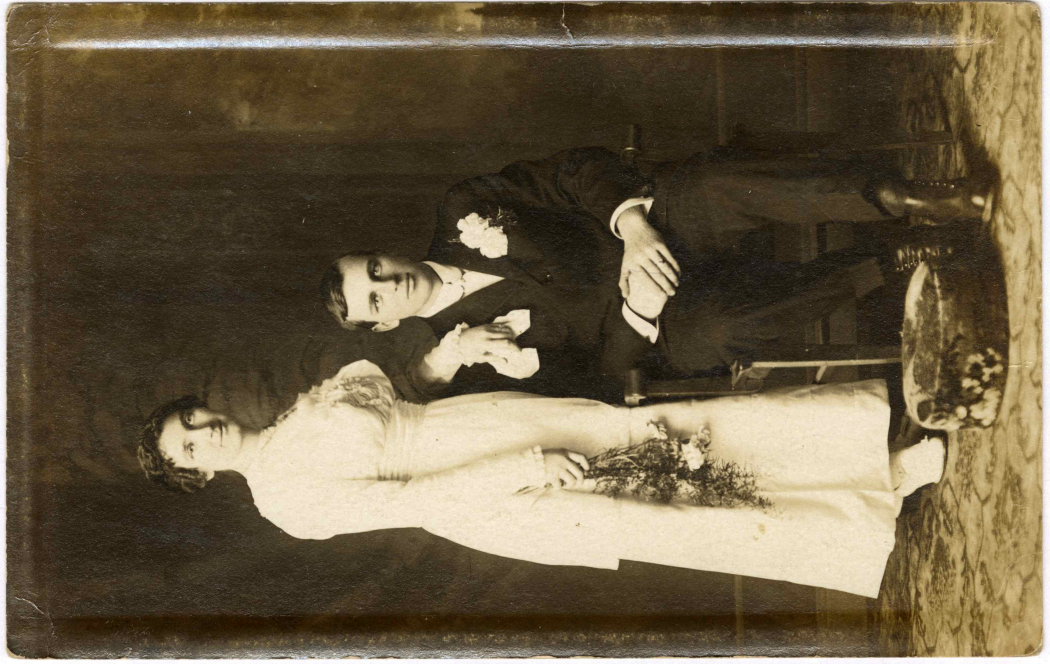


Presbyterian

Church

Aunt Nor's picture

Presbyterian Church



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who presented letters from congregations at Marshalltown, Beach Springs, O., Sandwich, Ill., and elsewhere: Mr. and Mrs. James Fairman, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dudley, Mr. and Mrs. John McNary, Mrs. Julia Dobbin, Mr. and Mrs. William Cain and Mrs. Sarah A. Knepfer.

Sept. 8, 1866, John McNary was elected leader and application was made to the Cedar Rapids Presbytery for admission therein, which request was granted. In March, 1867, Rev. John M. Purvis was installed as stated supply minister and the first regular minister was Rev. John Pebles, who served until June 1, 1867. Other ministers in succession in early days were: Rev. Alvin Ostrum, Rev. David Blakely, Rev. D.M. Breckenridge, Rev. Robert Bruce Clark, Rev. W.C. Cort, Rev. W. D. Smith, Rev. J.D. Todd, Rev. A. D. Wolfe, Rev. D. L. Parsons, Rev. A.E. Kaiser, Rev. W. A. Galt, Rev. Henry Love, Rev. E. B. Whitney, Rev. C.L. Hine and Rev. D.H. Middents.

During the pastorate of Rev. John Summers, the second minister, from June 1, 1867, to June 1, 1870, the congregation was increased by 14 members, and in union with the Methodists a house of worship was built in 1869. About three years later, their membership having increased notably the Presbyterians bought the Methodist's half interest in the building, incurring a debt of \$4,000 therefore. During the four-year ministry of Rev. David Blakely, the Presbyterian membership had increased to 110, and in August, 1878, a debt of \$3,915 was paid off.

Rev. James Denny Ransom, present minister of the State Center church, was installed on May 2, 1937, succeeding Rev. James Laurie, who died in January of that year, as he was awaiting installation into the pastorate. Rev. Mr. Laurie was succeeding Rev. William Roberts, who resigned in September, 1936, to accept a call from the congregation at Erie, Mich. Rev. Mr. Roberts became minister Sept. 1, 1932. He followed Rev. Fred A. Smith, who had been minister during the three years of the Methodist and Presbyterian federation.

The federation of the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations in State Center was dissolved in the fall of 1935 after having been in effect since September, 1929. Following the separation, many Methodists continued to attend services with the Presbyterians until their own church was re-opened in March, 1836, with intermittent services by supply pastors until Rev. William C. Thurow came May 31, 1936.

On Aug. 3 and 4, 1941, the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Presbyterian church was observed with a diamond jubilee program. Rev. D.H. Middents, who was minister in 1922, and Rev. A.E. Kaiser, who was minister in 1889, were the principal speakers.

Pastors serving the church since Rev. Ransom, who was succeeded by Rev. John Maze, were Rev. E.R. Mitchell, Rev. Charles Willming, Rev. James Remer, Rev. Kenneth Pease and Rev. Norman Lawton.

On Oct. 8, 1966, the church observed its Centennial Anniversary with Rev. Norman Lawton as its pastor. A banquet was held and three former pastors, Rev. Ransom, Rev. Willming and Rev. Remer, returned to appear on the program.

On Sunday, Oct. 9, Dr. Robert French, synod executive of the state of Iowa, spoke at the morning worship service.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Norman Lawton, Pastor

