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1832

1932

THE
ONE HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY

.. OF ..

METHODISM
AT
DICKERSONVILLE



1832

1932

A HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE

CALLED METHODISTS

* * * * *

THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS, THEIR LABORS

THEIR SACRIFICES OF

100 YEARS

* * * * *

AT

DICKERSONVILLE

JUNE 17 - 18 - 19

1932

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EARLY HISTORY

Village and Places of Meeting.

The early circuit riders who started services in the village of Dickersonville first conducted services in the homes. The settlement itself was founded in 1811 by Col. Dickerson a veteran of the Revolutionary war. This village was composed of tavern, a trading post some houses and a mill. Another pioneer of this period was Mr. Pool, who is the grandfather of our Brother Wilbur Pool. During the British and Indian troubles, fire and tomahawks drove out these folk from the first village of Dickersonville, but two years later they returned and re-established themselves.

The circuit of Lewiston was first established in 1829. Col. Dickerson being of a religious turn of mind and being desirous of bringing up his family under the influence of Christianity desired services; so therefore in 1832 John B. Lancton the minister in charge of the Lewiston circuit opened services at Dickersonville in the homes. The known meeting place was a log house opposite where Mr. John Beggs now lives. This class of people were few in number but as they grew and increased and other wonderful people settled in the fertile fruit lands, there came to this locality a family called Townsend. Seldon C. Townsend was a retired minister and for years preached, married, buried and lived a life of consecrated and devoted Christianity. There are people of our present day fellowship who were married by him. Our church is full of the grand children and great grand children of this man of God and his good wife Rachel.

The stories about this good man are numerous but the one best remembered and most often told is the story of his gift of silver

dollars, one dollar for each grand child at the time of the remodeling of the edifice in the seventies. The society having grown in its first twenty years of existence without a regular house of worship to thirty two souls it was decided to build a house of worship which now stands lifting her spire up to Heaven; a place where hundreds have found Christ and his saving power.

The building of this edifice was encouraged greatly by the gift of Brother Townsend and wife of a splendid location for the new church.

The names of the members of the Society and the contributors to the edifice follow:

* * * * *

NAMES of MEMBERS and CONTRIBUTORS to PRESENT EDIFICE

The following were the voting members at the time of the building of the edifice, Chas. A. Townsend, James Low, Wm. Pool Sheldon C. Townsend, Isaac Woolson, James N. Babcock, Isaac Woolson, Abigail Hopkins, Augustus Dickerson, Sheldon C. Townsend, Alexander Dickerson, Augustus Dickerson, Harnek Ransom, Samuel Burns, George Beeber, Isaac Woolson, James N. Babcock, John Cornell, Ira Porter, Martin F. Rodgers, Richard Ayer, Sheldon C. Townsend, Jane Townsend Samuel Townsend, A. Dickerson, A. Dickerson, Thomas Church, James N. Babcock, Rachel Ann Rose, Achish Pool, Chas. Ayer, Thomas Pool. The names are repeated in order to tell us that each person had as many votes as slips brought for the erection of the church and in all probability the names were repeated for adult members of the family who were not men and therefore could not vote in church matters according to Methodist law in those days. These people were also the ones who paid for the church building.

* * * * *

PARSONAGE NOTES

In September 1852 it having been decided to make a joint parish out of North Ridge, Dickersonville and some other places, it was decided to build a parsonage at North Ridge on land donated for that purpose. The men of Dickersonville wished to do their share so the amount of \$266.84 for 1-2 of the expense of building was donated by S. C. Townsend, Augustus Dickerson, J. N. Babcock, Mr. Pool, I Woolson, T. Pool and Alexander Dickerson.

This parsonage has been occupied ever since its building by the pastors of this parish. It is a well built and very commodious structure almost to much for these times of high priced fuel. All down through the years both churches have taken good care of the pastors dwelling and many happy times have been had under its roof. This parish has never had the reputation of breaking the hearts of her ministers.

* * * * *

Historical Sketch to 1925 Written By Brother

Wilbur Pool

In the year 1853 the members of the Dickersonville church conceived the idea of building a church for the worship of God as they had been holding their services in a log house opposite Mr. John Beggs residence where he now resides. They had previously held quarterly meeting in a new barn on the Rev. S. C. Townsend place.

So they circulated a subscription with good success and on the 8th day of June 1853 the church was raised. Levi Brookins who lived at Fillmore below Ransomville was the builder. At the raising they found they had made no provision for a bell so Richard Ayer a Lewiston Presbyterian raised the money right there at the raising and it was installed and was used at the Dedication. On the 12th day of October of the same year the church was dedicated. The ground on which the church is built was a gift from Sheldon C. Townsend and his wife Rachel.

The discourse in the forenoon was preached by the Rev. Schuyler Seager of the M. E. Church of Lockport, N. Y. The afternoon discourse by Rev. Mr. McCall of the Presbyterian church of Lewiston. The choir of whose church led the singing. The Rev. William Barret was the preacher in charge. The Rev. Glezen Fillmore was presiding Elder, Sheldon C. Townsend was the local preacher. The entire cost of said building was \$2,020.50 and the church was dedicated free from debt and of those all are gone. Then regular services were held after that time, thus thirty years passed by and then there were needed certain repairs and in the year 1883 a movement was started to practically do over the church. New decorations and furniture, new seats the choir moved from the gallery down to its present place. The Rev. A. H. Maryott was pastor and he labored hard with the assistance of the whole community to accomplish it. There was a large gathering at the re-dedication and a great deal of good came out of it. The entire amount raised was \$1,530.87 leaving the church again free from debt. Then time moved along until the church saw the need of a Basement Parlor and in the year 1916 a movement was started to accomplish that purpose. The people at large responded nobly and the Parlors were a reality. Rev. Sidney H. Bass was the pastor in charge and he was a live wire and done good work and we all mourn his death.

At the completion of the parlors we held a great meeting in the church at which time all of the old pastors were present and we had a great Home Gathering and at the conclusion of the church services the ladies served supper in the new parlors. The cost of the parlors were \$544.60 in cash, work donated by the men in the community was 291 days and with teamers 25 days we raised by subscription \$634.00 so that we had enough to build a cistern and some other repairs, and again we were free from debt. Then on Nov. 17th 1922 a new furnace was installed in the basement which keeps the church very comfortable. Too much credit cannot be given the Young people of the place as they donated the piano, and put electric lights in the church. Then in the year 1925 a movement was started to paint the church outside and redecorate the inside and put in hard wood floors which you can all see has been accomplished. There was raised by subscription \$1,070 counting the \$400 that the Ladies Aid paid leaving a deficiency on all church debt of \$187.50 and as this would not be a Methodist gathering without an offering and that none may be disappointed we are going to give you a chance to help us out as you wish.

* * * * *

SOCIETIES

The Dime Society.

This society was the forerunner of the Ladies Aid. This worthy movement was started in October 24, 1871.

The following officers were elected.

President, James N. Babcock.

Secretary, Franklin Pool.

Treasurer, Sarah Campbell.

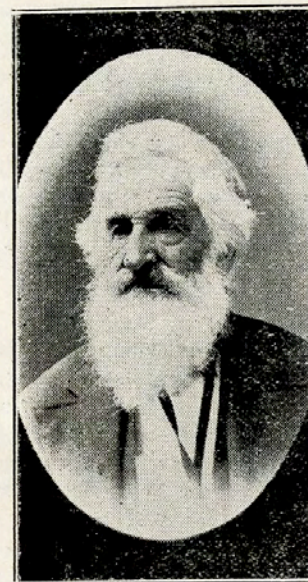
Collectors Emmet Campbell and Kitty Townsend. The constitution adopted was that of the old Church Social organized September 10, 1863. There was an initial joining fee of 25c. The society met once in two weeks. The funds were used for the benefit of the church. It is very evident that the first two collectors of this society took advantage of their position to cement a friendship into a life long attachment being now our Brother and Sister Campbell, who celebrated their 50th anniversary last February.

This society was largely responsible for the social life of the church during these years. The average receipts being about four to five dollars per evening. This society had a long history of helpfulness and achievement in the church.

Later in the history of the society the amounts raised per social began to average around the six and seven dollar mark. Finally after years of service the Dime Society was buried with full military honors and in 1915 the Ladies Aid was established.



Achish Pool



Sheldon C. Townsend

The Ladies Aid

On January 22nd 1915 the Dime Society was discontinued and a Ladies Aid organized in its stead. The officers elected were as follows:

President, Mrs. Wilber Shippy

Vice President, Mrs. R. D. Richardson

Secretary, Mrs. J. Girard

Treasurer, Mrs. Emmet Campbell

Thus was started a society which is at present one of the efficient organizations of the church. The Ladies' Aid has helped for repairs, for coal, for budget. It has seemed in the past that whenever bills pressed on every hand and the Trustees did not know where to turn that all at once and with one accord they turned to the Ladies' Aid and the good Ladies' always helped.

The ladies' organization has had the same officers almost continuously since its organization.

An outstanding piece of work which should have especial mention was started at the May 13th, 1925 meeting. This was held at the home of Mrs. J. Girard, I expect from the minutes, the president appointed a committee to meet with the board of trustees to look after the re-decorating of the church. The committee is as follows; Mrs. Wilber Shippy Chairman, Mrs. W. T. Pool, Mrs. Emmet Campbell and Mrs. John Beggs.

From here on for weeks there are records of orders being drawn on the treasury for lumber, flooring, labor, paint, varnish, etc. With the start that was given to the work and the efficient handling of that work by the Ladies' Aid, the church was repaired, floors, pulpit, walls, ceiling, etc. The account of the decoration of the renovated church is found in another portion of the book. The Historian once heard a District Superintendent say, "that if it were not for the Ladies' Aid many churches would have to either close their doors or let the building fall down on their heads." It seems that our Ladies' Aid is a life preserver and a joy and a blessing.

* * * * *

Epworth League

Several times during the existence of the church there have been Epworth Leagues. This organization always depends upon the number of young people there are. Young people come and go. They grow up and sometimes there are not enough for an organization and sometimes there is enough. We have an organization now with Harry Pettit president. Due to sickness and other causes it has not been as active as it had been hoped, we have great hopes for it now.

The Samantha Shippy Bible Class

This class has just been organized with Mrs. John Wiepert as president and Rev. R. T. White as teacher for home study in the Bible. A splendid future is predicted for this organization.

* * * * *

The Men's Club

For some time there was a men's club at Dickersonville which did very good work. They had social meetings once a month with different kinds of entertainment.

* * * * *

PASTORS

John B. Lancton and a supply assistant	1832	of church quarrels in the Youngstown Society.	
Ira Brownson, J. B. Lancton, S. P. Cook	1833	H. R. Smith	1872-73
James H. Whallon	1834	S. S. Ballou	1873-75
D. Nichols, L. Coburn	1835	H. S. Newton	1876-7
D. Nichols	1836	Wm. McGovern	1878
W. D. Buck	1837	C. G. Curtis	1879
W. D. Buck, H. R. Smith	1838	W. H. McCartney	1880-82
D. D. Buck, John Powell	1839	A. H. Maryott	1882-84
D. D. Buck	1840	Daniel Clark	1884-86
Nelson Hoag, Jas. G. Witted	1841	A. Staples	1886-89
Samuel Salsbury, Nelson Hoag	1842	G. S. Robinson	1889-92
W. D. Buck, Allen P. Ripley	1843	H. R. Williamson	1892-94
Merritt Preston, J. Hemmgway	1844	L. J. Muchisvie	1894-95
David Nichols	1845	L. L. Rogers	1895-97
David Nichols	1846	J. B. Dare	1897-98
Wm. Colley	1847-8	J. F. Leffler	1898-1902
W. C. Kertall	1849-50	C. W. Schanbacher	1902-1904
S. H. Baker	1851-52	G. W. Gibson	1904-05
Wm. Barrett	1853-4	John Woolon	1905-07
James McClelland	1855-6	W. C. Kingsbury	1907-09
D. F. Parsons	1857-9	W. E. Wells	1909-10
Wm. Scism	1860-61	Edward Hargrave	1910-12
Rev. Agar and Rev. McClelland	1862-71	S. H. Bass	1912-17
We have only two of the Pastors for this period of stress because		J. E. Barlett	1917-20
		A. W. Birk	1920-22
		J. W. Wilson	1922-26
		F. W. Asquith	1926-29
		F. D. Raymond	1929-31
		R. T. White	1932

Closing Words

Since 1925 the Dickersonville Methodist church has had somewhat of an uneventful existence, but withal a happy one. With souls being won for the Master. Children instructed in the way. Ministers come and go, people are born, others die. The heart-break in church work is found when children grow up in the church and the "cares of the world the deceitfulness of riches, the thorns of sin," choke the word from their lives and they get away from God. But thank God, the spirit of Jesus Christ abides with Dickersonville and may God grant that she will see another grand and glorious day, when sometime, all from the least to the greatest shall know the Lord, whom to know is life eternal and Heaven will dwell at Dickersonville.

The Centennial Celebration held on June 17th, 18th and 19th, was very enjoyable with a young peoples night and old folks concert. The Sunday exercises with the Centennial address by the Rev. W. Heald Bently of Buffalo and the representative of the old time pastors The Rev. H. R. Williamson and the assistance of our District Superintendent Dr. C. E. Guthrie combined to make this a wonderful occasion.

J. GIRARD

* * * *

General Merchandise

* * * *

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Dickersonville Methodist Episcopal Church

The Rev. A. W. Leonard D. D. L. L. D. Resident Bishop
Buffalo Area

The Rev. Chas. E. Guthrie D. D. District Superintendent
Buffalo Dist.

The Rev. Ralph T. White, Pastor Dickersonville
North Ridge Parish

* * * * *

DICKERSONVILLE

TRUSTEES:

W. T. Pool	Emmet Campbell	Walter Moss
John Beggs	Erwin Campbell	Orley Velzy
Richard Neal	Alfred Moore	John Wiepert

* * * * *

STEWARDS:

Daniel Campbell	Mrs. Walter Moss	Ralph Sanderson
Alfred Moore	Howard Meyers	Elton Shippy

Communion Steward, Mrs. Walter Moss
Disbursing Steward, Richard Neal
Connectional Steward, Mrs. Daniel Campbell

Supt. of Sunday School, Alfred Moore
Pres. Ladies Aid, Mrs. Anna Shippy
Pres. Epworth League, Harry Pettit

* * * * *

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES:

General Chairman, Rev. R. T. White

Historical, Mr. Pool, Mr. Adams, Mrs. Anna Shippy, Mrs. Leggett, Mrs. Moss, Mr. Alfred Moore.

General Committee, Brothers White, Moss, Irwin Campbell, Peggs, Neal and Thompson.

Program Committee, Brothers Alfred and James Moore, Dan Campbell and Velzy; Sisters Ann Shippy, Leggett, Goodman.

Entertainment, Sisters Velzy, Dan Campbell, Wiepert, Moss, Susie Shippy.

Banquet Committee, The Ladies Aid assisted by the Epworth League.

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