

The Ladies' Aid Society

Among the congregation's auxiliary societies the venerable "Ladies' Aid" justly deserves honorable mention: Long before its actual birth, there had been a desire on the part of some loyal women in the congregation to organize themselves for general helpfulness and service in their beloved church. This desire became contagious, the idea was convincing. Acting on the impulse, eighty-five women met in the "old frame church" on the afternoon of January 30th, 1870. Their names were read by the organizers, Mrs. Charlotte Scharstein and Mrs. Maria Probst, and upon payment of the initiation fee of twenty-five cents became charter members. The meeting adopted a constitution and thus there came into being the "Frauen-und-Jungfrauen-Verein" (the Women's and Young Women's Society). The first enrollment book, with the members' names neatly entered, and the respective dues recorded, is among the congregation's record-books. Of these eighty-five ladies who became charter members sixty-four years ago, sixty-three maintained membership to the end of the year.

At that memorable meeting the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Johanna Wahn; Secretary, Miss Augusta Klotz; Treasurer, Mrs. Friederike Nispel.

For many years this was the only Ladies' Aid Society in the Town, as an old report relates. Consequently, the various events sponsored by the society with the purpose of raising money for its treasury, were well patronized and proved profitable to the ladies. It is reported that New Hamburg was next in line among the Lutheran churches in the district to organize its women. The writer was told by an aged member of the Ladies' Aid, that Mrs. Beck, the mother of the late Sir Adam Beck, would frequently come to