

Rural Churches of Montgomery County

by
Elaine Artlip



Montgomery County Historical Society
Red Oak, Iowa
1996

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A Project of the
Montgomery County Historical Society

Montgomery County Historical Society
Box 634
Red Oak, Iowa 51566

1996

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Cover picture - Sciola Baptist Church; about 1885

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INTRODUCTION

In March of 1989, the Montgomery County Historical society decided to undertake a study to identify and report on rural churches. The first problem was to define a rural church. After a certain amount of discussion, we decided that Grant is urban, but that any smaller community is rural. Therefore, Morton Mills, Sciola, Tenville, Wales, Stennett, Hawthorne and Coburg are included in our work.

It was assumed that the project would be a big job, but that estimate fell short of reality. We were astounded, not only by the number of such organizations, but by their diversity. The list includes Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, German Methodist, Free Methodist and Calvinistic Methodist. There have been Presbyterian USA, United Presbyterian and Cumberland Presbyterian. We have had two branches of United Brethren, Disciples of Christ, Congregational, Swedish Evangelical Mission, Evangelical Association of North America, Advent Christian, Swedish Lutheran, Church of God, Dunkards, Winebrenarians, several varieties of Baptist, and a few union or community churches.

There were a few churches started before the first school house in the area was built; services were held in homes. As fast as the schools could be erected, religious organizations moved into them, either existing churches or new groups. The demand for preachers greatly exceeded the supply, and some congregations just had Sunday Schools, which they ran themselves. Some groups developed leaders within their own ranks, and survived for years with lay ministers. Others settled for preaching services once every month or so. It was quite common for ministers to have six or seven appointments, and even the town pastors usually had two or three country congregations.

Eventually the supply of pastors increased, and by 1900, many country churches enjoyed preaching services every week. A minister might have three appointments on Sunday: morning, afternoon and evening. Sometimes the distance between the churches was so great that it was amazing that he made it on time, since horse-power was the only means of transportation.

Around seventy rural churches have been identified; there may have been a few more than that. There were at least twenty-nine church buildings. Some congregations had more than one building, and some of those structures housed more than one church. The Historical Society has collected pictures of about twenty country church buildings; we probably won't find the others.

Ralph Spencer, a Red Oak historian, kept what he called his "little black book"; in it he wrote:

From a Council Bluffs paper; 15 January, 1855: The first sermon was preached in Montgomery county on Sunday last by a Methodist Circuit Rider...

Tradition says that the preacher was James F. Rand, from Adams County, and that the service took place near where Grant is now. From that beginning came the Grant Methodist church, organized early in 1856; it has the longest continuous history of any church in the county. Grant was not included in this study as it is "urban", but it was certainly rural when it was formed.

1856 was a notable year for Montgomery County churches. In the spring or early summer W.C. Means began preaching in the Ross Grove settlement, southeast of where Villisca is now. That congregation became the Bethlehem Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

It is said that the Red Oak Grove Baptist Church was founded 31 August 1856. That little group was the predecessor of the First Baptist Church of Red Oak, but later accounts suggest that the present society was organized in 1859.

An early account reported that Elder Hunt, a Methodist Protestant minister, preached in the home of Stephen Glandon, in West Township, in 1854, but no confirmation has been found. According to the *History of Montgomery County; 1881*, (Iowa Historical & Biographical Co.), the Walnut Creek Methodist Protestant Church was established in 1856.

Most of the rural churches met in schoolhouses at first. The earliest schools were of logs, and were heated by fireplaces. The seating was rough, and likely full of splinters. When frame schoolhouses were built, they were considered a great improvement, but they probably weren't much more comfortable.

Baptismal arrangements were as primitive as the buildings. The nearest river was used, without regard for the time of year. Pneumonia didn't seem to be any more prevalent among the newly baptised than in the general public.

In June, 1871, there were only four church buildings in the county: Methodist and Baptist in both Red Oak and Villisca. At that time the first rural church building was started: the Sciola Baptist church. That structure still stands, the oldest church building in the county. The congregation never had enough money to make many changes, so it remains much the way it was built. All of the early churches looked alike. They were very plain, boxlike structures, and had two front doors, one for men and one for women. The separation of sexes continued inside the church.

Not everyone approved of that practice. From the *Villisca Review*, 23 October 1890; Dunnville:

And now folks, let us say right here when you go to church...don't give an al-a-man-left swing at the door and send your lady to the haw side of the church while you go over to the right. Don't do it. Take your lolly to either side (it don't matter which) of the house and remain with her. If you will all follow directions a great change in order will be noticeable on first trial. Try it!

The writer was ahead of his time. It was after 1900, probably closer to 1910, before men and women began to sit together in church.

The Sciola church had home-made furnishings and may have been typical of its time. The original furniture is still in use. The pews are made from the same pattern, but vary slightly in size and widely in quality of workmanship. There is also much variety in the kinds of wood used. This may indicate that each family provided seating for its own members. The pulpit is also hand-made, but of excellent craftsmanship.

For a few of these churches, a history has been written. But for most of them there was very little to go on, and for some, there was nothing; no one had known they ever existed. Every denomination has an archives or library, where records are kept. If we could visit those places, we probably could learn more. But they seem to want money for any research they do and there was no budget for this project, so very little has been learned from official sources. The Free Methodists and Advent Christians didn't charge for this service.

From the earliest days of the county until 1900 or later, the church played a larger role in the lives of most people than it does today. It was the center of their social lives as well as of spiritual concerns. The two were combined in one particular practice that seemed to be common to all the early churches: the Christmas Tree. That is what the event was called. It wasn't a program or service, or even a festival. It was a Christmas Tree. Each family took gifts for its members and they were placed on the tree. Sometimes arrangements were made to provide presents for children who would receive nothing otherwise. Apparently it was not customary to have gifts at home.

If you read early accounts of the churches, you will find that they had many festivals. A festival wasn't a celebration; it was a fund raiser. Whatever event was scheduled, it was to make money.

At the present time, there are eight rural churches still meeting in the county. That doesn't seem like very many, compared to the number that have been organized, but it is really remarkable that so many have survived.

Morton Mills Community: In Douglas Township. In February, 1989, they celebrated their 75th anniversary. The church was built after fire destroyed the church a mile west of Morton Mills. The congregation was originally Disciples of Christ, but is now a Community church.

Wallin: In Frankfort Township. The Tabor Swedish Lutheran Church was organized in 1894. A building was erected in 1896, but it burned, and the present church was built in 1899.

Pilot Grove Methodist: In Pilot Grove Township. The Pilot Grove church had its beginning before 1860, with a class of five members. The present building was erected in 1887. It has been extensively remodeled. A cemetery adjoins the church.

Stratton Methodist: In Sherman Township. An early account says the Stratton Church was established in 1872 by Rev. J.M. Holmes. A Sunday School was organized in the Kneedy school in April 1876. A church was built in 1890, but it burned, and the present structure was erected in 1913.

Center Ridge Presbyterian: In Lincoln Township. Center Ridge church was organized 1 June 1882 as a United Presbyterian church. A building was erected immediately. It is still in use, but has undergone a number of improvements. The church is now Presbyterian USA. There is a cemetery in connection with the church.

Wales Presbyterian: In Lincoln Township. This church was organized in 1874 as a Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church. A building was erected in 1876, and enlarged in 1886. The present church was built in 1900. The neighbors always referred to this church as Presbyterian, but the congregation hotly denied it, and it wasn't until 1921 that they finally admitted that they had been Presbyterians all along, and joined the Corning Presbytery.

Hawthorne Methodist: In Garfield Township. This church was organized in January 1865, in Carr's schoolhouse in West Township. They met in the Hawthorne country school for many years, then built a church in Hawthorne in 1889. They held a centennial celebration in 1989.

Climax Methodist: In West Township. An ME church was organized at West Linn #4 schoolhouse in 1871. Some of the members were from the Carr's schoolhouse group. By the early '80s, a congregation was meeting at Fairview school, just south of Climax. The local Methodists organized as the Methodist Episcopal Church at Climax, and in 1890 bought the Methodist Protestant church at Climax, for \$800. The present church was built in 1923.

There is another country church building still standing: Sciola. No regular services are held there, but it is used for community events, such as open houses, reunions, Christmas programs and so on. There have been six weddings in the church since it was restored. In 1983 the Sciola Church was named to the National Register of Historic Places.

23 September 1983; *Red Oak Express*: ...The Sciola edifice appears on the National Register to remind present and future generations of the unique importance the country church played in the lives of the pioneers of Montgomery County...

That seems to adequately state our purpose in conducting this study of our rural churches.

RURAL CHURCHES OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

DOUGLAS TOWNSHIP

Disciples of Christ

Zacariah Lawrence, an officer in the War of 1812 and an elder in the Christian church, settled in Adams County in 1855. On 24 October 1858 he conducted a wedding at Milford. (6 November 1908; *Express*; Elliott) He was probably the one who established a Christian church in Douglas Township at an early date.

The church was still active in 1875, according to the *Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa; 1875*; (A.T. Andreas; published by Chas. Shorer & Co., Chicago; page 419) but no meeting place was given. Services were probably held in the original Number 5 schoolhouse.

The congregation must have disbanded at some point, but there were still a number of "disciples" in the area in the 1890s. In April 1896 a Christian church was organized following a revival meeting at Number 5. That group became the Memorial Church of Christ.

Memorial Church of Christ

1875 *Atlas of Iowa*; page 419: ...There is also another organization of this (Christian) church, in Douglas Township.

19 October, 1888; *Sun*; Morton's Mills: Rev. Walters has been holding meetings at the Bean school house for the past week. He was trying to organize a church there of the Christian denomination.

16 April, 1896; *Review*; Sciola: Rev. Hester was soliciting last week in this vicinity for funds to build a Christian church on the site where the old Bean school house stood.

18 May 1896; Incorporation records, Montgomery county; 17:396: First Church of Christ, Morton Mills.

12 June, 1896; *Review*; The new church at Douglas cemetery is to be called "The Memorial Church of Christ" in memory of the friends of those interested in the building and those buried there.

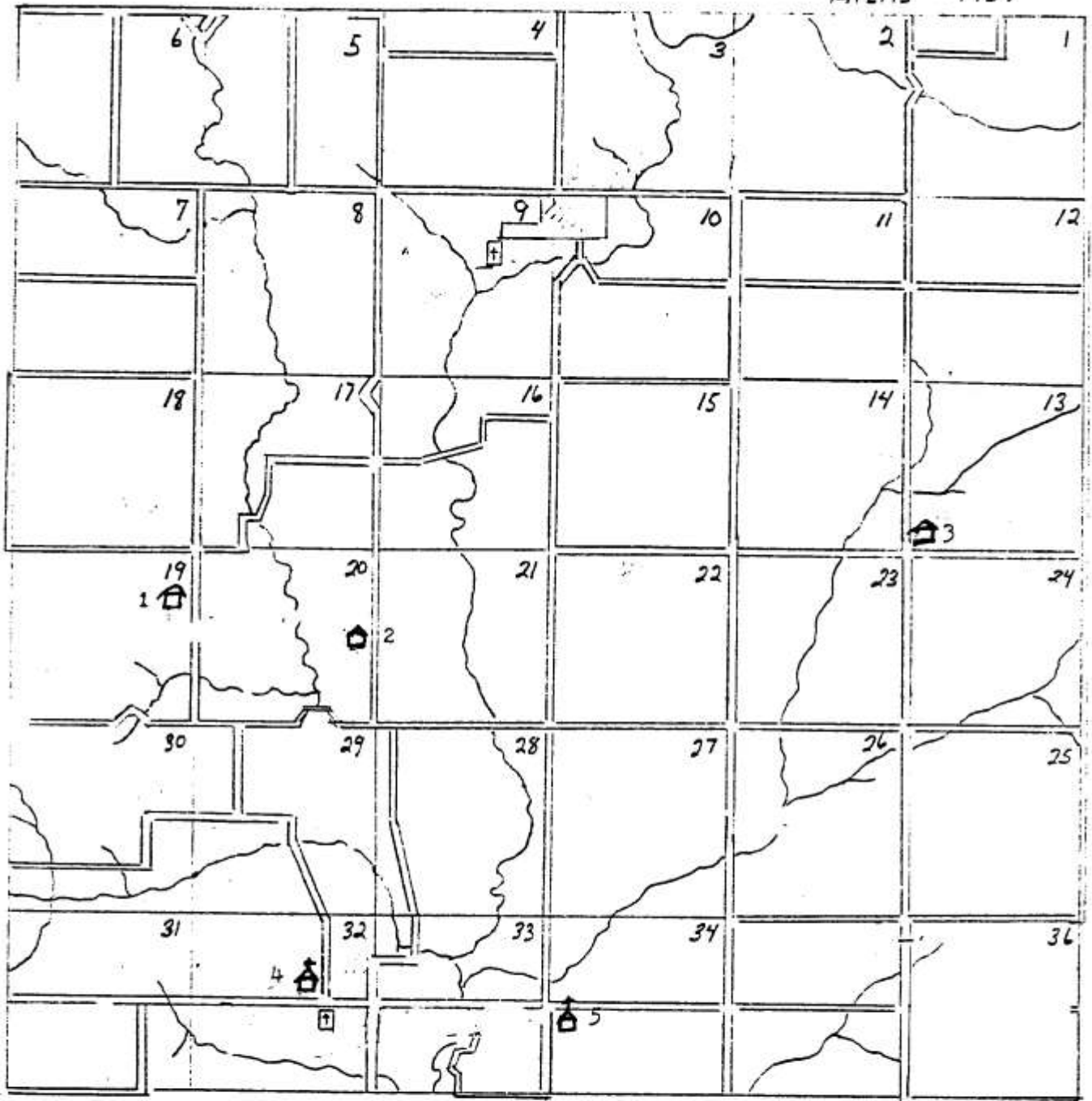
16 July, 1896; *Review*: DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Dedicate a New Church Building at Mortons Mills

About the last of March, Rev. J.K. Hester, pastor of the Christian Church of Villisca, went out to hold a short meeting in the Allard school house. The meeting lasted about ten days, and during that meeting there were some conversions, with whom, and those disciples already living in the community, about 30 in all, organized a church and interested Uncle Jack

DOUGLAS

ATLAS 1907



Douglas

1. M.E. (# 4, Oak Vale, Patterson; sec. 19)
2. Free Methodist (# 5, Red, Chard; sec. 20)
3. Pleasant Valley United Brethren; (# 6, Houser; sec. 13)
4. Memorial Church of Christ; sec. 32.
5. Morton Mills Union; Sec 34.

Petty and his family members of the church at Elliott and others, in building a church house at Douglas cemetery on the ground where the Bean school house stood...The building was dedicated last Lord's Day, July 12.

...The services began on Saturday evening with a sermon from Sec. Haggard. Early Lord's Day morning teams, footmen and horseback riders began to throng the roads, until more than 250 teams were counted. The crowd being estimated as numbering from one thousand to fifteen hundred. Sec. Haggard preached again at eleven a.m. to those who entered the house, and could stand near enough to hear. The crowd then retired to the Kimmel woods by the old mill and ate their dinner and returned to church again at 3:30 p.m. H.U. Dale, pastor of the Christian Church, preached to a very large audience. Sec. Haggard preached at the evening service and dedicated the building, having raised in the three meetings sufficient to clear the building of debt. It is a neat structure, 30x40, corner entrance, with south and east artistically arranged gables, capable of seating about 200. Everybody praises the design, workmanship and artistic beauty of the building...

- 21 October 1911; *The Christian Standard* (official publication of Disciples of Christ Church): ...We closed a big tabernacle meeting in the country, fourteen miles north of Villisca, Iowa, last Sunday. The visible results of this meeting were forty additions, thirty-five of these by baptism, one from the Baptists, and four by statement. This country church is very weak as far as numbers and finances are concerned, but they are full of faith and are willing to undertake great things in the service of the Lord. They had enough faith in the meeting that they built a tabernacle, seating 600 people, and planted it half-way between the country church and the town of Grant, four miles to the north ...

(Note: There was a branch church at Grant, and that congregation helped with the revival meeting.)

- 20 March 1913; *Review*: Church Burned

The Memorial Christian Church one and one half miles west of Morton Mills was burned to the ground early Monday morning of this week. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is thought to have caught afire from the stove. There were services held in the church Sunday both morning and evening. The fire was made in the stove in the morning and coal put on to keep fire until evening when the coal was stirred up but no fresh coal was added. It is thought that the stove was well shut up when left. The fire was noticed by Mr. Scott Wilson, in whose home Rev. O.W. Winter, pastor of the church, was spending the night, about 6 o'clock in the morning. Soon after he arose he noticed light in the vicinity of the church and called his wife's attention to same. They decided the fire was in the church and called Rev. Winter. They went to the church as fast as possible, but found upon their arrival that the interior of the building was all ablaze and impossible to enter, and nothing was saved. The church was built several years ago at a cost of \$1,300, and was insured for \$1,000...The question of rebuilding is still open.

Morton Mills Christian Church

12 February, 1914; *Review*: Church Dedicated at Morton Mills

Never before has Morton Mills seen such a great day in its history as last Sunday, February 8, 1914. The occasion was the dedication of the splendid new Christian Church. The event has been in the minds of the people of the community for months, and a large delegation of visitors was present from all parts of the county. Special train service was provided by Atlantic Southern railroad...The day was an ideal winter day and the people packed the building to its fullest capacity, many chairs having to be placed in the aisles.

During the morning services \$1,685 was given in offering to pay for the Church. More money was given at both afternoon and evening services, making a grand total for the day of \$1,884.98; the Church is now free from all debt. The total cost of the building was \$3,500 and it is one of the finest country churches in Iowa. Its dimensions are 32 x 46 feet, complete with belfry, furnace heat, gasoline lights, seats, carpet, pulpit, baptistry and other necessary conveniences for church worship. The windows are of stained glass, and the building, both on the outside and in, presents a very attractive and cozy appearance. The congregation numbers eighty. A rich toned bell was installed in the belfry...Reverend Henry M. Baker, of Des Moines, who has had ten years experience in the ministry, is pastor of the new church. Reverend George Snively of Illinois helped with the dedication.

The Board of the church consists of Scott Wilson, Sam McCullough, Alfred Havens, Olie Doggett, O.P. Cart, Fred Jarboe, Jim Focht, Jasper Langdon, and Herb Bashaw.

During the late 1930s and the '40s, the attendance at the church included as many of other denominations as of the Christian faith. So, the church dropped its Disciples of Christ affiliation and became a non-denominational group. (Morton Mills Union Church, incorporated 4 April, 1951; Book 38:491.)

9 February, 1989; *Review*: 75th Anniversary Program - February 5, 1989, was a day that will remain in the minds and hearts of the Morton Mills Church congregation and visitors for years to come. Many weathered the sub-zero temperature to come to the church's 75th anniversary. The church bell rang at 10 a.m. to call the worshipers together...The choir sang "The Old Country Church"...Donna Chapman read a brief history of the Christian Church that was located at the northwest corner opposite the Morton Mills cemetery. It had burned down...

The history of the present church was read...The Morton Mills Ladies Aid served the noon meal...

The afternoon program...was closed with the congregation singing "Till We Meet Again". Everyone went to the basement and was served punch and cake...Pictures and news items were enjoyed...

Pleasant Valley United Brethren
(# 6, Houser School House)

- 28 March, 1885; Article of Incorporation; Bk. 8:504: ...the United Brethren Church in Christ of Milford Mission, West Des Moines Conference, said Mission including parts of Montgomery, Adams and Cass Counties...We, O.J. Elston, W.H. Case, W. Halbert, John Tighe and John Norcross, Trustees...
- 19 December 1885; *Sun*; Morton's Mill: The Christmas tree at the Houser school house was quite a success.
- 19 March 1886; *Sun*; Morton's Mill: There was a donation festival at Mr. Case's Friday night, March 5, given by the members of the UB church for the pastor, Rev. Graham. There was \$25 cleared, which speaks well for so small a place.
- 27 December 1887; *Express*; Milford: Elder M.M. Potter of the U.B. Church will occupy the house where John Gilbert now lives, the trustees having purchased it for a parsonage.

A controversy arose over the question of admittance to membership of members of secret societies. A division in the denomination occurred in the General Conference of 1889 which resulted in the existence of two United Brethren fellowships. The majority of the members and most of the property went to the new group. The followers of the old Constitution had to start over again.

- 5 April 1890, Articles of Incorporation; Book 12:380: United Brethren in Christ Church of Milford Circuit, etc...D.H. Gray, J.C. Barker, Charles Scott, J.M. Roberts and J.P. Latimer, Trustees ...

This effort was not successful. In 1890, J.D. Mounts was pastor, and J.W. Linthicum was appointed in 1892. No further information has been found, and probably all subsequent records refer to the followers of the new constitution. (from UB Archives, Church of the UB in Christ, Huntington, Indiana.)

- 4 January 1895; *Sun*; Houser School House: Rev. Mr. Long of Milford has been holding a series of protracted meetings here. There have been quite a number of conversions.
- 16 March 1905; *Review*; Milford: Protracted meetings are in progress at the Housier schoolhouse. An evangelist from Tabor is helping the minister, Mr. Lemons.

(Note: 1906 seems to be the last year that the Houser congregation appeared in the U.B. records.)

- 29 April 1911; Deed Bk. 28:117: Trustees of United Brethren Church of Adams and Cass Counties, Milford Mission...One Thousand Dollars...to Jacob F. Mueller...Lots Three and Four, Block 1, Donoho's Addition to the town of Milford...

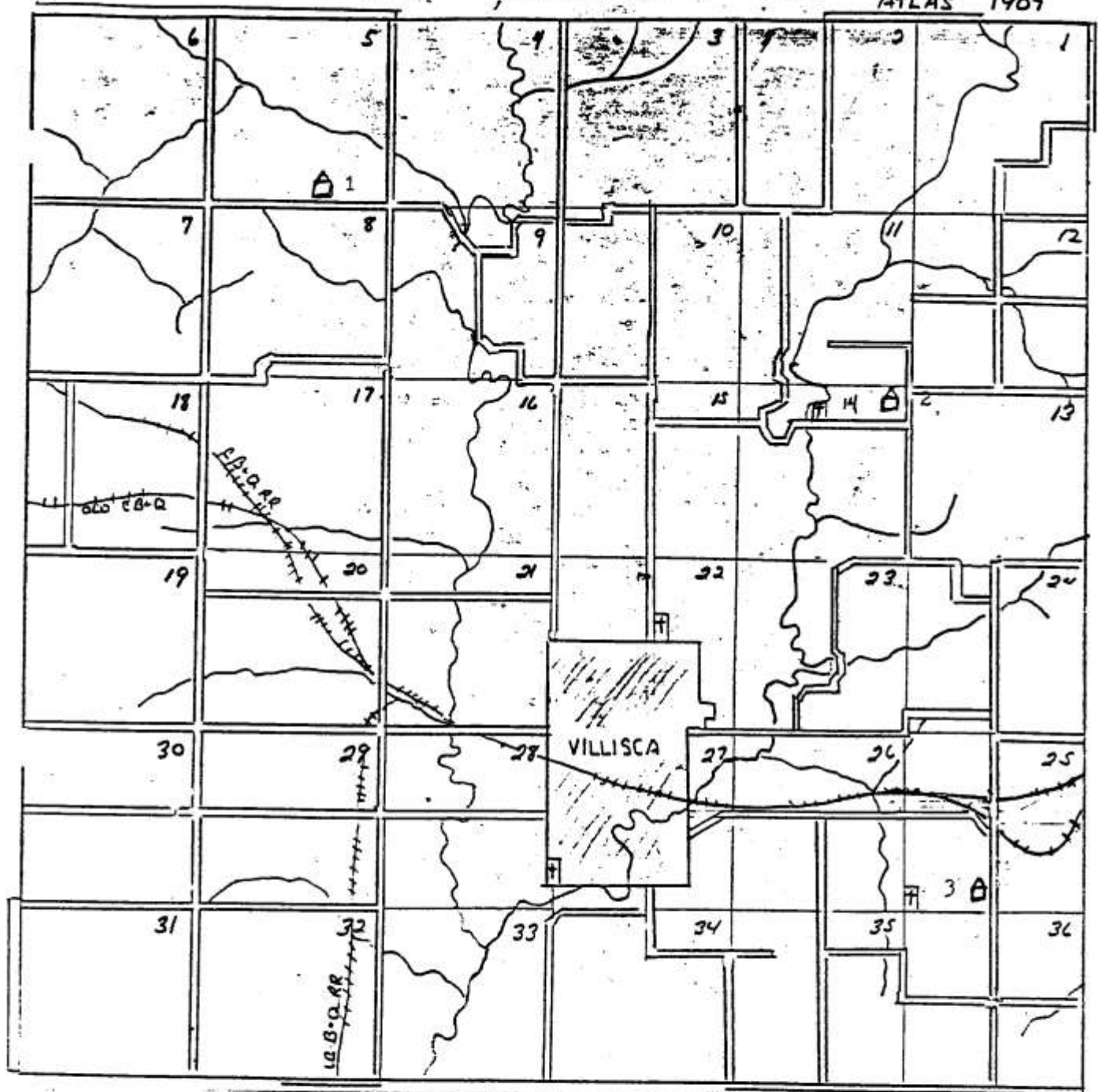
Patterson School House - ME
(#4 Oak Vale)

- 13 February 1885; *Express*; Morton's Mill: There has been a big revival at the Patterson school house, commencing some six weeks ago with six added to the church, Rev. Caldwell, minister.
- 1 January 1886; *Express*; Douglas Township: The Christmas tree and entertainment on Christmas eve at the Oak Vale school house was well attended. The tree was loaded with gifts...
- 31 October 1890; *Express*; Morton Mills: Rev. Campbell of Carbon is assisting Uncle Billy Reed with the protracted meetings being held at the Patterson school house.
- 10 July 1891; *Sun*: An immense crowd gathered to attend the basket dinner near the Patterson school house on last Sunday. Four converts were baptized by immersion, and quite a number were received into the ME church by sprinkling.
- 25 September 1891; *Sun*; Pilot Grove: Bro. Jas. Campbell of Carbon has been conducting revival meetings at the Patterson school house.
- 13 May 1897; *Review*; Patterson Ridge: The Sunday School that was organized at the Patterson school house not long ago is being very well attended, the average number being about 50 persons.

Little Red School House Free Methodist
(#5)

- 11 November 1886; *Review*; Milford: The Free Methodist meetings at the Red School house finally terminated, after a protracted effort of five weeks...
- 28 May 1886; *Express*; Douglas Township: The Free Methodists hold weekly class and prayer meetings each Sabbath at eleven o'clock at the school house in District No. 4. (Later became No. 5.)
- 4 March 1887; *Express*; Milford: The Wortendyke family have gone hence. The red school house will no doubt miss their comical antics under the guise of religious enthusiasm.

(Note: 4 April 1918: The editor of the *Grant Chief* was talking to John Damuth, an old settler. The talk turned to the early days and John said, "...Pegleg Long would send out the word- protracted meetings at Sciola- and we would all gather in, pray, sing and shout until a message came that the devil had broken loose in the neighborhood of the red school and away we would go, where we would find old Shevalley and Wortendike fighting a losing battle. We all pitched in and soon had the devil chased out...")



East

1. M.E. (# 6, Highland, Dunn, Christie; sec. 5)
2. Bethlehem Cumberland Presbyterian (# 1, Findley, Means; sec. 14)
3. Cumberland Presbyterian (Ross, Baker; sec. 25 or 26)

EAST (Jackson) TOWNSHIP

Ross Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church
(#3, Ross Grove, Baker)

1881 *History*; page 487: It is said the first school-house was built on section 26, by John Ross, in 1853; it was built of cottonwood logs, hewn on two sides, and paid for by subscription...

The first church in the township and possibly the first one in the county too, was the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, organized here in 1855 or 1856, by Rev. J.M. Stockton. The original members were, W.C. and Anna Means, Miss Joanna Means, A.R. Means and wife Lutitia, Mrs. E.M. Findley, John and Sarah A. Ross. All these original members are now deceased, except W.C. Means and his daughter Mrs. Findley. The church now has thirty members, and they have preaching every two weeks in the school-house of district No. 1. Rev. W.C. Means was pastor of this church twenty-two years; Rev. J.T. Mumford has been their pastor from 1878 till the present time.

(Note: It isn't known how long the congregation met in the Ross Grove or Baker school house, but at least by 1880, it had moved about three miles north, to the Union Valley school house, also known as the Findley or Means school. Preaching services were held from time to time in the Baker schoolhouse, but no evidence of an organized congregation has been found.)

Bethlehem Cumberland Presbyterian Church
(#1, Union Valley, Findley, Means)

- 29 April 1874; *Express*: Union Valley Sabbath School, which was held last season in the school house in sub-district No. 1, was reorganized last Sabbath, April 18th, with the usual large attendance...
- 13 December 1888; *Review*; Pick Ups: The Sabbath School at the Means school house is flourishing.
- 31 January 1889; *Review*; Pick Ups: The Rev. McClelland will commence a series of meetings at the Means school house.
- 6 September 1893; *Review*; NE Jackson: Preaching at the Findley School House Sunday at 4:00 o'clock by Rev. Uptigrove.
- 7 February 1895; *Review*: The greatest religious revival ever known in the upper Nodaway Valley has been going on for several weeks past at the Means school under the conduct of Rev. Henderson. Between 40 and 50 have converted.
- 22 August 1895; *Review*: The West Iowa Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church will meet with the Bethlehem congregation at the Means school house Thursday evening, August 29, at half past 7 o'clock and continue over Sunday.

- 19 November 1896; *Review*: There will be an "oyster supper" at the Means school house Thanksgiving eve. The proceeds to be applied toward paying the minister's salary.
- 25 February 1897; *Review*: Rev. R.A. Ferguson, state missionary of the Cumberland Presbyterian church will preach at the Means school house next Saturday evening and Sabbath morning and evening.
- 13 April 1899; *Review*: Regular services will be held at the Findley school house next Sabbath. S.S. at 10 a.m. and Church 11 o'clock.

-M.K. Hollister, Pastor.

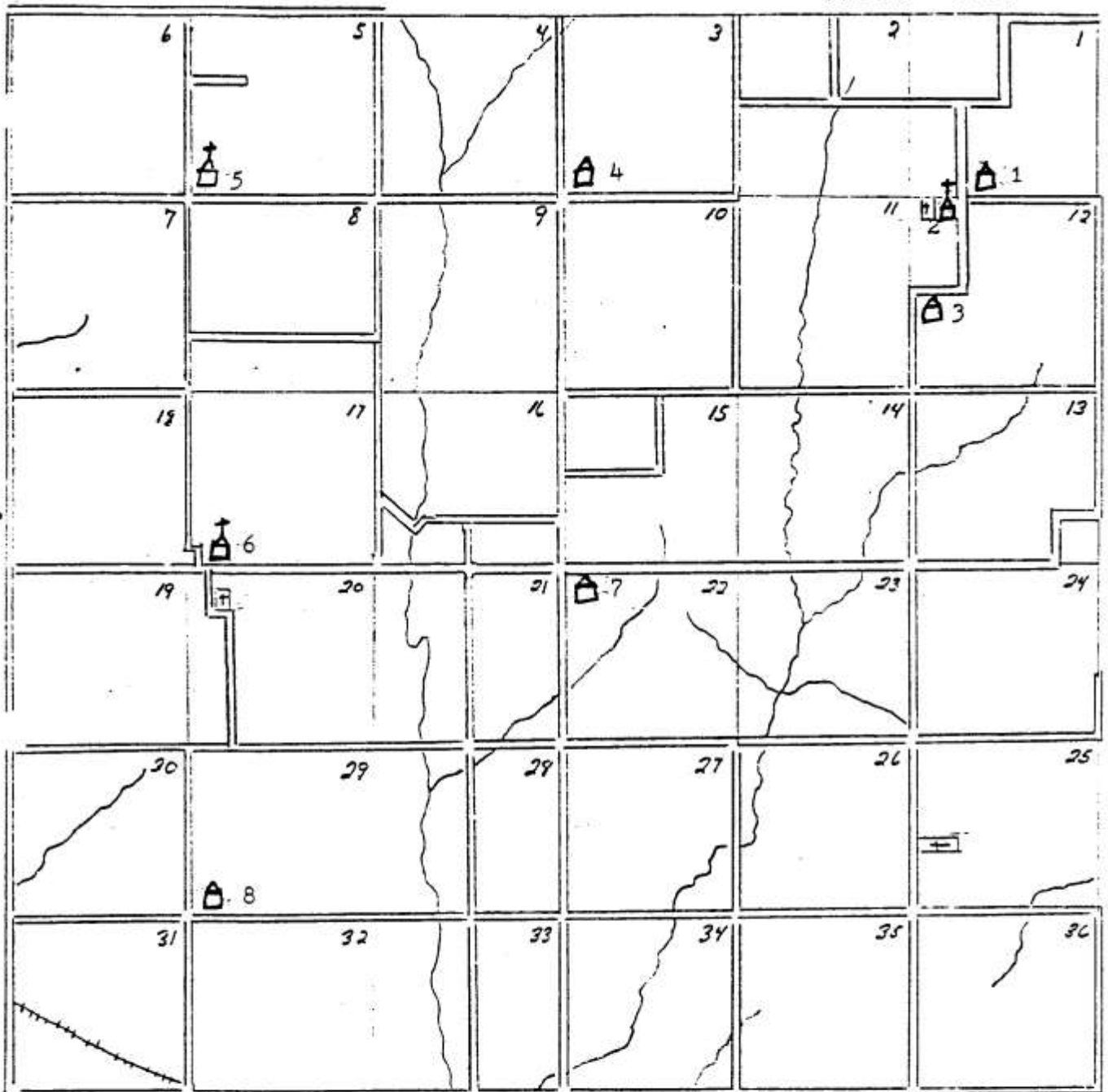
(Note: No date has been found for the closing of this church, but it was gone before 1906, when Cumberland Presbyterian churches united with the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.)

Highland School House # 6
(Dunn, Christie)

- 1865; *Minutes of the Des Moines Conference M.E.*; Vol. 1; 1860-1871; page 36: Council Bluffs District, Red Oak Circuit; Mission giving: Dunn's school house; \$34.65.
- 4 January 1877; *Review*: Rev. Hooker is conducting a revival meeting at the Dunn School House during this week.
- 15 August 1889; *Review*; Dunnville: Rev. Harvey received \$31.91 for his services here this quarter...
- 16 April 1891; *Review*; Dunnville: Our Sunday School officers are: J. Mills, Superintendent; J. Keeney, assistant Superintendent; Maggie Christie, Secretary; Lottie Keeney, Librarian; H. Enarson, Treasurer; Susan Keeney, Chorister. School will meet next Sunday at 10 a.m. There will be preaching...by Rev. Vorhees, our regular minister.
- 11 February 1892; *Review*; Dunn District: Sunday School, number enrolled, 30; average collection, 23 cents...
- 2 June 1892; *Review*: The Third Quarterly Meeting of the ME church on Stanton charge will be held at Highland school house on the Saturday of June 12. Rev. Dr. Smith, presiding elder, will preach on Sabbath at 7:30 p.m. and on Monday at 9:30 a.m. Communion services on Saturday evening after preaching. The pastor will preach on Saturday at 8 p.m. and on Sabbath at 11 a.m...
- 26 February 1904; *Review*; Tenville: The M.E. ladies of the Highland church organized an Aid society last week...
- (Note: This congregation became the nucleus of the Arlington M.E. church.)

FRANKFORT

ATLAS 1907



Frankfort

1. Evangelical Society; (#1, Robinson; sec. 1)
2. Tabor Swedish Lutheran; sec. 12.
3. Winebrenarians; (Oakes?; sec. 12.)
4. Church of God (# 2, Sample, Urn; sec. 3)
5. Pleasant Lawn U.P.; sec. 5
6. Frankfort M.E.; sec. 17.
7. Evangelical Society; (# 5, Center, Buss; sec. 22)
8. Evangelical Society; (#9, Cedar Grove, Cram; sec. 29)

FRANKFORT TOWNSHIP

German Baptists

- 14 February 1878; *Express*; Frankfort: A protracted meeting of the Dunkards or German Baptists, at school house No. 1, closed last Sunday with the baptism and reception of six persons...
- 25 September 1879; *Express*; Frankfort: The Dunkard community departed from this township a few days ago. I believe they intend going to the extreme western counties of Kansas.

Church of God

- 14 February 1878; *Express*; Frankfort: A revival meeting under the ministry of Rev. Kimball, of the sect known as Winebrenarians or Church of God, at the school house in Dist. No. 2, closed a week ago last Sunday, with the baptism of six persons; fourteen others professed conversion, but did not all attach themselves to that society.
- 1881 *History*; page 479: Frankfort Township; Church of God, organized in February, 1877. The original members were Mary Butterfield, Daniel Emert, Sadie Emert, George Johnson and wife, Miss Ellen Roberts, Adam Bohn, George Bohn, William Bohn, Katie Bohn, Ida Bohn, Ira Bohn, Samuel Davenport, Anna Davenport. The pastor or minister is George T. Kimmel. The present membership is fourteen. They hold meetings in a school-house.

Pleasant Lawn United Presbyterian

- From *The History of the Pleasant Lawn United Presbyterian Church of Red Oak*, by Mrs. Wilbur Andrews. (Excerpts from session minutes):
- 18 May 1884: Rev. W. R. Cox commenced preaching to Pleasant Lawn Mission. Services were held in #3 school house.
 - 30 January 1885: The Red Oak session organized the Pleasant Lawn United Presbyterian church, with 19 members.
 - 2 February 1885: Six new members were added to the roll, and the first elders were elected: James D. Baird, George A. Carmichael, and Ellis Cleaver.
 - 29 October 1889: The congregation met today to take up the subject of building a church. Charles M. Andrews gave one acre of land in the southwest corner of section 5.
 - 28 March 1890: The committee appointed...recommend that there be a church built 28 feet by 46 feet with recess pulpit and an 8 by 8 vestibule

- with 16 foot posts with recessed floor, that the first 20 feet have an incline of 20 inches...
- 30 August 1890: First services held in new church, Sabbath school at 2 p.m. and preaching at 3 p.m.
- 12 October 1890: The church was dedicated today by Rev. W.E. Williamson of Keokuk, who delivered a masterly discourse...The house was packed beyond comfort being over three hundred in it...The most sorrowful part of all being our beloved pastor, Rev. J.A. Wiley, who had labored so faithfully amongst us, had not recovered sufficiently to be present...
- April 1925: At the spring meeting of College Springs Presbytery it was decided to give up the work at Pleasant Lawn...
- 4 October 1925: The church became a mission of the First Presbyterian Church (USA) of Red Oak, and E.F. Hammond commenced to preach at Pleasant Lawn 1 May, 1925.
- June 1961: After 38 years, the Red Oak session voted to discontinue services at Pleasant Lawn.
- August 1963: A committee was appointed to dispose of the property of the Pleasant Lawn Mission. In November, the building was sold, and was razed. A Memorial Cross was purchased for the Presbyterian church of Red Oak.

Frankfort Methodist Episcopal

- A History of Montgomery County, Iowa*; 1906; (by W.W. Merritt; Express Publishing Co.;;) page 50: ...The (Frankfort) school house was built in 1859 and was depended upon for all public gatherings including church services...
- From *Minutes of Western Iowa and Des Moines M.E. Conferences*; Vol. 1; 1860-71: 1861; Western Iowa Conference; Council Bluffs district; page 5: Frankfort; minister, J. S. Rand.
page 10: Missions; Frankfort, \$50.00.

From 1861 through 1864 the Montgomery County M.E. churches were called the Frankfort circuit. The minutes of a quarterly conference held at Milford in 1863 list the appointments in the circuit; Frankfort was included, but showed no collections, perhaps indicating that the church was inactive. (21 July 1893, *Sun*) In 1865 the local churches were the Red Oak circuit of the Des Moines Conference. In that year, the minutes of the conference name the constituent congregations of the Montgomery County circuit for the first time; Frankfort was not included.

- 16 July 1884; Red Oak *Telephone*: There will be preaching at Frankfort school house next Sunday at 3 p.m. by Rev. B. Applebee.
- 15 November 1889; *Sun*; Frankfort: A protracted meeting has been in progress at the Frankfort school, conducted by Rev. Harvey of the Stanton circuit.
- 3 January 1890; *Sun*; Frankfort: There was a grand time at Frankfort school house Christmas Eve. A large Christmas tree was well loaded with presents, some of them handsome and costly.

- 18 April 1890; *Sun*: Rev. Mr. Harvey of the Stanton ME circuit was in Red Oak yesterday canvassing for subscriptions to a fund for building an ME church at Frankfort this summer.
- 3 October 1890; *Red Oak Independent*: The new Frankfort church...will be 26x36...a vestibule tower in front 10x10 and a pulpit projection 8x10...
- 2 January 1891; *Sun*: The Frankfort M.E. church was dedicated last Sunday, Rev. W.T. Smith, from Corning, the presiding elder of the district, preaching the dedicatory sermon. There was a large audience present. The outstanding debt of \$240 was wiped out and some \$40 or \$50 over was contributed, a very gratifying result to the members.
- 27 June 1902; *Sun*; Frankfort: The Frankfort congregation is going to build a new church as soon as the necessary funds can be raised. The lumber of the old one can be used in a new building. The congregation has always been hampered with lack of room.
- 4 December 1903; *Sun*: The new Frankfort M.E. church was dedicated last Sunday by Presiding Elder W.G. Hohanshelt in the presence of a large congregation...The building was presented by the trustees, A. Trabert, G.M. Hull, S.W. Altaffer, Henry Kassell, J.W. Donahue, E. Nevius and E. Tompkins, for dedication...Contributions amounted to \$560...
The main audience room is 29 by 40 feet, and there is in addition an Epworth League room 12 by 22 feet, opening into the main audience room...the seating capacity of the church is about 300...The Frankfort M.E. church society has 70 members...
(Note: The closing date of the church was not found. It was probably between 1925 and 1928.)

Tabor Swedish Lutheran- Wallin

- 9 January 1879; *Express*; Frankfort: The Swedish Sabbath school Association meets at the Oakes school house.
--- ...on the evening of the 25th inst., at the Oak school house...a sociable and Christmas tree for the little ones were given under the auspices of the Swedish Sabbath School Association. The room-24x30-was filled to its utmost capacity...Two V-shaped chandeliers were set with candles from base to apex; fifty-six candles and four lamps were lighted...Exercises opened with singing and prayer...followed by a sermon by Rev. Holland, of Stanton...The distribution of presents continued for almost an hour...
- 22 June 1888; *Express*; Wolf Ridge: Pleasant Prairie Sabbath School held at the Robinson school house will observe Children's Day...
- 15 February 1889; *Independent*; Stanton: ...the branch Sunday Schools (of the Lutheran church) in the country have an enrollment of about 100.
- 9 November 1894; *Sun*; Frankfort: Edw. Magnuson has given five acres for the Swedish Lutheran Church that it is proposed to build in this neighborhood.
- 29 December 1894; *Incorporation*; Misc. Bk. 15:532: Tabor Swedish Lutheran Church...
- 17 May 1895; *Sun*; North Frankfort: A student from Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, will preach for the Tabor Swedish Lutheran congregation in this township the coming summer.

- 28 June 1895; *Sun*: The Swedish Sunday School gave an ice cream social at the Robinson school house on Tuesday evening...a good sum of money was taken in, the proceeds to go towards purchasing an organ for the church to be built this fall.
- 8 May 1896; *Sun*; Biddick: Rev. Mr. Noren of Stanton preaches at the Robinson school house every Tuesday evening.
- 15 May 1896; *Sun*; Biddick: Mr. Sandell, a student of Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, will teach and preach for the Tabor Swedish Lutheran congregation, southeast of here, this summer.

From a history of the Tabor Lutheran Church: The church was organized on 4 December 1894, in the Robertson school house. The organizational meeting was conducted by Pastors G.A. Swanberg and J.E. Rydbeck. There were 25 communicant members and 20 children.

In 1896, a church edifice was erected on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Magnuson. On 27 July, 1898, the building was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. The congregation immediately rebuilt, and the church was dedicated in 1899. This structure is still in use. In 1907, the Robertson schoolhouse was purchased, and placed at the west end of the church, to be used for social gatherings. In 1937, a new, larger parish hall was built to replace the schoolhouse. Other improvements to the original building include a basement, bell, electric lights, marble baptismal fount, a Hammond electric organ, and a beautiful altar painting. In 1964, the old clear windows were replaced with leaded stained glass.

A parsonage was built in 1899; it was enlarged and remodeled in 1910. In 1950, the house was replaced with a new modern parsonage. Under the supervision of building contractor Richard Anderson, most of the work was done by members of the congregation, including digging the basement, laying the concrete block basement walls, framing the house, finishing the floors and woodwork, and so on.

There is a small cemetery behind the church, but it is no longer used.

Evangelical Society of North America at Cedar Grove
(#9, Cram)

- 2 August 1890; *Sun*: The second quarterly meeting of the Evangelical Church will be held in Shields grove in Frankfort Township next Sunday morning... Preliminary preaching at the Cram school house.
- 2 January 1891; *Express*; Frankfort: Our Christmas tree at the Cram School-house was a perfect success. The program for the evening was just splendid, after which Santa and Mrs. Santa arrived with many beautiful presents for all. Everything passed off splendidly until Santa caught his foot in one of the supports of the tree, tipping it over onto Mrs. Santa and scaring the poor creature into fits. The tree was soon hoisted and it was found she had only "holler'd" before she was hurt.
- 2 May 1892; *Sun*; Cedar Grove: A Sunday School was organized at the school house last Sunday p.m.
- 24 February 1893; *Sun*; Cedar Grove: There will be no more preaching at the school house by the Evangelical church society.

Evangelical Society of North America At Robinson School House
(#1, Heilman, Monk)

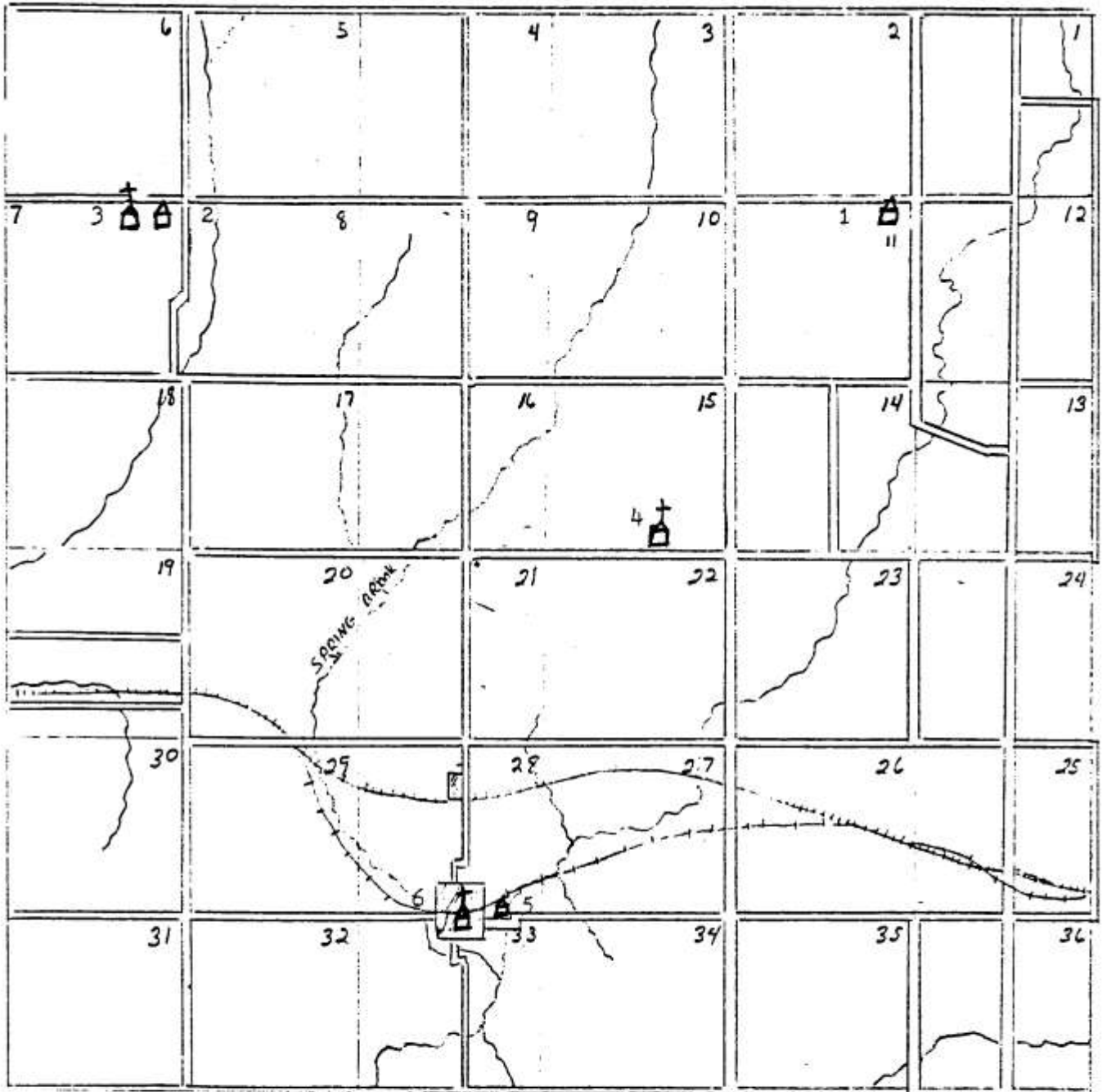
- 2 April 1886; *Sun*; Frankfort: A church festival was held on Friday evening of last week at the Robinson school house to raise funds for the church.
- 16 September 1887; *Sun*; Hart School House: Quarterly meeting was held by the Evangelical Society at Robinson school house last Saturday and Sunday; Rev. Yager, the presiding elder, preached.
- 31 May 1889; *Sun*; Monk's Grove: Rev. Urbino preaches at the Robinson school house next Sunday eve at early lamp light.
- 27 October 1893; *Sun*: The third quarterly meeting of the Red Oak Circuit Evangelical Church will be held at the Heilman appointment November 4th and 5th.
- 2 March 1894; *Sun*: Rev. J. Wirth hands in a notice that there will be preaching at the Robinson school house, Frankfort Township, on Wednesday evening of next week at 7:30 and that meetings will continue over Sunday.
- 11 May 1894; *Sun*: The first quarterly meeting of the Red Oak circuit will be held May 11, 12 and 13, at the Robinson school house, Frankfort Township.
(Note: This is the last item found of an Evangelical church meeting at the Robinson school. Apparently it moved to the Center school house, perhaps because of the Lutheran church organized at Robinson.)

Evangelical Society of North America at Center School
(#5, Buss)

- 21 September 1894; *Sun*; Center School House: Our meeting has been changed from the afternoon to evening. Preaching again one week from next Sunday.
- 1 February 1895; *Sun*; Frankfort: Protracted meetings have begun at the Buss school house, by Rev. Wirth.
- 28 June 1895; *Sun*: Quarterly meeting for the Buss school house appointment of the Evangelical Church will be held on Sunday, July 14...The meetings will be held in a tabernacle tent.
- 15 February 1896; Articles of Incorporation; Misc. Bk. 17:136: ...The name of this incorporation shall be Red Oak Charge of the Evangelical Association of North America...
The following named persons shall constitute the Board of Trustees...for the first year...viz: Rufus Barr, George Peck, and Jacob Heilman.
- 30 April 1897; *Sun*; Buss School House: Rev. Plumer, the new Evangelical minister preached at the Buss school house last Sunday.

GARFIELD

ATLAS 1907



Garfield

1. M.E.; (# 1, Excelsior; sec. 11)
2. Indian Creek M.E.; (# 3, Indian Creek; sec. 7)
3. Indian Careek U.P.; sec. 7.
4. Free Methodist; sec. 15.
5. Congregational; (# 8, Hawthorne; sec. 23)
6. Hawthorne M.E.; sec. 23.

GARFIELD (Walnut) TOWNSHIP

Hawthorne Methodist Episcopal Church

- 1881 History; West Township; page 547:* The Methodist Episcopal church (at Carr's school house) was organized about January, 1865. The original members were W.G. Ewing and wife, Perry Carr and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Parish, Mrs. J. Culver, Charles Hascall and wife, Mrs. G. Figgins, Mr. Cunningham and wife. This society has held its church services in different school houses, and its pastors have been: Revs. Hughes, W F. Laidley, A.J. Andres, and Mr. St. Clair, at Carr's schoolhouse...
- Hawthorne Church Quasiquicentennial; 1865 - 1990:* Carr's Schoolhouse which was then south on the Hawthorne road beyond Carr's Point to the first "T" intersection in the field on the east side of the road in what is now the Wookey field...When Carr's Schoolhouse was moved in about 1870 to a new location a mile and a half west, some of the members started holding services at the schoolhouse located east of Hawthorne on the north side of the road near Walnut Creek. It was known as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Walnut Township...
- (Note: The county map in the 1875 *Andreas Atlas* shows the Carr school house still in place, and there is also one a mile and a half west of Carr's Point.)
- 30 July 1879; *Telephone:* From obituary of Rev. Edwin Runnels: ...One of his first sermons in Iowa was on the dedication of the Hawthorn schoolhouse to Divine worship, in 1870; text, Hebrews 1:1.
- 26 April 1877; *Express:* A Sabbath school has been organized at Hawthorne with Rev. Edward Runnell as superintendent.
- 8 April 1880; *Review; Hawthorne:* ...The ME church society have services at the school house every other Sabbath by the excellent pastor, Rev. Wm. Reed...
- 25 October 1889; *Sun; Hawthorne, Oct. 20 -* The dedication of the new church here occurred to-day...One year ago Rev. L.D. Bartley commenced laboring here, and soon organized a church society. The success of this church building enterprise is the result of the united effort of this community, irrespective of creed, and they have done this thing because they saw that it could be most effectually done under the auspices of the M.E. church. The building is 30 by 45 feet, with tower and bell, is well finished and furnished complete, including a good organ. The cost of the building is about \$2000. There was about \$758 raised to-day, giving \$100 of a surplus. Rev. Mr. Todd is the minister in charge...Rev. W.T. Smith, presiding elder of the Council Bluffs district, conducted the dedication services, and preached a magnificent sermon...
- 20 June 1890; *Sun; Hawthorne:* The Ladies Aid society have decided to give a lawn social at the Hawthorne school house.
- Excerpts from a history of Hawthorne Church, 27 November, 1964:
A camp meeting was held in a pasture south of Walnut Creek bridge, on the east side of the road, where the spring used to be. People came from a distance in covered wagons, some bringing their cows with them. The meeting

lasted for three weeks (another source says two weeks) and many were converted. It was from that meeting that plans were made to build the church. Wesley J. King and Ormand Runnels rode horseback over the county taking donations to build a church at Hawthorne.

At first the church was heated by two stoves, lighted by kerosene lamps, and music was furnished by a parlor organ. Fuel was cobs, wood, and sometimes coal. Around 1905, the ladies gave a play called "The Old Maids' Transfiguration" and served an oyster supper to raise money for a piano.

(Note: 18 November 1910; *Express*; Hawthorne: New gasoline lights and new song books have been added to the church...

2 January 1914; *Express*: Last Sunday was...the day of the rededication of the ME Church of Hawthorne, which has just undergone a complete remodeling...)

In 1947, a basement was made under the church. A furnace was installed at the same time. In 1956, the church was remodeled and a new entrance built...All new pews were installed...

Many memorial gifts have added to the beauty and comfort of the sanctuary...In 1958, an electric organ was purchased...

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized around 1912, although they had had programs before that to raise money for the church. Mrs. Ed Confer was the first president. In the beginning the ladies either did sewing for the hostess, or took their own sewing along...Much sewing was done for the Christian Home at Coucil Bluffs...and barrels and barrels of fruit was canned for the Home.

...During the depression it was necessary for the women to work to raise the preacher's salary...The men cut, sawed and hauled wood for the church's stoves, and as partial pay for the janitor.

There is a faithful group of quilters who meet every week...92 quilts have been done since records were kept...

The Ladies Aid was changed to the Women's Society for Christian Service. There are 42 members at present...

On 6 July, 1928, Mrs. Joe Harville organized the youth into the Class In The Corner, or C.I.C., with Grace Carlton as first president...They had a class song, class colors, and a motto, "In the corner, but not cornered". A class member, Elmer West, later became a minister of the gospel...

Hawthorne is now on the circuit with Stratton and Climax.

On 8 April 1990 the Hawthorne church congregation celebrated its Quasiquicentennial anniversary. A program was given and a time capsule was buried. Historical displays were arranged in the basement.

Excelsior Schoolhouse ME Church

(#1)

19 February 1874; *Express*; R.O. Mission: ...We express our gratitude to the friends...assembled at the Excelsior Schoolhouse...who gave us and family an invitation to a donation supper for our benefit...

A. T. Wilkins

8 June 1876; *Express*: Sunday School of #1 Walnut will have a picnic.

- 11 January 1877; *Express*: The citizens of Walnut Township are making preparations to hold a necktie festival, at Excelsior schoolhouse...The proceeds are for the benefit of the Pastor at that place.
- 11 December 1878; *Express*; Walnut: The Rev. Wm. Reed, appointed by conference to fill the place of T.H. Kennedy, of the M.E. association, will preach at the Excelsior schoolhouse on the 15th...
- 1881 *History*; page 536: The Methodist Episcopal church, school district No. 1, in Walnut township, was organized in 1876. The original members were: J.J. Brown, A.W. Brown, James Heckert, Catharine Heckert, Salome Heckert, Harriet Brewer, Sadie Harbison, Lizzie Silkett and Mrs. Adkins. Their pastors have been Revs. J.P. Evans, J.H. Kennedy, W.T. Reid and W.W. Carhart. The church now has ten members, and their meetings are held in the Excelsior school house, district No. 1. It is one of four appointments on Red Oak circuit, and they have preaching every two weeks.

Center Chapel Free Methodist

- 28 May 1884; *Sun*: The Free Methodists are erecting a church four and one half miles northwest of Red Oak.
(Note: The church was dedicated 30 July 1884.)
- 31 January 1887; *Miscellaneous Records*; Bk. 10:327; Incorporation: Trustees of Center Chapel of the Free Methodist Church of Garfield Township; Charles McFarland, Joseph Smith, John Confer, Stephen Jones, David Smith, S.T. Runnels, A. Smith, F. Rumsey...
- 23 May 1887; Bk. 22:349: Joseph Smith and wife to the Trustees of Center Chapel Free Methodist Church...One Dollar...One square acre in the Southwest corner of the East half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 15...
- 2 January 1891; *Express*; Hawthorne: The Free Methodists are holding meetings at their church...and judging by all the noise they make they ought to rake in all the sinners in Garfield Township.
- 3 January 1896; *Sun*; Hawthorne: Rev. T.J. Gales, a popular preacher of the Free Methodist Church, begins a series of religious meetings on Friday evening at the Free Methodist church...

From Marston Memorial Historical Center, Free Methodist Church Headquarters, Winona Lake, Indiana; Shenandoah District:

1897; Center Chapel was paired with Imogene; F.E. Eaton, Pastor.

1900; Center Chapel and Griswold; T.A. Allen, minister.

1903; Shenandoah, Bingham and Center Chapel; A.K. Main, minister.

"1903 was the last year that Center Chapel is in our records. Either it closed the following year or it became a part of a larger church and ceased to exist under its own name."

- 24 March 1924; Deed Bk. 41:375: Trustees of Center Chapel Free Methodist Church to Charles L. Confer...\$100...one acre of land...Also signing were the Trustees of the West Iowa Conference, Free Methodist Church.

(Note: When the property was sold in 1924, the surviving trustees were scattered over a wide area, indicating that the church had been closed for a long time.)

Congregational Church of Hawthorne
(#8; Hawthorne School House)

- 2 July 1884; *Telephone*; Hawthorne Items: The recent organization of the Congregational Church of Hawthorne was an event of much interest to the community.

"Letters Missive" were sent to six churches, in response to which the following were represented: Tabor, Rev. John Todd; Elliott, Rev. R.W. Jamison; Red Oak, Rev. J. Allender and Bro. Hughes, Delegate.

The following names were given as those proposing to enter into the organization: George C. Hicks and wife, Ormond Runnels and wife, J.A. Harbaugh and wife, Wm. Dougherty and wife, N.O. Larson and wife, I.M. Thomas and wife, Mrs. Martha Wykoff, Mrs. Sarah F. Shopcott, Rolla Runnels, Martha Shopcott, Miss Mary W. Hicks, J.A. McFarland.

Of the foregoing, George C. Hicks and wife, and Mrs. Harbaugh, entered the organization by letter, and the others on profession of their faith. They were examined by the council as to their religious experience, and gave, each, a reason for the hope that was in him. It will be seen that most of the persons whose names are above given are heads of families, and are among the most solid and reliable that are to be found about Hawthorne. The council unanimously ratified the organization and the public services necessary were conducted by Rev. John Todd, of Tabor, who preached an appreciative discourse, read the proposed confession of faith and covenant, and extended to the candidates for membership the right hand of fellowship. It was a solemn and tender service and could not fail to benefit all who witnessed it.

At a subsequent meeting of the church a constitution was adopted and the following persons chosen as officers:

Deacons: Ormond Runnels and J.A. Harbaugh

Clerk and Treasurer: Wm. Dougherty

Trustees: J.A. Harbaugh, Ormond Runnels and T.M. Thorne

Thus we have now in Hawthorne a Congregational Church, thoroughly organized and in working order. Rev. Joseph England of Emerson is at present our pastor, and is to be such for at least one year.

Hawthorne has also one of the best Sabbath schools to be found in Montgomery County. It has an average attendance of 60, winter and summer, owns a good cabinet organ, illustrative maps, a good library, and full supplies of all sorts. It has a good list of teachers, and is doing work that has already stamped itself upon the community. Indeed, nearly all who became members of the church had been connected with the school.

George C. Hicks

- 12 December 1884; *Sun*; Hawthorne: The proceeds of the festival held a few evenings since by the Sunday School will be devoted to the payment of the sexton for his services for the year and the purchase of a communion set for the use of the Congregational church.
- 30 January 1885; *Sun*; Hawthorne: Rev. England is now engaged in holding a series of meetings for the Congregational Society at Hawthorne. The meetings are held at the school house.
- 28 February 1885; *Sun*; Hawthorne: The Congregational church held a meeting on Saturday evening to make arrangements for a pastor for the coming year.
- 25 February 1887; *Sun*; Hawthorne: The Hawthorne Sunday School has received the donation of a library from a church in East Burlington...of 134 Volumes...

- 26 July 1889; *Sun*; Hawthorne: Rev. Miss E.K. Henry will preach in the Hawthorne school house at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, July 28.
(Note: This was the last item found for the Congregational church. The article on the dedication of the ME church on 20 October 1889, said: ...The success of this church building enterprise is the result of the united effort of this community, irrespective of creed, and they have done this thing because they saw that it could be most effectually done under the auspices of the M.E. church.)

Indian Creek Methodist Episcopal Church
(Indian Creek #3)

December 1877; *Express*; Walnut #3: There is preaching by Rev. Marks of Emerson and Rev. Monismith of Red Oak...

1881 *History*; page 536: The Indian Creek ME church was organized in September, 1877, by Rev. W.F. Marks. Its original members were H.S. Graves and wife, T. Carpenter and wife, Mrs. More, Mr. and Mrs. Eastgate, Mrs. Bower, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn, W. Miller and wife, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. White and daughter. They hold their meetings in a frame schoolhouse. Their pastors have been Revs. W.F. Marks, W.J. Beck and Charles Leach. There are now 13 members of the church...They have preaching every two weeks.

In connection with this church is the Indian Creek Union Sabbath school, which was organized in May, 1877...This is considered one of the best Sabbath schools in the county; it has an average attendance of about 100 pupils; instead of library books, good papers are distributed among the children for their home reading.

Indian Creek United Presbyterian

- 5 October 1883; Deed Bk. 19:55: George H. Dixon and wife of Henderson County, Illinois...\$30...The United Presbyterian Congregation of Indian Creek...Lot No. 1, Section Seven (commencing at a stake 56 rods west of the Northeast corner of the NENE, thence west 16 rods, thence south 10 rods, thence east 16 rods, thence north 10 rods) containing one acre...
- 11 January 1884; *Express*: The United Presbyterians have been engaged for a few months in building a new church at Indian Creek...The congregation and community did all the hauling for the building, often times going and doing when their work on the farm was pressing them. The pastor, W.R. Cox, solicited the subscriptions for the building, making over one hundred visits...Mrs. Cox raised enough money to pay for the chandeliers. The ladies of the congregation are credited for paying for the carpets and frescoing, which cost about \$300.00. The friends near and at a distance donated the seats, hanging lamp, book case, stoves, pulpit chairs and stands, pulpit carpet, vases, books, and such like...
- 1 October 1886; *Express*; from farewell sermon of Rev. W.R. Cox: "I preached my first sermon in this church (Red Oak) on the first Sabbath of January,

1880...in 1879, there were twenty-five members (UP) in the county...I organized Indian Creek and Center Ridge the same day, June 1, 1882. Indian Creek commenced with eleven members, now there are sixty-six. Center Ridge started with eleven, now there are fifty-nine. Each has a good church building, out of debt, and last Tuesday and Friday I moderated calls from these congregations, as a united charge, for the pastoral services of Rev. Robert Hood, they promising him a salary of \$900..."

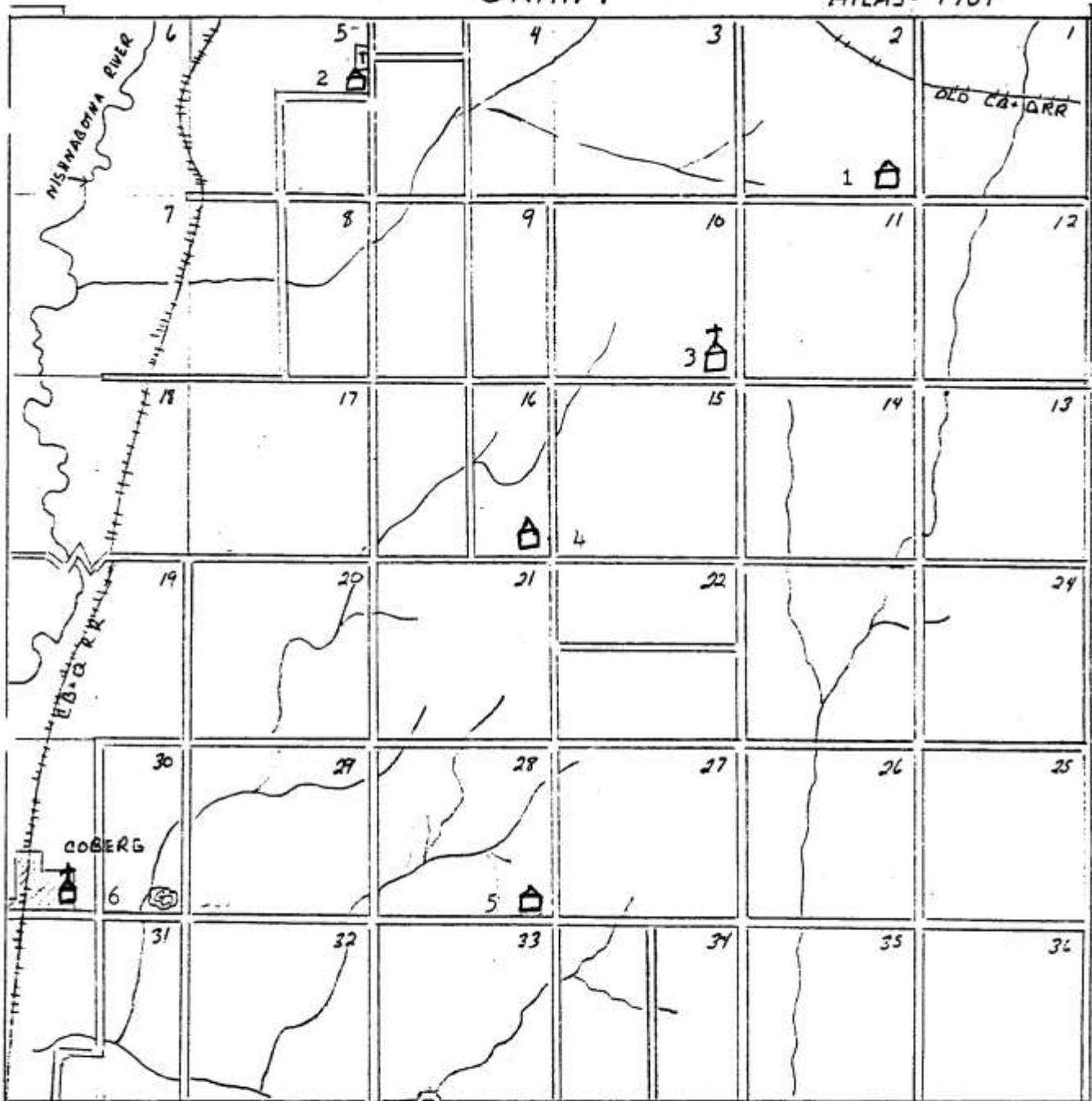
- 4 March 1887; *Sun*: The United Presbyterian Sunday School of Indiana, Penn., recently donated a fine communion set to the U.P. congregation of Indian Creek. Rev. Robert Hood, pastor of Indian Creek, was formerly a member of the above Sunday School.
- 29 September 1899; Deed Bk. 30:154: A.L. Smith and wife...\$60...to Trustees United Presbyterian Church of Indian Creek...The West One Acre of the East two Acres of the South Six and 33/100 Acres of the SESE section Six...
- 1 December 1899; *Sun*: The parsonage for the pastor of the Indian Creek and Center Ridge United Presbyterian churches is about completed. It is near the Indian Creek church and is a comfortable, convenient and creditable appearing house of six rooms. Its cost not including the site, was about \$800. The money for it was bequeathed by L.M. Hagood, who died some years ago. His bequest to the church amounted in all to \$1287, of which \$800 was to be used for building a parsonage. Mr. Hagood's bequest was not immediately available, the will providing that the property should be utilized by an aunt during her lifetime. The latter died last July and the bequest became available.
- 29 November 1901; *Express*; Indian Creek: The Indian Creek congregation hold services in the school house while the church is being repaired.
- 10 January 1902; *Express*; Indian Creek: The Indian Creek church is now almost like a new church and the steel and paint are quite an improvement over the plaster and torn paper.
- 21 June 1916; Deed Bk. 40:1: J.S. Stewart, et al, Trustees...to Oscar Hermanson...West 1 acre of East 2 acres of south 6 33/100 acres Section 6 SESE... (parsonage)
- 20 November 1916; Deed Bk. 40:45: ...to Emil Lindner...Lot 1 in Sub-Division NENE section 7; one acre... (church)

Presbytery records show 1889 as the peak year, with 65 members. There was a gradual decline over the following years, with 16 members in 1911. The report dropped to four members in 1912, and that number was carried through 1917, although the church was no doubt closed before 29 June, 1915, when the Center Ridge congregation considered buying the property for salvage. That plan failed, and according to local sources, the buildings were sold and moved intact. The parsonage was moved up the hill to a farm across the road from the church, and was used as an outbuilding. The church building served a similar purpose on a farm east of the original site.

During the life of the church, it shared a pastor with the Center Ridge church. The last called pastor left in August, 1910. Center Ridge had a series of student pastors in the summertime until 1915, and it would seem logical that Indian Creek shared those for as long as it remained open.

GRANT

ATLAS- 1907



Grant

1. M.E.; (# 9, Centennial; sec. 2)
2. M.E.; (Brick schoolhouse; North Grant; sec. 5)
3. Binns Chapel M.E.; sec. 10.
4. Christian; (# 5, Grant Center; sec. 16)
5. Good Hope Meth. Protestant; (Laurel Hill; sec. 28)
6. Coburg M.E.; sec. 30.

GRANT TOWNSHIP

Good Hope Methodist Protestant Church (Laurel Hill #6)

1881 History; page 481: The first church organization in Grant Township was the Good Hope Methodist Protestant Church, organized in October, 1859, by Rev. J. M. Young. The original members were, Aaron Stafford and wife, Dallas Young, Joseph Chenoweth and family, James Flood and wife, Calhern Burchard, Hezekiah Cozad and wife, Mr. Snider and wife, L.L. Houghton, James K. Young, G.W. Young. The present membership is 54. Their successive pastors have been, Revs. J.M. Young, James Caldwell, Wm. Vanvleet, H.A. Tarkington, W.S. Horn, then Mr. Tarkington again, then Samuel Child, J.A. and P.W. Martindale, J.B. Hiles, W.F. Price, F.E. Pershall, G.S. Duette, assistant last year, J.A. Bolton, E.C. Boaz.

The parsonage, which belongs to the whole circuit, is located with this congregation, and the circuit takes in two other congregations in Montgomery county - one at Climax post office and one at the Centennial schoolhouse, both in West Township. They have preaching every two weeks.

- 4 March 1870; Articles of Association; Misc. Bk. 1:43: First Methodist Church of Montgomery County Circuit...Thomas Weidman, Wm. G. Ewing and N.S. Chenoweth, Trustees...
- 8 February 1872; Deed Bk. 7:591: Joseph F. Chenoweth and wife...\$10...to Trustees, First Methodist Church of Montgomery County...southwest corner of Sec. 28...
- 28 May 1874; *Express*: The Sabbath Schools of Grant Township held their second annual Convention at the Center school house on the 23rd day of May...The address (was) delivered by Elder Price...The Grant Union Sabbath school organized March 8, 1874, reported...a membership of 75, J. Clancy, Superintendent...
- 11 March 1875; *Express*; Grant Township: The people in that vicinity met at the Chenoweth schoolhouse, in Grant Township on the evening of March 13th, for the purpose of considering the propriety of selecting a burying ground, and a site for a house of worship in that neighborhood. On motion, Rev. Price was chosen chairman, and J. Clancy, secretary. On motion, a committee consisting of H. Kretchmer, Thomas Beeson, Dr. Moore, J.B. Reaves and Thomas Weidman was appointed to select both burying ground and church site, and report at the next meeting. The committee meets at the parsonage, one mile west of the school house, Monday, March 29th, at 2 o'clock, p.m.
- 17 March 1883; Deed Bk. 16:487: Thomas Weidman, T.B. Trigs, George Cattrill, trustees of the First Methodist Church of Montgomery County Circuit...\$213 ...to Eva P. Ruffner...southwest corner Sec. 28...

Binns Appointment, M.E.

In 1859, Jeremiah T. Hughes was appointed pastor of the Montgomery circuit of the Methodist Episcopal church. One of the appointments on the circuit was in the Henry Binns neighborhood, in southern Grant Township. The *Sun* of 21 July 1893 said, "...Money was very scarce, hence his (Hughes) pay was poor. All he got at the Binns appointment was \$1.10, and \$1.00 of that was from Henry Binns." Perhaps that congregation was the appointment called "Liberty" in 1863.

Coburg Methodist Episcopal

- 1871; From *Minutes of Western Iowa and Des Moines M.E. Conferences*; Vol. 1; Council Bluffs District; page 15: Coburg; S. Farlow, pastor.
- 28 May 1874; *Express*: The Sabbath schools of Grant Township held their 2nd annual Convention at the Centre School House on the 23rd day of May, 1874...Mrs. Prince gave a verbal report of...Coburg Union Sunday School...held in the school house in district No. 1; A. Burriss, Superintendent...
- 16 March, 1880; Articles of Incorporation; Bk. 5:500: We, J.H. Brooks, W.S. Hoar, S.Q. Aleshier, E. Kretchmer, G.A. Brooks, J. Beeson, and Robert Davis, Board of Directors...to be known as "Coburg Church Association"...
- 1881 *History*; page 481: Coburg M.E. church organized February 19, 1880. The people of Coburg and vicinity have erected a church edifice at a cost of about \$1,675, without regard to denomination and it is held for the use of the community...The church was built in August, 1880, and dedicated December 26th of the same year by Rev. H.H. Oneal, pastor of the Methodist church at Red Oak. Rev. Charles Leach and Rev. Mr. Marks preach at Coburg. A festival was held in the new church on Christmas eve, 1880, and the proceeds were \$106 toward finishing the house inside. A Sabbath-school will be established here this spring, 1881.
- 8 January 1886; *Express*; Coburg: The members of the M.E. church are trying to increase the pastor's salary from \$50 to \$150 and thereby have day preaching instead of at nights.
- 7 May 1886; *Sun*; Coburg: Our Sunday School is in a thriving condition; the attendance is 75 or 80.
- 12 November 1886; *Sun*; Coburg: Steps were taken...to procure an organ for the church. About \$40 were raised...
- 5 December 1890; *Sun*; Coburg: The vote by the members of the Coburg M.E. church last Saturday evening on the question of admitting women as lay delegates to the general conference was 5 to 1 in favor of admitting them. After the voting Rev. Harvey preached to a good congregation.
- 9 August 1895; Deed Bk. 14:594; Quit Claim: George W. Frank and wife...One Dollar...John A. Danielson, Henry R. Dille and John E. Frank, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church of Coburg...South half of Lots 506 and 507 in the town of Coburg...if used for any other purpose the property is to revert...
- 14 September, 1895; Articles of Incorporation, Misc. Bk. 17:136: John E. Frank, J.A. Danielson and H.R. Dille, Board of Trustees...The name of this society is the Methodist Episcopal Church, Coburg...

- 22 November 1895; *Express*: The title to the ME church property at Coburg was finally cleared up...so that the church would be quite ready for business if there was only Methodists enough in its vicinity to support it. There have been no services in it for over a year...the last conference dropped it from the list of appointments. The reason was lack of support and internal dissension...
- 13 March 1896; *Sun*; Coburg: Rev. D.M. Buckner has been holding very successful revival meetings at the M.E. church here. There has been over 100 conversions.
- 28 November 1902; *Sun*; Coburg: The Ladies Aid society will hold a bazar. (sic)
- 8 May 1903; *Sun*; Pilot Grove: Rev. Coe conducted dedication services of a remodeled M.E. church at Coburg last Sunday.
- 7 October 1921; *Sun*: NEW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLHOUSE AT COBURG -
 ...The school is being used as a community center...A community church and Sunday school has been organized...pastor Rev. J.E. Matheny. The Sunday school has a membership of about 100...An orchestra furnishes the music...
 (Note: The Coburg church closed sometime between 1915 and 1920. It is said that the superintendent of the new school lived in the church building for a time. When the school district acquired a house, the church was sold to Warren Clites, and moved to the north edge of Coburg, where it was used as a barn. Probably the minister at Essex preached at the school house. A list of abandoned churches was found in the Methodist Archives, Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, and it said "Essex and Coburn (sic) abandoned, 1926".)

North Grant M.E.

(Hickory Grove School House, #3)

About 1859 a small school house was built in Red Oak. Religious services were held in the building for two or three years, and then, about 1862 or '63, the school was moved to Section 5, Grant Township, near the Hewitt Cemetery. That community was known as Hickory Grove. The building was used for both school and church purposes. After a few years a brick school house was erected. In 1876 or '77 a new school house was constructed on the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of Section 5.

- 28 May 1874; *Express*: The Sabbath schools of Grant Township held their second annual convention at the Centre School House on the 23rd day of May...Mrs. Price gave a verbal report of Hickory Grove Union Sunday School...It is well attended and held at the brick school house; Superintendent, J.M. Hewitt...
- 18 March 1887; *Sun*; North Grant: There was preaching Sunday morning and evening at North Grant by Rev. Yockey.
- 13 July 1888; *Sun*: There will be preaching at the North Grant school house next Sunday at 10:30 by Rev. Wm. Yockey.
- 19 December 1890; *Sun*; North Grant: Rev. W.H. Shipman has been holding a very successful meeting at North Grant. Four have united with the church.

Grant Center Christian
(Center School #5)

- 28 May 1874; *Express*: The Sabbath Schools of Grant Township held their second annual Convention at the Centre school on the 23rd day of May...Grant Centre Union Sunday School is in a flourishing condition, with excellent leaders, M. Hickman and A.M. Lull superintendents...membership 85...
- 23 December 1875; *Express*: There will be a festival at the house of David Ashby, Grant Township on the 29th for the benefit of the Christian church.
- 31 August 1876; *Express*: Rev. J. Peregrine, Christian denomination, will preach at Center school, Grant Township...
- 14 February 1890; *Sun*; Grant Center: There was preaching at Center School House Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, by Elder Harrison of the Christian church.
- 26 September 1890; *Sun*: There will be a festival at the Grant Center school house on Friday, October 3, beginning at 4 p.m. and continuing through the evening. Proceeds will be devoted to paying the salary of the pastor of the Christian church.
- 19 January 1894; *Sun*: Rev. E.W. Bowers of the Christian church is holding meetings in the Grant center school house.
- 26 March 1897; *Sun*: Rev. R.H. Ingram of the Red Oak Christian church has been conducting a series of revival meetings at Grant Center school house the past week.
- 7 July 1899; *Sun*; Grant Center: Dr. Butchart of Red Oak will preach in the school house next Sunday afternoon. He will preach there regularly every two weeks.

Centennial School House M.E.
(#9)

- 8 February 1877; *Express*: A series of meetings are being held at the Centennial School House, Grant Township, under the conduct of Rev. B.F. Williams, with good results...Several have united with the church.
- 25 May 1888; *Express*; Centennial District School: ...Sunday School...has an average attendance of 60 scholars.
- 11 October 1889; *Sun*: Rev. R.E. Harvey of the Stanton circuit will preach at Centennial next Sunday at 11:00 a.m...
- 16 January 1891; *Sun*: Rev. D.H. Robinson will preach at...Centennial at 3 p.m. Sunday.
(Note: The congregation moved to Binns Chapel.)

Binn's Chapel M.E.

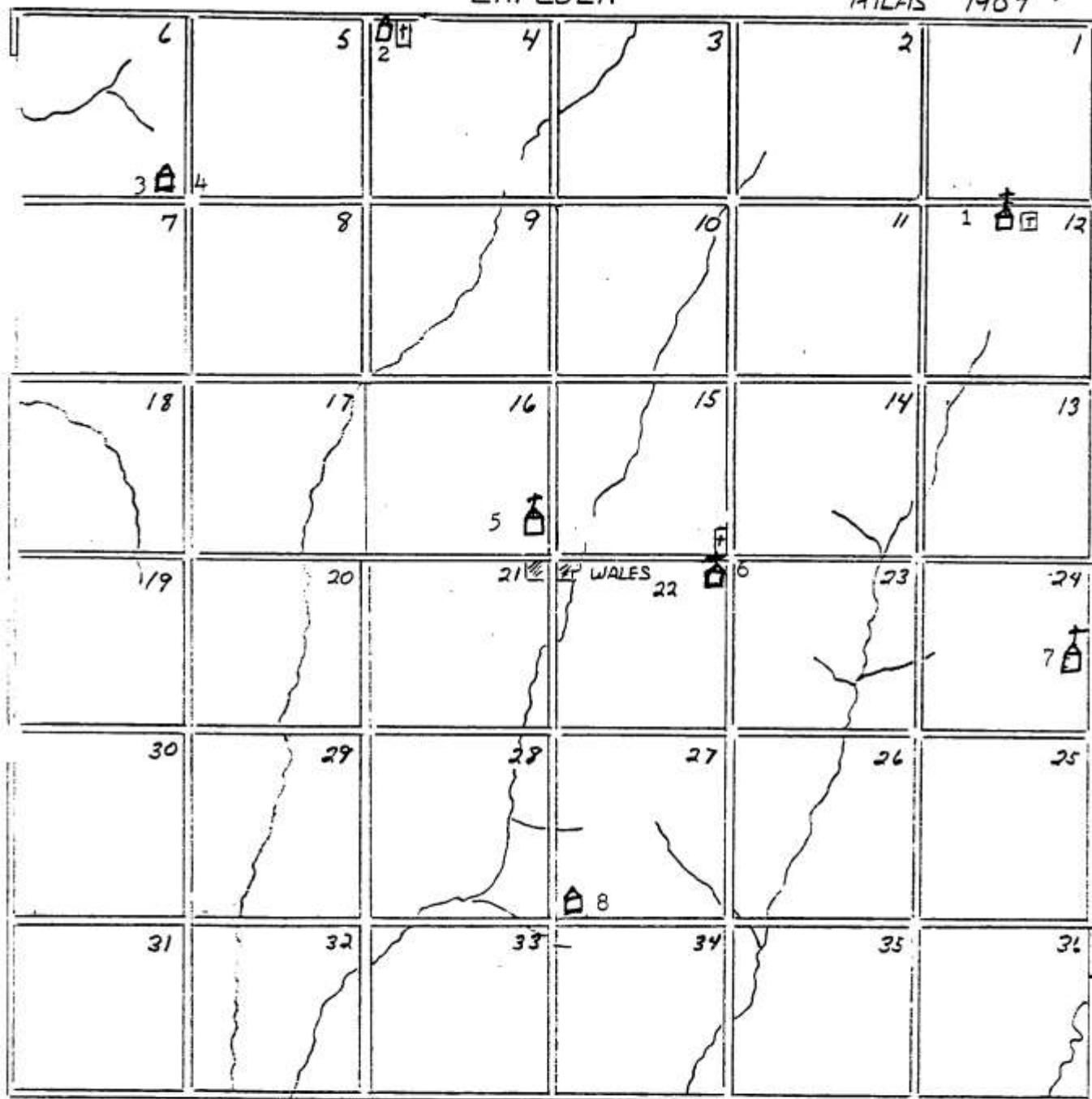
- 4 September 1891; *Sun*: Moving a Church Building -
The M.E. church known as Binns Chapel, six miles south of Stanton, has been bought by the M.E. society at Centennial school house, Grant Township, and is being moved by them to a point a little southwest of the school house, where ground has been procured, and they hope that before winter they will have a comfortable home for worship near the center of the population worshipping there...The chapel was built in very early times when it was the center of a wide territory whose inhabitants worshipped there; but in course of time the pioneer Methodists in that immediate vicinity sold out and most of them went West and the farms going to people of other denominations, it is now found more convenient to have the house in the Centennial neighborhood, farther north... (from Stanton *Call*)
- 24 December 1891; Deed Bk. 25:219: We, Alfred Hebard and...wife...One Dollar...to Trustees of The Binns Chapel M.E. Church...H. Turner, Andrew Johnson, H.W. Crosthwait, W.T. Cooksey and C.D. Burnham...Southeast half acre of SE Section 10, T71, R38...and when it ceases to be used for church purposes the title to revert to the owner...
- 8 January 1892; *Express*: The dedication of the Binn's Chapel on January 3d was a decided success. A grand discourse was delivered by the "P.E." Dr. W.T. Smith on "The Gospel is the Power of God Unto Salvation to Everyone That Believeth." It will long linger in the memories of the people. After the sermon a statement of the trustees showed a balance of \$246 yet to be raised over the amount already subscribed. It being decided to paper the church next spring, it was thought best to ask for \$275. When Dr. Smith asked for that amount it was thought "he couldn't get it." but he did and he certainly is deserving of his reputation as a collector of money in dedicating a church...
- 30 August 1895; *Sun*: A meeting is to be held at Binns Chapel this evening to organize an Epworth League.
- 22 May 1896; *Sun*; Mt. Pleasant: Binns Chapel was struck by lightning one evening last week but no serious damage was done.
- 10 August 1900; *Sun*: The church building in Grant township named Binns Chapel has been torn down and the lumber is being hauled to Stanton to be used in building an M.E. parsonage.
(Note: The parsonage is now a private residence, and is located at 602 Broad Avenue, in Stanton.)

Laurel Hill School House M.E.

- 12 October 1888; *Independent*; Grant: There is preaching at the Mainquist school house Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock by the Stanton minister.
- 15 March 1889; *Express*; Coburg: Revival meetings will commence at Laurel Hill school house next Monday evening. Bro. Bartley will conduct them.
- 5 April 1889; *Independent*: There will be preaching at Laurel Hill Sunday by Rev. Bartley at 11 a.m.
- 13 December 1889; *Independent*; Laurel Hill: Protracted meeting commenced at Laurel Hill last Sunday by Rev. Stewart.

LINCOLN

ATLAS 1907



Lincoln

1. Center Ridge United Presbyterian; sec. 12.
2. Pleasant Grove Cumberland Presbyterian; sec. 4.
3. Baptist; (# 3, Pleasant Valley, Triplett; sec. 6)
4. Christian; (# 3, Pleasant Valley, Triplett; sec. 6)
5. Welsh Calvinistic Methodist (Presby); sec. 16.
6. Welsh Congregational Church of Ghomer; sec. 22.
7. Rosenlund Swedish Evangelical Mission; sec. 24.
8. Welsh Baptist; (# 7, Fairview; sec. 27)

LINCOLN TOWNSHIP

Welsh Congregational Church of Gomer

- 28 August 1871; Deed Bk. 7:514: Samuel Davis and wife...\$10...to Trustees of Cemetery in Lincoln Township...One square acre of land, southeast corner of the SE quarter Section 15; to be used for the burial of the dead and is to be fenced by the trustees...
- 1882; *The Cambrian*; Historical Sketchs; Gomer, Iowa; by T.D. Thomas: ...in the Summer of 1871, religious service was first held. The first Sunday School was started at the house of Samuel Davies...The Congregational Church was formally organized in the Summer of 1872, (20 July) by the Rev. Pickett, superintendent of Home Missions in Iowa...
- 23 April 1874; *Express*; Lincoln: We have preaching at 10 every Sabbath a.m. in the Welsh school house by Rev. D. Thomas, and preaching in the evening at the Fairview school house (in English) by Mr. Thomas.
- 4 September 1876; Deed Bk. 11:184: John L. Thomas and wife...to Congregational Church of Gomer of Lincoln...northeast corner Section 22...
- 23 November 1876; *Express*; Lincoln: The Congregational Church will cost two thousand dollars...The size will be 40x28...
- 14 January 1878; Misc. Records 4:427: Articles of Incorporation...association shall be known as The Welch Congregational Church of Gomer...trustees, John L. Thomas, David W. Rees, Evan D. Jones...
- 3 January 1884; *Telephone*: There will be a festival at the Welsh Congregational church, Lincoln Township, on Thursday evening, February 7. The proceeds will be used to repair the church and complete the parsonage.
- 10 October 1884; *Express*; Lincoln Township: The Congregational parsonage has been moved one half mile closer to the church.
- 5 June 1885; *Sun*; Lincoln: The Welsh choir gave a concert at the Welsh Congregational church on Wednesday evening.
(Note: The Welsh people were famous for their singing; both churches had exceptional choirs.)
- 19 March 1886; *Express*; Gomer: Gomer is a name by which the Welsh neighborhood in Lincoln Township is known. Throughout the world, the Welsh claim to be descendants of Gomer, grandson of Noah.
- 2 June 1894; Cemetery Deed Bk. 1:455: Plat of Thomas Addition to Lincoln Cemetery...
- 13 August 1897; *Express*; Wales: The interior of the Congregational Church is being torn down and the work of remodeling will begin at once.
- 12 November 1897; *Sun*; Wales: The Congregational church is finished artistically and furnished with new seats. A new floor has been laid. The church was dedicated recently.
- 2 September 1904; *Sun*; Wales: The Congregational parsonage has been moved to the Thomas Davis place, just across the road from the church.
- 17 March 1905; Deed Bk. 34:143: Hugh J. Evans and wife...\$1.00...to Trustees Welsh Congregational church...commencing twelve rods and ten feet south of the NE corner of the NE of Section 22...

- 17 March 1905; Deed Bk. 34:144: Trustees of Welch Congregational church ...\$1.00...to Hugh J. Evans...commencing at the Southeast corner of the SENE of Section 22...
 (Note: It appears that the church exchanged a parcel of land lying a quarter mile south, for land that adjoined the church property.)
- 16 April 1946; Deed #2447: The Congregational Church of Gomer...\$1.00...to The Congregational Christian Conference of Iowa, Inc...one square acre of land...Northeast corner of NE quarter, Section 22...

Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church
 (Presbyterian Church)

- 8 August 1876; Deed Bk. 12:171: John G. Jones...to Calvinistic Methodist Congregation of Lincoln Township...One square acre in southeast corner Section 16...immediately north of school acre...
- 8 March 1877; *Express*; Lincoln Township: ...a brief history of the Presbyterian church of this place...
 The church was organized in May, 1874, at the residence of one of its members and service was afterwards held in a private dwelling for over two years. The members enrolled on the book at the organization was 12...at the present it has reached about 50. Prayer meeting and Sunday School were held every Sunday, and also meetings were held once or twice during the week and occasionally we were visited by some brother preacher, but had no regular preacher until lately.
 As the church increased in numbers the room was decreasing...A meeting was called...and it was unanimously decided to build a church...The spot was selected, adjoining the lot of the Center school house, an acre of ground was donated by J.G. Jones, and work immediately commenced...the farmers in the vicinity done the hauling of the material free. The seats are from the old M.E. church of Red Oak. A stove, a few lamps and other necessaries were purchased, and on Sunday, October 29th, 1876, the first service was held in the building...Our Pastor is Rev. John Jones.
- 26 February 1879; Misc. Records Bk. 7:3: Articles of Association; By-Laws and constitution of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist church located at Lincoln Center...John Jones Cardy, Pastor; John G. Jones, John H. Roberts, and Hugh Edwards, Deacons.
 ...The majority of the Cyfarfod Dosbarth, and the majority of the Cymanfa, we hereby certify that the above constitutions and ByLaws were unanimously adopted by a regular meeting of the said church...
 (Note: Cyfarfod Dosbarth means Meeting/Assembly class. Cymanfa means Assembly/Council.)
- 19 March 1886; *Sun*; Lincoln: The Presbyterian church is completed and will be ready for holding services next Sunday. There will be preaching all day...
 (Note: A twelve-foot extension was added to the east side.)
- 29 March 1889; *Sun*; Lincoln: The addition to the M.E. parsonage is nearly completed.
- 19 June 1891; *Sun*; Lincoln: Young people of the Congregational church of Red Oak organized the Union Christian Endeavor Society at the Presbyterian church last Sunday...The Society starts with 25 members.

- 7 May 1897; *Express*; Wales: A new parsonage is going to be built on the church lot at Wales.
- 23 December 1898; *Express*; Wales: A new barn has been erected on the parsonage lot.
- 18 May 1900; *Express*; Wales: The old ME church will be torn down to make room for the new building...
- 12 October 1900; *Sun*; Wales: ...The church was dedicated Sunday by Rev. J.C. Jones of Chicago.
- From *Lincoln Township Centennial*; 1976; page 64: ...Church membership seemed to be falling away and many believed the time to merge with new denominations was at hand. There were those who hoped for the church to remain Calvinistic, but in 1921 they joined the Corning Presbytery. Thereby, it became a Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
- 8 March 1956; *Express*: The Wales Presbyterian Church...was replastered and painted. A balcony and minister's study have been added.
- Lincoln Township Centennial*; page 66: (1970)...a proposal was drawn up to bring the Wales Church into a Cooperative Parish along with the Carson and Sharon Churches of this Presbytery...Each church maintains its own full identity and program while at the same time sharing in certain programs and services.

The Welsh Baptist Church
(#7, Fairview)

- 23 April 1874; *Express*; Lincoln Township: We have preaching at 10 every Sabbath morning in the Welsh school house by Rev. D. Thomas, and preaching in the evening at Fairview school house (in English) by Mr. Thomas.
- 23 May 1878; *Express*; Lincoln: The Baptist people keep up their meetings in the Fairview school.
- 10 July 1880; Articles of Incorporation; Montgomery County: Misc. Bk. 1:43; Welch Baptist Church of Lincoln Township. Trustees: Robert E. Jones, Samuel D. Jones and Thomas Thomas.
- From *Americans From Wales*, by Edward George Hartmann; Boston, 1967; page 172; Churches in the Post-Colonial period; Montgomery County: Wales, Welsh Baptist (1870?- 1880)

Pleasant Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church

- 25 November 1876; Montgomery County Deed Bk. 11:54: Jackson Buckner and wife...\$5...to A.M. Miller, Jonathan Watson and George Shinn, Trustees of Pleasant Grove Congregation Cumberland Presbyterian church...2.31 acres on the north line in the NWNW Section 4 T73 R39...The west half of above described land to be used for a cemetery...and the east half of said land to be used for church purposes...

(Note: Tradition states that there was a parsonage on the west side of the cemetery; perhaps religious services were held there. It is said

that the stakes were set, ready for the erection of a church building, when the congregation suddenly decided to move to Pottawattamie County. The cemetery is now known as Buckner.)

- 26 April 1879; Pottawattamie County Deed Bk. 93:44: William T. Johnson and wife...\$5...to A. Miller and Jackson Buckner, Trustees of Pleasant Grove Congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church...one and one half acres on the west line in SWNW of Section 27 T74 R39.
- History of Pottawattamie County, Iowa - 1882*; (O.L. Baskin & Co., Historical Publishers, Chicago, 1883) pp 355 and 356: Pleasant Grove Congregation of the C.P. church was organized July 1, 1876, by Rev. J.W. Carter and received under the care of the West Iowa Presbytery of the C.P. church, August 18, 1876. The original members were Jackson Buckner and wife Jemima, Jonathan Watson and wife Mary S., George Shinn and wife Martha M., Esperem Counts and Margaret McMullen. Rev. J.W. Carter was the first and continues to be, their pastor. Their church is a frame building, and was erected in 1879, at a cost of \$1,400. It is located in Section 27, near Wheeler's Grove Post Office. The present membership is 28, and they support a Sabbath school with an attendance of thirty pupils.
- 11 September 1886; Montgomery Co. Deed Bk. 22:195: A.M. Miller, J.D. Watson and L.D. Buckner, Trustees of Pleasant Grove Congregation...One Dollar... to Jackson Buckner...East half of land in NWNW Sec 4 T73 R39...having been deeded to said Trustees for church purposes...
- 15 April 1894; *Sun*; Wales: The United Presbyterian Church at Wheeler's Grove burned to the ground Sunday night.
- 12 June 1894; Pottawattamie County Deed Bk. 331:259: J.D. Watson, A.M. Miller and M.B. McKenzie, Trustees of the Wheeler Congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (formerly of Pleasant Grove)...one and one half acres in SWNW Sec. 27 T74 R39...\$75...to Nathan Moore.

Rosenlund Swedish Evangelical Mission

- 8 August 1884; *Express*; Lincoln: The Sabbath School at No. 6 is flourishing, with an attendance of about 80 scholars...
- 22 August 1912; *Elliott Graphic*: Rose Hill Church Sold - The Rose Hill Church has been sold to the Swedish Lutheran Congregation in the O.K. Olson neighborhood, where it has been rebuilt and it is now ready for the shingles. The Rose Hill Church was owned by the Evangelical church and at one time had a strong class...The house had to be torn down and reassembled at its new location as it could not be moved bodily over the bridges...
- 12 October 1912; from address of Rev. A. Noren, at the first service held in the Rosenlund Church: Jesus said to his followers "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you". John 14:18. This Word is also for us and on this occasion we give God our heartfelt thanks. His grace has provided this place. The following will be a short overview of the past 34 years the work has gone forward in this place. After Brother C.M. Peterson had accepted Christ as his Savior, he became concerned about his family and the Swedish folks in this vicinity. He made arrangements with Brother Peters of Red Oak to preach the Word in this school building which has been our meeting place ever since then. The services were not held frequently at

first but as his time and strength permitted, came more often. During this time there was hostility among folks of the neighborhood due to use of the school building.

From 1878 through 1880 John Hultman and J. Wenstrand also preached the Word, as did K.F. Larson and number of others whose names are not listed. There were several Mission Meetings; the undersigned was not fortunate enough to be in attendance. Brother Peterson of Oakland, Nebraska, also visited. This must have been an especially wonderful time, spiritually.

...In 1887 the undersigned was called to preach for the folks once per month. The church was organized at this time. In 1896 Rev. Youngberg (Fremont-Essex) visited every other month and I alternated months with him until 1903 when we moved to Fresno, California for four years. During this time Rev. Youngberg took charge of the services on a more regular basis, once or twice per month. The work flourished. There had been no thought of obtaining a church building so neither Bro. Youngberg nor I can take credit for this building. Our Lord God apparently felt the school building had served long enough when the opportunity came to buy this church building and have it moved to this location.

Inside of three weeks the moving has been completed and we could have our first mission meeting in this building... Rev. A. Noren

(Note: Translated from the original Swedish by Elvera and Irene Noren, daughters of Rev. Noren. The total cost of the church was about \$950.)

29 November 1912; Deed Bk. 37:142: Rosenlund Swedish Evangelical Mission Society of Montgomery County...one half acre SE corner of South half North half SE quarter 73-39...

From Lincoln Township history: On April 19, 1937, an affidavit set forth that the real estate was no longer used for church purposes and that the building thereon had been removed. Useable lumber was utilized in the building of the John Hossle home. The proceeds from the sale of the church became the property of the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America, Chicago, Illinois, as provided for in the corporation.

Center Ridge United Presbyterian

The following information was taken from the book *History of Center Ridge Presbyterian Church*, compiled by members of the congregation in 1988.

Rev. W.R. Cox was called to preach at the Red Oak United Presbyterian Church, and began his ministry the first Sunday in January, 1880. He was not long in getting about the business for which he was called for he began holding services on alternate Sunday afternoons at Lincoln #1 school house, on June 2, 1880. The Presbytery minutes report that early in 1882, Reverend Cox was directed to organize a congregation at Center Ridge.

The name Center Ridge was chosen because the area was situated on a broad flat ridge that was the watershed for Walnut Creek on the east and a creek on the west called Indian Creek.

28 August 1882; Deed Bk. 16:389: S.A. Aiken and wife...\$30...Trustees of the United Presbyterian Church of Center Ridge...Lot No. Three of the subdivision of the NWNE section Twelve...

A group of potential United Presbyterians gathered at the Lincoln #1 schoolhouse on June 1 at 3:00 p.m. for the purpose of constituting themselves into a church organization. Rev. Cox was assisted in this effort by Elder S.J. Waldron who had moved to the Center Ridge community from the U.P. church in Red Oak.

Members who came in by certificate that day were S.J. Waldron and his wife, Jane Waldron, D.C. Woods, Mrs. Ada Woods, Mrs. Jane Cooper, George Dodds, and James Dodds. Entering by profession of faith, Mrs. Elizabeth Griffith and Mrs. Mary Jane Aiken.

At this same meeting, the congregation agreed to erect a church building and on December 17, 1882, the new structure was dedicated "free of debt". The church was of simple construction compared to today's standards. There was no boxing. The siding was simply nailed to the upright joists on the outside and lath and plaster finished the inside. The structure included a vestibule about three or four feet wide across the rear of the church and a platform where the pulpit stood.

Improvements have been made through the years. In 1928, an entryway was built at the back of the sanctuary. In 1937, a basement was dug 30 feet west of the church. The building was then moved over the basement. The partition for the vestibule was removed, the furnace installed, a kitchen equipped, and a hand pump raised water from the new well in a corner of the kitchen. Two Sunday School rooms were added behind the platform and the ceiling was lowered. The building was rededicated in the fall of 1937.

About 1950, the clear glass windows were replaced with stained glass. In 1977, the "Eleanors" were replaced with a modern rest room.

Center Ridge has never been a large church. In 1886, Rev. Cox reported a membership of 59, but it never reached that level again. Average numbers read between 35 and 50 members. Still, Center Ridge hangs on, the only remaining one of the four churches that Rev. Cox started in the early '80's. The members regard themselves as a family who cares very much for each other and those around them.

Pleasant Valley School House (#3, Triplett)

Baptist

- 18 January 1889; *Independent*; Lincoln: Everybody is invited to the protracted meetings which will begin Wednesday evening, January 16, at the Pleasant Valley school house.
- 25 January 1889; *Independent*; Lincoln: The Rev. Hougas will address the people of Pleasant Valley next Sunday evening.
- 31 January 1890; *Sun*; Lincoln: Revival meetings are still in progress at the Triplett schoolhouse, conducted by a Baptist minister. Sixteen have become members...
- 11 September 1891; *Independent*: The Baptist church of Lincoln township will commence revival meetings Monday, September 14. These meetings will be conducted by the Revs. Parsons of Glenwood and Lewis of Emerson.

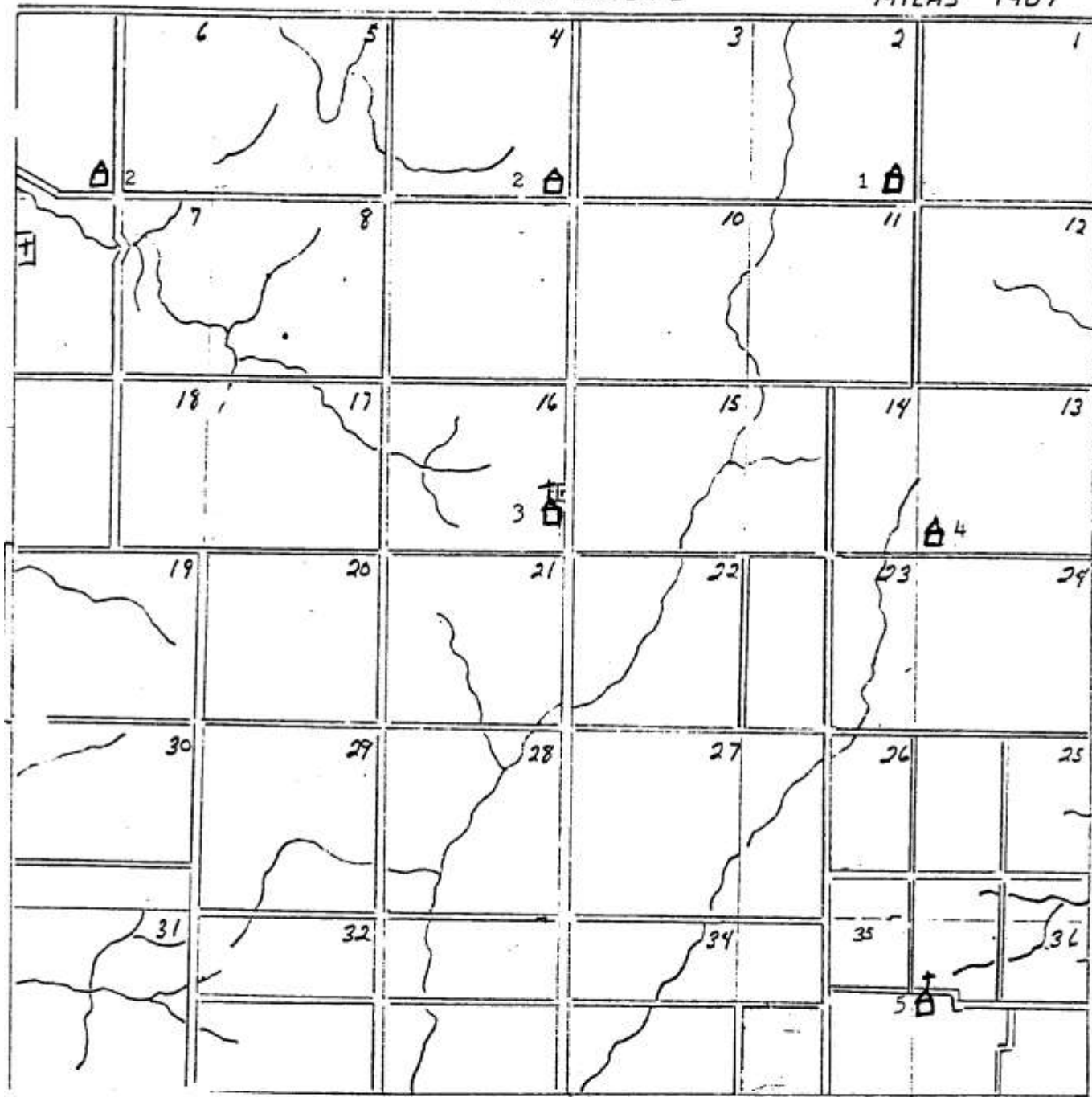
Christian

1 November 1895; *Sun*; Farm Creek: Rev. Mr. Golden, of the Christian church at Wheelers Grove, will preach regularly every alternate Sunday at the Triplett school house.

8 May 1896; *Sun*; Wales: The revival meetings held at the Triplett school house by Eld. Golden were very successful. A Christian Church, with about 30 members, has been organized.

PILOT GROVE

ATLAS 1907



Pilot Grove

1. Pleasant Ridge United Brethren; (# 1, Botts; sec. 2)
2. Christian; (# 2 and # 3, Plowman and DeWitt; sec. 4 and 6)
3. Pilot Grove M.E.; sec. 16.
4. Evangelical Society ; (# 6, Barr; sec. 13)
5. Pilot Grove Presbyterian (Stinson); sec. 35.

PILOT GROVE TOWNSHIP

Pilot Grove Presbyterian Church
(Stinson Church)

- 13 May 1878; Deed Bk. 11:387: J.A. Deming and wife...One Dollar...to Trustees of First Presbyterian Church of Pilot Grove...Commencing at the centre of Section No. Thirty Five...Thence north nine Rods, Thence East Thirteen Rods, Thence South Twelve Rods, thence West Thirteen Rods Thence North Three Rods to Place of beginning...
- 27 May 1878; Articles of Association; Misc. Bk. 4:590: We...James McKibben, J.T. Martin and John Askey...Trustees...Of the First Presbyterian Church of Pilot Grove, organized November, 1874...
- 1881 History; page 500: ...The original members were John Askey and family, J.T. Martin and family, Isaac Barr and family, J.A. Deming and wife. They have a frame church on section 35, which was built in August, 1878, cost \$1,200, and was dedicated about the same time. In connection with this church there is a good Sabbath-school in good running order.
- 21 November 1878; Review: We visited the new Presbyterian church in Pilot Grove Township last week...It is a neat edifice...We did not get the exact dimensions of the building, but judge it to be about 30 feet wide by 50 in length, and about 18 feet in height, with arched ceiling. The work is all completed with the exception of the seating, and a good feature in it is that it is all paid for as far as they have gone.
- 19 May 1881; Deed Bk. 13:500: J.A. Deming...Fifty seven and 50/100 Dollars...to the Pilot Grove Cemetery Association...(one acre south of the church)...
- 8 May 1885; Sun; Hart School House: The Sunday School at the Presbyterian church is in a fine condition, the average attendance being about 75.
--- Rev. Caldwell has been preaching here for seven months and has had splendid success. Through his earnest and untiring work he has in this short time caused some sixty additions to the church...
- 5 February 1886; Sun; Hart School House: Our church has been refurnished lately, in the way of new stoves, matting, etc.
- 1 October 1886; Sun; Hart School House: A movement is on foot to have the Presbyterian church repaired. It surely should be done. The church, as it now is, is not fit for use in winter...
- 15 July 1887; Sun; Hart School House: The Presbyterian church is being plastered and repaired...
- 9 November 1888; Sun; Hart School House: There will be a meeting of the Ladies' Benevolent Aid, Helping Hand and Missionary Society Thursday afternoon at 1 p.m. to make arrangements for a Thanksgiving sociable and supper, the proceeds to go toward furnishing the church.
- 4 June 1915; Sun: The Pilot Grove Presbyterian church was struck by lightning some time during the past stormy period, and it is a wonder that the building was not destroyed by fire...the lightning had destroyed the chimney, and a hole was burned in the roof. The carpet had taken fire and was in a charred condition. What put the fire out remains a mystery.

- 20 September 1926; *Express*: Adv. NOTICE - To All concerned: In Pilot Grove Presbyterian chapel, (S.W. corner of N.W. quarter section 35, Pilot Grove township) a meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, September 25, to decide whether to sell or repair the building. If it is decided to sell, sale will be held at 3 p.m., same date. The building and equipment consisting of pews, stove, organ, etc., to be sold in units to highest bidder.

Signed: Pilot Grove Cemetery Association.

Pilot Grove M.E. Church

- 12 July 1895; *Express*; Obit of Elvira Prather Hobson: ...moved to Montgomery County July 12, 1857...She was a member of a class of five who was organized by Brother Reed...They bought a house 12x15 in which they worshipped and conducted Sabbath school...

The obituary of George Hobson (12 July 1901, *Express*) states that the Hobsons settled six miles east of Elliott. The Pilot Grove news in the same issue said that Mr. Hobson was one of the small number who formed the class which is now the Pilot Grove Methodist Church.

William T. Reed was a lay preacher, so the little group may not have been officially constituted. No location was given for that early society, but in 1858, Hobson bought the northwest quarter of section 26, Pilot Grove Township. The Hobsons were living in Washington Township before 1866, when they helped found another church.

- 21 February 1878; *Telephone*: Notice is hereby given that the Trustees of the M.E. church of Pilot Grove Township will meet at the Center school...on the 16th day of March to receive sealed propositions to build a church on the northwest corner of Samuel Askey's farm...
...We have received 82 persons into the church during the past quarter, and baptized 24 children... J.P. Evans, Pastor
- 2 January 1885; *Sun*; Pilot Grove: The Christmas tree at Center school house was a grand success...
- 10 April 1886; Articles of Incorporation; 10:154: We, Wm. Yockey, Charles Baldwin, C.W. Simpson, E.B. Mullin and J.N. Johnston...Trustees...of the Methodist Episcopal Cemetery and Church sight (sic)...
- 28 June 1886; *Express*; Pilot Grove: There has been a cemetery located near the Center school house on the corner of Esq. Make's land. It is a good place for one.
- 25 March 1887; *Express*; Pilot Grove: The first dirt was moved last Thursday p.m. for the new M.E. church being built at Pilot Grove Center.
- 15 July 1887; *Sun*: About \$300 were raised at the dedication services of the Pilot Grove M.E. church last Sunday and the church was dedicated free of debt. There were some 600 or 700 people present at the dedicatory services.
- 22 July 1887; *Express*; Pilot Grove: The Ladies Aid Society of the M.E. church will give a sociable...
- 28 November 1902; *Sun*; Pilot Grove: The Pilot Grove Methodist church, closed for a time while being remodeled, renovated and painted outside and the

interior decorated, was reopened last Sunday p.m. for regular preaching services...

1 October 1904; *Express*; Pilot Grove: A Ladies Aid society has been organized at the Pilot Grove M.E. church.

From a paper prepared at the time of the church's 100th anniversary: Pilot Grove Church was organized in 1870, with five members, including the minister, Rev. Yockey...Some say that the first church was held at the Baird School, two miles south and two miles west of the present church. Later, the congregation met at the Center school.

On April 29, 1886, funds were raised to purchase two acres of land from F.W. Maker for the sum of \$80...

The stone for the foundation was hauled from Red Oak by team. The original church consisted of the center part of the building as it stands today. The pulpit was at the west end, and the center aisle was so narrow that at funerals the casket had to be lifted over the pews. Between May 1893, and June 1894 the pulpit addition on the north was made. Before 1922, the south part of the sanctuary was added. In 1922, the northwest and southwest Sunday School rooms, the "telephone room" and a deep basement to serve as a gym were added.

...But to everyone's dismay, the basement did fill with water during rainy seasons, sometimes to a depth of three feet. In 1952-53 the congregation filled the basement above the waterline, with the hard labor of all in the community and approximately \$3,000.

In August 1927 the 40th year celebration was observed with 300 in attendance...The 50th anniversary was held September 5, 1937...There were 19 people attending who had been there 50 years before...The 100th anniversary was held May 24, 1987 with between 150 and 200 present... Approximately 50 ministers have served the church over the years. Elliott-Pilot Grove charge share a minister.

The first land for the cemetery was included in the church site. Two more tracts have been added. In January 1962 the Methodist Church deeded the cemetery to Pilot Grove Township, and it is now supported by a tax levy. In September 1976 the Pilot Grove Women recorded all the gravestones in the cemetery. Copies of that survey can be seen at the Elliott Library or the Elliott Bank.

Pleasant Ridge United Brethren Church
(#1, Botts School House)

- 5 December 1884; *Sun*; Elliott: Rev. Mr. Lewis, who has charge of the UB church five miles east of town now lives in Elliott.
- 4 February 1887; *Sun*; Pleasant Ridge: The Pleasant Ridge church gave their pastor, S.J. Graham, a donation last Wednesday evening at J.B. Huxley's, amounting to \$14.
- 28 June 1889; *Sun*; Pleasant Ridge: Meeting was held at the Botts school house last Sunday by the presiding elder, Rev. Miller of the UB church. Through a mistake in the mail the people did not get word he was coming and could not have the regular quarter meeting ordinances.

- 29 November 1889; *Sun*; Pleasant Ridge: Preaching at the Botts school house by Rev. Potter has been discontinued.
 (Note: At the U.B. General Conference of 1889, a disagreement led to a division in the denomination. When the work in Montgomery County was resumed, it was under the auspices of the "New Constitution" group.)
- 12 December 1890; *Sun*; Pleasant Ridge: Rev. M.M. Bronson has been sent to fill the appointment of Rev. Mr. Lovelace.
- 24 April 1891; *Sun*; Pleasant Ridge: Rev. Mr. Betley preaches alternate Sundays at the Botts school house.
- 13 November 1891; *Sun*; Pleasant Ridge: Rev. Wallace preached at the Botts school house Sunday...
- 4 March 1892; *Sun*; Pleasant Ridge: Rev. Mr. Edie has been sent to fill the Botts appointment.
- 11 November 1892; *Sun*; Pleasant Ridge: Rev. Mr. Bunce will preach to the people of the Botts appointment the coming year.
 (Note: This church closed about 1895 or '96. After that, various denominations held services there, but no record has been found of an organized congregation.)

Evangelical Society at Barr School House
 (#6)

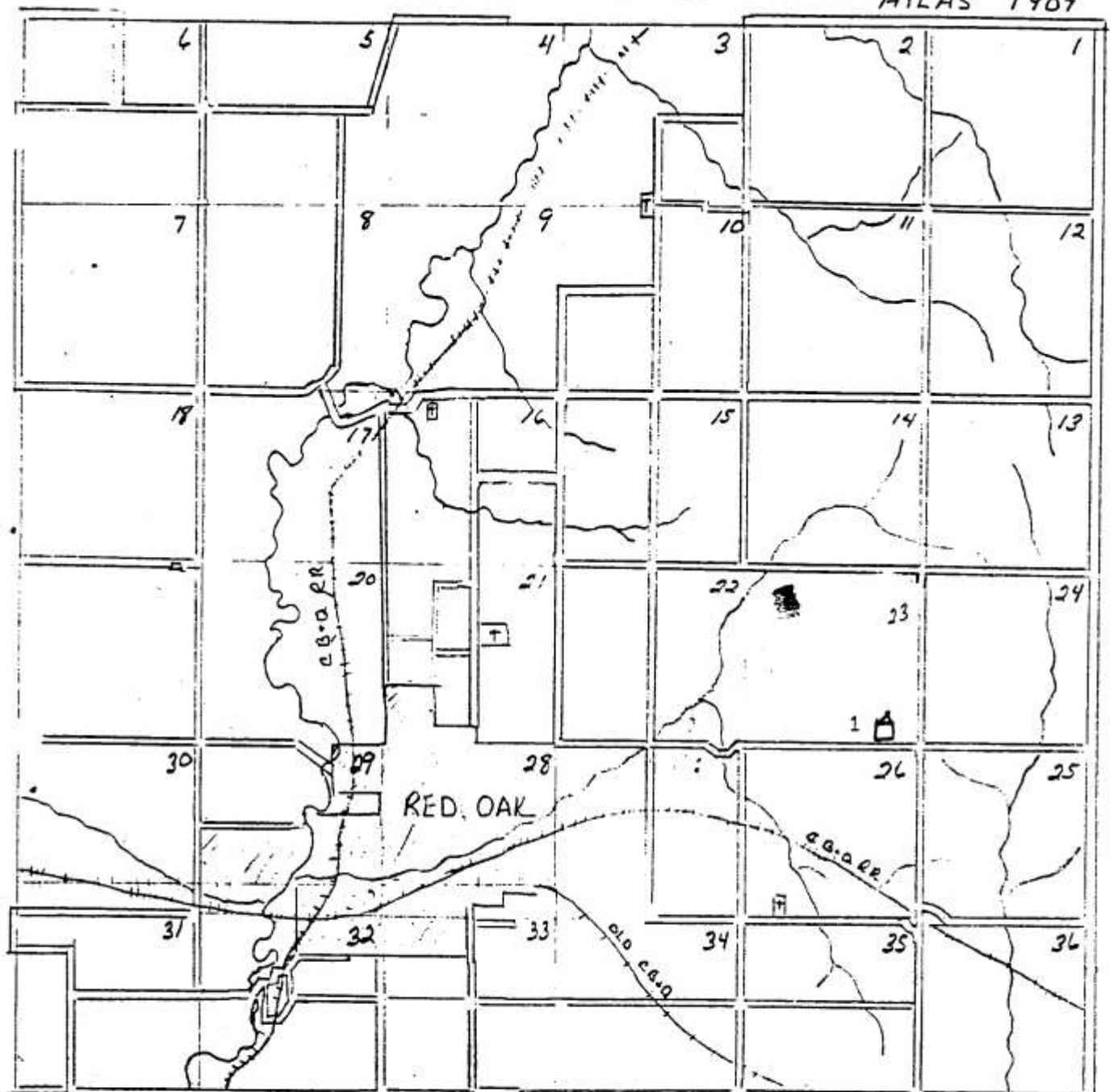
- 11 January 1889; *Independent*: Rev. J.W. Hamilton of the Evangelical church ...thanks the Barr's class for a Christmas present of \$10.
- 21 April 1893; *Express*: The first quarterly meeting of the Red Oak circuit of the Evangelical association will be held at the Barr appointment April 28, 29 and 30.
- 23 June 1893; *Sun*: Rev. J. Wirth will preach at the Barr appointment.

Christian Church
 (#2, #3)

1881 History; page 533: The Christian Church of Elliott was first organized at the Plowman schoolhouse in Pilot Grove Township in 1872. In 1878 it was moved to the DeWitt schoolhouse. In 1880, it was moved to the public hall in Elliott. Its first members were E.A. Guess and wife, J.H. Loman and wife, James Harland and wife, A.M. Powell and wife. Its pastors have been Revs. James Connovan, M.M. Warren, E.J. Stanly...

RED OAK

ATLAS 1907



Red Oak

1. Pleasant Valley Presbyterian; (Pleasant Valley; sec. 23)

RED OAK TOWNSHIP

Red Oak Grove Baptist Church

Historical Sketches of Iowa Baptists; by Rev. S.H. Mitchell; (Iowa Baptist State Convention, 1886; Burdette Company, Burlington, Iowa) pages 237-38: The Bedford Association- ...In 1856 there was an unassociated church in Adams county and one at Red Oak Grove. Rev. J.W. Nye was pastor of both. Neither of these appear in subsequent reports...

Local tradition states that Johnathan Binns was instrumental in the establishment of the first Baptist church in Montgomery County, said to have been founded 31 August, 1856. There were twelve charter members; meetings were held irregularly and at various places, frequently out of doors.

The congregation may have disbanded before 1859, as that date has been given for the organization of the present Red Oak Baptist Church. The 21 July 1893 *Sun* contains a list of early Methodist preachers in Red Oak. It says, "... and in February, 1858, the Rev. Clary was employed by some of the brethren to preach, and did so till July, 1859." He may have been the "Rev. Clerry" identified by Merritt (*1906 History*; page 252) as a Baptist preacher in 1859.

American Baptist Historical Society; Rochester, New York: In 1871, the statistical tables of the annual minute booklets begin including the year of a church's founding. Red Oak's founding date is listed as 1859.

Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church

Historical Exhibit of Presbyterianism in the Presbytery of Corning - 1898: Pleasant Valley; Montgomery County: Reported to Presbytery by Rev. L.G. Bell in 1859. In 1860 reported seven members. Closed in 1862.

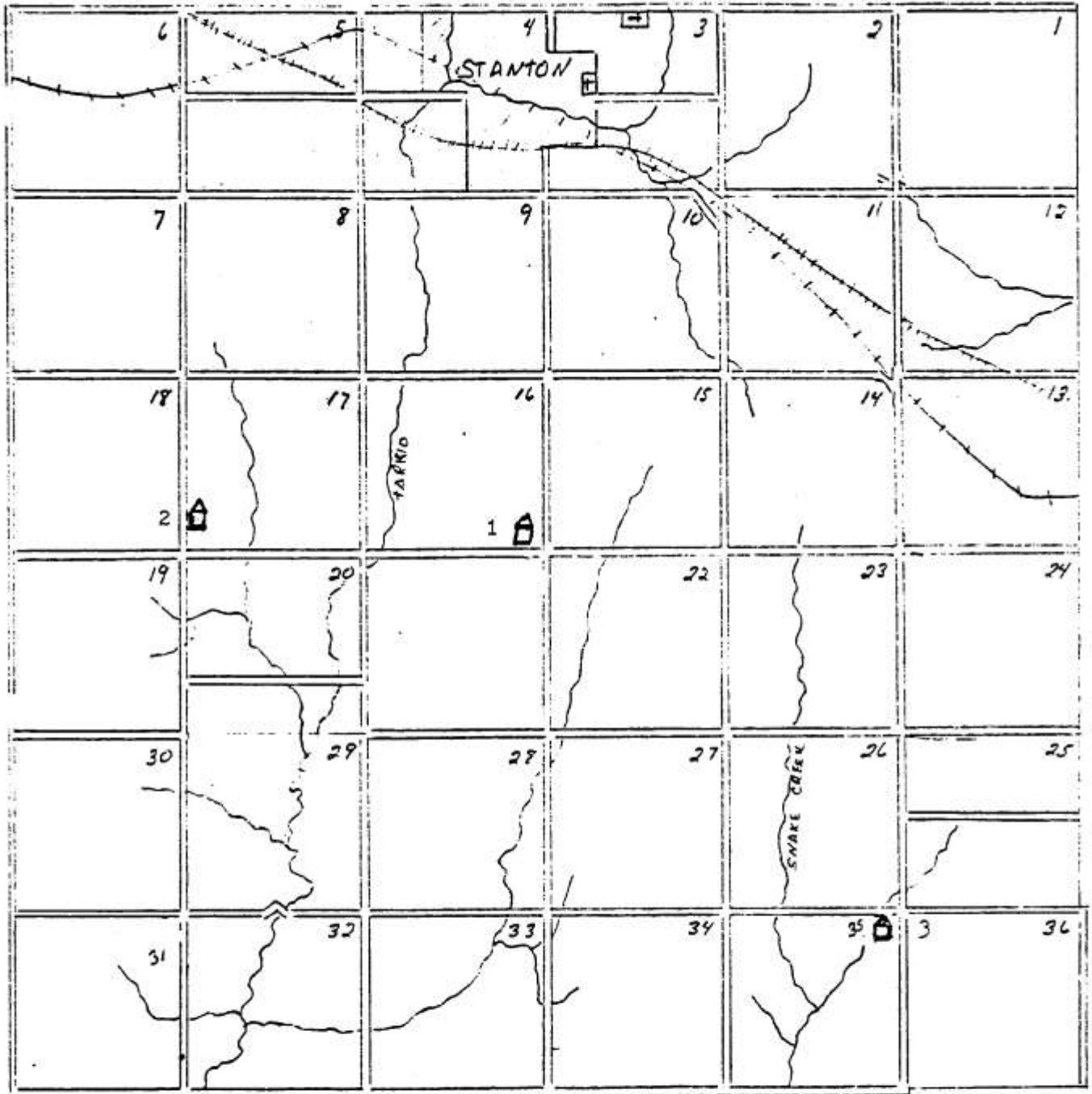
The location of this church has been lost. The congregation has been tentatively assigned to Red Oak Township because of the following article:

25 June 1879; *Telephone*: The annual picnic of the Pleasant Valley Sunday school was held June 21st, at the grove of Hon. W.W. Merritt. W. Horton was marshal and W.W. Merritt, superintendent of the day. The audience assembled at the Pleasant Valley school-house and were formed into line by the marshall, in which manner they marched to the grove...

(Note: This article fails to mention the township, which possibly indicates Red Oak Township. In 1879, there was a school on the south line of Section 23, Red Oak Township, near land owned by W.W. Merritt. In 1880, Merritt lived on that land, and J.R. Horton was a near neighbor. Horton had a son named William, who was 20 at the time.)

SCOTT

AILAS- 1907



Scott

1. M.E.; (# 5, Scott Center; sec. 16)
2. Swedish Lutheran; (# 4, Lombardy Grove; sec. 17)
3. M.E.; (# 7, Pleasant Valley, Powers, Neal; sec. 35)

SCOTT TOWNSHIP

Pleasant Valley M.E. (#7, Neal, Powers)

- 26 February 1880; *Review*: Rev. J.B. Bartley of Page County...is holding protracted meetings in the Powers school house west of this place.
- 17 March 1881; *Review*: Rev. C.C. Mabee has been holding a series of protracted meetings at the Neal school house...
- 15 January 1886; *Sun*; Powers' School House: The presiding elder will hold quarterly meeting at the Powers school house Saturday and Sunday, January 16 and 17.
- 3 May 1895; Red Oak *Sun*: ...Next Sunday, M.E. quarterly meeting at the Neal school house.
- 10 October 1895; *Review*: Rev. A.B. Shipman will preach at the Neal school house Sabbath at 3 p.m.
- 23 December 1897; *Review*: The 2nd Quarterly meeting of the Hepburn charge will be held at the Neal school house January 1st and 2nd.
- 21 August 1906; *Sun*; Stanton: The large tent Rev. George A. Culver secured for the series of meetings he is holding at the Neal school house has seating capacity for 500 people. The meetings will continue two weeks...

Scott Center

- 15 March 1877; *Review*: A successful revival meeting has been conducted by Rev. Hooker at Center school house in Scott Township for a few weeks past. A class of 18 members of the M.E. church are now organized and preaching by Rev. Hooker will occur every other Sunday.
(Note: This is the only mention found of this congregation. Perhaps it moved to the Pleasant Valley school, or it may have been incorporated into the Stanton Methodist church.)

Lombardy Grove Swedish Lutheran (# 4)

- 23 December 1887; *Sun*: Friends of the Lombardy Grove Sunday School are preparing for a grand time Tuesday evening, December 27. There will be a Christmas tree...
- 21 September 1888; *Sun*: Rev. Ostlin preached at Lombardy Grove.
- 15 February 1889; *Independent*; Stanton: ...the branch Sunday Schools (of the Lutheran church) in the country have an enrollment of about 100.

(Note: The congregation at Lombardy Grove was probably just a branch of the Stanton church, and never an independent society.)
17 May 1895; *Sun*; Lombardy Grove: The Lombardy Grove Sunday School has resumed sessions for the season...This is its 20th year.

SHERMAN TOWNSHIP

Stratton M.E. Church

- 18 February 1903; *Republican*: ...The Stratton M.E. church society was organized in 1872 by Rev. J.M. Holmes...
- 11 October 1877; *Express*: Mr. C.L. Stratton is the superintendent of a Sabbath School in his neighborhood that has been kept up summer and winter for two years past.
- 13 February 1885; *Sun*; Elliott: Quarterly meeting will be held at the Stratton school house for the Elliott Methodist circuit...on February 14 and 15.
- 22 August 1890; *Sun*: Despite the muddy roads, there was a large attendance upon the services in dedication of the new M.E. church...last Sunday morning. Rev. T. McK. Stuart, of Corning, presiding elder of this district, preached a strong sermon. The church, which has a seating capacity of 250, held more than 300 people last Sunday. The church was dedicated free of debt...The new house of worship is very neat in appearance...
- 22 August 1890; *Independent*; Sherman Township: ...The church as completed is 28 x 45 with a tower in front 7 1/2 feet square and 60 feet high...Proposed improvements include window shutters and an organ...
- 18 October 1895; *Express*; Stratton: The Stratton church has been added to the Red Oak Circuit.
- 13 February 1903; *Sun*: After being closed for five weeks for repairs, the Stratton M.E. church was formally reopened on Sunday, Feb. 8. The ceiling and walls, that were badly disfigured...are now covered with steel ceiling of beautiful design...The painting is pronounced to be very beautiful...The woodwork has been repainted and all the church furniture revarnished...A new platform carpet will be put down...

From a *Stratton Church History*, by Maurice Taylor:

...C.L. Stratton was the dominating figure in the establishing of the church. He lived a short distance south of where the church now stands. He was a farmer and a lay minister. He held church services on the Sundays between the infrequent visits of a circuit rider...The church was called "The Stratton Church" in honor of Mr. Stratton's strenuous endeavors.

...In 1913 the church was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. The next day pledges for \$1530 were made and with the \$1000 insurance, was a substantial foundation for the cost of a new church. A tabernacle was erected in the school yard across the road and was completed in time for worship services the next Sunday.

The new church building was dedicated on December 7, 1913. On June 19, 1953, a small tornado took off the porch roof and one corner of the main roof and chimney. It was promptly repaired. Stratton is now part of a circuit that includes Hawthorne and Climax.

Among the members who became ministers were: William Stratton, Clarence Isaac, Ernest Kneedy, Ed Baker, Ben Hamilton, John Andrews and John Reys.

Sherman Center Christian Church

- 25 May 1875; *Express*: A Sabbath school was organized at Sherman Center school house on the 4th inst.
- 17 February 1876; *Express*: A festival was held at the Sherman Center school house on the evening of February 4th for the benefit of the M.E. preacher, Rev. C. Franklin.
- There will be a festival held at the Sherman Center school house Friday evening March 3rd for the benefit of the Evangelical church.
- 18 June 1908; *Graphic*: Obit: Lettie J. Shields, wife of D.W. Brick...united with the Church of Christ in Sumnum, Illinois...Bringing a letter from the church at Sumnum, she united with the church at Sherman Center, Iowa. When the church was organized at Elliott she became a charter member.
(Note: Tradition says that the Elliott Church of Christ was formed about 1880 by a consolidation of several congregations from the surrounding area.)

Milner's Schoolhouse M.E.

- 11 April 1890; *Sun*; Stennett: At the election of officers of the Stennett Union Sunday school, at the Milner school house, E.P. Milner was named president ...Ancil Morgan Vice-president, L.E. Burriss secretary and treasurer...
- 25 April 1890; *Sun*; Stennett: The rite of baptism will be administered to the converts of the M.E. church next Sunday by Rev. Harvey at the Milner school house. There will be about ten...

Stennett Union Church

- 4 December 1891; *Independent*; Stennett: All ladies who are interested in the building of a church in Stennett are invited to meet at Mrs. Light's next Saturday afternoon for the purpose of organizing a Ladies Union Aid Society.
- 23 December 1891; Articles of Incorporation; Misc. Bk. 14:190: ...The Stennett Union Church Association...managers for the first year shall be Wayne Stennett, H.H. Burris, Gilbert I. Hough, A.A. Morgan, L.P. Morton, L.E. Burris, and Henry P. Light...
- 2 September 1892; *Sun*: The dedication of the Stennett Union church occurred last Sunday. The church was filled at all the services, and in the afternoon there was scarcely standing room. After listening to an instructive sermon by Rev. W.W. Merritt the people adjourned to the woods and enjoyed a basket dinner. At 2 o'clock they again assembled in the church to hear Rev. H.G. McCulloch, of Atlantic, deliver the dedicatory sermon. After singing by the choir, the secretary's report was read. It showed a debt of \$450 still on the church building. The carpets, chairs and lamps and organ were purchased by the Ladies' Aid society...The building with all the furniture has cost \$1300. In the evening Rev. W.H. Shipman, of

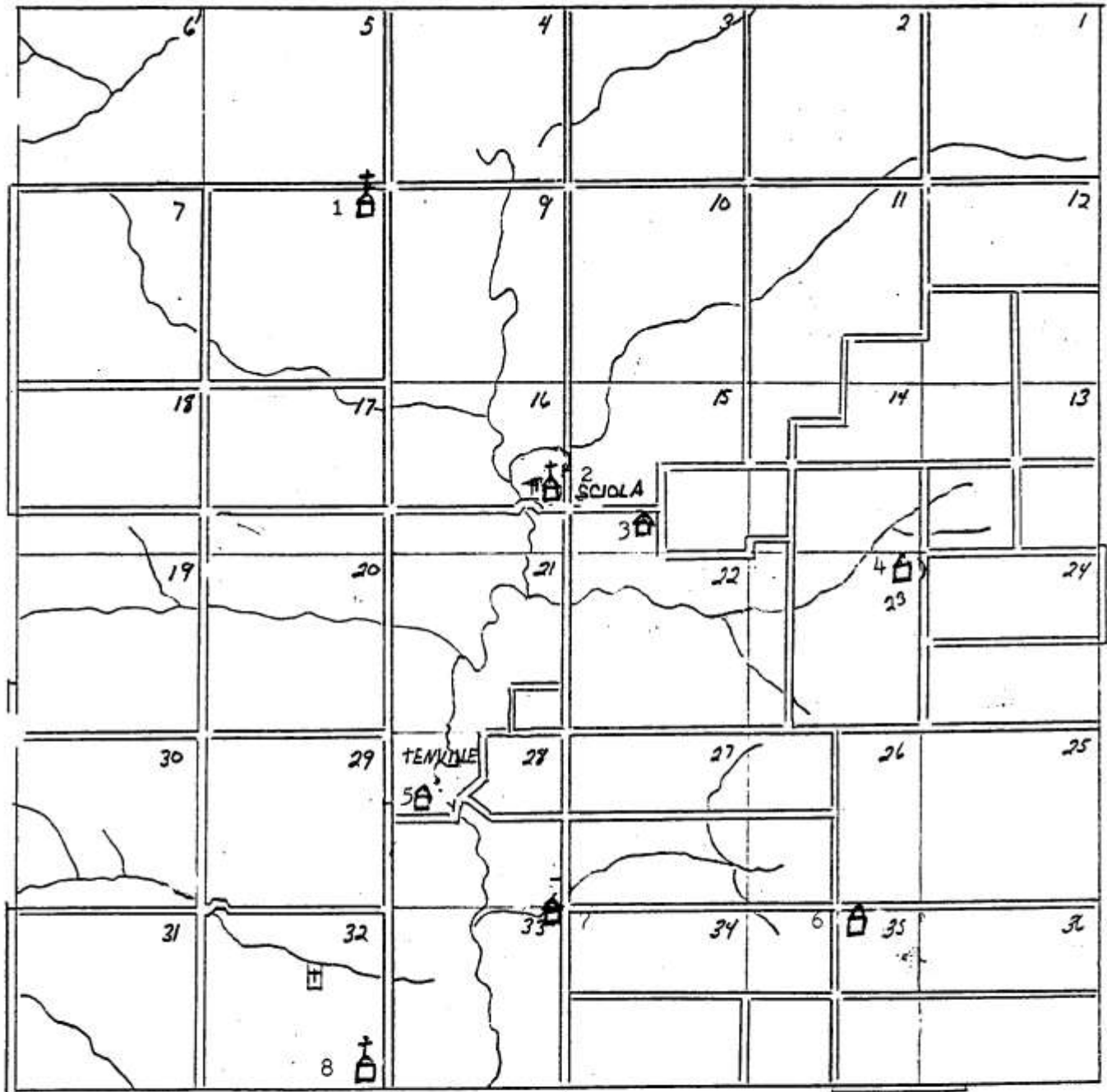
Red Oak, spoke to the congregation, also Rev. J.G. Bourne, of Red Oak, made a few remarks...

(Note: Merritt was a Universalist; McCulloch was an Advent Christian; Shipman and Bourne were Methodists. It was truly a Union church. Pastors of every denomination were welcome to preach, and many of them did.)

- 2 November 1892; Deed Bk. 14:176: Wayne Stennett and wife...to Stennett Union Church Association...Lots 38 and 39...
- 27 January 1893; *Independent*; Stennett: The A.C. conference meets here this week...
- 24 February 1893; *Sun*; Stennett: The young people will meet at the church next Sunday evening to organize a Christian Endeavor society.
- 21 December 1894; *Sun*; Stennett: There were in all 78 added to the church ...as a result of the revival meetings conducted here by Eld. Dale of Elliott...
- 18 September 1896; *Sun*: The county convention of the five Christian churches of this county, held at Stennett on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 5 and 6, was well attended and profitable...
- 30 November 1900; *Sun*: A Christian Church society was organized at Stennett last Sunday.
- 18 January 1901; *Express*; Stennett: There have been some improvements in the Union church the past week. The whole front of the church has been raised so the platform now extends the full width and a new carpet put down. A new angle lamp has been put up for the choir...
- 25 March 1921; *Sun*; Stennett News: There will be a large Easter festival at the Stennett community church on March 27. The Sunday school will be held at the usual time, 10:30 a.m., followed by a basket dinner. After dinner there will be an Easter program and talk by Rev. Rowe. The people of Stratton church are attending in a body...
- 30 December 1926; *Express*; Stennett: The Sunday School was prevented from giving their Christmas program Sunday night by the heating plant being torn down for repairs.
(Note: The church was used at least through 1922, but apparently sometime prior to 1926, it closed, and services were held in the consolidated school house.)
- 29 June 1936; Renewal of Incorporation; Misc. Bk. 35:37: Stennett Community Church...the purpose of holding meetings...for the worship of God for any and every Christian denomination...
- 6 August 1936; *Graphic*: STENNETT CHURCH SOLD LAST WEEK - C.W. Spicer bought the community church building at Stennett Wednesday of last week at a public auction. The selling price was \$310. Floyd Buffon, the blacksmith at Stennett purchased the lot for \$18. (Deed Bk. 39:544) The seats were sold to individuals at from 10 cents to \$1 each. Rev. L.L. Smith, Methodist circuit minister...supervised the sale...The old church building was for years not only a place to assemble for worship but a community center meeting place for all kinds of gatherings until the building of the Consolidated School building at Stennett.
(Note: Local sources say that religious services were held in the school house at least until about 1940.)

WASHINGTON

ATLAS 1907



Washington

1. Holmes Chapel M.E.; sec. 8.
2. Sciola Baptist; sec. 16.
3. Free Methodist; (# 5, Center; sec. 15)
4. Grub Ridge Community; (# 6, Grub Ridge; sec. 23)
5. Arlington Presbyterian; (# 10; sec. 28)
6. Pleasant Grove United Brethren; (# 7, Stewart; sec. 35)
7. Advent Christian; (# 8, Hazel Grove; sec. 33)
8. Arlington M.E.; sec. 32.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Holmes Chapel M.E.

1881 *History*; page 542: The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized Jan. 22, 1866. Its first members were George Hobson, Elvira Hobson, John T. Hobson, Cornelius R. Prall, Martha Prall, Manliff C. Prather, Emily Barnard, Mary M. Hobson, Mary E. Prather. The first presiding elder was M.H. Fleming. The successive pastors of this church have been Revs. W.F. Laidley, 1866, A.J. Andres, 1867; T.P. Newlin, 1869; W.T. Smith, 1870; L.W. Archer, 1872; M. Sheets, 1873; J.W. Buth, 1875; F. Plumb, 1878; R.F. Osborne, 1879; R. Randolph, 1880. The number of members in January, 1881, was 46 - all in one class.

There is an organization of trustees who have some funds on hand for the purpose of erecting a church building, and they are now preparing to do so. In connection with the church there is a Sabbath-school which has 60 members enrolled, and the average attendance is from 30 to 40. This meets only in summer time.

3 January 1884; *Review*; Sciola: There has been a protracted meeting at the Hobson school house the last four weeks, conducted by the Rev. Branson of the M.E. Church.

(Note: Hobson school was No. 2. The Methodists met there until they built a church.)

10 April 1885; *Sun*; Sciola: There is Sunday School every Sunday at the Hobson school, and preaching every two weeks. The school house has been thoroughly cleaned, and it is to be hoped that the men and boys who chew tobacco will keep it in their pockets and out of their mouths during services.

8 March 1889; *Incorporation*; Bk. 12:89: First Methodist Episcopal Church of Sciola...

22 August 1889; *Review*: Church Dedication - Holmes Chapel, situated nine miles north and one west of Villisca, was dedicated, on Sunday, the 18th inst., by Rev. Fletcher Brown, Vice President of Simpson College, at Indianola.

The church is 28x40, 14 ft. corner posts on brick foundation, surmounted by a spire and is furnished in good style. The pulpit is especially good. The entire cost, exclusive of stoves and bell, which are yet to be provided, has been something over \$1,500. The subscription is all paid up excepting a trifle over \$200. When this is paid they will have a surplus of \$50. Rev. Brown preached at 11 a.m. After the sermon, a collection was taken up of \$54.63 in cash, and \$6.60 in subscription. Following the collection, the church was formally dedicated.

There was preaching at 3 p.m. by Rev. Campbell, and in the evening, by Rev. Brown. Not more than one-third of those in attendance could be seated in the house. Everybody had plenty to eat when the hour to display chicken arrived. Those who were guests praise the hospitality of the place.

1926; *Methodist Archives*; Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant: Abandoned churches; Holmes Chapel sold.

- 23 March 1928; *Review*; Sciola: The Sciola Wrecking Company under the management of T.T. Thompson has been improving the time the past two weeks wrecking the Holmes Chapel building...

Sciola Baptist Church

17 December 1901; *Sun*: ...The Sciola Baptist Church was organized as a branch of the Milford church in 1864...

Letters from Sarah Nelson: October the 27, 1864; Sciola: ...Martha is going to Red Oak to the Board meeting tomorrow with some of our neighbors...

Historical Sketches of Iowa Baptists; page 246: ...The Seventh Anniversary (of the Southwestern Iowa Baptist Association) was held at Lewis in 1870...The Villisca, Sciola and Tarkio Churches were received...

3 September 1981; *Review*: ...In January 1869, the Sciola Missionary Baptist Church was organized as an independent congregation. It isn't known if the group met in homes or in the schoolhouse.

The Charter members were Mr. and Mrs. John Yergey, Mr. and Mrs. John Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. James Whitney, Cornelia Hobson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Shoemaker, and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Taylor.

On 17 June 1871, the church bought land from John Yergey, 14 by 11 and 1/2 rods, in Section 16, and built a church there, at a cost of \$1,600... The dedication ceremony was held on 30 June 1872.

...Being Baptists, the congregation practiced total immersion. The usual place for this rite was the dam at Arlington Mill.

On 5 June 1882, land adjoining the church lot was purchased to be used as a cemetery...

In April 1892, the church suffered severe damage from a wind storm. That is probably when the new windows were put into what is now the west side. More work was done on the building in the fall of 1901. Perhaps the balcony was added at that time. The area beneath the balcony was enclosed as a separate room, and one of the doors was made into a window. In December 1901, a rededication service was held.

In 1912 the west portion of the cemetery property was sold. A general store stood there for many years.

The Baptist Association discontinued their work at Sciola, and in May 1928, a Sunday School was organized by the American Sunday School Union, now the American Missionary Fellowship.

On 24 July 1929 the Baptist Association sold the Sciola church property to T.T. Thompson for \$250. On 13 April 1945 a board of trustees was elected to oversee the purchase of the church from Mr. Thompson. The dedication of the Sciola Community Church was held on 23 June 1946.

In the fall of 1970, the church was moved so that the highway could be widened. It is now behind the cemetery...

28 August 1981; *Express*: "The Old Rugged Cross" and "The Church in the Wildwood" rang out from old Sciola Church on the Nodaway River when a standing-room-only assembly sang those hymns of former times at the rededication of the church building Sunday...

(Note: When the building was moved, it was placed over a basement. Then it stood, unused, for ten years. In the spring of 1980, a complete

restoration project was started, culminating in the open house held in August, 1981.)

- 23 September 1983; *Express*: Sciola Community Center, formerly Sciola Baptist Church, marked its 112th birthday this year. Its present was a coveted spot in the National Register of Historic Places...The Sciola edifice appears on the National Register to remind present and future generations of the unique importance the country church played in the lives of the pioneers of Montgomery County.

The church is now administered by the trustees of Washington Township. No regular services have been held since the building was moved, but it is used as a town hall and community center. There have been six weddings in the church since the restoration work was completed.

Arlington Presbyterian Church

- 13 November 1891; *Express*; Sciola: No. 10 will soon be supplied with a better schoolroom. John Gourley is fitting up a room and will rent it to them for the present.

(Note: The "better" school house was a farm building in Gourley's hog lot, and was known as No. 10 Pigpen. That was where the Arlington Presbyterian Church began.)

From *Historical Exhibit of Presbyterianism in the Presbytery of Corning-1898*: By invitation of the people living near the school house, seven miles north of Villisca, Rev. F.W. Grossman preached January 29, 1892. Arrangements were made with him to preach regularly every other Sabbath afternoon, and this he continued to do until he resigned his Villisca church to go into the work of Pastor-at-Large. When the new schoolhouse known as No. 10 was built, the services were changed to that, and so continue to this day.

The next summer a petition was circulated and signed by 13 names, and these...were organized January 23rd, 1893. (Presbytery records say 22nd) Mr. S.A.Mc. Bain, Ruling Elder, called it the "Arlington Presbyterian Church".

Altogether there have been received into the church from the first, on examination, 40; by letter, 2; total, 42. Its present membership is 34...

The Sabbath School was begun May, 1892, as a Union School, Mr. J.J. Prehm, Superintendent. In September, Mr. Prehm sent in his resignation and Mrs. A. Baker was elected and continues to fill the place. When the Presbyterian Church was organized, the school was changed accordingly. The school is growing.

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was organized the fall of 1894, with a membership of 68 which during the year increased to 80, many of them being associate members. During the last year some of these united with the church and became active members. Others moved away and the membership is now 60.

Until the time this history was written, the church had been a charge of the Villisca church. Then, for a few years, the church shared a pastor with the

United Presbyterian church of Pilot Grove. When the pulpit was vacant, the Theological Seminary in Omaha was asked to supply student pastors. At times, the Arlington congregation couldn't even get a student, and didn't have services. Eventually they gave up the struggle, and the church was closed in 1913. It was never very sound financially, and for most of its existence received help from Presbytery.

Arlington Methodist Church

- 24 February 1904; *Sun*; Arlington: An M.E. Ladies Aid was organized.
- 13 May 1904; *Review*: The Ladies' Aid Society of the Arlington ME church will hold an ice cream social...Friday evening.
- 16 August 1904; *Review*: The Arlington Methodist Episcopal church, located five miles north-west of Villisca, was dedicated last Sunday, August 21st, 1904. The services of the morning and afternoon were held in a large tabernacle with a seating capacity of 500. At eleven o'clock a goodly congregation assembled to hear the sermon by the Rev. A.J. Coe of Elliott, father of the pastor. An opportunity was given to any to join the church and six responded. The morning services were concluded with the sacrament of the Lord's supper. A large number of people brought their dinners and came prepared to stay all day. About one o'clock the clouds began to gather and in half an hour it was raining...How the people came through the rain and mud was a surprise to all. The storm continued until after 4 o'clock, and yet there were between 3 and 4 hundred present. The presiding elder, the Rev. W.W. Hohanshelt, preached a very inspiring sermon...\$660 was subscribed, more than covering every cent of indebtedness. The congregation repaired to the church where the beautiful dedicatory service was conducted by the Rev. Hohanshelt, assisted by Rev. A.J. Coe, Rev. C.E. Trueblood of Grant and the pastor, Rev. J.E. Coe. In the evening a splendid congregation was present to hear the program rendered by the Epworth League...
- 28 May 1953; *Review*: From a history of the church, written by Mrs. Ralph Gourley, a former member: The Arlington Church was located five miles northwest of Villisca, on what used to be known as the "old bottom road", the land having been donated to the community as a church site by Theodore Kay in the early part of this century...

Previous to the building of the church, Sunday School and church services had been held in the old No. 6 school house, a mile and a half southwest of the site chosen for the church. But, as the school house was too small to accommodate the crowd which gathered there for worship, it was suggested that a new church be built...

Much of the labor necessary for the erection of the new building was donated by the farmers of the community. The church no doubt derived its name from the old Arlington mill, which was one of the old landmarks of that early day. The old mill was still in operation at the time the church was built and the locality, up and down the road west of the Nodaway river, was known as the Arlington community.

Rev. Coe is believed to have been the first minister in the new church. Some of the other ministers of those early days were: Kelley, Shannon,

Prewitt, and Clark. Rev. Hohensheldt was the presiding elder, or district superintendent. Rev. Clayburg was the last minister to conduct services in the church, preaching there at ten in the morning before giving his message to his own congregation in Willisca.

Some of the early superintendents of the Sunday School were Henry Truman, Mrs. George Dunn, Martin Enarson and Fred Bridwell. Avon Baker Childs served faithfully for many years as organist for both Sunday School and preaching services.

As the years came and went and changes in the community took place, interest in the country church began to lag. Perhaps the coming of the automobile played a large part in helping to bring about that change. Travel was faster and people began to go to town and other places of worship. So, after having stood for several years without having services held there, the church was salvaged in 1938.

Almost from the beginning of the church, there was a progressive women's organization, known as "The Arlington Ladies Aid Society". This group continued to keep up their activities for some time after the church was discontinued, as a branch of the Methodist Ladies Aid Society in Willisca.

...The Aid meetings were held once a month in the homes of the various members. During the summer months, these gatherings were usually held in the afternoon. This was back in the "horse and buggy days", and as more time was required on the road, during the months when the days were short it was necessary to hold all-day meetings. Everyone always made it a point to attend the Aid meeting - men and women, and the children who were not in school.

Each family took a basket of food which was served at the noon hour to all who were there, for the small sum of ten cents per person - including dessert...The hostess usually had some kind of work for the ladies to do for her, such as sewing carpet rags or quilting, for which she was supposed to give the organization 50 cents for their day's labor. If this lady was one of better financial standing than the average, she would often present the ladies with a whole dollar...

Sometimes during the winter months the ladies would hold an oyster supper. Another way of earning extra money was to serve dinner at farm sales. These were carried out in the same manner as the regular winter meetings, except that the charge for these dinners was 25 cents...

During the summer months, there was usually an ice cream social or two to help finance the work of the Aid. The cream and milk for making the ice cream was donated...and was usually gathered by some of the young folks who had a horse and buggy at their disposal. The ice for freezing the cream was donated by someone having an ice house, who had cut and stored ice from the river the previous winter for home use during the summer months. The men would gather in on the afternoon of the social and help freeze the ice cream.

Lighting for such occasions was always a problem. As it was difficult to use lamps out of doors, lanterns had to be provided for lighting the lawn where the social was held. It was quite an improvement when the gasoline lantern made its appearance. The proceeds of these various activities were used for buying furnishings for the church, for the upkeep of the building, and to help out on the pastor's salary.

In 1913 the Villisca ME circuit consisted of Arlington, Stewart schoolhouse, Neal schoolhouse, Cramer and Hepburn. During the summer of 1922 Arlington church and Sunday School were held in Mill Grove park in good weather.

- 14 April 1938; *Review*: Ad - CHURCH BUILDING For Sale - The trustees of the Villisca M.E. church have for sale the Arlington M.E. church building six miles northwest of Villisca on the old bottom road. To be Sold to Highest Bidder.

(Note: The church closed about 1935.)

Grub Ridge; Washington No. 6

- 5 July 1894; *Review*; Sciola: Church and Sunday School were held at Grub Ridge Sunday.

Religious meetings had probably been held in the school house from the time it was built. In the 'teens Rev. Bixler held church and Sunday school services.

1920 to 1930: Rev. Kisterson from the Red Oak Baptist church held meetings in a tent in the school yard. Many were baptized in the Red Oak church. Gertrude Tyler, a retired missionary, preached a number of times.

1930 to 1940: A Baptist minister's wife conducted meetings with chalk talks. Violet Hefner held meetings. In 1931, many were baptized in the Nodaway river at Sciola. Others who led services were Rev. Cass, Roy Jarboe, and Rev. Stanley. A class was baptized in the Villisca Baptist church.

- 4 August 1933; *Review*; Grub Ridge: Revival meetings will start next Sunday evening...Rev. Esch of Elliott will conduct the meetings...in a tent.
24 November 1933; *Review*; Grub Ridge: Sunday, November 26, the Grub Ridge Sunday School will have an all day meeting. Sunday School at 10 oclock, Thanksgiving program at 11 o'clock, dinner at 12, preaching in the afternoon. This will be our Rally day, so come and bring your dinner...Young People's meeting at 7 o'clock in the evening.

Free Methodist; Center School (#5)

- 7 January 1888; *Sun*; Sciola: The Free Methodists are holding revival meetings.
24 April 1903; *Review*; Sciola: Rev. Smith, a Free Methodist minister from Carbon preaches in the schoolhouse at Sciola every other week.
31 July 1903; *Sun*; Tenville: The Free Methodists are holding a tent meeting near Sciola.
1903; West Iowa Conference, Free Methodist Church; Creston District: Carbon, Mt. Etna and Sciola - A. Dowd, Carbon, Iowa.
1904; West Iowa Conference, Free Methodist Church; Creston District; page 52: Carbon, Mt. Etna and Sciola; T.B. Webb, Carbon, Iowa.

Hazel Grove Advent Christian
(#8, Hazel Dell)

- 9 April 1891; *Review*; Hazel Grove: Sunday School met and organized on April 5; C.E. Durham, President; I.N. Delaney, Vice President; L. Ellenwood, Secretary; Arch Baker, Treasurer; Addie Baker, Chorister.
- 14 July 1893; *Sun*; Sciola: The Adventists will have a meeting and basket dinner at Arlington Mills, Sunday, July 23.
- 10 January 1895; *Review*; No. 10: Rev. Mrs. Hayes' meetings at Hazel Grove are largely attended, the house being much too small to accomodate the big crowds. There have been four conversions.
- 14 February 1895; *Review*; Advent Christian conference was held at Kendrick's school house February 8-10.

It isn't known how long the congregation was active, but Sunday School at Hazel Dell continued at least until 1920.

In 1958, Patricia Penwell compiled a brief history of the Advent Christian church in this area. She didn't list her sources, but presumably they were found in the Advent Christian archives at Aurora College, which she was attending at that time. Hazel Grove was listed as one of the early worship centers. (*Aspects and Relationships Within the Advent Christian Church*; Chapter I, History of the Missouri Valley Conference)

Pleasant Grove United Brethren
(#7, Stewart)

- 13 January 1876; *Review*: The United Brethren are holding a revival meeting at the Pleasant Grove School House, north of town.
- 26 February 1880; *Review*: The U.B. are holding a protracted meeting at the Hobson school house. Rev. Mr. Service from Adams county is the leading minister...
- 17 June 1880; *Review*: Last week the ministerial association of the U.B. denomination met at a schoolhouse four or five miles north of town.
- 9 November 1882; *Review*: Mr. Lewis of the Quincy circuit UB has been assigned to Sciola.
- 1 May 1891; *Sun*; Sciola: A Sunday School has been organized at the Stuart school house.
- 4 September 1891; *Independent*; Sciola: Rev. Beetly of the Milford charge U.B. attended a meeting at Sciola.
- 18 January 1894; *Review*; No. 10: A series of revival meetings by the U.B. will begin soon, at the Stuart school house, conducted by Rev. Drake and wife of Corning.
- 20 December 1894; *Review*; Hacklebarney: There were a few who went down to Clarinda to the U.B. quarterly meeting Sunday.
- 30 July 1896; *Review*; Sciola: Several of our young people attended the social at #7- the U.B. church. The proceeds are to help pay their pastor.
(Note: This appointment was probably closed before 1900. An M.E. church was organized soon after that time.)

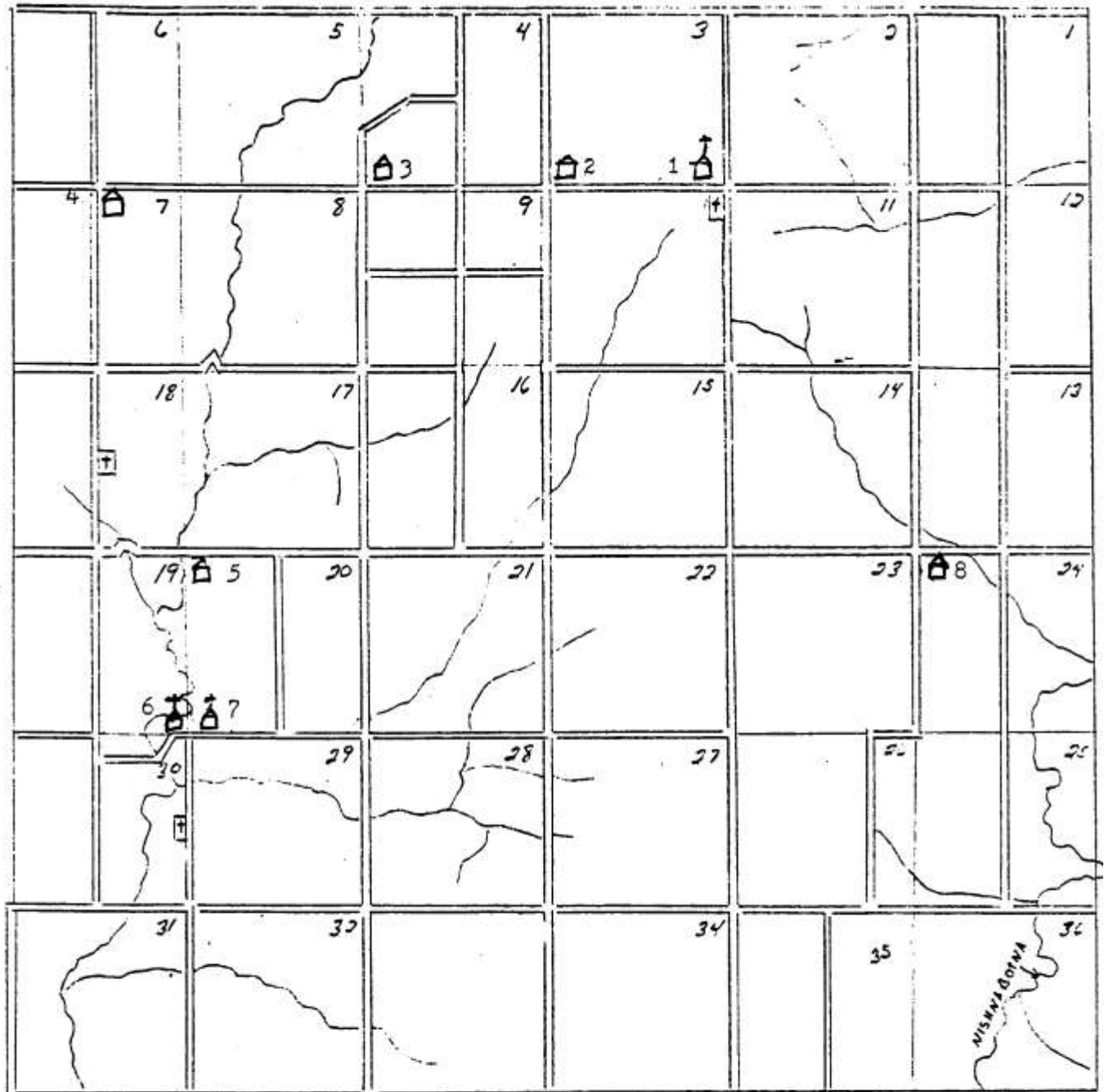
Stewart Methodist Episcopal
(Stewart Schoolhouse, #7)

- 5 July 1907; *Sun*; Sciola: Presiding Elder Hohanshelt preached at the Stewart schoolhouse last Sunday morning and Rev. Beveridge in the afternoon.
- 6 January 1910; *Review*: Rev. Garrett held meetings at Stewart schoolhouse Thursday and Friday nights, assisted by Rev. E. Hill of Villisca. There were quite a number received into the church.
- 9 November 1911; *Review*: The Royal Entertainers will give a concert at the Stewart schoolhouse Friday evening, November 10, under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society of Stewart.
- 18 September 1913; *Review*: The Villisca ME circuit consists of Arlington, Stewart schoolhouse, Neal schoolhouse, Cramer and Hepburn.

The last record found of the Stewart church was in May 1917. Various religious services were held after that, but there didn't seem to be an organized society.

WEST

ATLAS 1907



West

1. Salem Evangelical; sec. 3.
2. Methodist Protestant; (# 2, Centennial; sec. 3)
3. M.E.; (Carr's school house; sec. 4)
4. Champion Hill Cumberland Presbyterian; (# 3, Walnut; sec. 7)
5. M.E.; (# 4, West Lynn, Sutton; sec. 20)
6. Walnut Creek Meth. Protestant; sec. 19.
7. Climax M.E. Sec. 19 and 20.
8. Bethany Presbyterian; (# 6, I.X.L.; sec 24)

WEST TOWNSHIP

Walnut Creek Methodist Protestant

History of Montgomery County, 1881: page 547: The Climax Methodist Protestant church was organized in 1856...The successive pastors of this church have been: Revs. Tarkiton, Tipton, Horn, J. Martindale, Allen Davis, Hiles, Price, Childs, Persil, Dewitt Bolter, Bayles and Sanders. The present membership is about 30.

From a history of Climax, date unknown: Tradition says that religious services were held in the home of Stephen Glandon, in 1854, conducted by Elder Hunt of the the Methodist Protestant church...

A little later (than 1857) a schoolhouse was built along the present road nearly one half mile south of Climax on the west side of the road, on the south bank of the creek, where church services were held for many years...

4 March 1870; Articles of Association; Bk. 1:43: First Methodist Church of Montgomery County Circuit...

(Note: The congregation at Centennial #2 school and Good Hope Church of Grant Township were also members of this circuit.)

(12 April 1895; *Express*); obit of W.F. Price: ...In 1872 he came to Montgomery County...finding the schoolhouses too small for the congregations, he in 1874, built the MP church at Climax.

15 October 1874; *Express*; Climax: A Methodist church of good size is now in progress of erection.

21 October 1874; Deed Bk. 19:80: Samuel Ewing and Eliza A. Ewing his wife ...\$25...to Trustees of Walnut Creek Methodist Church...lot #7 SESE Sec. 19 T71 R39...

7 March 1878; *Express*: DEDICATION - The new Methodist Protestant church at Climax will be dedicated on Sunday the 28th inst. Rev. Alexander Clark of Pittsburgh will preach the dedicatory sermon.

14 May 1886; *Sun*; Climax: Rev. E.S. Brown preached at the Climax church Saturday evening, and announced for 11 o'clock a.m. and 4:30 o'clock p.m., Sunday...Sunday School will be organized the next Sunday, by Elder Beckwith...Arrangements were made to have preaching every two weeks hereafter. We are sorry to say the church organ could not be used, owing to the hungry little "church mouse". We sincerely hope that the old troubles existing here may be laid aside or trodden under foot.

From a History of Climax Church, by Mrs. Gayle (Hettie) Eastwood, about 1965: ...It was through the efforts of Mrs. Wallace, a minister, that the Methodist Protestants transferred their memberships to the M.E. Church in 1888...

1 September 1890; Deed Bk. 23:519: Thomas Weidman, F.M. Wax and Wm. Hunt, Trustees of the Methodist Protestant Church of Walnut Creek...\$800...to J.B. David, C.A. Hush, R.N. Withrow, J. Clawson, J. Barus, T. Marriott, L. Scott and G.W. Pierce, Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church at Climax...lot #7 section 19...

Methodist Episcopal Church

Methodist Episcopal history in West Township begins about 1865, with the society at Carr's schoolhouse. Around 1870 part of that congregation moved to the Hawthorne schoolhouse, and in 1871, a new church was established at West Linn #4. After the Methodist Protestants erected a church building in 1874 a ME group met in the David #9 schoolhouse.

Carr's School House - M.E.

1865; From *Minutes of the Western Iowa and Des Moines M.E. Conferences*; Vol. 1; 1860-1871; page 36: Council Bluffs District, Red Oak Circuit: Mission giving; Carr's school house; \$5.00.

1881 *History*; page 547: The ME church (At Carr's school house) was organized about January, 1865. The original members were W.G. Ewing and wife, Perry Carr and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Parish, Mrs. J. Culver, Charles Hascall and wife, Mrs. G. Figgins, Mr. Cunningham and wife.

This society has held its church services in different school houses, and its pastors have been: Revs. Hughes, W.F. Laidley, A.J. Andres, and Mr. St. Clair at Carr's schoolhouse...

Sutton School House, M.E. (#4 West Linn)

1881 *History*; pages 547-8: The Methodist Episcopal Church at the Sutton school house was organized in 1871. First members - C. Hascall and wife, J. Roosa and wife, J.H. Carr and wife, H.J. Carr, Wm. Allen and wife, Mrs. O.A. Carr, W.H. Permfield and wife, Jane Ewing, Nancy Ewing. There are now 25 members and their pastors have been: Revs. F. Plumb, E.W. Sage. L. Archer, C. Leach, and the present one, Mr. Marks.

David Schoolhouse ME (Fairview #9)

1881 *History*; page 547: The M.E. church...pastors have been: Rev. L. Archer, T. Barnhart, C. Leech and Mr. Marks, their present pastor, at the Climax and David schoolhouse.

5 March 1884; *Telephone*: The M.E. church commenced a protracted meeting at Fairview (#9) school house last evening...under the charge of Rev. Bruner.

Climax Methodist Episcopal Church

1 September 1890; Deed Bk. 23:519: ...Trustees of the Methodist Protestant church of Walnut Creek...\$800...to J.B. David, C.A. Hush, R.N. Withrow, J. Clawson, J. Barus, T. Mariott, L. Scott and G.W. Pierce as Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Climax...Lot #7, SESE Section 19...

27 February 1907; Deed Bk. 35:102: John Imel and wife...\$35.00...Climax ME church...Lot one of Lot 3 of the SESE Section 19...

- 29 April 1907; Deed Bk. 36:517: Robert Norris and wife...\$100...to the Trustees of the M.E. Church of Climax...one acre in the southwest corner of Section 20...

From *History of Climax Church* by Mrs. Gayle Eastwood, about 1965: ...Rev. John Arnold began his ministry in 1906, and the following year a new church was built on the location where the church now stands. Mr. Robert Norris donated the land. The cost of this building was \$5,000, and 150 names were recorded as members at that time...About this time, Climax and Imogene became a charge with the minister living in Imogene.

Between 1:00 and 2:00 on Sunday morning, December 3, 1922, the church and contents burned to the ground. It was a stunned and sad group that stood around the smoking ruins that afternoon. Pledges amounting to over \$3,000 were made toward a new building before the crowd dispersed... Services were held in the David schoolhouse a mile south of Climax during the time the building was being erected.

The new church was built at a cost of about \$14,000, and was dedicated on December 2, 1923. There was an overflow crowd...

It was during this time that our association with Imogene was terminated, and Climax and Strahan were combined, the parsonage being at Strahan...from 1937 to 1947 we were again teamed with Imogene until that church was closed...In 1954...we were invited to join the Red Oak circuit...serving Climax, Hawthorne and Stratton...

Centennial No. 2 - Methodist Protestant

- 1881 *History*; page 481: The Methodist Protestant...circuit takes in two congregations in West Township - one...at the Centennial school-house. They have preaching every two weeks.

(Note: Probably a building was moved to that location about 1876; that would account for the name "Centennial". The parsonage for the three appointments of the circuit was located in Grant Township.)

Salem

- 28 August; 1878; Bk. 4:639: Certificate of Association made this day of August 28th...Emil Mueller, Peter Belzer, J.W. Rinehart...

Article I - The name shall be Immanuel Church of the Evangelical Association of North America in Montgomery County, State of Iowa...

- 5 June 1879; *Telephone*: The Evangelical Quarterly meeting has been in progress at the West Riverside schoolhouse, Elder Neil presiding...

- 25 April 1884; Bk. 19:194: George W. Mitchell and wife...\$40...to M.G. Gile, J.W. Rinehart and Jacob Rost, Trustees of the Evangelical Association of Montgomery County...Lot number one of the SESE of Section 3 to be used as a place of divine worship...and whenever the sd premises are used for any other purpose...they shall revert to the grantor...

- 28 September 1885; *Sun*; Salem: The ladies of Salem met at the church Wednesday evening and organized a "Ladies Social Circle". The object of the society is for a place of entertainment and to obtain funds to defray the church expense.
- 12 November 1886; *Sun*; Beacon Field: The social given last Friday evening ...closed the first year of the Ladies Circle's work...the church has been carpeted, new blinds purchased and painted, upholstered pulpit chairs and pulpit stand bought...
- 7 February 1890; *Express*: A People's Christian Endeavor society was organized at Salem, with a membership of 32.
- From anonymous manuscript, compiled from various sources: Among the early members were Mr. and Mrs. Michael P. Giles, Jacob and Simon Rost and families, Mrs. P.E. Buchanan, and Mother Bruce...The first services were held in the West Riverside school.
- In 1883, Rev. J. Wirth began his ministry to the Evangelical Society. Plans were made for the building of a church, and it was completed that year at a cost of \$1,444.64. An old house was moved onto the property to provide a parsonage. There were 35 members at that time.
- Other early ministers included A. Bussard, W.W. Morgan, Walter Piper and W.J. Conrad.
- 17 July 1896; *Sun*; Salem: There is a strong feeling of indignation here over the taking of the seats, carpets, and other furnishings from the church. Almost two-thirds of the money that built the church was given by people who were not members. The money that paid for part of the furniture was made by monthly socials. A church, especially a country church, should never be deeded to any society whatsoever, but should remain in the hands of the trustees, then they can lease to any church denomination for religious services.
- (Note: This is the only record found indicating that the Salem church had closed. During 1898 and 1899, the Evangelical pastor from Red Oak preached fairly regularly at the Round Grove school house in Grant Township, but no record was found of a formal organization there.)

United Evangelical Church

- From *Official Directory and Hand Book*, 1923-24, Bethel Evangelical Church, Red Oak, Iowa: ...After almost a century of denominational life and activity, differences arose in the church, which in 1891 culminated in a division, a considerable number of ministers and members organizing themselves (in 1892) into a denomination under the name of the United Evangelical Church...on October 14th, 1922,...the two churches were reunited under the name of The Evangelical Church...
- 26 October 1894; *Sun*; Salem: Quarterly meeting will be held at the West Riverside school house on Saturday and Sunday, October 27 and 28.
- 30 November 1895; *Sun*: Rev. A.L. Golden, from Des Moines, a minister of the United Evangelical church is holding a series of meetings at the Riverside school house, one mile east of Salem church, preaching every evening.
- 21 August 1896; *Sun*; West Riverside: Father John Wagner from La Porte City, Ia., will preach in West Riverside school house on Sunday, August 23 at 11

- a.m. and 8 p.m...Father Wagner has passed his 84th year and is the oldest member of the Des Moines Conference of the United Evangelical Church.
- 12 March 1897; *Sun*; Salem: A meeting will be held at Salem church on Saturday, March 20, at 7 p.m. to select a board of trustees to take charge of the cemetery. It is desirable that...funds be raised to put the grounds in shape and repair the fences...
- 4 June 1897; *Sun*; West Riverside: The West Riverside Society of the U.E. Church have bought the old Salem church property of J.J. Esher & Co. and will repair the same. It will be ready for holding services therein sometime after harvest.
- 29 October 1897; *Express*; West Riverside: The United Evangelical church...has been given a general overhauling- a new belfry, new seating and pulpit, the ceiling (sic) wainscoated and the sidewalls treated to wall paper and the outside has been given two coats of paint. A number one hot air furnace will be placed under the building...The church will be re-opened and dedicated November 7...
- 25 May 1906; *Sun*: The new gasoline lamps in the Salem church give excellent light.

Salem church was closed around 1930. The members were transferred to the Bethel Evangelical Church in Red Oak. In 1934, the building was razed and the lumber used in constructing a parsonage for the Red Oak church, now the Church of the Nazarene. In April, 1943, heirs of George W. Mitchell sold the church land to Eva Gillespie for \$100. Nine days later, additional land was purchased for the Salem cemetery.

Christian Church
(#6, I.X.L.)

- 26 February 1886; *Sun*: Rev. Hardman of Red Oak is conducting a protracted meeting at I.X.L.
- 28 May 1886; *Sun*; Salem: The Sunday School at I.X.L. has been so well attended that more new song books have been ordered. It has a membership of 70.
- 3 December 1886; *Sun*; Salem: A festival was given by the members of the Christian church...for the benefit of the pastor, Rev. Hardman.
- 3 May 1889; *Sun*; Salem: The I.X.L. Sunday School is running again, with George Soward, Supt., Mrs. J.E. Frank, Asst.-Supt; Frank McGreer, Sec-treas.; and Frank Braden, Librarian.
- 24 April 1891; *Express*: Elder Morrison will preach at I.X.L. next Sunday.
- 23 March 1894; *Sun*: Rev. E.W. Bowers will preach at I.X.L. school house Sunday p.m. at 3 o'clock.

Bethany Presbyterian Church
(#6, I.X.L. School House)

- 1 April 1892; *Sun*; Salem: There will be preaching at I.X.L. next Sunday at 3 p.m. by Rev. L. Dykstra of Red Oak.
- 17 November 1893; *Sun*; Salem: Two Presbyterian evangelists, Revs. Hart and Ferguson, have been conducting a series of very successful revival meetings at I.X.L. school house. There have been over 20 conversions.
- 5 December 1893; Minutes of the Corning Presbytery: A petition, presented to the presbytery sitting at Prairie Star church, signed by 27 persons, praying for the organization of a church at I.X.L. School house, Montgomery County, and pledging themselves to become members of the same, was granted, the church enrolled, when organized, as Bethany.
Ruling Elders - R.N. Withrow; T.B. Ratliff; W.A. McGreer.
- 8 December 1893; *Sun*: The fifth Presbyterian church society in the county was recently organized in I.X.L. school district, West Township, with 24 members.
- 15 December 1893; *Sun*: The congregation of the Bethany Presbyterian church society, recently organized at I.X.L. school house...gave Rev. Mr. Dykstra a surprise visit yesterday, making the day happy with cordiality and good cheer. Three more members united with the society at the time, making the total membership 30.
- 20 April 1894; *Sun*; Coburg: There is to be a social at the I.X.L. school Friday ...for the purpose of purchasing an organ for the Sunday School and church.
- 3 April 1896; *Sun*; Coburg: The meetings held at the I.X.L. school house by the Foote Bros. closed Tuesday. They were enjoyed by all who attended them and were the means of bringing many into the ark of safety. The meetings will continue all week under the management of Rev. Mr. Grossman.
- 22 May 1896; *Sun*: Rev. E.A. Enders of Conway is to be pastor of the Bethany Presbyterian church at I.X.L. school house, as well as of the Presbyterian church at Essex.
- Office of History, Presbyterian Church (USA); 425 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: The Bethany Presbyterian Church - from 1900-1904 the pastorate was vacant. The church was dissolved in 1905.

Champion Hill Cumberland Presbyterian
(#3, Walnut, Champion Hill)

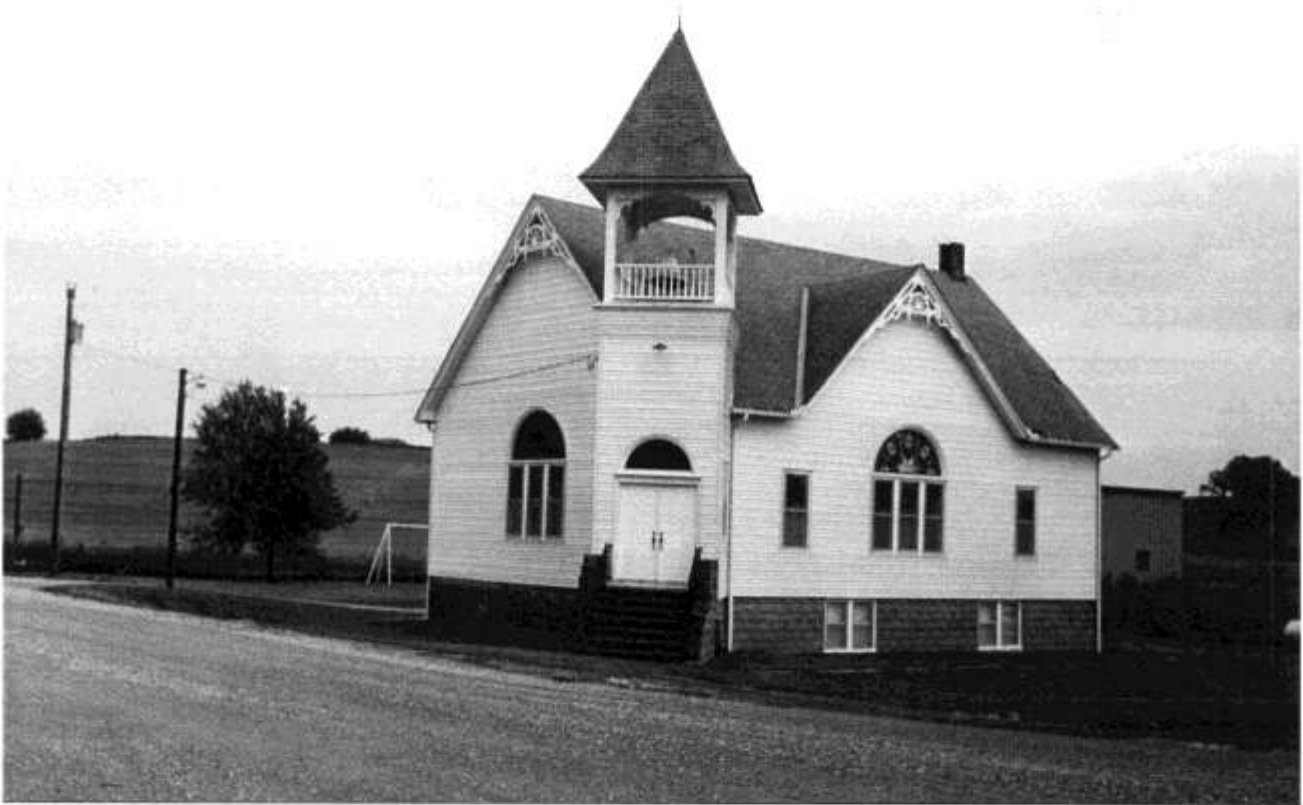
- 1881 *History*; page 548: Champion Hill Sabbath School was organized at Walnut school house, in July, 1878. The first superintendent was J.H. Spears... Average attendance about 32.
- 10 February 1881; *Review*: Rev. W.C. Means goes the first Sunday in each month to preach in the southwest corner of Montgomery County.
- From *100 Year History of The Champion Hill Church*: On 3 July, 1880, a group of people met in the Walnut school house, West Township, and organized the Champion Hill Cumberland Presbyterian church. The members were W.F. Davis, Sr., Elizabeth E. Davis, Minerva J. Burch, Wm. S. Burch, Sarah J. Kellenbarger, Elba Swisher, Mary E. McMullin, Elizabeth A. Davis, Sarah H. Stockton, Malinda Ray, Francis A. Pace and Jane Pace.

F. A. Pace was elected and ordained the first ruling elder of the new congregation. Preaching services were held in the Walnut School House, with W.C. Means pastor. Due to the lack of ministers, Champion Hill was able to have services only about a fourth of the time. On 9 June, 1883, thirty-one members met to consider the matter of building a church. Two proposals were made in regard to location. A subscription paper was circulated, and subscribers were to indicate their choice of sites. The decision was made to erect the church on land owned by Wm. F. Davis, Sr., in Mills County.

In 1906, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church united with the Presbyterian Church USA.

- 2 June 1989; *Express*: Champion Hill Presbyterian church is closing. The last worship service will be June 4. Formalities of the closing by the Presbytery of the Missouri River Valley will be June 11 at 7:30 p.m...

APPENDIX
PICTURES OF THE NINE EXISTING
RURAL CHURCH BUILDINGS IN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, IOWA



MORTON MILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH, DOUGLAS TOWNSHIP



SCIOLA CHURCH, WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

CLIMAX UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, WEST TOWNSHIP





WALES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LINCOLN TOWNSHIP

STRATTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SHERMAN TOWNSHIP

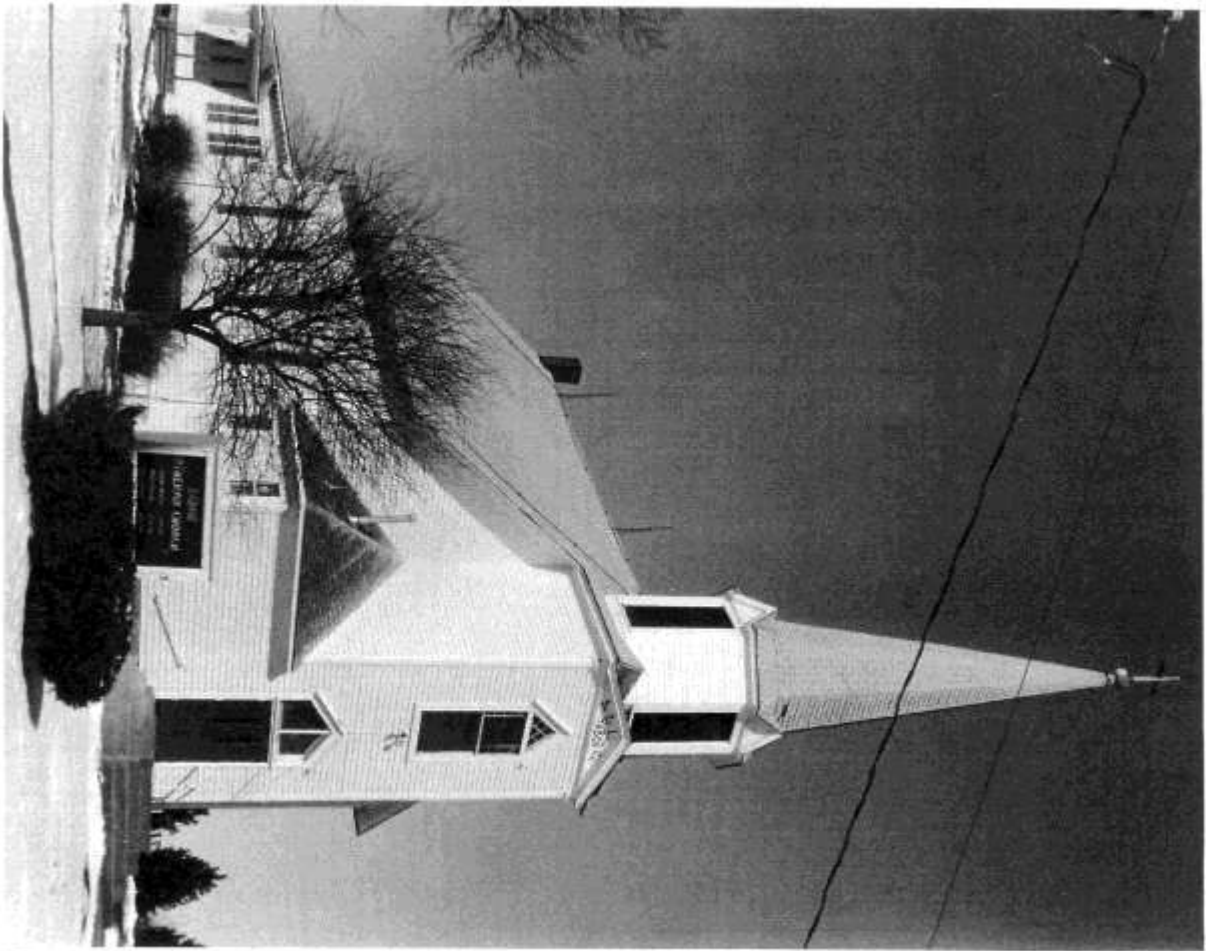




PILOT GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PILOT GROVE TOWNSHIP

CENTER RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LINCOLN TOWNSHIP





TABOR SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH, WALLIN, FRANKFORT TOWNSHIP

HAWTHORNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, GARFIELD TOWNSHIP

