



INTRODUCTION

AT the annual business meeting held in January, 1909, T. D. Denham, D. Hunt and T. H. Belyea, surviving Church Clerks, were appointed as a committee to prepare for publication in book form the History of this Church from its formation in 1810 to its Centennial in 1910.

At the first meeting of the committee the writer, being senior surviving clerk, undertook the preparation of the History of the Church for the *One Hundred Years* of its existence — so far as it might be possible to secure the data for doing so; while to Mr. Belyea, the present clerk, was assigned the writing of biographical sketches of the departed deacons; and to Mr. Hunt, the treasurer, the preparing of a complete account of the mortgages that have been on the present buildings, and how they have been paid off.

The old records of the Church had been placed in the vault of Deacon Francis for safe keeping, but when the vault was opened after the fire of 1877, it was found to contain nothing but the charred remains of the books — the writing being undecipherable. This made the securing of the facts in connection with the early years a very difficult task; but from various sources the events set forth in the following pages have been obtained,