

Notes and figures compiled by Charlotte Wright Mosher – 2006

**Book of Records – Property of the Ladies Aid Society of the Searsburg Christian Church
1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916**

I have re-created the minutes of the Searsburg Christian Church Ladies Aid Society as they were written, which in turn reflects the spirit, and style of the times.

1912

The Searsburg Christian Church Ladies Aid Society (LAS) sold quilts, cook books, and aprons to raise money. To this day the Searsburg Church raffles a quilt each year. 1912 is the first reference I can find to an Election Night Dinner. Election Night Dinners were served in Searsburg for the next 78 years. Mentioned are names of families who still reside in the area: Burr, Tunison, Lowe.

May 1912– Election of Officers

President: Mrs. Jared Smith

Vice President: Mrs. Charles Lowe

2nd Vice President: Mrs. Marian Pierson

Secretary: Mrs. Charles W. Burr

Treasurer: Mrs. L. H. Tunison

June 11, 1912

In the absence of the President Mrs. C. Lowe presided – 13 present

\$1.50 collected

June 12, 1912

Ice Cream Festival at the close of Musicale, netted the Ladies \$13.55, expenses \$2.55

August 1912

A meeting was held with Mrs. A. O. Smith

Receipts, \$1.50, .25 being donated by Mr. Swarthout of the Watkins Medicine Co.

September 3, 1912

Mrs. Frank Wheeler entertained the Ladies Aid, the President presiding. 12 were present

Receipts \$2.00, .10 - cook book sold

October 16, 1912

Meeting was held with Mrs. Charles Burr, the president presided – 13 present

Receipts: \$2.90, .40- sale of apron

Expenses: \$1.93 - paid Mrs. Smith for gingham

Arrangements were made for the Election Dinner. Mrs. Frank Wheeler appointed chairman, she will select her own committee

November 5, 1912 – “Dinner”

Receipts: \$18.65, .52 - Auction

Disbursements: \$1.25 – Hall, \$1.71-Groceries, Mrs. Wheeler

December 19, 1912 – Silver Star Fair

Sale of Quilts and Aprons \$8.97

Expenses: .30 – Lace, \$1.10 – paid L. H. Tunison - lamp

1913

From May 1913 to February 1914 the Ladies Aid Society worked on aprons and quilts as fundraisers. The meetings were efficiently run with the officers following a pre-1915 version of "Robert's Rules of Order". Attendance was occasionally upwards of fifty ladies and they divided the hostess work according to last name. The minutes indicate these meetings were a combination dinner (lunch) and work bee. It is obvious they not only discussed food and sewing but took seriously their responsibility to raise money to keep the church buildings and grounds in good repair. I've found only one reference to a meeting time, that being a 2:30 p.m. meeting to elect officers. Also mentioned is an Election Day Dinner that showed a profit of \$28.00. The local name of Stillwell first appears in the 1913 minutes, as does the Searsburg Store.

May 17, 1913

The first meeting of the year was held with Mrs. Jared Smith on May 17th – 17 ladies present.

\$82.14 – receipts of the supper – This was paid Mrs. Tunison to apply on the expense of the air-cushion which had been given Fred Wheeler by the Society. The question of adding one more thing as a relish to our menu seemed to meet with approval, and it was finally left optional with the Hostess. The next meeting was announced to be held with Mrs. H. Emmons. The Secretary was notified by the President to write and hand in the notice of the meetings to be read in public.

Meeting adjourned

Jane Burr – Secretary

May 21, 1913

Meeting called for the annual election of officers. The president presided. 9 members present. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

\$52.05 – receipts for the year

\$95.70 - In Bank after paying Hasard(?)

\$107.00 – Handed in by A. O. Smith – entertainment fund

\$203.13 – In Bank

\$1.00 – paid by Mrs. Wakeman for aprons and cookbooks

All bills owed to Society are paid up to date

The following officers were elected by ballot.

Edna Wakeman & Saida Burr – Tellers

President – Mrs. Clara Lowe

1st Vice. Pres. – Marion Pierson

2nd Vice. Pres. - Mrs. Saida Burr

Secretary – Mrs. Charles Burr

Treasurer – Mrs. Arthur Smith

A motion was made to have the Secretary purchase a new Secretary's book – also decided it was the Secretary's duty to call the meeting for the annual election of officers, and for the successive meetings held during the year.

May 29, 1913

Mrs. Herman Emmons entertained the Ladies Aid. 18 were present. Work on aprons and bed quilts was provided. \$1.90 – receipts of supper of which 10¢ was paid the Secretary for expense of new Secretary's book. The meeting was announced for June at Mrs. Tunison's – no special business came before the Society - Adjourned – Jane Burr, Secretary

June 11, 1913

The Aid met with Mrs. L. Tunison on Wednesday, June 11th. There was a larger attendance of 35. Miss Crissey of Chicago who had been traveling in the Old Country was present, and gave an interesting account of her travels, by use of her post cards collected in the different countries visited. \$3.95 receipts of supper - 25¢ of it being paid the President to defray expense of thread which she purchased for use in Society. Work on bed quilt was the order of the afternoon.

July 18, 1913

The 4th meeting was held with Mrs. Arthur Smith, July 18th.
\$1.65 – receipts of supper. Aprons were sold to Mrs. Jay Sherwood and Mrs. Lisle Slaght 80¢ being added to the treasury, ? by

July 17th .35¢ paid for church broom

July 17th \$1.50 paid for muslin used at celebration July 4th

July 24 50¢ feather duster

July 24 ½ doz. Lamp chimneys

July 4th celebration

Expenditures for ice-cream materials:

\$7.40 – 850 lbs ice –paid

70¢ - 2 sacks of salt – paid

\$5.70 – bananas – paid

\$5.11 – peanuts – paid

\$2.25 – vanilla – paid

30¢ - chocolate – paid

50¢ - junket – paid

\$1.50 – pineapple – paid

\$2.54 – sugar –paid

50¢ - Mrs. Ayers for washing dishes

35¢ - broom Searsburg Store

\$26.85 – expenses

\$6.70 – sale of eggs at 20¢ - 33 ½ doz.

\$59.37 Total receipts

\$26.95 expenses

\$32.52 – amount cleared

July 31, 1913

Meeting held with Mrs. Elmer Burr at which 23 were present

\$2.10 - supper receipts

Worked on aprons and bed quilt.

August 14, 1913

The Sixth meeting was held with Mrs. James Allen, 32 were present, aprons were cut out and worked on. \$2.30 – supper receipts

October 24, 1913

Mrs. D. D. Wakeman entertained the Ladies Aid. It was on a rainy day and the attendance small as a result. The Election Dinner was planned and Mrs. Frank Wheeler elected chairman.

\$2.25 – supper receipts, of which \$2.10 was paid the President for apron gingham.

November 4, 1913

The gross receipts of the dinner held on Election Day, November 4th 1913 were \$32.95 total receipts.

\$2.00 – paid for use of hall

\$2.19- paid for groceries

\$28.76 – net receipts

November 13, 1913

The eighth meeting was an all-day one with Mrs. John Stillwell on November 13, 1913. The first division of the alphabet from A to D inclusion furnished and served the dinner. This was a new scheme talked about Election Day and considered advisable for the all day meetings. There was a very large attendance including new also.

\$5.57 – taken in as dinner receipts. A discussion about repairing church sheds came up at this time and led to the appointment of a committee of the Trustees with E. O. Burr and James Allen to consult with them. Other matters pertaining to building a basement under church was brought up and A. O. Smith appointed to look up price of material and expense in general of building same. The next meeting was appointed at Mrs. Howard Shriner's – December 2nd.

December 2, 1913

The 9th meeting of the year met with Mrs. H. Shriner, about 50 being present. The 2nd division "E to S" furnished and served. The ladies mostly brought their own work, it being to near X-mas. Rev. J. S. Miles – Pastor was a guest of honor.

\$5.15 – dinner receipts

1914

The meeting minutes from May and June 1914 indicate there may have been issues regarding payment of bills. At the May 1914 meeting the Society discussed who was responsible for paying a bill to the Free Press and Sentinel, for posters made for the 1913, 4th of July Festival. A letter was written to Mrs. Frank Conde to "ascertain, if possible, who was responsible for said bill". It wasn't obvious if the Society thought they had already paid the bill or if they felt they weren't responsible for the payment. The Searsburg Grange is mentioned in conjunction with the Festival so perhaps the Society was under the impression the Grange would pay the bill? In June the Secretary was ordered to make "a \$3.00 payment to the Free Press and Sentinel to straighten up a bill for posters and advertising". The June meeting also refers to a Stereopticon Lecture. A Stereopticon is a projector for transparent slides often made double to produce dissolving views. By 1914, in addition to Burr, Stillwell and Tunison, other local names appear – Nivison, Davis and Dean.

January 8, 1914

The 10th meeting was held with Mrs. Fred Davis on January 8th. About 20 present. The 3rd division "S" entertained.

\$2.85 – dinner receipts

An apron was sold to Mrs. Will Dean for .35. The next meeting was appointed at Mrs. Clyde Nivison's.

January 22, 1914

A meeting was held with Mr. C. Nivison – the attendance was larger and work on aprons and quilts was provided. The last division "T's" and "W's" entertained.

\$6.60 – Receipts of dinner

A motion was made that .94 of this amount be paid on a bill of coffee and sugar furnished by the ladies at one of the special meetings (Revival), at which time Reverend J. S. Miles provided fried cakes. His Sunday school class attending the meeting, from Trumansburg. Mrs. F. Welch kindly invited the Society to meet with her the next time.

February 12, 1914

The 12th and last meeting was held with Mrs. Frank Welch, February 12, 1914. The first division of the alphabet including "A's" to "G's" inclusion entertained again.

Attendance about 23 in spite of the bitter cold weather that day. No work was provided as neither the President or Vice Presidents were there.

\$2.44 – dinner receipts

Meeting called for Thursday May 7, 1914 for the annual election of officers, at the church at 2:30 p.m.

Jane Burr, Secretary

May 7, 1914

The Annual Business meeting for the election of officers was held at the church May 7, 1914. The meeting was called to order by our President, Mrs. Clara Lowe, there being 8 present. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

\$239.78 – On hand May 1st 1913\$

\$ 8.09 – Interest

\$247.87 – Total in Bank 1913

\$326.02 – On hand May 1914

\$38.44 – Supper receipts (1914)

\$ 1.15 – Aprons

\$59.37 – Festival

\$39.95 – Election dinner receipts

\$131.91 – Total receipts taken in during year

\$ 53.76 – Total expenses

\$ 78.15 – Amount cleared during year

The bill of \$3.00 and \$1.00 for posters gotten out by the Sentinel office for 4th of July celebrations were laid on the table, and the Secretary instructed to write Mrs. Frank Conde in “regard to the matter, to ascertain if possible who was responsible for said bill”. The bill for peanuts which the Society had against the Grange was also laid on the table until we could learn how many were used. The President presented a bill for gingham which was left over until another meeting.

The election of officers followed by ballot.

Mr. A. O. Smith and Mrs. Jay Sherwood – cutters

President – Mrs. Cora Wakeman

1st Vice

2nd Vice

Secretary – Mrs. Jane Burr

Treasurer – Mrs. Lulu Smith

Meeting adjourned

Jane Burr – Secretary

June 18, 1914

The first meeting following the election of officers was held with Mrs. George Walker on Thursday p.m., June 18th. It was largely attended and some work accomplished under the supervision of the new President, Mrs. Cora Wakeman. A business meeting was held in which ? A motion was made and carried that the receipts of the Stereopticon Lecture to be given by Rev. Mr. Purdy of Valois be used to apply on the Sexton's salary which was in arrears. The Secretary was ordered to pay \$3.00 to the Free Press and Sentinel to straighten up a bill for posters and advertising the July 4th Festival in 1913. Supper was served by the 2nd division including “H to S”. The receipts of same \$3.25, of which \$1.22 was paid Clara Lowe for a bill of calico and gingham.

Meeting adjourned, Jane Burr, Sec.

Lecture receipts \$7.50

July 9, 1914

The next meeting was held with Mrs. Frank Wheeler on Thursday, p.m., July 9th. Work on aprons was the order of the afternoon. \$2.50 supper receipts, 3rd division serving.

July 23, 1914

The third meeting was appointed for July 2, at the home of Mrs. A. O. Smith. On account of a storm p.m. few attended and we adjourned. Meeting was held later on Thursday p.m. July 30 at which 23 were present.

Supper receipts of two meeting, \$1.20

Supper receipts for ice, .60

Paid in for peanuts, .67 (Mrs. W. Tunison)

July 30, 1914

\$2.25 – Mrs. Smith

\$25.00 Mrs. Miles Solovy (?)

August 13, 1914

The 4th meeting was held with Mrs. Charles Lowe, Thursday, p.m. August 13. The second division entertained.

Supper receipts, \$1.95

Sun-bonnet, .25 – Mrs. Stillman

October 22, 1914

The next meeting was held with our President Mrs. Wakeman, on Thursday, p.m., October 22nd with an attendance of over 20, including some visitors out of town. Very little work was accomplished. It was thought advisable to hold the annual election night dinner in November, and a sale of quilts, aprons, etc. in December. Supper receipts, \$2.85. Third division served, next meeting appointed at Mrs. Chas. Burr's.

October 15, 1914

The 6th meeting was held with Mrs. C. W. Burr, at which there was an attendance of over 20. Some work was done on aprons and plans made for the Election Dinner at which Mrs. Wakeman acted as chairman. The 1st Dir. Entertained

Supper receipts, \$2.85, aprons – Mrs. Wakeman, \$2.00

November 13, 1914

The Ladies Aid held their annual chicken-pie dinner, and oyster supper at the Grange Hall on Election Day. \$33.03- amount taken in for both meals. The oysters, crackers and coffee were donated, leaving expenses as follows:

\$2.00 – Hall

0.5 - ? bill

A little business was transacted during the a.m., voting to pay Mrs. Chas. Gee \$6.00 for taking care of church last year, and also to hire a sexton for coming winter. A motion was made and carried to give Ethel Ayers \$25.00 for hospital bill during her long illness of typhoid fever, and a "Sunshine Box" was also planned to send her. A motion made and carried to purchase a glass for the pulpit window in church and have the roof of church where it leaked, repaired, regardless of cost. Another motion made and carried to give a sum of money not to exceed \$100.00 for church sheds in repairing them. Adjourned.

November 19, 1914

The ladies met at Grange Hall, for an all-day meeting to tie comfortables (sp). A picnic dinner was brought, and the men who were working on the sheds were included in this part of the program. Some bills for calico, worsted yarn, cotton, etc. were presented and ordered paid as follows:

\$2.40 – dinner

.38 – paid for crackers (Mrs. Wakeman)

A motion was made and carried that as much as the Aid Society had helped pay Ethel Ayer's hospital bill, something should be given Mrs. Jay Sherwood for Alice's sickness, and \$15.00 was voted to give her. A bill for 14 lbs. of wire at 3¢ per lb. was presented by D. D. Wakeman in repairs on the sheds, and motion carried to pay this bill out of the \$100.00 voted toward those repairs.

December 17, 1914

A sale of aprons, quilts and candy was held at the church during the afternoon – weather was unfavorable so the attendance was not large. Cookies and coffee were served free of charge, and the following things sold

aprons - \$5.25

candy - \$1.60

Red Cross Seals – (\$1.50)

Quilts – Oscar Hatt - \$2.50, Annis Sherwood - \$2.00, Jeremie Allen - \$1.75

Quilting R.C. Seals – amount net. \$11.10

1915

There was a constant issue during the mid-to-later part of 1915 regarding payment of the minister's salary. I can find no explanation why the salary was in arrears or an indication that perhaps the church had financial hardship. The ladies were asked, in the summer of 1915, to help pay the minister's salary and they in turn asked for a financial report from the church. (Whether they obtained the report or not was never again mentioned) After much discussion and tabling of the topic they did decide to pay the arrears and donate election night dinner proceeds, from that time forward, to the minister's salary. The Ladies Aid Society fixed the roof leak and also repaired the roof on the inside. I'm not certain they were given credit by the church elders for the crucial role they played, but it is evident from meeting minutes that the LAS was the financial and social backbone of the church. In addition to Burr, Stillwell, Tunison and Nivison, the local names of Millspaugh and Secord appear. Rothschild's Department Store, in Ithaca is mentioned in the January minutes.

January 24, 1915

Bert Wheeler – Sexton

At one of the church socials held in February, the President called the Ladies together to discuss the question of purchasing forks and spoons to off-set those the Grange had voted to buy. A motion was made and carried to order 5 doz. of each at \$1.10 per doz. and also ½ doz. tablespoons at Rothschild's, Ithaca, where these prices had been obtained. The Grange at first voted 4 doz. of each, afterward raising it to 5 doz. of each, and ½ doz. tablespoons. A committee of Mr. and Mrs. Jared Smith and E. C. Burr was chosen to order these, which has been attended to, and bill paid.

April 17, 1915

At the Grange meeting, the President called the Ladies together to vote upon question of giving Mr. and Mrs. Niles who had resigned his position here to go to China, a donation of \$10 as a memory gift to use as they best saw fit. The motion was made and carried by a small vote (of the several members present).

May 6, 1915

The annual election of officers was held in the church on Thursday, May 6, 1915 with the President and the Chair. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's, being similar, it was omitted. This was followed by the election by ballot. Mrs. Wesley Tunison and Miss Saida Burr acting as tellers with the following result.

President – Mrs. Wesley Tunison

1st Vice – Mrs. Arthur Secord

2nd Vice – Mrs. Chas. Burr

3rd Vice – Mrs. Holmes Kirton

4th Vice – Mrs. Frank Millspaugh

Secretary – Mrs. Charles Burr

Treas. – Mrs. Arthur Smith

May 6, 1915, cont'd

A bill of \$6.00 was paid Bert Wheeler on Sexton's salary, due for the months of Feb., Mar., and April. The question of caring for the church was discussed and several of the ladies donated their services for the summer months, as had been the custom. B. Wheeler for May, S. Burr for June, Mrs. Sherwood and Smith for July and August. Our new president appointed a meeting for the following Thursday, May 13, at her home. A motion made and carried that the hostess furnish her refreshments, or choose someone to help her, this supper not to exceed 5 things, three substitutes and two extras. It was also moved and carried for anyone not feeling capable of entertaining alone should make it known to the President and someone would be appointed to help her. During the year, 6 meetings had been held at the Lewis's with an all-day meeting at the hall to tie quilts. The receipts of these with the election dinner included, amounted to:

\$50.33 - included amount in hand \$50.33

\$326.02 - amount on hand May 1st 1914

\$69.78 - total receipts for year including May 1st, 1915

\$8.51 - interest on money in bank

\$404.31

\$126.54 - total disbursements

\$277.77 - Amt. on hand May 6th, 1915

Meeting adjourned, Jane Burr, Sec.

May 13, 1915

The first meeting of the year was held with Mrs. L. H. and Mrs. Wesley Tunison on Thursday May 13, with a larger attendance (at this point in time the club's fiscal year was May to April). Our President conducted a short devotional service after which the making of cases for the new silver spoons was provided and considerable accomplished. This included cases for the Grange silver as well. The President asked the members to be considering the proposition of getting ready for a Fair or Bazaar during the year, this to be decided at the next meeting appointed at Mrs. Jared Smith's in two weeks. \$3.05 - supper receipts.

May 27, 1915

The second meeting was held with Mrs. Jared Smith, Thursday p.m., May 27, 1915. The attendance was over 30 and this included some visitors. The same work as at the previous meeting was provided. A short devotional service was conducted by our President. The supper receipts amounted to \$3.60. Another meeting was appointed at the house of Mrs. E. C. Burr to be held in 2 weeks. Meeting adjourned, Jane Burr, Sec.

June 10, 1915

The next meeting was held with Mrs. E. C. Burr. Thursday, p.m., June 10th. The attendance was over thirty. After a short devotional service our President conducted a business meeting and the following motions were carried.

1st - That the Society hold a "Fair" early in December and the work to begin immediately, upon completion of the cases for silver.

2nd - That the silver spoons and forks recently purchased by the Grange and Ladies Aid respectively be used exclusively for church and Grange purposes, this to include the Ladies Aide meeting should any of the members wish to borrow it when the entertain. Mr. Oscar Hatt and Mr. L. H. Tunison were appointed to have it in charge each time it was used. A bill of \$2.60 was presented for the purchase of outing flannel, thimbles, needles, silk ?, etc. and ordered paid. Work upon spoon and fork cases followed.

Supper receipts - \$3.65. Next meeting appointed at Mrs. H. Kirton's.

June 24, 1915

The 4th meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Holmes Kirton – a goodly number were present and worked on the silver cases was provided, there having been some new orders for some outside the Grange and L.A. Society. \$2.90 supper receipts. After refreshments, served by the hostess, a portion of scripture was read and prayer offered – The President presented the question of holding our next meeting at the church as the regular time, a picnic supper to be furnished by all – This was thought favorable and meeting appointed.

July 8, 1915

The following meeting at the church was held on the above date, being postponed one day on account of rain – It proved a very pleasant meeting, with a good attendance. Work on various things was provided – Supper receipts \$2.40 which was handed the Pres. toward a bill of \$2.54 due her for materials purchased by her. After supper, our Pres. conducted a brief devotional service followed by a business meeting – the question had arisen as to how much money the Ladies would pledge toward our minister's salary at the present time. Various things were discussed in connection with it and no final disposition made of it. So it was to be brought up again at our next meeting to be held at the church in two weeks with supper under same management. Our Pres. wishes it understood that any hostess who furnishes her own supper should fall under no obligation to pay when the collection is taken, unless she so desires, which is always possible.

Meeting adjourned, Jane Burr – Sec.

July 22, 1915

Another meeting was held at the church on July 22nd, a picnic supper being furnished. Work was furnished by our President, upon various articles of fancy work – After refreshments, our President conducted the usual devotional exercises, and some business was transacted. The question of paying toward minister's salary was again discussed but no disposition made of it, more than that a definite report of finances was asked for by our church treasurer to inquire into the financial condition as it stood.

Meeting adjourned, Jane Burr – Sec.

August 5, 1915

There being no invitation open for the next meeting, it was appointed again at the church. The attendance as good and considerable work accomplished. A nice supper was served, followed by the reading of Scriptures and a short business session. Supper receipts \$2.00

August 19, 1915

The eighth meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Covert Smith, in the afternoon as usual. Arrangement had been for a picnic supper, and about twenty responded. The afternoon was spent in a profitable manner, working on various things, and visiting, there being some visitors. The supper receipts were \$2.75, and 75¢ was paid in to the treasury for sales of some spoon and fork cases. The President declared a vacation until last of September, there being no opposition.

Meeting adjourned, Jane Burr – Sec.

September 30, 1915

A meeting was called at this time to be held in the church again – The attendance was not large but considerable work accomplished. The supper receipts were \$1.20, of which 10¢ was drawn out to pay for some embroidery floss. The next meeting was appointed at the home of Mrs. Arthur Secord, in two weeks. Jane Burr – Sec.

October 14, 1915

The Ladies Aid met with Mrs. Secord and Mrs. Chas. Burr at the home of the former, they entertained together. The attendance was large and considerable work accomplished. After refreshments, a brief business session was held to consider the proposition of helping to raise the pastor's salary which was in arrears at the present time. A motion was finally made that here after the proceeds of our Election Dinners be given toward the fund each year. This motion was carried by a unanimous vote. The next meeting was appointed at the home of Mrs. Arthur Smith, as an all-day meeting.

\$3.30 – Supper receipts

October 28, 1915

The all-day meeting at Mrs. Al Smith's was well attended, several ladies coming in for the afternoon – aprons were mostly the work provided at this meeting. The scripture reading was followed by a business discussion concerning our Election Dinner to occur on the following Tuesday. The President appointed committee to solicit and also table hostesses were chosen. The dinner to consist of chicken pie, and oyster soup served for supper. \$3.30 – Dinner receipts

November 2, 1915

The Election Dinner occurred on the above date – 10½ chicken pies were furnished and 2 gal. of oysters purchased. Mrs. Secord and Miss Burr had charge of our table and Mrs. Lowe and Mrs. Chas. Burr the other, with efficient help besides. The dinner receipts were -----, and the supper -----, making a total of \$23.79 after expenses were paid, including \$3.00 for Hall \$---- for oysters, and other small expenses. At 3p.m., a business meeting was held as had been previously announced. The matter of repairing the leak in church roof was brought up, and a motion made and carried that our roof be suitably repaired. This was followed by another motion, that a committee be appointed to consist of three people, our President to name the com. – This was carried, and Mrs. Elmer Burr, Mrs. Arthur Smith and Mrs. L. H. Tunison were named. An amendment to the above motion was that the repairs consist of both inside and outside repairs. The ladies decided by vote, to hold our Fair on Dec. 3rd, afternoon & evening and serve supper. It was suggested that it be well advertised immediately. Adjourned.

November 11, 1915

An all-day meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Howard Shriner on the above date, with a fair attendance – The dinner was furnished mostly by those who attended and being conducted as a picnic dinner. The school-children attended dinner, which swelled the financial receipts to \$2.00. Next meeting appointed at Grange Hall with Mrs. Oscar Hatt as hostess. Committee on repairs met in a special session.

November 18, 1915

The all-day meeting was held at Grange Hall with Mrs. Oscar Hatt on the above date. The attendance was good and much accomplished. Each one took something for the dinner which was a picnic dinner.

Receipts of dinner \$2.05. The Secretary was unable to attend meeting, consequently no business report.

December 3, 1915

The Ladies Aid held a sale of Fancy and Useful articles on the afternoon and evening of Friday, Dec. 3rd. The Hall was tastefully decorated with evergreens and artificial chrysanthemums, and 4 booths erected, consisting of a candy, apron, fancy works and Japanese booth. Articles were placed on sale at 2:30 p.m. continuing throughout the p.m. and evening, with great success. In fact the supply did not equal the demand. Supper was served at 5:30 in a very pleasing manner, the room having been prettily arranged for the occasion. Mrs. James Allen chose her committee of Mrs. Clara Lowe and Miss Saida Burr to assist her in the serving – escalloped oysters, salads, rolls, coffee, jellies and cake were served with a European flair.

Following were receipts of the affair.

Candy Booth – Mrs. Arthur Smith

Apron Booth – Mrs. Jared Smith

Fancy Booth – L. H. Tunison

\$2.35 -Japanese Booth – Mrs. Charles Burr

Total receipts-----

Expenses-----

1916

As committees were chosen each year I found it interesting the head of each was referred to as Chairman and not Chairwoman. Webster's describes Chairman as "the presiding officer of a meeting or an organization or committee", and Chairwoman as "a woman who acts as Chairman". It appears if you were female the words were interchangeable. I'm not sure in this day and age the title could be interchanged without some objection. Another point of interest is the ladies were nearly always referred to by their full married names, using their husband's first name as opposed to their first name. For example Mrs. D. D. Wakeman was in all likelihood Edna Wakeman. The October 26, minutes refer to Mrs. Chas. Moore, who if I am correct was Amy Moore (Marjorie Bleiler Moore's mother). A motion was passed on September 30, 1915 to give election dinner proceeds to the minister's salary fund. During the November 7, 1916 meeting the LAS did indeed give the election dinner proceeds the next Sunday to Mr. King, who apparently was the minister. Another local name appears for the first time - Swick.

January 6, 1916

The Ladies and their husbands were entertained at the house of Mrs. L. H. Tunison on Thursday, January 6, at an all-day meeting. About 40 were present to enjoy the social occasion, no work having been as yet decided upon for remainder of year. A business hour was held talking over plans, and trying to arrange for more meetings. It was thought advisable to begin work for another sale. No meetings were as yet appointed. Dinner receipts \$5.45 - Committee on repairs met again. Mrs. Hall Thorpe (?), Mrs. Arthur Secord and Mrs. Wesley Tunison played a musical program, greatly enjoyed by all.

Meeting adjourned - Mrs. Chas. Burr, Sec.

January 1916

The next meeting held was appointed at the church, consisting of a picnic dinner. Work was provided and the attendance good. The receipts of dinner were \$3.40. At the business hour the following motions were made and carried: that a bill of 75¢ be paid the Free Press and Sentinel for our bazaar notice Dec. 3rd, that we continue to hold our meetings at the church, each are to furnish for the dinner, and a meeting appointed in 2 weeks from above date. The following people pledged themselves to furnish material and work on aprons during the year, for another sale.

Mrs. Arthur Secord

Mrs. Elmer Burr

Mrs. Geo. Walker

Mrs. Arthur Smith

Mrs. Jared Smith

Miss S. Burr

Mrs. Chas. Lowe

Mrs. Wesley Tunison

Mrs. Jay Sherwood

Mrs. Fred Davis

Mrs. David Wilson

Mrs. W. Dolton

Mrs. Covert Smith

Mrs. Bert Wheeler

Mrs. Chas. Burr

Mrs. L. H. Tunison

Meeting adjourned

The question of having Miss Huff come to Searsburg to conduct a community singing school was discussed. Mrs. A.O. Smith presenting the matter – The Ladies Aid as a body voted favorable, the matter to be discussed by the Grange also. No further action taken. Mrs. Chas. Burr. Sec. The second meeting at the church was called off because of so many who couldn't attend. No further meetings have been appointed as a consequence of bad weather and sickness.

June 1, 1916

The annual election of officers was held on the above date, at the church. The President presided and called to order with a song, followed by "The Lord's Prayer" repeated in unison. There were eight present at the meeting. A motion was made and carried that the Ladies Aid pay Mr. Bert Wheeler 4 month's sexton salary due him, his having donated his services for the month of May. The question of caring for the church this summer was left for another meeting, with the understanding that Mr. Wheeler be paid another month until the matter was discussed. A bill of 56¢ due Mrs. Frank Wheeler for coffee used at our meetings was ordered paid, as was also one of 15¢ to Bert Wheeler for needles used at a social. The election of officers followed with Mrs. Jennie Allen and Mrs. Sue Wheeler appointed tellers.

President – Mrs. Arthur Secord

1st V. President – Mrs. Charles Burr

2nd V. President – Mrs. Wesley Tunison

Secretary – Mrs. Chas. Lowe

Treas. – Mrs. Arthur Smith

The Secretary's report was read and accepted: \$435.85 – Amount on hand May 1, 1915.
Treasurers report of Ladies Aid year of 1915-1916, Mrs. A.O. Smith, Treas.

June 10, 1916

The first meeting of the (fiscal) year was held at the church June 10th. Our new President Mrs. Secord opened the meeting by scripture reading followed by prayer. In a talk regarding the Christmas sale, the President suggested that a Chairman be elected or appointed for each department. Chairman to choose a committee of three to help her. Motion was made and carried that the President appoint the Chairman, which she did as follows:

Apron Dept.	Mrs. Jared Smith
Useful Articles	Mrs. D. D. Wakeman
Fancy Articles	Mrs. L. H. Tunison
Oriental Dept.	Mrs. Chas. Burr
Childrens Dept.	Mrs. Howard Shriner
Candy Dept.	Mrs. Frank Millspaugh
Refreshments	Mrs. James Allen
Coffee	Mrs. Frank Wheeler
Entertainment	Miss Saida Burr

\$1.28 was realized from picnic supper served.

June 30, 1916

The second meeting was entertained by Mrs. Charles Burr and Mrs. Arthur Secord at the home of the former. A business meeting was held, minutes of the last meeting read by Sec. and accepted. The following motions were made and carried:

1st – That each Chairman of the committees have the power to buy the necessary material for the sale.

2nd – That a 10¢ table be included in the Childrens Dept.

3rd – That the ladies be arranged in divisions for serving refreshments at the meetings.

The following bills were ordered paid. Mrs. Frank Wheeler \$1.29 for sugar and coffee. Mrs. Secord \$3.26 for material. The Treasurers report was read and accepted, she being unable to be present at the annual meeting. 60¢ rec'd. from Mrs. Secord for apron, \$4.15 supper receipts.

July 16, 1916

The 3rd meeting was held with Mrs. Lewis Hatt. Supper was furnished by Mrs. Lewis Hatt, Mrs. Geo. Hatt, Mrs. Oscar Hatt, Mrs. Charles Gee, Mrs. Holmes Kirton, and Mrs. Chas. Lowe. The work for the p.m. was sewing for the sale. Business hour was opened with a devotional service. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. Mrs. Secord gave a brief talk on criticisms. "A Word About Searsburg" composed by one of our members, was read by Mrs. Wakeman. \$4.40 supper receipts. Meeting adjourned. Mrs. Chas. Lowe, Sec.

July 27, 1916

The Ladies met with Mrs. Jared Smith. Supper served on the lawn by a committee consisting of Mrs. Jared Smith, Mrs. Frank Wheeler, Mrs. Frank Welch, Mrs. Willard Dolton, Mrs. Covert Smith, Mrs. Wilburn Horton, and Miss Nellie Clark. \$3.00 received from Supper. 40¢ for an apron sold to Miss Clark. Motion was made and carried that the proceeds of our next meeting be used to purchase 2 doz. towels and two dish pans for our society. Mrs. James Allen was appointed chairman of a committee to find what we could purchase tablecloths for. A poem composed by Mrs. L. Hatt was read by Mrs. J. W. Tunison. Clara Lowe, Sec.

August 10, 1916

The 5th meeting was at the home of Mrs. James Allen. A large number were present. The business hour was called to order by the Pres. Minutes of last meeting read and accepted. A motion was made and carried that the people coming from away to attend the Conference to be held at the Church in Sept. be entertained at the homes. Supper com. were Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Wakeman, Mr. E. C. Burr, Miss Burr, Mrs. Bramble (?) and Mrs. Auble. \$4.00 receipts.

August 24, 1916

The ladies met with Mrs. Wm. Dean. A devotional service was conducted by the President, assisted by Mrs. Wakeman. The business hour was mostly planning for the Conference. The President appointing Miss Burr Chairman of Reception Com., Mrs. J. W. Tunison Chairman of the Donation Com. Supper Comm. were Mrs. George Walker, Mrs. Wm. Dean, Mrs. Fred Davis, Mrs. Warren Barkman, Mrs. Charles Dorren (?) and Mrs. C. J. Dean. \$3.40 receipts. Clara Lowe, Sec.

September 13, 1916

The Ladies Aid Society and Sunday School, held a picnic at "Parson's Pleasant Pond".

September 21, 1916

The seventh meeting was with Mrs. Chas. Davis. Supper served by the following com. Mrs. David Wilson, Mrs. Ray Wilson, Mrs. Bert Wheeler, Mrs. Dewitt Wheeler, Mrs. L. H. Tunison, and Mrs. Jay Sherwood. \$4.75 – Receipts. 40¢ paid from Mrs. Dolton for apron. 30¢ from Mrs. Brokaw for silver cases. The business hour was conducted by Mrs. Chas. Burr, Vice Pres. The Executive Com. were asked to meet with Mrs. Secord the following Tues eve. The matter of repairing Church sheds was brought up, but left to be discussed later. Meeting adjourned.

October 5, 1916

The Society met with Mrs. Chas. Spaulding. Supper Committee were Mrs. Spaulding, Mrs. C. Burr, Mrs. Albert Smith, Mrs. Pierson, Mrs. Messer, and Mrs. Peck. Receipts \$3.25. The work was making towels for the Society, material which Mrs. Secord purchased 15 yds. @ 15¢ per yard. Mrs. Allen gave her report on table cloths. She having samples. A motion was made and carried that cloths for 2 tables be purchased. An expression of the ladies was taken as to buying linen or mercerized, was in favor of the later. Plans were discussed for our Election dinner. A motion was made and carried that the President appoint a Chairman for that day, also a soliciting com. and table committee.

October 19, 1916

An all day meeting was held at the house of Mrs. Chas. Lowe. Dinner com. were Mrs. Howard Shriner, Mrs. Arthur Shriner, Mrs. J. W. Tunison, Mrs. J. G. Stillwell and Mrs. A. O. Smith. Receipts, \$2.90. Sec. and Treas. Reports were read and accepted. Mrs. Geo. Walker was elected by ballot, as chairman for the Election dinner. The Pres. Appointing Mrs. J. W. Tunison and Mrs. A. Lowe table committee. A motion was made and carried that 50 cts. be paid Mrs. D.D. Wakeman for 500 paper napkins. During a discussion of the floor cover for the church a motion was made and carried that the old carpet be used. Meeting adj., Clara Lowe, Sec.

October 26, 1916

The 10th meeting was with Mrs. D. D. Wakeman. Dinner Committee Mrs. Arthur Secord, Mrs. Frank Millsbaugh, Mrs. Chas. Moore, Mrs. Swick, Mrs. Kirman (?) and Mrs. Near. \$3.26 Dinner Receipts. 75¢ Rec'd from Miss Brandman for 2 aprons. 79¢ Rec'd from Miss Burnet for baby's coat. The following bills were presented and ordered paid. \$10.10 to E. C. Burr for lumber for repairing church. \$9.75 to Albert Smith for work on church. A motion was made and carried that we sell our papers and magazines to Ithaca, paying Mr. Wakeman for taking them. A vote was taken that we divide our Refreshment Com. in 4 divisions for the Winter Meetings.

November 7, 1916

The Society served their annual Election dinner and supper. Total receipts were \$41.33. Expenses paid \$9.59, leaving a \$31.74 balance which was paid Mr. King the following Sunday. A business meeting was held in the P.M. A motion was made and carried that \$1.00 be paid Mr. Wakeman, with sincere thanks from our Society for taking the papers and magazines to Ithaca. \$6.35 being received for same.

November 23, 1916

A meeting was held with Mrs. Bert Wheeler. A picnic dinner was served. \$2.00 Rec'd from dinner. 64¢ from Mrs. Sherwood for 2 dresses. Reports of the Sec. and Treas. were read and accepted. The Treas. Stating that \$1.50 had been paid Mr. Creque on acct. for work on Church. It was voted to hold the Christmas Sale on Sat. P.M. evening, Dec. 9, 1916.

December 9, 1916

The Christmas Sale was held in Mr. Hatt's hall. Supper served in the evening. Mrs. Jas. Allen Chairman of com. for supper. A musical entertainment was given. The Instrumental music by Mr. and Mrs. Snyder and Mrs. Thayer. Vocal music by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Shriner, Miss Cronk and Mrs. Secord. Following are the receipts.

<i>Booths</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Fancy</i>	\$33.15	\$2.33	\$30.82
<i>Useful</i>	31.05	1.80	29.25
<i>Childrens</i>	20.30	3.90	16.40
<i>Japanese</i>	24.98	11.11	13.87
<i>Supper</i>	29.25	8.71	20.54
<i>Fish Pond</i>	5.46		5.46
<i>Candy</i>	5.60		5.68
<i>Hall & Adv.</i>		<u>3.50</u>	<u>3.50</u>
<i>Total</i>	\$149.79	\$31.20	\$118.59

\$118.59 – Total amount cleared.

**Book of Records – Property of the Ladies Aid Society of the Searsburg Christian Church
1917, 1918, 1919**

1917

Miss Nellie Clark was buried in January 1917 and it appears the ladies called a special meeting to pay for her burial. March 1917 is the first mention in the minutes of the LAS doing work for the Red Cross and actually forming a “Branch of the Schuyler Co. Chapter”. By the April meeting they were trying to figure out just what kind of work they could do to benefit the Red Cross. In June the Ladies decided to buy a \$50 Liberty Bond. In the November minutes it is noted the Rev. A. V. King was paid his salary from the Election Dinner proceeds. The decision to pay the minister’s salary from the dinner proceeds was passed on September 30, 1915. The Society also hired a Janitor for the Church at \$2.00 per month. The local name of Rumsey appears for the first time in the January minutes.

January 11, 1917

A special business meeting was held at the church. The following bills were ordered paid, \$5.00 to Mr. Rumsey for burial of Miss Nellie Clark. \$1.47 to Mrs. L. H. Tunison for lamp globes.

January 18, 1917

An all day meeting was at the home of Mrs. L. H. Tunison proceeds from the “Picnic” dinner \$2.75. In the P.M. a business hour was called by the Pres. A motion was made and carried that the Christmas Sale become an annual affair. Mrs. Tunison gave a report of Mr. Ceque’s work on church, the amount to be paid him for material and labor \$367.64. Meeting adjourned, Clara Lowe, Sec.

March 2, 1917

An all day meeting was at the home of Mrs. Jared Smith. An informal business meeting was held in the P.M. at which time plans were made for an old fashioned social to be held March 18 for the benefit of the church. Also plans for making two quilts. Mrs. Jas Allen was appointed chairman of the “necktie” quilt. Mrs. L. H. Tunison for the “ribbon” quilt. 83¢ handed in for articles sold. \$3.05 Dinner receipts.

March 30, 1917

The Society met with Mrs. J. A Secord for an all day meeting. Proceeds from the picnic dinner \$3.08. A business meeting was called in the P.M. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. A motion made and carried that each member send 10 cards to their friends asking them to send a “parcel post” package for our sale. Mr. E. C. Burr was chosen chairman. Moved and carried that the Society purchase \$18 worth of silver polish to sell. The question of doing Red Cross work was brought up but left for discussion at the next meeting.

April 19, 1917

A meeting was held at the church with a very small attendance. No refreshments served. The subject of Red Cross work was discussed, moved and carried that we identify ourselves with the work in some way. No further business called, the meeting was adjourned.

May 3, 1917

The annual election of officers was held at the Church. There were eleven ladies present. The meeting was called to order by the President. The reports of t both the Sec. and Treas. were read and accepted. It was moved and carried that a bill of \$12 be paid Mr. Bert Wheeler for janitor work. The election followed with Mrs. Secord acting as chairman. Mrs. Jennie Allen and Saida Burr as tellers.

President – Mrs. J. Arthur Secord

1st Vice – Mrs. Chas. Burr

2nd Vice – Mrs. J. W. Tunison

Secretary – Mrs. Charles Lowe

Treasurer – Miss Saida Burr

(It is noted that the 1st and 2nd VP's were not elected, but appointed, by the President)

Treasurer's report for 1916

\$346.47 – Amt. on hand May 1st 1915

\$ 55.52 – Supper

\$ 11.06 – Sales

\$ 41.33 – Election Dinner

\$ 118.24 - Fair

\$572.62

Paid

\$360.10 – Church repairs

\$ 31.74 – Rev. A. V. King

\$ 8.00 – Janitor

\$ 9.59 – Election Dinner expense

\$ 26.12 – Supplies, etc.

\$ 34.91 – Articles for Fair

\$456.46

May 17, 1917

The 1st meeting of the year occurred at the Church. A picnic supper was served from which \$1.20 was rec'd. Mrs. Secord gave a fine description of the Red Cross work. It was moved and carried that a subscription fund be raised to buy material for Comfort Bags, or as many of the ladies make and furnish a bag, who could. Mrs. L. H. Tunison was chosen chairman, Mrs. Jas Allen Sec. and Treas. It was moved and carried that we continue our picnic suppers throughout the summer, the menu to consist of three things. The Executive com. with Mrs. J. Tunison, Chairman, was appointed to look after places for meetings. 35¢ rec'd from Mrs. Sherwood for blanket. Meeting adj., Clara Lowe, Sec.

June 14, 1917

The Society met with Mrs. L. H. and Mrs. J. W. Tunison. The supper receipts \$2.10. A bill of 10¢ was ordered paid for thread. 50¢ Rec'd for rest of ice cream freezers. 50¢ Rec.'d from Mrs. Wakeman acct. of last year. The following 4 motions were made and carried. 1. That we received a motion made and carried at our last meeting of the Society taking up Red Cross works as a "Branch of the Schuyler Co. Chapter" was organized in Searsburg, Mar 26th. 2nd that each chairman be given \$5.00 for

expenditures to be used in their booths for the Christmas Sale. The following chairman having been appointed.

Mr. L. H. Tunison – Fancy work

Mrs. Geo. Walker – Children's Dept.

Mr. D. D. Wakeman – Useful Articles

Mrs. Bert Wheeler – Apron Dept.

Mrs. James Allen – Oriental

Gladys Spaulding – Candy

Mrs. Holmes Kirtan – Supper

3rd That L.A. S. buy a Liberty Bond @ \$50. 4th That we buy 1 doz. lead pencils of the children.

\$6.35 Rec.'d from Social held at the Church June 22, 1917. Supplies 57¢

\$5.78 Amt cleared from social.

60¢ Rec.'d from Mrs. Sherwood for apron, June 26th, 1917.

July 12, 1917

We met with Mrs. J. A. Secord \$3.40 Supper receipts. The following bills were presented and voted be paid \$1.00 to Mrs. J. W. Tunison for 10 yds apron gingham. 57 cts. to Mrs. Holmes Kirtan for supplies brought for the social June 22nd it having been voted to hold an ice cream festival on the Church lawn Friday eve. July 20th, the committees were appointed at this meeting. Meeting adj. Clara Lowe, Sec.

August 9, 1917

The Ladies Aid met with Mrs. Bert Wheeler. The p.m. was spent in sewing for the Society. The Pres. Or vice presidents not being present no business hour was held. The picnic supper added \$1.90 to our treasury.

August 23, 1917

A meeting was held with Mrs. Dewitt Wheeler. A bill of 25 cts. for laundering towels was ordered paid to Mrs. Messenger. No other business came before the meeting. \$2.00 Received from supper.

September 28, 1917

The Society held a meeting with Mrs. Elmer Burr. \$2.25 was taken for the supper. .60 for apron sold. \$5.00 was paid to Jeannie Allen for supplies for the Oriental Booth. 25 cts. Paid Mrs. Allen for the laundering of the table cloths.

October 21, 1917

The eighth meeting was at the home of Mrs. Frank Wheeler. A business hour was held. The following bills were ordered paid. Mrs. Tunison \$3.00. Mrs. Wakeman \$1.89 for materials to be used for the sale. The subject of our Annual Election Dinner and Supper was brought up a motion was made and carried that Mrs. Chas. Burr act as Chairman. Mrs. Chas. Lowe Assistant Chairman. \$2.15 Rec.'d from our picnic supper.

October 25, 1917

The 9th meeting was at the home of Mrs. Charles Lowe. The p.m. was spent in working on aprons. \$2.10 was added to our treasury for our picnic supper. 5¢ paid to Mrs. Lowe for thread. 35¢ rec.'d from Mrs. Allen for apron.

November 6, 1917

The Ladies Aid Society served their Annual Election dinner and supper with Mrs. Chas. Burr chairman, Mrs. Chas Lowe assistant. Mr. D. D. Wakeman and Mrs. J. A. Secord having charge of the two tables. \$30.00 was taken in. The expenses were as follows, \$3.00 rent of hall. \$2.20 for oysters. \$1.30 for crackers. 50¢ for coffee, 30 cts for sugar. 50 cts for washing dishes, 5¢ for soap. Making a total of \$7.85. Leaving \$22.15 balance cleared. \$22.00 was paid Rev. A. V. King, Nov. 11, 1919.

It was voted to hold our Christmas sale Dec. 7 – 1917. At a meeting held in the Red Cross Room Nov. 15th.

November 22, 1917

A meeting was held with Mrs. Jay Sherwood. \$1.50 received from collection at this meeting.

December 5, 1917

The Ladies met at the Church. The following money was handed in. 35¢ from Mrs. Wakeman on old acct. 41¢ from Mrs. Secord. \$3.00 from sale of Silver Polish. The following bills were presented and ordered paid, \$3.00 to Mrs. Wakeman for supplies. 96 cts. To Mrs. J. Allen for supplies (for sale). \$1.50 for flowers the L. A. S. gave for Mrs. Balls funeral. It was voted that the Society hire Albert Wheeler for Janitor of the Church at \$2.00 per month, to begin with Nov.

The Annual Christmas Sale was held in the Hall, Friday p.m. and evening Dec. 7, 1917 Tea and saltines were served in the p.m. Mrs. Secord and Mrs. Colm Tunison presiding at the table. \$1.14 taken in. 54¢ expenses 60¢ was cleared. The following pages give the results of the different booths.

	Receipts	Expenses	Total
Candy -	\$ 1.65		\$ 1.65
Parcel Post -	\$ 9.80	\$ 1.15	\$ 8.65
Fancy -	\$22.00	\$ 8.25	\$13.75
Useful -	\$29.30	\$11.50	\$17.80
Oriental -	\$10.05	\$ 5.96	\$ 4.09
Baby -	\$ 5.30	\$ 5.00	.30
Supper -	\$16.60	\$15.10 (rent etc)	\$ 1.50
Pm. Tea	<u>\$ 1.14</u>	<u>.54</u>	<u>.60</u>
	\$95.84	\$47.50	\$48.34

\$48.34 Total amt cleared from sale, December 7, 1917

1918

The March 1918 meeting had the ladies buying a sewing machine and asking to pass a motion that all meetings be held on the 2nd Friday of the month. The Society was taking an increased interest in the Red Cross after deciding in April 1917 to “*identify ourselves with the work in some way*”. They decided to use the interest from the Liberty Bond to buy War Savings Stamps, and also worked on a quilt to send to the Belgium Relief (Herbert Hoover’s humanitarian relief effort “that literally saved millions of people, a whole nation -- a whole culture -- from extinction” in World War I Belgium). I found references again to the “Red Cross Room”, with no explanation regarding where the room was located. I assume it was either in the Church or Grange, as the room is obviously available to the Ladies whenever they need it. In November of 1918 the ladies voted for the first time. It struck me that the LAS had been the backbone of the Church, Grange, and war effort, yet were not allowed to vote. I’m sure it was immensely satisfying for those women to participate in deciding the fate of the nation at the polls. Sixteen ladies attended the December meeting to tie five quilts. All ladies brought their own lunch and also their own wood to burn. The local name of Boyer appears for the first time in October, 1918.

March 27, 1918

The ladies held a business meeting at the Church. Receipts \$1.50. It was voted at this meeting that our society buy a sewing machine. That the Pres. appoint three ladies to act with her in selecting and purchasing a machine. It was moved and carried that we hold our meetings the 2nd Friday of each month, and serve picnic supper. It was decided that our work for another year be for an apron sale to be held at Easter time instead of our Christmas Sale. Mrs. E. C. Burr having invited us to meet with her a motion was made and carried that we tie a quilt (already pieced) and send to the Belgium’s, Mrs. Burr kindly donating the lining. It was also moved and carried that we give the Red Cross \$5.00 of our (?) A bill of \$4.13 was ordered paid. Meeting adjourned, Clara Lowe, Sec.

April 12, 1918

Meeting at Mrs. Elmer Burr’s. 80¢ Supper receipts. 67cts. was paid for cotton for quilt which was tied at this meeting to send to the Belgium people.

May 17, 1918

The annual business meeting and election of officers was held at the Church. Seven ladies present. The Pres. or Vice Pres. Not being present. The meeting was called to order by the Sec. she appointing Mrs. Jas. Allen Chairman. The reports of both Sec. and Treas. were read and accepted. The election followed. Mrs. Chas. Burr elected Pres. Mrs. Chas. Lowe Secretary. Miss Said Burr Treasurer. It was noted to apply interest of Liberty Bond on War Savings Stamps. Meeting adjourned, Clara Lowe, Sec.

\$102.43 Amount on hand Mary 1917

\$210.35 Receipts during year 1917

\$312.78 Local receipts

\$168.74 Disbursements

\$144.04 Balance on hand May 1918

This includes the \$50.00 Liberty Bond

June 19, 1918

A special business meeting of the Ladies Aid Society was held at the Red Cross meeting June 19th, to elect a President. Mrs. Chas. Burr, not accepting the office of President at our annual business meeting. Mrs. James Allen was elected Pres. at this meeting she to choose her Vice President. It was voted at this meeting to use our towels for Red Cross entertainments, if needed. It was moved to rescind a notion made Mar. 27th that we have an Apron Sale at Easter time, as our work for the year will be for Red Cross and Belgium Relief. The following were chosen to care for Church during the warm months.

July Saida Burr & Louise Tunison

Sept. Georgia Secord & Cora Wakeman

Oct. Jane Burr & Stella Shriner

Meeting Adj. Clara Lowe, Sec.

July 12, 1918

A meeting was held with Mrs. Jared Smith, 10 ladies were present. \$1.65 received from picnic supper. A motion was made & carried that we pay the balance on Sewing Machine.

August 9, 1918

The Society met with our President Mrs. Allen. \$2.75 Supper receipts. The ladies voted to clean Church the following week. It was also noted to meet in two weeks, at the Red Cross Room.

Receipts

50¢	Baby Booth
\$1.00	Coupons Liberty Bond (Interest)
\$10.08	From Red Cross to apply on Sewing Machine
8¢	Oriental Booth
\$1.20	Mrs. Wakeman 2 aprons
10¢	Brown Bag
15¢	Curtain Slip
\$1.30	Interest from Bank to July 1, 1918

August 23, 1918

We met in Red Cross Room \$1.35 Received from picnic supper. Work fro the P.M. was quilts for the Belgium Relief. It was voted that we pay \$22.92 for the Singer Sewing Machine purchase of Mr. Robinson, together with the \$10.08 rec'd from Red Cross, making a total of \$33.00 for machine. A motion was made and carried, that in case the Sec. doesn't appoint anyone to act in her absence at a meeting, for the President to do so. A bill of \$67.94 having been present by Mr. Creque (for work on church, two years ago) was investigated, and found to be a mistake made by Mr. Creque himself. As we owe him \$17.64 which will be paid him immediately.

Disbursements

War Savings Stamp \$4.18 June 3

Thread 24¢ Aug 20

September 6, 1918

The fourth meeting of the year was held in the Red Cross Room. 12 ladies were present. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. It was moved and carried that our Annual Election Dinner and Supper be held at the Red Cross Room. A notion was made and carried that we buy a lining for quilt. Mr. Wakeman was chosen to do the purchasing. As we are very anxious to rush work on the quilts, it was decided to meet again in two weeks at the same place. \$1.60 Supper receipts.

September 20, 1918

A meeting was in the Red Cross Room. The business hour was called to order by the Pres. Minutes of last meeting were read by Sec. & approved. No further business came before the meeting. \$1.40 was added to our Treasury.

October 4, 1918

We held a meeting at Red Cross Room. In the absence of the Pres. the business hour was conducted by Mrs. A. S. Wheeler, during this hour the subject was taken up in regard to one of our members, Mrs. Boyer, having illness in her family, during the late summer, as we did not assist her in any way at that time, it was decided to help her now, by repairing two of her rooms, the amount for material and labor not to exceed \$15. A motion was made and carried to this effect. \$1.20 was added to our Treasury from this meeting. 30¢ was paid for 6 spools of thread. Meeting adjourned.

October 25, 1918

Our seventh meeting was held. The business hour was opened by our Pres. Plans were made for the Election Dinner & Supper. The following committees were appointed.

Booth Committee

Mrs. George Walker, Mrs. Jay Sherwood, Mrs. Jared Smith, Mrs. Warren Pierson, Mrs. David Wilson, Mrs. L. H. Tunison, Mrs. E. C. Burr, Mrs. Dewitt Wheeler, Mrs. D. D. Wakeman, Mrs. Arthur Secord.

Overseers

Mrs. Holmes Kirtan, Mrs. James Allen

Committee on tickets

Mrs. Chas. Burr, Mrs. Chas. Lowe

Committee for coffee

Mrs. F. Wheeler

Soliciting Com.

Mrs. Sherwood, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. D. Wheeler, Mrs. C. Burr, & Mrs. Chas. Lowe, Mrs. Jared Smith

A vote was taken in favor of serving oysters for supper. The dinner & supper to be served in Cafeteria plan, our menu to consist of the following:

Dinner – Scalloped potatoes 5¢, Baked beans 5¢, Macaroni & cheese 10¢, Salad or pickles 5¢, Bread & butter cheese sandwiches 5¢, Pie 5¢, Coffee 5¢, Supper oysters 25¢, Jelly & pickles 5¢, Cookies & coffee 5¢, Potato salad 5¢, \$2.00 was received from this meeting.

November 5, 1918

The Annual Election Dinner and Supper was served by the Ladies of our Society, after voting at the Polls for the first time. The expenses were as follows. 3 gal oysters & 7.00 – 5 lbs cheese \$1.70, 5 lbs crackers 90 cts., 4 lbs sugar 44 cts., 1 lb coffee 35 cts., total \$10.39. \$36.99 receipts. Making the total amount cleared \$26.60, which was paid to Mr. King to apply on his salary.

November 20, 1918

A business meeting was held in connection with the Red Cross. The Secretary's report of the Election Dinner was read and approved. The Pres. thanking all who so willingly assisted her that day. The question of repairing the church shed was again brought up, Mrs. Allen was elected Chairman of the committee (she to select her committee) to see the sheds were repaired immediately. Mrs. J. W. Tunison was appointed to hire a Janitor for the Church during the cold weather at \$2 per month. Mrs. Allen was chosen to buy the cotton for the quilts we are to send to the Belgium Relief. Meeting adjourned, Clara Lowe, Sec.

December 13, 1918

The Ladies met at Bruce's Hall to tie our quilts. 5 were tied. Each lady bringing her own lunch and wood to burn. Our collection was \$1.10. 16 ladies present.

December 18, 1918

9 ladies met again at the Hall. 2 quilts were tied. A motion was made and carried that we send 6 quilts to Belgium, and that we sell 4 at \$2.50 each to pay for the cotton. A bill of \$3.00 for flowers, for Raymond Gee's funeral was presented and ordered paid. 70¢ collected.

Treasurer Received

\$1.94 Interest

\$2.35 from Belle Walker

.25 for silver polish from Belle Walker

.77 May 7 for sale of quilt

\$1.45 for silver polish from Mrs. Wheeler

1919

In September the Ladies Aid Society bought a Chickering Piano for the Church. Chickering was an American piano manufacturer known for producing award-winning instruments of superb quality and design. The Chickering name continues to be applied to new pianos today, as a brand name of Baldwin Piano.

January 17,-1919

A meeting was held with Mrs. Allen both afternoon and evening. Work at this meeting was to finish the quilts which was nearly accomplished. Supper was served from which \$4.00 was received.

April 25, 1919

A Social was held at the Church. Mrs. Chas. Burr having charge of the entertainment. \$6.50 was received from picnic supper served. Paid Mrs. Wheeler 40¢ for coffee and milk. Making \$6.10 total amount cleared.

Treasurer paid

Mrs. J. L. Stowe \$11.00 for flowers

J.J. Kellogg \$58.52 for material and labor for shed roof

May 7 A. Sherwood \$12.00 for Janitor from Dec. 1st 1918 to June 1st 1919

May 7 Edna Sherwood fro picking up the shingles 50¢

May 7, 1919

The Annual Business meeting and Election of officers was held at the Red Cross Room. The meeting was opened by the Pres. Mrs. Allen, she reading from 1st Psalm followed by prayer. The reports of both Sec. and Treas., were read and accepted. It was voted to pay Mrs. A. Sherwood \$12.00 for Janitor of the church from Dec. 1st 1918 to June 1st 1919. 50¢ for picking up shingles. A motion was made and carried that repairing the sheds be completed that the 3 Pres. act as committee for the work, and if necessary borrow the funds for same. It was voted to have the annual Christmas Sale which was disbanded with last year owing to War conditions. The custom of our Society sending flowers for funerals was voted to be discontinued. It was decided to elect 3 Presidents at a time. The following were elected: Jennie Allen, Georgia Secord, and Louise Tunison. Sec. Clara Lowe, Treas. Saida Burr. The following volunteered to care for the Church during the warm months. June – Mrs. Walker & Mrs. Wilson. July – Saida Burr & Louise Tunison. Sept. Susan Wheeler & Clara Lowe. Oct. – Mrs. Smith & Mrs. Kirtan. At the close of the meeting we enjoyed the picnic supper from which we received \$2.05. Clara Lowe Sec.

Received from sale of quilts \$10.27

Paid for Cotton, Ball Cotton, Dye & Pins \$9.10

Laundry Tablecloths 40¢

Treas. Report

\$14.18 – In Bank

\$50.00 - Bond

\$ 5.00 – W.W.S.

\$69.18 – Amt. on hand May 1-1919

September 4, 1919

The 2nd meeting of the year occurred. 9 ladies were present. The resignation of Mrs. Secord was read and accepted. Mr. Holmes Kirtan was elected to fulfill the vacancy. The plan of having a Musicale in the near future was very favorably talked of. 90¢ was added to our treasury from this meeting. 47¢ was paid Mrs. J. W. Tunison for thread.

September 16, 1919

A meeting was held \$1.10 was received from picnic supper. No special business came before this meeting, except voting to send for 2 doz. boxes of "Forkola" to sell, for which we are to receive 20¢ per box.

September 24, 1919

A special meeting was called for the purpose of talking the matter over of purchasing a Piano for the Church. 8 ladies were present. Mr. Miller of Interlaken having offered a second hand "Chickering" piano for \$100.00. It was voted to purchase it, at once.

October 2, 1919

A meeting was held with a very small attendance but a large amount of work was accomplished. \$1.15 was received at this time.

October 10, 1919

A Musicale was held at the Church. \$28.88 received. \$1.00 paid Mrs. F. Wheeler for coffee and oil. Paid Mr. J. W. Tunison 30¢ for sugar, 40¢ for paper napkins.

Oct. The Ladies Aid Society borrowed \$100 (to pay Mr. Miller) for piano of First National Bank of Trumansburg giving a note for 6 months, with interest.

October 16, 1919

Regular meeting of the L.A. S. The question of the Election dinner and supper was discussed. Motion made and carried that we have a chicken pie dinner at 50cts each. Motion made and carried that the Executive Com. as committee for the plans for that day. It was decided to have a Halloween event at the Church. Anna Wheeler Chairman of the Event Committee. A silver offering to be taken. \$1.95 Received from this meeting.

October 30, 1919

At this meeting a motion was made and carried to rescind the motion made at previous meeting in regard to price for the dinner. It was voted at this time to charge 35¢ for dinner, 25¢ for supper. The menu is to consist of Chicken pie, potatoes, bread & butter, beans, salad, pickles. Pie, cake and coffee, escalloped salmon for supper. A motion was made & carried that we apply receipts from Musicale, and Liberty Bond on debt for sheds, also that a subscription paper be circulated to raise funds to apply on same debt. It was moved and carried that we hire Annis Sherwood to care for church at \$8 per mo. It was decided to hold all day meetings during the short days, place of meeting to be announced later.

\$1.15 - from supper

.75- Rec.d from silver polish

\$1.55 - Rec'd. Mrs. Wakeman on old acct.

The sum of \$1.81 & \$1.70 was paid Mrs. J. W. Tunison for material

\$6.74 - Rec.d from Halloween Social, Oct. 31

Paid 55¢ for coffee, 30¢ Anna Wheeler for decorations, leaving \$5.89 cleared \$3.50 from Howard Shriner for old boards from sheds, Oct. 31st

\$12.00 from Subscription Funds for Shed, Nov. 14th

November 4, 1919

The Annual Election Dinner and Supper was held in Bruce's Hall. From dinner rec'd \$25.10, from supper \$13.30 making total receipts \$38.40. Expenses were \$3.00 to Frank Wheeler for coffee, tea, sugar, bread and butter. 5¢ for Boraxine (sp) making total expenses \$6.05 leaving \$32.35 clear.

November 10th paid J.J. Kellogg \$49.11

November 10th Paid Rev. A. V. King \$32.00

January 20 Paid J. J. Kellogg balance on shed \$50

November 13, 1919

We met for our first all day meeting at Red Cross Rooms. 12 ladies present. The business hour was conducted by Mrs. Kirtan. It was voted to have a Parcel Post table at our sale, also an entertainment to be given that evening. It was also voted at this time to order 3 doz. boxes of Forkola to sell on a commission. \$1.45 Rec.'d from our Picnic Dinner. 55¢ paid Louise Tunison for lace. Paid 25¢ for laundry, Clara Lowe, Sec.

November 20, 1919

An all day meeting was held at Red Cross Room, 9 ladies present. During the business hour it was voted to hold our Christmas Sale December 12th, in Bruce's Hall. Supper to be planned at our next meeting. The following bills were ordered paid \$3.30 for gingham and percale. \$2.46 for percale and (?), \$1.55 for Ribbon and net. .60 cts for lace and braid.

\$7.20 Received from sale of Forkola Jell. .50 from Silver Polish. \$1.10 from Picnic dinner served at noon. Clara Lowe, Sec.

December 4, 1919

A meeting was held to complete the work for the sale. Dinner was served from which \$1.20 was received. .25 Received from Mrs. Secord for silver polish. Mrs. Frank Wheeler kindly opened her home to tie off a comforter. No special business came before this meeting. Paid – Lace 25¢, dye 10¢, yarn 35¢, thread 12¢, cotton .96 cts.

Notes and figures compiled by Charlotte Wright Mosher – April 2005

*Book of Records – Property of the Ladies Aid Society of the Searsburg Christian Church
March 30 & 31, 1899 – Church Bazaar*

Proceeds:

\$61.57 – Snow Ball and Refreshment Fund

\$49.90 – Useful (?)

\$47.18 – Fancy

\$38.25 – Entertainment

\$124.50 – Advertising

\$1.00 – Sale of Lumber

\$322.40

Expenses:

\$10.00 – House

\$4.50 – Lumber

\$7.90 – Oysters

\$22.40

\$300.00 Net – Motion carried, \$300.00, to be placed in hands of Treasurer – Mr. J. Smith, subject to disposal of same for building and repair purposes

I came across another reference to this same \$300.00 in a flyer commemorating the church's 150th anniversary. Saida Burr had written the "Old History" of the church and specifically about repairs to the Searsburg Church due to this money (the current Searsburg Burr family are direct descendents of Saida).

Saida writes:

"A bazaar was held in '99 in what was then the Grange Hall and \$300.00 was raised. The interior of the church was entirely remodeled. The two sheet iron stoves at either side of front entrance were replaced by the present stove. The white painted pews with straight backs topped by a roll of walnut wood and green rep cushions were replaced by the chairs, new pulpit furniture was bought, the floor was carpeted and nine feet of alcove was built at the north end of church opening into the main church, with three arches. Much of this was the plan and accomplishment of the Ladies Aid which is still the strong prop of the church foundation."

Additionally Saida states that information about the Church's first fifty five years is "meager". She does however speak about her grandmother's memories of that time and writes the following: "I have a mental picture of those early years for my grandmother was born in that year of beginning, 1817 and I asked her many times to tell of her childhood impressions. The country around about was more thickly settled than now with many log houses dotted about the farms, not necessarily on roads but in fields and sheltered corners of the woods which covered many acres. The names of the first pastors are interesting; there were probably many that were never remembered. These are the

earliest recorded: (1817-1872) Ezra Chase, Ezra Marvin, Seth Marvin, Stephen Lampheer, Cowen Royce, Jabez Chadwick, Wm. Grime, J. Price, P.O Alderma, and George Taney. In 1872 J. P. Topping moved here with his family and lived in a house south of Charles Moore and preached until 1876. About that time W. O. Cushing lived in the community. He had married a Searsburg girl and preached over a long period of years whenever the church was lacking a pastor”.

Searsburg Church was formed in 1817. I have conflicting information regarding the actual date the building was finished and ready for use, one source states 1829/1830, and another 1839. Church history tells that in the 1880's there was an active Sunday School and a robust Ladies Aide Society. The church flourished all through the 1880's; the first organ was bought in 1881 for \$125.00, and land was purchased to build a parsonage just south of the Searsburg Grange Hall. Records indicate it was occupied by just one pastor and for only a short time.

Between 1910 and 1921 the church conducted afternoon services and shared pastors with the Trumansburg and Perry City churches. In 1912 the church received a new coat of paint, cement steps and front awning. In 1918 Saida tells that *“a hardwood floor was put in, new windows and doors and the entire woodwork was changed and new. The last semblance of the three arches disappeared”*. By 1926 the church secured a full time pastor and returned to morning worship services.

A church flyer tells of a 101 year celebration on July 7, 1940 in the old church that was built in 1839. Electric lights were installed in 1946; in 1954 a new floor furnace replaced the old stoves. In the spring of 1959 the church burned (I have a very hazy childhood memory of watching that church burn from our kitchen window). During the rebuilding of the church, services were held in the Searsburg Grange Hall. The present day church building was completed and ready for Christmas in December of 1959. Approximately 200 people attended a 1961 dedication of the new structure. The celebration service was delivered by a cross section of Trumansburg ministers.