

Serials

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ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH SESSION

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*Des Moines*  
**The South Iowa  
Annual Conference**

of

**THE METHODIST CHURCH**

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**COLLEGIATE METHODIST CHURCH  
AMES, IOWA**

Beginning on June 22, 1958

Closing with June 26, 1958

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## MEMOIRS

CHARLES ALFRED CARLSON was born at Pilot Mound, Boone County, Iowa, the son of John and Caroline Carlson, on August 18, 1867 and quietly slipped away to be with his Saviour, on June 21, 1957, just about two months before his 90th birthday.

Mr. Carlson grew to manhood on the farm where he was born. At an early age he dedicated himself to Christ and looked forward to serving his Lord. Not having the opportunity of high school, he later went to Simpson College and did his high school work in the Academy there. He took his college work at Simpson and Cornell, graduating from Simpson in 1901. During his student years he served pastorates at Spring Hill, Lorimor, Beaver and North Branch, beginning his student ministry in 1894.

On August 14, 1901, he was united in marriage to Sarah Ellen Cowie, of Summerset, Iowa. To this union three sons and a daughter were born. John Marion, Carl Donovan, Paul Elmer and Jean Eleanor.

He was admitted on trial in the Des Moines Conference in 1894 and received into full membership in 1901. Besides the churches mentioned which he served as student pastor he served the following churches: Summerset, Lacona, Essex, Northboro, Nodaway, Massena, Afton, Clearfield, Griswold, Denison, Greenfield, Madrid and Paton-Dana. He retired in 1939.

The Carlsons observed their golden wedding anniversary in 1951. Mr. Carlson was a good pastor, and with his helpful wife they were gladly received into the various churches they served. After retirement they first lived at Madrid and later at Greenfield. In both of these places they had spent happy and profitable years in their ministry. Mrs. Carlson preceded her husband in death in December, 1955.

He is survived by the three children and families: Marion of Greenfield, Paul of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Mrs. Jean Bassett of Brea, California, including five grandchildren and a half sister, Mrs. Fred Lorenzen of Ogden, Iowa. One son, Donovan, died in 1932.

Funeral services were held June 25, in the Greenfield Methodist Church, conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Donald Arthur and the District Superintendent, Dr. Claude Cooper. Interment was made in the Greenfield cemetery.

JOHN L. HILLMAN. Seventy-one years as a Methodist minister, 50 of them in the effective relationship, were laid at the Master's feet when John L. Hillman was called to his heavenly reward, July 13, 1957, at Wesley Acres, Des Moines, Iowa. Death came just five days after his ninety-second birthday. He was born in Licking County, Ohio, July 8, 1865, and had his early education there.

At the age of 16, when he was a student at the Academy of Ohio Wesleyan University, he had a profound religious experience, largely due to the friendship and influence of the late Dr. Rollin H. Walker, a school mate. On his graduation from Ohio Wesleyan in 1886, he was admitted on trial in the Central Ohio Conference, and entered Boston University School of Theology. His scholastic record won him election to Phi Beta Kappa.

Graduating from Boston in 1889, he returned to his home Conference for seven years. At Epworth Church, Marion, Ohio, about a thousand people were converted in an evangelistic meeting he conducted himself. Pastorates of leading churches in Columbus and Cleveland, in the Ohio and North Ohio Conferences, followed, until his transfer to the Pittsburgh Conference in 1904. Returning to Ohio in 1909, he received over 800 members in three years into Trinity church, Youngstown, in the East Ohio Conference, bringing its membership to the fourth largest in Methodism, at that time.

He was appointed pastor of First Church, Des Moines, in 1912. While there, the membership was doubled and a large debt lifted. At both Youngstown and Des Moines he pioneered in personal evangelism. During each of these pastorates, he established records of having accessions to the church every Sunday, consecutively, without a break, for 22 months. In his 30 years of pastoral ministry he had the privilege of receiving more than 6,000 members into the church. From Des Moines he went to Epworth church, Toledo, Ohio, in the West Ohio Conference, where he was pastor, 1917-19. The Board of Trustees of Simpson College in 1919 elected him to its presidency, where he served 17 years until his retirement in 1936. As president-emeritus, his connection with the college and his interest in its welfare continued to the end of his life.

While Dr. Hillman was president of Simpson, the administration building was erected and the endowment doubled. He conferred the first honorary degree given the late Dr. George Washington Carver, Negro scientist. He was also a close personal friend of Dr. Carver's and an authority on his work. After retirement from the presidency, Dr. Hillman continued for some months on the faculty as professor of Bible.

Few men have served the Methodist Church in as many varied, and fruitful, activities as did Dr. Hillman. He was a delegate to five General Conferences and reserve delegate to two others. Twice he was chairman of the General Conference's Committee on Education. For over 20 years a member of the Book Committee in charge of the Methodist Book Concern, he served as chairman of its executive committee for four quadrenniums. He was also a member of the University Senate, of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges, and of other co-operative and accrediting educational agencies. Another Methodist activity was membership on the General Conference Commission on Evangelism.

He served as president of the Iowa Anti-Saloon League and on the governing board of the national organization. A thirty-second degree Mason, he was a Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Iowa. At the time of his death he was a director of the Home Federal Savings and Loan Association in Des Moines, of which he was one of the founders. The Indianola Rotary Club made him an honorary life member.

Honorary degrees awarded him were: D.D. from both Baldwin-Walface and Ohio Wesleyan; LL.D. from College of the Pacific; and L.H.D. from Simpson College, at the time of his retirement.

When Wesley Acres was established in 1949, Dr. Hillman went there to make his home as the first guest officially admitted. First Church, Des Moines, honored him with the title of pastor-emeritus. Until his health began to fail, two years ago, he taught the Philathea Bible Class of older people. First Church named the youth wing of its new educational building, Hillman Hall, in recognition of his service to, and connection with, its work through the years.

He married Elizabeth L. Howes at Dennis, Massachusetts, August 27, 1889. Mrs. Hillman died at Moline, Illinois, in 1947, after over fifty-seven years of life together. Five children survive—Paul M. Hillman, minister of Asbury Church, Des Moines; Mrs. Horace T. Lavely, Nashville, Tennessee; Mrs. Alice M. Sanders, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Mrs. Helen F. Fischer, Oak Park, Illinois; and John W. Hillman, Evansville, Indiana. Also surviving are 11 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at First Church, Indianola, July 16, in charge of C. C. Bacon, Dean O. H. Bimson of Simpson College and A. J. Kindred. Burial was in the cemetery at Indianola. The lectern in the new church at Indianola, and one of the chandeliers, are memorials to Dr. and Mrs. Hillman, made possible by the gifts of friends and family. Simpson College and the Permanent Fund of the Iowa-Des Moines Conference were the chief beneficiaries named in his will.