regardless of their denominational affiliation he would immediately go to call, quite often bearing some tasty dish that his wife had prepared. One of his first assignments from the vestry was "to visit all possible members of this church as soon as convenient and ascertain whether such persons consider themselves communicants." ¹⁷ We again find in 1896 that only \$350 had been pledged towards the Rector's salary for the coming year. In jounary a motion was made to levy a tax of 60¢ per communicant to be paid in quarterly installments. By this time the Diocese had begun to augment the salary paid by the church. In 1900 trouble again arose about the Rector's salary. He had been promised \$375 for 1899 and had only received \$337.50. A motion was made to make his salary \$400 for 1900, but since only \$350 had been pledged it was finally decided to offer Dr. Benton that amount for the ensuing year. Dr. Benton finally left St. John's in July 1902. From the minutes of the vestry it is apparent that his salary was in arrears almost the whole seven years that he worked here. He moved from Albion to Pekin, Illinois.

The cure the remained vacant until 1903 when the Rev. R. Alan Russell assumed the cure. In the meantime services had been held by lay-readers and by the Rev. Dr.

14. Vestry Minutes, April 28, 1894

15. ibid.

16. Service Register, May 31, 1894

17. Vestry Minutes, August 7, 1895.

McClurkin. The following is an item announcing the arrival of Fr. Russell in an old Albion newspaper: "Rev. Russell, the new Vicar of St. John Baptist's Episcopal Church, of Mt. Carmel will have charge of the work here, beginning Sunday night. He will come over from Mt. Carmel on the afternoon train Sundays and hold service for the local congregation.

"Rev. Russell is a native of Rochester, N. Y. and is a young man full of vigor and force of character. His pastoral work had been principally located in the West. His education was acquired in the St. Stephen's College, Arandale, New York, and the Georgetown University, D. C. Later he took a course in the Western Theological Seminary in Chicago.... (He) was on the road as a traveling man, on drummer for a business house for a number of years, and...has been a drummer for the church for some time past having been in mission work exclusively.

"The Lord has been good to Mr. Russell, and has preserved him from all sorts of troubles and evils, hence it is almost useless to say he is unmarried.

"Mr. Russell...will make his home in Mount Carmel."

Fr. Russell remained only one year living in Mount Carmel and commuting to Albion to hold services here. He was succeeded by the Rev. W. J. Datson. He too made his home in Mount Carmel and traveled by train to Albion. By this time the old rectory in Albion, a frame building located next to the church was rented out, one room being reserved as an office and overnight resting place for the clergyman. When services were held in Albion on Sunday night which was usually every other week the priest would spend the night in this study as the only night train left Albion at 2 a.m.

Fr. Datson was succeeded by the Rev. W. B. Thonn who remained only four months in 1906-7. He was succeeded by the Rev. H. H. Mitchell in June 1907. Under Fr. Mitchell some minor repairs and improvements were made to the church property. The chancel and sanctuary were re-shingled, the rectory re-painted; Fr. Mitchell says for the "first time in 26 years"; and gas from the local carbide gas house was piped into the church. Fr. Mitchell resigned May 24, 1908.

Once more the cure remained vacant until the Rev. Thomas William Conroy Cheeseman assumed charge of St. John's in 1909. Fr. Cheeseman was a man with a very good education and this reflected in his excellent preaching ability. His sermons were marred however with a conclusion which leveled biting condemnations at one of the denominations. Rarely did he preach but that he polished his sermon off with such a criticism. He was a middle-aged man when he came to Albion and had an English wife. He was a bit egotistical but some felt rightly so for his fine educational background. He always wore a Prince Albert coat. His appearance was such that he

appeared to walk around with his nose in the air. He served faithfully in both Mount Carmel and Albion, living in the former community, until November 1912.

Fr. Cheeseman was immediately replaced by the Rev. George Harvey Trickett. Fr. Trickett came from Newberg, New York. His wife was a frail woman and had borne a large family. It is said that when he had evening services in Albion he would set the alarm to take the 2 a.m. train back to Mount Carmel where he lived; this grew out of concern for his wife's health. He himself was a small frail man whose health was not the best. His forte was Christian Education and he introduced the Christian Nurture Series to the Sunday Schools within his cures. He labored in Albion exactly two years.

The mission remained vacant until March 1915, existing only with the services of visiting clergy. In March 1915, the Rev. Edward S. Bardsdall assumed the cure of Albion and Mount Carmel. Fr. Bardsdall chose to live in Albion during his stay; it was under his direction that the present Benjamin Hutchins Memorial Rectory was built. The old rectory standing to the geographical west of the church was sold and a brick bungalow constructed on the opposite side of the church on a piece of property deeded to the church by Fred Potter. Everyone pitched in to build this new house, the ladies ran the usual money-making projects, the Sunday School children saved their pennies and amassed a sizable amount, and the men of the parish did a good bit of the construction. A fine brick bungalow, designed for the needs of a priest with three bedrooms, a study, kitchen, a commodious dining and living area, a large concrete porch, and a partial basement with coal furnace was soon erected on the site and the new structure blessed on Thanksgiving Day, November 30, 1916.

Fr. Bardsdall was a middle-aged man, married and had two sons. He had suffered from a partial stroke and had to use his acolytes, one of whom was his son, to help him up and down at the altar. He is reputed to have been a good preacher. He left this mission to go to St. Louis in July 1919, having cared for this church during the trying days of World War I.

Lay services were held by William Runcie until November of 1919 when the cure accepted by the Rev. Thomas Leroy Parker. Fr. Parker had come originally from Kansas and had gone to Chicago to attend the Garrett Biblical Institute. While there he had heard the Rev. George Craig Stewart, one of the outstanding preachers of the day and later Bishop of Chicago, preach at St. Luke's Church, Evanston. This sermon brought him to the decision to study for the Episcopalian ministry. He evidently took little formal training because he seemed totally unprepared when he came to work in the field. He was a man of little gumption, a very poor preacher,

but a good teacher and a hard taskmaster for his students. Fr. Parker was very active in Masonic work in this community. It is said that he spent a good part of his small stipend for his regalia and because of this his family suffered. He was also quite a sportsman; he loved to hunt. He also gave swimming lessons, one at the old brick yard in Albion, and another on the Walbash near Mount Carmel. These classes seem to have been his downfall, because ugly gossip was spread primarily in Mount Carmel regarding them. This seems to have been the type of pressure that forced him to resign the Rectorship of St. John's Church, Ionia, Michigan, February, 1924.

One year later the Rev Isaac Parkin took charge of Mount Carmel and Albion. Fr. Parkin was the first missionary to own an automobile. It was a Ford which had a special built-up driver's seat. He himself was a big man and with his build-up seat was a familiar sight driving his car along the highways and streets of this area. Fr. Parkin was an elderly man when he came to Illinois. He was originally from Yorkshire and had come to this country with the Salvation Army. He then, as he would put it, "Became wishful to take Holy Orders." He was a real father to his flock, and had a flair for getting people together from his different churches. Under his administration the church in Olney which had had a spotty past was re-opened and he got nine people from Albion to go up to the opening service on August 30, 1925, to give them a boost. Frequently he would get the people from Mount Carmel and Albion together for picnics and services. When he came to this cure from Oklahoma he was a recent widower and had no children of his own; he lived the first part of his ministry in Mount Carmel. A year after his arrival he moved to Albion and took a room in a private home on the Court House Square. He was reputed to be very fond of children. While he was still living in Mount Carmel, he took into his home a young girl from an Oklahoma reform school; although he was trying to help her it was cause of some malicious gossip in Mount Carmel, gossip which ultimately forced him to resign in May of 1926. It is said that he loved his people dearly and cried because he had to leave them.

Fr. Parkin was immediately succeeded by the Rev. Andrew O. Dodge who moved with his wife and young child from Harrisburg, Illinois. Fr. Dodge was appointed to be priest-in-charge of Albion and Mount Carmel as well as Olney and Carmi. He also made visits to West Frankfort and Robinson. It is interesting to note that it was twenty-eight years later that the priest of the Albion-Mount Carmel cure finally established the first Episcopal mission in Robinson, some sixty-eight miles from Albion. Although he was young he was suffering from cancer, and was constantly in pain. He enjoyed playing cards as a diversion from his suffering. He resigned

in March 1928 because of ill health; he died shortly after leaving here.

The church then became vacant for over two years at which time the Rev. Arthur E. Marston assumed the cure of Albion, Mount Carmel, and Olney. This nice looking young priest seems to have had family troubles. He lived in the Hutchins Memorial Rectory in Albion. He had several children but his wife seemed not in sympathy with his vocation, so much so that she never attended church or took any part in church activities. Fr. Marston stayed from May 1930 to September 1933.

In October of that same year, the Rev. Franklin H. Spencer, a deacon, assumed charge of the churches at Mount Carmel and Albion as well as McLeansboro, Zeigler, and West Frankfort. He was an older man from the East originally but came to this diocese from Oklahoma through the influence of Fr. Parkin. He had been Bishop White's assistant before he was sent into this area. He was responsible for the establishment of the Diocesan Men's Club. In 1934 he seemingly had a falling out with the diocesan authorities and was inhibited. He was restored in March 1935 and evidently shortly thereafter ordained a priest. He left the diocese the end of that year.

In January 1936 the Rev. Samuel Erastus Arthur assumed the responsibility for Albion. Fr. Arthur was a classmate of Bishop White's at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, and it was through Bishop White that he came to the diocese. He had come into southern Illinois from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where he had married a southern girl. They had one daughter, Olga, who stayed with her mother through a long invalidcy and raised dogs to augment the small stipend that her father received. She is today living in Alton, Illinois, and is an active member of St. Paul's Church there. When he came into the diocese he started his work at Edwardsville. He moved from there to Mount Vernon and remained there until his death in 1945. He was the first man to live in Mount Vernon and still have the responsibility of the following churches: Mount Carmel, Mount Vernon, Albion, McLeansboro, Okbegrnsboro, West Frankfort, Zeigler, and Harrisburg, as well as visiting in surrounding communities where a few churchpeople might live. We must also remember that he was not a young man and had many responsibilities at home, yet found time and energy to care for as many as seven congregations. He has been described as an "old style gentleman with nice manners." He was very easy going and found his diversion in fishing. He served this church until January 1945.

Then once more the church remained vacant until May 1946 when the Rev. Glen Scott Reddick assumed the responsibility of this long string of churches stretching across the middle of Illinois. Fr. Reddick lived in Mount Vernon too. He was a young man, quiet, but quite nervous; some say this was a result of a war injury.

He had been an army chaplain from 1942 to 1946. He resigned this cure to become Rector of St. James' Church, Riverton, Wyoming in 1947.

The church then remained vacant for three years when the Rev. John E. Gill assumed charge of the mission. Fr. Gill was an energetic man, as one parishoner put it, "There's only one in a box like him." He was a man of untiring energy and drive. He had attended Virginia Theological Seminary, and came to this diocese under Bishop White with a rather poor recommendation from his seminary, but as is usually the case, recommendations from the seminary often are not too significant for the work in the vineyard. Fr. Gill lived in Mount Vernon and had married one of his parishoners from there. He instituted programs of restoration in both Mount Carmel and Albion. He threw himself in with the men to get the job done. By this time the church had fallen into great disrepair, plaster down, dirt, dust, cobwebs, dead birds, and pigeon droppings everywhere. The exterior of the church was badly in need of tuckpointing and the church yard was completely over-grown with weeds. The weeds were removed, the plastering and windows repaired, the floors fixed, the walls tuckpointed and water-proofed, and the place was in general made ready once more for the service of Almighty God.

In January 1951 in the midst of all this ambitious planning and drive, Fr. Gill was killed in an automobile accident while returning from Albion to Mount Vernon. Fr. and Mrs. Gill were expecting their first child at the time who was born shortly after the funeral. With this concern in his mind he was hurrying home to be with his wife. This fatal accident made everyone aware that one man could not adequately and safely live in Mount Vernon and care for so many distant churches.

After this death, the Rev. Pomeroy Hixcox Hartman, an older priest who lived in Mount Vernon was appointed priest-in-charge. He traveled to Albion and Mount Carmel on the bus from time to time and held services. It was hoped that a priest might be procured for Albion and Mount Carmel but clergy were still scarce because of World War II.

In June 1954 the Rev. Robert June Center was appointed to be Vicar of St. John's. Fr. Center had graduated from a teacher's college in Terre Haute and had gone to California to teach. While there he and his wife, who he had married in College, became interested in the Episcopal Church and later he decided to study for the ministry. He attended Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. He was the father of two children. He lived with his family in Mount Carmel and commuted to Albion.

Fr. Center continued the work of restoration started under Fr. Gill. The interior of the church was painted blue, a dorsal curtain installed, the two "warm morning heater" were replaced with oil stoves, and later with heating fans, a sacristy chest was made for the vestments and new lines and vestments procured.

The old reed organ, bought in 1881 was completely overhauled at a cost of \$350. Various pieces of altar silver were donated at this time. Fr. Center left to assume duties in the Diocese of Northern Indiana in May 1956.

Once more the church was without a priest. The Rev. Ralph Markey of Mount Vernon gave services from time to time and Bishop Clough came down finally as often as once a month to say Mass for the little congregation. As a tribute to the people of Albion who he had grown to love, Bishop Clough gave the church an Altar Missal, at the time that he appointed the Rev. Fred L. Norman as Vicar in July 1958.

Fr. Norman, as had his predecessor, came to Albion and Mount Carmel as a deacon and was advanced to the priesthood while in this cure. Fr. Norman lived in Mount Carmel when he first arrived. The Rectory in Albion had fallen into disrepair and a program of renovation was begun. As soon as it was livable Fr. Norman took up residence in the Hutchins Memorial Rectory. The renovation of this building was paid for largely by Fr. Norman and by funds that he raised outside the parish for this purpose; it is a fine memorial to his work in this community.

Fr. Norman was most active also in the renovation of the church. He began by laying out walks around the church and landscaping; today there is a beautiful garden which enhances the beauty of this English edifice. The predella was enlarged, the old reed organ moved to the rear of the church, the altar completely refinished, the altar rail moved forward and thus the sanctuary more comfortably enlarged, the kneelers were padded, the sanctuary completely carpeted, a beautiful sanctuary lamp procured, sanctus bells were given thus ending a long tradition of the priest having to carry his own, a new tabernacle of brass was installed, a new chalice and paten purchased, a full frontal of Canterbury tapestry hung, and an altar stone containing a primary relic of Saint Maria Goretti was consecrated by Bishop Clough. Fr. Norman resigned to accept duties in Carbondale and Anna, Ill., January 27, 1963.

He was succeeded the following Sunday by the Rev. Thomas Henry Whitcroft, who came to Albion from Edwardsville and Wood River. The church was in excellent repair on his arrival so that little was to be done in the way of renovations. A cloth of gold canopy was made to beautify the tabernacle. Shortly after Fr. Whitcroft's arrival a bequest of \$5,000.00 was left by Mrs. Edith Tennant, the daughter of the Rev. Dr. McClurkin mentioned above. Plans are progressing to use these funds for the construction of a parish hall and educational plant. In July 1963 a three rank pipe organ which had been at the church in Greenville, Illinois, was installed. This beautiful old organ with a Baroque tone will do much to en-

hance the worship of St. John's. Later the heating fans were removed to be replaced with a natural gas furnace-central heating system in the fall of 1963. This last project was completely financed by the two women's guilds of the church. Fr. Whitcroft at this writing is resident in the Hutchins Memorial Rectory.

No paper would be complete without some mention of the ladies' organizations. As early as 1841, the Guild of St. John's was a going organization raising large sums of money for the building of the church. They were the originator in Albion of the chicken pie supper, providing from their own home: stoves, cooking utensils, china, linen, and silverware, carrying everything including food and fuel to an upstairs hall in order to carry out their supper project, sometimes serving supper through an entire week's session of court. The work of the Guild served a double purpose, for much of the social life of the community in the past centered around their activities, however their work was not so entirely confined to money raising schemes that things spiritual were obliterated. Over the years the organization would fold up when the cure was vacant for any length of time. It would then spring back to life as the church got started again. Throughout the records of the parish there is mention of the re-organization of the guilds. At first the organization was known as the Ladies of St. John's; it was known as St. Mary's Guild from September 5, 1890, when the women's group was re-organized by Dean Chesnutt. Under the guidance of Fr. Norman an evening group was begun with the dedication to St. Joseph, the day group retaining the title of St. Mary's Guild.

Today the cross atop old St. John's Church is slightly askew but it still beckons from far and near not only the Episcopalians of the community but all to come to worship inside its time-hallowed walls. St. John's Vicar, being the only priest in the community, has the responsibility of ministering as the priest of the community and witnessing for the pure form of Catholicism found within the Anglican system and within the worship and teachings of Albion's only Catholic church, St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church.

ADDENDA: On September 22, 1963, within the 120th anniversary year of the consecration of St. John's Church a special service was held in conjunction with the fall meeting of the American Church Union, Greater St. Louis Chapter. This service was in honour of Fr. Hutchins. Evensong was sung and Bishop Chambers officiated at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. A paper on the life and ministry of Fr. Hutchins was read by Fr. Whitcroft. After the service the entire congregation made a liturgical pilgrimage to Fr. Hutchins grave. Clergy present besides the Bishop and Vicar were from Centralia, Danville, Paris, Mount Vernon, Alton, Granite City, and Collinsville. Ninety-nine people were present from all of Southern Illinois and eastern Missouri.

Clergy List

1820	Amos G. Baldwin
1838	Benjamin Hutchins
May 1841-Apr 1845	Benjamin Hutchins
July 1845-Dec 1845	T. S. Britton
May 1846-1847	Benjamin Hutchins
1847-1848	G. P. Comings
1849-1853	Benjamin Hutchins
1853-1854	William Clotworthy
1854-1855	Benjamin Hutchins
1860-1862	Robert Ryall
1862-1880	Benjamin Hutchins
1880-Sept 1882	William Morrall
Sept 1882-Jul 1883	Henry Humphries
Sept 1883-Aug 1886	W. H. Tomlins
Nov 1887-Oct 1888	J. B. Blanchet
Jun 1889-Jun 1890	J. B. Debbage
Aug 1890-Jun 1894	John Norton Chesnut
June 1894-Jun 1895	*Horace B. Goodyear
Jun 1895-July 1902	Angelo Ames Benton
1903	R. Alan Russell
1905-06	W. J. Datson
1906-07 (4 months)	W. B. Thorn
May 1907-May 1908	H. H. Mitchell
March 1909-Nov 1912	Thomas William Conway (Cheese-man)
Nov 1912-Nov 1914	George Harvey Trickett
March 1915-Oct 1919	Edward S. Bardsdall
Nov 1919-Feb 1924	Thomas Leroy Parker
Feb 1925-May 1926	Isaac Parkin
May 1926-Mar 1928	Andrew O. Dodge
May 1930-Sept 1933	Arthur E. Marston
Oct 1933-Dec 1936	Franklin H. Spencer
Dec 1936-Jan 1945	Samuel Erastus Arthur
Mar 1946-Jan 1948	Glen Scott Reddick
Jan 1951-Jul 1952	John E. Gill
1952	*Pomeroy Hickox Hartman
June 1958-Jan 1963	Fred Lincoln Norman
Feb 1963-	Thomas H. Whitcroft

*locum Tenens