

THE CENTENNIAL of Saint Peters Episcopal Church in Grand Detour, Illinois, was celebrated on June 12, 1949. St. Peters, the second oldest Episcopal church in Illinois (Grace Episcopal Church in Galena being first), was built in 1849 of native limestone and black walnut. Grand Detour, or Grand DeTour as the French traders named it, might have been a metropolis. Major Leonard Andrus of Vermont, settled there in 1834, and built flour and saw mills; John Deere came from Vermont in 1837, to become the village blacksmith. They formed a partnership in 1841 to manufacture the steel plow invented by Mr. Deere in 1837. Failure of the railroad to come to Grand Detour led to the removal of the factory and the village declined.

The church site was selected by the Reverend Abraham Joseph Warner, the Episcopal Missionary, and the cornerstone was laid June 17, 1849; the first service was held on May 17, 1850 and Major Andrus served as vestryman.

It may be of interest that the wood blocks from which these prints were made were cut from pieces of yellow poplar or "tulip" wood from trees which were probably at least one hundred years old when St. Peters Church was built.

When University Hall on the campus of the University of Illinois was razed in 1938, I purchased from the contractor the walnut and yellow poplar shelving from the Board of Trustees room. This shelving was installed prior to 1875. These yellow poplar boards from twelve to fifteen inches in width, entirely clear and clean were estimated by my father to have come from trees which were one hundred to one hundred fifty years old when cut. My father was born and raised in Indiana and was familiar as a boy with the magnificent yellow poplar or simply "poplar" trees of Indiana, from which exterior building materials, interior trim, and wood for cabinet work was secured. In cabinet work it was often combined with walnut and cherry. Clear, wide boards, free from heart and sap wood were possible up to twenty-four inches in width. A few of these great yellow poplar trees are left and some magnificent specimens can be seen in Turkey Run State Park near Marshall, Indiana.

The blocks were cut by hand, and the prints were made individually by the Japanese method.

—F. H. T.

Urbana, Illinois
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