

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF EARLY TROY CONFERENCE HISTORY

When in 1788, Bishop Asbury held Conference in New York City, he decided that the time had come to move north. He set aside Freeborn Garretson as Elder and appointed nine young men to serve under his direction as itinerants. They moved up the Hudson, the Mohawk, and the shores of Lake Champlain. This was virgin territory so far as organized Methodism was concerned. In general, they followed the rivers and the lake shore as this was where the settlements were to be found.

As a result of their efforts, organized Methodism came to what is now Troy Conference. When they came to Ashgrove, in Washington County near Cambridge, N. Y., they found a flourishing society. This had been set up by Phillip Embury when he and his family took up land in the Camden Valley. In this endeavor, Embury had great help from Thomas Ashton and the locality and the society were named for Ashton. In 1788, Lemuel Smith was appointed by Garretson to form Cambridge circuit which was to include Ashgrove. He found at Ashgrove a small church. This is believed to be the first church to be built north of New York City for use as a Methodist meeting house. It was completed in 1780. Bishop Asbury held conference here in 1803 and he and others passed through Ashgrove on their way to Champlain and western Vermont settlements. In like fashion the itinerants moved through Schenectady and up the Mohawk and Schoharie valleys. As a result of their efforts this territory, now Troy Conference, was set aside as a separate Annual Conference in 1832, and the first meeting of this Conference was held in 1833.

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out and expressed, filled with faith in God and commitment to His service." So he went through the formality of a second retirement in June of 1972.

On July 24, 1972, Bill suffered an accident which brought him to his untimely death only a little while afterwards in Webber Hospital, Biddeford, Maine. The "Junior Soldier," who rose in the ranks of the Church militant, went to report to Jesus, his Commander-in-Chief, in the Church triumphant. It is hard for us because we miss him. We remember the words of David: "I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

Funeral services were held on July 27, 1972, in Hay and Peabody Funeral Home, Scarborough, Maine, with interment in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Saco, Maine. The service was conducted by Rev. S. Blake Ellis, Superintendent, Southern District, Maine Annual Conference. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Dr. Lawrence Larowe, retired, The Troy Annual Conference. The committal was given by Rev. Cornelius Vanden Broeck, The Troy Annual Conference.

Our closing thoughts of Bill can never be closing, but ever opening to a deeper faith, a surer hope, and a larger love, as in "yet another passage in the Book of Faith by which Bill lived:

"For ye shall go out in joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the fields shall clap their hands." (Isa. 55:12)

REV. DR. RICHARD H. PETERSEN

REV. ALFRED MIHALY

In the number of years of service in the full-time pastorate, Alfred Mihaly fell far short of his own desire. But when Alfred was pastoring, "all his powers were engaged" to a remarkable degree.



Alfred Mihaly was born March 3, 1914 in Raritan, New Jersey to Paul and Ella Mihaly. The period of World War II was very significant to his life. He married Kathleen King in 1943 and saw combat duty with the Army Corps of Engineers in Africa and Italy. Alfred received the Purple Heart three times. It was through combat experience that Alfred was led to a decision to become a minister.

With Alfred, the ministry did not come right away. After the war he took a job with the Johns-Manville Corporation in Manville, New Jersey. During the next twenty-five years Alfred was given increasing responsibility at Johns Manville, he became a tremendously active layman and a lay speaker in a Methodist Church, and Alfred's and Kathleen's marriage was blessed with five daughters and one son. Alfred's call to the ministry became increasingly urgent and at the age of 49 Alfred brought his family of eight out of New Jersey into the ministry of Troy Conference.

The first appointment for Alfred was at Schuyler Falls, Peasleeville and Morrisonville. He was later moved to AuSable Forks and Clintonville, then to St. James Church in Cohoes and was the pastor of the church in Broadalbin at the time of his death on August 1, 1972. He was 58 years old.

There are some people whose deaths are harder to accept because they have been given an extra measure of life. Alfred Mihaly was such a person. He had great energy and drive. When there was a problem in one of his churches he always attacked it head on. He knew no other way. Many of us remember Alfred from sessions at Annual Conference. It is typical that he found himself so quickly in "Brother Bristol's Brigade" of ushers. Above all else, we will remember Al Mihaly's smile. It was overwhelming in its brilliance and its sheer magnitude. If smiles are subject to linear measurement, we have known the Champion!

Lord, we are grateful for this life lived in faith and lived to the utmost.

ROBERT F. TROST

B) WIDOWS OF MINISTERS

MARIAN S. BIGELOW

Marian S. Bigelow, widow of the Reverend E. Lincoln Bigelow, was born March 15, 1889 in Boston, Massachusetts, the daughter of William and Carrie Turner. On December 16, 1920 she married the Reverend E. Lincoln Bigelow. Their fine Christian home was blessed with five fine children who survive her along with sixteen grandchildren. She died on November 15, 1972.

It can be truly said that they both served parishes throughout Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, for wherever Mr. Bigelow was found, there was Mrs. Bigelow laboring by his side. They performed a team ministry long before the term was fashionable. The appointments in Troy Conference included: Bakersfield, Holland, Morgan, Waits River, West Topsham, East Orange, Danville, West Danville, Walden, South Walden, Union Village, Thetford Center, Franklin and East Franklin. In 1961 they retired to their home in South Walden. Retirement was busy as they took an active part in the South Walden United Methodist Church. Mrs. Bigelow continued to exercise her lay speaker's license and when the call came to her she eagerly and energetically served the Wilder Church.

Coming to the Danville Circuit from seminary in June 1971 was made much easier for me because of Mrs. Bigelow. Besides assisting me in numerous ceremonies, she ably served as the lay leader of the South Walden Church as well as made her vast store of knowledge and resources available to me. She was truly a Christian lady whose whole life belonged to the Lord.

Funeral Services were held at the South Walden United Methodist Church, November 18, 1972 with the Reverend Donald Brushett, Superintendent of the Burlington District and the Reverend James Perry officiating. Interment was at Peterborough, New Hampshire.

JAMES M. PERRY

GERTRUDE E. CONNOR

Mrs. Gertrude E. Connor affectionately known as "Connie" died in Gloversville, New York July 6, 1972. She was born in Dalton, Massachusetts on April 30, 1894. She was the daughter of John and Emma Neumeister.

Graduating from the High School there she graduated from Westfield Normal School and taught school. She married Rev. Harvey F. Connor on August 21, 1913 and they had two sons, Willard H. Connor of New Canaan, Connecticut and Harvey F. Connor, Jr. of Bethesda, Maryland. She served ably in many duties as minister's wife with her husband in Troy Conference over a period of thirty-six years in parishes at Berlin, New York, Levings, Troy, Lake Placid, New York, Poultney, Vermont, Trinity, Troy, Burlington, Vermont, Hudson Falls, Canajoharie, Springfield, Vermont.

After he died on October 7, 1947 she was invited by Rev. Fred Clarke to become Pastor's Assistant at Fremont Street Methodist Church in Gloversville. There she served in a unique way and made her contribution to the Lord for the next twenty-five years.

On July 5, 1972, while still at work at Fremont where she reported every day and Sunday to do unnumbered tasks she suffered a stroke and passed on to her eternal reward.

As her last pastor and co-worker I can attest to her faithfulness and her willingness to be of service to the very end and as she recorded in her last report to Fremont Charge Conference she said, "Suffice it to say that as Pastor's Assistant we are content to assist the Pastor in all his endeavors and to help propagate the cause of Christ among our people and in the community and beyond."

*"To do my best from dawn of day 'till night
To keep my heart fit for His Holy sight,
And answer when He Calls
This is my task!"*

And indeed it was.

REV. ALBERT M. BROCKWAY

AMELIA COOLEY

Mrs. Amelia A. Cooley was born August 29, 1886 in Ferrisburg, Vermont. She died in a Burlington Nursing Home October 31, 1972.

Her husband, the Rev. Scott Cooley served Vermont Methodist Churches in Fair Haven, Williston, Vergennes and Hinesburg. They bought a home in Hinesburg where they lived during the years of their retirement.

During the years after the death of her husband in 1941 Mrs. Cooley lived an active life. She belonged to the Woman's Union of the Hinesburg Church, The Hope Circle of King's Daughters, and the Home Demonstration Group of Hinesburg. She was interested in bird watching and she enjoyed driving around to see the trees and the forests. One of her hobbies was making quilts. She would go to church when her neighbors were concerned about her getting there safely. Finally she consented to let someone come and take her.

She never seemed to feel sorry for herself. When she was alone she read a great deal and did cross word puzzles.

Mrs. Cooley is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Ryan, a granddaughter, Mrs. David (Sheila) Benway and four great-grandchildren.

CHESTER A. SIMMONS

MRS. FRED M. HAGADORN

On November 15, 1972, Mrs. Elizabeth Reed Hagadorn, widow of the late Fred M. Hagadorn, passed away suddenly in her sleep.

Born on June 2, 1890, the daughter of Fred Reed and Rachel Lansing Reed of Cohoes, New York, Elizabeth Reed was educated in the Cohoes School. In 1923 she became office manager of Gibson-Snow in Albany, which later became part of McKesson and Robbins. She held this position until her marriage to Fred Hagadorn on January 1, 1946.

During these years, she greatly enjoyed the presidency of the Albany District work, taking frequent leadership responsibility in the Albany Bible School and in Camp Pinnacle in the Helderbergs. Following her marriage to Mr. Hagadorn during his pastorate at the Albany Street Methodist Church, Schenectady, she undertook with enthusiasm the position of Methodist minister's wife, working diligently in support of the Church School and women's work.

During these years, she greatly enjoyed the residency of the Albany District Methodist Ministers Wives' Association.

Mr. and Mrs. Hagadorn enjoyed a brief retirement from the active ministry beginning in the spring of 1951, returning to active work for about 18 months, serving the Fair Haven, Vermont, Methodist Church. Here again, Elizabeth Hagadorn worked diligently in support of the work of that parish.

In failing health since 1968, she had nonetheless continued to enjoy her contacts with former parishioners and the faithful visitations made to her by her pastor and former ministerial colleagues of her husband.

Funeral services were conducted for her on November 17, 1972, at the Baxter Funeral Home in Schenectady, with her pastor, the Reverend Leon Adkins, Jr., and long-time family friend, the Reverend Frank Jay Reid, officiating. Interment was at the Gansevoort, New York, Cemetery.

MARY M. PATON

Born New Cumnock, Scotland June 4, 1884. Died Santa Rosa, California July 17, 1972.

The remnant of a soft Scottish brogue and the shy, gentle manner remained with her for 88 years. She was a woman who said she'd never make a good minister's wife and then spent most of her life proving herself wrong. She was a behind-the-scenes worker who spent untold hours in church kitchens doing the preparing and cleaning up work of those monumental church suppers, not seeking nor oft receiving much praise.

Her real joy was her family and to them she gave her life willingly. Sadness came to her in the death of an only child at seven years of age and the passing of her husband, David, in Johnstown, New York in 1945. But she survived with the quiet courage which was her hallmark.

Her last years were spent with her second child and were happy years for both. She remained active to the end and loved always to travel. The Lord gave her her last wish — to go home quickly and easily and she slept away on July 17, 1972.

*"Father in Thy gracious keeping
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping"*

JENNIE AGNES TAUSSIG

Jennie Agnes Taussig, widow of Frederick E., died in Schenectady, New York on May 26, 1973. She had good health for almost all of the eighty-seven years of life. Born on August 10, 1885, she assisted her husband in various charges including Ephratah, North Bush, Northampton, Osborns Bridge, Panton, Vt., Monkton, Vt., Shushan, Pine Grove in Albany, New York, and Mineville and Fort Hunter. They had a son and a daughter.

In addition to normal activities in the churches her husband served, she was interested in music and continued her enjoyment of the piano throughout her life. The joy of traveling and exploring new places was constantly an important part of living. Fortunately, she was able to visit many parts of the United States in her life. As the writer visited her in a nursing home over the last few months before her death, there was always a measure of enthusiasm for life in spite of the limitations of declining health. For her, life was an adventure and a discovery.

GRACE McMURN WILLIAMS

Grace McMurn Williams was born November 19, 1886 in Brooklyn, N. Y. where she made her home until her marriage to the late Reverend Edward J. Williams in 1914. They had one son, a victim of cerebral palsy, who died at the age of 13.

Together they served in many areas of eastern New York State, coming to Troy Conference in 1925, where Mr. Williams was pastor in Schaghticoke, North Chatham, Chatham Center, Gansevoort, Sharon Springs and Melrose charges. Wherever they served, Mrs. Williams was active in women's church groups, Sunday School and youth work. She dearly loved children and they loved her in return.

After Mr. Williams retirement in 1951, they made their home in Chatham Center where she remained following his death in 1953. For the last 13 years she resided in North Chatham where she continued an active interest in WSCS and other church activities until a few months before her death on July 12, 1972. Funeral services were held in Valatie with burial in the North Chatham cemetery. She had been looking forward to living at the Saratoga Retirement Center.

A memorial gift placed in the North Chatham United Methodist Church is a fitting reminder of her great faith and her love for children — a cross and candle holders for use in the Sunday School worship area.

JANE RENDELL