

Owing to the continued growth of New Utrecht, by 1808 it seemed desirable that the church should have its own resident pastor. The first pastor of the independent church was Rev. John Beattie, installed in 1809. Through his efforts the first Sunday School was organized in New Utrecht in 1826, which continues to the present day. While Mr. Beattie was an able preacher, he unfortunately so introduced politics into his sermons as to antagonize many of his people. His advocacy of a new church building caused further dissension and, while a little later the church was built and paid for, pastor and people became so sadly alienated that in 1834 Mr. Beattie resigned.

1806

JOHN BEATTIE

Married:-On Thursday last, by the Rev. Mr.
Proudfit, Mr. John Beatty, to Miss-----Beatty,
both of this town.

Northern Post
Salem, N.Y.
Thursday
April 10, 1806

Beattie, John, b. at Salem, N. Y., 1784; U.C. 1806, studied under Proudfit, 1. Cl. N.Y. 1808; Miss. in West. N. Y. and Canada, 1809-10, New Utrecht, 1809-34, Buffalo (S.S.), 1838-42, pastor, 1842-4, d. 1864, Jan. 22.

He was born of Scottish parents and brought up among the Scotch Presbyterians in Washington Co., N. Y. When on his missionary tours in Canada he kept a minute journal of his daily life. On May 14, 1810, he left his L. I. home for one of these tours, and was gone five months. He was a week in making his voyage to Albany by sloop, and during this period thus writes: "Under this adverse providence, during these four days, I have had some gloomy reflections—a long journey before me—an entire stranger in the land to which I am sent—a wilderness to pass through before I reach missionary ground—my horse in the meantime oppressed by standing still on board, and starving for want of provisions. These considerations combined depressed my spirits, and rendered these four days gloomy. But I still enjoyed one consolation, I trusted that God, who called me to the mission work, would conduct me safely through." While becalmed opposite Coeymans on a Sunday, he and a couple of passengers took the boat and went ashore, and walked back to the church. Domine Westervelt was absent at Bethlehem, his other charge. Beattie obtained a horse and rode over to hear him, but arrived in time only to hear the application. After recess Beattie preached, and got back to the river in time to see the sloop sailing away. However, he made himself heard, and was taken on board. He gives a vivid description of the bad roads between Albany and Lake Ontario, and of the equally bad lodgings—"the worst roads that it is possible for the human mind to form any conception of;" "horrid bridges;" but the mosquitoes "were the occasion of more misery to me than all the rest of my difficulties combined;" and then his lodgings, "an old weather-worn log house covered with bark—a dismal inn to the weary traveler." His bed was the floor, but he could not sleep. "I was under the necessity of maintaining an arduous contest with an innumerable multitude of little nocturnal beasts which inhabited the place." The next day he "rode twenty miles to breakfast under a mosquito escort," and at length came in sight of his missionary field. But the roads were still worse in Canada. His horse lost a shoe, and became very lame. "The morals of the people are said to be very much corrupted, and there is little or no religion in the place."—Kingston. UCLaf1806 beattie - j - 0003

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