

The Day the Church of the Holy Trinity Was Almost Sold

2 Jan 1870, *The Vicksburg Daily Herald*

Dissolution Notice.

THE firm of the Vicksburg Bank, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. John A. Klein Esq., and George M. Klein, Esq., having sold their interest to the remaining partners, who will continue the Banking business under the same name.

B. R. THOMAS.
JOHN A. KLEIN.
BETTIE B. WILLIS.
E. S. BUTTS,
GEO. M. KLEIN.

JAN 2

16 Jan 1870, *The Vicksburg Daily Herald*

JOHN A. KLEIN, President.	C. C. FLOWERREE, Vice President.	GEO. M. KLEIN, Cashier.
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MISSISSIPPI VALLEY BANK.
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI.

BANK OF DISCOUNT AND DEPOSIT.

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC EXCHANGE,
Gold, Silver and Government Securities Bought & Sold.
ESPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO COLLECTIONS.

— CORRESPONDENTS —

Howes & Macy, New York. Commercial Bank, St. Louis. Girard National Bank, Philadelphia. Western Financial Corporation, Louisville. Commercial Bank, Cincinnati. Massachusetts National Bank, Boston. First National Bank, Memphis. Citizens' Bank of Louisiana, New Orleans. London Joint Stock Company, London. Credit Lyonnais, Paris.	Twentsche Bankvereeniging, Amsterdam. DeNeufville, Mertens & Co., Frankfort-on-the-Main. Vereins-Bank, Hamburg. Austrian Credit-Anstalt, Vienna. Skandinaviska Kredit-Aktie-Bolaget, Stockholm. Benoni Kaskel, Berlin. Fratelli Brambilla, Milan.
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Jan 16

— DIRECTORS —

JOHN A. KLEIN, GEO. M. KLEIN,	D. W. FLOWERREE, C. C. FLOWERREE.
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VICKSBURG BANK,
VICKSBURG, MISS.
A BANK OF DEPOSIT.

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE.
GOLD, SILVER AND GOVERNMENT SECURITIES BOUGHT AND SOLD.
Especially Attention Given To Collection.

B. R. THOMAS, Cashier. E. S. BUTTS, Asst. Cashier.

REFERENCES.

National Park Bank, New York; Exchange Bank, St. Louis. Western Financial Corp'n, Louisville. Fourth National Bank, Chicago.	Canal & Banking Co., New Orleans. Merchants' Nat'l Bank Cincinnati. Jackson Ins. Co, Memphis, First National Bank, Philadelphia
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Jan 1

18 Sep 1873, Jay Cooke & Co., a major U.S. bank (chief financier of the Union army during the Civil War) declares bankruptcy, setting off a series of bank failures. Between September and October 1873, New York City bank reserves drop from \$50 million to \$17 million.

27 Sep 1873, Vicksburg banks suspend operations. They reopen within a month. [The Rev. Drs. Lord and Sansom are about to leave for Memphis on a two-week yellow fever relief mission.]

1875, the Panic of 1873 triggers what becomes known as “**The Great Depression**,” until events triggered in 1929 rob it of that name. [Mississippi is dealing with tremendous racial and economic turmoil as the end of Reconstruction nears, and white Democrats are maneuvering (successfully) to take back control of State government.]

14 Oct 1875, the Rev. Dr. Lord resigns as rector of Holy Trinity. (He is nearly 56.) In his May 1875 parochial report submitted to annual council, he writes: “The meagerness of the parochial report of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Vicksburg, is due to the absence of the Rector during a great part of the past four months upon a mission in aid of the new church building, which is now externally complete, but which still awaits the completion of its interior.”

5 May 1876, in his annual address to council, Bishop Greens states, “It is now **nearly twelve months that Holy Trinity has been without a Pastor.** In view of the importance of that Parish, and of the yet unfinished condition of their magnificent church, we should all unite in an earnest prayer that God may soon send them a Pastor ‘after his own heart.’” [Holy Trinity has no delegate at council. Even John A. Klein, Treasurer of the Diocese, is not present. (His report is presented and read by Dr. G. H. Howard of Bovina.)]

12 May 1877, the Rt. Rev. William F. Adams, D.D., former Missionary Bishop of New Mexico and Arizona, has been serving as minister in charge of Holy Trinity since the end of 1876. In his address to council, Bishop Green says of his 8 April 1877 visit to Holy Trinity, “It was truly gratifying to me to see the rapidly improving condition of this congregation under the wholesome instruction, and zealous labors of Bishop Adams.” [John A. Klein again has Dr. Howard read his report to council. E. S. Butts is Holy Trinity’s delegate. Mr. Klein’s tenure as Treasure of the Diocese of Mississippi will be 1867-1879.]

4 Feb 1878, Church of the Holy Trinity is incorporated by an act of the Mississippi Legislature and “fully authorized and **empowered to mortgage or otherwise encumber its said real estate for the purpose and object of raising money to finish, build and repair its church property**, or to complete the same, and said mortgage or other incumbrance or incumbrances, when so made by said vestry as aforesaid, and when duly executed and delivered and recorded, as other mortgages and incumbrances are, by law, required to be executed, delivered and recorded, shall be enforceable in the courts having jurisdiction thereof, as all other mortgages and incumbrances are now enforceable by law.” Using this authority and to supplement parish contributions, the **church raises funds by issuing at least \$15,000 in bonds**, bearing interest and maturing in 1890: about **\$4,600 issued to H. B. Bruser** (for work done on the building) and **\$10,500 issued to John A. Klein** (for money he had previously advanced toward building the church,).

2 Sep 1878, Daniel Walton Flowerree, dies of gastritis at Alleghany Springs, VA (during the period of the 1878 Yellow Fever Epidemic). Maj. Flowerree, a highly successful businessman, is a Holy Trinity founder, vestryman, building committee member, and with his brother (Col. C.C. Flowerree) a partner in Mississippi Valley Bank.

27 Feb 1879, *The Vicksburg Daily Herald*

**Notice of Dissolution of Copart-
nership.**

THE COPARTNERSHIP HERETO-
fore existing in this city, between
John A. Klein, Geo. M. Klein, D. W.
Flowerree, C. C. Flowerree, W. G. Horn-
er and Chas. E. Furlong, under the style
of the Mississippi Valley Bank, expired
by death of D. W. Flowerree, September
2d, 1878. The remaining partners having
purchased the interests of D. W. Flower-
ree, C. C. Flowerree, and W. G. Horner,
the business will be continued by John A.
Klein, Geo. M. Klein and Chas. E. Fur-
long, under the same firm name.

GEO. M. KLEIN,
Cashier.

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23 Apr 1880, at the 53rd annual diocesan council, George M. Klein is elected Treasurer of the Diocese of Mississippi, succeeding his father. [The next day, council passes a resolution of thanks "to Mr. John A. Klein, of Holy Trinity Parish, Vicksburg, for his long and faithful services as Treasurer of the Diocese."] George M. Klein was the oldest child of John A. Klein and hence was a child of Christ Church, Vicksburg. In July 1868 (two years before the founding of Holy Trinity), he married Emma Harrison Balfour, also a child of Christ Church and a daughter of famed Civil War diarist Emma Balford and Dr. William T. Balfour, both pillars of Christ Church. George Klein determined, doubtless pleasing his wife, to remain a faithful communicant of Christ Church and hence a parishioner of the Rev. Dr. Henry Sansom.

7 May 1883, *Vicksburg Evening Post*

Geo. M. Klein, President, JOHN A. Klein, Jr., Cashier.
Wm. M. Klein, Assistant Cashier.

**MISSISSIPPI
VALLEY BANK.**

JOHN A. Klein, Sr.,
GEO. M. Klein,
JOHN A. Klein, Jr.,
Cashier.

Transacts a General Banking Business Between
Vicksburg and All Parts of the World.

NOT INCORPORATED,
Hence All the Property, Real and Personal, of the Stockholders, is Liable
for the Business of the Bank.

MODERATE INTEREST ALLOWED IN SAVINGS DEPARTMENT
UNDER SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE BANK. may4

Mid-1883, the Rev. Dr. Sansom, rector of Christ Church, **purchases the \$10,500 in “Klein” (Holy Trinity) bonds** from Mr. George M. Klein, who by then is President of Mississippi Valley Bank and has been directing the bank’s affairs for several years due to his father’s incapacity.

21 Nov 1883, Mississippi Valley Bank fails. An early accounting of “preferred” creditors (hundreds of largely small depositors) shows they are owed nearly \$370,000. Other creditors (merchants, businesses, etc.) are believed to be owed several times that amount. Cash in the bank amounts to \$13,000. [Among the other creditors are the Diocese of Mississippi. Its losses are a matter of great concern at the 57th annual council held 7-9 May 1884 at Columbus. The diocese adopts changes to the canons to require bonding of officials responsible for managing church funds. George M. Klein is replaced as Treasurer of the Diocese.]

3 Feb 1884, John Alexander Klein dies. He has been in ill and declining health for several years and at his death is unaware of the failure of Mississippi Valley Bank.

Early 1885, E. S. Butts / Vicksburg Bank **purchases the \$4,600 in “Bruser” (Holy Trinity) bonds**, perhaps directly from the Bruser estate. (H. B. Bruser had died 18 Mar 1879.)

27 Aug 1885, after patiently waiting to receive unpaid interest on the bonds, the Rev. Dr. Sansom sues Holy Trinity for \$1,891 in unpaid interest. The bonds not maturing until 1890, and he makes no claim other than for interest payments.

24 Dec 1886, the decree in Chancery Court by Judge Warren Cowan (brother of Irene Cowan Whitehead) is in favor of the Rev. Dr. Sansom in his suit against Holy Trinity.

8 Feb 1887, notice of a Commissioner’s Sale of Holy Trinity is first published (sale scheduled for Sat., 19 Mar 1887, at east door of Courthouse, sale to be of the whole property, indivisible).

COMMISSIONER’S SALE

Of Valuable Vicksburg Property.

UNDER a decree of the Chancery Court of Warren county, Miss., rendered December 24, 1886, in the case of Henry Sansom against the Church of the Holy Trinity, of Vicksburg, I, the undersigned commissioner and substituted trustee, authorized by said decree, will,

On the 19th Day of March, 1887,

at the east door of the Court-house in Vicksburg, sell at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash, the following property: A lot of land in the city of Vicksburg bounded thus: Beginning on South street 151 feet due west from the southwest corner of Cherry and South streets; thence west from said point 150 feet; thence south 150 feet; thence east 150 feet; thence north 150 feet to the place of beginning; being the property conveyed by Alexander Allen to John A. Klein, Sept. 27, 1869, by deed recorded in deed book G G, p. 370, with the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances, including the church building thereon, the property being the premises known as “The Church of the Holy Trinity of Vicksburg.”

The whole property, as the decree directs, will be sold as one indivisible piece of property; payment by the purchaser to be made when the sale shall be confirmed by the Court.

H. C. McCABE,
Commissioner.

February 8, 1887.

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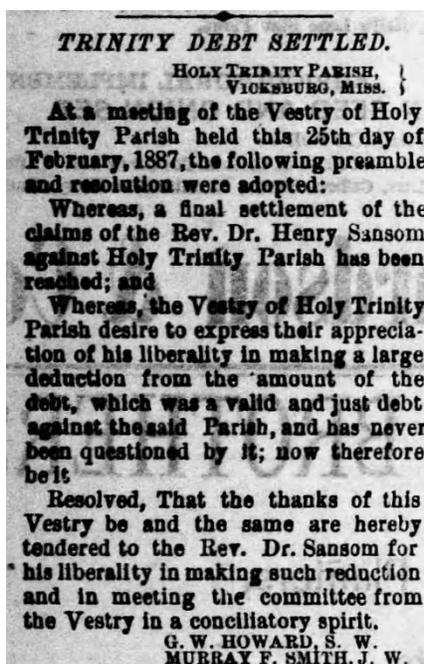
13 Feb 1887, the parish has serious concerns that this day will be the last service in the church, as work is scheduled to remove the contents as well as some memorials while the church is still in the parish's possession. Among these are memorial windows, the baptismal font, and other furnishings. (*The Daily Commercial Herald* reports on 16 Feb 1887 that donors of windows and other "ornaments" had placed orders to have them removed and that work has been done. Also, arrangements have been made to hold future services in the Jewish Synagogue.) Shortly, it will be learned that Bishop Green has died this day at his home at Sewanee.

Feb 1887, Edward Martin, Dr. G. H. Howard, and T. M. Smedes are vigorously soliciting subscriptions with which to settle the debt.

17 Feb 1887, Bishop Green's funeral and burial are at Jackson. Present and leading the service are: Holy Trinity's rector, Bishop Adams, who reads the prayers; the Rev. Dr. Sansom who reads the sentences at the grave; the Rev. Nowell Logan, destined to be Holy Trinity's next rector, who reads and deposits the committal; and Bishop Thompson who reads the benediction.

25 Feb 1887, another of the regular notices of the Commissioner's Sale is published. The vestry meets and reaches a **settlement** of the debt with the Rev. Dr. Sansom, the bonds are redeemed, and a resolution of thanks to the Dr. Sansom is prepared. He accepts \$6,000 as payment in full for all interest due as well as redemption of the \$10,500 in bonds.

26 Feb 1887, a notice of the settlement and the resolution of thanks to the Rev. Dr. Sansom are published in the local newspapers.



27 Feb 1887, at the Sunday service, **the redeemed bonds are laid on the altar** as an offering from the parish. [Completion of work, payment of all debts, and consecration of the church are still 7+ years away.]

19 Mar 1887, the **Church of the Holy Trinity is NOT sold** at the east door of the Courthouse.