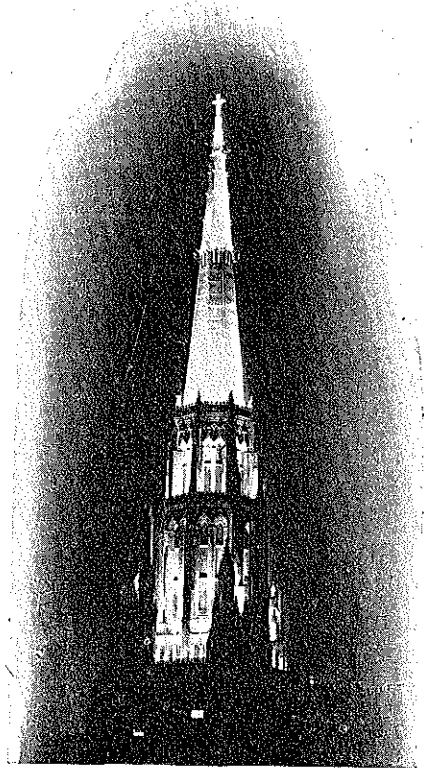


Come to Church Sunday



CHICAGO TEMPLE

First Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CHICAGO

33 North Clark Street

REV. JOHN THOMPSON, D.D.
Minister

GEORGE W. DIXON
Sunday School Superintendent

ARTHUR DUNHAM
Director of Music

JOURNAL AND YEAR BOOK

Ninetieth Session

of the

**Rock River Annual
Conference**

of the

Methodist Episcopal Church

Downers Grove Methodist Episcopal Church
DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS

October 2-7, 1929

BISHOP ERNEST LYNN WALDORF, Presiding
JAMES O'MAY, Secretary

Made by the Conference its Official Record

By provision of the Rock River Conference, adopted at the 1916 session, our people may create memorials to their deceased friends in the form shown on the memorial page.

Such a memorial is far more beautiful than a marble shaft in the cemetery, and because it is perpetual in our journal, will outlast a monument of granite.

Should anyone reading these lines desire to create such a memorial, he can secure necessary information by addressing the Rev. Claude S. Moore, 222 W. Adams Street, Chicago, Ill., who has this work under his care. The funds thus invested will be used for the care of aged ministers, their widows and children.

IX. Memoirs

JAMES LINTON BACKUS

James Linton Backus, son of Joseph H. and Emeline Daily-Backus, was born in LaMoille, Ill., March 14, 1844.

He enlisted at the age of eighteen at Dixon, Ill., in Company A, Seventy-fifth Regular Illinois Volunteer Infantry, as a musician, being first a drummer and afterward a fife player, and served for three years until the close of the war.

He was married to Ruth Caaterline at Oregon, Illinois, April 18, 1867, while residing at Grand Detour, Illinois, and two children were born in this home, a son who died in infancy, and a daughter, Minnie Ray, who later married Phinias Bartholomew and with whom the father made his home after the death of his wife in 1917.

Mr. Backus followed his father in the vocation of blacksmith, but engaged constantly in preaching, being licensed as a local preacher, until he entered the ranks of the Rock River Conference, giving his full time to ministerial duties. From 1880 until he took the retired relation he continued a faithful and earnest worker for his God.

After leaving the active ministry, Mr. Backus engaged in the real estate business in Aurora, Illinois, but continued until weakness caused by advanced years made full rest necessary in active Christian effort, assisting in shop meetings conducted by the Y. M. C. A. and constant in attendance on the services of Galena Boulevard and also First Churches.

Brother Backus died June 1, after a brief illness and was buried in the East Batavia Cemetery on June 5, the services being in charge of the Rev. Ralph Wakefield, assisted by Dr. Walter Briggs, Dr. John Norris Hall, and the Rev. J. W. McKitrick.

RALPH WAKEFIELD.

W. H. CARWARDINE

The Rev. W. H. Carwardine was born February 22, 1858, Brooklyn, N. Y., and was called to his coronation on Sunday, August 25, 1929. Between these two dates there lie fifty years of ministerial life in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Forty years of these were invested in fruitful service in Rock River Conference. In permitting the mind to run along the lines of memory there stand out certain characteristics in the ministry of this faithful servant of Jesus Christ. He was in the apostolic succession of high courage and noble daring. In the middle nineties a serious strike occurred in the city of Chicago, and this man, fast coming to the zenith of his powers, espoused the cause of the toiling classes and by pen and voice came to their support. He did this in the face of a hesitant and unsympathetic press, and while church leaders were timid, uncertain, skeptical and critical of his course. But he stood like Shammah in the Old Testament story in the midst of the field of human labor, defending the bread of honest toil.

In his sphere he had the courage of the martyr. He could stand like a Daniel and confront the authorities. When his convictions were established he could, like his Master, set his face steadfastly toward any Gethsemane and Calvary. He carried the Cross in his heart and enthroned it in his life.

He never forgot that he was the follower and servant of one who laid down His life on the altar for the saving of humanity.

In the field of journalism he displayed the same courage with marvelous initiative. Here he gave evidence of the highest patriotism, the patriotism of humanity. Often he seemed to be in advance of the policies of that great daily, the *Herald-Examiner*. He was its religious editor, and his mental eye roamed round the universe like a searchlight. His mental peregrinations were a marvel and set a very rapid pace for the breathless minds of those of us who sought to follow him in his comments on current events. In his annual review of world happenings he evinced superb ability in his measurement of personalities, the appraisal of incidents. Skillfully he could put his finger on the world's pulse and give almost uncanny interpretations. Many of us looked for that annual review with eager eye, and we will miss it this year.

As religious editor he was finely impartial. It was utterly impossible to detect to what branch of the Christian Church he belonged. But his ministry here sent the stock of religion soaring. He gave the Church a front position among uplifting institutions. He exercised a wonderful ministry in his sphere as religious editor.

As a brother minister in Rock River Conference he was ever characterized by a progressive temperament. His mind was ever open to new light. He cherished the forward look and this helped to keep him sweet and gracious and genial all round. Backward lookers are apt to be what Lot's wife became in the Old Testament story, quite salty. But this man was sweet in disposition and kind in all his attitudes.

As a student of theology he never selected any one doctrine, taking it out of its relationship and magnifying it out of all proper proportions. His mind worked synthetically and he saw truth in all its concatenations and this helped to keep him poised and well balanced, so that he never ran off on a tangent. He never lived on the siding. He always lived on the main track. Whenever he undertook to speak in Conference or Preachers' Meeting it was ever in the interests of clarity, and he had a special gift of clear statement. His mind worked rapidly and many of us were indebted to him for flashes of light whenever he took part in our ministerial discussions.

He had a great capacity for friendship. He hooked his brethren to him as by cables of steel. He was ever smiling, or just about to break out into a smile, and his smiles were as bouquets of happiness. He radiated good cheer. His hearty handshake was an inspiration. His soul was a miniature ocean of love. He was a brother with the big heart. His collegueship was a fellowship.

We shall miss him in all our circles. His absence from Conference and from the Chicago Preachers' Meeting will make our hearts wistful for many a day. We shall see him no more in the flesh. He has gone to be with God. He has entered upon a larger service and holier activities in the Temple not made with hands where he will serve day and night and go out no more forever. What a goodly company of his brother ministers he will have met, for we of Rock River Conference are rapidly changing company. It is easy to exercise the imagination and think of his fellowship with those whom we have known and loved long since and lost awhile, but his eager spirit will not be satisfied to spend eternity simply in fellowship. He will be ready to serve there, and his life of service there will be the full complement of a long and useful life here. We raise no dirges to-day. We are a triumphant group. He made a large investment of his life and projected his influence through thousands of other lives, an influence that will abide through all the coming years.

JOHN THOMPSON.

FREDERICK F. FARMILOE

When Frederick F. Farmiloe passed away at the Wesley Memorial Hospital in the city of Chicago on the morning of July 19, 1929, the Rock River Conference lost one of its most highly respected and dearly beloved members. Dr. Farmiloe almost belonged to the pioneer days since he had been engaged in ministerial work for fully sixty-five years. For more than sixty of these years he had been affiliated with this Conference, and at the time of his death was recognized as the oldest member of this body in point of continuous service within its geographical bounds.

Born in England on July 12, 1845, he spent his boyhood and youth in the parental home there. At sixteen years of age, after attending the public schools, and being a teacher in the Wesleyan schools, he was a candidate for the Queen's scholarship at Oxford University. He successfully passed the examination, but was rejected on account of his youth.

While the Civil War was in progress in the United States he was intensely sympathetic with the cause against slavery. He desired to come here at once and join the Union army, but being under nineteen years of age his father objected. When, however, that birthday arrived and he could act freely for himself, he came to America, leaving behind much that was dear, and the girl that he loved. Arriving here in 1865 the war was over. He settled in New Jersey securing employment on a farm. While working in the fields his thoughts were on Christian leadership. His call to the ministry was clear and definite. He determined to dedicate his talents and life to the service of Christ and men. He began his preparatory studies with a local minister in whose home he was living.

Dr. Farmiloe received his exhorter's license on June 24, 1866. He became a local preacher in August, 1868. His first Conference appointment was as a junior preacher in October, 1868. He was ordained as local deacon on October 15, 1871, and was received on trial in this Rock River Conference the following day, viz., October 16, 1871. He joined in full connection September 18, 1873, and received ordination as an elder on October 10, 1875. He served continuously as a pastor until October, 1921, at which time he entered the honorable ranks of retired men. Throughout these eventful years he was pastor at Somanauk, Turner Junction—now West Chicago—Naperville, Waterman, Steward, Scales Mound, Lena, Winnebago, Oregon, Genoa, Winnebago Street, Rockford, and later at Grace Church, Rockford, Grace Church, Elgin, Downers Grove, Pullman, and Fernwood, which was his last regular charge.

It was at Fernwood that his dear wife was taken from him by sudden death. Returning from his evening service on Easter Sunday, he found her seated in her arm chair but her choice spirit had quietly slipped away to heaven in that beautiful hour. She was the lovely girl he had left in England, but who later joined him here, became his wife, and shared his labors and joys for long years. Seven children came to bless their parsonage home, four sons and three daughters. One of the girls, Grace, preceded her father and mother in death. All others survive together with thirteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Brother Farmiloe's last ministerial service was the baptism of his youngest great-grandchild. This took place in his own home and on the occasion of the Doctor's eighty-third birthday where the family had gathered to do him honor, and only brief days before his death.

Few men have belonged to the Rock River Conference who have been privileged to serve in the pastoral relation so long as he, and none with greater success or acceptability. The hundreds who attended his funeral service, many of whom had to stand outside the church which could not accommodate all, attested the large place he held in the esteem and affection of all who knew him. He was once a delegate to the General Conference, also served one year as President of the Methodist Episcopal Preachers' Meeting of Chicago, and was for long years a very efficient statistical secretary of this Conference.

Not only did the church honor him, but other organizations recognized his unusual abilities. He was a charter member of the fraternal order known as