

**COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
BANK OF
STEPHENSON
STEPHENSON, MICHIGAN**

In Memoriam

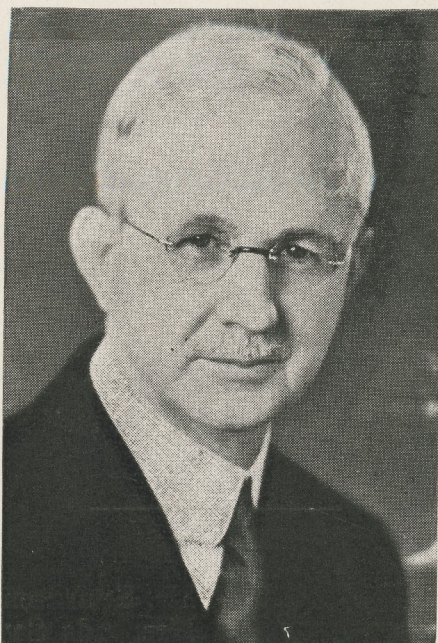
“There are suns that go down in splendor in the West
When the day is done.
There are souls which leave touching memories when at rest
Like the glorious setting of the sun.”

Mr. Carl Bergvall	Mr. Spurgeon Nevers
Mrs. Blanche Bodle	Mrs. Ada Sawbridge
Mr. Norwood Bowers	Mrs. Newton Spencer
Mrs. Andrew Christopherson	Mrs. Charles Swanson
Mr. and Mrs. David Edgerly	Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Temple
Mrs. Hiram Hubbard	Mr. William Walcher
Mrs. John Holstrom	Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Warner
Mrs. W. P. Kezar	Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Wheeler
Mrs. A. G. Larsen	Mrs. Jacob Woessner
Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Marson	Mrs. Robert Woessner
Mrs. Elizabeth McMonagle	

And others who did their bit.

To these valiant pioneers of the Church, this anniversary booklet is lovingly dedicated by the following committee on behalf of the church of today:

James A. Muma
Helen Johnson
Herbert Corey
R. A. Patterson
R. Rex Reid



Gary, Ind.—March 30th

Rev. R. Rex Reid,
Stephenson, Mich.

Please accept my hearty congratulations on your tenth and fifty-fifth anniversaries. God bless you and your dear people who have carried on so bravely and successfully through these difficult days. May you ever keep a Christian torch burning brightly to light men home to God.

EDGAR BLAKE

Bishop of Michigan and Indiana



Methodist Episcopal Church
Marquette, Michigan

February 10, 1937.

My Dear Stephenson Friends:

Your pastor has just written inviting me to share with you in your Anniversary Program in April and while I am unable to accept because of the pressure of the Annual Meetings I do want to have a little share in the rejoicing. From the very first time that I came to you at Stephenson you have had a warm place in my heart. Frankly I like you. Your quiet, but happy optimism does me good. Your loyalty to the church gives me a feeling of satisfaction and I am looking forward with you to many a happy and fruitful year.

And so it is ten years since you built your beautiful church! I congratulate you and rejoice with you. I pray that the blessing of God may rest upon you always.

Yours very sincerely,

J. A. YEOMAN

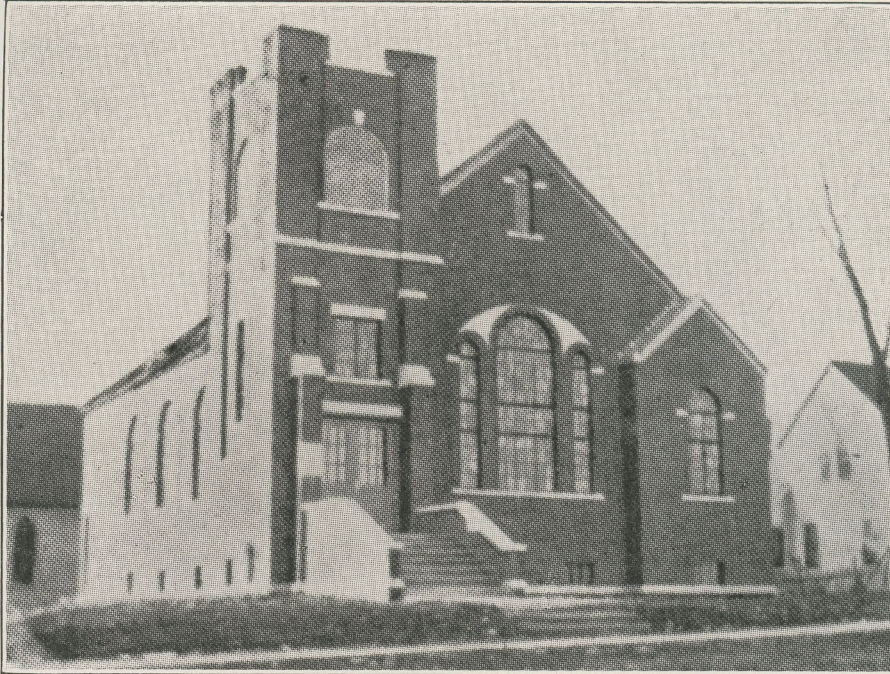
District Superintendent
Marquette District, Detroit Conference



1883(?)—1907



1907—1924



1927—1937

Building A Church In Stephenson

It was decided by the Town
That a church of wide renown
Was the need.
The community as a whole
Took the project as its goal
Its Soul to feed.

Now the members of the Board
Men and women, we have heard
Went to work.
Preacher Williams led the way—
The men followed him, they say,
But the women never shirk.

Oh the plans those women laid
And the chicken pies they made
Is quite a tale.
There were suppers, there were teas
There were dinners if you please
And foods for sale.

There were sometimes little scraps
A little time would elapse
And heal it all.
Then the basement went up fast
And the bricks began at last to form a wall.

A thing of beauty now it stands
Built by toiling, loving hands;
The church is done.
The doctor and the lawyer
The blacksmith and the sawyer
Said "We've won".

The bills have all been paid
But the hands can not be laid
Down to rest.
There is still much work to do
And the laborers tho few
Must work with zest.

There are still some souls to save
And the road to Heaven pave
With a smile.
The young must learn to share,
The burden all must bear
Yet a while.

To our Lord: this church is thine
May our hearts with it entwine
In Thy love.
May we all, till setting sun
Work for Thee till life is done
And meet above.

STELLA BOWERS CLOUD.

LIST OF MINISTERS FOR THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
STEPHENSON, MICHIGAN

- 1882 Summer of—Crittenden (Tramp Preacher)
1882-3 Alfred Phillips
1883-4 William Dowlman
1884-6 Alfred Phillips and young man finished year of 1886.
1886-7 James Pascoe
1887-9 James Ivey
1889-90 J. H. Cudlip
1890-91 A. Raymond Johns
1891-3 William E. Golding
1893-5 Thomas J. Purdue
1895-6 A. Kinewasser
1896-7 Phillip Price
1897-8 Richard Wyatt
1898-9 Dunning D. D. Idle
1899-1900 A. R. Fulford
1900-3 John Murdock
1903-4 R. Emery
1904-7 Edson D. White
1907-8 John Westwood
1908-12 Frank Jones
1912-13 T. H. Williams. Mr. Phillip Lene finished year 1914.
1914-17 T. H. Williamson
1917-20 David Shugg
1920-23 Chaplain Charles W. Brown
1923-24 Henry Hiles
1924-25 W. H. Murphy
1925 T. A. Greenwood (lived at Menominee)
1926-28 W. L. Williams (June, 1926)
1928-29 J. H. Bosanko
1929-30 Wallace S. Field
1930-33 William Lovejoy
1933-37 R. Rex Reid

HISTORICAL EPISODES

THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

The Methodist denomination held service in the school house. The principle leaders were Mr. and Mrs. Laycock. The first preacher was called "the tramp" preacher. He used to walk up from Menominee on Saturday and borrow a clean shirt from J. L. H. Churchill to preach his sermon on Sunday morning. The lots where the Methodist church now stands were donated by James B. Goodman in 1882. The ground was broken for the church in the fall of 1883, and in the fall of 1883 work was commenced on a frame building and the small wing was finished which was used to hold services in the following winter. It was heated by a box stove.

REDEDICATION OF THE CHURCH

January 6, 1907

On January 6, 1907 the Community M. E. Church of Stephenson was re-opened and rededicated. This was done because of rather extensive alterations within the church and the building of the north wing to the church. Among the improvements were the stain glass windows that were put in. These were gifts of the individual members of the church and the different auxiliary societies connected with it. New and commodious seats had been put in and the pulpit and choir changed from the west to the north end of the auditorium giving more seating capacity to the church as well as greatly improving its interior architecture.

To the Ladies' Aid society of the church belongs the credit for these improvements. Tireless workers as the ladies have been, they set out upon this work with a resolution to make this house

of worship one of the finest in the community. The resident pastor, The Rev. E. D. White, who during his pastorate here has done good and faithful work for the upbuilding of the church, is also entitled to credit in connection with the improvements made.

The following is the program for the two days:

Sunday, January 6, 1907

- 9:30 a. m. Love Feast, Leader, The Rev. S. Olsen
10:30 a. m. Morning Service
Prayer, The Rev. W. M. Todd, Menominee.
Solo, Mrs. Edward Perrizo, Daggett.
Sermon, The Rev. F. Spence, Escanaba.
12:00 m. Sunday School Rally.
Addresses by visiting ministers.
1:30 p. m. Dedicatory Service.
Solo, The Rev. F. Spence
Scripture, The Rev. S. Olsen
Solo, Mrs. Edward Perrizo.
Dedicatory Sermon, The Rev. W. M. Todd

MONDAY EVENING RE-OPENING CONCERT

January 7, 1907

- 8:00 p. m. Re-opening concert.
The Rev. H. N. Aldrich, Reader and Singer.
Miss Estella Bowers, Reader
Mrs. Edward Perrizo, Singer
Professor Edward Quivron, Clarinetist.

The services were largely attended. The financial part of the program exceeded all expectations. The people of Stephenson had a church edifice of which they might well be proud.

DESTROYED BY FIRE IN 1924

On November 2, 1924, the Community M. E. Church was totally destroyed by fire. The blaze was discovered by Ray Rouse at 9:30 p. m., who noticed the windows were strangely lighted up. However, though everyone did his best, the fire had too big a start to be checked or for the people to do much salvaging. The fire was kept from spreading to the Church House, in which they then held their services. It was not until May 30, 1927 when "Les"

Williams, ably assisted by Walter Wangerin, with his team, Prince (still living) and Molly, Harvey Warner and a group of young among whom were Irving Hansen, Cornie Sanders and Carl Swanson, first started cleaning away the debris in preparation for excavating a basement to be under the whole proposed building. However, it was a community project from the first and so heartily and valiantly did the people give and work that it was finished in the late fall of that year and dedicated on March 25, 1928, with less than \$1000 debt.

Surely we may well praise 'God from whom all blessings flow'. Perhaps we should note here that so many people felt that two of their group had worked so hard and had done so much to make a success of this venture of faith that they gathered together in a social way to show their appreciation of these two leaders, Grace Sanders and Walter Wangerin.

DEDICATION OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Stephenson, Michigan

W. Leslie Williams, Pastor

Sunday, March 25, 1928

Order of Worship, 10:30 A. M.



Prelude	
Doxology	
Invocation	Rev. W. Leslie Williams
Hymn	78
Apostles' Creed	Congregation
Prayer and Response	
Anthem	"Come Sing Before the Lord" Schobel
Responsive Reading	13th Sunday Morning
Gloria Patri	
Announcements and Offering	
Financial Report	Mr. Walter Wangerin
Hymn	661
Dedication Service	
Sermon—"The Drink That Lasts the Longest"	Rev. F. L. Leonard, D. D.
Hymn	662
Benediction.	

Afternoon 3:00 O'clock

Prelude		
Hymn	- - - - -	208
Invocation	- - - - -	Rev. R. C. G. Williams
Anthem	“One Sweetly Solemn Thought”	Ambrose
Scripture, Prayer	- - - - -	Rev. Ira E. Carley
Announcements and Offering		
Baptismal Service	- - - - -	Rev. F. L. Leonard
Hymn	- - - - -	411
Sermon—“Golden Opportunities”	- - - - -	Rev. Harry Colenso
Hymn	- - - - -	325
Benediction	- - - - -	Rev. R. C. G. Williams

Evening 7:30 O'Clock

Hymn	- - - - -	180
Anthem	“Abide With Me”	DeReef
Prayer	- - - - -	Rev. F. L. Leonard
Quartette	- - - - - “O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go.”	
Scripture Reading	- - - - -	Rev. Ira E. Carley
Announcements and Offering		
Violin Solo		
Reception of Members		
Hymn	- - - - -	82
Lecture—“The Fact of God”	- - - - -	Rev. R. C. G. Williams
Hymn	- - - - -	37
Benediction	- - - - -	Rev. F. L. Leonard

We wish to thank all those who have been so good as to make ready responses to our call for funds in the erection of this Church. It is your privilege to worship with us at any time. You will find a very cordial welcome.

Building and Soliciting Committee

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Dr. Edward Sawbridge | Mrs. Robert Tetro |
| Dr. Albert Sanders, Jr. | Mr. Walter Wangerin |
| Mr. W. J. Oberdorffer | Mr. Andrew Hansen |
| Mr. Carl Pearson | Mrs. Grace Sanders |
| Mr. J. H. Marson | Mrs. Elmer Caulk |
| Mrs. Robert Woessner | Mrs. Carl Pearson |
| Miss Ida Edgerly | Mrs. Thea Bergvall |
| Mrs. Claude Phillippo | Mrs. J. H. Marson |
| Mr. Arvid Johnson | Mr. Harvey Warner |

Finance Committee

W. Leslie Williams, Chairman
William J. Oberdorffer, Treasurer
Mrs. N. LaComb, Secretary

Special Donations

Choir Rug; Bell - - - - - Mrs. Jane Schultz
Pulpit Furniture, dedicated to Mrs. Sawbridge.
Miss Irene Sawbridge
Mrs. H. H. Butts
Mrs. H. S. McCormick
Hymn Board - - - - - Choir
Pews, Aisle Carpet - - - - - Ladies' Aid
Collection Plates - - - - - Walter Wangerin
Rostrum Carpet - - - - - Mrs. Lloyd
Choir Chairs - - - - - Lauerman's Store
Baptismal Font - - - - - Mr. and Mrs. J. Phillips
Flooring - - - - - J. W. Wells Co.
Lumber - Wisconsin Land & Lumber Co., Hermansville
Lumber - - - - - Ira Carley Lumber Co.
One Pew, dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. Bowers by Mrs. Hannah Good
One Pew, dedicated to S. S. Smart and daughter Bessie
Choir Mirror - - - - - Pfankuch Furniture Co.

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

Anniversary Banquet, March 31, 1937

Invocation ----- Rev. G. A. Heidenreich
Pastor of the Moravian Church, Daggett
Introduction of Toastmistress ----- Mrs. James A. Muma
Response by Toastmistress ----- Mrs. Albert Sanders
Music ----- How Firm A Foundation
Greetings ----- Rev. Rex Reid
Women and the Church ----- Mrs. Joseph H. Marson
Facing the Future ----- Mrs. Carl Swanson
Chorus ----- "The Little Brown Church in the Wildwood"
Junior Choir
Looking Back ----- Wm. J. Oberdorffer
Looking Ahead ----- Herbert Corey
Duet ----- "I Love a Little Cottage"
Mrs. Earl Koenig and Miss Dorothy Heidenreich
Address ----- Rev. W. L. Williams
Music ----- Blest Be the Tie
Benediction ----- Rev. Heidenreich

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

Without a doubt one of the best banquets that the community of Stephenson attended here in the village was this Anniversary Banquet engineered by Mrs. Harold C. Wiley and her committee, assisted by the Ladies Aid as a whole. The program was well arranged and ably carried to completion by the toastmistress, Mrs. Grace Sanders. In introducing the toastmistress, Mrs. Mae Muma gave well-deserved tribute to Mrs. Sanders as one of the outstanding leaders in the building enterprise. Mrs. Mary Ellen Marson gave a fitting tribute to the women who helped in no small way to start the church and keep it going. It is hoped that her speech may be given in full following this review. The response by Mrs. Goldie Swanson brought out clearly thru her reference to the story about "Grandpa Dill" that the memories of the past has meaning, significance and challenge to their children and grandchildren in the life of the present. The "Judge" gave us a running commentary, serious or humorous, as the impact of memory struck him, of the ministers he had known during his long membership with the church. "Herb" Corey emphasized that the only fit church to carry out the dreams of the founders was a progressive church that served the present as worthy as the church of former years did our fathers. Even debt should not be considered too great a burden as long as it was in a worthy cause and not allowed to become an 'Old Man of the Sea' proposition.

Lastly "Les" Williams after sending shafts of humor right and left hitting with more or less success their intended victims, turned the spotlight upon Mrs. Jane Schultz as the greatest contributor toward the building of the church. A list of her donations to the cause not including the \$500 check, are given elsewhere. Then turning to the second chapter of Acts as a text he told what the characteristics of a progressive church should be.

It was only fitting and proper that there should be on the program a Moravian minister, for to the Moravians Wesley owed that experience which strangely warmed his heart and which was the impetus for the Wesleyan movement. So we were glad that Rev. G. A. Heidenreich of the Moravian Church of Daggett was present to give the invocation and the benediction to this great occasion.

A BIT OF MICHIGAN HISTORY AND SOME OF STEPHENSON'S MINISTERS

October, 1880, my husband located at Ingalls, Michigan, December 31st. In the same year, Grace and I arrived on a morning train over the C. & N. W. Ry. When we stepped from the train, we found no station, simply a pile of Cedar Ties, answering for a Landing; snow 4 feet on the level. Four dwellings were visible, where the inhabitants lived in poorly constructed houses. We were taken down a shoveled path to a wooden house, that had neither siding, basement nor plaster, where we were to live. Timber, Pine and Hemlock, loomed up in all directions.

During the winter we walked up to Stephenson on the railroad, a distance of three miles, there being no other road. In the afternoon about 4:30 a south bound passenger train would stop at Stephenson, pick us up and drop us off at Ingalls. We had been accustomed to attending church services where we had lived before coming to this new country; so began inquiring about such services. We finally learned that a Sunday School was held at Stephenson in the new frame school house on land east of where E. F. Potters Lbr. Co.'s Store now stands; that Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Laycock were the promoters and leaders; and that occasionally a man named "Crittenden" would drop off and hold services. He was known as the 'Tramp Preacher'.

October, 1882, we moved to Stephenson to live, and remained there ever after. That Fall, a little Cornwall-Englishman named, Alfred Phillips was sent to Stephenson to look after the church services. He was a young, single man, without much experience in preaching, but he did very well and things moved along.

October, 1883, another Englishman, named, William Dowlman came. He was elderly and eccentric, whether a bachelor or widower, I cannot say, but he bached over Ed. Conley's Drug Store, and specialized in Plum Puddings. He would occasionally bring up a sample of his culinary art. That Fall, he, Mr. and Mrs. Laycock, broke the ground for the site of the Methodist Church. In the Spring the building of the church started. Work was donated by many who could not give money and the frame went up. The small room was finished so that services could be held in it. Presiding Elder (that was the designation given in those days), David Cassler, came to hold a quarterly Conference, and helped to set up a box stove, wearing my husband's over-alls. He was a fine and good man.

October, 1884, Alfred Phillips was returned to us. Soon after he came, a young woman arrived from England at Menominee. Mr. Phillips met her and they were married by the Methodist minister, and came back to Stephenson to live. We all liked the

minister's wife; she was a good needle-woman and taught us many fancy stitches. They were very happy and stayed until the next spring, then went back to England. A young man was sent to finish the year. I cannot recall his name. He boarded with Grandma Humphrey in the big house that burned a few years ago.

The summer of 1895 was the Big Fire of Stephenson, when the west side of the village was almost wiped out. The fire was stopped at the Marson dwelling just south of the Church and the Church was saved.

October, 1886, James Pascoe, English, a thoroughly good Christian, red haired, bright and alert, prompt and decided, came to us from Menominee. He would preach fiery sermons, his hair stand straight up and his face get so red. Yes, and shout, but he produced the goods. People who had never been in the habit of attending church came, were converted, united with the church and remained good members. One evening at the close of a prayer-meeting, he arose, and said, "Gentlemen, we must raise \$80.00. How shall we do it?" There was a silence for a few second, (money was a scarce article in those days) then one man spoke up, "I'll give \$10.00, then another, and at that meeting about \$50.00 was pledged. In the morning, Mr. Pascoe started out and by 10:00 o'clock he had the \$80.00. Mrs. Pascoe played the little organ and had a choir; everything was moving. She taught a class of boys in the Sunday School and Mr. J. H. Marson was one of them. Ask him if she was good?

A little incident occurred during the summer. One evening, a certain young man came out to call on his lady-in waiting and tied his horse out in front of the church, three of the choir coming out after a practice noticed his rig and decided to furnish him a load, so they filled it with old roots and sticks. When he came out of a nearby house and found the load, he drove to the big double picket gates in front of the church and unloaded his rig. The next morning, being Sunday, Mr. Pascoe was the first one at the Church, when he saw the situation he simply scattered the offensive load, opened the gates, went into the church and conducted the services as if nothing had happened. (Ask Mr. Oberdorffer about this).

At the end of the year the summons came to go to Gladstone, Mich. where they wanted to build a church. We all felt badly, and he did, too, about leaving the work as it had been very encouraging.

October, 1887, Mr. James Ivey, English, followed Mr. Pascoe, from Menominee. He did not want to come to Stephenson, and Mr. Pascoe did not want to leave. So we had the two ministers and wives for a few days, then Mr. Pascoe left us and Mr. Ivey, with a very decided face, stayed.

They were good, puritanical Christians, and tried to get us all in the right way of living and keep us there.

One thing I remember so distinctly about them. A circus came

to town and was camped on land just north of where the present bandstand now is. Mr. Ivey came along wheeling the baby carriage, Mrs. Ivey leading little Martha, neither turned their faces towards the tent, Martha wanted to. No, she must not. Straight ahead they went on up to the church for the Mid-week Prayer meeting. Mrs. Ivey was very capable and could preach as good a sermon as her husband, and many times filled the pulpit, if he was called away. They stayed two years.

October, 1889, came A. Raymond Johns, single, a fine type of Christian gentleman, just out of school, good speaker, beautiful singer and very pleasing personality. He organized a men's choir, that sang many beautiful pieces. I well remember a text that he preached a sermon from, "Launch out into the Deep".

October, 1890, J. H. Cudlip came. A jolly good fellow, not after the style of his predecessors, things began going wrong. One of the good members added during Mr. Pascoe's term, took offence and left the church with his family. Nothing was added of value during his stay, of one year.

October, 1891, William E. Golding came. He lived in the house now owned by W. J. Evans, and would insist on crossing our field and crawling thru the fence. One Sunday morning, when he started to go thru he found some Tar on the wires, but not until it was on his hands. However, he came on to church and cleaned up and conducted service. Ever afterwards he followed the road.

October, 1893, Thomas J. Purdue, English, came. He had a very fine family, and was a very good man. Stayed two years.

October, 1895, a man named A. Kinewasser.

October, 1896, a man named Richard Wyatt.

October, 1897, Phillip Price. These three men I knew very little about as we were interested in Baptist church services at Ingalls, during their periods.

October, 1898, came Dunning D. D. Idle, a young, single man, just out of school, a good church worker, and very pleasant person.

October, 1899, a person, named A. R. Fulford, supposed to be single, who tried to make love to the organist, and was held in disrepute by the elite of the city. At the end of one year he left and went to Oregon.

October, 1900, came John Murdock, English. He started to build the Parsonage. When his year was up, Mr. Emery was sent, which did not please Mr. Murdock. He refused to go and would not give up the Parsonage, so the two families lived in it for several months, then Mr. Murdock decided to build a house for himself, which is now the main part of the Pearson building. Mr. Emery preached at Stephenson and was supported by it. Mr. Murdock preached at Ingalls and was supported by it. This was our first sit-down strike. Mr. Murdock drove a bronco from town to town.

October, 1904, came Edson D. White and his dear little wife, whom we all loved. For some reason he came to Ingalls first, left Mrs. White and baby there and came on up to Stephenson. It was

a rainy Sunday afternoon, Stella came up stairs and said, "Mother, the new minister is down stairs". We had had such a time with the other two, that I was not very keen about seeing the new man. But, she says, "He is real nice". So, I went down and found that she had not misjudged his appearance. I really felt sorry for him. Monday morning he came back up to Stephenson and went to the parsonage, with his son Richard, and they began scraping off paper and paint, and the two worked until the house was livable, then he brought Mrs. White and the baby up. He was a live wire and got the church to working. He decided that the church needed an addition and new seats and lights. With the aid of the Ladies Aid, who was blessed with good efficient presidents, they went to work and the wing was added for preacher, organ and choir. New circular seats took the place of the old ones, and new lights were installed. He stayed three years and then left us. Yes, one other good thing I must not omit, he reclaimed the wanderer whom Cudlip had offended, and from that time until his death he was steadfast in the faith. There were several added to the church during his ministry.

October, 1907, came John Westwood, the Patriarch, with long grey hair and longer prayers not on bended knee, but with face down to the floor, which quite overcame the people of Stephenson. A very devout man. When his year was up the District Superintendent had placed Rev. Westwood at Trenary. He did not want to go.

October, 1908, Frank Jones, Welsh, his wife Scotch, were sent to Stephenson. He was a very diminutive parson, and when he stepped from the train one evening, Mrs. Westwood met him and told him that he was to go on to Trenary, that they were to remain at Stephenson. But Mr. Jones positively asserted that he had been sent to Stephenson, and asked where the parsonage was. Mrs. Westwood informed him that they were in the Parsonage, but that there was a hotel that he might go to. However, he followed her, and when they came to the elevated sidewalk in front of the Bergvall residence, it being dark and no street light, Mr. Jones with his English bags went sideways off from it. His high hat was lost for quite a while, but finally recovered. When they arrived at the Parsonage, the Rev. Westwood came out with a candle and peered at the strangers. "Who is it?" When informed that it was the Methodist minister for Stephenson, he told Mr. Jones that there was no room for him in there. But Mr. Jones insisted on staying. Finally Mrs. Westwood told them there was a mattress on the floor upstairs and if they could use that she supposed they could stay. This was their reception from the Stephenson church. They stayed 4 years, and he preached many good sermons. He also spoke at the Dedication of the New School House in 1915, when Gov. Ferris was here.

October, 1912, T. H. Williams, English, with us one year and started in on the second, but only stayed three months of that conference year.

1913 was finished out by a young single man, named 'Lone'. He specialized in athletics and had the first 'Track Team' in Stephenson.

1914, October, Mr. T. H. Williamson came. She was English, but I cannot say about him. He was a good worker in church and out, and raised large patches of cabbage. He was a very likable person, and had many friends.

1917, October, then came good, reliable David Shugg. I believe, English. He worked hard with the young people, went out and took care of 'Flu' patients, when no one else would venture in and was a thorough Christian.

1920, October, Chaplain Charles W. Brown. He was instrumental in adding the building to the property known as the Community House.

1923, October, Henry Hiles, English, a rather reserved man, a good Christian, and much interested in the Scout movement. Very careful of the church property, insisted on always having the church locked. Stayed one year.

1924, October, W. H. Murphy, I cannot remember anything good or bad about him, but it was that fall that the good old church with all our lovely Memorial windows was burned to the ground. A sad sight for those who had labored in it so long.

Services were then held in the Community House, by T. A. Greenwood of Menominee, and we cleaned and decorated it, put in new chairs, and then Mr. W. L. Williams came, the last of June in 1926, a welcome guest. Young, pleasing personality, energetic, keen and decided. He came single but took, when he left us, one of our choicest young women. Thru his planning and direction, the Ladies of the Aid and town fairly out-did themselves. The Fall of 1926 the plans were laid for the new beautiful church building that now stands, where the old one did. We always welcome Leslie Williams to our midst.

1928, October, came J. H. Bozanko, an eccentric Englishman, well versed in science, a deep thinker, good Christian man, but too old for the congregation.

1929, October, Wallace S. Fields, young, not through school, but with his head teeming with new ideas, came along. He was trying to introduce the 'New Deal'. The congregation soon wanted another change, but felt that they could get along without a minister. But the District Superintendent thought different, and in

October, 1930, William Lovejoy came to us one afternoon. Said he would stay if the people wanted him. Otherwise he could go back to where he came from. All the people interested in church work or worry were invited to come out and meet the new preacher. We all came. He stood up there before us with that smile on his face that won its way into the hearts of those who had been opposed to a new Minister, and we voted for him to stay and he did, three years. His wife was wonderful among the young people and they

had a fine Epworth League working well when the District Superintendent sent them away up north into the frozen lands, where they did the best they could until they were removed from that place.

October, 1933, last, but not least we reach R. Rex Reid, Scotch, came single, will leave married to one of the finest young women in the State of Michigan.

By the writer, I was asked to put some clothes on the DRY BONES. I may have put too many 'furbilows'. But in the fifty years that I have lived among the Preachers, many funny things and some serious ones have come to my knowledge.

MRS. ALICE M. BOWERS

LADIES AID OFFICERS

	President	Secretary-Treasurer
1893-95	Mrs. W. P. Kezar	Mrs. W. Simmons
1896	Mrs. Edward Sawbridge	Mrs. Alfred Humphrey
1897	Mrs. Alfred Humphrey	Mrs. C. B. Marson
1910-12	Mrs. Edward Sawbridge	Mrs. B. M. Bodle
1913	Mrs. E. O. Gillespie	Mrs. B. M. Bodle
1914	Mrs. Albert Sanders	Mrs. B. M. Bodle
1915	Mrs. E. O. Gillespie	Mrs. B. M. Bodle
1916	Mrs. James A. Muma	Mrs. N. LaComb
1917	Mrs. Albert Sanders	Mrs. Lewis Ames
1918	Mrs. C. S. Nevers	Mrs. Alfred Humphrey
1919	Mrs. Lewis Ames	Mrs. B. M. Bodle
1920-1-2	Mrs. C. S. Nevers	Mrs. H. L. Mead
1923-24	Mrs. C. S. Nevers	Mrs. J. H. Marson
1925-26	Mrs. Albert Sanders	Mrs. James Muma
1927-28		Mrs. Helen Johnson
1929	Mrs. W. F. Thomas	Miss Phoebe Benjamin
1930	Mrs. Walter Wangerin	Miss Phoebe Benjamin
1931	Mrs. Harold Wiley	Mrs. Albert Sanders
1932	Mrs. Harold Wiley	Mrs. Albert Sanders
	Mrs. Claude Phillipo	
1933	Mrs. K. C. Kerwell	Mrs. Albert Sanders, Jr.
	Mrs. Warren Hubbard	
	Mrs. Arvid Johnson	
1934-5-6	Mrs. James A. Muma	Mrs. Albert Sanders

WOMEN AND THE CHURCH

I was somewhat startled when I was asked as an old timer to give a resume of women's part in this church's history. It seems only a few yesterdays ago, that I came here a bride and was one of the young women workers in the church. But when I totaled those yesterdays I find the sum over forty years; so silently does time steal the years.

For fear you might think I'm the only surviving woman of that era, I will mention that I had been here but a few weeks when I met Mrs. Humphrey and Mrs. Oberdorffer. It was at a church fair and church supper. Mrs. Humphrey was selling articles at a fancy work booth and Mrs. Oberdorffer was helping with the supper. I think she was making coffee!

When I came in 1895 there were among the workers of the church women who had been among the first white settlers here. We used to love to hear them tell the story of when this village was just an opening in the vast forest. A few houses scattered along by the railroad track, a mill, a blacksmith shop and a store. They told of how they got together and decided they must have worship and Sunday School privileges for their children, they met turn about in their homes on Sunday afternoon at which one of them presided at the meeting. Once in a while they would have a minister from Menominee or a missionary. On one occasion they had a man who had walked up from Menominee.

It wasn't unusual for them to have a service or prayer meeting in a nearby lumber camp. Often time in winter, when snow lay deep upon the ground, and foot travel was impossible, a sleigh would go from home to home gathering up whole families, take them to the meeting and return them to their respective homes when services were ended.

After the school house was built they held their regular meetings there. This little group began to make definite plans on building a church. Their hopes were realized in the little church that was built in 1883.

I have given you a word picture of the undaunted courage of these pioneer women, who have left their indelible imprint on this church history.

“For they never quite leave us,
Those dear ones who're passed
Thru the shadows of death to the sunlight above,
A thousand sweet memories are holding them fast,
To the church which they blessed
With their work and their love.”

From that group of pioneer women bonded together so many years ago, other groups have followed down the years in unfaltering and unbroken line. Each woman bringing to the work her own particular gift. Some brought executive ability, wisdom and judgement, others brought kindness, love, and gentle forbearance. But whatever the gift they brought it was acceptable and

needed to strengthen and complete the work and make it as it should be.

Sometimes a worker grew old or weary and had to lay down her task. Always there was a younger woman there to take her place and the work went on. Sometimes a faithful worker moved away, but always a new one came. New faces joined the group and still the work progressed.

Whatever was to be achieved in the church program, there was a group of women ready and willing to do their part.

In our organization today there are a goodly number of young women, who are far better trained and more efficient than we were at their ages. Each year they are taking over more of their responsibility of the work. It is into their hands we older women will place, with the utmost confidence, the unwritten pages of the churches future history.

For the church history is written in volumes three—

The past, the present, the yet to be.

The past is finished and laid away.

The present we're writing day by day,

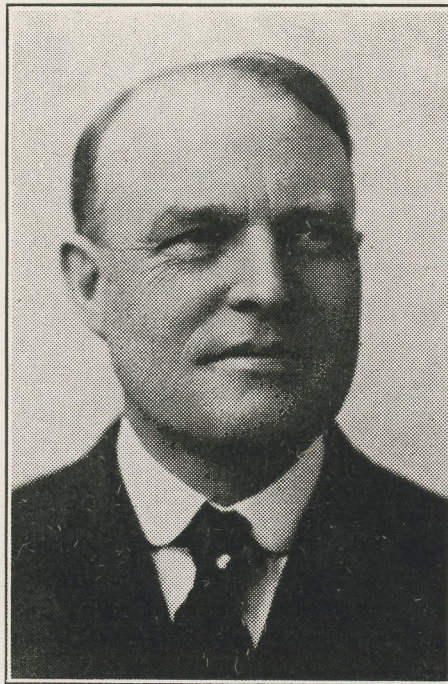
The third and last of these volumes three,

The recording of, young friends,

We leave to thee.

MARY ELLEN MARSON

"LEST WE FORGET"



Dr. Edward Sawbridge, one of the most beloved residents of the U. P., is to be numbered among this church's most loyal supporters. He ever has been a staunch friend to the ministers, often giving a word of encouragement to lift a pastor's load, a wise counselor to the church, helping to direct its progress and growth, a physician who still serves his community without regard as to reward, or to weather, or to circumstances.

Prominent workers in this era, (before 1900), were the Ames, Mrs. Spurgeon Nevers, Mrs. Alfred Humphrey, Mrs. Frank Schaffer, Miss Phoebe Benjamin,

the Homer Coreys, Mrs. Andrew Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. William Carley, Mr. J. H. Marson and the O'Donnells.

A FEW SCENES OF AN EVENTFUL LIFE

In the year of 1871 a German widow with six children, the eldest of whom was but sixteen years of age, left Köln (Cologne) and came to America, arriving at Chicago, where they made a brief stay. The mother sent her eldest son, tho he couldn't speak hardly a word of English, out to Iowa to look over the country and see what kind of a farming country it was. He went but much of the prairie was flooded and all in all it didn't look very promising to him. So he was going on to Nebraska when he received a telegram from his mother to return.

It seems that by chance Dick Mason who ran a sawmill at Masonville, just 12 miles north of Escanaba, had met up with the group, even before the lad started on this western trip, and had at last persuaded the mother to bring her family with the three boys and the three girls north to Masonville. He promised her a small house free and all the land for farming that she wanted, for she had been a farmer's wife in the old country and a farm life she wanted. Anyway when William came back, they all started north on an old wind-jammer with which Mason hauled his lumber to market and arrived at Masonville. Before the year was out, the mother had once more sent William to Iowa, for she didn't care about farming the land up there. Again Iowa as a farming country didn't seem very encouraging and on his return he happened to come through Stephenson, where the Chicago Northwestern was endeavoring to run the line from Menominee to Escanaba in jig time in order to hold the land grants made it on the condition that it build a road to Escanaba by January 1, 1873. So William with a partner signed up to work under Mr. "Barney" Nadeau, the father of Mr. Marcell Nadeau, who had contracted to grade one mile of the road. And the place where this grading was done was at the old tamarack swamp just north of what is now known as Carbondale. The mile was let out in sections of a 100 feet and the partners completed 3 or four of these sections for Mr. Nadeau. They made the grade by cutting Tamarack about 16 feet long, laying them crossways and piling the brush on top and then cutting great squares of sod, turning them over, with the grass underneath so as to make a grade of 5 to 6 feet. Nigh anything went for the grading if only the railroad could drive an engine over it to Escanaba before January 1, 1873 and so protect its land grants. The grading was improved later when the day was saved.

After four months he went back to Masonville, where he stayed four years, working in the mill in the summer and in the woods in the winter. He had been favorably impressed with the agricultural possibilities around Stephenson or Wausedo as it was then called. His mother who had married again came to Stephenson shortly before he did, buying the Gould 80's and a yoke of oxen.

Returning here in 1876, Mr. Oberdorffer has resided in Stephenson continuously since that time.

His was indeed an eventful life. Probably the first important event that happened to him was his successful wooing of Miss Adelaide Corey and their marriage in 1887 at whose wedding the Reverend James Pascoe officiated. In 1889 he first served as the Supervisor of this township and continued in that office until he ran successfully for representative to the State house in 1896, serving two terms. Then in 1900 he was again Supervisor, holding this office for another seven years. There being no modern roads or auto during his terms as Supervisor, he went on foot to carry out the duties of his office.

In 1907 he was elected as a delegate to the state constitutional convention and we are today living under the constitution in whose making he had a share. For six years he served as a member of the State Board of Agriculture, appointed by the Governor. This appointment was made because of Mr. Oberdorffer's activities on behalf of agriculture while in the House. He fathered the bill through the House which gave the first appropriation to make possible the Chatham Experimental Station here in the Upper Peninsula. From 1925-27 Mr. Oberdorffer was again elected for a term to the State House of Representatives after which he retired from active politics, tho he still serves as Justice of the Peace and a member of the Village Council.

All during these years, however, Mr. Oberdorffer was interested in the educational progress of Stephenson township, serving on the Board of Education almost continuously until 1933. He was a leader in the struggle for consolidation and he was a member of the Board when the first school bus in the state of Michigan, built by "Bill" Winters, was used to bring 12 children to the school at Stephenson. The picture of that bus still hangs upon the wall in the state office of Public Instruction. Those who listened to him tell of the early struggles of consolidation at the Sunday evening Anniversary service will not forget the story that Mr. Oberdorffer told of how a few school districts refused to hand over their books despite of adverse decisions rendered by the courts, even that of the State Supreme Court. It was not settled until Probate Judge John Stiles took a hand in the matter and the conflict came to an end without bloodshed.

Since the time of the Reverend James Ivey, Mr. Oberdorffer has been an active member of the Community M. E. Church at Stephenson, serving for many years on the Official Board. Indeed he was Secretary-Treasurer of the Board when the old church was burnt and when the first work was started at the building of our present church, and then Walter Wangerin assumed the responsibility of treasureship. At the present time he is still actively engaged in work of the church, serving as Trustee on the Official Board. Thus thru a long, eventful, busy life of 82 years, he served acceptably and well his community and his church.



Mrs. Wm. B. Winter, Wm. J. Oberdorffer, Mrs. Wm. J. Oberdorffer, Mrs. Alfred Humphrey, Andrew Weng, Miss Phoebe Benjamin, Mrs. Norwood (Alice) Bowers, Mrs. Theo. (Stella Bowers) Cloud, Miss Ida Edgerly, Wm. B. Winter, Mrs. Joseph Laycock, Mrs. Andrew Weng, Joseph E. Laycock and Mrs. Richard Johnson.

GREETINGS FROM FORMER FRIENDS AND MINISTERS

Long Beach, California

Dear Mr. Reid :

Father has asked me to reply to your letter, forwarded from Manitou. As I am the oldest of his daughters, we have enjoyed sitting here this morning and recounting the events, as we remember them. Perhaps it's just as well this reply was not possible before Palm Sunday or Easter as, having inherited my father's keen sense of humor, the things we recalled were largely the funny things that happened; such as the woman with a new organ who could not play and sing at the same time; so as the afternoon tea (?) she gave, she played a verse of, perhaps, "Pull for the Shore," and then stood up beside the organ and sang a verse. The prayer meetings at a home, the large wood box piled high, chairs about the wall and the young inexperienced undergraduate from Evanston, (Ill. I suppose) who said, "Let us all get down on our hearts and pray with all our knees" and how "Becky Rublin" laughed out loud.

Father says he planned and perhaps helped with the construction of the first church. The lumber came from the mill at Wallace and was planed by helpers in Stephenson. There was a well in the basement. Previous to the building of the church, which was done by local subscription, services were held in the schoolhouse. Here was held the first Christmas tree. Father solicited gifts from Menominee merchants and it was a great event. There was a gift of some kind for everyone, including the squaws and some dissatisfaction because one squaw's length of calico was perhaps of a brighter hue than another's. When the church was completed and the presiding elder was notified he was surprised and pleased at the speed and result, as it was also all paid for. I'm quoting quite liberally from father, without quotation marks. Mr. Norwood Bowers (dear Mrs. Bowers is still with you, I hope) was a Baptist, but said he'd contribute to the building fund if no bell was used as they lived so near to the proposed site.

Those were days of great activity and earnest work for the temperance cause. Mother always wore a little white ribbon bow knot on her shoulder or the lapel of her coat. Rev. Fairchild, a retired minister from Marinette, preached a sermon giving in details the effect of alcohol, said—"It will make you feel as weak, as weak, as weak — — as water." Mr. H. P. Bird had a habit of combing his nearly bald head when excited or very interested, even when 'leading in prayer.'

There was one man who 'signed the pledge' many times only to fail—he was the deep concern of the 'dear sisters and brothers'—each trying to help. Father gave him a job cleaning the store basement. There was a supposedly empty cider barrel there, but he found enough highly fermented cider in it to get gloriously drunk. Maybe you don't think that created a furore in the village.

But as I write of these funny things I realize, in only a limited way, the great efforts, self denials and prayers that made that small beginning possible, reaching out in all directions for better life.

This was the first protestant church that was built between Menominee and Escanaba.

My husband and I drove down from Spokane, Washington, to have a few days with mother and father before they returned to Manitou, Colo.

They are so well and we've all enjoyed this visit.

If this letter is of interest to anyone, now in Stephenson, it is well, in any case father and I have had a happy morning reminiscing.

Sincerely
MABEL LAYCOCK HEDGE

Mrs. S. E. Hedge
March 24th, 1937.

Central Methodist Episcopal Church
Pontiac, Michigan

March 16, 1937

My dear friend Rex Reid:—

Your letter has awakened memories of a very happy year spent in Stephenson in the very beginning of my ministry. It was, as you suggest, before my Seminary days and before some of my College years. I cannot forget the kindly treatment to the boy preacher, not yet of age, who a long way from home and for the first time facing the world alone, began his ministry in Stephenson.

Will you kindly convey my hearty greetings to all and especially any who may remember those days. Please say to all that they have my sincerest prayers for God's richest blessing on them individually and upon their Church. I have a picture of the little frame building that was, and I hope that on the way to Conference in June to see the fine new one built ten years ago.

Enclosed you will find a drop in the \$300.00 debt bucket and I hope the bucket may be filled.

May your helpful ministry be continued to the blessing of many.

Cordially,
DUNNING IDLE

DI:T

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Gaylord, Michigan

March 11, 1937.

Dear Friends:

Greetings from Gaylord and a former fellow worker among you.

I am especially pleased to know of the goals set for the observance of the tenth anniversary of the building of the present church edifice. The church clear of debt within a decade! A splendid record. I am glad for you that this goal has not only been set but that is being reached now.

I shall always bear in my memory the Christians at Stephenson for the cooperative way they worked with a new young minister in his first appointment to make the Community Methodist Episcopal Church at Stephenson an effective instrument for the building of the Kingdom of God. I shall always be grateful for the many members of the church who exalted Christ so that men and women, boys and girls, youth and maidens might find God real to their own minds and hearts. Heaven's best blessing upon you and your minister in continuing this high endeavor.

Mrs. Lovejoy and I would like to be with you for the anniversary occasion, but the miles between Stephenson and Gaylord will not permit it now. However, since the Detroit Annual Conference is to convene at Marquette this June, we should see some of you there.

Sincerely yours,
WILLIAM LOVEJOY

First Methodist Episcopal Church,
Highland Park, Michigan

My dear brother Reid—

I do recall with very deep satisfaction the wonderfully fine spirit of the good people of the Stephenson church at a time when brave hearts were needed.

Sometimes it seems that lives shine a bit brighter when we are called upon to go forward under difficulties. The true Christian spirit and the glory of the Christian life are to be witnessed at such a time.

I congratulate you and your church, and with this little gift I also want to assure you of my abiding and genuine interest and my best wishes and prayers for your success.

Faithfully,
GEORGE W. OLMSTEAD

Imlay City, Michigan

Rev. Rex Reid

Dear Brother:

I wonder if I am too late. We have happy memories of Stephenson though somewhat mixed because of the Flue epidemic while we were there. We shall never forget that. We hope to drop in to see all possible when we get up for the conference. Looking forward to it. I understand all the old church I knew is gone and replaced with better. We hope your efforts will be crowned with success. May God bless you all.

Fraternally,
DAVID SHUGG

Telegram

Romeo, Mich.—1:08 p. m.—March 31

Rev. Rex Reid:

Congratulations! When debt is paid. I'll pay last five dollars.

JOSEPH DUTTON

To those who have lived twice as long a third of a century is but a short time. Occurrences and conditions of fifty or sixty years ago are readily recalled by us. To youth occurrences of six or eight years ago seem ancient history. The recollection of our first Sunday in Stephenson back in 1904 is still quite vivid to me. More vivid perhaps are the trips made to the Ingalls church each Sunday on a bicycle or on foot. Those were the dark ages before the advent of the automobile and its annihilation of time and distance. The old dirt roads and occasional gravel roads of those days had yet to experience the speed of the horseless carriage. When at length Dr. Sawbridge's first auto came to town many an old 'dobbin' pricked up his ears in fright of his coming doom. When that auto ventured into the country many were the accidents even in those days—not to the car but to the buggies ditched by frightened horses.

It is of those ancient days I speak. For years the little struggling flock had toiled on in the old somewhat barnlike church. But the homemade pews were uncomfortable. The loose windows were drafty. The furnace—a bricked-in stove—was inadequate. Sometimes the seating capacity was taxed.

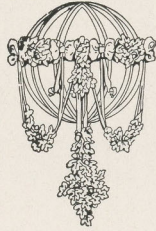
A series of "Lenten Lectures on Vital Religion" had created new interest and led to a considerable increase in church membership and attendance. Thus the people of the community came to lend their splendid support to a remodeling enterprise which transformed the old into a comfortable modern church of some beauty in which the entire community took pride.

The Rev. Frederick Spence, who has for years been an outstanding preacher in Michigan and who built and still serves the great Central Church of Jackson was the able and splendid dedication preacher. The loyal church choir had prepared and rendered excellent music. A week of events in celebration of the opening of the remodeled church followed the dedication and included a banquet, a lecture and a concert by the choir. The whole community responded royally to the appeal for subscriptions to cover the cost of remodeling and the happy congregation delighted in its new church home clear of debt.

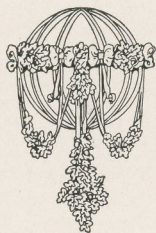
This former pastor had long seen the folly of narrow sectarianism and determined when he first went to the Stephenson church to be a pastor to all the people. It is highly pleasing to him to know that the name "Community Church" designates this home of Christian leadership today. This name carries with it the true conception and spirit such a church should possess.

A new generation now makes this church their religious home. Many of the former congregation have passed on. We remember and cherish them for the kindly words they spoke, for the unselfish service they rendered, for the high ideals they possessed and for all the manifestations of their sterling characters.

EDSON D. WHITE



This book has been made possible by many prominent business men of the Twin Cities, Stephenson and Daggett, most of whom have advertisements in the following pages.



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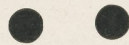
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