At the general meeting of October 2, 1861, the governing committee was abolished, and the former monthly business meetings for all members restored. The consequence was, that interest in the society and its objects revived, and in the year 1866, the Association numbered two hundred members, while the library had increased to 2,273 volumes.

In that year the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Association was celebrated by orations, a banquet, and a ball, on which occasion $800 were voluntarily contributed by the members for the purpose of increasing and improving the library. By means of these contributions the library, in the spring of 1869, had increased to 3,123 volumes.

In the year 1870, a system was introduced whereby periodicals of a scientific and literary character, published in Germany, were placed on certain tables in the room of the Association, where they could be read by the members during the hours that the library was kept open. This arrangement having proved a success, has since been continued.

In the same year it was resolved to admit as extraordinary members, (that is, members who were not entitled to vote or hold office,) widows, women, who are of age, self-dependent and unmarried, and on the application of their guardian, those who are under age but grown up.

In April, 1875, the Association had a surplus of $800 at its disposal, and it was decided to set aside the sum of $500, the interest of which, and that only, should be expended in the purchase of books for the library.

The membership of the Association has now reached a large number, and the library contains over 7,000 volumes. The difficulty of securing a proper hall for the Saengerfest of 1883, led Messrs. J. F. Schoellkopf and Philip Becker, to purchase the property corner of Main and Edward Streets, with the view of transferring the same to the German Young Men's Association. At the suggestion of these purchasers, and Mr. A. Ziegele, it was resolved to take a deed of the land, and erect a structure suitable for all the uses of the Association as well as for the festival of 1883.

The project was rapidly developed, and in November, 1882, the collection of funds for the proposed building was begun. Messrs. Philip Becker, J. F. Schoellkopf and Albert Ziegele, Sr., each contributed $1,000 to the object, and many other liberal Germans gave sums nearly as large; each person contributing $50 or more, becoming a life member. Plans were prepared by architects Esenwein and Deisler, for a building which, with the grounds, cost about $225,000, and bonds were issued in sums of $25 and upwards, to run for thirty years, with option of collecting them any time after ten years; these bonds were issued to the amount in gross of $150,000, at five per cent. interest. In this splendid building, now just completed, the library of the Association occupies a commodious and convenient room on the second floor, 33 by 60 feet in size,
and located on the corner of the two streets upon which the building fronts. The great Saengerfest of 1883 was held in the building, the large hall being calculated to seat about six thousand persons.

The German Lutheran Young Men's Association was organized for the intellectual improvement of its members, chiefly through a medium of a library and reading room, which is kept open every evening. There are now about 3,000 volumes in the library, and the rooms are located at 659 Michigan street.

The Germans are a musical as well as a social people, and their singing societies are found wherever Germans have settled in any considerable numbers. The oldest German singing society in Buffalo is the Liedertafel, which was founded May 9, 1848. Its first officers were: H. Wiser, President; F. Albrecht, Secretary; C. Huis, Treasurer; A. Wunderlin, Librarian. The following named gentlemen have served this society as musical directors: John Dossal, Frederick Hodick, C. Adam, W. Groscurt, Sig. J. Nuno, C. W. F. Mueller, Frederick Erfeling and Joseph Mischka, who is now the efficient incumbent of that position. In 1853 "Das Liederkränzchen" was organized, and from this society the "Saengerbund" emerged on the 20th of April, 1855, with the following named members: C. W. Braun, H. Duehrfeldt, C. Voss, E. Besser, A. Holzhausen, and nine others. The musical directors of this society were C. W. Braun and Prof. Friedrich Federlein. In 1869, two more singing societies were formed, the "Harugari-Maennerchor," September 19th, and the "Orpheus" October 20th, of that year; the latter society sprang from the Liedertafel, with the following founders: A. Brunn, A. B. Felgemacher, Otto Ulbrich, F. Lutz, A. Lautz, C. Kroll, M. Stark and others. The first musical director was Ernst Schultz, who was succeeded by Carl Adam. Besides these societies there are the "Arion Singing Society," August Goeble, director; the "Germania Singing Society," August Goeble, director; the "Harmonie Singing Society," John Laux, director; "East Buffalo Maennerchor," the "St. Stephens Maennerchor." J. Eitelman, director; the "Helvetia Saenger-Verein," William Lutz, President.

On the 7th of March, 1853, the Buffalo Turnverein was organized in Roth's Hall, on Michigan street. The following twenty gentlemen were its founders: Louis Allgawaehr, Gustav and Frederic Duehrfeldt, Herman Weber, Heinrich Nauert, Gustav Spitznagel, Martin Riebling, Karl and Gotthard Kreh, Ed. Gerstenhauer, Wilhelm Moeser, A. Liesenhopp, John Haffner, Anton Heilman, George Hirsch, Valentine Friedrich, James Von Arx, G. Bachman, G. Berger and A. Kaltenegger. The Turnverein has enjoyed a very prosperous career and now possesses a valuable property on Ellicott street, embracing a commodious Turn Hall.

In the different secret societies the Germans of Buffalo have for many years been conspicuous. As early as 1847 they organized the "Walhalla"
lodge of the order of Odd Fellows, since which time several other lodges have been organized by Germans of this order. In 1849 the first German Free Mason lodge was formed by James Wenz, Dr. Ehrman, Moritz Eschenbach and Jacob Weil; it was called the “Concordia.” Since that time several other lodges of this order have been established, which are properly referred to in the chapter on the Masonic order of Buffalo.

The distinctively German order “Harugari,” is very strongly represented in Buffalo. The constitution of this order directs the exclusive use of the German language in its proceedings and makes it a duty to do everything possible for the preservation of the language in other ways. The first lodge of this order was founded in Buffalo in 1848 and named the “Columbia Lodge No. 11,” the second was the “Goethe No. 36.” Both of these were soon dissolved. Following them “Black Rock Lodge No. 35” was founded in 1853; “Cherusker No. 47” in 1854; “Robert Blum No. 54” in 1855; “Buffalo No. 10” in 1860; “Ludwigs No. 105,” “Buffalo Plains No. 111” and “German No. 119” all in 1865; “Erie County No. 165” in 1868; “Goethe No. 222” in 1870; “Loche” in 1875; “Bal dur” in 1876, and “Freundschaft” in the same year. The order is in a very flourishing condition.

In matters relating to finance, the Germans of Buffalo have acquired a position that is enviable. The German Bank of Buffalo was organized May 6, 1871, and opened its doors for business about June 1st, of that year. Its first officers were F. Augustus Georger, president; Philip Becker, vice-president; S. W. Warren, cashier. Its incorporators were F. Augustus Georger, Philip Becker, Philip Houck, J. F. Schoellkopf, Jacob Dold, R. Hoffeld and F. C. Brunck. This institution began business with a capital of $100,000, in 1876 under the Erie County Savings Bank, corner of Main and Court streets, and removed to its present location in the German Insurance Company’s building when it was first occupied. The German Bank has, since its organization, paid an annual dividend of 10 per cent, and has now an accumulated surplus of $100,000. Its present officers are F. Augustus Georger, president; Philip Houck, vice-president; Eugene A. Georger, cashier. The directors are: F. Augustus Georger, Philip Houck, J. F. Schoellkopf, Jacob Dold, R. Hoffeld, Albert Ziegler, Sr., Dr. John Hauenstein. This bank is one of the most prosperous financial institutions in the city.

The German American Bank was organized May 10, 1882, and began business at 424 Main street, corner of Court, May 22d, with a capital of $100,000, which is fully paid in. Its business has rapidly increased and now reaches half a million dollars. The officers of the German American Bank are: Henry Hellriegel, President; Alexander Martin, Vice-President; Henry W. Burt, Cashier. The Directors are Henry Hellriegel, Charles Greiner, John P. Diehl, Alexander Martin, L. L. Lewis, John Schaefer, Francis Handel, Joseph Timmermann, Henry Breitweiser.
As far back as 1867, the Buffalo German Insurance Company was organized, with a capital of $100,000, which was increased in 1871 to $200,000. The first officers of the company were: E. G. Grey, President; Philip Becker, Vice-President; Alexander Martin, Secretary. The incorporators were: E. G. Grey, Philip Becker, Julius Fuchs, Michael Mesmer, Solomon Scheu, J. F. Schoellkopf, Philip Houck, Oliver J. Eggert, Albert Ziegele, F. C. Brunck, Stephan Bettinger, F. Augustus Georger, Jacob Beyer, R. Hoffeld, Joseph Timmermann, Henry C. Persch. The first offices of this company were located on the northeast corner of Main and Mohawk streets. In 1869 the following named officers were elected: Philip Becker, President; Julius Fuchs, Vice-President; Alexander Martin, Secretary. In 1874 Mr. Martin resigned as Secretary and Oliver J. Eggert was elected to the vacancy. The present directors of the company are: Louis P. Adolph, Philip Becker, Charles Boller, F. C. Brunck, Adam Cornelius, John P. Diehl, Jacob Dold, Julius Fuchs, F. A. Georger, George Goetz, E. G. Grey, John Hauenstein, William Hellriegel, Jacob Hiemenz, Philip Houck, Michael Mesmer, N. Ottenot, Henry C. Persch, J. F. Schoellkopf, Albert Ziegele.

The German Insurance Company does business in seventeen States as follows: California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and in the District of Columbia.

The following figures show the remarkably successful business that has been done by this company during the past sixteen years:

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<th>NET SURPLUS</th>
<th>LOSSES PAID</th>
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$1,337,795.32
In 1876, this Company erected the substantial and beautiful iron structure fronting on Lafayette Square and Main street at a cost of $275,000. In this building are located the convenient and commodious offices of the company. The building is in many respects the finest architectural work in the city.

The Germans are also fully represented in most other lines of business in the city, and especially in manufacturing, as will be learned in succeeding chapters. Each generation is brought up to a clear understanding of some branch of mercantile business, or is instructed in some useful trade, so that all are workers in some direction, and fitted to add in their proper ratio to the wealth and growth of the community.

GERMAN CHURCHES.

St. Louis Church.—The Germans of Buffalo took an early active interest in religious matters, which has been since continued, and there are now in the city more than thirty church organizations, many of them owning costly edifices, which may be properly classed as German in character. The first of these in point of organization, is what is known as the St. Louis Church, situated on the corner of Main and Edward streets. The first church building that stood on that site, was erected in 1832. In 1828, Rev. Father Baden, the first Catholic priest ordained in the United States, came to Buffalo and was the guest of the distinguished and philanthropic pioneer, Mr. Louis LeCouteulx, for several weeks. During that period and doubtless at his suggestion, Mr. LeCouteulx resolved to donate the site of the St. Louis church to Bishop Dubois. Both Father Baden and Mr. LeCouteulx placed themselves in communication with the Bishop, who came to Buffalo in 1829, and said mass in the old court house. He was surprised to find so large a number of Catholics in the place, and after his return to New York, at his earnest solicitation, Rev. John Nicholas Mertz, who had returned from Europe the second time, consented to become a missionary to Buffalo and the surrounding country. He first held services here in a frame building on Pearl street, in rear of what is now the American Block. In 1832 the first primitive church was erected on the site, a frame building with cross beams of logs; a man named George Schneider, doing the work. As soon as the Catholics in other near localities learned that a church had been established in Buffalo, they came to the village in such numbers that the little church was too small to accommodate them; in consequence the Irish element branched off and built the St. Patrick's church. In 1835, the French and German Catholics erected the present large and handsome St. Louis church. It was built directly over the old church, which after the brick church was finished, was demolished and carried outside. Peter Kraemer had the contract for building the brick church. In 1838 or 1839, Rev. Father Mertz returned to Europe. He had been succeeded
in 1836, by Rev. Alexander Pax, who rendered valuable service for eight years, and was succeeded by Rev. Francis Guth; he also remained eight years. Then came in succession the Rev. Fathers Raffener, Weninger, Dieterz, Serge de Sethoulepiikoff and lastly, the present pastor, Rev. Father Sorg, who took charge of the church August 25, 1867. The first Board of Trustees of this church, were Michael Werle, Peter Kraemer, Peter Eslinger, George Zahm, George Bangasser, John Dingens and Peter Zintz. The French portion of the society separated from the parent church about thirty years ago, leaving the congregation distinctively German. The present Board of Trustees are Paul Hausle, Jacob Davis, Francis Spoeri, Joseph Bronner, Mathias Smith, Peter Paul and Frank Deck. A school was established in connection with the church in 1821. It is now in very successful operation with about five hundred and eighty pupils and eight teachers.

St. Boniface Church.—In March, 1849, a few German Catholics who lived in the vicinity of Mulberry street, in the midst of what was then more than half a wilderness, resolved to build a church. Accordingly two lots on Mulberry street were bought, each twenty-five feet wide, and to this Mr. A. D. Patchen added by the gift of 100 feet. A frame building was begun and on the 15th of May, 1849, Rev. Father Kunze held the first services in the church. The society then comprised about forty families. A parsonage was built and a school house, which was finished in April, 1850. During the year 1851, the church was enlarged, a tower built and a bell provided. In the spring of 1854, Father Zacharias Kunze was succeeded by Rev. Rudolph Follenius, who served five years. In 1856 the church was again found to be too small to accommodate the growing congregation and the society resolved to erect a new brick structure 55 by 120 feet. The corner stone was laid in November of the same year and the church was consecrated June 15, 1857; its cost was about $10,000. The same year the society was incorporated under the name of St. Boniface Church. Rev. Follenius died May 27, 1859, and Rev. H. Feldmann was called to the office; he served until January 1st, 1864. During his ministry, the church was refurnished and the property increased by the purchase of two lots. In 1861 a large brick school house was built, and in 1864 a large organ was purchased at a cost of $2,000. Between January 1, 1864, and March 17, 1866, Rev. Joannes Jowistowsky officiated as pastor; he was succeeded by Rev. Joannes Soemer. During that period another lot was bought. From September 29, 1867, to March 1, 1873, Rev. Nicolaus Sorg officiated in the church. During his ministry the church edifice was much enlarged and a steeple erected at a cost of $20,000; and in 1870 a chime of four bells was put in, with a tower clock. Two new benevolent associations were also founded and a house and lot secured for a teacher's residence. The school is under the charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph and is largely attended. March 1, 1873, Rev. Mr. Sorg was
recalled by his bishop and was succeeded by Rev. Heinrich Feldmann, who was followed by the present pastor, Rev. Chrysostomus Wagner, December 11, 1880. In 1873 a handsome parsonage was built at a cost of $6,000. In 1875 the interior of the church was frescoed and the following two years an addition was built to the school house and a beautiful high altar put in the church, to which two side altars were added in 1878. This church is now one of the finest in Buffalo and is valued, with its property, at $60,000.

A school was organized soon after the construction of the church and now has between four and five hundred scholars, with six teachers. Francis Joseph Schmidt is the principal.

St. Francis Xavier Church.—This church was founded in 1849 by the following named gentlemen: Franz Hall, Franz Wamhoff, Henry Niehaus, Henry Rahe, Joseph Spiedl, John Argus, Ignatz Forness, Henry Sander, Ernest Sander, Simon Burkhardt, John Burkhardt, John Bauer, John Hanbach, Jos. Danscher, Jos. Hall and Gerhard Niehaus. The first service was held on the 2d of December, 1849, in a little frame church on Amberst street, where the present edifice stands, by Rev. Franz Guth. In 1852, the congregation had grown so that it was necessary to have a larger church, and a brick building was erected. An addition was made to this building within a few years. In 1866, the Irish members of the congregation withdrew from the church and formed the St. John Baptist church; but the St. Francis Xavier congregation grew rapidly. The following Reverend Fathers have been stationed at this church in the order they are named—Revs. Franz Guth, Aloys Samogyi, Fr. N. Lester, Dominique Geyner, Anton Saeger, Aloys Hatala, John Ignatz Yawistowsky, J. A. Mosball, P. Foerth, S. J., P. Haering, S. J., P. Martens, O. S. M., Henry Feldmann, followed by the present pastor, Rev. F. X. Koffler, under whose direction the congregation grew rapidly. In 1877, a further enlargement of the church was made; the old spire and the front wall were taken down, twenty feet were added to the building and a tower one hundred and twenty-nine feet high erected. Three bells of 1,800, 1,400 and 1,000 pounds respectively, tuned F, G and A, were placed in the tower, and a clock that strikes the quarter hours added. The church was also frescoed, the gas laid and the organ enlarged. A school was originally kept in the little frame church on week days, twenty-five or thirty scholars attending. This number increased so rapidly that in 1871, the Sisters of St. Joseph established a school-house and placed three Sisters in it as permanent teachers. A lay teacher (the church organist) was also kept. In 1874, another Sister was engaged as teacher. The pupils of the parish school now number nearly 350.

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church.—The congregation of St. Michael's was organized early in June, 1851. About nineteen families were then represented in the first religious meeting, which was held in
the basement of St. Peter's French Roman Catholic church, on the corner of Clinton and Washington streets, June 15, 1851. The first pastor of this congregation was Rev. T. L. Caveng, S. J., who served from June, 1851, to January 27, 1862, when he died. His successor, Rev. F. John Blettner, S. J., remained with the congregation but a few months, and was succeeded July 20, 1862, by Rev. F. Vetter, S. J., who filled the office until August 15, 1863. He was then followed by Rev. F. Joseph Durthaller, who left July 26, 1870, and was succeeded by the late Rev. F. E. Reiter, S. J., who remained with the congregation until March 1, 1871. Rev. F. William Becker, S. J., was the next pastor; he filled the office until February 5, 1875, when the present pastor, Rev. Joseph Kreusch, S. J., assumed the office. The corner stone of the first church, a brick structure, was laid August 20, 1851, and the edifice was dedicated January 1, 1852, by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Timon. The new St. Michael's church, an imposing stone edifice, on Washington between Chippewa and Tupper streets, was dedicated June 16, 1867, by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Lynch. It is a beautiful church, and is noted for its fine paintings. Its spires are not yet finished; they are being erected at a cost of nearly $20,000, and will be completed within the ensuing year. A parochial school is attached to the church, with over six hundred pupils, all of whom also attend the Sunday School; the pastor of the church is superintendent of the school.

St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church.—This church was organized June 28, 1858. For about a month after its organization it was served from St. Michael's church. July 28th, Father J. Vetter assumed the charge and remained until 1860, when he was succeeded by Father George Fritsch, from 1860 to 1867. From that time until July 26, 1870, Father A. Suter served the church; he remained only until August 22d of the same year, when Father Ignatius Bellwealder came until September 7, 1871. He was succeeded by Father P. Spicher, until July 9, 1872, when Father Bellwealder again occupied the office until September 1, 1875. Following him came Father W. Roether, the present Superior. His assistants are Fathers O. Hogenvorst, A. Suter and F. Seuermann. The building of the church was begun in April, 1858, and it was dedicated June 28, 1858; its cost was between $8,000 and $9,000. The school was then held in the second story of the church building; about two years later, the school house was built. When the church was established, there were about one hundred families connected with it. Now there are one thousand two hundred children in the school, and about the same number of families in the parish. The corner stone of the grand structure now in process of construction, was laid in 1877. About $80,000 have already been expended on this building; and it is estimated that it will cost $120,000. It is located on Emslie street, corner of Broadway, and is two hundred and twelve feet long, with a front of ninety-three
feet on Broadway. The main spire is on the corner of the two streets named, and is two hundred and twenty-eight feet high; another spire on the other corner is one hundred and eighty feet high; the building material used is Lockport limestone. The church will be finished in about two years. This church society has enjoyed continual growth and prosperity, and the costly and beautiful structure now being erected is entirely free from debt; as the building progresses, everything is paid for, and the people contribute liberally for the work.

Church of the Seven Dolors.—This society was established in the year 1871, Father Gundelach being the first pastor. The present house of worship was built during the first year after the organization of the society. After Father Gundelach, came successively Fathers Th. Voss, Gr. Wagner, and then the present pastor, Father A. Heiter. There are now three hundred families in the parish; the church is located on Genesee street, near Fillmore Avenue.

St. Vincent's Church.—This church is located at Cold Spring, and was organized in 1864, by about forty families. The first pastor was Rev. J. Sorg, who began his work on the 19th of July, 1864, attending the church from St. Joseph's Cathedral. The succeeding residing pastors were Rev. Hopschner, Rev. Keck, Rev. Daley, Rev. Scheffels, and then the present pastor, Rev. M. Philipps. The number of families at present in the congregation is one hundred and twenty. The parochial school is taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph, and contains eighty-two children.

St. Nicholas' Church.—This church is located on Glenwood avenue, near Jefferson street, and was organized in 1874, with about fifty members. The first pastor was Rev. V. Velten, who began his work on Easter Sunday, 1874. The succeeding pastors were Rev. Voss and Rev. Philipps, who attends it from St. Vincent's church. The number of families now in the church is about one hundred and three. The parochial school is attended by ninety children.

St. Mary's Church.—This church is located at the corner of Broadway and Pine streets. The congregation was organized in 1842, by Rev. Joseph Alig. In 1844 a frame church was erected. Four years later, April 9, 1848, the corner stone of the present edifice was laid. In 1856 the school for boys and girls was built on Broadway; in 1869 a large school house was built on Pine street, and in 1874 another was erected on Broadway; these schools are all numerously attended. The first Superior, who came in 1844, was Rev. Benedict Bayer. His successors and the dates of their coming are as follows:—1848, Rev. Carl Cannemueller; 1849, Rev. Joseph Helmochecht; 1855, Rev. Anthony Urbanzeck; 1856, Rev. Aloys Schaeffer; 1857, Rev. Joseph Claus; 1858, Rev. Henry Giesen; 1859, Rev. Joseph Schmidt; 1861, Rev. Robert Kleineidam; 1862, Rev. Louis Claessens; 1863, Rev. Adrian Van de Braak; 1868,

Church of the Sacred Heart. — This church was organized in 1875, in which year the building was erected; the corner stone was laid in May. It is located on Seneca street, near Emslie. The church and the grounds cost $31,000. The original membership comprised about thirty families. The first pastor was the Rev. Chrysostomus Wagner, who assumed the office by order of Bishop Ryan, for about five months; he was succeeded by Father Theodore Voss, who remained a year and nine months, when Father Matthias Gessner came and still remains with the church. The parochial school connected with the church was instituted in June, 1875, with about twenty-five children; the first lay trustees were L. Holzborn and M. Duchman. The school is conducted by the Sisters of St. Francis, and now contains nearly three hundred children. The church congregation now comprises three hundred families. The present lay trustees are Bernard Schmitt and Paul Kreuz.

The German Protestant churches are divided among the Evangelical Lutheran and Old Lutheran, Baptist and Methodist denominations, and the churches of the Evangelical Association. There are no Presbyterian or Episcopal German churches in Buffalo.

German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church.—We have already referred to the first German protestant services held in the city; as an outcome of those services, the first German protestant congregation was organized on the 10th day of February, 1832. The vestry consisted of Ludwig Bronner, Sr., George Schneider, Philip Beyer, Sr., Samuel Kriegelstein, Michael Ruch and Michael Goetz. The first trustees were Jacob Siebold, Rudolph Baer, Ernst G. Grey, Christian Bronner, Christian Lapp and Fred. Dellenbaugh. On the 9th day of September, 1835, the corner stone of their church on Hickory street, between Broadway and William streets was laid, and on the 25th of May, 1840, the finished church was dedicated. It was a substantial brick building, 48 by 80 feet and cost $10,000. In 1874 the congregation numbered about one thousand and three hundred, and a new building 65 by 116 feet, brick, in gothic style was begun. The corner stone was laid September 20, 1874, and the church dedicated September 5, 1875; the structure cost $42,000. This church is known as the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's church. The first pastor was the Rev. F. D. Guenther, who filled the office until January, 1857. In May of that year, the present pastor, Rev. Christian Voltz assumed the duties of the office. The society owns a school house, supports its own parochial school, and has a Sunday school that is very prosperous. It also owns a cemetery of eleven acres on Pine Hill, and the Lutheran Orphan Asylum, which was founded March 6, 1864; the asylum was
dedicated May 9, 1865, and incorporated April 14, 1865. A separate asylum for orphan boys was built at Sulphur Springs and dedicated October 11, 1868; the building was destroyed by fire February 23, 1876, but was at once rebuilt; the corner stone of the second building was laid July 16, 1876, and it was dedicated August 15, 1877. The first Board of Managers were, Rev. Christian Voltz, Jacob H. Koons, George Kray, Andreas Grass, Daniel Lang, Anton Hasselbach, Jacob Reiman, Carl Sauer, Frederick Wuest. The present Board consists of William Henrich, Michael Ulrich, John Machemer, Jacob Benzing, Anton Degenfelder, Louis Seligman.

United Evangelical St. Paul's Church.—Early in the year 1843, a number of the congregation of St. John's (St. Johannes) church, who were dissatisfied with its exclusively Lutheran character, separated from that church and organized on the 16th of July, the United Evangelical St. Paul's church. A lot was bought on Washington, between Genesee and Chippewa streets, and the erection of a church commenced. At the first meeting of the new organization, held August 7, 1843, Dr. F. Dellenbaugh presiding, Messrs. D. Devening, J. Krettnner, I. Weber, J. Hellriegel and J. Bodemer were elected trustees. The first pastor was Rev. Mr. Von Linge, who was succeeded in 1844 by Rev. C. F. Soldan, who filled the office nine years. In August, 1854, Rev. Otto Burger became the pastor, where for over seventeen years, he labored most effectively and satisfactorily for the good of the society. In 1873 he was compelled to seek restoration of his impaired health, for which purpose he made a visit to Europe. During his absence Rev. Schornstein, who was acting as Mr. Burger's substitute, with a portion of the congregation, took steps towards separation from St. Paul's and the formation of St. Marcus church; this movement brought Rev. Mr. Burger home, and he again assumed his duties, but his failing health compelled him to resign his pastorate early in 1874. Rev. C. L. Schild succeeded to the office and still retains it. The first steps towards building a new church, were taken in May, 1881. Two lots were bought on the west side of Ellicott street, between Tupper and Goodell streets, for about $10,000, and ground was broken in October. The corner stone was laid in the following April, and on the 29th of April, 1883, the dedication took place. The cost of the church and ground was about $62,000. This church is a very prosperous one and is one of the largest in the city. The present trustees are Philip Houck, John Greiner, Fr. Persch, Jacob F. Schoelkopf and P. Lindenbach. Henry Hellriegel is treasurer.

Evangelical St. Stephen's Church.—From St. Paul's church sprang in March, 1853, the St. Stephen's church. It began with twenty-one families, but now has about eight hundred. Its first pastor was Rev. Karl F. Soldan; he was succeeded in August, 1854, by Rev. F. Schelle,
who is the present incumbent. In 1857 a church was built on the corner of Peckham and Adams streets; an addition was made to the structure in 1875, leaving it as it now stands, with sixty feet front by one hundred and sixteen and one-half feet deep, with a seating capacity of one thousand and four hundred; its cost was about $25,000. Three chimes, cast by Kimberly & Meneele, of Troy, N. Y., were put in the tower in 1875, at a cost of $2,600, and a clock costing $600, built by Rufus L. Howard & Co. Four benevolent societies are connected with the church, and an Evangelical home for Buffalo and vicinity, for aged and indigent persons. This is situated at the junction of Batavia and Genesee streets; the building cost $10,000, which is all paid. It was dedicated June 16, 1876. There are at present twenty-one inmates in the institution. Forty-two and one half acres are attached to it. An addition of a three-story brick building with an observatory, at an estimated cost of over $9,000, Henry Schaefer, builder, is now in process of construction. The corner stone was laid in the latter part of August, 1883. The present trustees are, Rev. F. Schelle, president; John H. Peters, secretary; Philip Debus, treasurer; Henry Schaefer and John N. Smith. The trustees of the church are: Louis Fritz, president; William Sinsel, secretary; Peter Pfeil, treasurer; Charles A. Fritzscbe, Henry Dietzschler and Henry Roos. The elders are Philip Zoeller, Martin Fritz, Henry Peters, Jacob Knehr and Matthew Koch. A parochial school of brick construction, expenses paid by the church, is connected with the church, with over three hundred and fifty pupils in attendance; the principal is Jacob Bitelman, who is also organist and conductor of the choir. The Sunday school has between five hundred and six hundred scholars. Rev. Mr. Schelle, who is also superintendent of the Sunday school, is one of the two pastors in Buffalo of the longest standing, having been thirty years in this office.

The German United Evangelical St. Peter’s Church.—In the autumn of 1831, Rev. Joseph Gumbel arrived in Buffalo; he came from Wurtemberg, and immediately began laboring among the few Germans then here, as an Evangelical preacher. In the spring of the following year a German family of five persons, also from Wurtemberg, reached Buffalo; they were John Schwartz and his wife, Katherina; her brother, Konrad Seeger; her step-brother, John George Schiever, and a nephew of John Schwartz, named Gottlieb Weibert. The Rev. Mr. Gumbel, with this family, organized the United Evangelical St. Peter’s Church, holding services for a time in a small frame building on Pearl street, near Niagara street. The society grew, and in 1835, the “English Methodist Society” made their German friends a present of the small frame church building, where the Germans had held their services, and it was removed to their lot on the corner of Genesee and Hickory streets. Rev. Mr. Gumbel soon after resigned his pastorate and returned to the old country.
He was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Lange, and he, in 1838, by Rev. Hollacher. Shortly after Rev. William Veil assumed the charge. January 12, 1845, the faith and articles of the constitution of the society were adopted, and the first church counsel elected, consisting of Wilhelm Messing, Stephen Weisgerber, John Nebe, trustees; John Schoenthal, Johann Schiefer and Henry Schwartz, elders. On the 21st of October, 1848, Rev. G. S. Vogt became the pastor, in which capacity he served faithfully for twenty-seven years. The congregation grew rapidly, and on the 25th of February, 1850, the old St. Paul's Episcopal church was purchased by the society for $600, and transferred to their lot; in 1852 this building was enlarged. In December, 1875, Rev. Mr. Vogt resigned his pastorate, organized another congregation, and built the St. Jacobus church. The present pastor, Rev. E. Jung, was called to the office in the spring of 1876. April 18, 1877, the society resolved to erect a new church; accordingly the corner stone of the present handsome structure was laid July 22d of that year, and the building was dedicated February 3, 1878. A day school has been connected with this church since early in its existence; it is kept in a brick school house on the rear of the church lot. The society is a member of the German Evangelical Synod of North America, with headquarters at St. Louis.

The United Evangelical Protestant St. Mathew's Church.—This congregation is of the United Evangelical denomination, and belongs to the German Evangelical Synod of North America. The St. Mathew's congregation was organized in 1868, and in that and the following year, built a large brick church on Swan street, near its junction with Seneca street. The congregation also owns a school house and lot, and a cemetery on Clinton street, below Buffalo Creek. The first pastor, under whom the congregation was organized and who superintended the building of the church, was Dr. Hugo Kuehne. He resigned in 1870, and was succeeded by Rev. Julius Krummel, who died in 1872. Rev. Gottfried Berner, who succeeded Rev. Krummel, left the congregation and ministry in 1878, in order to devote his time to editing a German newspaper. The vacancy was then filled by the present pastor, Rev. John Bank. The trustees are Frederick Dietrich, William Corbach, Edward Becherer, Friedrich Dold, Frederic Henning. The congregation at present consists of one hundred members entitled to vote, and two hundred and fifty who are simply owners of pews. The parochial school numbers from fifty to one hundred pupils, under direction of Mr. Emil Bandlitz. The Sunday school numbers from one hundred and fifty to two hundred scholars; Mr. Bandlitz is the superintendent, with twenty teachers and other officers. Early in its existence this congregation met with many difficulties, but through the faithfulness and energy of the members, the heavy debt which rested on the church has been reduced to $6,000.
German Evangelical St Lucas Church.—This church is now located on
the corner of Richmond avenue and Utica street; it was organized in
December, 1870, with Rev. C. Zurnedden as pastor, and the following
named trustees:—William Mueller, Peter Hoffman, Philip Folz, Henry
Thauer and Andrew Vogt. There were twenty-seven members when
the church was organized. The second pastor was Rev. Jacob Schlegel,
who accepted the office in April, 1875; he was succeeded in April, 1877,
by Rev. Frederick Roesch, who remained until December, 1877. In
April, 1878, the present pastor, Rev. George Kottler came, and is under
contract until 1886. The present church was built in 1881, at a cost,
including the lot, of $9,500; the old church stood on the same grounds,
and was built in 1858 by the Westminster church, for Sunday school
purposes. The congregation now numbers one hundred and sixty-three,
and the trustees are:—Peter Hoffman, Andrew Vogt, Fred. Kissinger,
Louis Brackman and Valentine Funk.

The Evangelical St. John’s Church.—This church was organized in
1847, there being twenty original members, some of whom are still in the
society. Services were first held by the Rev. P. Brumbach; he came
once in every three or four weeks from Tonawanda for the purpose, and
received for his labors an annual salary of $100. Previous to 1830 the
meetings were held in a public school house. At that time the congrega-
tion removed to the English Baptist church on Dearborn street, Rev.
Maier having succeeded the first pastor. He was followed just before
1852, by Rev. P. Julius Krummel, who was the first pastor to devote his
whole time to the church. During his administration a new brick church
was erected on Amherst street, the corner stone of which was laid
August 25, 1852; the building was finished the following year. The land
on which the church stands was donated by a Mr. Haist and J. Schmidt.
The cost of the building was $3,500; it was enlarged and improved in
1874, making its seating capacity eight hundred. Rev. Mr. Bochart suc-
cceeded Rev. Krummel as pastor. Between 1856 and 1858, Rev. P.
Kretzschmer occupied the pulpit; he was followed in December, 1858,
by the Rev. C. Siebenpfeiffer, who remained three years. He was fol-
lowed in 1861, by the Rev. E. Runk. In May, 1864, the Rev. P. Julius
Krummel was recalled to the church, after an absence of eleven years.
From May, 1870, to May, 1873, Rev. A. Grotrian was the pastor; his
successor was Rev. H. Zimmer, who remained until May, 1876, when he
was succeeded by Rev. P. W. Angelberger. In May, 1878, he was suc-
ceeded by Rev. A. Zeller, who remained until the spring of 1883. Dur-
ing the administration of Rev. Krummel, about 1864, a school house was
erected, in which a flourishing parochial school is now conducted.

German Evangelical Friedens Church.—This church was organized
January 26, 1880, with Rev. G. Berner, the present pastor, officiating.
Following are the names of the first trustees, who are still in office:—
Hermann C. Grasser, president; J. F. Berner, secretary; John Menz, treasurer; Charles Huenemiller and Ch. Schroeder. The church stands at the foot of Monroe street, on Eagle; it was dedicated August 29, 1880. There are about one hundred and eighty-five families belonging to the church, comprising a union of Lutherans and the Reformed denomination; the church started with but forty-five families; it has a prosperous Sunday school and day school, with about one hundred pupils.

Evangelical Reformed Zion Church.—On the 5th day of September, 1845, Rev. John Althaus, Adam Minkel, Sr., J. Adam Guth, Sr., John Kalle, Adolph Meir, Johann Diehl, Johann Fries, Peter Schulz, Christian Hormel, Adam Guth, Jr., Michael Ott, John Riebling, John Wagner, Heinrich Kurtz, Jacob Wurster, Heinrich Kuhn and William Gumbrecht, met for the purpose of forming a German Evangelical Reformed church in Buffalo. The object was promptly carried out and a lot bought on the corner of Cherry and Spring streets, at a cost of $210; on this lot a frame building 40 by 50 feet was erected. Officers were elected on the 7th of October, 1845, who were installed on the 19th, by Rev. John Althaus. Their names were: J. Adam Guth, John Kalle, Adam Minkel, trustees; Johann Fries, Adam Diehl, elders; Adam Guth, Jr., William Gumbrecht, vestrymen; J. Adam Guth, W. Gumbrecht, clerks. The Rev. Althaus at that time lived in Lockport, whence he came every two weeks to preach. He served the congregation until about the close of 1846. He was succeeded by Rev. George S. Vogt, who remained in the office until late in the year 1848. On the 14th of February, 1849, Frederick William Hesselmann was called; but was afterward excluded from the pulpit on account of his dissipation, and the congregation was without a pastor until May 5th of the same year, when Rev. H. Bielefeld, of New York, was called. On the 20th of May the society joined the German Reformed Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States. October 27th of that year, the church was considerably enlarged, in accordance with a resolution passed at that date. Rev. Bielefeld preached his farewell sermon October 23, 1853, and on the 27th of November, Rev. Lichtenstein was elected pastor; he served until October 8, 1862, when he resigned, and Rev. J. B. Kniest, the present pastor, was elected, entering upon his duties March 18, 1863. In 1854, the congregation had so far increased that it was decided to build a new church, and a lot was purchased on Lemon street for the purpose; there a handsome church was erected, which was dedicated four days after Whitsuntide, in 1856. A parochial school is connected with the church, and held in the basement of the building. A lot was bought and a parsonage erected in 1866.

Evangelical Reformed Salem's Church.—This society was organized on the 31st of August, 1873, by the following members and their families: C. Scholpp, H. A. Altenburg, H. Sprenger, H. Weber, G. Salzman, J.
Salzman and C. Roessel. February 4th, 1874, they bought the lot on Sherman street, between Sycamore and Batavia streets, from the Evangelical Reformed Zion's Society; a frame building was on the lot. The first church officers were: H. Sprenger, C. Roessel, H. A. Altenburg and C. Scholpp. Rev. C. Kuss was elected pastor, and entered upon his duties on the 1st of April, 1874; the church was consecrated September 20th, 1874; a parsonage was built on the church premises in 1874. An infant school of sixty pupils, and a school for large scholars, with an attendance of about one hundred and twenty-five are connected with the church.

*German United Evangelical Saint Marcus Church.*—This Society was organized August 5, 1873. The first minister was E. Schornstein, who was succeeded July 4, 1875, by Dr. G. A. Zimmerman; under his administration the beautiful church was built on Oak street, in 1876. Dr. Zimmerman resigned in July, 1878, and was succeeded in September 1878, by Rev. O. H. Kraft, who is the present pastor. A parochial school with fifty pupils, is connected with the church.

*First Church of the Evangelical Association of North America.*—This Church was organized in 1837, by Rev. Joseph Harlacher, a preacher sent to Buffalo by the East Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical Association. Its first place of worship was a small frame building on Sycamore street near Spruce. In 1839 the congregation had grown encouragingly and the first church building lot was purchased; it was on Mortimer street, and there a plain church was built. In 1846 the present church lot, corner Spruce and Sycamore streets, was purchased and the frame church removed to it; services were held there till 1854, when the building was sold, and in its place a substantial brick building was erected. In May, 1879, this building was taken down and in its place was built the present handsome gothic edifice, at a cost of $16,000. The vigorous growth of this Society enabled it in 1857 to establish its first mission church in Buffalo, which is now the prosperous, independent Krettner Street Church of the Evangelical Association, with a handsome edifice and parsonage. In 1873 another mission was established, the St. Paul's Evangelical Association, on Grape street, which now has a church worth $10,000. The pastors of this association are itinerant; consequently the changes have been numerous. The present pastor of the First Church is Rev. Adolph Lueocher; of the Second, Rev. Frederick E. Hehr, and of the St. Paul's Church, Rev. Martin Yauch. The trustees of the First Church are C. P. Stein, Charles A. Haist, G. F. Holheins, George Sutter and Charles Boller; of the Second, Kilian Schmidt, August Hof, Michael Kohlert, Leonard Reu and John Wagner; of the St. Paul's, Peter Hering, Jacob Werner, John Petrie, William Hehr, and Gottfried Eiss. A German and English Sunday School, with about three hundred scholars is connected with the church.
Second Evangelical Association, (Krettner Street Church)—The New York Conference of the Evangelical Association of North America held an annual session at Lyons, N.Y., on the 23d of April, 1857, during which the following resolution was adopted:—

"Resolved, That a mission shall be located in the southeast part of Buffalo, N. Y., and be called the Buffalo Mission."

This was the beginning of the above named church. Rev. Augustus Klein was appointed a missionary to build up the church and arrived and took the charge in May of that year. It was decided to build a church at once, and to carry out the purpose, ten members of the First Church honorably withdrew and organized the "Second Society of the Evangelical Association in the City of Buffalo." A frame church building was erected on the northeast corner of William and Emslie streets, and a parsonage was soon after secured in rear of the church. The church was dedicated August 8, 1857, by Rev. M. Lauer. While the church was located at the place named the following persons successfully ministered in it: from 1857 to 1859, Rev. A. Klein; 1859 to 1861, S. Kropp; 1861 to 1862, P. Alles; 1862 to 1864, C. A. Thomas; 1864 to 1866, M. Lauer; 1866 to 1868, P. J. Miller; 1868 to 1869, L. Herman; 1869 to 1871, D. Fisher; 1871 to 1874, J. Greuzebach. During the latter pastor's administration, December 25, 1872, while the forenoon Christmas services were in progress, the church caught fire causing much alarm, but the loss was comparatively small. The property was then sold to John Eckhardt, and the Krettner Street lot purchased on which was erected the following summer, a new brick church, the cost of which, aside from the lot, was about $12,000. The new church was dedicated October 12, 1873, by the Rev. Rudolph Dubs. In April, 1874, Rev. J. Reuber took the charge, remaining until March, 1877, when he was succeeded by Rev. M. Pfützinger. During his administration, in the spring of 1878, the parsonage was built on the church lot at a cost of $1,200. Rev. Pfützinger was succeeded by the Rev. G. F. Buesch, and he by the present pastor, Rev. Frederick E. Hehr. A flourishing Sunday school is connected with this church, the number of scholars averaging two hundred and fifty; the school has a large library. This society was continued as a mission until March, 1879, when at the annual conference, it was constituted a self-sustaining charge. The present trustees are August Hof, Michael Kohlert, John Wagner, H. Wind, J. H. Thomas.

First Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Congregation, "Unaltered Augsburg Confession."—Lutherans immigrating from Silesia in 1839, organized this church. Their pastor, L. F. E. Krause, made vain efforts to unite his congregation with that of Rev. Grabau, who arrived in Buffalo with his flock. Soon after Rev. Krause left his position in the church, and in October, 1841, this self-depending congregation gave a vocation to Rev. E. M. Buerger, who after investigating the situation of the congregation,
gave up his intended journey to Germany, and accepted the pastorate. The vocation was dated November 28, 1841, and signed by the following members:—Carl G. Faude, Daniel Keller, Ernst Mayer, Ernst Faude, Carl Toy, Ferdinand Langner, Joseph Hanschke, I. Ch. Sieffert, Christian Graeser, Gottfried Grottke, Ignatz Pelzel and Wilhelm Stern. Their place of worship at that time was in a hall in the upper story of Moses Baker's block, corner of Main and Huron streets. In 1842, the congregation bought a lot on the corner of William and Milnor streets, where they soon built a brick church; a part of the building was used for a school, in which the Rev. Mr. Buerger taught during the week. This church was known by the title above given and was incorporated in February, 1844; trustees:—Ferdinand Langner, Heinrich Philipp and I. Th. Chabot. The congregation became a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States, and has sent their pastor, teacher and a delegate to the sessions of the Synod each year. The congregation worshipped in the church on William street until 1867. From that time the parochial school was held there until 1873; in that year the new two-story school house on Michigan street was completed and the William street property sold. Rev. E. M. Buerger was succeeded by Rev. A. G. G. Franke, from 1851 to 1852, in which year Rev. C. Diehlmann was elected pastor. In May, 1854, Rev. I. H. Pinkepunk accepted a vocation as vicar and teacher and succeeded Rev. Diehlmann in 1855; the latter received a call from a Lutheran congregation in Rainham, Canada, in December. Rev. Mr. Pinkepunk died in November, 1856. In January following, the congregation elected Rev. L. Dulitz their pastor; he filled the office until July, 1864. In March, 1865, Rev. F. Th. Ruhland accepted the pastorate. In 1867 a separation occurred in the old Lutheran Trinity Church, corner of Goodell and Maple streets, when quite a number of members, with Rev. Chr. Hochstetter, second pastor of the Congregation, united with the First Evangelical Lutheran Trinity congregation, and both pastors served the united congregation. About this time it was resolved to rent the church corner of Tupper and Ellicott streets and meet there until their own church was completed. During this period both of the pastors were called to another field, and Rev. Carl Gross, from Richmond, Va., accepted the pastorate. July 5, 1868, the new church on Michigan street, between Genesee and Sycamore streets, was dedicated. In 1873, the new school-house in the rear of the church lot was erected and a parsonage built near the church, No. 653 Michigan street. In November, 1880, Rev. Carl Gross accepted a call from Fort Wayne, Ind., and was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. Aug. Senne, from Ottawa, Ont., in February, 1881. The present Board of Trustees are as follows:—Fred Brueck, president; Henry Keitsch, secretary; Henry Fischer, cashier; Henry G. Wolter, Christopher Wagner, Daniel Voel.
German Churches.

Lutheran Trinity Church.—Among the Old Lutheran clergymen who defied the union of the Reformed and Lutheran churches in Prussia by King Frederick William III, and emigrated to America rather than sacrifice their principles, was Rev. J. A. Grabau. He was imprisoned for his defiance of the decree, but was afterwards permitted to emigrate, which he did, with some of his faithful supporters. This movement constituted the Old Lutheran immigration to Buffalo in 1839, which has been before referred to. The party came over in five ships, in the last of which was the devout minister. They landed in New York, September 18th, and reached Buffalo on the 26th, being followed by the Rev. Mr. Grabau on the 5th of October. On that day their first divine service was held in a room on Main street. A church lot was soon after bought on the corner of Goodell and Maple streets, and there the Lutheran Trinity Church was built. On the 2d of December, 1839, the society was incorporated, and June 7, 1840, the new church was consecrated. The elders were, Ernst Krieg, Frederick Luette, Rudolph Krause, Gottfried Schoenfeld, Christian Rother, Johann Heuer; trustees, Christoph Schmelzer, Heinrich V. Rohr. A school was connected with the church. In the year 1845, Rev. Grabau, with others holding the same theological views, formed the “Synod of Buffalo.” He also went to Germany, in company with Rev. Mr. Rohr, to solicit assistance for the building of a college; their errand was successful, resulting in the building of the German Martin Luther College, which was dedicated November 10, 1854, and is now a successful educational institution. On the 2d of February, 1879, Rev. Grabau preached his last sermon; the following day he was attacked by a disease that caused his death on the 2d of June following. Rev. Martin Burk, who has long been connected with the church as a deacon, is the present pastor of this church. A school with two teachers and one hundred and fifty pupils is connected with the church.

German Evangelical Lutheran St. Andrew's Church.—In the fall of the year 1858, an Old Lutheran branch church was organized, under the immediate ministration of Rev. J. A. Grabau. The names of the original members of this congregation were, Christian Pohlmann, Jobst Kreinheder, Herman Kreinheder, H. Kinnius, H. Bockstedt, C. Bohle, Fred. Tepe, Christian Tepe, George Kratzat, Fred. Beck, William Rose, John Hauschild, Mr. Woelfel and Mr. Wiesmann. The vestry were, Christian Pohlmann, Jobst Kreinheder and Christian Tepe. Services were at first held in a dwelling house on Peckham street. In December, 1858, the present church premises, corner of Sherman and Peckham streets, were donated by S. V. R. Watson, Esq., and the erection of a church
begun; it was dedicated July 10, 1859, under direction of Rev. J. A. Grabau, Rev. Christian Hochstetter and Rev. Heinrich V. Rohr. The congregation was a part of the Lutheran Buffalo Synod until 1866. The first pastor of the congregation was Rev. W. Grabau, who had been its pastor since dedication; he was succeeded by Rev. O. Wuest. After his departure the congregation re-called Rev. W. Grabau, who resigned because the congregation severed its connection with the Buffalo Synod. Rev. P. Brand succeeded Rev. William Grabau as pastor, in July, 1866. In 1869 he accepted a vocation to Washington, D. C., and was succeeded by Rev. A. Ch. Grossberger, who was pastor until May, 1883. His successor and present pastor is Rev. John Sieck. A school house was built in connection with this church, and dedicated September 3, 1871, which now numbers more than two hundred scholars. The present board of trustees are, Charles Lichtenberger, E. Thiesfeld, H. W. Kreinheder, Louis Waldow, Frank Kinnius, church wardens; Chr. Pohlmann, Friedrich Kruger, Albert Kromphardt and Jobst Kreinheder as honorary member. The first teacher in September, 1871, was Fred. Hoffmeyer, and the present teachers are Joh. O. G. Robert and Henry E. Brauir. A Sunday school was organized July 15, 1883, with two hundred and forty-nine children.

**German (English) Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity.**—This church was organized May 5, 1879, under the ministration of Rev. L. H. Geshwind, who was called here from Pittsburg for the purpose, by the following named gentlemen:—William Hengerer, Henry Koons, Louis P. Reichert, A. J. Kurtz, E. G. Becker, James Schneider, Jacob Dold, Jr., Louis P. Adolf, Jr., Louis Bergtold and a few others who did not afterwards join the church. Mr. Geshwind began preaching February 1, 1879, on a salary of $1,000 for the first year, in the same church now occupied by the society; it was built by a French Lutheran congregation, in 1830, which congregation, for a consideration of $3,000, consolidated with the new church; about $1,000 was then spent in repairing the church. The society was self-sustaining from the first, and never received any financial assistance whatever from any source outside of the church; its indebtedness is now a very small sum, which will be paid before the close of the present year. There are now about one hundred and forty-five communicants in the church. It is the only English Lutheran church in Buffalo. The present trustees are, William Hengerer, James Schneider and J. C. Rother.

**German Baptist Churches.**—The First German Baptist society was formed in Buffalo by Alexander Von Putkammer, who came to Buffalo in 1848, as an agent of the American Tract Society. He began preaching in a school house on Spruce street, where the commodious First German Baptist church now stands. In 1849 a society with twenty-four members was organized. The founder of the society remained with his
German Churches.

congregation until 1853, since which time Revs. A. Transchel, Siegmund Kuepfer, Fr. Meir, C. Schoemaker, J. C. Grimmell and others have officiated. During the prosperous administration of the latter pastor, from 1864 to 1874, the present church and its mission chapel on Jefferson street were erected. Since 1874 the church has prospered under the ministrations of Rev. Conrad Bodenbender. The second Baptist congregation was organized with about sixty members, in the year 1859, under the direction of Rev. Edward Gruetzner. In 1860 a frame church was erected on Hickory street, between Genesee and Sycamore. Rev. Mr. Gruetzner was succeeded in 1862 by Rev. G. A. Schulte, under whose ministrations the society prospered for eight years. He was succeeded by Revs. R. Otto and J. Senn, the latter serving but two years on account of ill health. Rev. H. W. Nagel was then called in 1878, and is the present officiating pastor. The Third Baptist society was organized March 2, 1875, with ninety-nine members. It holds its services in the mission chapel, corner of High and Mulberry streets, and was first under the ministration of Rev. G. Fettzer. Since September, 1875, Rev. Wm. C. Rabe has officiated as pastor, and the congregation is prosperous.

German Methodist Episcopal Churches.—There are two German Methodist Episcopal churches in Buffalo, the first of which was founded in 1846, by John Sauter. In 1847 the first church building was erected on the corner of Sycamore and Ash streets. In 1871, the present church and parsonage were built, under the direction of the Rev. F. Rey. About the year 1852 the first steps were taken towards the formation of the Second Methodist Society, by Rev. John Swahlen, who, while tending the first congregation, preached occasionally at Black Rock. His successors were Revs. Charles Hertel, John G. Lutz and George Abele, who held services in private houses or school houses. From 1858 to 1860, Rev. Julius Seidel was pastor; from 1860 to 1864 Rev. Louis Wallo, Kappale and Jacob Kalb successively filled the office. Rev. F. W. Hoppman, who was the next pastor from 1864 to 1867, noting the necessity for a church building, bought the lot on East street, between Hamilton and Austin. The erection of a building was begun in the fall of 1866, and cost with the grounds $3,580. It was finished and dedicated on the 18th of August, 1867, and the society was independently organized by the founder of German Methodism, Rev. Dr. Nast, from Cincinnati; a parsonage was built in 1877. The society owns a cemetery on Bird street. The first resident pastor of the Church was Rev. William Schlueter, who filled the office from 1867 to 1870. He was succeeded by Rev. Philip Handiges, who remained until the spring of 1873. Rev. J. Woerz followed and remained until the spring of 1876, and was succeeded by Rev. John Flad. From 1878 to 1880, Rev. Phillip Stahl was the pastor, when the Rev. F. W. Hoppman came, and is the pastor at present. The total membership of the church is 87.
Several of the Churches in the above list have established benevolent societies for the benefit of either men, women or children, through which much good has been accomplished.

CHAPTER VI.

COMMERCIAL AND NAVIGATION.


In commercial importance Buffalo ranks as second only to one other city in the Empire State. This proud position she has attained by virtue of her advantages as the key of the great lake and canal system of the country and the energy and commercial sagacity of the men who have labored in that field. With a safe and commodious harbor, lined with the most extensive and improved facilities for elevating, storing and transferring grain, chutes and trestles for coal, and with terminal advantages that are unsurpassed, Buffalo now more than fulfills the expectations of the hopeful and far-seeing men who pioneered the commerce of the port. The vast chain of lakes that form an uninterrupted waterway from the inexhaustible and almost boundless territory of the West to the Erie canal and through that to the seaboard, has been aptly termed “The Mediterranean Sea of America.” Upon their waters floats a commerce which, stupendous as it now is, has only passed its infancy. By far the larger portion of this is wafted directly into and through the port of Buffalo; she holds the key of the situation, in a commercial sense.

*In a paper written by the late Guy H. Salisbury, comparing Buffalo in 1836 and 1862, he said:—

This brief retrospect brings us to the period when the elements of growth had given such strength to our business position in 1834-35, that anticipation looked eagerly forward to the coming years when Buffalo should sit at the foot of our own blue Mediterranean like a commercial Constantinople, stretching along the Bosphorus of the broad Niagara and holding the keys of a Dardanelles that could open and shut the gates of trade for the regions east and west.