

## Chapter V

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PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCHES – THE SALVATION ARMY  
CATHOLIC CHURCHES (NOT ROMAN CATHOLIC)  
SYNAGOGUES – SMALLER DENOMINATIONS  
SOME RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE PAST

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### *Primitive Methodist Churches*

At the present time, there are three Primitive Methodist Churches in Fall River. The "First Church" located on Plymouth Avenue was erected in 1872. The "Second Church" on Dwelly Street was organized in 1891, and the Sykes Primitive Methodist Church on Haffards Street in 1892. There was from about 1897 to 1908 the "Fourth Church" on Brightman Street.

### *The Salvation Army*

An English family, who had been members of the Salvation Army in the old country moved to Fall River and worshipped at the Summerfield Methodist Episcopal Church. They observed that conditions warranted the establishment of an "Army Post" here and they wrote the General's Headquarters in London. This resulted in the New York office sending to this city in November 1883, Capt. and Mrs. Hulmes. They held their meetings for eleven years in the old Opera House on Court Square. The quality and nature of the work of "The Army", in time, was approved and supported by the community. Their present "Citadel", on the corner of Bedford and High Streets was erected in 1903.

### *Catholic Churches*

There are four Catholic Churches in the city not under the Roman Catholic jurisdiction. The First Polish Catholic Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary purchased their property on Globe Street, about 1870 from the Brayton Methodist Episcopal Church. The Holy Trinity (Polish)

Church is located on Winthrop Street and St. John's Ukranian Church on Center Street. The St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, previously mentioned is located on lower Cherry Street.

### *Synagogues*

The first Hebrew congregation to be recorded in the "Fall River Directory" was in 1891 when a Jewish chapel, at 117 South Main Street was listed. The cornerstone for the first synagogue to be erected was laid in 1899 by the Congregation Adas Israel on Pearl Street. Since that time synagogues have been erected by other congregations: — the Brethren of Jacob (Agudath Ben Jacob) on Quarry Street, in 1903; Ahavatachin on Weybosset Street, in 1909 and the American Brotherhood of Israel, in 1914, on Union Street. The Congregation Beis David conduct services on Vale Street.

The Temple Beth-El organized about 1927 and purchased the St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal church building on Bank Street. This building was destroyed in the conflagration of 1928 and the congregation erected in 1933 the imposing temple on the corner of High and Locust Streets. They also purchased the North Fall River School house and converted it into a chapel connected with their burial grounds.

### *Smaller Denominations*

There are now (1940), five denominations which have a small local following; four of which have been functioning for over fifty years. The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints now located on Claffin Street was organized about 1885. The New Advent Church organized in 1887 is located on Coral Street. The Church of Christ Scientist have their rooms on the corner of Rock and Pine Streets. They organized in 1892.<sup>1</sup> The Seventh Day Adventist Church now occupies the chapel on Foster Street formerly occupied by the Trinity Baptist Church. The Manchester Evangelical Church is on Pelham Street.

### *Some Religious Organizations of the Past*

The word transitory would not apply to some of the churches and chapels which are now non-existent. Most of them were established in communities where there was a demand for their services, where in after

<sup>1</sup> The first to introduce Christian Science practice in Fall River were Mr. and Mrs. Seabury T. Manley in 1883. Stephen A. Chace, who was secretary of the first "class", became treasurer of the "Mother Church" in Boston. He handled large sums of money from contributors and a force of clerks worked full time at his residence here.

years the population of their neighborhood changed and there was no need for their continuance. There is also a growing tendency among Protestants to consider their denominational differences as of secondary importance, which results in a frequent transfer of members and in consolidations.

In an interesting paper read before the Fall River Historical Society, mention was made of a Free Will Baptist Church organized in 1844. A foundation for their church was built on Bedford Street, near Oak Street. "In 1850, records show that the society defaulted payment and the property was taken by force of Execution."

Columbian Hall, which was located at the northeast corner of Second and Borden Streets, was situate on land owned by Cook Borden and was used by a Universalist Society as a place of worship. It was burned in the fire of 1843 and was one of the five houses of worship then situate in Fall River, which were rebuilt after this great fire.

The new building was called Berean Temple, and it was dedicated by a sermon from a former pastor named Dean early in December 1843. The temple and twenty-four rods of land were deeded by Cook Borden to the Society in 1847. The Fall River Monitor, on December 9th, 1843 describes the hall as well fitted "for a lecture room, for concerts, etc., and it is intended for such use. The Fall River Lyceum is to give a course of lectures there".

This first Universalist Society was incorporated March 7, 1840 and we have a list of its pastors as follows:

Daniel P. Livermore,	settled in	1845
William W. Dean	" "	1847
B. H. Davis	" "	1850

The above appears in the Fall River Directory of 1855, but the next directory (1857) makes no reference to the Universalist Church. Investigation shows that the society had meanwhile been discontinued. Fowler says (1862) "The Universalist Society has no meeting house and no pastor". Further record shows that when this society was discontinued a considerable number of its members joined the Unitarian Society. Among them were the families of Chester W. Greene and John E. Grouard.

While Pastor Livermore was settled in Fall River he was married. His wife Mary A. Livermore became a famous lecturer during the Civil War period. For four years, she was on the Sanitary Commission of the federal government and was a very famous lecturer, made many friends in Fall River while her husband was pastor here. These friendships lasted during her entire life. She took a great interest in the Borden murder; was

accounted a friend of Lizzie Borden, and made a special trip to Fall River to see her. She was also an intimate of Mrs. Robert Adams, and on her last trip to Fall River made a special effort to meet Edward S. Adams with whom she had a lengthy and confidential conference.

"Mary Ashton Livermore, the American reformer, was born in Boston in 1821 and died in 1905. Her father was Timothy Rice. She became the wife of Daniel P. Livermore, a Universalist minister, who settled in Fall River, in 1845. She labored with much ability in behalf of the United States Sanitary Commission during the Civil War and took a prominent position as a writer and a public speaker on Woman Suffrage and various social and religious questions. She was editor of the *Woman's Journal* of Boston, and author of several books, including 'My Story of the War' which narrates her four years personal experience as a nurse in the Union Army."



Presbyterian churches have been organized in the past; some of which held services for several years. About 1871 an unsuccessful attempt was made to organize and for a very short time The First Presbyterian Church held meetings in Flint's Block on Pleasant Street. In 1885 there were two Presbyterian Churches other than the "United Church". The Presbyterian Church of America held meetings in Masonic Hall on Franklin Street and The Presbyterian Church of Fall River held their meetings in the old Central Church on Bedford Street. In 1887, the Presbyterian Church of Fall River became the Westminster Presbyterian Church and held their services on South Main Street opposite Washington Street. The Rev. Rockweed MacQueston was the pastor. Again, the church moved to Warren Street where the Rev. John Brown was for a time the pastor. This church disbanded in 1900.

The Globe Presbyterian Church located on West Charles Street was organized in 1890. Before it discontinued services in 1916, it had changed its name to The First Presbyterian Church.



Between 1895 and 1900 two Lutheran Churches were started, neither had a large enough following to continue.

Several churches of the past have been dealt with under their denominational headings.