

The following was taken from the Souvenir Edition of the The Middletown Tribune, dated 1896. It was lent to us for this reproduction by Mike Giuliano, a local resident. Excerpts include short articles regarding the churches that existed in Portland at the time, and some of their histories. The writing itself is classic late nineteenth century, and gives an extraordinary view of the time period.

Trinity Church

This parish may be said to date from September 24, 1788, though formal organization was not effected until April, 1789. A church edifice was begun at once and was occupied in 1790, but never consecrated. A second one was begun in 1830, but never opened in 1832, and demolished in 1833. A third one was begun in 1833, but never consecrated. A fourth one was begun in 1874 to make present handsome chapel of the latter 1874 but the main building was not completed until 1882. It was consecrated by Bishop Williams, July 13th of that year.

Trinity Church attract favorably complimentary notice and cause comment in any locality. It is a handsome specimen of Gothic architecture, with massive brownstone,

gables and porches, a tower, two turrets and chancel. Photography fails to do justice to its beautiful exterior, and its interior is in keeping.



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building would notice and cause comment in any handsome Gothic architecture, walls of Portland varied by many

Among the many are a particularly fine combination of granite and brass; a Mrs. Erastus Brainerd husband; the tower Thomas Pickering, in daughter; the Hook & memorial to Rev. years rector of the brownstone altar and among the notable beautiful church art stained glass, are deceased members of

Good taste, beauty to make Trinity of Connecticut's rectory, a large and house, on the Street, was purchased



REV. O. H. RAFTERY.

Rev. O.H. Raftery, was reared in New York City. He attended the Episcopal Academy, Cheshire, Conn., and on graduating, entered Trinity College, Hartford, from which he was graduated with first honors in 1873. The following three years he attended Berkeley Divinity School, being graduated in 1876 and was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Williams in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Middletown. He immediately became rector of St. Peter's Church, Cheshire, Conn. where he remained ten years, and in 1886 accepted the rectorship of Trinity Church, Portland. With this parish he has since remained, though frequently invited to assume rectorship of other churches, among them that of St. Stephen's Memorial Church in Lynn, Mass., in 1890, and of Christ Church, Bridgeport, Conn., in 1894. In 1895 he was honored by being selected as one of four delegates to represent the churches of Connecticut at the Minneapolis Convention.

During his rectorship the heavy debt on Trinity Church and rectory has been paid off, the church towers and porch finished and various memorials placed in the church. During this time, also, in the face of frequent removals from Portland, due to depression in the business of the town, the church had steadily gained in membership.

memorials given to it pulpit of rare design, in brownstone, Scotch costly porch, given by in memory of her clock, given by the late memory of his Hasting's organ, a Samuel Emery, for 33 church; a beautiful mosaic pavement are memorials and the windows of imported memorials to various the parish.

and durability combine Church one of the finest church edifices. Its comfortable frame opposite side of Main in 1874.

rector of Trinity Church,