

December 21, 1922

SYMMES STONE DEDICATION AT CHURCH SERVICE

Occasion of 246th Anniversary of Congregational Society at Bradford

At the service Thursday evening at the First Church of Christ, Bradford, the new stone which has just been erected in the old Bradford cemetery to the memory of Rev. Zechariah Symmes, Rev. Thomas Symmes and their wives will be dedicated. The occasion is the 246th anniversary of the founding of the church, the day upon which in 1682 Zechariah Symmes was ordained and the church was recognized by the other churches of the vicinity.

The new stone stands in the middle of the Symmes lot which has been marked off with bound stones. The graves are among the earliest there. That of Susannah Symmes dates from 1681. Her stone fell this fall, but has been saved and will be replaced in the spring. The stone of Zechariah Symmes dates from 1707-8, is in Latin and is still legible. The stone of Thomas Symmes has been lost, but there are both head and foot stones which mark the resting places of his two wives, Elizabeth who died in 1714 and Hannah who died in 1718.

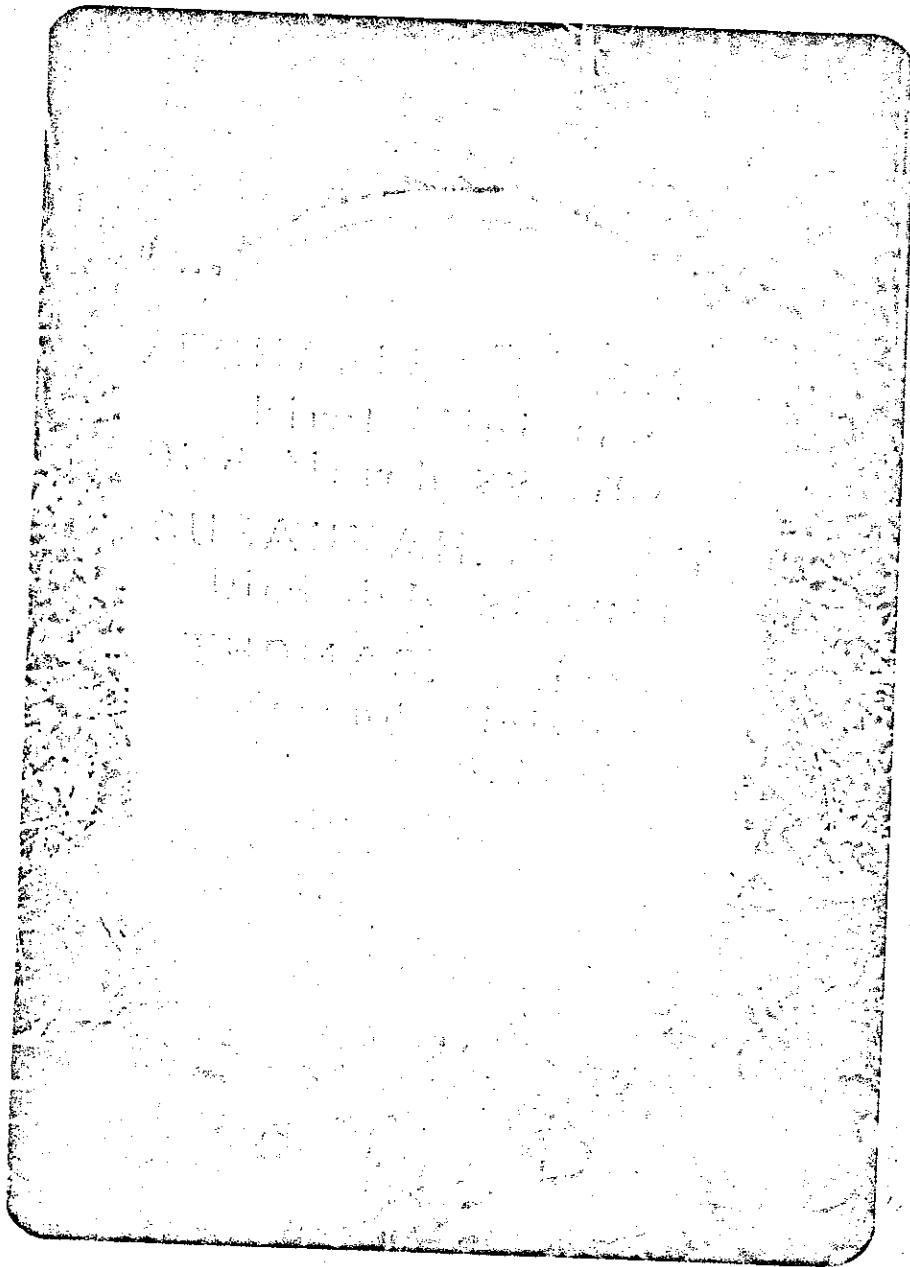
The work on the stone was done by Elmer Atwood and son and the expense is being met by gifts from interested individuals both inside and outside of the parish of the First Church. A little more is needed before the entire amount is raised.

The stone of Zechariah Symmes had to be taken up during the work and is at present at the church where it will be shown Thursday. A translation of its Latin inscription has been made recently by Miss Blanche Currier of the Latin department of the High school and will be read at the service.

For its Christmas services the church was decorated by Mrs. H. Parker Williams. Evergreen was used around the pulpit. Electric candles were in the four front windows, other candles being in the other windows. A Christmas tree stood on the church

porch and was decorated with electric lights. The junior choir at the afternoon vesper service yesterday carried lighted candles as they entered the church to take their places in the gallery. After the service, carols were sung at different homes in the parish.

Next Sunday afternoon another group of Bible story motion pictures will be shown, the subjects touched this time being Noah and the Ark and Isaac and Rebecca. At 5 they will be shown for younger children and at 6 for adults and young people. At the morning service statements will be made by the finance and missionary committee in regard to plans for 1929 and the pledges for the new year will be passed out and collected in a special presentation service at the close of the morning worship.



The newspaper clipping to the left, is a copy of the dedication of the Symmes Stone.

The picture to the right, is a picture of the gravestone that the First Church of Christ dedicated.