

The altar and reredos were given as a memorial, the steps of light-colored Tennessee marble bearing the following inscription: "To the Glory of God. In memory of Orlo James Hamlin and Orra Lucinda Hamlin." The credence table and sedalia seats are built into the wall by means of arches and are made a prominent feature of the interior of the church. All the walls are plastered and painted with soft golden colors. The massive roof timbers are bolted together with simplicity, while the ceilings throughout are of yellow pine.

The flooring under the seats is of oak. The central passage way, the aisles, the choir and sanctuary are tiled. The aisles are filled with cream colored tile with a border of red and black. The tiling of the choir and sanctuary is of the same colors, but laid



Saint Luke's Archive Collection

in rich patterns of ecclesiastical form. A beautiful wood screen of oak, divides the nave from the chancel. The choir stalls and pews are also of oak. Standing near the west door is a large, handsome Font of Caen stone, the cover of which is of oak and brass; cut in the base of the Font is the following inscription: In loving memory of Rachel Niles and Ada, children of D.C. and Ada M. Young."

No one could fail to notice the entire harmony existing between the building and its furnishings, which is owing to the fact that almost everything placed in the church was manufactured from special designs prepared by the noted architect. The character of the church can be fitly expressed in three words: Solidity, simplicity, dignity.

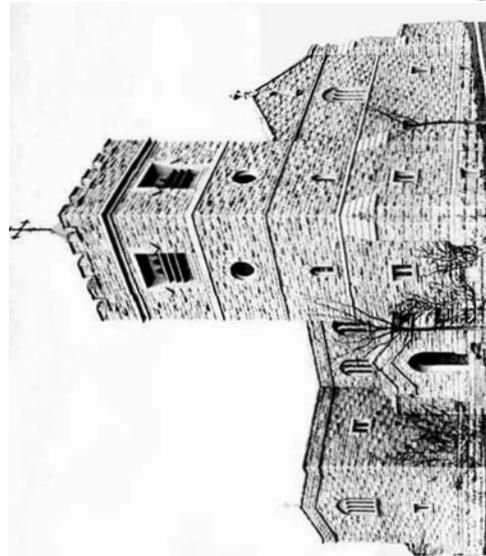
edited from *McKean County Miner*, Smethport, Pa, Sept. 16, 1892

For more information go to the
"Planet Smethport" website:
<http://www.smethporthistory.org>

*Smethport Heritage Committee
famous Smethport, Pennsylvania 16749*



TO:



One of few remaining Pristine Examples of the Architect's Genius
William Halsey Wood Architectural Triumph
Saint Luke's Church: 602 W. Main Street Smethport, PA:



**William Halsey Wood's
Architectural
Triumph**



Young Creative Genius:
William Halsey Wood was only 37 when
Smethport's Saint Luke's was completed.
Newark Public Library Collection

Saint Luke's Church, Smethport, PA



Saint Luke's Archive Collection

One of few remaining Pristine Examples of the Architect's Genius

The St. Luke's Church, designed by William Halsey Wood, is of the 14th century English Gothic style of architecture. At the southeast corner of the building is placed a square battemented tower, 17x17 feet in width, walls 2 1/2 feet thick.

Besides the central passage way, there are two aisles on the north and south sides of the church, with massive brick columns supporting the arches, also of brick, between the aisles and the nave. The clerestory windows are richly tinted glass which is set deep into thick brick jambs. The altar and reredos are of cain stone and are strictly in accordance with the style of the building. The front of the altar, which is 9 feet 3 inches long, is divided into three recessed arched panels, almost as deep as the altar is wide. The mensa or altar slab is one piece of pure white marble. The reredos is also of Caen stone formed in 3 niches, surmounted by a delicately carried canopy, which is very beautiful.



WILLIAM HALSEY WOOD

architect for famous Saint Luke's Episcopal Church in Smethport, Pennsylvania

Short-lived but Brilliant Architect Hired by Smethport's Henry Hamlin

William Halsey Wood had already become nationally famous when he was contacted by Henry Hamlin to design a magnificent church for Smethport. Henry's gift to Smethport was to be a monument of perfection. Wood had the talent to make Henry's dream come true. Smethport's St. Luke's was consecrated in 1892, only five years before his early death.

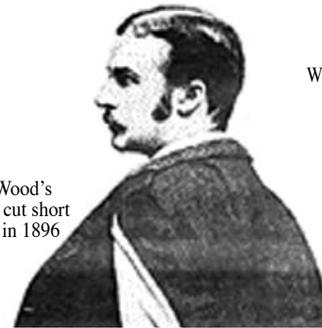
Wood, born in Newark, New Jersey in 1855, developed an exceptional talent for drawing as a young child. Following his formal schooling, he entered the office of Thomas A. Roberts, architect, and by the age of twenty was admitted to partnership with his employer, under the firm name of Roberts, Taylor & Wood and but soon entered into his own private practice. Multiple trips to Europe influenced his cathedral style. He displayed remarkable ability as a church architect.

He gained his first fame in 1889, when his was one of the four plans selected for elaboration in the international competition for the design of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Fully one hundred architects were in the competition. Mr. Wood's plan, with two others, Robertson and Potter having withdrawn, was placed on exhibition in the See House, 29 Lafayette Place, in 1891. His plan, of which "Jerusalem the Golden," was the underlying motive, was much admired. It was not chosen, however, the design of Heins & La Farge being finally selected.

Partial List of Architecture by William Halsey Wood:

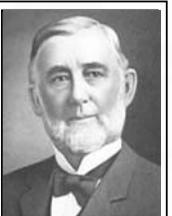
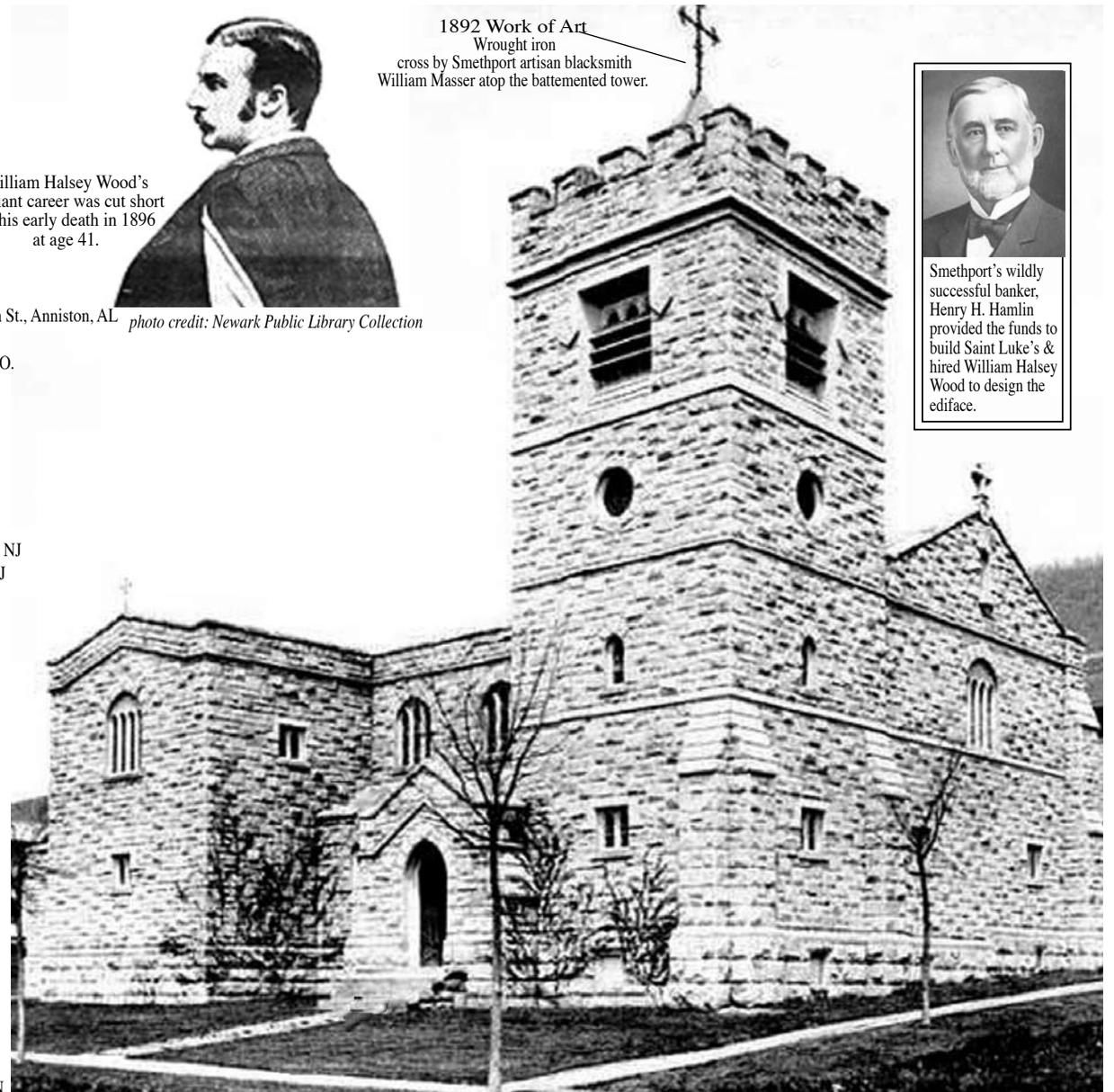
Source: *Memories of William Halsey Wood 1855-1897* Written & Published by Mrs. William Halsey Wood Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA (from Newark Public Library, Newark, NJ) addresses for some are included/ some may no longer exist/ some churches, unlike St. Luke's, have been heavily altered.)

- The Church of St. Michael and All Angels, 1000 West 18th St., Anniston, AL *photo credit: Newark Public Library Collection*
- St. John's Church, 400 Humphrey St. New Haven, CT
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church 1307 Holmes St. Kansas City, MO.
- Christ Church, Bloomfield, 74 Park St. Glen Ridge, NJ
- St. Paul's Church, East Orange, NJ
- St. Mark's Church, Jersey City, NJ
- Peddie Memorial Baptist Church, Newark, NJ
- First Congregational Church, Newark, NJ
- St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Newark, NJ
- St. John's Church 215 Lafayette Ave, Passaic, NJ
- St. Paul's Church, corner of Broadway & East 18th Patterson, NJ
- St Peter's Episcopal Church, 127 Broad Street Washington, NJ
- William Halsey Wood's Queen Anne-style Mansion, 112 Willow St, Brooklyn Height, NY
- St. Paul's Church, Morrisania, New York, NY
- The Bellevue Hospital Library, New York, NY
- Church of the Redeemer 84th St. & Park Avenue, NY, NY
- Extension of All Angels' Church, New York, NY
- Zion and St. Timothy's Church & Parrish Hall, NY, NY
- Yadoo Castle - Spencer and Katrina Trask Mansion, Saratoga Springs, NY
- St. John's Church, 323 Wick Ave. Youngstown, Ohio
- Braddock Carnegie Library. Library Street & Parker Avenue, Braddock, PA (1st of 1,679 Carnegie Libraries)
- Emmanuel Church, Corry, PA
- Church of the Good Shepherd, corner of Johnston & 2nd Hazelwood, Pittsburgh, PA
- Church of the Ascension, Ellsworth Ave. & Neville St. Shadyside, Pittsburgh, PA
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church, corner of Main & Church St. Smethport, PA**
- St. Paul's, Chattanooga, TN
- St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral 672 Poplar Ave Memphis, TN (finished after death of architect- altered "disastrously" by a local architect)
- Chapter House of the University of the South, Sewanee, TN
- The Theological Seminary, Nashotah, Wisconsin- 1893 (immense quadrangle of buildings much of which has been destroyed by fire)
- St. Matthew's Cathedral, 3rd and Ivinson Laramie, WY (Towers added in 1916 - 19 years after WHW death)
- St. John's College, Shanghai China



William Halsey Wood's brilliant career was cut short by his early death in 1896 at age 41.

1892 Work of Art
Wrought iron cross by Smethport artisan blacksmith William Masser atop the battlemented tower.



Smethport's wildly successful banker, Henry H. Hamlin provided the funds to build Saint Luke's & hired William Halsey Wood to design the ediface.

St. Lukes was consecrated September, 1892 *photo credit: Saint Lukes Archive Collection*