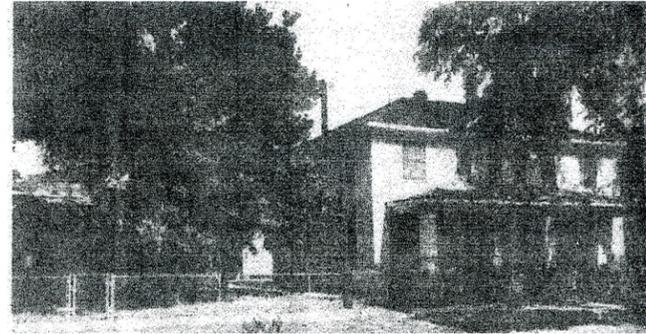


The Parkinson House

Below is a rather blurry Florida Times Union newspaper clipping ca 1913, with a photo of the Parkinson house. Its little mission (now a house) is hidden under the trees. The Parkinson house still stands today, but the records give it a date of 1897, the period of its move and new ownership. The house, which is now a quad and has been altered at the back, is one of Springfield's earliest, ca 1884/5.

St. Mary's was organized in the old Parkinson home, right, on Hubbard Street at the corner of Fourth. The house was later moved from the corner to its present location, making room for an apartment house. After holding services in two other houses in the area, St. Mary's bought the house at left, also owned by the Parkinson family. Worship services were held at that location for 20 years before moving to the present location at Ninth and Laura streets.



The Little Mission, that could:

After the church vacated the mission, rooms were added to the front and back and it became a house. It was number 1423 Hubbard, but stood in the grounds of 1419. In 2008 a request was made to demolish this small house, as 1419 was to be restored. Permission to demolish was given, but SIA/WC pleaded for the life of the mission. Everyone tried so hard to save it and to have it moved into Klutho park. Time was against it, since it could not go into the park in a derelict state and it could not stay on the grounds of 1419. The mission was demolished, its ceiling now graces the kitchen at the club. See photos below: Left: The mission as a house, note position of front door on the porch. Center: The mission uncovered. Its back faced Hubbard, so the back door shown, became the front. Right: The front of the very simplistic Carpenter Gothic Style building. See Photo of St. Mary's below, sadly when the mission became a house the original front porch was taken off.



Footnote: Mrs. Annie E. Gray

Mrs. Annie E. Gray passed into the Better Land early in the morning of Sunday November 30th, 1919. She was identified with the upbuilding of this parish from the very beginning. In 1875 she established a Sunday School at her own home in LaVilla, which eventually grew to be St. Stephen's Mission. Upon her moving to Springfield in 1891 she took up the work in St. Mary's Sunday School Mission then being conducted on Hubbard Street (or Adaline Street). It was from this Sunday School that St. Mary's Mission sprang, contributed to in no small measure by former members of St. Stephen's Mission. Although in advanced years and infirm health, Mrs. Gray was a very real force in the establishment of this parish upon an enduring basis, and the spirit of devotion shown by her will remain an inspiration to those who follow.

The above obituary was entered into the minutes of the Women's Auxiliary.

Mrs. Gray was the mother of Frank S. Gray, President of the S. B. Hubbard Hardware Company. His house still stands at 34 4th Street West, The Ramona. It was constructed ca 1890, the Grays lived there until at least 1929. On the previous page is the news story of a peanut hunt, Miss Edith Gray is mentioned. She was the daughter of Frank and the grand daughter of Mrs. Annie E. Gray. It is sad that neither the St. Stephen's Mission, in LaVilla, or our little St. Mary's survived, they were the God children of some very dedicated people.



The wonderful St. Mary's Episcopal Church at 9th and Laura, built in the Upjohn Carpenter style. Go take a look it is just lovely and deserves closer viewing.



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Victor Moore, Actor



To the left, 1645 Boulevard today

One of the beauties and rewards of researching history is that objects and buildings seem anxious to tell us their story. Such as it is with the house that stands at 1645 Boulevard, Springfield. The 1985 survey tells us that the original occupant was one, Victor Moore, Executive Officer of Klever Pictures Inc. and star of many movies. Such a short sweet blurb which causes someone to dig deeper. Rita Reagan immediately pulled out the photo and poster shown herein, part of her Norman Studios heroic effort. Further research shows that he has a Star on the southside of the 6800 block of Hollywood Boulevard. He was on our Boulevard first, where his film career started!



Victor Moore was a comedian who was known for his round face and elf-like smile. Born, Feb.24, 1876 in Hammonton NJ. Died, July 23, 1962 in East Islip, NY.

He appeared in hundreds of motion pictures and gained his greatest Broadway acclaim for his portrayal of Vice President Alexander Throttlebottom in the prize winning musical "Of Thee I Sing." Moore started making motion pictures in 1916, almost always playing gentle and retiring comedians with a jovial smile. He started acting at 17, answering an advertisement for "50 tall men for supers" to play in "Babes in the Wood." Moore recalled that he got the job because he was standing on a paving stone, but added: "When they got me in full armor and handed me a long spear, I realized why they wanted tall men." Later, he played in vaudeville and motion pictures and on Broadway.

Associated Press July 24, 1962.

He appeared with Fred Astair in the 1936 film "Swing Time." Mae West costarred with Moore in "The Heat's On" in 1943.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Springfield and Trinity Church, NY are more than just sisters in Faith.



Richard Upjohn (22 January 1802 - 16 August 1878) was an English-born architect who emigrated with his family to the United States in 1829 and became most famous for his Gothic Revival churches. He was born in Shaftesbury, England, where he was apprenticed to a builder and cabinet-maker. He eventually became a master-mechanic. He initially settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts and then moved on to Boston in 1833, where he worked in architectural design. He had relocated to New York by 1839 where he worked on alterations to Trinity Church. The alterations were later abandoned and he was commissioned to design a new church, completed in 1846. Designing and building Trinity Church was the turning point in Richard Upjohn's life. Upjohn believed that as an architect and a man of faith it was also his duty to provide Gothic designs for small parishes, and to provide them at a cost the parishes could afford. *Rural Architecture* (1852) is Upjohn's only complete book, though many drawings and photographic views of his buildings appeared in contemporary magazines. His most important pupil was his son Richard M. Upjohn. Upjohn and 12 other New York architects organized as the American Institute of Architects in 1857, with Upjohn as first president. The list of members soon included all the best architects of the era, and the institute is still central to all professional activity in the country. To the left - Trinity Church, Manhattan NY., which survived 9/11/2001

The Rt. Rev. John Freeman Young (1820-1885) became the Second Bishop of Florida in 1867. The diocese was only twenty-nine years old and it was so devastated by the effects of the Civil War that the Committee on the State of the Church wrote that year that it was a "wonder" that the Church in Florida still had "an organized existence at all." The future bishop had begun his ministry in 1845 at St. John's Church, Jacksonville, Florida. From there, he had moved on to various posts in Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana; then he had become an assistant rector at Trinity Church, New York City. While serving there, from 1860 - 1867, he became a serious student of theology, church architecture and hymnology. He began collecting and translating great Christian hymns of various churches, a collection which was published posthumously as *Great Hymns of the Church*. By translating the German "Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!" into the Christmas carol "Silent Night", Bishop Young made a lasting gift to all English-speaking Christians. The bishop's interest in architecture enabled him to bring the Carpenter Gothic church to Florida. It was a small, simple, inexpensive, easily-constructed, but churchly wooden church building. Richard Upjohn, the architect who had designed New York's Trinity Church had also published a book containing detailed plans and instructions with which small congregations could build churches. Gothic in style, they looked like churches and felt like churches. Bishop Young, while he was at Trinity, had known Upjohn. In Florida he scattered churches built in Upjohn's Carpenter Gothic style over the face of his diocese. There is a charming book "St. Dunstan's and John" by Charles Patillo III, which chronicles the 17 Carpenter Gothic churches built during this period. The Rt. Rev. Young and his wife Mary are buried in the Old City Cemetery, it is hoped that once again Silent Night will be sung as his graveside, this Christmas. Photo to the right is of the grave of Bishop Young, in the Old City Cemetery.



Sisters in Faith, continued



Isaac D. Parkinson, a graduate of Cambridge, England, along with a Rev. W.H. Milnes on 11/6/1872, opened a school in which boys are prepared for college or business, (FTU 1/9/86). Parkinson appears in the 1886 directory as living in Springfield, at the corner of Adaline and 4th Streets. He is shown as the Principal of Springfield Academy. To the left is a section of the Koch map of 1893. The Parkinson house ca 1884/5 and a small building to the north of it are shown. Parkinson a devout Episcopalian erected the said small building, in which, Sunday School classes were held. The Centennial Booklet of Saint John's Parish, in 1934, states the following; "It appears that as early as 1888, a Sunday School was established by St. John's in the northern part of the

city, now known as Springfield, and was called St. Mary's Sunday School. From this Sunday School a Mission grew...." It would appear that Isaac died ca 1892 and the properties fell into the ownership of his widow and daughter. During this time Adaline became Hubbard and the Parkinson house was moved over and closer to the street, to allow for a multiple family house to be built. Its address became 1609 (1409) Hubbard. Ca 1911 the FTU reported the following; "The land (on which it stood) was given to the mission but a token rent was charged for the house on the site. The building was valued at only \$360 and once the mission paid that amount in rent - it took four years - it was given ownership of the entire property by Mrs. Parkinson's daughter, Mrs. Charlotte Parkinson Holland, who also was active in the new mission. During this period the mission became St. Mary's Chapel and the building was the first church owned by St. Mary's. As Springfield grew, so did St. Mary's and by 1908 the little chapel decided to look for larger quarters." The Centennial Booklet states; On May 25th 1908, at a meeting of St. John's Vestry, the following members of the Parish were elected as a Sub-Vestry for St. Mary's Mission: W. D. Jones, W. A. Redding, R. W. Vincent, H. Williams and H. D. Watts, Jr. During the years 1908 and 1909, the lot on Hubbard Street was sold and, partly with the proceeds, the present property at the northwest corner of Ninth and Laura Streets was acquired and a building erected thereon for the Mission.

Richard Upjohn and The Rt. Rev. Young certainly interacted at Trinity NY, and by the given dates it is more than probable that Isaac Parkinson would be a knowing contemporary of the Rt. Rev. Young. When he built his little Sunday School in his back garden, in Springfield, it was built in the Carpenter Gothic style but in a much more simplistic manner. We once again quote the Centennial Booklet: "On September 11th 1911, by the action of the Vestry of the Parish, St. Mary's became an independent Mission, and the right and title of the Parish to all property used in connection with the Mission were relinquished. Finally, on May 13th, 1913, St. Mary's with the approval of the mother Parish, became an independent Parish, known as The Rector, Wardens and Vestry of St. Mary's Church, in Jacksonville, Florida. This church which still stands at 9th and Laura was built in the beloved Upjohn Carpenter Gothic style, probably the last such instance. Her sister still graces N.Y.

Epilogue:

You may wonder how this small congregation was able to raise funds in order to achieve their dream of a larger church. The Florida Times Union reported the following charming details:

9/7/09. *Social Tea at Mrs. Redding's.* At the home of Mrs. W. A. Redding 255 West Fourth Street Springfield, the ladies of St. Mary's Guild will give a tea Thursday afternoon from 4 to 6 o'clock. These ladies will be glad to welcome all who are interested in the building fund of St. Mary's church. During the afternoon there will be an excellent musical program and a pleasant time is assured all. Among those who will take part in this entertainment are Mrs. Howard Humphries, Mrs. Charles Abbot, Miss M. Theodora Flemming, Mrs. Gertrude L'Engle, Miss Mira Gray and Miss Julia Lund.

11/13/1909. *A peanut hunt for St. Mary's.* This afternoon, November 13, from 3 to 5pm, there will be a peanut hunt for St. Mary's Sunday school for the benefit of the building fund at the residence of Mrs. Herbert A. Ingley, 1523 Ionia Street. A small admission fee of 6 cents will be charged and there will be most delicious home made candy on sale. Mrs. Ingley will be ably assisted by her sister Mrs. Percival H. Kevey and Miss Edith Gray. St. Mary's Sunday School and all of their friends are most cordially invited to attend and a pleasant afternoon is promised to all.

Sources: The Serious Side of Carpenter Gothic: Christabel Gough and Ron Kopnicki. www.answers.com
Episcopal Diocese of Florida Louise Stanton Warren