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Obituary

H. A. Babbitt was born in Booneville, Missouri, August 29, 1857, and passed away at the Methodist Home in Topeka, Kans., July 7, 1944. Married Halie J. Moore at Smithton, Mo., in 1884. To this union were born ten children, eight of whom are living.

On trial, St. Louis Conference, 1888-89 High Point, 1890-91 Cuba, 1892-93 Butler, 1894-98 Oak Grove, 1899-1900 East Lynn, 1901 Rockville, 1902-03 Smithton, 1904-07 Odessa, 1908-09 Supernumerary, transferred to Kansas Conference, 1910-11 Vinland, 1912 Netawaka, 1913-14 Gardner, 1915-16 Blue Mound, 1917 Bronson, 1918 retired.

Rev. and Mrs. Babbitt entered the Methodist Home at Topeka, Kan., in May, 1938, and they made their home continuously there until Rev. Babbitt's death on July 7, 1944, at which time the children took their mother to Kansas City to care for her.

Claud Elmer DeWitt, son of Edson and Melissa DeWitt, was born March 13, 1884 in Elliott, Iowa, and died in Topeka, Kansas, March 26, 1944.

He was married to Rachel Henry at Edmond, Okla., on June 11, 1916. To them were born two children, Robert H., who is stationed in the Aleutians, and Mrs. Dorothy Ann Rings, of Evanston, Illinois.

When a small boy he pioneered with his parents to southwest Oklahoma. There in spite of great obstacles he was graduated from Southwestern Normal school at Weatherford and then taught for several years. Obeying a call to prepare for the ministry he attended Oklahoma City University and received the A.B. degree in 1922 and in 1925 was graduated from Boston University with the degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology.

He began the work of the ministry in 1915 and in 1919 was ordained elder at Oklahoma City. His first charge was at Manitou, Okla., and he also served Arapaho and Perkins before transferring to the New England Southern Conference where he was pastor of churches at East Braintree, Mass., and Berkeley, R. I. Following his graduation from Boston University he served a pastorate at First Church, Middleboro, Mass. In order that he might be near his parents who were ill he transferred back to the Oklahoma Conference and served churches at Ft. Cobb, Watonga, Wichita Falls and Sand Springs. In 1933 he transferred to the Kansas Conference where he served La Harpe and Wesley, Kansas City, and was pastor at East Topeka at the time of his death.

For a number of years he was a member of the Board of Ministerial Training and of the Board of Education in the Oklahoma Conference. While he was president of Ft. Worth district he went to many places in southwestern Oklahoma organizing Epworth Leagues. He was District Counselor of Christian Education in Kansas City and up to the time of his death he held the same office in the Topeka District. He was a member of the International Council of Christian Education.

Consecrated and unselfish, he never spared himself and was a tireless worker for the Christ whom he loved to serve. Even when he was near death, he was thinking of the needs of others and desirous that they receive spiritual attention. Truly he was one of God's noblemen.