

Grant Methodist Church



The Grant Methodist Church The Early Days

by

Elaine Corbin Artlip

2006

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Cover Photo –

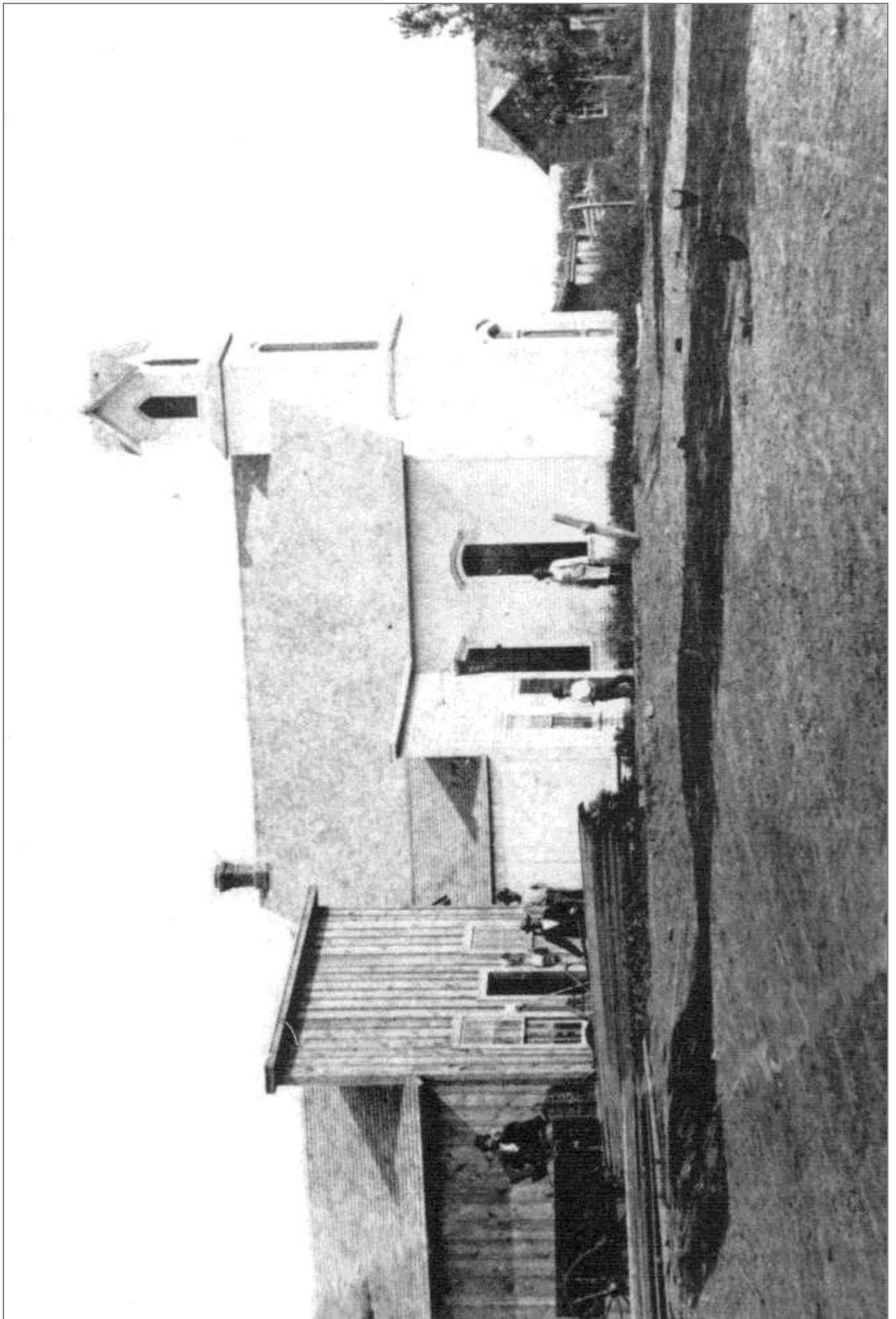
This picture was taken about 1875. At the far right (north side) is the Thomas Donoho residence, said to have been built in 1857. When the east-west street was laid out the house was in the middle of it.

The next building to the south is the Milford-Grant Methodist Church, built in 1874.

Edward Gould came to Milford in 1872. It isn't known if he erected the next building south of the church, but his harness and boot shop was there in 1875. Gould married Alice Donoho, daughter of Thomas. The Gould's granddaughter provided this picture.

No date has been found for the erection of the first building south of Gould's shop. In 1875 it was a hardware store but the proprietor isn't known.

The 1875 Andreas Atlas shows a vacant lot south of the hardware store. The pile of lumber at the left side of the picture may indicate plans for the construction of a building. A news item of September 1875 says "the post office is soon going into a new building". As Electa Donoho was the postmaster, and owned the site, it seems likely that she was erecting a building.



Notes

For many years I have saved news items about Grant; that included the Methodist Church. But when I started to assemble those bits and pieces about the church, I found that I didn't understand the system under which pioneer Methodism operated. I have read what I could find, and have asked questions, but at best I can only say that I know more than I did.

The rapid spread of Methodism on the frontiers was due in large part to the effective use of the laity in what has been called the "auxiliary orders". Those dedicated workers held the tiny congregations together between the infrequent visits of an itinerant ministry.

Class leaders, stewards and local preachers are terms familiar and understood, but "exhorter" is more difficult. The term is from the earliest days of the church, but the office is now known as a "lay speaker".

An exhorter was required to have a "note of recommendation" or license, which had to be renewed annually. The exhorter was not allowed to say anything that could be considered as "interpreting the Scriptures". Exhorting consisted of reproving sin, pleading with sinners to repent, describing his own experiences, testifying to his present joy in his faith, and prayer. Exhorters frequently stood up after the preacher's sermon, and applied the lesson to the needs of the congregation. "Exhorter" was usually considered to be a step on the way to lay preacher.

Esther Wanderlich, Archivist at Chadwick Library, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, wrote: "Many of these nascent congregations were started by lay persons...Most of these groups started as classes (much like a Bible study group only with more accountability to each other) until they could form themselves into a formal congregation. Usually these congregations were headed by lay pastors until a circuit was formed and a travelling preacher or missionary could visit and hold administrative meetings, conduct communion and do marriages...Marriages would have been performed by a clergy person who was not a Methodist if the couple could not wait for the appointed circuit rider."

It seems that in many cases those early lay preachers conducted a religious ceremony, and the happy couple lived together for many years (and many children) without further official attention.

There were a number of steps on the Methodist clerical ladder. And those were split into two tracks. The bottom rung was the lay preacher: one who had not been ordained. The local preacher was one who felt called to preach to his neighbors, and probably held more or less regular meetings. He continued to live and work in his community, and perhaps started a class. He may have obtained a Justice of Peace license so that he could perform marriages.

Other lay preachers were sent out from Conference to a specific location. Their names did not appear on Conference rolls, but probably they were candidates for ministerial training. If their probationary period, perhaps a year, was satisfactory they were "received on trial".

Those persons became members of Conference and started a four year course, consisting of study and on-the-job training. After two years of satisfactory work they were accepted "in full connection" and elected to orders as deacons.

The local preacher could take a less rigorous course of study, and be elected to orders as a local deacon. He is the one who is often portrayed as sitting in the corner of the church, (called the Amen corner), and shouting "Amen" at intervals. He worked with the ordained pastor, especially in a very large circuit. He could serve as Supply in a vacancy in his area.

Through continued study a local deacon could be elected to orders as a local elder.

The deacons who were candidates for higher office continued their work and study for another two years, and if Conference found them acceptable they were ordained as elders. They could then perform all offices of the church.

Local preachers, deacons and elders served in their home areas. All others were subject to frequent moves as assigned by Conference.

No official records of the beginning of the Grant church have been found. Much of what has been written about the early days of the Society has been based on oral tradition. As is common in such cases, errors and omissions have crept in. This report was compiled primarily from documents from the Methodist Church Archives, and from contemporaneous newspaper items. Some material from county history books has been included for the early periods when no primary documents were found, but those accounts are not noted for accuracy.

Elaine Corbin Artlip

THE GRANT METHODIST CHURCH

1854

In September 1854 the Eleventh Session of the Iowa Conference of the Methodist Church met in Dubuque. The minutes of that meeting do not mention Adams or Montgomery Counties. Nor is James S. Rand included in the list of ministers. He was not a member of the Conference at that time. Tradition tells us that the Quincy Methodist Church was formed sometime that year; probably Rand was preaching there. He may have been assigned to that location by the Conference as he was accepted on trial the next year.

1855

15 January; Council Bluffs (*Nonpareil?*): The first sermon was preached in Montgomery County on Sunday last, by a Methodist Circuit Rider. Following the service, a young couple approached the Pastor and signified their wish to get married...

History of Montgomery County, Iowa; Iowa Historical and Biographical Co; 1881; page 369: The first sermon in the county was preached in January 1855, by Rev. James Rand, a Methodist circuit rider from Adams County. The meeting was at the home of Allen Donaho...the marriage of Samuel McNeely to Miss Martha Elizabeth Donaho. Rev. Mr. Rand performed the ceremony and that was the first wedding in the county.

20 January 1855; Montgomery County Marriage Records; Book 1:1: Samuel McNeely and Marthy Elizabeth Donoho...license issued by A.G. Lowe, County Judge...

23 January 1855; Montgomery County Marriage Returns: Samuel McNeely and Marthy Elizabeth Donoho. Marriage solemnized by A.G. Lowe, County Judge...

(28 December 1888; *Red Oak Sun*;) ...A correspondent, writing from Villisca, and signing himself "Old Settler", says that...the first preaching in the county and the first marriage occurred within a few days of each other, in January, 1855...

It seems that the only way to resolve this conflicting material is to assume that Rand led some kind of religious service. It wouldn't have been legal; Rand was a lay preacher and the young couple didn't have a license. Later, they obtained a license and were married by Judge Lowe.

Local tradition says that a Methodist Class was formed in March 1855 by R. Mulholland and names 10 members: William and Ann Stipe; six Donohos; Barbara Stipe and a Rose.

William T. Reid came into the county before 15 June 1855 when he received a US Patent for land in Section 26 of the future Douglas Township. "Uncle Billie" was a lay preacher but he obtained a Justice of the Peace license so that he could perform marriages; the earliest such found was in August 1857. That office could also provide some small monetary returns from civil matters.

26 September; Keokuk *The Des Moines Valley Whig*: The Iowa Annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church will hold its opening session this morning...at Mechanic's Block on Main street...

Minutes of the Twelfth Session of the Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, ...admitted into "full connexion" and elected to deacon's orders; R. Mulholland...Admitted on trial, James S. Rand...Assignments; Council Bluffs District, R. Mulholland to Quincy Mission; James S. Rand to Cass Mission...

1856

History of Montgomery County; 1881; Iowa Historical and Biographical Co; page 469: The Milford Methodist Episcopal Church was organized during the winter of 1856; the original members were, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stipe, David Stipe, Allen Donaho and family, Samuel McNeely and family, Wm. Reed and family, Reed Donaho and wife...Services used to be held in Wm. Stipe's house, but the first sermons were preached in Allen Donaho's house, where the first class was organized.

This account differs from the local tradition. It is unknown if this small group had a name. The town of Milford wasn't established until 1858; perhaps the class was referred to as Donoho's meeting or Stipe's meeting.

It was probably in 1856 that William Stipe erected a schoolhouse of logs near his home. Then church services were held in the new building.

9 October; *Fairfield Ledger*: ...Iowa Conference of the M.E. Church held at Mt. Pleasant recently...

Iowa Conference Journal: Minutes of the Thirteenth Session of the Iowa Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, meeting at Mt. Pleasant, September 24, 1856: Appointments: Council Bluffs District: Clarinda and Montgomery Mission; S. Farlow, W. Howbart...

(21 July 1893; *Sun*;) ...a sketch of Red Oak Methodism in pioneer times: The Reverends Sam'l Farlow and Wm. Howbert were appointed...to what was known as the Page and Montgomery missions...The winter of 1856-7 was one of extraordinary severity. The two preachers had to make their way through severest storms and great drifts of snow, lifting out the heavy masses of packed snow and plowing with their horses through the softer snow underneath. Both suffered severely from the effects of the exposure. Howbert contracted disease of which he subsequently died... Farlow was compelled to rest two years...

1857

26 September; Des Moines *Iowa State Journal*: The Iowa Annual Conference of the M.E. Church commenced its annual session...September 23...

Minutes of the Iowa Conference of the M.E. Church – Appointments: Council Bluffs District; Montgomery Mission, R.M. Donoho...

(*Note*: Reed Donoho was the son of Allen Donoho.)

There is no record of when the church was officially constituted. Mary Bancroft Smith said that she and her husband, James Madison Smith, were charter members of the church; neither of them arrived in Montgomery County before 1857. They were married in October 1858.

(Note: 1875 Andreas Atlas of Iowa; Patrons Directory; Montgomery County, Douglas Township: J.M. Smith; ...came into the state in 1857.)

1858

9 September; *Fairfield Ledger*: The Southern Iowa Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church is now in session in this place...

Conference Journal; page 13: Council Bluffs District...Quincy; William Howbert...Council Bluffs Mission; Reed M. Donahue...

(Note: The Minutes didn't mention Milford or Montgomery County. Tradition says that Howbert, or Hobart, served the Milford Church that year.

1859

26 August; *Clarinda Page County Herald*: NOTICE: To the Ministers desiring to attend the Iowa Annual Conference at Muscatine on the 7th of September –through the kindness...of the B. & M.R.R. the members of the Conference by paying full fare going, will be returned free of charge on presenting a certificate from the Conference...

1 September; *Muscatine Democrat Enquirer*: The Iowa Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church is to be held in this city on the 7th inst...

7 September 1859; *Muscatine*; Iowa Conference Journal of Minutes: Loudon District: Montgomery; to be supplied... Louden; R.M. Donahue...

At the 1859 meeting, the Conference was divided, and Montgomery County was then in the Southwestern Iowa Conference.

History of Montgomery County; 1906; W.W. Merritt; pages 251-52: Rev. J.T. Hughes was assigned by the conference held at Muscatine. He was a circuit rider without a horse, and walked – all the way from that city. The only certain reliance for the support of that young man was in a missionary society in New York which engaged to send him forty dollars a year. On the strength of this credit, he tried to negotiate with Joe Bean for a pair of boots. Mr. Bean said, "New York is a long ways off...I will keep the boots." Upon arriving at Frankfort, nearly barefoot, storekeeper Stout agreed to trust him for the boots...but the officers at the courthouse took up a collection, and the boots were not only bought but paid for the same day.

Jeremiah T. Hughes was not a member of Conference, so his name was not entered into the minutes. He was accepted on trial at the Conference of 1860. Joel H. Bean was an early Montgomery County merchant. His store was probably at the town of Bristol. The Morton Mills cemetery is now on the Bristol site.

1860

31 August; *Indianola Weekly Indianola Visitor*: The Western Iowa Annual Conference of the Methodist Church met last week...list of appointments for next year...Louden District: Red Oak; Oliver Williams...admitted on trial; J.T. Hughes...

That was the first annual meeting of the new Western Iowa Conference. The Journal of Minutes called the circuit Montgomery. It included all of Montgomery County, plus parts of Page and Cass Counties.

1861

14 September; Council Bluffs *Nonpareil*: List of appointments made by the Western Iowa conference of the M.E. Church at the session held at Council Bluffs: Council Bluffs District ...Frankfort; J.S. Rand...

1862

Minutes of Conference: The Western Iowa Annual Conference of the M.E. Church met to hold its third Annual Session in the M.E. Church in Chariton...Appointment of Preachers – Council Bluffs District... Frankfort, Robert W. Thornburg...

1863

8 September; Des Moines *Daily State Register*: ...the Western Iowa Conference of the M.E. Church (was) held last week at Winterset...Conference Minutes: appointments; Council Bluffs District... Frankfort; B.W. Coe...

(21 July 1893; *Sun*): A very interesting service was held at the (Red Oak) M.E. church last Sunday morning...G.W. Holt read a paper compiled from the quarterly conference records: In 1863 we find the first recorded minutes of any quarterly conference in...the Frankfort circuit. The conference was held at Milford. Members present were: Bennett Mitchell, presiding elder; B.W. Coe, pastor of charge; J.M. Hewitt, William Stipe, G. Gardner, stewards...This conference allowed their preacher \$350 salary and the elder \$40. The collections on hand were: Milford \$24, Red Oak \$26.75, Edna \$3, Liberty \$5.50, Frankfort _____. Those were the appointments constituting the conference.

1864

6 August; Clarinda *The Southwestern Iowa Observer*: ...the Annual Conference of the M.E. Church meets in Clarinda on the 31st of the present month. The Conference is composed of about 120 ministers. These are all expected to be present. In addition, there will be a large number of visitors present...Let every citizen of our town and vicinity take an interest in this matter, provide for and entertain as many as possible. Let us not try how few we can keep – but how many we can provide for.

The farmers out of town can lend a helping hand in this matter. The mode of conveyance that will necessarily be used will bring a great number of horses to our town. You will confer a great favor by taking as many of these animals as you can stable and feed...

Conference Minutes: The first meeting of the Des Moines Annual Conference commenced...in the Presbyterian Church, Clarinda, Page County, August 31st...since the rebellion we, as a Conference, had been accustomed to ask that the Stars and Stripes be raised over the place of holding our Conference, and, therefore move...that the flag of our Republic be hoisted over the Church in which our Conference meets...Appointments: Council Bluffs District... Frankfort; J.T. Hughes...

1865

(26 March 1914; *Grant Chief*) ...the first school register used in what is now the independent school district of Grant...dates from March 5th, 1865...The first schoolhouse in the district was located where the livery barn now stands.

(Note: *Centennial History; 1855 – 1955*; Grant Methodist Church; page 10: The new frame school house was built...on lot 8, block 2...The church services were moved to the new school house. The men sat on the south side of the room, the women on the other. The deacons sat in one corner called the Amen corner. Women wore aprons to church and almost always wore black. The boys of the community stood against the back wall since the seats were all taken by the older people, but the boys must be inside the building or settle with their fathers when they went home...)

- 7 September; Des Moines *Daily State Register*: ...Appointments made by the Des Moines Conference at Osceola...Council Bluffs District:...Red Oak Junction; W.F. Laidley...Elected to orders as a Local Deacon – William H. Read...

The circuit included Red Oak, Edna, Milford, Carr's schoolhouse and Dunn's schoolhouse.

1866

- 30 August; Des Moines *Daily State Register*: The Des Moines Conference of the M.E. Church, lately in session in Boonesboro, made the following appointments:...Council Bluffs District... Red Oak Junction, W.F. Laidley...

1867

- 26 September; Montana *Standard*: The Des Moines M.E. Conference in Iowa held their annual session at Des Moines Sept. 19th.

Minutes of the Fourth Session of the Des Moines Annual Conference...Appointments: Council Bluffs District...Red Oak and Lewis; A.J. Andres, one to be supplied...List of local preachers; W. Read, Milford, Deacon...

1868

- 29 August; Council Bluffs *Weekly Nonpareil*: The Fifth Annual Des Moines Conference adjourned...Appointments: Council Bluffs District...Red Oak circuit; A.J. Andres...

- (20 August 1896; Villisca *Review*): Villisca M.E. Church...'68 – '69, A.J. Andres, pastor. This was a very large circuit, including nearly all of Montgomery and part of Cass and Adams Counties, hence M.D. Collins and J.M. Holmes were appointed assistants.

(Note: John Milton Holmes came to Washington Township in the mid-1860s. It has been said that he was a licensed exhorter at that time, but he became a lay preacher.)

1869

- 2 September; Indianola *Journal*: The Des Moines Conference M.E. Church met in this city...Appointments; Corning district; Milford circuit, Rev. William T. Smith...Milford Circuit...1 parsonage...

This was the first year for the Corning District, and also for the Milford circuit, which included Edna, Villisca and Cramer's Chapel. There were two bodies of trustees elected: one for Milford and one for Villisca. Tradition says that the Milford parsonage was built in 1869, although the deed for the property wasn't made until 4 March 1873.

A History of Montgomery County, Iowa; W.W. Merritt; 1906; page 255: ...The first quarterly conference of the Milford circuit was held at Edna Grove 16 October 1869.

1870

22 day of Jan'y. A.D. 1870: Articles of Incorporation of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Milford Montgomery County Iowa: ...Article 1st The name of this Corporation Shall be First Methodist Episcopal Church of Milford...Article 3rd the general nature of the transaction of this corporation shall be the erection of a house of worship a parsonage, and other buildings necessary or convenient for the use of said Society...

H.S. Lott President
Wm. Stipe
Seth M. Smith
James B. Wallace
H.M. Higgins (Trustees)

7 September; Montana *Boone County Democrat*: The Des Moines Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church which commenced its seventh annual session in this city last Wednesday August 31st closed its labors Monday...list of appointments: Corning District...Milford; T.P. Newland...

1871

13 May; Montgomery County BK6:220 Isadore Plaquet to Veronica Plaquet...10 Acres of land commencing at a Post 60 rods south of the Northeast corner of Section 9-73-36...excepting one quarter of an Acre off the Southeast corner...which I have sold for a Church Lot...

(Note: The deed to the Methodist Church was never recorded. Tradition says that construction had started, but the mason died before the foundation was finished. There seems to be several versions of why the site was abandoned. 5 April 1874 Plaquet resold the property to Isaac Marsh, who opened a small store there. When the property had been platted as Plaquet's Addition, that tract became Lots 1 and 8, Block 1.)

6 October; Villisca *Iowa Mercury*: DES MOINES CONFERENCE – This body met in Sioux City last week...

Minutes of the Eighth Annual Session of the Des Moines Conference of the M.E. Church... Appointments; Corning District...Milford, T.P. Newland; Villisca, Adam Burris...local preachers, Milford, three...

(Note) Villisca was made a separate charge. An appointment had been made at Sixteen school house (Lincoln Center) and it was added to the Milford Circuit. Also included were Sciola, Edna Grove, Reno and Newland Grove.)

1872

9 October; *The Chariton Patriot*: Salaries paid the Preachers in the Des Moines Conference will not average \$600. So says the report made to the conference...recently held at Chariton ...Appointments: Atlantic District...Milford Circuit; Rev. L.W. Archer...

For several years the Milford Baptists had asked the Methodist congregation to share their Christmas tree. But this year no invitation had been offered and at the last minute the Methodists had decided to have their own tree. They worked hard at it; there were over five hundred presents, mostly homemade. But their satisfaction didn't last long. The whole congregation was mortified to find that the Baptists had put a nice gift on their tree for Rev. Archer, but the Methodists had never once thought of getting a present for the Baptist minister. It took all the pleasure from the occasion. (*tradition*)

1873

- 1 September; Clarinda *Page County Democrat*: The Des Moines Methodist Conference held at Winterset...Milford Circuit - Milford, Sciola and Lincoln Center...Appointments; Milford; M. (Michael) Sheets...

(Note: Archer resigned, perhaps in March, and William T. Reid supplied for the remainder of the conference year.)

1874

Perhaps in 1873 or the first of 1874, Ella Embree wrote a fictionalized account of the church feud; she called the town Dissensionville. Kate Givan rewrote the story as a play and the women of the church produced it, but a date wasn't found.

- 9 July; Red Oak *Express*: Adv. - Notice to Builders - Notice is hereby given, that sealed bids for the purpose of building an M.E. church house at Milford, can be sent to the address of Rev. M. Sheetz, Grant P.O., Montgomery county, Iowa. Bids will be received until the 18th of July, 1874. The house is to be 30x46 feet. The specifications and terms can be seen at the Methodist parsonage at Milford, Montgomery Co.

Building Committee

(Note: Presumably a purchase agreement was made before July 1874, but the survey and plat of the Donoho Addition wasn't filed until July 1875. The cornerstone of the new church was laid 27 August 1874, but no contemporaneous account has been found. The booklet Centennial History 1855-1955, Grant Church History, contains much interesting material concerning the construction of the building.)

- 23 July; Red Oak *Express*: - CAMP MEETING - A camp meeting will be held one half mile from Milford, Montgomery County, to commence on the 19th of August and continue six days. We hereby extend a cordial invitation to the friends of Zion to attend. Boarding can be had on the ground, by those who want it. The meeting will be held in connection with the fourth Q.M. of Milford charge. M. Sheetz

- 24 September; *Express*: SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION: - ...the Montgomery County Sunday School Association will meet in Red Oak...the 29th...Let every school in the county be represented.

- 3 September; Clarinda *Page County Democrat*: Rev. Holmes will go off to Des Moines in a few days to attend conference.

Conference Minutes: Atlantic District...Milford Circuit, M. Sheetz...

1875

- 21 January; *Express*: The dedication of the M.E. church at Milford which was published to take place on the 24 inst. has been postponed on account of the contractors failing to complete the house according to agreement...

The church will be dedicated without fail Sunday, March 14th...The dedication will be in connection with the second QM of this charge.

(Note: 14 March 1930; *Review*: ...The auditorium of the new building was formerly the old church...with two or three pews left out about the middle to give space for a stove on each side. These pews were home made. The rostrum was at the west end, but did not extend quite to the south wall, leaving space there for two pews for the Amen corner. The organ was at the north end and chairs for the choir...)

1881 *History*; page 469: The Milford Methodist Episcopal Church...was dedicated March 14, 1875, by Rev. A.J. Andrews. (*Note*: Andres)

26 July; DB 3:318: E.E. Donoho to Trustees of M.E. Church of Milford...Lots 7 and 8 of Block 3; Donoho's Addition...

21 October; *Review*: Des Moines Conference; meeting at Indianola, adjourned the 12th...The next conference of the M.E. Church will be held at Red Oak which is a good enough thing for Red Oak, but bad on the Conference...

Conference Minutes: Appointments...Atlantic District...Milford, J.W. Bott...

1876

19 February; *Review*; Milford: The Second Advents are holding a protracted meeting in the M.E. Church at Milford.

2 March; *Review*: Milford – There was a very pleasant and successful festival at the M.E. Church last Friday evening and at which a sum sufficient to neatly carpet the church and adorn the pulpit was realized.

5 October; *Express*: METHODIST PREACHERS –Red Oak is Full of Them...The Des Moines annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal church convened in this city to hold its thirteenth annual session on Thursday morning, Sept. 28th...List of Appointments: Corning District...Milford, J.W. Bott...

22 November; *Review*: On the eve of Thanksgiving Day, there will be given an old fashioned supper at the Milford M.E. Church. Supper tickets 35 cents; for child, 20 cents.

1877

11 January; *Review*: ...Last Saturday evening...two members of our church at the Sciola appointment...presented to Mrs. Bott a very nice quilt...and to myself fifteen dollars and eighteen cents...

J.W. Bott

23 August; *Review*: A horse belonging to Rev. J.W. Bott, of Milford died on Monday morning, near the Camp Meeting grounds. Over \$40 was raised to secure him another horse.

20 September; *Express*: The M.E. Conference at Boonsboro adjourned Monday. The districts have been somewhat changed and the number reduced to five instead of seven...Appointments – Milford, J.W. Bott...

13 December 1877; *Review*; Milford, Dec. 12, 1877 – Editor *Review*: Amidst this financial crisis, while banks are breaking, individual, companies and corporations are crumbling to dust, we are sorry to say that the cozy church of our goodly village is not without its misgivings. But while it stands with trembling gaze steadfastly fixed upon the sheriff, the dear, good ladies of our town came to the rescue with a week of Festivals, thereby seeking to satiate the cravings of that hungry monster. Come everybody and help. –

Christmas Eve; Monday night – Christmas Tree and confectionery; Admission 10 cents

Tuesday night – Oyster Supper; Admission 25 cents

Friday night – Old and Young Folks Spelling School

Tuesday night – Roast Turkey; Confectioneries, etc.

1878

- (14 March 1930; *Review*;) ...When J.W. Bott left he wrote: Being appointed for the third year, we felt some misgivings. But by the blessings of God we resolved to do our whole duty, and as we look back at the labors and blessings of the year from the closing week, we can but thank God for the work that has been done. This has been the best year of my three years' pastorate. Some old feuds that had existed for years were about healed and the church brought to work more harmoniously.
- 26 September; *Review*: Appointments of the Des Moines Conference of the M.E. Church at Atlantic, Corning District...Milford, F. (Francis) Plumb...

1879

- 4 September; *Express*: Appointments made by the Annual Conference of the M.E. Church meeting at Des Moines – Corning District...Milford, R.J. Osborn...
- 9 October; *Express*; Milford Millets: A new and substantial carriage shed and grain-bin adds to the good appearance of the M.E. church property.
- On Saturday and Sunday, November 1st and 2nd, will be held the first quarterly meeting for this current year of the Milford charge. The Elder, Rev, B.F. Crozier, will be present at the Saturday Services...and Sunday morning.
 - A sewing bee was held at the M.E. parsonage last Thursday. Quite a number of sisters ...provided for the comforts of the pastor's family...
- (*Note*: The 1880 Census of Douglas Township shows *Ramson* Osborn with two daughters, ages 12 and 8; no wife.)

1880

- 29 April; *Review*: At a meeting of Methodist ministers held at Creston last week, it was decided to hold no camp meeting this year and to sell the camp grounds...the meetings have proved to be the source of a certain amount of moral prostration, and in spite of the good done in the way of strengthening those who profess christianity and the large measure of spiritual enjoyment derived by the real christian, we have ever felt that the harm overbalances the good...
- 6 May; *Review*; ...and if you desire to lead a christian life and die happy, go and hear Rev. Osborne at the M.E. church every Sabbath.
- 29 September; Red Oak; *The People's Telephone*: The Des Moines Conference of M.E. Church which just closed its session at Chariton, made the following appointments in the Corning District: ...Milford, Reuben Randolph...

1881

- Montgomery County History*; 1881; page 469: The Milford Methodist Episcopal Church...Present membership, 70. The Sunday school has about 60 scholars...
- (*Note*: No doubt a Sunday School had been established at an early date, but no mention of one was found until 1869.)
- 8 September; *Review*: Des Moines Conference...next Monday at Indianola...
- 22 September; *Review*: ... appointments for the Corning District...Milford, R. Randolph...

1882

14 September; *Review*: ...departed for Winterset to attend the Annual Conference...

21 September; *Review*: ...appointments in the Corning District...Milford, J.B. Bartley...

...On Christmas Day; 1882, Mrs. George T. Cary played "Joy to the World" for them..."Aunt Nell" was elected organist and held that position for 30 consecutive years and was about ten years getting rid of the job. (*tradition*)

1883

5 April; *Review*: We are authorized to announce an entertainment or concert, at Milford, April 11, for the purpose of getting books for the Sabbath School. The entertainment will consist of singing, declamations, select readings, tableaux. Also a new and effective formula of the "Broom Drill" which will be extremely interesting.

(14 March 1930; *Review*): Since Brother Bott left this charge it has had 3 pastors no one of whom added anything to the record...in 1882 the writer was appointed to the Milford charge and found the charge in pretty good condition, but with embers of old feuds smoldering and not the harmony and Christian fellowship prevailing which ought to pervade Christian hearts. Having spent a year of the hardest work in my history as a minister, I find at the close that I have about the number of members to report that I found on coming here. I now leave the work with a prayer that God may send a man full of the Holy Ghost who will wake the people to righteousness and have a revival of spiritual power among the membership of the church.

Jess B. Bartley

23 September; *Review*: The Methodist Conference held at Clarinda last week made... appointments...Milford, John Branston...

9 November; *Express*: ..the recent session of the M.E. district conference held at Corning..."The importance and need of a revival of religion in the Corning District" was very ably discussed in an essay...

1884

3 January; *Review*; Milford: Rev. Branson commenced a protracted meeting in Milford last Sunday evening. We hope the effect may bring many lost sheep to the fold and warm up the many lukewarm and cold.

12 June; *Review*: Children's Day at Milford – Children's Day was ushered in mucky and muddy, lowery and showery. But notwithstanding the cheerless inclement outlook the M.E. church was packed at an early hour. Scores of joyous hearts and smiling faces composed the anxious waiting assembly scanning with eager eyes the beautifully decorated interior, inhaling the sweet fragrance of the floral surroundings and listening to the soul stirring strains of the songs of Zion. Two joyful hours were spent in the usual exercises. Many thanks to the efficient assistant Superintendent, Teachers and officials of the Sabbath School...

24 July; *Review*: The Fourth at Milford...After dinner came the contest between the different Sabbath Schools for a beautiful banner, presented by the committee. Our German friends of Noble township were awarded the prize. Their school numbered 140 pupils. It's hard to beat the Dutch...

12 September; *Express*: The annual session of the Des Moines Conference is now in progress in our city... (Red Oak)

18 September; *Review*: At the Conference which closed this morning...appointments... Corning District...Milford, J.W. Adair...

(21 June 1889; Red Oak *Independent*; Milford): (taken from a long article)...the hue and cry was raised...that the trustees, the preacher and elder, at the laying of the corner stone of said church, had caused to be concealed therein some scathing, scandalizing cussedness, that was to be handed down and revealed to posterity...No person has ever been able to say what that terrible something was...That croaking has been chronic for nearly 20 years...In order to cleanse and purify the atmosphere...the corner stone was removed...they found that the water had penetrated and the contents so decayed that they were utterly unrecognizable except for a small portion of a hymn book and a corroded nickel coin...

(*Note*: Church records say that James W. Adair was the one who grabbed the pry bar and resolved the problem. This item was taken from one of two long articles which appeared in the *Independent*. The articles present the writer's view of the controversy which had raged in the Milford Church for so many years.)

4 December; *Review*: Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Holmes started for a visit of several months' duration in Ohio...but who will officiate at Gretna Green in Mr. Holmes' absence?

(*Note*: The editor is paying tribute to Holmes' well-earned reputation in the wedding field. John Milton Holmes and his family settled in northern Washington Township in the middle 1860s. Holmes Chapel, built in 1889, was named in his honor. Hosea A. Carlton was another local Methodist preacher in the Milford-Sciola area.)

1885

17 September; *Review*: The Des Moines annual M.E. Conference is now in session at Des Moines.

25 September; *Express*: ...appointments for the Corning District...Milford, J.W. Adair...

3 December ; *Sun*; Milford: The Milford Musical Society will give a concert on Christmas night at the Methodist Church.

1886

15 January; *Sun*; Milford: Mr. Blanchard, upon invitation, removed his Bible class to the M.E. church where it is hoped the institution may flourish...

2 September; *Review*; Milford: A grand union Sunday School picnic was held in the grove south of town last Friday. Five Sunday Schools from the country were represented...

9 September; *Review*: This day commences the Des Moines Conference at Council Bluffs.

23 September; *Review*: Appointments in the Corning District of the M.E. Church...Milford, J.E. Steven...

2 December; *Review*: The Ladies of the M.E. Church in Milford gave a Thanksgiving supper which was protracted to a late hour caused by a large party of skaters coming in at the eleventh hour.

1887

- 8 September; *Review*: The Des Moines Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church will hold its twenty-eighth annual session at Des Moines on the 15th ...
- 22 September; *Review*: ...appointments for the Corning District...Milford, W.E. Harvey...
- 6 October; *Review*; Milford: Rev. Stevens is moving to Bedford, his new appointment.
(*Note*: Conference minutes say "Brooks")
- 24 November; *Review*; Milford: A new barn is being put up at the M.E. parsonage.

1888

- 4 May; *Sun*: ...Milford...the Methodist...society is a strong one, with the best attended Sunday school in this part of the country...
- 30 August; *Review*: Parties wishing a copy of the forthcoming Methodist Conference Minutes, should hand 25 cents to Rev. Armstrong and receive the Daily Conference paper, to be published at Creston, during the session.
- 20 September; *Review*: ...appointments for the Corning District...Milford, W.E. Harvey...
- 7 December; *Sun*; Milford: The Methodist church is now warmed by two large new stoves.

1889

- 10 January; *Review*; Milford: The entertainment at the schoolhouse was a success. Net proceeds of \$32. 50 go toward the purchase of a new church organ.
- 13 June; *Review*; Milford: Methodist church trustees will build an extension on the north end, slightly narrower than the present auditorium, and extending north about 12 feet.
(*Note*: Long range planning. Apparently nothing of this order was done until 1905.)
- 5 September; *Review*: The annual M.E. Conference will be held at Dennison Sept. 11...
- 19 September; *Review*: ...appointments for Corning District...Grant, George Palmer...
(*Note*: This is the first time the name Grant is used.)

1890

- 27 March; *Review*; Morton Mills: During the protracted meeting at Milford there have been 69 conversions and over 50 new members and old members revived.
- 6 June; *Sun*; Milford: Friends have erected a dwelling house for Uncle Billy Reed, near Wm. Patterson's.
- 11 September; *Review*: The Annual Session of Des Moines Conference will meet at Indianola...the 17th inst...
- 25 September; *Review*: ...appointments of the Methodist preachers in the Corning District... Grant, Elliott Voorhees...

1891

- 18 September; *Sun*; Milford: Rev. Vorhees has gone to attend the annual conference at Des Moines.
- 24 September; *Review*: ...appointments for Corning District...Grant, supplied by David Martin...
- 4 December; *Express*; Milford: The new spire on the church is finished and all that heart could wish, towering heavenward in monumental grandeur, silently directing the gaze of the weary wanderer to fairer worlds on high.

1892

- 8 April; *Express*; Milford: We are sorry to learn that after service last Sabbath a horse race was instituted and engaged in by some of the heretofore reputable young men of the community...
- 18 August; *Review*: Rev. Martin of Milford, whose horse was reported stolen, writes us that the animal has been found.
- 23 September; *Express*: The annual session of the Des Moines Conference of the M.E. Church, held at Perry last week...appointments...for the Corning District...Grant, to be supplied by David Martin...

1893

- 8 September; *Sun*: The annual meeting of the Des Moines M.E. Conference will be held at Audubon next week...
- 22 September; *Sun*: ...appointments of conference... C.A. Maine succeeds D. Martin at Grant...
- 3 November; *Sun*; Milford: The trustees of the M.E. church have put in a bored well at their parsonage, striking water at a depth of about 50 feet..
- 8 December; *Sun*; Milford: The M.E. Sunday School will not indulge in a Christmas tree this year. Times are too bad.

1894

- 22 March; *Review*; Milford: Last Saturday the ladies of this place organized a Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. Mains acting as leader.
- 5 April; *Review*; Milford: Last Sunday night we organized an Epworth League...
- 4 May; *Sun*; Milford: The trustees of the M.E. church have made a good improvement by putting up 135 feet of two-inch tubing for hitching racks.
- 9 August; *Review*; Milford: The RagaMuffin social was held at the Church Wednesday evening.
- 31 August; *Sun*; Milford: ...a number...will attend the annual meeting of the Des Moines conference at Shenandoah next week.
- 14 September; *Sun*: M.E. Conference Appointments...Rev. C.A. Maine to Grant...

1895

20 October; *Sun*: The sessions of the Des Moines M.E. Conference held at Indianola closed ...appointments...Grant, O.H. Maxon...

1896

25 September; *Sun*: At the annual meeting of the Des Moines conference held at Corydon recently...appointments...Corning District...Rev. G. (Gustavous) A. Dietrick to Grant...

1897

22 January; *Express*; Milford: The M.E. church is to have a general repairing and cleaning up in the way of a new roof and paper and painting inside.

30 September; *Review*: ...appointments made at the Guthrie Center M.E. Conference for Creston District...Grant, G.A. Dietrick...

1898

14 February; *Sun*; Milford: Rev. G.A. Detrich, of the M.E. church, has resigned on account of the continued ill health of his wife, who went to Arkansas several months ago. He will join her there in a few weeks.

6 May; *Sun*; Milford: Rev. E.S. Menoher, who is to be pastor of the M.E. church here and at Holmes Chapel, succeeding Rev. G.A. Deitrich, arrived from Indianola last week...

(*Note*: 25 August 1915; *Review*; Grant: ...Rev. Menoher began his ministry in Grant...)

16 September; *Sun*; Milford: Rev. Menoher...and Mrs. Menoher...will not return until after conference, which is being held in Creston this week.

22 September; *Review*: ...appointments in the Creston District...Grant, E.S. Menoher...

1899

4 August; *Express*; Grant: The cellar is now being excavated under the M.E. church for the new furnace which they are going to put in soon.

21 September; *Review*: The M.E. Conference at Denison...appointments made in the Creston district...Grant, E.S. Menoher...

29 October; *Review*; Milford: The Methodist Church will be heated by a furnace hereafter...

1900

12 April; *Review*; Milford: The lamp in front of the M.E. church furnishes light for both saint and sinner.

4 May; *Express*; Grant: Five new lamps will be put in the M.E. church this week.

27 September; *Review*: The annual stirring up of the M.E. pastors occurred at Des Moines last week...appointments for the Creston district...Grant, E.S. Menoher...

1901

- 18 September; *Review*: ...appointments made in the Creston district...at the Des Moines Annual Conference held in Chariton...Grant, A. (Alfred) L. Bates...
- 25 September; *Review*; Grant: Our former minister Rev. Menoher, goes to New Market. He has held this appointment about three and one-half years with the best of satisfaction.

1902

- 17 September; *Review*: ...The Methodist ministers are returning from the conference at Jefferson and report the attendance to have been about one thousand.
- 24 September; *Review*; Grant. ...Our former minister, Rev. Bates, goes to Orient. J.W. Caldwell becomes pastor at Milford and Holmes Chapel...

1903

- 11 September; *Sun*; Milford: Rev. J.W. Caldwell will go to conference at Indianola next week.
- 25 September; *Sun*: ...C.E. Trueblood becomes pastor at Milford...

1904

- 23 September; *Sun*: ...the 55th annual meeting of the Des Moines M.E. conference in Atlantic...
- 30 September; *Sun*: Rev. J.G. Duling from Macksburg succeeds C.E. Trueblood as pastor of the Milford Church and at Holmes chapel...

1905

- 19 May; *Sun*; Milford: ...The new church will cost \$4000 or more and will be an ornament to the town. It will be built on the site of the present church building. The new church will have a seating capacity of 350, the main room having seating capacity of 225 and the lecture room opening into it accommodates 125. The main room is to have arched ceiling and inclined floor and circular pews. The lecture room will be seated with chairs. The belfry will be at the northeast corner of the building...
- 23 June; *Sun*; Milford: C.F. Sumner has been engaged...to superintend the construction of the new church. The first load of rock for the foundation was hauled Thursday of last week ...Work on the foundation began Monday...
- 29 June; *Review*; Milford: Sunday the last services were held in the old church.
- 22 September; *Sun*; Milford: Rev. J.G. Duling was in Osceola the past week, attending Des Moines M.E. conference. He has been returned here for another year.
- 26 October; *Sun*; Milford: The seats for the new church were brought over from the station at Elliott Monday.
- 14 December; *Review*; Milford: Mrs. Kenworthy and Mrs. W. Corbin were in Elliott Tuesday to buy the carpet for the new church.

1906

11 January; *Review*: A large crowd attended the dedication service of the new Methodist church Sunday...

William Stipe was here 50 years ago when the first Methodist class was organized and was able to attend the Dedication services. He is 86 years old. Also there were 22 present who attended the dedication of the old church 30 years ago.

(*Note*: This is misleading; the old church building is still there. A complete remodeling was done, including additions of a class room on the north and a pulpit and choir area and a small storage room on the south.

(14 March 1930; *Review*: ... {when} the addition to the church was built, Charles Sumner was the carpenter. He nailed gables on three sides of the building and was getting ready to nail on another when the trustees decided that they did not want a church of seven gables and stopped him...)

23 March; *Express*; Grant: The (ME) church has a gasoline lighting system.

31 May; *Review*; Milford: ...two new pianos, Dr. Montgomery and the M.E. church.

13 September; *Review*; Milford: Rev. Duling and family went to Des Moines Tuesday to conference...

20 September; *Review*: ...appointments...Creston District – Grant, J.G. Duling...

1907

25 July; *Review*; Grant: Hereafter the teams that are tied to the private fence adjoining the church lot will be cut loose by the owner of the fence as it is not a public hitch rack. Notices on the fence have been disregarded and if people will still tie there they may have some broken buggies.

19 September; *Review*; ...appointments made by the Des Moines conference, in Council Bluffs ...for the Creston district: ...Grant, J.G. Duling...

26 September; *Review*; Grant: Everybody is rejoicing that Rev. Duling is back for another year, which makes his fourth year here.

14 November; *Elliott Graphic*; Grant: **Rev. Duling Leaves** – Owing to his wife's health he resigns to accept the pastorate of the Mound City, Kansas, church...

-- Rev. Joseph Telfer the new pastor of the M.E. church is here and occupying the parsonage ...For the past four years he has lived in Canada but the winters were too severe for him...He moves here from the Iowa conference at Burlington...

1908

17 September; *Review*: Over 200 preachers of the M.E. persuasion were assembled in Clarinda last week...Des Moines annual conference...appointments: ...Creston District;...Grant, A. (Alex) Telfer...

23 October; *Sun*; Milford: A new society of the ladies of the Milford M.E. church has been organized. It is named the Church and Parsonage Improvement society...The first work of the society will be to have cement walks laid at the church and parsonage.

1909

- 19 March 1909; *Sun*; Milford: Rev. J.S. Young, formerly of Griswold, has received the appointment as pastor of the Milford M.E. church to succeed Rev. A. Telfer, who is compelled to give up the pastorate on account of failing health...For several years, (Rev. Young) has been a resident of Richmond, Va., having gone there on account of Mrs. Young's health...Rev. Telfer has stored his goods here and will visit relatives at various places while recuperating health.
- 17 September; *Sun*; Grant: Rev. J.S. Young left Monday to attend the annual conference at Ames.
- 1 October; *Sun*; Milford: Rev. J.S. Young, who has been pastor of the M.E. church here for several months and for whose return the church board had voted, has been sent to Conway...In order to show how anxious they were for his return the board had made arrangements to raise his salary \$200 a year. Rev. J.L. Johnson, the new minister, preached here Sunday...
- 11 November; *Review*; Grant: Rev. Johnston has almost completed a new coal house at the parsonage, doing the work himself.

1910

- 16 September; *Express*: ...the M.E. Conference which has been held the last week in Perry... appointments – Atlantic District...Grant; L.D. Gager...
- 29 September; *Review*; Grant: The teams that hauled Rev. Johnson's household goods to Griswold last week were compelled to stay a day at Griswold on account of rain. They brought Rev. Gager's goods back with them.

1911

- 15 June; *Chief*: Early this year the Epworth League purchased one hundred copies of song books for use in the League and Sunday School. There are only 80 copies in the church at present. Also the Improvement society purchased thirty copies of the Methodist Hymnal. There are twenty-seven copies in the church now...If you find that you have one or more copies of either of these books, please bring to the church at once...
- 29 June; *Review*: The Epworth League of the Grant Methodist church will serve a dinner at the celebration at Grant on the Fourth in a large, cool tent located on the grounds.
- 21 September; *Review*: ...Great crowds attended...conference Sunday. Automobiles and carriages came pouring into Shenandoah all morning...Rev. L.D. Gager of Grant goes to Tipton...He is succeeded by Rev. J.N. Hosier of Manning...
- 12 October; *Review*; Grant: The Church Improvement Society had the Methodist parsonage papered and painted before the new minister arrived.

1912

- 12 September; *Review*; Grant: Rev. Hosier went to Boone Tuesday to attend conference.
- 19 September; Grant *Chief*: The many friends of Rev. J.N. Hosier, pastor of the M.E. church, will be pleased to know that he has been re-appointed to the Grant charge for another year...

1913

18 September; *Review*: The M.E. conference at Mt. Ayr closed Monday night...Rev. J.N. Hosier of Grant was moved to Wiota and Rev. C.F. Smith of Imogene is the new pastor at the Grant M.E. church.

1914

21 May; *Review*: ...Rev. C.F. Smith, pastor of the Methodist church at Grant, purchased the old (school) building for \$5.00.

(*Note*: Smith dismantled the structure, and sold used brick, lumber, windows and doors.)

17 September; *Review*: The M.E. Conference at Atlantic closed...The Grant minister, Rev. C.F. Smith, was returned...

1915

19 January; *Review*; Grant: The schools and churches are closed for two weeks...diphtheria.

9 September; Grant *Chief*: ...last July the Ladies Aid society of the M.E. church voted to run an Exchange during the months of July and August. They opened the Exchange July 17 and continued every Saturday. They also ran during the Home Coming. On August 28 the Exchange was closed for this year.

16 September; *Chief*: Rev. C.F. Smith returned Monday evening from Des Moines where he attended the Des Moines conference of the M.E. church...he has been returned to his charges here...

1916

29 March; *Review*; Grant: A large crowd attended the play, "The District School", given by the Ladies' Aid Friday night.

31 March; *Sun*; Grant: Work has finally been started on the basement of the M.E. church. The building has been propped up, the old foundation is being removed, and a new foundation of cement blocks put in. As soon as this is completed work of the interior finishing of the basement will be started. The alley on the west side of the church has also been graded down.

14 September; *Chief*: ...Rev. and Mrs. C.F. Smith returned from their trip to the conference at Glenwood.

23 November; *Chief*: The local Methodist church celebrated a formal re-opening by a series of meetings conducted by different ministers each night...the interior with its tastefully decorated walls and ceiling is a hundred per cent more attractive than formerly. The outside walls have been treated to several coats of paint and a large basement has been excavated and room made for a furnace...During the last six or seven months Rev. Smith has given of his time and labor unstintingly to the task of renovating the church building...

1917

18 April; *Review*; Grant: The "Ants" carnival held in the church basement Saturday night was a success, both socially and financially. There were all kinds of amusements, plenty of ice

cream, homemade candies and cakes, pies and bread for sale. The "Bees" held an ice cream parlor in the GAR hall that was well patronized.

(*Note:* This was a fund-raising contest. The "Ants" won with \$223.26; The "Bees" raised \$201.46.)

19 September; *Review*; Grant: Brother Smith goes to Indianola this week to be in attendance at the annual Des Moines conference.

27 September; *Chief*: Rev. C.F. Smith returned from the conference Wednesday and informs us that he has been appointed to the Braddyville charge...No one has been assigned to this district as they are short of men...

11 October; *Chief*: Rev. (Robert J.) Tennant and family moved their household effects from DeSota, Iowa, last week, and are now comfortably located in the Methodist parsonage.

1918

24 May; *Review*; Grant: There will be a memorial service in the Methodist Church next Sunday morning...and the service flag will be dedicated...

27 September; *Review*: The fifty-ninth session of the Des Moines conference, held at Jefferson, Iowa, closed Monday...

26 September; *Chief*: Rev. R.J. Tennant has been assigned to the charge of the M.E. church at Tennant, Ia. Rev. Tennant has been connected with the M.E. Church in Grant for about a year and has been quite successful. The church here will be without a pastor for an indefinite length of time...the district superintendent...intimated that the position would probably be hard to fill...

18 October; *Review*; Grant: The festival that was being held in the church basement had to be closed on account of all public places being closed because of the Spanish Influenza. A number of cases are in town.

28 November; *Chief*: ...The Rev. A.H. McKellup of Fillmore is now located in the M.E. parsonage...the family gets here next week.

1919

26 June; *Chief*: Rev. and Mrs. A.H. McKellup and children left Tuesday to attend the great Centenary Convention at Columbus, Ohio...

18 September; *Chief*: Rev. A.H. McKellup left Tuesday for Des Moines where he will be in attendance at the annual conference...

25 September; *Chief*: Rev. A.H. McKellup...has been returned to Grant...

1920

20 September; *Express*: ...the Des Moines conference of the Methodist church being held in Winterset last week...

30 September; *Express*; Grant: Rev. McKellup was appointed to the DeSota charge near Des Moines. Grant is to be supplied later.

2 December; *Express*; Grant: Our new minister Rev. (Clifford) Cody from Indiana preached his first sermon Sunday morning.

31 December *Review*; Grant: There will be a watch social in the basement of the church New Year's Eve and at midnight the church bell will ring out the old and ring in the new.

1921

15 September; *Express*; Following a decision of a recent conference of the Methodist church, women are allowed to be ordained as pastors...

19 September; *Express*: Appointments of the Des Moines Annual Conference (meeting in Red Oak) – Atlantic District; Grant, H.P. Grinyer...

22 September; *Chief*: H.P. Grinyer is the name of the preacher appointed for the Grant charge ...but the story is being circulated that on account of the bad condition of the parsonage the gentleman has refused to come.

29 September; *Chief*: Arrangements were made Sunday whereby Rev. C.F. Smith of Red Oak will occupy the M.E. pulpit for the ensuing year. Rev. Smith left here five years ago...will find us old sinners still here and a new crop sprouted.

(Note: Charles Frederick Smith, a native of England, retired from the ministry in 1918, and invested in the Red Oak Greenhouses. He supplied for the year at Grant, driving back and forth from Red Oak. The parsonage was vacant, so it was a good time to build a new one.)

1922

12 January; *Express*; Grant: Last Tuesday Fred Westfall moved the barn from the parsonage lot to its present resting place in the southwest part of town.

26 May; *Sun*; Grant: The cellar for the new parsonage has been completed and the remainder of the work will be pushed as fast as possible.

29 September; *Review*: ...the list of appointments of the ministers of the Des Moines Methodist conference which closed its week's session in Chariton, Iowa....

29 September; *Review*: ...The new pastor at Grant will be Rev. E.J. Zumsteg...

1923

21 September; *Review*: ...the list of appointments of the ministers of the Des Moines Methodist conference which closed its week's session in Ames, Iowa...Rev. E.J. Zumsteg returns to Grant as pastor of the Methodist church there for another year...

1924

26 September; *Review*: Annual Conference of Methodist Ministers in Clarinda Closes - What was pronounced by those in attendance as one of the best and busiest sessions of the Des Moines conference of the Methodist church held in recent years was closed Monday morning in Clarinda with the reading of the appointments of the ministers to their charges for the coming year...Rev. E.J. Zumsteg of Grant was assigned to Shambaugh. Rev. Zumsteg's place in Grant is taken by Rev. A. (Alphonso) Breeling.

1925

25 September; *Review*; ...the annual conference of the Methodist church was held in Atlantic...Rev. Alphonso Breeling remains at Grant another year.

1926

1 October; *Review*: ...the annual Methodist conference closed its week's session in Perry, Iowa...appointments; Grant, A. Breeling...

1927

23 September; *Review*: ...the Des Moines conference of the Methodist church closed its annual session...in Shenandoah...Rev. A. Breeling was returned to Grant for another year...

2 December; *Review*; Grant: Five quilts and three comforters, besides embroidery and other things aplenty will be sold at the Methodist Ladies' Aid Bazaar on Saturday afternoon...

1928

21 September; *Review*: ...the Des Moines conference of the Methodist church closed its annual session...in Boone...Rev. A. Breeling was returned to Grant for another year...

1929

27 September; *Review*: ...the Des Moines conference of the Methodist church closed its annual session...in Indianola...Rev. A. Breeling was returned to Grant for another year...

4 October; *Review*; Grant: This community gave a pound social for Rev. and Mrs. Breeling Friday evening. In addition to the "pounds" they were presented with two overstuffed chairs...

1930

14 March; *Review*: The 75th anniversary of the Methodist church of Grant was celebrated last week with services each evening except Monday and Saturday, and all day Sunday with an old fashioned basket dinner at noon. One of the most interesting features of the program was the history of the church, prepared by O.S. Donoho and S.E. Smith of Grant, and read at the Sunday morning service...

19 September; *Review*: ...The annual session of the Des Moines conference will be held in June next year, the ministers at the Council Bluffs meeting having voted to change the conference week from September to June. They voted to merge the Iowa and the Des Moines conferences in order to more efficiently handle the business and pastoral appointments. The first session of the combined conferences will be held in 1932...Rev. A. Breeling will remain as pastor of the church in Grant for another year...

1931

18 September; *Review*: ...the close of the meeting of the Des Moines Methodist conference which came to an end Monday in Creston. The Rev. Alphonso Breeling was returned to his present pastorate...

(Note: No account was found to explain why the change to June meetings voted in 1930 was rescinded.)

18 December; *Review*; Grant: ...plans were completed for the community Christmas tree. Mr. and Mrs. George T. Cary have generously loaned their evergreen for the purpose...Lights are being placed in the tree...A short program will be given at 7:30 on Christmas eve. The kiddies will have a treat. No program will be given in the church for children because of whooping cough.

1932

4 March; *Review*; Grant: A two weeks' series of meetings will be held at Grant...The Rev. Mr. Roe of Griswold will come here and the Rev. A. Breeling will conduct the meetings there.

30 September; *Review*: ...at the closing session of the Iowa-Des Moines conference in Des Moines the pastoral appointments for the ensuing year were announced: ...Grant, Rev. Frank A. Moore, former Villisca resident, will have the pastorate at Grant, succeeding the Rev. A. Breeling...

1933

24 March; *Review*; Grant: The largest attendance yet at a church and community program was registered Friday night when the northeast corner of the community had charge. Forty people took part in the program alone, and others served the refreshments.

This was during the depth of the depression and an effort was made to provide some affordable entertainment and community involvement. The community was divided into four parts and each division sponsored a program and social evening. The only expense was light refreshments. Clubs and other organizations were asked to sponsor a Sunday evening service which included a brief talk by the pastor. Fifteen groups cooperated.

29 September; *Review*; Grant: Rev. F.A. Moore has been reappointed to the Grant charge by the Conference meeting in Des Moines. His return was unanimously requested by both Grant and Lincoln Center.

1934

20 April; *Review*; Grant: A Queen Esther Missionary Society has been organized by the girls of the Sunday School.

28 September; *Review*: Announcement of pastoral appointments in the Iowa-Des Moines conference...at the annual session in Burlington...The Rev. F.A. Moore was returned to the Grant church...

1935

27 September; *Review*: Announcement of the pastoral appointments of the Iowa-Des Moines conference...at the close of the annual session in Des Moines...Frank Moore will remain another year at Grant...

4 October; *Review*; Grant: The Montgomery County Sunday school institute will be held in the church at Grant on Thursday Oct. 10...Everyone is invited to bring a basket dinner...

1936

- 21 February; *Review*; Grant: ...No church services were held Sunday because of weather conditions and roads.
- 18 September; *Review*; Grant: Rev. and Mrs. Moore left Wednesday morning to attend conference in Des Moines. Mrs. Beryle Roberts goes as a lay delegate from the Lincoln Center and Grant churches...
- 25 September; *Review*: Announcement of the pastoral appointments of the Iowa-Des Moines conference...The Rev. Frank Moore was returned to the Grant Methodist Church...

1937

- 7 May; *Review*; Grant: The Auxiliary ladies planted a black hills spruce tree in the church yard Wednesday afternoon and a red leaf maple in the new cemetery...
- 10 September; *Review*: ...The annual conference will convene at Newton, September 14...A special Methodist broadcast over station WHO, Des Moines, a part of the conference program will be given...
- 24 September; *Review*: ...Frank Moore, who has been in Grant for the last five years was transferred to Afton, and his place in Grant will be taken by Leo G. Wolf. The Rev. Mr. Wolf, who has been a member of the Methodist conference six years, comes to Grant from Panora...
- 15 October; *Review*; Grant: Mrs. Beryl Roberts gave a most interesting report...on the conference...If a new minister has not taken this charge by next Sunday, Rev. C.F. Smith will have charge of the worship service.
(*Note*: Nothing further was found concerning Mr. Wolf. In 1926 C.F. Smith sold his interests in the greenhouses and returned to the ministry. He provided the southwestern Iowa district with special supply services in most of the churches in the area. No date has been found for his return to Grant, but he was there in 1937 and continued to live there until his death in April 1942. His daughter Ruth was married to Edwin Curry, a native of the Grant area.)
- 26 November; *Review*; Grant: At a meeting...of the official board of the church Rev. C.F. Smith was appointed to act as minister of the Grant and Lincoln Center churches.
- 9 December; *Review*; Grant: Rev. (J.E.M.) Chambers of Almena, Kas., arrived here Thursday and he will serve as minister for the coming year of the Grant and Lincoln Center churches. Mrs. Chambers and two children will not move here until next spring...

1938

- 20 January; *Review*; Grant: The young folks, with the help of Rev. Chambers, organized an Epworth League Sunday evening.
- 10 February; Elliott *Graphic*: The 200th anniversary of the organization of the Methodist Church was observed in Chicago...with delegates from all over the world...
- 21 July; *Review*; Grant: The church is being redecorated. A new chimney has been built and George Davis is giving the walls a new coat of paint and the woodwork is being varnished.

8 September; *Review*: More than 300 Methodist ministers and an equal number of laymen will meet in Fairfield for the conference...

22 September; *Review*: ...the Rev. J.E.M. Chambers of Grant (was) returned by the conference to the same pastorate for another year...

1939

27 April; *Review*; Grant: This week in Kansas City there will come together 900 delegates from all over the world representing the three largest Methodist churches with authority to consummate the union of the three churches into one which will be named the Methodist church...

(*Note*: The proposed union was accepted. The three churches were the Methodist church North, the Methodist church South and the Methodist Protestant church.)

14 September; *Review*; Grant: ...Rev. J.E.M. Chambers left Monday for Burlington, where he will attend conference.

21 September; *Review*; Grant: ...The Rev. J.E.M. Chambers, pastor of the Grant-Lincoln Center churches for the last two years has been transferred to the Mt. Pleasant circuit...The Rev. Ernest McAninch, now at Pisgah, will replace the Rev. Chambers.

1940

19 September; *Review*; Grant: Rev. Ernest McAninch and Mrs. Clark Givan went Tuesday to Des Moines where they attended the Methodist conference...Rev. McAninch was returned to Grant and Lincoln Center churches for another year.

1941

19 June; *Review*: ...The Methodist Church Iowa-Des Moines conference closed its annual session in Atlantic with the reading of the pastoral appointments...the Rev. Ernest McAninch remains on the Grant-Lincoln Center work.

1942

11 June; *Review*; Grant: Rev. and Mrs. Ernest McAninch...and Mrs. C.R. Ayres left Tuesday for Mt. Pleasant where they will attend the Methodist conference.

18 June; *Review*: ...the Iowa-Des Moines conference closed its annual session in Fairfield...In the Council Bluffs district the Rev. Ernest McAninch was returned to the Grant-Lincoln charge for the ensuing year...

23 July; *Review*; Grant: The Women's Society of Christian Service sponsored a farewell party Wednesday evening honoring Rev. and Mrs. Ernest McAninch and children, Mary and Kenneth. The McAninch family moved Thursday to Riverton...presented the McAninch family with a rayon tablecloth and napkins...

(*Note*: No reason was found for McAninch leaving the pastorate a month after he had been reappointed.)

--The Rev. Mr. (Charles W.) Hohenshelt of Atlantic had charge of the...worship services at Lincoln Center and Grant. He will fill the charge here until a minister can be placed here.

22 October; *Review*; Grant: Sunday was the last service for the Rev. and Mrs. Charles Hohenshelt to be with us...

29 October; *Review*; Grant: Rev. and Mrs. Orley White of Jefferson, Okla., arrived in Grant where the former will serve the church and community as its minister...

1943

17 June; *Review*; Grant: Rev. Orley White spent from Tuesday until Sunday evening in Des Moines where he attended the Methodist conference. Rev. and Mrs. White return to Grant for another year.

1944

15 June; *Review*: ...the Iowa-Des Moines conference closed its annual session in Des Moines...

14 June; *Griswold American*: ...list of the pastors of the various churches in the Council Bluffs district...Grant-Lincoln Center; Orley R. White...

1945

14 June; *Review*; Grant: Rev. Orley White attended the annual session of the Iowa-Des Moines conference ...in Des Moines. Rev. and Mrs. White will stay at Grant for another year.

11 October; *Review*; Grant: The special meetings for the 90th anniversary of the church were well attended...Friday evening a pageant, the history of the church, was given...many in the community took part. Mrs. Clark Givan was the organist.

1946

13 June; *Review*: ...the Rev. Orley White of Grant arrived home Monday evening from Mount Pleasant...attended the annual session of the Iowa-Des Moines conference...Rev. Mr. White will be welcomed by his congregation in his return to Grant for another year.

1947

19 June; *Review*: ...returned from Des Moines where they had been...attending the annual session of the Iowa-Des Moines conference...The Rev. A. Breeling of Grant, who was placed on the retired list last year, was appointed as supply pastor of the Grant-Lincoln Center charge, and the Rev. Orley White, pastor at Grant last year, was appointed to the Pulaski-Troy charge in the Ottumwa district...The annuity for retired ministers was increased this year from \$17 to \$20 for each year of service in the ministry...

1948

17 June; *Review*: ...the annual session of the Iowa-Des Moines conference in Des Moines...the Rev. A. Breeling was returned to the Grant and Lincoln Center churches...

1949

16 June; *Review*: ...Muscatine...the annual session of the Iowa-Des Moines conference...the Rev. A. Breeling was returned to Grant...

1950

- 15 June; *Review*: ...the annual session of the Iowa-Des Moines conference closed Sunday at Shenandoah...the Rev. A. Breeling will serve the Pilot Grove circuit, and the Rev. Kenneth Bressler comes to Grant...

1951

- 14 June; *Review*; Grant: Rev. and Mrs. K.J. Bressler attended the Methodist conference held the past week at Ottumwa. The Bresslers are being returned to the Grant-Lincoln Center charges.
- 25 October; *Review*; Grant: The first Gods Portion sale of the Grant Methodist church will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 3. There will be a contest for the children, a parade and an auction. The W.S.C.S. is serving lunch...Robert Blankenship of Cumberland is the auctioneer.

1952

- 19 June; *Review*: In the list of pastoral appointments read...at the close of the Iowa-Des Moines Methodist conference in Council Bluffs...Grant-Lincoln Center, Kenneth Bressler...
- 24 November; *Express*; Grant: Rev. K.J. Bressler and family moved Tuesday to Webb, where he will serve the Webb and Gillett Grove Methodist churches.
- 4 December; *Express*; Grant: Joe Henry, layman of Council Bluffs, gave the morning sermon at the Grant Methodist church and expects to hold services at both Grant and Lincoln Center churches next Sunday, Dec. 7.
(*Note*: Henry drove from Council Bluffs each Sunday until Dennis came in June.)

1953

- 19 February; *Express*: Remodel Methodist Church For Grant – Remodeling work, including installation of an oil furnace, has started at the Grant Methodist church. While the work is in progress church and Sunday school will be held at the school house.
- 7 May; *Review*; Grant: The Grant Methodist church has been completely remodeled on the interior and services will be resumed there next Sunday May 10. The Grant school was opened for use on Sundays during the remodeling program...
(*Note*: Centennial History; page 32: The work included complete interior remodeling and furnishings, new modern kitchen equipment and a new rest room.)
- 21 May; *Review*; Grant: The Rev. Frank Dennis, 27, has accepted the call to fill the Methodist church pastorate at Grant and Lincoln Center...He is married and has a small daughter...is expected his first sermon will be June 7...He is the student pastorate at Greenwood, Delaware...
- 18 June; *Review*: ...the annual session of the Iowa-Des Moines conference of Methodist churches held in Des Moines...appointments: ...Grant-Lincoln Center, Frank Dennis...
- 24 September; *Review*: Grant Methodist Church To Have Outstanding Service Next Sunday – The ordination of Rev. J. Frank Dennis as elder will be held at the Grant Methodist church Sunday, Sept. 27...This will be an outstanding day in the history of the Grant church, since

only about one in one hundred Methodist churches have the privilege of having their minister ordained in their home church. The service is usually held at the annual conference of ministers...

1954

3 June; *Review*: ...the annual session of the Iowa-Des Moines conference...closed Sunday in Oskaloosa...appointments...Grant-Lincoln Center, Frank Dennis...

1955

17 March; *Review*: Grant To Observe Church Centennial With 3-Day Program – The 100th anniversary of the founding of the Methodist church in Grant is being observed this week end, March 18-20. It was the first Methodist church organized in Montgomery county...More than 500 invitations to the celebration have been mailed to former residents...An all-day program has been arranged for Saturday...ending with a Youth Fellowship historical pageant in the evening...

9 June; *Express*; Grant: Rev. J. Frank Dennis and Mrs. O.L. Zappe lay member from here, left Thursday June 9th to attend the annual Methodist conference held...in Des Moines.

No account was found of the reassignment of Dennis to the Grant church, but the following item confirms the appointment.

14 June 1956; *Review*: The Rev. J. Frank Dennis, pastor of the Grant Methodist church for the past three years, has accepted the position of director of Christian Education of the Port Huron district of the Detroit conference...effective immediately...