

OFFICIAL RECORDS
OF THE
EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION
OF THE
UPPER IOWA ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
AND THE
FIRST SESSION OF THE UPPER IOWA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH

CLINTON, IOWA
SEPTEMBER 20 - 24

1939

H. H. DILL
Publisher
104 2nd St. S. E.
Independence, Iowa

Hawkeye-Record Printing Co.
Mount Vernon, Iowa

298746
DREW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

VII. Memoirs

ALBERT F. DAMEROW

Albert F. Damerow was born in Sassenhage, Pommern, Germany January 26, 1867. He was the son of Gottlieb and Louise Damerow. He came with his parents from Germany to Tomah, Wisconsin at about the age of sixteen.

He studied for the ministry at Galena, Ill., and at Charles City, Iowa in a college sponsored by the North West German Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. After completing his studies, in 1894 he was admitted to the Northwest German Conference and received his first pastoral appointment to Castlewood, South Dakota. In 1896 he was ordained deacon and in 1898, elder in the church of his choice. For 36 years he was an effective elder in the church. During this time he served the following churches, Castlewood, Rockham, Webster, and Crandon in South Dakota, Flood Creek and Decorah in Iowa, Parker and Howard in South Dakota, Marinette and Stitzer in Wisconsin, and in 1929 he was sent to the German Methodist Church in Reinbeck, Iowa. Here in 1930 he retired from the active ministry and established his home, and here he continued to live until he was called in death on June 15th, 1939.

On October 30th, 1895 he was united in marriage to Wilhelmine Reick at Tomah, Wis. To this union four children were born. One daughter died in infancy. His wife preceded him in death on December 5th, 1932 at Reinbeck, Iowa where interment was made. Three children survive him, Emil W. of Reinbeck, Iowa, Wesley P. of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Mrs. Esther Armstrong of Fredericktown, Missouri. He also leaves three brothers, one sister and five grandchildren. Four sisters and one brother preceded him in death.

Burial services were held in the Methodist Church at Reinbeck, Iowa on Saturday, June 17th. The Rev. George D. Gaide, assisted by the Rev. Arthur W. Henke, officiated at the service. Interment was made in the cemetery at Reinbeck, Iowa.

SILAS CUMMINGS PLATTS

Silas Cummings Platts, son of Harvey and Harriett Davis Platts, was born in Rindge, New Hampshire, October 2, 1849. Left an orphan at three, he lived with relatives in New Hampshire and Boston. He became a Christian at nine years of age. He came west at sixteen, teaching school in Indiana at eighteen. He also did some work as supply pastor in Indiana.

He was received on trial in North-west Iowa Conference in 1880, was ordained Deacon in 1883 and Elder in 1889. In North-west Iowa he served East Side, Garner and Lake Mills. He was in the Supernumerary relation, on account of his health, from 1883 to 1887. Transferring to Upper Iowa Conference in 1887, he served State Center, Fairfax, Hazelton, Earlville, DeWitt, Kenwood Park, Calmar and Waucoma, retiring in 1905 on account of a throat affliction. Moving to the South-west, he served as a supply pastor in Kansas, Arizona and Oklahoma, until he was past eighty years of age.

In 1869, he was united in marriage with Amanda C. Hulse in La-Porte, Indiana. Two children came into their home, George and Hazel, Mrs. Arnett of Wichita, Kansas. They walked together for sixty-four years, when Mrs. Platts slipped away Home in 1933.

In his later years blindness crept in upon him, but while the physical eye was dimmed, he saw spiritual things clearly. In 1933 he had a stroke of paralysis and was taken to The Methodist Home for the Aged in Topeka, Kansas. Superintendent Hovgard wrote me after his Home-going, "During the year that he spent in the Home, he conducted himself as a true Christian gentleman. He participated frequently in our religious services and we found him to be a well-read and wide-awake man. He was practically totally blind, but could find his way around the building, up and down stairs and into the Chapel with the assistance of his cane and never cared to have anybody lead him."

My friendship with Brother Platts dated from early in 1898, when I preached my first sermon in his Church in DeWitt, Iowa, to May 7, 1939, when I visited him in the home in Topeka. He could not see me, but spoke his deep appreciation of the privileges the Church had given him, and the care that was being given him.

Swiftly the sands of life ran lower and lower, until on June 22, 1939, the scales fell from his eyes and he beheld, in all their beauty, his companion of sixty-four years, and The Christ, whom he had loved for eighty years and whose Minister he had been for nearly sixty years.

The body was cremated and the ashes were placed beside those of his wife in the cemetery at Winfield, Kansas.

—Thomas P. Potter

MRS. EARLE I. SELDEN

Mrs. Earle I. Selden passed away at her home in the Belle Plaine Parsonage Saturday morning, October 8, 1938. The end came quite unexpectedly although she had not been in good health since early spring.

She was born Alice Maude Warren, daughter of Albert and Christina Warren, in Iowa County. When she was ready to enter High School her parents moved to Belle Plaine. She finished the High School and completed her training at the State Teachers College at Cedar Falls. Following this she taught for some time.

She was married to Rev. Earle I. Selden at her home in Belle Plaine and they immediately took up the work together; serving Churches in Terrill, and Sioux City, Iowa; Janesville, Minnesota, New Albin, Waukon, West Union, and Belle Plaine, Iowa.

Mrs. Selden was unusually well prepared to fill the place of a Minister's wife; her training in the field of Education was supplemented by constant study, especially in the field of Children's Work. She did quite a bit of work in Institutes and Conferences of Church Workers, Coaching Teachers and Workers with Children. As Mistress of the Parsonage she was gracious and kindly to all, but her especial delight was to help those who were lonely and unfortunate among the members of the Parish. She was unselfish in the extreme, giving of her strength wherever there was need. She never saved herself when the work of the Church called her.

She is survived by her husband, and one daughter, Vivian, now Mrs. Newel Brink of Dubuque, Iowa; one sister, Mrs. Charles Heller of Central City, Iowa, and her aged mother, who makes her home with Mrs. Heller. There are also a number of more distant relatives and an unusually large number of friends.

Funeral services were held in the Belle Plaine Methodist Church Monday, October 10th, A. W. Henke, District Superintendent of the

Cedar Rapids District officiating. He was assisted by the pastors of the Congregational and Evangelical Churches of Belle Plaine. A memorial service was also conducted and a tribute of flowers brought to the Sunday School the day before and placed on a pedestal where she was wont to stand and teach her class. Interment was made in Oak Hill Cemetery, Belle Plaine, Iowa.

MRS. FRANCIS WYRICK

Geneva Davidson, daughter of Sidney W. and Lovina Davidson was born near Scotch Grove in Jones County, Iowa, April 13, 1862.

When a child of three she moved with her parents to Marysville, Mo. Four years later the family moved to Lawrence, Kansas, where they lived for three years moving back to Jones County near Cascade. After her public school education she attended Tilford Academy in Vinton, Iowa, one year. She worked at the dressmaking trade for three years.

On January 1, 1885 she married Rev. F. H. Wyrick who was then pastor of the Hazleton Methodist Episcopal Church. They worked together in the ministry of the Church at Hazleton, Bellevue, Andrew, Winthrop, Hopkinton, Fairbank, Lamont, Central City, Viola, Brandon, Westburg and Otterville. After one year of absence and a few years in the supernumerary relation she retired with her husband from the active ministry to the home south of Jesup where she lived until her death at five p.m. Sunday, October 9, 1938 at the age of 76 years, 5 months and 26 days.

Mrs. Wyrick will be remembered as a close student of nature, a real lover of plants, birds and animals. She could call most of them by name. It was her choice delight to pick flowers for the sick.

In childhood she suffered infantile paralysis which left her with a crippled ankle, yet she always found strength to bear her full share of life's burdens. Her last sickness was over a year in duration, during which time she was either in a chair or in bed, yet uncomplainingly insisted she would get well. Such was not her Father's will for she has gone to dwell in those heavenly mansions prepared for those who love the Lord.

She leaves to mourn her departure, her husband, three sons; O. W. at home, A. C. and H. H. at Los Angeles, one daughter, Mrs. James B. Orr of Independence; five grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. W. S. Gould of Des Moines and other relatives and friends. Those who knew her best will recall a faithful wife, a kind mother, a loving neighbor, and true friend.

The last rites were held at Independence, Tuesday with Rev. H. F. Mercer, pastor of the Jesup Methodist Church, in charge, and Rev. H. H. Dill assisting. The sermon was delivered by Dr. Frank W. Court, Superintendent of the Waterloo District.

MRS. ANNA HARTKE

Anna Hartke, nee Schuldt, born on November 24, 1853 in the province of Meiklenberg, Schwerin, Germany, passed away at the home of her daughter at Monona on March 23, 1939 at the age of 83 years.

When twelve years of age she emigrated with her parents to America, they coming to Colesburg, Iowa. It was there that she was converted and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church to which she gave faithful service and support, remaining a loyal member throughout her life.

On February 22, 1877 she was united in marriage with Frederick J. Hartke, and they soon located on a farm in German Township, near Garner, Iowa.

In the year 1881 her husband felt the call to the ministry, and followed it, and Mrs. Hartke proved herself to be a useful and devoted helper to him in that work.

Mr. Hartke died in 1923, and for some years Mrs. Hartke lived at Garner, Iowa, but because of declining health her daughter, Mrs. Clarence Bernhard, of Monona, Iowa took her to live with her which she did until the end of her earthly life.

Funeral services were held at Monona, the Reverend George W. Turner officiating, on Saturday, March 25th, and also at Garner on Sunday afternoon, March 26th, at the Methodist Church with the Reverend V. Schuldt, pastor of the church, conducting the service. Interment followed in the Garner cemetery.

MRS. ELLA MAE WHITE

The death of Mrs. Ella Mae White has removed from the world a woman of rare simplicity and beauty of character. By reason of this simplicity, the Grace of God was clearly revealed in the service she rendered to the Church of Christ and the work of the Kingdom. Like her Master, she was constantly going about doing good and the Lord blest her labors and many people were helped through her gracious ministry.

Mrs. White was the daughter of George and Nellie Metcalf. She was born in Macon City, Mo. August 8, 1876. She received her education in Greensboro, North Carolina. She was married to the Rev. Harry White, a member of the St. Louis Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1900, Dr. White was transferred to the Upper Iowa Conference and with her husband, Mrs. White faithfully served the Church at Eldora, Anamosa, Clinton and Calamus. Dr. White died while he was pastor of Calamus which made necessary Mrs. White's removal to the home of her daughter, Mrs. E. L. Kieme. While in Philadelphia she was associated with the First Methodist Church, Germantown, where the sincerity and influence of her life and service were greatly appreciated. She passed to her heavenly Home while visiting her son, John F. White, in Enfield, North Carolina. She is survived in addition to those mentioned by another son, Sanford S. White of Philadelphia, also three grandchildren, Harry, Elwood and Janet Mae Kieme. Funeral services were held at the home of her daughter, conducted by the Pastor of First Church, J. S. Ladd Thomas. Interment was at Arlington Cemetery, Palmyra, New Jersey.

MRS. ALBERT M. BILLINGSLEY

Eliza Vail Boyd was born at Tippecanoe, Ohio on December 31, 1862. It was here that she spent her girlhood and received her education. She was married to Albert M. Billingsley in 1882 and for more than forty years she shared with him the varied experiences of the ministry. Their labors took them to charges in the East Ohio, the St. Louis and the Upper Iowa Conferences where Dr. Billingsley served several of the larger churches of our connection. Upon their retirement in 1927, they made their residence in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Mrs. Billingsley continued to live here after her husband's death in 1929. In July of this year she returned to Ohio to visit her brothers and other relatives. It was at Tippecanoe in the very home where