

Memoirs of Outstanding Ministers of the Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church¹

By Charles Bragg²

Memoirs of Methodist Protestant ministers of the Gospel written by Charles Bragg at the request of Ronald Brunger, President of the Detroit Conference Historical Society. Much of the information given here is based on research in minutes of the Detroit Annual Conference of 1941 and the published journals of the Michigan and West Michigan Annual Conferences of the Methodist Protestant Church.³

According to Bassett's history of the Methodist Protestant Church, there were five men designated from the Ohio Conference in 1842 [to become members of the new Michigan Conference]. Their names are as follows: Jeremiah T. Pratt, Elisha Hall, Laban Smith, George B. Wooster, and Beniah Bayn.⁴ Memoirs of three of these men can be traced below: J.T. Pratt, Laban Smith, and Beniah Bayn.

[Elisha Hall served the Conference for only two years, 1842-1844, with both appointments being in Jackson County. He is probably the same Elisha Hall who was listed as a clergyman in the 1850 and 1860 censuses of Leoni in Jackson County. He was born in 1798 in Massachusetts and died in 1877 in Hancock County, Illinois. Little is known of George B. Wooster, who served appointments in the Michigan Conference during its first five years, departing in 1847. He does not appear in the 1850 census of Michigan.]

¹ The Archives of the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church holds two different drafts of this document in Box 1 of the Charles Bragg Papers, written in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Conference Archivist Rebecca McNitt and Commission on Archives and History member William McNitt produced this edited copy from those drafts and rearranged the sketches in alphabetical order to facilitate research. Corrections and additions based on archives holdings and other resources are shown in brackets. Although Bragg gave citations to a few of the journal memoirs he consulted, we added many more footnotes showing the location of memoirs (which usually provide more information than the Bragg sketches).

² For biographical information about Rev. Bragg, see his typed autobiography in Box 1 of the Charles Bragg Papers or his memoir in *The Official Journal and Minutes Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church*, 1967, p. 1402.]

³ *The Minutes Including the Official Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church*, 1941 includes lists of deceased clergy from the Michigan and West Michigan Conferences of the Methodist Protestant Church on pages 350-353. Rev. Bragg used them extensively in creating this document, but the Archives staff is aware of numerous errors in these lists, especially for the early years. The Archives holds sets of the published journals of the Michigan and West Michigan Conferences of the Methodist Protestant Church and also volumes of handwritten minutes for the years before the Conferences began publishing the journals.

⁴ Bassett, Ancel H. *A Concise History of the Methodist Protestant Church from Its Origin*. (Pittsburgh: William McCracken, 1887), p. 161.

Ambrose Abbott

Ambrose Abbott [was born in 1805,] served seven years; he joined in 1871 and died in 1878. [He was President of the Conference 1873-1876 and served as pastor at Hillsdale, Concord, and Comstock.]⁵

Lorenzo D. Abbott

L.D. Abbott [was born in 1841,] joined the West Michigan Conference in the year 1883 [1875] and served the following charges: [North Jackson, Onondaga, Rice Creek, Haw Patch, Hickory Corners, and] Assyria, eight years. Then he was elected President of the Conference in 1884 and 1885. After serving as President of the Conference, he was appointed to the Grovenberg church, [served another term as President, 1887-1888], then Hillsdale, Rice Creek, [Dimondale and Eaton Rapids, North Jackson, and Hillsdale]. Because of failing health, he superannuated in the year 1900 [1899] and passed to his reward in the year 1916 [1917], thus he served the Conference thirty-nine [forty-two] years.

Alexander Acheson

Alexander Acheson [was born in 1801,] joined the Conference in 1853 and served thirteen years. In 1858, he was delegate from the West Michigan Conference to the General Conference held at Springfield, Ohio from November 10th to 16th.⁶ He was a delegate to the General Conference held at Cincinnati from November 5th to 12th, 1862.⁷ He was also President of the West Michigan Conference for one year, elected at the 1860 Conference held at Hickory Corners [actually he was elected President in 1861 at the Wet Prairie Conference; he also served as minister at Barry, Rice Creek, Hickory Corners, and Kalamazoo]. He died in 1868 [1866].

Henry C. Ayers

Henry C. Ayers [was born in 1836 and] served the Conference for two years [as minister in Sanilac and Brant]. He died in the year 1882 [1881].

Beniah Bayn

Beniah Bayn was one of the ministers from the Ohio Conference that organized the Michigan Conference in 1842. [He was born in 1814.] His pastorates were mostly in the western Michigan area. He was

⁵ Minutes of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1877-1887, in Box 1 of the Records of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, Archives of the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church, p. 50.

⁶ Drinkhouse, Edward J. *History of the Methodist Reform*. (Board of Publication of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1899), vol. 2, p. 434.

⁷ Drinkhouse, vol. 2, p. 450.

elected President of the West Michigan Conference, held at Hickory Corners on September 25, 1860. He was reported to be well-versed in organizing his congregation, thus making the church stronger wherever he served. He served the church for thirty-years and passed away in the year 1875 [1871].⁸

John J. Beatty

John J. Beatty [was born in 1864,] joined the Conference in 1890 and served the following charges: Peck (1890), Goodland (1891-92), Franklin (1892-1897), and Livingston (1898-1901). He was a good servant of Jesus Christ and was Secretary of the Conference when he died August 12, 1902.⁹

Ernest A. Benedict

A very active ministry was brought to a close on January 6, 1946 at the Grayling Methodist parsonage, where Ernest Benedict had served as pastor for the past two years. [He was born in 1891.] For thirty years, Ernest Benedict had held the Christian ministry as a sacred trust and had given faithful and efficient service to his Lord and his church. Twenty-one of the years had been spent in two long pastorates: twelve on the Owosso Circuit and nine at Fostoria. From 1933 to 1935, he was President of the Conference. He was also Secretary of the Conference for several years and gave valuable assistance during the merging of the Conferences after Methodist Union. Funeral services were conducted at Michelson Memorial Church in Grayling and at Fostoria, with Dr. Frank Field and Rev. E. Ray Willson respectively in charge. Several of the ministers of the former Methodist Protestant Church were present and acted as guard of honor. Interment was at the Watertown Cemetery near Fostoria, Michigan.¹⁰

William Bentley

William Bentley [was born in 1810,] joined the West Michigan Conference in the year 1858 and served the Conference as its President in the year of 1864 [1865]. He came to the Conference with credentials from the Methodist Episcopal Church. After serving the Conference as President, he was stationed at Concord, where a most unfortunate circumstance happened. He was waylaid by a hooded mob, who were in a drunken condition, and beaten because of preaching the gospel, left unconscious, and when he recovered consciousness, he was standing near his barn and a wagon was backed against him, crushing his body so badly that he was unable to perform his ministerial duties for the rest of his life. From 1866 to

⁸ Minutes of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1858-1876, in Box 1 of the Records of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, Archives of the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church.

⁹ *Minutes of the Sixty-First Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1902, pp. 16-17.

¹⁰ *The Minutes Including the Official Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church*, 1946, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 625-626.

June 27, 1894, he was placed on the superannuated list. He was highly respected by all who knew him. It could be said of him that he was a martyr for the Gospel of Christ.¹¹

Colburn B. Blake

C.B. Blake served Conference one year, dying 1843. C. Blake was a charter member, serving the Conference for thirty-five years and dying in 1878. [These two sentences appear separately in Bragg's narrative but probably refer to the same individual. Most journal listings show him as a Superannuated (retired) or Supernumerary (limited duty) preacher, but he served at Grass Lake and Barry and for one year as an evangelist. He was born in 1788 and died in 1878, not 1843.]¹²

Lucius D. Boynton

L.D. Boynton [was born in 1846 and] served the Conference for two years, coming to us with credentials from the Baptist church. He served the North Branch Circuit till 1916 [and died the following year].

Amos Bradshaw

Amos Bradshaw served the Conference for twenty-five years and died in 1885. Serving as Conference Missionary, he was instrumental in organizing several classes where churches were built and maintained to this day. Said churches are Birch Run, Fostoria, Columbiaville, and many others throughout the Conference. [He was active between 1861 and 1876 and retired after that. He died in 1886.]

Archabald Levi Bragg

Archabald Levi Bragg was born August 25, 1872, the son of Levi and Caroline Bragg, in the township of Dundee, at the end of Cake Road. He was educated in the public schools of Dundee and Deerfield High School. In his early life, he was interested in music and taught a class, traveling by horse and buggy from one scholar's home to the other, giving lessons on the piano and organ. In March 1892 [March 2, 1894], he was united in marriage to Miss Phoebe Friedt, the daughter of James and Louisa Friedt, of the South Raisin community, and began farming. Two sons and one daughter were born, the daughter Mildred is deceased, and Clyde and Elmore survive and live at Jerome, Idaho.

He was successful with the feeding of lambs and beef cattle, which was just beginning to be practiced by farmers at that time. In the year 1903, he was a delegate to the Michigan Conference of the Methodist

¹¹ *Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1894, p. 30.

¹² *Minutes of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1877-1887*, in Box 1 of the Records of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, Archives of the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Protestant Church held at Clio, Michigan, for the Wellsville Circuit, and in the year 1904, he sold his stock and tools and moved into the town of Deerfield, having purchased a home in that town, and began working for the Deerfield Grain and Elevator Company, but all this time he was greatly moved regarding the call to the Christian ministry, and in the year 1907, at the Conference held at the Main Street Methodist Protestant Church in Lansing, he united with the Conference and was called by the Wellsville Circuit to be their pastor, remaining there for four years. He endeared himself to the good people of the three churches: Wellsville, South Riga, and Logan Valley. This Circuit had granted him a Local Preachers' License, several years before he entered the active ministry. In the year 1910, on account of his health, he very reluctantly transferred by appointment to the Dimondale church, and in the Spring of 1912, on account of lung trouble, he resigned from the Dimondale charge and moved to Jerome, Idaho on the advice of his doctor for his health, thinking that a change of climate might help him. After moving to Idaho and taking up a land grant from the Government, he started a mission in Jerome, Idaho, and that mission is the result of the Methodist Church in that town at the present time. He was extremely spiritual in his life, a very earnest preacher, strictly evangelistic, and many souls were born of the Spirit under his ministry, wherever he served. On April 3, 1917, he yielded to the dreadful disease with the name of his Christ upon his lips, he passed to this reward in a very peaceful manner. Burial was in the Jerome, Idaho Cemetery. [He was the brother of Rev. Charles Bragg, the compiler of these biographical sketches.]

F. Brewer

F. Brewer served the Conference for five years and died in 1882. [He may possibly be Rev. Franklin L. Brewer, who died March 12, 1882 and is buried in Caswell Cemetery, Kimball, St. Clair County, Michigan.]

John Frank Broughton

J.F. Broughton [was born in 1859,] served just one month and died October 16, 1889. He was an evangelist who traveled throughout Michigan in various churches of different faiths - Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal churches. Desiring to retire, he took work with the Conference, and was stricken within a month after the end of said Conference.

Elias M. Butler

E.M. Butler [was born in 1851,] joined the Conference in the year 1887 and served the following churches: Atlas (1887-88), Goodland (1889-90), Columbiaville (1891), Dryden and Attica (1892-94), and Lapeer (1895). Under his pastorate, that year the Liberty Street Methodist Protestant Church (now home of the radio station WMPC) was built. In 1896, he retired on account of poor health, took his residence in Lapeer and died in 1897.¹³

¹³ *Minutes of the Fifty-sixth Session of the Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1897, p. 25*

Alva Byers

Alva Byers died in 1911, no account is given in minutes of the Conference. Rev. Fred A. Perry was President of the Conference in 1911 and no mention is made of Byers in his report to the Conference. [He was born in 1832, joined the Conference in 1869, and served as Conference Evangelist, Home Missionary, and minister at Rice Creek, Van Buren, Walkerton, Haw Patch, LaPorte, Assyria, Eaton Rapids, and North Jackson.]

Dr. Francis H. Chase

Rev. Dr. F.H. Chase, M.D., of Kalamazoo joined the West Michigan Conference in the year 1862. He [was born in 1819 and] served several charges near Kalamazoo, where he practiced as a physician, as well as an able minister. He was always a faithful member of the Conference down to the day of his death, which occurred on March 30, 1899. He served the church faithfully for over forty years. He was an earnest Christian worker.¹⁴

Lester Clark

Rev. Lester Clark served the Conference for almost fifty years from 1869 to 1916. Lester Clark, born in [1833 in] St. Clair County, Michigan, was a minister of the early pioneer days of the Saginaw Valley. His labors as an evangelist can be traced from Saginaw and the entire Thumb District of Michigan, south to Pontiac, and from Flint to Port Huron. He passed away to his reward at the home of his son, Jason, in the city of Saginaw in February 1916. Rev. Charles Bragg, a former pastor of his at Yale, Michigan visited him before his death, and he states that he had never seen such great faith as he demonstrated. He greeted him with these words, "Glory to God, Brother Bragg. I am all packed up and ready to go. I want you to preach my funeral sermon. From the text Luke 18.8." Funeral services were at Yale, Michigan with interment in Yale Cemetery. He had made his home in Yale since he retired from active service in the year 1907, excepting a few months where he passed away as stated above. He was a great lover of horses, and specialized in trotting horses, and many of his colts made the tracks in the early days of his life. He was an old-time preacher of the gospel, and his sermons were delivered in many sessions of camp meetings in the days of his ministry. He owned a farm south of Yale on the River Road towards West Brockway and many of the residents throughout the territory will speak of his ministry and Christian labors, not only in the church of his choice but others.

William Henry Clark

Rev. Henry Clark, for thirty years minister of the Methodist Protestant Church and for the last fourteen years a pastor of the Birch Run church, [was born in 1881 and] died February 5, 1953. He was a forceful speaker and was loved by all of his people wherever he was pastor. One of the principal factors of his

¹⁴ *Minutes of the Forty-first Session of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant church, 1899, p. 32.*

ministry is that during the thirty years he only served five charges: Bradley, Cass River, Columbiaville, Caro, and Birch Run. He will always be remembered as a loyal pastor and a truly good preacher. Funeral services were February 9, 1953 at Birch Run with E. Ray Willson of Port Huron and Rev. Frank Hemingway. The funeral was officiated by Rev. Alfred Landon, D.D. and interment was at Almer Cemetery in Caro with Rev. Joseph Dibley in charge.¹⁵

Joseph Coates

Joseph Coates [was born in 1826,] served the Conference for three years and died in January 1873.

William H. Cole

Rev. W.H. Cole, Canadian born [in 1862] of Irish descent, and Mrs. Mary Cole, his helpmate in life, were very kind congenial people. To be in their home was a real treat to the young ministers of the Conference, who were welcomed by this genial pastor of the charge wherever they served. No children were born to them. His ministry was from 1887 to 1918. He held pastorates at the following charges: Bad Axe, Goodland, Capac and Berlin, Union, Clio, Marathon, Columbiaville, Lapeer, Flint, Conference at Large, employed by Methodist Episcopal ministers and Presbyterians as evangelist, a vocation he filled with intelligence and success, the Fostoria pastorate again in 1904, Yale, Columbiaville, and Capac in 1911, building the church there that year. He served as Conference President from 1912 to 1913 [1914]. From 1914 to 1915, he left without appointment to recuperate for his health. He was appointed to Flint First Church in 1916. At the Conference of 1917, he did not take work on account of his health, and on March 14th, he passed away at Tampa, Florida of an acute heart attack. On March 18, 1918 funeral services were held in the city of Flint, with Rev. H.J. Hascott and Christopher England bringing messages of comfort to the bereaved. Rev. Cole was a well-informed minister, and an eloquent speaker, having fluent command of the English language. Pallbearers were Rev. J.W. Saxbe, J.H. Reilly, George Green, H.L. Watkins, Joseph Dibley, and Charles Bragg. Interment was in Flint Cemetery.

He was the first man of the Conference to own and drive an automobile in the year 1907 at Capac. He was a man of great business ability, a fine man as well as a preacher, at one time he ran a store in Fenton, Michigan with great success, and he owned several pieces of property throughout Michigan, dealing successfully in real estate.

Horace N. Cook

Rev. H.N. Cook [was born in 1811 and] came from the Onondaga Conference to the West Michigan Conference in the year 1882. At the time of his death [in 1888], he sustained a home missionary relation to the Conference. He was a man of pure Christian integrity, a clear theologian, a man respected by all

¹⁵ *The Minutes Including the Official Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church*, 1953, Vol. XXIX, No. 2, pp. 458-459.

who knew him. He served the West Michigan Conference for five and a half years. He died at Herrington, Kansas at the age of 74.¹⁶

William Coombs

William Coombs was born near Battle Creek, Michigan on December 3, 1866. He was one of the outstanding spiritual leaders of the Michigan Conference, a man of great faith. His pastorates were at Wells, Davisburg, Lum, and Otter Lake. He was forced to take retired relations on account of his voice failing him and spent his last days at his home in Midland Park; when the sessions of the assembly and Conference convened you would find him on the front seat, ready with his hearty "Amen" and "Glory to God" when some point in the speaker's sermon would touch his heart. He passed to his reward in the year 1943. His funeral services were held at the Fostoria church with Rev. Ernest Benedict preaching the sermon. He was laid to rest in the West Deerfield Cemetery.¹⁷

William Cope

Rev. William Cope [was born in 1815 and] joined the Michigan Annual Conference in the year of 1874 at the Burton church (C.S. Green, President). His first charge was Davisburg, second, Clio, and third, Flint River. On August 2, 1881, he was elected President of the Conference, which was held in the Columbiaville church, and for the second year he was elected President at the Dansville Methodist Protestant Church on August 16, 1882. He served the church faithfully for eighteen years and passed away at his home in Clio on February 8, 1892. He was interred in the Clio Cemetery.¹⁸

William A. Corkle

W.A. Corkle [was born in 1853, received on transfer from the Indiana Conference,] served three months [at Otter Lake and Fostoria] and died in 1906.¹⁹

Charles D. Covil

C.D. Covil was born in New York State in 1820, joined the Conference in 1855, was ordained in 1858, and traveled largely throughout the Conference as an evangelist, one of the oldest and most faithful

¹⁶ *Minutes of the Thirtieth Session of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1888, p. 37.*

¹⁷ *Minutes of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Church, 1943, Vol. 29, No. 4, pp. 133-134*

¹⁸ *Minutes of the Fifty-first Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1892, pp. 26-27.*

¹⁹ *Minutes of the Sixty-fifth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1906, p. 29.*

heralds of the Cross of Christ. A warm-hearted friend of all who knew him, he was a forceful speaker and a good singer. There will never be another Brother Covil. He served the Conference for twenty-four years and died in 1880. [He served churches at Flint, Marathon, Hadley, White Lake, Almont, Union, Dryden, Cass River, St. Clair, Flint, and Fremont.]²⁰

David S. Cramer

He [was born in 1833 and] united with the Conference in 1864. While he served many charges, he lived on his farm near Flint, Michigan. There he reared a splendid family. The most of his ministerial work, however, was spent on the charge where his farm was located, giving great assistance to the pastor. His life was one of deep piety. He served the Conference for forty-three years and died in 1907.²¹

Jesse M. Crandall

There is no record that could be obtained as to the place of birth or his marriage to Mrs. Crandall [he was born August 18, 1841 at La Fargeville, Jefferson County, New York, and married Susan M. Harrington on June 25, 1869 at Byron, Shiawassee County, Michigan]. The writer was very intimately acquainted with Mrs. and Rev. Crandall, having entertained them in the parsonage at Goodland when pastor there, and in conversations with Brother Crandall, we know that he spent his early life after their marriage teaching school throughout Shiawassee County from 1871 to 1877, when he united with the Conference at Brockway Center (Yale). His first pastorate was Union Circuit, then Goodland (1878-79, when the Goodland church was built (i.e.) West Goodland church), Flint River (1880-81), St. Clair (1882), Shelby (1883-1885), Brockway (1886-1888), Union (1889-1900), Monroe Circuit (1891), Clio (1892-1893), Marathon (1894-1896, Columbiaville church struck by lightning and burned; new church now standing in Columbiaville, built 1897), Greenwood (1898-1899), Grant Circuit (1899-1900), St. Clair (1901-1903), Smiths Creek (1904), Prairie (1905-1906), Cass River (1907-1909), without appointment (1910). He superannuated in 1911, but was appointed pastor at Three Rivers (1912-1917) and Flint (1920). He then retired and lived in his home at Three Rivers, a highly respected citizen, and member of the Three Rivers church. Mrs. Crandall was called to her reward in the year 1931 and Brother Crandall followed her in the year 1933. Wherever they served, their lives were a bit of sunshine. He was a well-educated man, a very interesting speaker, a good organizer, leaving his charge in better condition materially, and spiritually, than when he moved to it.

²⁰ *Minutes of the Thirty-ninth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1880, p. 34.

²¹ *Minutes of the Sixty-sixth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1907, p.34.

Henry H. Crawford

H. H. Crawford [was born in 1824,] served for five years and died February 10, 1876.²²

Robert Harley Cunningham

Robert Cunningham was born April 3, 1878 in Edinburgh, Scotland and came to this country in the year 1904 by way of Canada. He joined the Methodist Protestant Conference in 1907 and was appointed to the Grayling church, received ordination, and served the following churches: Mayville, Grant, Disco, Barryville, Otter Lake, Newberg, Brant, Genesee, and Smiths Creek. He was united in marriage to Miss Mabel Gary, daughter of Rev. Charles Gary, who preceded him in death in the year 1933. Rev. Cunningham retired in 1937 because of failing vision and made his residence at Marlette, Michigan. He later took up his residence and lived with his daughter Mrs. Cecil Dawson on a farm north of Marlette, where after a brief illness he passed away on Sunday, June 2, 1946. Funeral services were held at Marlette Methodist Church, with Rev. Kenneth Burgess and Gordon Phillips, District Superintendent of the Port Huron District, and pallbearer ministers of the District. Interment was at Gagetown.²³ This comment is by the writer, who knew Brother Cunningham as his President, also as his pastor at Marlette, from 1940 to 1942. He was a man of deep spiritual insight and Christian principles.

A.G. Dake

A.G. Dake served five years and died July 31, 1872.

George W. Davis

G. W. Davis [was born in 1814,] served the Conference for twenty-one years and died in 1879. [He was only active between 1857 and 1866 and is listed as superannuated (retired) after that time.]

Ashford Diamond

A. Diamond [was born in 1825,] served the Conference for six years and died May 9, 1875.

²² *Minutes of the Thirty-Fifth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1876, p.22.*

²³ *Minutes Including the Official Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1946, Vol. 2, No. 3, p. 629.*

William Dunning

William Dunning [was born in 1818,] joined the Conference in 1863, served seven years, and died in 1871.

Oliver Earls/Earl

Oliver Earls, M.D. was one of the charter members of the Conference in 1842. [He was born in 1792.] He was a forceful preacher, as well as a good physician, serving the Conference in the capacity of minister, pastor, and physician, healing the body as well as the sin sick soul for twenty-two years. These years were trying times for the church. He died June 1864.²⁴

William Ekins

William Ekins [was born in 1815,] served the Conference for twelve years and died May 21, 1891.²⁵

Clarence L. Ellis

Clarence L. Ellis [was born in 1852 and] united with the West Michigan Conference at the 1887 conference held at Ainger church on September 20th (L.D. Abbott, President). His first charge was Dimondale, the church from which he received his recommendation. He served the Conference forty-seven years, as pastor of the following charges: North Jackson, LaPorte, and Flowerfield. At Flowerfield, his first wife and mother of his only child, Mary A. Fassett, who died November 1, 1894. The daughter, Miss Grace Ellis, became the wife of Reverend Charles Perry, whose memoir is included in this history. Newberg was his next charge, and here he was Secretary of the Conference, and at the Conference of 1899, he was elected President of the West Michigan Conference. During this period, he again married. Three Rivers was his appointment after serving as President for five years, serving this charge 1904 to 1911, then Capac, Columbiaville, Capac (1916 to 1919), and Lum in 1920. During this pastorate, on May 22, 1922, Mrs. Hattie Lee Kedney Ellis, the mother of Zoah Ellis and Mrs. Alma Blue of the Methodist church of Columbiaville, passed away. Brother Ellis remained as pastor of the Lum church till August 1923 when he retired from active service, living in Lansing for a while with his daughter from his first wife, then uniting in marriage for the third time to Mrs. Florence A. Ogle of Marlette, and living at Marlette till going to his reward August 8, 1934. Services were held in Marlette, and at the Main Street Methodist Church, where he was instrumental with others in establishing the church, which still exists. Interment was in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Lansing. He was one of the pioneers of the Midland Park Assembly grounds which was under the supervision of the Conference till after Methodist Union. He was President of the Assembly, also Secretary of the same and Trustee for many years. It would have grieved his heart to have witnessed the betrayal of his brethren because they did not accept Methodist Union, and by their

²⁴ *Minutes of the Twenty-Second Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1864*, p. 14.

²⁵ *Minutes of the Fiftieth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1891*, pp. 21-22.

zeal to overthrow Methodist control, these grounds were turned over to a receiver and sold to another group. He was a conscientious Christian minister of the Gospel and made friends wherever his pastorate was assigned.

Christopher England

C.E. England, as he was commonly called, was born in the township of Morris, Huron County, Ontario, Canada on November 15, 1853, the first white child born in the county. He was the son of Joseph and Jane Van Orman England. Both parents were Irish born, emigrating from Ireland to Canada. Their home was primitive, with two rooms, a large living room with a stone fireplace, the meager furnishings of a frontier home. Those early boyhood years were filled with hard work. He was the first son of a family of nine children, two sons and seven daughters. This family moved to Tuscola County, Michigan when Christopher was in his teens, settling on a farm of one hundred sixty acres near the Sutton Methodist Protestant Church. Here he was converted under the preaching of Rev. John Currier; his age at the time was around twenty years. His educational background was not above the fourth grade, but his knowledge of the Holy Scriptures was well versed in that during his sixty years he had great command of the English language to the extent of preaching to thousands the unsearchable riches of Christ and many pointed to his ministry as the means of their salvation.

In his early teens, he was employed as a well driller, and also worked on a steam vessel on the Saginaw River as fireman. He learned the harness makers' trade, and in later years established a large business in the city of Lapeer, selling and manufacturing harnesses until the automobile came in use. Then he and his sons, Jay and Wesley who worked with him, changed their business over to automobile accessories.

He was married to Miss Ella Larue, and they were appointed to their first pastorate at Prairie Mission. Mrs. England was a woman with a deep spiritual experience and became a wonderful helpmate for him in all his ministry. To this union were born Wesley, Jay, Tressie, and Katherine.

He was Treasurer of the Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church for twenty-four years and his longest pastorate was at Lapeer, where he served as pastor for nine years. Hundreds of weddings were performed by him, as well as funeral services. The activity of his ministry is seen covering the history of the Methodist Protestant Church in Michigan and on the Conference minutes roll of membership, extending from New River (now Huron City, nationally famous because of Dr. William Lyon Phelps' Sunday afternoon ministry) on the north, to Warren, a suburb of Detroit, formerly a part of Disco Circuit on the South, and from Greenwood, near Port Huron on the east, and Yale and West Brockway, to Plainfield and Unadilla on the west near Jackson, as well as covering many interesting points, at his winter home in Florida, where he was kept busy by ministers who were desirous of his spiritual messages, and at Lapeer where he had his longest pastorate during his active ministry. He preached his morning worship broadcast over radio station WMPC until near the time of his death at the age of eighty-five, in the year 1938. Rev. F.S. Hemingway, his pastor for twenty years, preached his funeral sermon and he was laid to rest in the Lapeer Cemetery.²⁶

²⁶ *The Minutes Including the Official Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church Including the Official Journal of the former Michigan Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, 1939, pp. 74-75.

N. S. Fairchild/Fairchilds

N. S. Fairchilds served thirty-two years and died in 1871 [1876]. He was one of the pioneers of the Conference, joining in 1844. He was instrumental in the organization of churches during the early years of the Conference, a faithful servant of Jesus Christ.

Arthur Bertram Fockler

Arthur Fockler was born near Deckerville in Sanilac County on May 14, 1884, the son of William and Theresa Fockler. He was recommended to the Annual Conference by the Dimondale Circuit in the year 1919 and began his ministry at North Branch. He was ordained in 1925 and during his career served Columbiaville, Genesee, Porter and Wakelee, Ingham Circuit, and Fostoria. He was evangelistic in his preaching and a good minister of Jesus Christ. He was instrumental in persuading many young men to enter the ministry and served the church efficiently. He was a friend of young and old alike. He died November 18, 1949. Funeral services were held at Fostoria and Millville, with E. Ray Willson and Rev. Alfred Landon delivering messages. Interment was in Dimondale Cemetery.²⁷

Alexander E. Fox

Alexander E. Fox [was born in 1835 and] served the Conference for forty years, serving the following charges: Flint River, Montrose, Sanilac, Prairie, Cass City, [Macomb, Bad Axe, Fremont, Davisburg, Saginaw (South End), and Flint]. He retired from active ministry and resided at Clio, where he was a great help to the pastors of the church. He died in 1911, interment was at Clio Cemetery.

N. A. Frazer

N. A. Frazer served the Conference for two years and died December 2, 1868.

Edward Fulkerson

E. Fulkerson [was born in 1808 and] joined the Conference in 1844. He must have been one of the early members of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, which was organized in 1842. He served the Conference for eighteen years and died in 1861 [January 16, 1862].

²⁷ *The Minutes Including the Official Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference*, 1950, Vol. XXVIII, No. 3, pp. 689-690.

Ancil C. Fuller

Rev. A.C. Fuller, like Jared Warner and others we might mention, was one of the hard-working faithful ministers of the gospel of Christ in the early days of Methodist Protestant history. [He was born in 1832.] He served Livingston, Elsie, Flint, Vienna, St. Clair, Saginaw, Fairgrove, Cass River, Grant, Clio, Shelby, Franklin, Otter Lake, and Atlas mission. He served as Conference President for three years [1879-1881 and 1891-1892]. Rev. Fuller superannuated in 1906 and spent his last years at his home in Clio among many friends he had made in the past, as pastor and citizen. His life was very strenuous in those days of the horse and buggy, as well as the saddle. He was a delegate to the General Conference held at the Liberty Street Methodist Protestant Church, Baltimore, Maryland in the year 1884. Michigan was entitled to two delegates at this Conference, the other was Rev. George B. McElroy, President of Adrian College. Doctor McElroy was a member of the Michigan Conference. The laymen at this Conference were A.A. Rust and J.S. Duffe of Franklin church. Rev. Fuller's educational background was limited, but his knowledge of the scriptures was said to be perfect. He had great command of the English language, obtaining it through the reading of the Word of God. He was well informed and it can be said of him that he was one of the outstanding ministers of the Gospel of his time, having had the privileges of the pulpit, not only in the church of his choice, but churches of other faiths as well, and upon such occasion as they presented themselves to him, he was very acceptable to his audience. Truly he was one of God's noblemen. He was called to his reward in the year of 1912, having served the Conference from 1858 to 1912, fifty-four years. He was pastor of twenty-nine different appointments, besides being a field man for Adrian College one year.²⁸

J. Clinton Gibson

J.C. Gibson joined in 1861, served eight years, and died in 1869.

John Gillam

John Gillam [was born in 1827,] served the Conference for seventeen years and died in 1897 [February 15, 1895].²⁹

Lewis W. Graves

L.W. Graves [was born in 1856,] served four years and died in 1907 [He served closer to eight years and died on November 16, 1911.].

²⁸ *Minutes of the Seventy-Second Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1913, p. 28.

²⁹ *Minutes of the Fifty-sixth Session of the Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1897, p. 24.

Charles W. Gray

Rev. Charles W. Gray, brother of John W. Gray, was born [in 1856] on the Gray homestead, one mile west and two miles south of the village of Dryden, Lapeer County. He was the son of Rev. John Gray, a Methodist Episcopal minister, deceased December 10, 1882. He united with the Conference in the year of 1891, at Saginaw. He served at Wellsville, Prairie, Otter Lake, Three Rivers, and Wells. His health failed him, and he retired from active service, taking superannuated relations at the Conference of 1920, which relations he sustained till his death which occurred on April 15, 1937. In his early days of activity, he was a genial individual, always ready for a pleasant joke with those of his brethren in the ministry; and always of a serious mind when occupying the pulpit.

John W. Gray

Rev. John W. Gray, D.D. was born in Dryden, Lapeer County, on August 11, 1853, the son of a Methodist Episcopal minister, the Rev. John Gray, who died December 10, 1882. Rev. J.W. Gray was united in marriage to Miss Ida Caroline Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Smith, who lived on a farm near Dryden village, in the year 1879. To them were born two sons, Floyd William (deceased at his home in Columbus, Ohio, leaving two sons: John, a teacher in Toledo schools, and George, general manager of a TV station Dayton, Ohio) and J.S. Gray, editor of the *Monroe Evening News*, the father of three children (Gratten, assistant to his father on the *News* staff, Mrs. David Hawley of Warsaw, Missouri, and Whitmore, an attorney in New York City).

Rev. Gray joined the Michigan Conference in the year 1876, among his first pastorates before entering Adrian College in 1879 were Capac and Yale. During the four-year course, he became very popular with the students, and also with the faculty. With the help of Mrs. Gray keeping boarders during the four years and cooperating at various tasks, he graduated with Bachelor of Arts degree in the class of 1883, and for one year served the Richfield church, and for five years as pastor of the church at Clio. In 1889, he became Principal of La Harpe Seminary in La Harpe, Illinois; after which he again became pastor of Clio in 1895, after serving the Seminary six years. In the year 1900, he was elected President of the Michigan Conference, serving in the capacity for five years being elected unanimously each time. At the expiration of the office as President, he was appointed Dean of Theology and Professor of Theology and Philosophy at Adrian College, serving six years in this capacity. After that he was elected unanimously as Commissioner of Schools in Lenawee County. As a pastor, he was beloved by all his congregation, as well as members of other churches where he served, being a genial favorite with the entire community, a great preacher, an orator, full of pleasant witticism, which was never used to the embarrassment of others. He was very popular as an orator, being called upon for commencement addresses. To know him was to love him. He was on the Board of Examiners for the Conference and was very kind and considerate with the young men who entered the Conference, being ready to help them in every way possible.

He passed to his reward on June 22, 1914 after delivering a commencement address for the Class of 1914 at Clio High School. The funeral services were held from his home in Adrian, conducted by his pastor, F.A. Perry, D.D. and B.W. Anthony, President of Adrian College.³⁰

Oliver Gregory

Oliver Gregory served the Conference for five years and died in March 1874.

Warren C. Griffith

Warren C. Griffith [was born in 1802 and] served the Conference for eighteen years; he joined in 1854 and died in 1872. [His name does not appear in conference journals before 1865.]

Volney H. Gustin

Volney Gustin [was born in 1836,] had two years of service and died in 1863 [He died in 1864 as a prisoner while serving in the army during the Civil War].

Silas F. Hale

Rev. S.F. Hale was one of the oldest members of the Michigan Conference, uniting in the year 1858, and transferring to the West Michigan Conference when it was organized in the year 1858 at Rice Creek. He became that Conference's first President and was elected the second time in the year of 1862 at Haw Patch, and again in the years of 1868 and 1869. He was active and energetic, a good sermonizer, and had excellent executive ability. At the expiration of his last term as President of the Conference, he retired from active service. He [was born in 1825 and] died July 15, 1898. He held a keen interest in the church and Conference of his choice till the very last.³¹

Willis C. Harger

Willis C. Harger was born [in 1858] near Kings Mills in Lapeer County. He married Miss Ida Wilder of Thornville and no children were born to them. He united with the Michigan Conference in the year 1890

³⁰ *Minutes of the Seventy-third Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1914, p. 49.*

³¹ *Minutes of the Fortieth Session of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1898, p. 36.*

at Capac and was appointed to the Prairie Mission church the same year, where he remained as the pastor till 1893. He also served at Grant (1894-1897) and Capac (1898-1905). He built the first church and the parsonage at Capac during his ministry there. He was then elected President of the Conference, serving in that capacity till 1910. Afterwards, he served as pastor of Lansing church (1912), as Field Man for Adrian College (1913), Detroit First Church (1914). From 1915 [1916] to 1916 [1918], he was again President of the Conference. In January of 1918, he was stricken with diabetes and forced to give up his ministry. He passed to his reward on January 2nd. Although suffering very much, he maintained his interest in the Conference he loved till the very last. Interment was in Mt. Hope Cemetery in the city of Detroit. He was instrumental in the organization of what was called Harger Memorial Church in the city of Detroit. He was considered as a wise counselor and a fine leader of his ministers during his tenure of office as President of the Conference.

Fred E. Hart

One of the most energetic ministers of the Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, Rev. Hart was evangelistic in his preaching and accomplished the conversion of many souls during the forty years of his ministry. After an illness of several months, he yielded to the dreadful disease of cancer of the throat at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, where he had been a patient for five days on August 17, 1950. He [was born in 1883,] joined the Conference in 1910 and served the following charges: LaGrange (Indiana), Flowerfield, Prairie, Hickory Corners, Riley Center, Columbiaville, Caro, Frederic, Wellsville, Marlette, Flint, New Lothrop, Detroit, Pinconning, and Owendale. Rev. Hart retired in 1950 and moved to his home at Midland Park. Funeral services were held at the Oxford Methodist Church where his son, Ellis Hart, was pastor, Rev. Joseph Dibley delivering the message, assisted by Rev. E.R. Willson D.D., W.H. Clark, and F.S. Hemingway of Lapeer. Interment was at Attica, Michigan. He married Ella Loyd on March 9, 1904 and together they successfully raised a family of nine children, two of whom are ministers of the Gospel, doing successful work as members of the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, Rev. Ellis Hart and Paul Hart. Of the rest of their daughters and sons, you will find them interested in religious work and members of churches in the community where they reside.³²

Austin B. Hathaway

Rev. Austin B. Hathaway was born November 6, 1836 near Pontiac, Michigan and died September 7, 1913. His parents died while he was an infant and he was brought up in the home of a well-known Pontiac judge. A salesman and farmer, he struggled against the call to the ministry and it was not until 1873, when he was thirty-eight years of age, that he offered himself to the Michigan Conference for work as a supply, to be employed by the president. He was ordained an elder on August 27, 1876 and served the following charges: Davisburg, Fairgrove, Conway, Marathon and Brockway Center, later Yale. These appointments covered a span of some eleven years, when failing health compelled retirement and superannuation. The last thirty-one years of his life were spent in Clio, where he was held in the highest esteem as a good neighbor, loyal to his church, firm in his convictions and always a conscientious

³² *The Minutes Including the Official Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference*, 1951, Vol, XXVII, No. 4, p. 963.

Christian gentleman. The years in Clio found him always ready when possible to respond to invitations to preach, to assist in quarterly meetings, share in revival services, and to help brother pastors in other ways. A son-in-law, Dr. Chandler W. Stephenson, wrote, "He was kind, generous, and affectionate. He tried to live his profession and those who knew him best loved him most. His entire family and many warm friends are glad to have known such a man, and to have called him by the endearing names of father, brother, or friend. We rejoice in the beautiful life and the triumphant passing on."³³

James Heath

James Heath had three years of service; he died June 10, 1862.

William C. Helmbold

William C. Helmbold was born at Daleville, Pennsylvania on December 24, 1870, the son of Joseph Kimmerer Helmbold and his wife, Henrietta Elizabeth Helmbold. He was united in marriage to Mildred Clark, by Rev. H.V. Clark, brother of Mrs. Helmbold, on June 28, 1899 at Ransom, Michigan. While delivering an address at a District meeting held in the Methodist Protestant Church at Jeddo on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, he was stricken with a heart attack and fell to the floor unconscious. At the time of his death on December 12, 1927, he was serving the Methodist Episcopal churches of Applegate Charge under the supervision of D.C. Littlejohn, District Superintendent of the Port Huron District. The services were held at Applegate with Rev. D.C. Littlejohn in charge, assisted by ministers of the Michigan Conference. Burial was in the Washington Cemetery at Crosswell, Michigan.

Brother Helmbold began his ministry at Waverly, Ohio, and served several churches throughout Ohio and the West Michigan Conference. When the Michigan Conference and the West Michigan Conferences united in 1905, he was appointed to the Goodland Circuit; he also served North Branch, Franklin, Wellsville, Brant, Tracy, Gagetown, Brant Circuit, Millville, Plainfield, and Otter Lake, as well as charges in the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was a graduate of Adrian College with a degree of Bachelor of Arts, a good sermonizer, and made friends wherever he was appointed. He served on the Board of Examiners of the Michigan Conference for several years. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Helmbold: Mrs. Anna Fisher of Reed City, a teacher in the High School, Robert of Pittsburgh, also a teacher, Herbert Newton of Flint, Michigan, Joseph K. of Millington, and Gordon of Millington, Michigan.

Howard John Hescott

Howard Hescott was born in Brantford, Canada on September 25, 1873. He passed to his reward on March 16, 1948. He was united in marriage to Addie E. Tomkinson, a grand-niece of the Rev. W.D. Tomkinson, who is mentioned in these memoirs as the organizer and founder of the Michigan Conference

³³ Rev. Frank W. Stephenson was the author of this sketch. See also *Minutes of the Seventy-third Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1914, p. 48.

and a Conference President being elected several times both in Michigan and West Michigan Conferences. Rev. Hescott served Jeddo, Goodland, New Lothrop, and Flint, where in each of the latter three churches were built under his pastorate. While attending Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati, he served the Methodist Episcopal Church at Addyston and Cincinnati, Ohio. After graduating, he returned to Michigan and served the Owosso charge and was Conference Evangelist for two years and President of the Conference for five years [four years: 1918-1922]. After retiring from the Presidency, he served the churches in Detroit, both at Harger Memorial and Vandyke Street, serving the latter church for eleven years, retiring in 1938. Funeral services were held at Augusta, Michigan. Rev. Harold Hoppe of the Gull Lake Bible Fellowship and the Rev. Frank Hemingway of the Liberty Street Gospel Church in Lapeer brought messages. Interment was in Day Cemetery near Midland Park, Gull Lake.³⁴

Edwin Hobson

Edwin Hobson served two years in the Conference beginning in 1857. [He died in 1859.]

Joel H. Holmes

Joel Holmes [was born in 1833,] served the Conference for five years; he joined in 1861 and died in 1866 [1868].

Whitney Hough

Whitney Hough [was born in 1827,] served thirteen years and died in 1881.

O.F. Howard

O. F. Howard served thirty-six years; he joined in 1842, the first conference. He died in 1872. [The earliest printed journal from the West Michigan Conference in 1881 lists him as an honorary member of the conference and he never served any appointments in the pulpit, so he may have been a very active member of the laity. He did not die in 1872, as he attended the 1873 annual conference. Could he be the Orin F. Howard of St. Joseph County, Michigan, who died in 1875?]

Ephraim Howland

Ephraim Howland [was born in 1820,] served two and a half years; died April 1, 1861.

³⁴ *The Minutes Including the Official Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church*, 1948, pp. 183-184.

Thomas Howland

Thomas Howland [was born in 1817,] served seven years and died May 31, 1866.³⁵

James E. Hubbell

J.E. Hubbell [sometimes spelled Hubble] joined the Conference in the year 1868 at the conference held at the Plainfield Methodist Protestant Church on September 28th (William D. Tomkinson, President), and served the Conference faithfully for thirty years. He [was born in 1834 and] died in 1898. He was elected President of the Conference in the year 1893, at the Conference held at Yale on August 22nd, and again at Conference at Capac on August 23, 1894. He was reported to be one of the Conference's strongest ministers, having knowledge of the word of God, and presented the riches of grace with spiritual power and love.³⁶

Homer H. Hulbert

H.H. Hulbert [was born in 1804,] served the conference for twenty-eight years; joined in 1858 and died in 1886. [He was elected as West Michigan Conference President in 1859.]

Lafayette Hutt

L.F. Hutt [was born in 1821,] came to the West Michigan Conference by letter in the year 1868 from the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and for twenty-nine years labored faithfully until his death on January 21, 1897. He was evangelistic in his ministry, a wise counselor for his Congregation. He was a true advocate for the mutual rights of Methodist Protestantism and a faithful ambassador of Jesus Christ. It could be said that he was a forerunner, or John the Baptist, of Methodist Union, a loyal son of John and Charles Wesley. He was very acceptable to our Methodist brethren at that early day of Methodism in Michigan. He served one year as President of the Conference, elected at Three Rivers on September 22, 1881.³⁷

³⁵ *Minutes of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1866, pp. 13-14.

³⁶ *Minutes of the Fifty-Seventh Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1898, p. 18.

³⁷ *Minutes of the Thirty-ninth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1897, p. 34.

Allen Johnson

Allen Johnson [was born in 1826,] served the Conference for nineteen years and died in 1880.³⁸

Harvey H. Johnson

Rev. H.H. Johnson [was born in 1815 and was] the second [thirteenth] President of the Michigan Conference elected to that office, at Putnam church on October 4, 1854; he served for two years. He was elected again October 6, 1857 at Davisburg and at Rice Creek on October 5, 1858. Serving the Conference faithfully for forty-three years, on various charges, he went to his reward in the year 1889 [1890]. For several years he was appointed Conference Missionary and did very efficient work in that field.

Jerome B. Keith

Rev. J.B. Keith, an old and respected member of the Conference died on Friday, July 23, 1915. He [was born in 1849,] joined the Conference in 1887 and for fifteen years he served the following charges: Blissfield, Brant, Gagetown, Fairgrove, Fostoria, Yale, and Prairie. In August 1902, his failing health compelled him to lay aside his active work. He was a good sermonizer and devoted pastor.³⁹

Russell S. Kellogg

R.S. Kellogg [was born in 1830 and] had four years of service; he died in 1856.

William J. Kennedy

William J. Kennedy [was born in 1882 and] joined the Conference in 1912 with credentials from the Friends church. [His first appointments were at LaGrange and Assyria.] He then was left without appointment on account of illnesses of himself and Mrs. Kennedy. His next appointment was Three Rivers Ninth Street Church where he remained from 1921 to 1932. After Methodist Union in 1940, he was again appointed pastor of the Three Rivers Ninth Street Church and remained as the pastor till his death [in 1948]. During his first appointment at Three Rivers, a commodious parsonage was built and

³⁸ Minutes of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1877-1887, in Box 1 of the Records of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, Archives of the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church, p. 113.

³⁹ *Minutes of the Seventy-fourth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1915, p. 26.

paid for, also needed improvements were made inside the church. He was a good organizer and minister of the Gospel, leaving many friends in the Conference and at Three Rivers.⁴⁰

Quintas E. Knight

[He was born in 1851 and died in 1899.] He served several circuits with great success as a faithful and zealous worker, but because of failing health, he was forced to be left without appointment, much to his regret, but through all his sufferings, he bore them patiently. After serving for twenty-one years, he distinguished himself as a growing man among his brother ministers. As a young man, he was faithful, earnest, and trustful, endearing himself to all who became acquainted with him.⁴¹

William H. Knight

William H. Knight [was born in 1786,] joined the Conference in 1853; served seventeen years and died in 1870. [He appears in the 1852 conference journal and did not serve any later appointments.]

John Kost

The career of John Kost extends from 1864 to 1904. [He was born in 1820.] Dr. John Kost of Springfield, Ohio, received the honorary degree of Master of Arts, citing him as a lecturer in various medical colleges about chemistry and kindred topics. "They [Adrian College] also set up a chair of chemistry and geology and elected Dr. Kost to fill it. The Board was very good to him, giving him a LL.D. the next year, with Dr. John McEldowney making the motion. It was agreed that a cabinet building would be constructed to house a museum valued at \$10,000, which Dr. Kost turned over to the college on several conditions, Dr. Kost being a Methodist Protestant. Thus, this move was the first to bring the Methodist Protestants into the interests of Adrian College."⁴² His private residence, many thought, was a part of Adrian College.⁴³

"Bro. Kost. was a man of talent, culture, and fine educational attainments; with just pride we looked up to him as one of the first educators of the land. He did much for our church in upbuilding of it, educationally and spiritually."⁴⁴ Thus we see a great spiritual leader whose activity covers a period of over forty years. The history of the Wellsville church contains his evangelistic labors which was the beginning of that church. [He was elected as West Michigan Conference President in 1870, 1871, and 1872.]

⁴⁰ *Minutes of the Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Church*, 1949, Vol. 31, No. 2, p. 165.

⁴¹ *Minutes of the Forty-First Session of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1899, p. 32.

⁴² "The Story of a Noble Devotion" Committee, Fanny A. Hay, Ruth E. Cargo, and Harlan Feeman D.D., September 1st, 1944, pp. 30-31.

⁴³ "The Story of a Noble Devotion" Committee, Fanny A. Hay, Ruth E. Cargo, and Harlan Feeman D.D., September 1st, 1944, p. 42.

⁴⁴ *Minutes of the Forty-Sixth Session of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1904, p. 27.

Frank E. Kunsman

Rev. Frank Kunsman was one of the most interesting, careful ministers of the Conference. It can be said that every charge he served he left it in better condition, both materially and spiritually. [He was born in 1868.] On July 24, 1945, he passed to his reward in the upper and better kingdom and on July 27th, funeral services were held in the Dryden Methodist Church with Rev. Gordon Phillips, District Superintendent of the Port Huron District officiating, assisted by Rev. W.H. Clark of Birch Run. Interment was at Montrose Cemetery. Rev. Kunsman served the Michigan Annual Conference as President from 1923 [1922] to 1928 [1927].⁴⁵

George H. Lahr

George Lahr [was born in 1855,] united with the Conference in the year of 1917, and died on Thursday, December 22, 1927. For the past eleven years he had been a faithful laborer for the cause of Christ at Flowerfield, Assyria, Mayville, and his last charge at Goodland, where he was appointed pastor of West Goodland, Lum, and East Goodland churches. He was just beginning a good work when he was stricken with a heart attack. His funeral services were held at the West Goodland church on Saturday, December 24th. The announcement of arrangements of the funeral were made by radio station WMPC Lapeer, and Rev. Charles Bragg, President of the Conference, had charge, assisted by Rev. F.S. Hemingway of radio station WMPC Lapeer. The following brethren were present: F.E. Kunsman, H.J. Hescott, R.C. Powell, J.W. McCue, and F.E. Hart. The body was taken to Lapeer via Grand Trunk to Charlotte, thence to Eaton Rapids, Michigan for interment, thence by automobile to cemetery, arriving there just as the sun was setting in the west. The casket was lowered into its last resting place as Rev. Charles Bragg pronounced the burial service. Returning home that Christmas Eve, the bells in various churches were ringing for the glorious advent of the birth of the Christ that Rev. G.H. Lahr had proclaimed during the eleven years of his service in the Conference. Those who knew Brother Lahr could say that he was a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Robert C. Lanning

R.C. Lanning was [born in 1820 and died in 1902 and was] elected President of the Michigan Conference at four [five] different sessions, [first at Prairie Ronde in 1849], first [second] at Prairie Ronde on October 1, 1856, second [third] at Petersburg on October 2, 1863, third [fourth] at Shelby on September 22, 1864, and fourth [fifth] at Franklin on September 26, 1865, making four [five] years altogether. He was elected as delegate to two consecutive General Conferences at Springfield, Ohio in 1858 and at Cincinnati, Ohio in 1862. He served several different prominent works throughout the Conference area. His name does not appear on the Honor Roll of deceased ministers. [Lanning left the Methodist Protestant Church in

⁴⁵ *The Minutes Including the Official Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church*, 1946, Vol. 2, No. 3, p. 628.

1868 to become a Methodist Episcopal minister in the Detroit Annual Conference. Thus, he is listed on their roll of deceased ministers.]⁴⁶

William H. Leach

William H. Leach [was born in 1837,] served one year; joined in 1875; died in 1877 [1876]

William H. Mawhorter

Rev. W.H. Mawhorter [was born in 1844,] served fourteen years; died in 1907.

John W. McCue

John W. McCue, son of Royal and Margaret McCue, was born December 2, 1876, on a farm in Grovenberg community, Ingham County, Michigan, where he spent his youthful days. At the age of ten, he was converted, and shortly felt the call to preach, but not until the year 1906 did he obey the call, joining the Conference in 1907. His first pastorate was at Tracy, Indiana. During his first year, the Rever Wood church was added to the charge. Later a church was organized at Kingsbury, and a new church building erected there. In 1912, he was assigned to Hickory Corners and Bunnell. During his four-year pastorate, a church was built at Hickory Corners. From 1916 to 1921, he was pastor of the Capac church, liquidating the mortgage indebtedness on that church. In 1921, he was pastor at the First Church in Flint, liquidating the mortgage indebtedness of that church as well. He became Treasurer and President of the Flint Ministerial Association and also a member of the Flint Board of Education. From 1930 to 1933, he itinerated through the Conference as President of the same. For the next five years, he was pastor of the Harger Memorial Church of Detroit. He retired in 1939, after the Uniting Conference at Kansas City, and took retired supply at Freeport Methodist where he lived on the farm he had purchased. In 1950, they sold the farm and moved to their cottage at Midland Park, and on October 18, 1954 he died after a prolonged illness at Bronson Hospital, Kalamazoo.

He was privileged to see many young men enter the Conference ministry, one of whom was Everette Smith of the Lapeer Methodist Church, who delivered the message at his funeral services, held October 21, 1954 in the church where he was converted at Grovenberg. His pastor, Victor Jones of the Methodist Church at Hickory Corners assisted, and Doctor Maurice McKean, Superintendent of the Grand Rapids District, Edward Swadling, Clinton Edgerton, Leo Burch, and James Moore. John Van Puffen of the Gull Lake Bible Church sang "Good Morning" and "Oh That Will Be Glory For Me". Mrs. McCue, the former Louise M. Geisenhaver (married in the year 1906), his companion in ministry, was a loyal worker standing by his side in all the undertakings of this ministry. This outstanding couple will have many stars in their

⁴⁶ *Journal and Reports of the Forty-seventh Annual Conference of the Detroit Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, 1902, pp. 49-50.

crowns as a memento of their untiring ministry over a period of forty-eight years. Interment was in the Grovenberg Cemetery.⁴⁷

James S. McKinley

James McKinley served the Conference for three and a half years. He [was born in 1835 and] died May 9, 1869; very special mention is made in reference to him in minutes of 1869 written by W.H. Bakewell referring to his death as one of confidence and example of consciousness till his last breath. It will pay you to read this biographical sketch of a Saint of the Lord.⁴⁸

John McLucas

John McLucas was born in Malin County, Ireland in the year 1900 and departed this life on July 9, 1956. He united with the Michigan Conference in 1928, serving the Goodland churches for five years with great success. He was appointed to Yale church from 1933 to 1937, before taking a leave of absence on account of his wife's failing health. Mrs. McLucas passed away in the Fall of 1937. He was loaned to the Congregational church at Pinckney from 1938 to 1943 and was appointed to the Brighton and Novi Methodist churches in 1943. Serving these two churches for fourteen years, he and his second wife, Miss Ruth Pratt of Yale, whom he married in 1938, greatly endeared themselves to the people of these two churches. Brother McLucas was an untiring worker for the Lord, a good minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He will always be remembered for his genial disposition. Funeral services were conducted at the Brighton church on July 14th with Rev. Charles Bragg, Rev. R.E. Bachus, and Rev. D.W. Ryan participating. It was attended by several of the brethren of the Detroit Annual Conference. Interment was under the auspices of the Masonic Fraternity in the Brighton Cemetery.⁴⁹

Anson R. McRill

A.R. McRill [was born in 1845,] joined the West Michigan Conference in the year of 1883, and came with the union of the two Conferences in 1905, at Flint, Michigan (John A. Moray and John W. Gray, Presidents respectively). He served faithfully for forty-five years, his first charge being that of Prairie Ronde. He was not permitted to labor actively on account of ill health, but was loyal to the Conference, and took part in services whenever and wherever his services were wanted when his health permitted him to do so. He passed away at the home of his daughter in Kalamazoo, on July 8, 1928. He was a member of the Conference for forty-five years.

⁴⁷ *Minutes of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Church*, 1955, Vol. 32, No. 4, pp. 187-188.

⁴⁸ *Minutes of the Third Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1869, pp. 20-22.

⁴⁹ *The Minutes Including the Official Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church*, 1957, Vol. XXX, No. 2, p. 476.

Gallard Mikel

Gallard Mikel [was born in 1851 and] came into the state of Michigan from Montana, where he spent his early life as a cowboy. After his conversion, he united with the Michigan Conference as a probationer in the year 1902. His first Conference was at Capac (J.W. Gray was President of the Conference). He became pastor of [Caro,] the Gagetown Circuit, Wahjamega, [Grant, Mayville, Richfield, and Wells]. Under his administration the Stone church and parsonage at the Caro State Hospital was built and is still in use by the State. He was of a quiet, reserved nature, a true man of God. After thirty-two years of service, he passed quietly away to his reward on September 29, 1934, at his farm home near the city of Caro, where he had retired from active service in the year 1926. Memorial services were held at Midland Park on August 30, 1935. The eulogy was given by Rev. Fred E. Hart. The benediction was given by Rev. L.W. Bishop.

Levi Mills

Rev. Levi Mills [was born in 1811 and] died at Rice Creek on December 17, 1887, at the age of seventy-six years. He joined the Methodist Protestant Church in his youth, when it was first formed in the city of Baltimore. At the age of twenty, he became a local preacher in this church and a probationer in the Maryland Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. He came to Michigan and settled in Monroe County, preaching at Petersburg, and formed a society of Methodist Protestants. He united with the Michigan Conference in the year of 1853 and was dearly loved by the members of the Conference. In the year 1858, he transferred to the West Michigan Conference. It was this year the Conferences were divided. No more faithful and devoted member could ever be found in the Conference. He was a good theologian, a forceful speaker of the Gospel, and an indefatigable laborer. [He was elected as West Michigan Conference President in 1866 and 1867.]⁵⁰

William H. Mitchell

On January 4, 1915, the beginning of the new year, the sad news came to us of the death of Rev. William H. Mitchell. [He was born in 1880.] His labors were very much appreciated for his careful pulpit preparation. He served Kinde for six years, New Lothrop for three years, and Leonard for four months. Brother Mitchell was patient, loving, and true. Those who knew him best loved him most.⁵¹

⁵⁰ *Minutes of the Thirtieth Session of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1888, pp. 36-37.*

⁵¹ *Minutes of the Seventy-fourth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1915, pp. 25-26.*

Adam Moffat

Rev. Adam Moffat was born in Scotland on July 11, 1846 [1835], the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Moffat. He was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Manwell Chisholm in the year of 1856. Ten children were born to this union. The family moved to Montreal, and later to New York State, then back to Trilby and Sombra, Ontario. Mrs. Moffat passed away in the year 1880 and in the year of 1883, he was remarried to Miss Mary Forbes, and four children were born to this union. The surviving children are as follows: Melvin Moffat of California, Lee Moffat of Reese, Michigan, Floyd Moffat of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Ward Moffat of Florida, and Mrs. Eugene Moore, widow of the late Doctor Eugene Moore of Royal Oak, Michigan, and minister of the Detroit Annual Conference.

Rev. Moffat had only a common education but was a well-read man and a good pastor and minister of the gospel of Christ. He began his ministry in Canada, and after moving to Michigan, joined the Michigan Annual Conference at Fairgrove (Samuel Reilly, President). He served the following charges: Ray Center (Macomb County), the Rea Circuit (Monroe County, 1885-1888), Smiths Creek (St. Clair County), Fairgrove Circuit (Tuscola County, 1890-1894), Fostoria, Mayville, Stevens Street Church (Saginaw), and Lum. Early in the nineteen hundreds he retired, and resided at Vassar, where he served as a supply minister until within two weeks of his death, which occurred on September 19, 1917.⁵²

John A. Moray

John A. Moray was born May 12, 1858 at Seneca Falls, New York. His parents were Israel and Mary Moray. They were Canadian-born and moved from Seneca Falls to Ohio, where he received higher education, and hence to Isabella County, Michigan, where he taught school and singing in the evening. It was in one of these classes, he met Clara Sanderson, and their marriage was August 9, 1885. To them were born three daughters and four sons, Rachel (Mrs. James Snyder, deceased), Fred, Freeman Esek, of Lansing, Clarella (wife of D.C. Turbin, retired member of the Detroit Annual Conference), George of Black Mountain, North Carolina (whose wife Lucy is one of the daughters of Rev. Fred Corbett, deceased member of the Michigan Conference), John A. (deceased), and Mrs. Helene Beal of Port Huron.

His ministry began in 1884 being a delegate from the Methodist Protestant Church at Winn, he was appointed as minister of the congregation he represented, followed by Prairie Ronde, Flowerfield (two different times), Osceola, LaGrange (Indiana), Charlotte, illness caused him to retire for a year, Dimondale, Brant, Lapeer, Mayville, Wellsville, and Genesee. While at Brant, the Graham School Community purchased a frame Methodist Episcopal Church building and moved it from the community to Nelson, and this church is a part of the Hemlock Circuit, at this writing. He fought illness all his life, retiring at the age of sixty-six, in 1924.

He was a registered optometrist and devoted his talents to the help of his brother ministers, and their families, also his parishioners, to better sight. This was his delight to help others, all through his life.

In the year 1894, he, with others of the West Michigan Conference, discovered the beautiful spot on Gull Lake where the Gull Lake Assembly grounds were established, holding different offices: Secretary and Treasurer. He planned the octagon-shaped Tabernacle, proving to doubtful committeemen that an

⁵² This sketch was written by Mrs. Eugene Moore.

octagon structure could be built without a center post and be made to stand, and is still standing today, built in 1902, and today 1960, being occupied by usurpers that call themselves the Gull Lake Bible Conference. After retirement, he and Mrs. Moray made their home at Midland Park, the place they loved so much, and had dedicated to the service of God, with others who had helped make it what it is, a spot of beauty.

He was the last President of the West Michigan Conference [in 1904-1905] and had held the office as Secretary and Treasurer of this body also. On October 18, 1930 he was called to his reward, to be with those who had gone on before and Mrs. Moray followed him October 28th, two years later at the home of her son, Fred, in Lansing. They were laid to rest in the cemetery at Winn, where they first met at the singing school and his first field of labor.⁵³

Moses L. Morden

M.L. Morden [was born in 1860,] served the Conference for three years and died July 25, 1890. [Published lists of deceased ministers show his name as Borden and Rev. Bragg used that spelling, but conference journals from the time he was active show it as Morden.]⁵⁴

John Wesley Mulholland

Rev. J.W. Mulholland [was born in 1857,] united with the Michigan Conference in 1888, and served for fifteen years on the following charges: Grant Circuit, Riley Center, and several other churches until failing health when he retired and settled at his home in Riley Center where he passed away in the year 1930. He was a faithful minister of the Word of God, and a faithful helper to his pastors on the Riley and Berlin charge, giving them spiritual aid.

Robert N. Mulholland

Rev. R.N. Mulholland [was born in 1848 and] was President of the Michigan Annual Conference, elected to this office in the year 1883, at the conference held at Franklin, and again in the year 1884 at the conference held at Brockway Center (now Yale). He took his letter of standing and united with the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the year 1888, and died at Waterville, Ohio on October 26, 1933, serving as a servant of the Lord for fifty-six years, having entered the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church in his youth.⁵⁵

⁵³ Written by Clarella Turbin (Mrs. D.C. Turbin)

⁵⁴ *Minutes of the Forty-ninth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1890, p. 25

⁵⁵ *The Minutes Including the Official Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, 1934, p. 125

William F. Oliver

Rev. W.F. Oliver, the son of William and Elizabeth Oliver, was born February 11, 1861 at Port Huron, Michigan. He united with the Conference held at Fostoria in the year 1895 (M.R. Saigeon, President of the Conference) and was ordained August 20, 1898 at the Conference held at Mayville (Rev. Fred Traver, President of the Conference). His first charge was Davisburg, second at Disco, and successive pastorates as follows: thirteen years at Riley and Berlin (under his pastorate the church and parsonage were built, the church still stands and the parsonage was destroyed by fire). The beginning of the First Church at Detroit, Vandyke Street (sold to the Seventh Day Adventists), was started by him during his pastorate there. After Methodist Union (1939), this church became a part of the Mt. Hope membership. Membership thus salvaged was due to his careful leadership. It was the desire of his life to see this project completed, but his health failed, and he passed away to his reward, on December 17, 1919. He was a man of great faith, very kind and considerate in his dealings with others, loyal to the cause of the Methodist Protestant Church, and if he had lived would have been a great asset to the cause of Methodist Union. He was a man so possessed with musical talent, and for years was the musical director of the services at Midland Park Assembly of the Methodist Protestant Church. He married Miss Ella Augusta Parsons of Goodells, Michigan, and their family consisted of Arthur, Rev. Clayton Oliver of the Detroit Annual Conference, Clinton, and one daughter, Velma.

Benjamin F. Paris

B.F. Paris had nine years of service; passed to his reward in 1852.

Gilbert Parmater

No record is given of his years entering the Conference or of his death. [Rev. Bragg spelled his surname as Parmenter, as did the published roll of honor of deceased ministers. His name appears in journals from 1879 to 1896 as Parmater, but he mostly served as a local preacher or unstationed minister with just three Conference appointments (at Concord). He was born in 1821 and died in 1894.]

Charles D. Paxson

C.D. Paxson [was born in 1840 and] served the Conference for forty-four years, going to his reward in 1916 [1917]. He united with the West Michigan Conference in the year 1884, and was one of the many we know of who were instrumental in the clearing and erection of the Midland Park grounds, now in the hands of the Baptists and known as the Gull Lake Bible Association. He served the following charges: Assyria, Charlotte, Van Buren, Rice Creek, and, because of health, he superannuated at his own request and lived at Midland Park till his death in 1916 [1917]. He was devoted to the cause of Christ, and he, his wife and daughter were particularly interested in foreign missions, giving of their time and means for the advancement of the same.

Charles E. Perry

Rev. Charles Perry was born in [1865 in] Ingham County, Michigan and united with the West Michigan Conference in the year 1891 at Corey, Michigan (W.D. Tomkinson, President). He was appointed to the following charges: Grovenberg, Hickory Corners, Eaton Rapids, Lansing, Caro, and New Lothrop. In 1908, he was left without a charge at his own request and retired in the year 1911. He died in 1912. He was well educated in the scriptures and served his churches where he was pastor with great success, a good minister of Jesus Christ. Mrs. Perry was the daughter of C.L. Ellis, Miss Gracie Ellis. One daughter was born to them: Mrs. Max Heinig of Midland Park.⁵⁶

Alva A. Phelps

Alva A. Phelps joined the Michigan Conference in the year 1892. He was born in Indiana, in the town of Steubenville, on September 3, 1854. His death was November 28, 1934. His father's name was Griswold Phelps and his mother's name was Rozetta Durham Phelps. Griswold Phelps died in Andersonville and Libby Prison in the year 1862, leaving Alva without a father at the age of eight. His mother married Greshom Carey in the year of 1863, and they moved to Tuscola County in the year 1864, near the town of Caro. The parents being hard-pressed in those after war circumstances hired Alva out at the age of thirteen to a carpenter as an apprentice. He practically earned his own living from the time he was nine or ten years old. Thus, he became a farmer, carpenter, and a minister of the Gospel. His first appointment was Lum. In 1892, he was appointed as pastor of Lum Circuit, there were no churches on the charge. He became pastor of the Lum Circuit three times. His first appointment in 1892 he was able to see the completion of both churches, Barringer and Lum, as well as the parsonage at Lum. He was an enthusiastic preacher as well as Mrs. Phelps, who was also a minister of the Gospel, having a license to preach. Many souls were converted under their ministry, the only other charges this devoted couple served were Gagetown, where a great work was done for the church, and Wells Charge. He acquired a very good farm, and in the year 1916, he retired from active ministry, and sold his farm to his son-in-law. He purchased a home in Caro and supplied various pulpits till the passing of Mrs. Phelps on April 3, 1928, then he lived with his two daughters alternately, till his death. The writer of this memoir can state that as he knew him, he was always busy for the cause of Christ, a conscientious good minister, and a dear friend.

Stephen Phillips

S. Phillips died in 1911, no account is given in minutes of the Conference. [He was born in 1821. His appointments included: LaGrange (Indiana), Charlotte, Union, Hillsdale, North Jackson, Wet Prairie, Dimondale, Bainbridge, and Bradley. He also served as District Chairman, Conference Missionary, Home

⁵⁶ *Minutes of the Seventy-Second Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1913, p. 28.

Missionary, and Conference Evangelist. His name appears in Conference journals from 1869 to 1911, but he was a Superannuated (retired) minister after 1896.]

Joseph Pomfret

Joseph Pomfret was [born in 1789 and was] a native of England, emigrating to this country in 1842. In the Fall of 1845, he united with this Conference and labored with great efficiency and acceptability for twelve years. On February 2nd [1858?], he was granted superannuated relations which he sustained till his death on December 5, 1876, aged 92 [87] years. He was an able defender of the doctrines of the Bible, and wielded the sword of the Spirit with great power until bending under the weight of years, he was forced to refuse the many requests for his ministry to the various congregations that always enjoyed his council and spiritual advice. A grand old man of God.⁵⁷

Jeremiah T. Pratt

J.T. Pratt served one year. Evidently, he helped organize the Michigan Conference. The record shows he joined in 1842 and died in 1843 [He must have died late in that year, as he was elected President of the Conference in September 1843]. We assume he came from the Ohio Conference.⁵⁸

Samuel Reeves

Samuel Reeves joined the Conference in 1856. Born in Haw Patch, Indiana, [in 1833,] he served the Conference for nearly thirty-three years and was President of the West Michigan Conference for one year [in 1886-1887]. His longest pastorate was at Newberg, and his last charge was at Charlotte. As a minister of the Gospel, he was considered faithful and wherever he ministered, he made many friends. He died at Charlotte on March 4, 1891.⁵⁹

John H. Reilly

Rev. John H. Reilly was born in Ontario, Canada in 1866 [1862] and departed this life Thursday morning, August 26, 1938. He served the following churches after uniting with the Conference in 1900 at First Church in Saginaw (J.W. Gray, President). He was appointed to North Branch (1900), Yale (1901), Saginaw West Side (1904), Columbiaville (1906), Dimondale (1908), Livingston (1910), Lapeer (1911),

⁵⁷ *Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1877, p. 19.

⁵⁸ Bassett, Ancel H. *A Concise History of the Methodist Protestant Church from Its Origin*. (Pittsburgh: William McCracken, 1887), p. 161.

⁵⁹ *Minutes of the Thirty-Third Session of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1891, p. 39.

Goodells (1919), Fostoria (1920), Hickory Corner (1921), Ainger (1922), and he superannuated in 1923. He retired and lived at Midland Park till his death and became President of the Midland Park Assembly till 1930, when his health failed him. He resigned at the election of the Assembly Board. He had managed the grounds for several years and had taken active part in the business of the Park. In his ministry, during the years of his activity he was considered to be well read in the scriptures, and met with considerable success, as a pastor.

J.E. Richards

J.E. Richards served the Conference for three years and died in 1897.⁶⁰

James Riley

James Riley [was born in 1837,] served for seven years; died August 18, 1893.⁶¹

Samuel Riley

Samuel Riley was born in Ontario, Canada in 1841. He joined the Conference in 1869 at Pontiac (William D. Tomkinson, President). He served at Brockway (1866), Watertown (1871), Flint (1872), Berlin (1873-74), Franklin (1875), Livingston (1876-79), Flint (1880), Grant (1881-82), Marathon Circuit (1883-84), President of the Conference (1885-88), Clio (1888), Lapeer (1889-1894), and Conference Financial Agent for the Preacher's Aid Society (1895-96). He passed to his reward in the year of 1897. He was a well-educated man, having great command of the English language, one of the outstanding ministers of his time. He was Conference Treasurer for a number of years.⁶²

John Robertson

John Robertson [was born in 1831,] joined the Conference in 1872 and was appointed to the Cass River Circuit. He was appointed to the Monroe Circuit in 1873. In 1874, he was pastor when the Rea church was built and dedicated. On account of failing health, he was without an appointment in 1876, but was appointed to Watertown (now Fostoria) charge. He was appointed to Fremont in 1882 and Mayville in 1892, from there to Fostoria where he remained till his death [in 1904].

⁶⁰ *Minutes of the Fifty-sixth Session of the Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1897, p. 25.*

⁶¹ *Minutes of the Fifty-Second Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1877, p. 19.*

⁶² *Minutes of the Fifty-sixth Session of the Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1893, pp. 29-30.*

Robert Rutledge

Rev. Robert Rutledge was born in Ontario, Canada in the year 1847. He married Miss Amanda M. Wise at St. Clair, Michigan. Six sons and one daughter were born to them. Mrs. Rutledge passed away July 15, 1904. Brother Rutledge remained single till his death at eighty-six years of age on September 20, 1933. He joined the Conference at Brockway Center (now Yale) in the year of 1877 (J.F. Kellogg, Conference President) and served the following charges: Shelby (1877), Dryden (1880), Davisburg (1881), Burnside (1882), Fremont (1884), Cass River (1890), Flint (1891), Marathon, now Columbiaville (1893), Capac and Berlin (1897), Monroe Circuit (1898), Goodland (1899), Cass River (1900), and Caro (1900). He was left without appointment from 1902 to 1905. From 1908 to 1912, he was Conference Missionary, organizing the church at Caro and supervising the building of the same. He took supernumerary relations from 1914 till his death.

Brother Rutledge was a strict tither, he practiced it diligently. He possessed one of the best farms in Saginaw Valley, and kept books for the Lord. He was blessed with abundant crops, an outstanding preacher of righteousness wherever he was pastor, and whenever an opportunity was given him as a supply till the day of his death, he was one of God's stewards. He was elected delegate to the Seventeenth General Conference of May 15, 1896 at Kansas City.

Mical Rene Saigeon

Mical R. Saigeon was born in Ontario in 1849, coming to Michigan in 1870. In 1878, he was united in marriage to Miss Hattie Murphy. He joined the church when he was twenty-six years of age and became a minister of the Michigan Annual Conference in 1884. His itinerancy is as follows: Prairie Mission (1884), Freemont (1885), Watertown (1886), Union (1887), Monroe Circuit (1889), Livingston (1891), Monroe Circuit (1893), President of the Conference (1895), Yale (1897), Ingham (1898), Fostoria (1901), Monroe (1904), Case River (1906), Livingston (1907), Dimondale (1910), Davisburg (1911), Greenwood (1912), Richfield (1915), Caro (1917), and Hickory Corners (1918). He retired and lived at Lansing with his adopted daughter, Mrs. Nina Allen, and died on July 12, 1926. On Thursday, July 15th services were held in the Main Street Methodist Church, with his pastor Rev. Charles Bragg (one of the many men he was instrumental in securing for the Christian ministry) officiating and short addresses by Rev. R. Rutledge of Caro, H.J. Hescott of Detroit, and F.E. Kunsman (Conference President) of Port Huron. Interment was at Deepdale Cemetery, Lansing. Mrs. Saigeon died the following year on January 21, 1928. Charles Bragg (Conference President) officiated the funeral held at Main Street Church on January 23, 1928. Interment was beside her husband at Deepdale Cemetery, Lansing, Michigan.

They will always be remembered by the church constituency where they served in their youth for their devotion to the cause of Christ and the spiritual welfare of their people. Rev. Saigeon was a man of deep religious convictions, a logical preacher, and very interesting to listen to. He was a man with a legal mind, knowing parliamentary law perfectly, he was able to straighten the difficulties in parliamentary procedure that the brethren of the Conference were at a doubt as to what was right, his decisions settled many arguments. Many of the active ministers in the Michigan Conference and other places owe their decision to devote their lives to the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ to this man of God.

Philemon Sampson

P. Sampson [was born in 1773,] joined the West Michigan Conference in 1853, served for fourteen years and died in 1856. [1868].

John W. Saxbee

Rev. J.W. Saxbee was a native of Canada, born in the province of Ontario [in 1864]. He united in marriage to his wife, Elizabeth, who was born in the town of North Chesley, Ontario, Canada. Rev. Saxbee died September 20, 1920 and was buried at Yale, Michigan. Rev. and Mrs. Saxbee were consistent workers for the cause of Christ. He was a faithful minister of the gospel, joining the Conference in the year 1894 at Capac (J.E. Hubbell, President), and his first appointment and itinerancy was as follows: Saginaw East Side (1894), Goodland (1895-96), Goodells (1897), Prairie (1898-99), in 1900 he had no appointment, Burnside (1901-02), Marlette (1903, parsonage built during his pastorate here), and Ingham (1904-1906, parsonage built here during his pastorate). He took supernumerary relations in 1907, served at Goodland (1908), Yale (1909-11), no appointment in 1912, Genesee (1913-14), Van Buren (1915-16), and Saginaw West Side (1917). He left without appointment to regain his health from 1918 till the time of his death as stated above. He was always busy in the work of the Kingdom. No children were born to this Christian couple.⁶³

Archie Scott

Rev. Archie Scott was one of thirteen children born to Archibald and Jane Scott. He was born in Woodstock, Ontario, Canada on November 17, 1857. He came to the United States when he was eleven years old. He gave his heart to God three years later on Christmas Eve in a little schoolhouse in Macomb County. His Sunday School teacher gave him a small New Testament for Christmas, which he carried in his pocket to school and read during recess and noon period. He had a good memory and could readily quote what the Bible said on any subject. While helping F. Traver in revival meetings at the Goodland church, he met Addie Sisson, and they were married March 17, 1886. To this union were born Jennie (the wife of the late Lee Van Vleet, who lives in Oxford, Michigan), Ruth (deceased), Blanch (Mrs. George Springer of Kingston, Michigan), Gladys of Charlotte, Michigan, and Eva, living in Cass City.

Rev. Scott served the following charges: Prairie, Burnside, Fostoria, Leonard, Richfield, Cass River, Mayville, Lum, North Branch, Rea and Cone, South Raisin, Columbiaville, Leonard for a second time, Birch Run, and Dimondale. He joined the Conference in 1886, serving faithfully until 1937, when he retired. After retirement, he lived for a while on his farm near Imlay City, until he sold it and then lived until June 28, 1941, when he died. Interment was in the Dimondale Cemetery. He was faithful to the cause of Methodism, entering into the Union with the two Methodist churches. His sincerity cannot be

⁶³ *The Minutes Including the Official Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church*, Vol. XXIX, No. 2, pp. 469-470 (memoir of Elizabeth Saxbee).

discounted for he was one of God's faithful ministers of the Gospel and well-versed in Scriptures. [His name appears in journals from 1887 to 1942, although he retired after 1927.]⁶⁴

Mrs. Scott lived until July 6, 1953. She was also buried in the Dimondale Cemetery. They were very efficient in their ministry. He was a forceful gospel preacher, and she was a very accomplished musician with a rich voice, thus taking her part in the services on the various charges where they served.

J.C. Scott

J.C. Scott served the Conference for thirteen years and died in 1897.⁶⁵

James G. Seaman

No record is given of his years entering the Conference or of his death. [His name appears in the Conference journals from 1867 to 1895, but he spent much of that period on the Superannuated (retired) list and only had eight years of appointments. He was born in 1802 and died in 1895.]⁶⁶

John Selby

John Selby [was born in 1826,] served the Conference for eleven years and died in January 1872.

James F. Shearer

J.F. Shearer [was born in 1834 and] served the Conference for sixteen years on the following charges: Antrim (1876), Pine Grove (1877-78), Bradley (1879), Pine Grove (1880)], Prairie (1883-84), Fremont (1885-87), and on account of failing health left without appointment till death in the year 1899 [1898].⁶⁷

Adam C. Shepherdson

Rev. A.C. Shepherdson [was born in 1824 and] joined the West Michigan Conference in the year of 1867, serving the Conference faithfully for twenty years. He passed to his reward November 19, 1887 at the

⁶⁴ *Minutes of the Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Church*, 4th Session, 1942, pp. 1055-1056.

⁶⁵ *Minutes of the Fifty-sixth Session of the Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1897, p. 24.

⁶⁶ *Minutes of the Thirty-Seventh Session of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1895, p. 37.

⁶⁷ *Minutes of the Fifty-eighth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1899, p. 19.

age of sixty-five years. He was a useful and good minister of the Lord Jesus Christ and was much loved and esteemed by the brethren of the Conference. He was unable to do active work for ten years on account of poor health, caused by slow consumption.⁶⁸

Delos Short

Born in Otsego County, New York, in 1818 [1823], he united with the Conference in 1869, an earnest worker for eighteen years. His health failed him, and he was forced to retire. He died in 1887 [1888].⁶⁹

Henry S. Shrauger

Rev. Henry Shrauger [was born in 1861,] united with the West Michigan Conference in the year 1898 and was appointed to the Bradley church. He received ordination in 1901. In 1902, he was appointed to Hickory Corners. In 1906, he became a pioneer, settling on a farm in the Missaukee County River flats of the Missaukee River, and started or organized the Butterfield Mission, where he became the pastor and remained there building the Butterfield church till his death in 1937. He was Secretary of the West Michigan Conference at the time of the union of the two Conferences in 1905 at Flint, Michigan. Rev. Shrauger was a well-informed minister of the Gospel and endeared himself to the people of Missaukee County of whatever faith they adhered to.

Melvin Simonds

M. Simonds [was born in 1840,] joined in 1884 and served the West Michigan Conference. He came into the Michigan Conference with the union of the two Conferences in 1905, and after thirty-one years of service, he died in 1916 [1917].

William R. Sink

W.R. Sink [was born in 1851,] joined the West Michigan Conference in 1893 and was a faithful servant for the church for twenty-three years. He died in 1916.

⁶⁸ *Minutes of the Thirtieth Session of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1888, p. 36.

⁶⁹ *Minutes of the Forty-Sixth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1887, p. 23.

Morgan H. Sly

M.H. Sly [was born in 1847,] served one year and died in 1906. [He served in the Conference from 1877 to 1881; transferred out; and then returned to the Conference from 1904 to 1906.]⁷⁰

Alonzo Smith

Rev. A. Smith came to the West Michigan Conference in 1891, transferring from the Kansas Conference. He served several charges as pastor. He served the West Michigan Conference as President for three years, being elected each year from 1896 to 1898. He served very efficiently several different charges throughout the West Michigan Conference and came in with the union of the two Conferences in the year 1905 at Flint, Michigan (J.W. Gray, D.D. and J.A. Morey, Presidents respectively). He transferred to the Kansas Conference for eight years and returned to the Conference in 1908. Brother Smith occupied a position that no other minister occupied, that of Pastor of Midland Park. He was also President of the Midland Park Assembly for two years. He died in 1913 [he was born in 1844 and died in 1912].⁷¹

Laban Smith

Laban Smith's name appears in connection with the ordination services in the minutes of the Conference from its beginning in the year 1842 till his death on February 23, 1867, serving the Conference for twenty-five years. [He was born in 1792.] He was among the first Circuit riders of the Conference according to the Conference minutes of 1867. R.C. Lanning preached his memorial sermon on Friday afternoon of this Conference, a note at the last page of the Conference Minutes of 1867, reads as follows, "The obituary of Rev. Laban Smith, should appear in the minutes, but has not been furnished." [But the volume containing handwritten minutes in the Archives does include a memoir, presumably received after the publication of the conference journal.⁷²]

He was called Father Smith, by reason of his being one who organized the Michigan Conference. It is reported that these men were brothers [Presumably this line refers to Xenophon O. Smith (see below), but no relationship between the two has been found.].

⁷⁰ *Minutes of the Sixty-fifth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1906, p. 29.

⁷¹ *Minutes of the Seventy-Second Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1913, p. 28.

⁷² *Minutes of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1853-1869*, in Box 1 of the Records of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, Archives of the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church, pp. 238-239.

Xenophon O. Smith

X.O. Smith [was born in 1824,] served seven years and died in 1866.⁷³

Peter Snyder

Born in Germany [in 1805], Peter Snyder came to this country as a Lutheran. He united with the Conference in 1856 or 1869 [he first appears in the journals in 1871], serving Goodland, Rea and Cone, Columbiaville, Attica and Dryden, and the Flint Mission. He was also pastor at Mill Creek (1873), Marathon (1874-75), and Kimball (1875-77). He was reported to be exceptionally evangelistic in his preaching and many were added to the church wherever he was pastor. He did great service in the organization and strengthening of churches in eastern Michigan. A very energetic minister of the Gospel, his preaching was said to be with broken English, but with humorous statements which stayed with his hearers, and were handed from generation to generation. He was a good minister of the Conference for twenty-nine years [He appears in the journal from 1871 to 1880 and died in the latter year].⁷⁴

Chandler Worth Stephenson

Dr. Stephenson was born at Naperville, Illinois on April 17, 1849 and passed away April 25, 1921. His father enlisted in the Civil War, was wounded at Vicksburg, honorably discharged, and remained in the South. Losing his mother when but four, he was practically an orphan at twelve. He lived with friends near Batavia, Illinois, for seven years, then one year at Yankton, Dakota Territory, and for five years at Chetopah, Kansas, farming, teaching school and working on the railroad. Matriculating at the University of Kansas in 1875, he graduated in 1879, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. Adrian College honored him with the degree of Doctor of Divinity on June 15, 1916. Following his graduation, he came to Michigan and became principal of Brockway Center (later Yale) schools. Here he met and married Laura Alice Hathaway on August 14, 1881. A week later, he joined the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church and was ordained in August 1883. His first charge was Franklin near Pontiac. Other charges in Michigan included Saginaw, Lapeer, Adrian, Detroit, and Birch Run. Churches at Tiffin, Wellsville, and Newcomerstown, Ohio covered six years there. He was president of the Michigan Conference from 1914 to 1916, following which he accepted retirement and spent his later years in Lansing.

Dr. Stephenson was a poet and writer of note. Articles, sermons, stories, essays, and poems appeared in such well-known magazines as *The Homiletic Review*, *Christian Herald*, *Outlook*, *Ram's Horn*, and the denominational weekly, *The Methodist Recorder*. He was an unusually effective minister, diligent as a pastor, studious, a man of strong convictions, courageous in their support, and a Christian of sterling quality of character. To this devoted minister of Christ, every appointment, no matter how small or

⁷³ *Minutes of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1866, p. 14-15.

⁷⁴ *Minutes of the Thirty-ninth Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1880, p. 35.

obscure, was a challenge to his highest endeavor. His record in the pastorate was one of achievement and success.

At the funeral, which was held in the Main Street Church, Lansing, Dr. Harlan L. Feeman, President of Adrian College, said, "Dr. Stephenson was one of a passing type of American manhood in whose life and unquenchable thirst for learning struggled against early handicaps. Beset with difficulties that would have side-tracked a less determined soul, he met them with a challenge and turned the threatening enemies of his defeat into tokens of victory. The habit of toil with either hand or brain never left him. Matched with his industry was the spirit of courage that led him to face his task, whether it was one of the pleasant doing, after the manner of his own taste, or one involving relations where the path of duty led to the unpleasant. He shirked not to follow the straight path. Linked with his industry and courage there went a sympathy which was 'a balm in Gilead' to hundreds of people in the distresses and trials of human life."⁷⁵

John R. Stevenson

J.R. Stevenson [was born in 1819 and] was for many years a member of the Michigan Conference, one of the early pioneers of Methodist Protestantism in the state. When the West Michigan Conference was organized, he transferred to the West Michigan Conference. He was elected to the office of President in the year of 1890 at Dimondale. At the expiration of his official term, he retired from active service, and when he died August 23, 1898, he had been in active service for over fifty years. He was considered one of the most informed Old Testament preachers of his time.⁷⁶

W. W. Stickland

W. Stickland served two and a half years and died in April 1864.⁷⁷

Edward Swadling

Edward Swadling [was born in 1876,] joined the Michigan Conference in 1922 and served the following charges: Assyria, Mayville, Caro, Hickory Corners, Livingston [and Columbiaville]. He retired in 1943 and made his home at Midland Park Gull Lake till his death in 1959 [1958.]. He was a good preacher and loyal to the Methodist Protestant Church, a firm believer in Methodist Union, and worked for the same in the midst of friends of his who were opposed to the union of Methodists. To know him was to love him,

⁷⁵ Written by Rev. Frank W. Stephenson, his son.

⁷⁶ *Minutes of the Fortieth Session of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1898, p. 36.

⁷⁷ *Minutes of the Twenty-Second Session of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1864, p. 14.

he was a true friend of man, and wherever he preached he made friends. He was evangelistic in his ministry; many were added to the church wherever he was pastor.⁷⁸

Samuel Tamblyn

To know Samuel Tamblyn was to love him. Wherever he was pastor, the people of the community respected him. In his preaching, he was well-informed regarding the doctrine and word of God. Born in [1860 in] Cromwell, England, he joined the Wesleyan Methodist Church and served with that church till 1887, when he came to America. Located in Tarrytown [in New York], he worked as a missionary among the laborers of Croton Lake Aqueduct construction. Later, he united with the Methodist Protestant Church of North Tarrytown and supplied that pulpit for several months. In 1889, he joined the Michigan Conference and entered Adrian College under the care of the Ministerial Board of Education. At the end of the college year, he went to Baldwin, Long Island and accepted a charge in the New York Conference. In 1914, he returned to Michigan and served Britton, Capac, and Gageton before retiring in 1937. He died March 18, 1940. E. Ray Willson conducted the funeral services, assisted by Leo Birch and O.E. Priest of the Congregational church at Britton. Interment was in the Ridgeway Cemetery.⁷⁹

William G. Terhune

Rev. William G. Terhune was born in Walsingham Township, Ontario, on April 19, 1846 and died January 3, 1924. At the age of fifteen, he joined the British Wesleyan Church and was licensed to preach in 1869. In 1885, he came with his family to Michigan and in 1888, became a member of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. Among the churches he served were Banner, Davisburg, Burnside, Montrose, and Frederic, where he served for seventeen years. A close friend and former President of the Michigan Conference paid Mr. Terhune this tribute: "He was a man who went where the Conference said, and never held back on account of small salary or hardships to be met. He made friends wherever he went." It is said of him that he was well informed regarding the Old Testament and prophecy.⁸⁰

John M. Thompson

John Thompson served at Stockbridge (1865), Capac (1866), Adrian (1867-68)] on the Monroe Circuit (1869) [, and Mill Creek (1870-72)]. After ten years of service he was stricken with tuberculosis and as it was his request always to die with his face towards the foe, active till the very last minute of his life. [He was born in 1825 and died in 1872.]

⁷⁸ *The Official Journal and Minutes Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church*, 1959, Vol. XXX, No. 4, p. 1090.

⁷⁹ *The Minutes Including the Official Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church*, First Session, 1940, pp. 144-145.

⁸⁰ Rev. Frank W. Stephenson was the author of this sketch.

William D. Tomkinson

William D. Tomkinson was born in Canada [in 1816] and came to the United States, joining the Michigan Conference in 1853. He was elected President of the East Michigan Conference six different times: first, October 11, 1859 at Redford, second, September 25, 1860 at Pontiac, third, September 30, 1868 at Plainfield, fourth, August 11, 1869 at Pontiac, fifth, at Richfield September 6, 1870, and sixth, August 20, 1871 at Plainfield. He was instrumental in the organization of the West Michigan Conference at Rice Creek on October 8, 1858. He was also President of the West Michigan Conference, being elected to that office seven times, from September 19, 1876 to September 21, 1881, and again for two consecutive years September 17, 1888 to September 24, 1890. His ministry covered a period of forty-five years and can be traced from Frederic, Michigan to the Ohio Line and from Port Huron to Lake Michigan, where churches were organized under his eloquent and spiritual ministry. He was reputed to be a man of great executive ability. At the General Conference of 1896, held at Kansas City, on May 15, he was the delegate from the West Michigan Conference. This was the seventeenth General Conference of the Church. At this Conference, H.J. Heinz donated ten thousand dollars for the educational institutions of the church. [Rev. Tomkinson died in 1898.]⁸¹

Frederick Traver

Mr. Traver, son of Abram and Esther Traver, was born in Auebeck on March 18, 1845, and departed this life February 25, 1923. His father's parents were among the first settlers of Dutchess County, New York. When fourteen years of age, he accompanied his parents to Ontario. At the age of eighteen, he was converted and united with the Methodist Church. Shortly after, he married Miss M.J. Tibbets. They came to Michigan, settling at Riley Center, St. Clair County, where he began the work of his life, the preaching of the Gospel. In due time, he united with the Methodist Protestant Church and received a recommendation to the Michigan Conference. Mr. Traver's zeal, devotion, and ability were quickly recognized. Ten times he was elected president but consented to serve only seven terms [1888-1891, 1892-1893, and 1897-1900]. Three times, he was a delegate to the General Conference. It was estimated that over two thousand had been converted under his ministry and that forty-five of the ninety-five churches in the conference at the time had been dedicated by him. He was buried in the Colfax cemetery near Bad Axe.⁸²

Bennett Underwood

B. Underwood [was born in 1835,] joined in 1868, served six years, and died in 1874.

⁸¹ *Minutes of the Fortieth Session of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1898, p. 36.*

⁸² Rev. Frank W. Stephenson was the author of this sketch.

Alva N. Waldo

Rev. A.N. Waldo's name appears in the minutes of the 1897 West Michigan Conference as a layman from the Lansing church, at that Conference he was elected to serve on the Stationing Committee. Again, at the Conference of 1899, he was elected on the Board of Church extension, for a term of four years. He was chosen Secretary of the Board in 1901 and became a probationer of the West Michigan Conference in 1903. His first appointment was at Eaton Rapids, he was a representative at this Conference of the Michigan Anti-Saloon League. He served several appointments, among them was Stevens Street Church, Saginaw. Mrs. Waldo and her daughter, Miss Bell Waldo, were ardent Missionary workers in the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Conference. Rev. Waldo was a quiet, reserved minister, always considerate of the needs of his people. He passed away while fulfilling his last appointment at Birch Run, early in the year 1919 [his death certificate shows the date as September 23, 1918 and gives his birthdate as August 2, 1857].

Jared Warner

Jared Warner was born in the year 1818 [1817] in the state of Vermont. He united with the Conference in the year 1850, serving on mission fields till the year 1865, after serving his country in the Civil War, he was appointed pastor of Marathon (now Fostoria), and Vienna (now Clio, where he built the frame structure now standing, which was brick veneered under the pastorate of W.H. Cole in the year 1895, and is being used at present in 1958, by the Methodists, till the new church is built at a new location, the former Methodist Episcopal Church having been sold to the Baptists). He then served the following charges: President of the Conference for two years [1872-1874], West Howell, left without appointment from 1875 to 1877, Davisburg, and Montrose Mission. He superannuated in the year 1882 and went to his reward in 1897, almost reaching his eightieth year. He was a faithful minister of the gospel. He was truly a Father in Israel. His wise counselling was always appreciated and readily given. His early education in theology was in Vermont, his native state. In his last days, his home was in the city of Clio, Michigan. Interment was in the Clio Cemetery.⁸³

John W. Warner

Rev. John W. Warner [was born in 1836 and] joined the West Michigan Conference in the year of 1882. He served the following charges: Pittsford, Concord, Comstock, Haw Patch, Three Rivers (now the Ninth Street Methodist), and Hillsdale. He retired in 1903 and after retirement he made his home in the city of Holyoke, Colorado for his health and passed away January 30, 1925. He was a faithful minister of the gospel doing his work well till his health failed him.

⁸³ *Minutes of the Fifty-sixth Session of the Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1897, p. 24.*

Lorenzo A. Warren

A.L. Warren was [born in 1804 and was] one of the charter members of the Conference organized in the year 1842. He served the Conference on various missions for forty-four years [including Lapeer, Orchard Lake, Flint, Livingston, Franklin, Redford, Pontiac, Washtenaw, Shiawassee, Vernon, Owosso, and Argentine] and died in 1886. [His listings in the journals show him either as A. L. Warren or L. A. Warren.]

Howard C. Watkins

Rev. Howard C. Watkins, 54, pastor of the Carleton Methodist churches died December 29th [1958], in Bradenton, Florida, where he had been vacationing. Mr. Watkins was born January 1, 1904 in Michigan. After graduating from Michigan State Normal College in 1924, he entered the teaching profession. He began his work in the ministry in 1931, and served pastorates at Attica, Otter Lake, Whittemore, Mayville, [Brown City, Hale,] Carsonville, Gaylord, Cass City, Yale, St. Ignace, and Campbell Memorial in Ferndale before going to Carleton in 1957. Survived by his wife Annette; four sons, Leith of Royal Oak, Weldon of Hazel Park, Harry of Miami, Florida, and Marvin at home, three daughters, Marilyn at home, Mrs. Clegg Rowley of Gaylord, and Mrs. Richard Falls of Waterford; his father Rev. Harry Watkins of Bradenton, and three brothers. Funeral services were at Bradenton, his burial was in Florida.⁸⁴

David M. Weaver

D.M. Weaver [was born in 1832,] served five and a half years and died in 1881. He joined the Conference in the year 1886 [1875].

Myron H. Wheeler

Myron H. Wheeler [was born in 1816 and] joined the Conference in 1869 [he first appears in the Conference journal with an appointment in 1872]; he died in 1883 after serving fourteen years.

G. Washington White

W. White [was born in 1833,] served the Conference for seven years, and died September 8, 1891 [His gravestone says September 29]. He was highly respected by the church at Centerville, St. Joseph County, in that a monument was erected to his memory in the Centerville Cemetery.⁸⁵

⁸⁴ *Michigan Christian Advocate*, January 15, 1959; also *The Official Journal and Minutes Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church*, 1959, Vol. XXX, No. 4, p. 1087.

⁸⁵ *Minutes of the Thirty-Fourth Session of the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1892, p. 33.

Erastus Williams

Erastus Williams, another charter member, [was born in 1809,] served thirty-seven years and died in 1879. [He only appears in the 1861 journal and was on the unstationed list at that time, so his length of service may not be as long as stated and a list of honored dead in the 1881 journal shows him as an “honorary” member of the conference.] Erastus Williams and Joseph Woodman were pioneers of the Methodist Protestant Church, blazing the trail on horseback, fording rivers and swamps. Their sacrifice and service cannot be estimated in terms of dollars, they were truly men of God and should be honored.

James J. Willits/Willetts

Rev. J.J. Willits united with the West Michigan Conference in 1896 and was appointed to the Frederic church. He served the following churches: Crawford Mission, Hickory Corners, Barryville, and Charlotte. He retired on a farm near Barryville where he spent his last days as an active member of the Barryville church, serving on the Board acceptably. He was an earnest, consistent Christian minister, and whenever and wherever he preached he was well accepted as a true minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. [He was born in 1863 and died in 1949.]⁸⁶

Samuel Windrem

Samuel Windrem [was born in 1845 and] served the Conference for twenty-one years on the following charges: Watertown, his first charge 1884; Union Circuit, 1885-1886; St. Clair, 1887; Fairgrove, 1888-1889; Owosso Circuit, 1890-1892; Capac and Berlin 1893; Yale, 1894-1895; Ingham Circuit, 1896-1897; Richfield, 1898-1899; New Lothrop, 1900-1901; Prairie, 1902-1903; and Marlette, 1904. He died in 1905.

Elias Wonderlic

Elias Wonderlic was born in Wales Township, St. Clair County, Michigan on July 29, 1876, the son of Frederick and Anna Wonderlic. He was united in marriage to Estella Mudge on June 6, 1900 in Goodells, Michigan, by the Rev. F.E. Kunsman. He was educated in the public schools of St. Clair County and took a course of studies, as required by the Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. He became a member of the Methodist Protestant Church at Mt. Pleasant, St. Clair County, with his parents and two brothers, at the age of nineteen years.

He received a definite call to the Christian ministry but did not obey that call till some years later. He held a local preacher's license for several years before entering into active ministry. He joined the Michigan Conference in the year 1915, serving the following churches: Attica from 1915 to 1919 (during this pastorate, a revival was held at Attica, with Rev. H.J. Hescott, and Charles Bragg, Conference Evangelists, when many souls were added to the church at its close of three weeks), Leonard from 1919 to 1923, Capac from 1923 to 1931, and Clio from 1931 to February 11, 1934. After preaching at Clio in

⁸⁶ *The Minutes Including the Official Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference of the Methodist Church*, 1949, Vol. XXVIII, No. 2, pp. 443-444.

the morning and delivering an address at New Lothrop, returning home at ten o'clock, he was taken with a severe heart attack, and passed away before any help could be obtained. He was a conscientious worker for the church, always ready to be of assistance to those who were in need. Funeral services were held at the Clio church, conducted by Rev. E.A. Benedict and ministers of the Conference, with interment in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in back of the church of his boyhood days. He was survived by his wife, Estella, a son, Clair living in Flint, and a daughter, Mrs. Velma Kreeger, of Port Huron, Michigan.⁸⁷

Joseph Woodman

Joseph Woodman, another charter member, [was born in 1790,] served thirty-seven years and died in 1879. [He is not listed in any Conference journals prior to 1854, so his length of service may not be so long.] Erastus Williams and Joseph Woodman were pioneers of the Methodist Protestant Church, blazing the trail on horseback, fording rivers and swamps. Their sacrifice and service cannot be estimated in terms of dollars, they were truly men of God and should be honored.

⁸⁷ Written by Mrs. Estella Wonderlic.

Appendix

Created by William H. McNitt

2020

[Charles Bragg apparently based his manuscript on the lists of deceased MP clergy printed in the 1941 Detroit Conference journal. Those lists are quite incomplete as they were totally dependent on the deaths reported in conference journals. A clergy member who served the conference for only a short time but died as an active minister was more likely to be included than was a long-retired one who was no longer in contact with the conference. Thus, many deserving individuals did not get included in Rev. Bragg's sketches. Understandably, he also left out many of his contemporaries, especially if they were still living. Listed below are some prominent Conference members who did not make it into Rev. Bragg's list, but could have (and perhaps should have) been included. The Conference Archives has a record of the appointments of each pastor to pulpits and, in some cases, additional biographical materials.]

Presidents of the Michigan Conference:

- Gay, James – Elected as first President in 1842 and again in 1844
- Bamford, Robert – President, 1844-1846
- Mack, Wilder B. (1798-1866) – President, 1846-1849 and 1851-1854.
- Turner, J. L. – President, 1850-1851
- Leach, Joshua (1808-1868) – President, 1861-1863
- Clark, Sullivan (1822-1822) – President, 1866-1868
- Greene, Cyrus S. (1827-1911) – President, 1874-1875
- Kellogg, Joseph F. (1837-1892) – President, 1876-1879
- Perry, Fred A. (1873-1950) – President, 1910-1912
- Bragg, Charles (1877-1967) – President, 1927-1930
- Willson, E. Ray (1892-1973) – President, 1935-1939

Presidents of the West Michigan Conference:

- Newell, Barnum B. (1825-?) – President, 1863-1865
- Goodrich, Charles P. (1839-1901) – President, 1882-1884; Secretary for eleven years
- Dodds, Lafayette (1846-1920) – President, 1891-1895
- Johnson, Samuel M. – President, 1895-1896

Long-serving clergy:

- Bachus, Richard E. (1882-1958)
- Bishop, Luman W. (1874-1965)
- Bostwick, Allison M. (1861-1949)
- Bradley, William (1830-1902)
- Butler, Nathaniel (1850-1932)
- Carpenter, William H. (1841-1924)
- Clark, Aaron K. (1828-1911)
- Clark, Charles B. (1843-1919)
- Clark, Daniel B. (1821-1899)

- Cragg, Amos E. (1853-1919)
- Crago, Isaac T. (1848-1914)
- Crandell, Fred L. (1876-1936)
- Dailey, Squire (1834-1916)
- Daniels, Marcus C. (1845-1904)
- Dibley, Joseph D. (1886-1985)
- Earl, David N. (1855-1953)
- Eastlake, William J. (1853-1920)
- Flint, William H. (1858-1936)
- Fuhrman, Jacob A. (1887-1976)
- Gifford, Caleb W. (1817-1899)
- Gillett, George N. (1862-1940)
- Gray, William (1822-1906)
- Hackett, John (1840-1933)
- Hatt, Arthur Earl (1874-1966)
- Hayes, Hollis F. (1902-1992)
- Heminger, John W. (1848-1923)
- Hemingway, Frank S. (1894-1965)
- Hescott, Benjamin C. (1875-1966)
- Hillis, Robert (1852-1937)
- Howard, Ella M./Ella Howard Wilson (1856-1937)
- Johns, Cassius J. (1890-1971)
- Jones, Victor E. (1892-1963)
- Keightley, Joseph (1837-1894)
- Kelley, William (1816-1892)
- Kinney, George W. (1853-1925)
- Latham, James (1833-1897)
- Mann, Jay E. (1886-1964)
- May, Sylvester P. (1827-1892)
- McClure, John E. (1858-1925)
- Miller, Albert E. (1860-1924)
- Mills, John J. (1839-1910)
- Mollan, Walter (1890-1962)
- Morrison, Earl L. (1864-1949)
- Nichols, Frank T. (1867-1955)
- Nichols, James W. (1835-1899)
- Oliver, Clayton (1892-1960)
- Ostrander, Ulysses G. (1869-1968)
- Ostrander, Wilbur S. (1858-1948)
- Parmater, William F. (1833-1902)
- Perkins, William F. (1847-1914)
- Polglase, Alfred J. (1859-1945)
- Powell, Ruel C. (1874-1961)
- Prowse, William E. (1867-1948)
- Richard, Eli D. (1899-1975)
- Ryan, Daniel W. (1884-1967)
- Shults, Jacob D. (1835-1911)
- Sly, John A. (1838-1915)
- Snell, Wilber B. (1865-1923)
- Stafford, Davis A. (1878-1950)
- Stilson, Oscar R. (1876-1964)
- Sutton, Benjamin G. (1865-1927)

- Sweet, William R. (1879-1958)
- Turbin, Donald Clarence (1888-1970)
- Van Doren, Davis A. (1872-1947)
- Warren, Ghouly E. (1874-1943)
- Watkins, Harry L. (1880-1964)
- Weaver, Milo J. (1864-1932)