

Bottskill Baptist Church History Minute

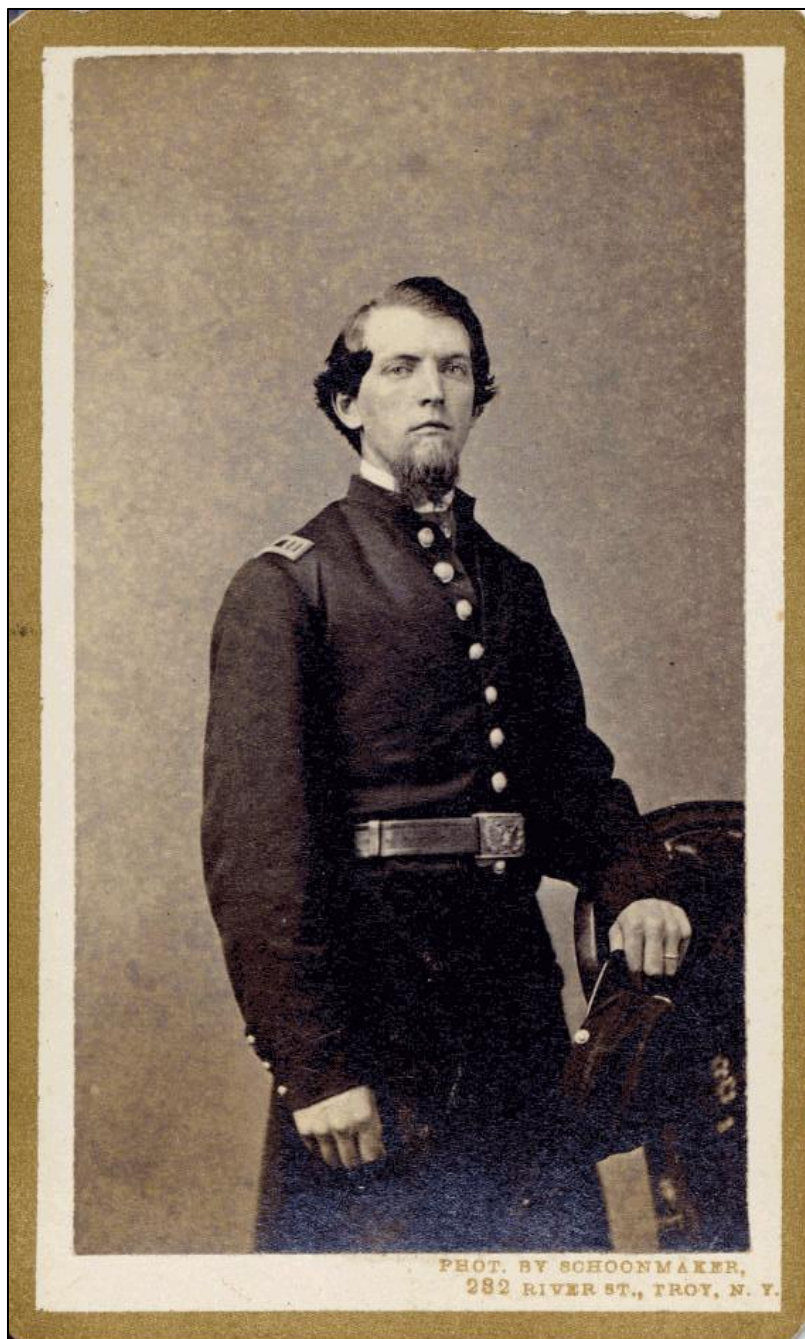
Church Historian Ken Perry

September 2025- Alonzo T. Mason

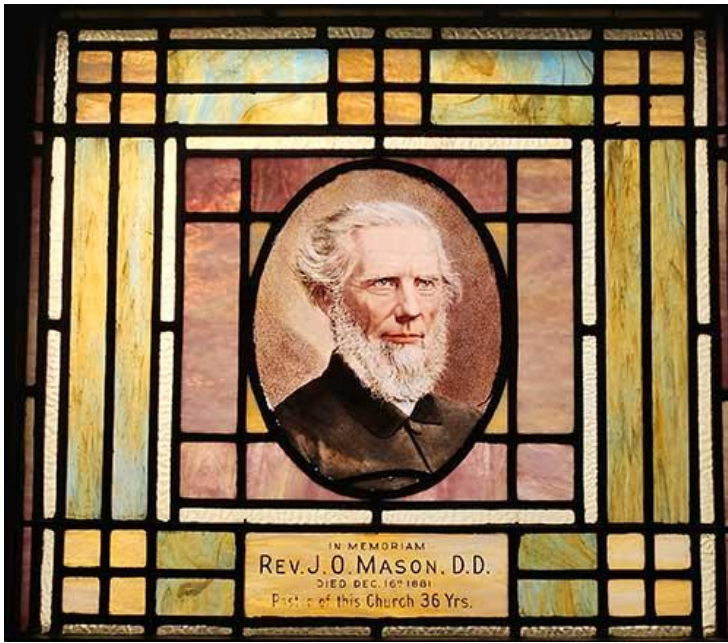
Before mentioning this month's History Minute, I would like to note the discovery of an article in The Troy Times at the end of December 1914 under the Greenwich section which mentions the completion of some interior remodeling of this church. The most obvious change was that "a beam ceiling takes the place of the flat ceiling," but it also notes that eight names have been added to the windows as memorials and gives their sponsors.

Alonzo T. Mason, the topic of this History Minute, is seen here in a portrait [1] from our church collection. As you may see from the note inside the frame, he was Captain of Co. A, 123 rd N. Y. Regt., and for four years, Superintendent of the Sunday School. He was born in 1839 at Ft. Smith, Arkansas, son of Rev. James O. Mason [2], seen here at an earlier age than the image on his church window, and Relief Smith. His birth occurred during his father's services as missionary to the Creek Indian Tribe, an assignment that ended poorly and with some violent overtones.

Alonzo enlisted as First Lieutenant in the Washington County regiment, his occupation given as student. He was promoted to Captain in October 1863 and



[1] Photograph of Alonzo T. Mason from the Bottskill Baptist Church collection.



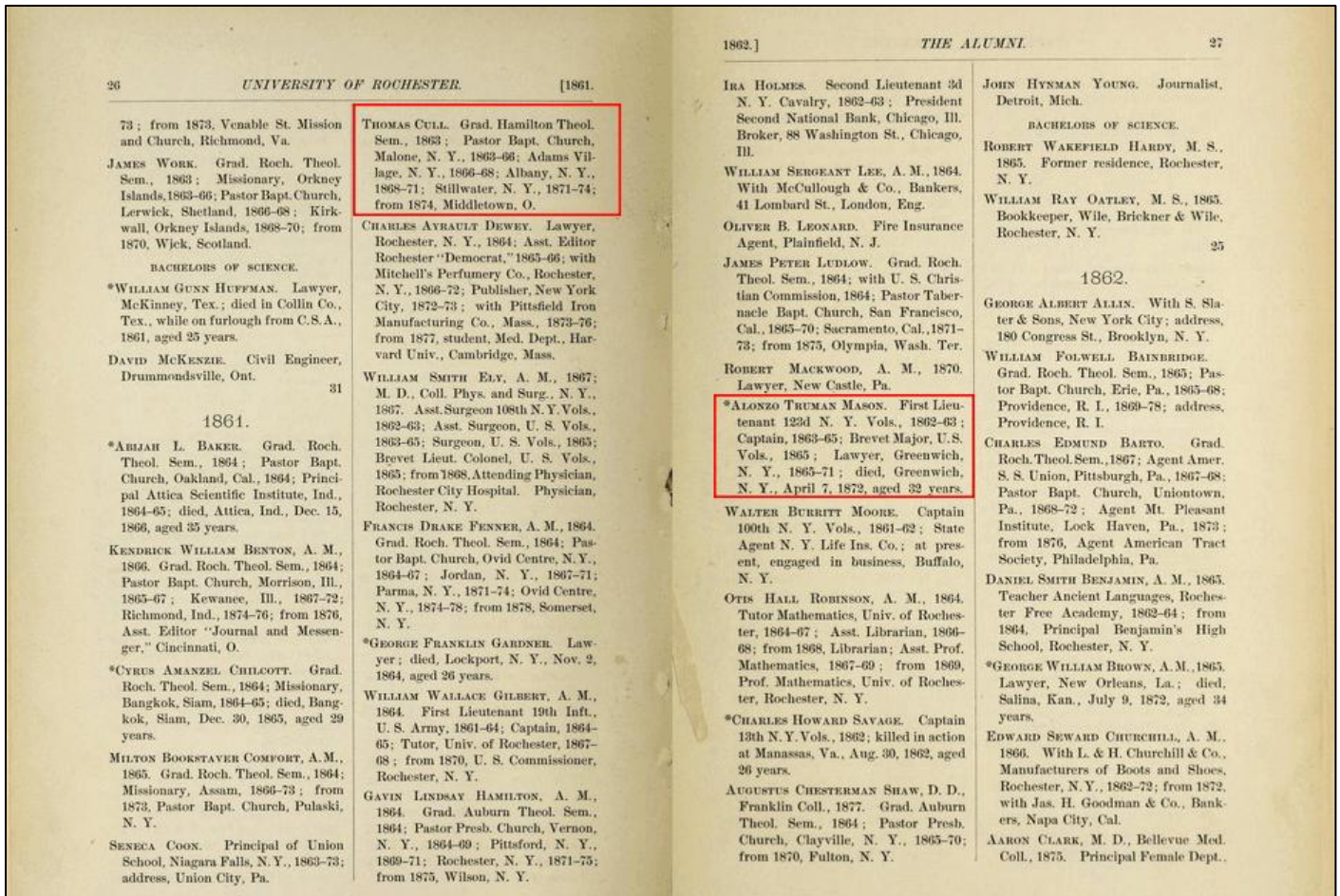
[2] Stained glass window found in the Bottskill Baptist Church sanctuary honoring Rev. J.O. Mason D.D, father of Alonzo T. Mason.

in 1865, breveted a Major, assigned to the staff of Gen. Alpheus Williams, who commanded the 12th Corps of the Army of the Potomac, which included the 123rd Regt.

In his absence, Captain of Co. G, and later, Dr. Henry Gray, became Major of the regiment, beginning an interconnection between the Grays and the Masons.

Looking at the list of the 25 University of Rochester Alumni [3] of the Class of 1861, Alonzo is found on the left hand third column of page 27, noting his promotions in the service and his occupation as a lawyer in Greenwich from 1865 to 1871, and his subsequent death.

On the left hand column of the opposite, page 26, it happened to notice Thomas Cull, a graduate of



[3] The Alumni from the University of Rochester. Class of 1861

Hamilton College in 1863. Thomas Cull served as pastor for various churches in New York and, in 1874, was pastor at Middletown, Ohio.

He was later called to serve as pastor here, and did so for 14 years, from 1880 to 1894, following Alonzo's father, Rev. James O. Mason. He also happens to have married a sister of Dr. Henry Gray, once again illustrating the connections between early families in this church. Rev. Cull went on to serve as a pastor in Cambridge, and is buried there in the Woodlands Cemetery.



[4] The Mason Memorial located in the Greenwich Cemetery, Greenwich, NY

Alonzo married Julia M. Heath in 1864, and they had two children, Julia and Frank, before he contracted tuberculosis.

In Rev. Mason's biographical sketch, he notes that Alonzo went to Havana and Colorado in search of a climate that would cure him of his malady.

Nevertheless, he returned to Greenwich and died in April 1872 at the age of 32.

The Mason memorial [4] is located in the Greenwich cemetery near the Cottage St. end, and adjacent to the vault for the family of Erastus Culver.

For his service to this church and to his country, we remember Alonzo Truman Mason.