

"He has presided over our conference in a brotherly manner. His kind, courteous, and gracious leadership has been a delight to us all."

—From Resolutions Report



O. M. KEVE
Pastor Entertaining Church

NORTHWEST IOWA CONFERENCE

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M. D. BUSH, *Secretary*
Pomeroy, Iowa

SON

enectady, New York, August 27, to Clinton, Iowa. He graduated from Clinton Dental College. He was a member of the church then because of impaired health.

He turned himself to Christ in young life and joined the church. When seventeen he felt that he had tried but did not yield since he had no peace and also was not in harmony with the doctrines of his Church. However, through his own work and often gave gospel messages in revival meetings at Hilton, Iowa. He was so insistent that he yielded to Christ, consisting of the twenty-seven members of the church and he was appointed their pastor of a church. In the fall of 1895 he was appointed to the Northwest Iowa Conference in the Circuit. In 1898 he was appointed into full membership in 1901. He ended the retired relation on account of being sixty-five, and he and his wife moved to a little farm in the Ozark Hills by

He wrote, "I have preached and served as pastor as my strength permitted. His love fills my heart. For an imperfect saint, his goodness and my service to his glory, I adore him, whom Brother Paterson loved of the Church and the Kingdom of God. His home life was very fine. He was a music teacher of ability, and he was felt in the places he served. He was quick-witted and generous of him, "He was an earnest man of humor and enjoyed telling a sympathetic and understanding preacher of the gospel, and he wrote, "Brother Paterson loved for everybody and all respected his advice." The pastor there says, "Immunity and taught the Men's Society ago when his ill-health prevented the church was to 'pinch-hit' on communion at the peril of the life of the latest religious books, and contributed regularly to the

February 21, 1880. They had no children and in a wheeled-chair yet with a wife leaving her in that condition. He passed away June 24, 1937. The funeral was held at the church and conducted by Rev. J. H. Bond, pastor, and burial was there.

—M. D. B.

E. T. GERKIN

Eli Thomas Gerkin was born February 1, 1867, at West Baden, Indiana. His early life was spent in West Baden and there he received his education. On October 16, 1894, in that city, he was married to Miss Anna F. Henson.

After his marriage he entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church, becoming a member of the Indiana Conference in the year 1895. He served charges in that conference until 1906 when he was transferred to the Colorado Conference. For five years he held appointments in that state, and in 1911 moved to Northwest Iowa.

His first charge here was at Whitfield Church in Sioux City. He then went to Spirit Lake where a new church was built under his leadership. He later served the church at Laurens, Lohrville, Correctionville, Corwith, and Fenton.

While at Fenton in the year 1930 he was stricken with serious illness which left him in broken health and compelled his retirement. After retiring he moved to Sioux City and lived on the west side and was a member of the Whitfield Quarterly Conference. During that retirement period he was as active as his health would permit and sought every opportunity to be of service to his pastor and to the Church.

In 1936 he was appointed supply pastor at Hinton and had completed almost a year of service in which he was very happy, when he was again stricken on September 14, 1937, and three days later passed away in the Methodist Hospital in Sioux City.

Thomas Gerkin was a man of sterling character and fine abilities. He was a friendly man and during all of his pastorates, he formed strong and lasting ties with his people. His dominating desire was to be of service to the people, to aid them by contact and counsel in any way he could.

At his passing many said that they had felt him to be a friend indeed. One man spoke of him as being to him a father. Such testimony would have been to him a sense of his life's fulfillment. He sought to live like "the man in the house by the side of the road and be a friend to man."

Such a ministry is not soon forgotten in the hearts of many people. It made him to be a good minister of Jesus Christ.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerkin had two children, Lalla Sallquist who passed away in 1934, and Virgil T. Gerkin, now residing in Sioux City. Mrs. Gerkin, his wife, and Virgil and two grandchildren, James and Thomas Gerkin, are left in sorrow at his going.

Servant of God well done
Thy glorious warfare's past:
The battle's fought; the race is won,
And thou art crowned at last.

Funeral services were held at Whitfield Church in Sioux City September 20, being in charge of Rev. O. M. Bond, district superintendent, and Rev. J. J. Davies preached the sermon. Rev. N. A. Price, Rev. O. M. Keve, Rev. G. T. Notson, and Rev. G. W. Dunn assisted in the service. Many of the ministers of the Conference were present. Burial was in Graceland Park Cemetery.

—G. W. D.

