

North Iowa Annual Conference

of The Methodist Church

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1966

JOURNAL AND YEAR BOOK

OFFICIAL RECORDS

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH SESSION

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(The first Annual Conference in northern Iowa was the Upper Iowa Conference organized in 1856. The Northwest Iowa Conference was established in 1872. The present North Iowa Conference came into being in 1949 through the merger of the Upper Iowa and Northwest Iowa Conferences)

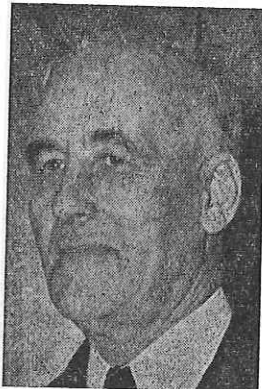
H. A. WALKER
Editor and Publisher
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
Mason City, Iowa
June 12-16, 1966

VII. MEMOIRS

CORWIN TAYLOR

Corwin Taylor was born November 15, 1876, at Atlantic, Iowa, to Benjamin and Ida Taylor, and spent his boyhood at Estherville, Iowa. He was graduated from Morningside College in 1907 and later received his master's degree at Garrett Theological Seminary, Northwestern University.



He married Nelle Blood August 23, 1904, while both were students at Morningside. While in college, The Reverend Mr. Taylor served as student pastor at Rustin Avenue and Trimble Methodist Churches in Sioux City. After he and his wife were graduated they served a brief pastorate at Welsh, Louisiana, and then went to Korea, where the Reverend Mr. Taylor was a missionary from 1907 to 1923.

On his return to this country, he spent the rest of his ministry in the North Iowa Conference of the Methodist Church, with pastorates at Sac City, Sheldon, Sutherland, Lohrville, Gilman, Kanawha and Forest City.

Following retirement the Reverend Mr. Taylor served as chaplain at Friendship Haven, here he had resided with his wife for eight years.

On June 28, 1965, Corwin Taylor died at the home of a son in Clinton, Iowa. Services were held at the Chapel on the Hill at Friendship Haven, Fort Dodge, Iowa, on July 1, 1965, with Dr. Clarence Tompkins officiating. Burial was at Rock Valley, Iowa.

Survivors include the widow; a daughter, Mrs. Elwood Olsen of Sioux City; three sons, Dr. James Herbert of Clinton; Dr. Wilson of Washington, D.C., and Corwin, Jr., of San Bernardino, California; a brother, Asa, in California, and eleven grandchildren.

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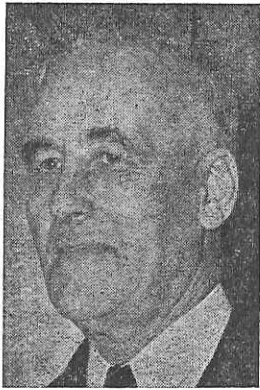
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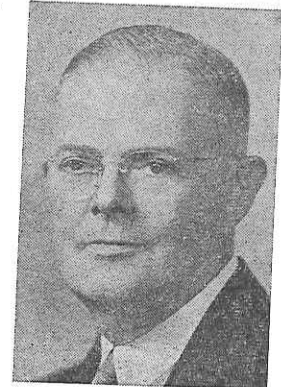
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CHARLES GOULD FORT

Charles Gould Fort was born October 13, 1885, the second son of Mary Catherine and William Roberts Fort of Davenport, Iowa.

His college training was taken at Cornell College, Mount Vernon, where he served as student pastor at Camanche. After completing his theological training at Drew Seminary in Madison, New Jersey, Union Seminary and Columbia University, New York City, the Reverend Fort was appointed to the Winthrop-Whitney churches in the fall of 1912. On April 14, 1914, he and Edna Hickman of Winthrop were married. Together they filled appointments at Central City, Hopkinton, and Shell Rock. In the fall of 1926 a special appointment by Bishop Homer Stuntz made Charles Director of Wesley foundation of the State University of Iowa, Iowa City. The Forts resumed regular parish work in 1931 at Vinton. The following churches were subsequently served in his characteristic faithful but happy manner: Rockford, DeWitt, Sheffield, and Earlville. His deep sincerity and warmth of personality endeared him to the people of his parishes. His genius as a pastor lay in persuasion rather than coercion.



The crowning point of his ministry was the Easter Sunday service held in the newly completed church edifice in Sheffield in 1954. One member commented that her minister had indeed "walked with God that morning".

The last church he served after retirement was Earlville, where in 1957 the congregation helped to carry out plans for his commemoration of fifty years in the ministry of The Methodist Church. Owing to impaired health he was forced to retire, and in 1959 the Reverend and Mrs. Fort moved to their new retirement home at Winthrop where he had received his first appointment in 1912. It was here that the couple celebrated their golden wedding on April 14, 1964.

Death came to Charles Fort July 1, 1965, at the People's Hospital, Independence, Iowa. He leaves to mourn him his wife Edna; a son, Harlan V. Fort, Minneapolis, Minnesota; a daughter Mrs. H. E. Kurpiel (Mary), Berkeley, Illinois; three brothers: W. C. Fort, Bettendorf, Iowa; L. M. Fort, Harborcreek, Pennsylvania; John Fort, San Antonio, Texas; a sister, Gertrude Fort, Vinton, Iowa, and numerous other relatives and a host of friends. He was preceded in death by his father, mother, two brothers, and a sister.

Funeral services were held July 4, 1965, in the Winthrop Methodist Church, with the Reverend Richard D. Elefson officiating, assisted by the Reverend Wayne Carlson of Independence. Dr. Charles Hempstead, Cedar Rapids, brought a comforting meditation. Interment was in Fairview Cemetery, Winthrop, Iowa.