

Rockland County Messenger

June 25, 1896

The First M.E. Church Celebrating Its Sixty-second Anniversary

Mr. Bosly, of Franklin, N.J., was a visitor at the first M.E. Parsonage last week, and took active part in the Epworth literary entertainment held in the Church on Thursday night.

The ladies of the First M. E. Church held a meeting on Monday to make arrangements for the 4th of July celebration and festival.

Miss Carrie Moore is spending her vacation at her home in this town.

Mr. England, of Irvington, N.J., visited Rev. Mr. Doolittle and family last week.

Miss Eliza Brooks spent last week with relatives in New York City.

The sixty-second anniversary of First M. E. Church of Stony Point was celebrated last Sabbath morning with a large congregation present to enjoy the event. The church was dedicated June 14, 1834. It has undergone several changes since that time. About thirty years before the organization of the church, the Methodist itinerants began preaching in this town, holding services in private house and school buildings, when people resolved to build a church. Messrs. John. J. Buslon, W. H. Rose and Abram Knapp were the leaders in the work. The dedication sermon was preached by the presiding elder, Rev. Manning Force. The circuit at that time embraced Haverstraw, the Creek Church and Thiells. After a time the congregation was strong enough to support a pastor and Rev. A. Crompton was placed in charge. Thirty-seven different ministers have served as pastors of this church, fifteen of which are still living. Fifteen presiding elders have held quarterly conferences five of them still survive. The services of the day were intensely interesting, the pastor, Rev. Mr. Doolittle reading a brief history of the church and giving the names of the different pastors. He then gave any one an opportunity to speak of "days gone by" and several responded, two of them Thomas W. Rose and Mrs. Sara Bulson were converted fifty-five years ago. Letters were read from Rev. Walter Chamberlain, pastor forty-one years ago; G. H. Winairs, thirty-six years ago; Rev. J. W. Barrett, thirty-one years ago and Rev. H. J. Hayter, twenty-one years ago. This church has been the spiritual home of a noble army of men and women who loved God and supported His cause.