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VII. Memoirs

ALBERT F. DAMEROW

was born in Sassenhage, Pommern, Germany as the son of Gottlieb and Louise Damerow. emigrated from Germany to Tomah, Wisconsin at the age of 14.

He served in the ministry at Galena, Ill., and at Charles City, Iowa, supported by the North West German Conference, Central Iowa Church. After completing his studies, he returned to the Northwest German Conference and received an appointment to Castlewood, South Dakota, as a deacon and in 1898, elder in the church of his home. He was an effective elder in the church. During the following churches, Castlewood, Rockham, in South Dakota, Flood Creek and Decorah in Iowa and in South Dakota, Marinette and Stitzer in Wisconsin. He was sent to the German Methodist Church in 1930 he retired from the active ministry and, and here he continued to live until he was 85 years of age on the 15th, 1939.

In 1895 he was united in marriage to Wilhelmine. To this union four children were born. One daughter, Myrtle, preceded him in death on December 15, 1939, Iowa where interment was made. Three sons: Emil W. of Reinbeck, Iowa, Wesley P. of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Esther Armstrong of Fredericktown, Missouri. His wife, one sister and five grandchildren. Four children preceded him in death.

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

ALAS CUMMINGS PLATTS

Alas Cummings Platts, son of Harvey and Harriett Davis Platts, was born in New Hampshire, October 2, 1849. Left an orphan at the age of 12. He came west at sixteen, and settled in Iowa at eighteen. He also did some work as a farmer.

He served in the North-west Iowa Conference in 1880, in 1883 and Elder in 1889. In North-west Iowa he served at Garner and Lake Mills. He was in the Superintendent's account of his health, from 1883 to 1887. Transferred to the Iowa Conference in 1887, he served State Center, Earlville, DeWitt, Kenwood Park, Calmar and DeWitt. In 1905 on account of a throat affliction. Moving to Kansas, he served as a supply pastor in Kansas, Arizona and California. He was past eighty years of age.

He was united in marriage with Amanda C. Hulse in 1880. Their children came into their home, George and Amanda, in Wichita, Kansas. They walked together for the last time in 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 1938 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.