

How Do We Know?

Getting a good fix on who the early founders were is not too difficult. It is well established that the organizational meeting of September 10, 1880 was the spark that founded the parish. There are three accounts of that September 10th session in the records plus some notes in Amory's diary. The most authentic however, is a set of notes handwritten on the back of a small envelop listing the attendees -- that survives in the church files today, a remarkable accomplishment. Viz:

<i>Stevens Hall - Sept. 10th 1880 -</i>	Stevens Hall Sept 10 th 1880
<i>James B. Curwen</i>	James B Curwen
<i>James H. Davis</i>	James H Davis
<i>Hon H. K. Oliver</i>	Hon H K Oliver
<i>Mrs. J. Dale Jr.</i>	Wm J Dale Jr.
<i>Thomas Carter</i>	Thomas Carter
<i>Colby</i>	--- Colby
<i>Cunningham</i>	--- Cunningham
<i>Shepard</i>	--- Shepard
<i>Shepard</i>	--- Shepard
<i>Butterworth</i>	--- Butterworth
<i>Miss Mary Oliver</i>	Miss Mary Oliver
<i>Mrs James H. Davis</i>	Mrs James H Davis
<i>Miss Shepard organist</i>	Miss Shepard organist
<i>Rev Wm. Lawrence</i>	Rev Wm Lawrence
<i>Rev. A. Amory</i>	Rev A Amory
<i>Orin Spofford Janitor</i>	Orin Spofford Janitor

These for the most part are the saints that have been described previously. The other saints bubble up in the vestry and other records that describe their accomplishments. Remarkably preserved, all the vestry, executive committee, and annual meeting records from 1880 survive today.

There are a couple notable exceptions on the list above:

The Honorable Mr. H K Oliver was a Salem citizen of some renown and probably gave his stature to William Lawrence and Augustine Amory's venture. Oliver, a long time Episcopalian, was an Adjutant General in the Mexican War, the former resident agent of the Atlantic Cotton Mills on their founding (1848), the former mayor of Lawrence (1858), the first Chief of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (1869), and the then current mayor of Salem MA. He shortly developed heart trouble and lived out a quiet existence in Salem. His daughter Miss Mary Oliver was the companion to her aging father for the evening. They were probably summer residents of the Andover area.

Mr Colby is most likely Edmund S Colby born 1854 in Maine, a machinist who likely came to North Andover for work. He is married to Annie F Colby also from Maine. While he attended the founding meeting and is remember in Amory's recap to the Executive Committee, he appears in none of the church records. It would appear that the new church did not make an impression on the Colbys and they went elsewhere

Mr Butterworth is probably Edward Butterworth, age 43, a machinist living in the machine shop village area; with his wife Hannah age 39, both from England. In 1890 a William Butterworth age 19 is buried from the church—possibly a son. Mr Butterworth attended the organizing meeting for the mission but never joined and does not appear in any of the records. If the Butterworth family stayed with the church, it is not obvious.

Mr Spofford was the janitor. He did not join the church.

In his recap to the Executive Committee some 4 months later, Amory states that J D W French was at the meeting as well, but his name is omitted from the listing. One would guess that there is a good chance that he was there.