ALBURY CHURCH
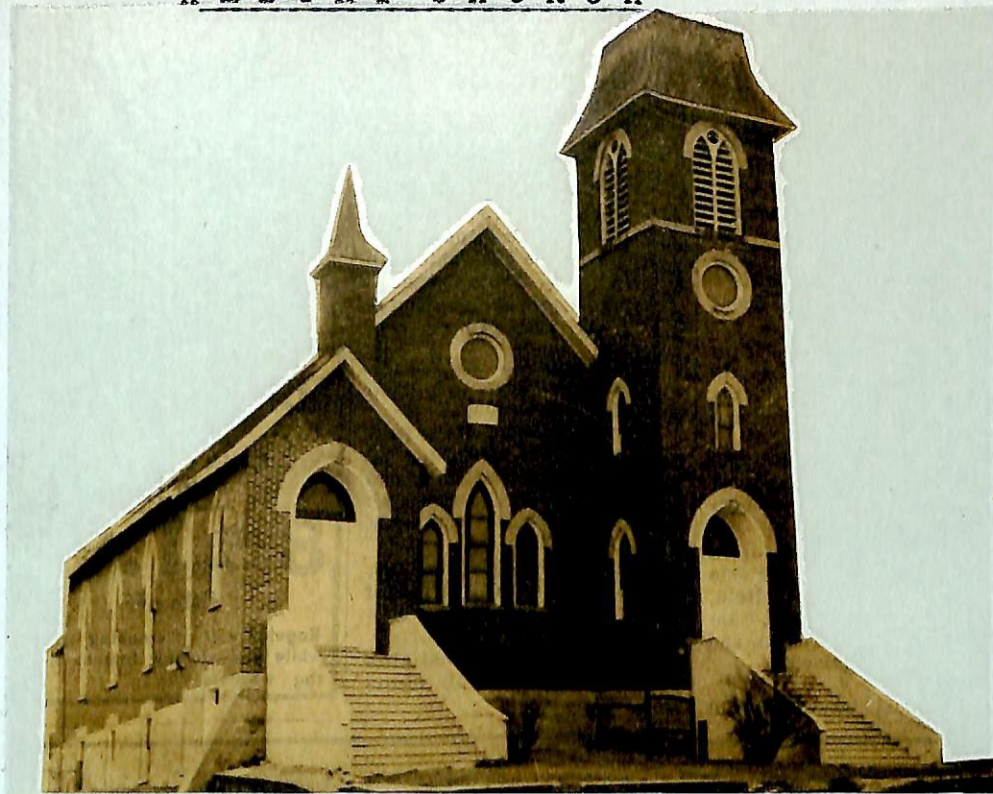

Albury Church, built in 1898 to accommodate 400 persons, is large by modern standards, because it was erected in an age when all funeral services were held from the Church.

Only six persons who were members of the original parish are still living in the immediate area - Miss Hattie Peck and Mrs. Earl Bonter, daughters of the late William Peck; Mrs. Harry Peck, daughter of Albert Sager; Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Peck, and Mrs. Earl Weese.

The first church on the site was built of grey stone in 1850 with a mortgage of 150 pounds sterling. After being condemned, it was torn down and in 1898 the present church was built by masons from Belleville who boarded in homes in the immediate area. Every Saturday William Peck would take them the 10 miles back to Belleville in a three-seated democrat, with a team of horses, and bring them back again early Monday morning.

Mrs. Earl Bonter recalls that when the former church was being demolished, she was sent across the road on an errand and saw the ~~south~~ north wall of the building collapse almost on the head of a young worker who had to run for his life.

While the new Church was being built, Sunday School was held in schools SS #3 and SS #4 and church services were held in SS #3 and the upper part of John Peck's drivehouse.

A large drive shed built on the east side of the Church to accommodate horses and buggies was torn down in 1939 and a small wood shed erected in its place.

The original land for the Church, a school house and a cemetery was /a gift from ~~Elizabeth Peck in 1834.)~~ purchased from James Peck for the sum of ten pounds.

The present Church is a large, red brick structure with a full-sized basement, built-in cupboards and an electric stove in the alcove which serves as a kitchen. A furnace installed when the church was built was replaced a few years ago by a more modern furnace, but the fuel is still wood. The original wall bracket lamps were replaced with acetylene lights and in January, 1930 the building was wired for electricity.