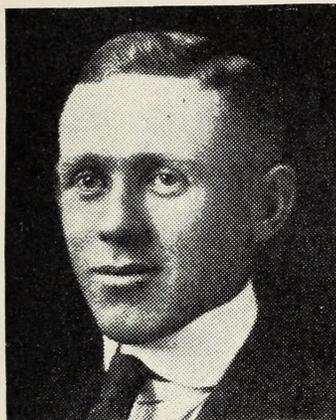


**PAUL H. SHERRICK**—Son of Prof. M. M. Sherrick. Enlisted Aug. 5 at Traverse City, Mich., in Quartermaster Dept. Transferred to Clerical Dept., Signal Corps, at Grand Rapids. Sent to Columbus, Ohio, receiving station and then to Camp Alfred Vail, N.J., and assigned to Co. D, 422nd Telegraph Battalion. In October, 1918, transferred to Camp Merritt, N.J., and sailed for France.

**CARL SHOWE**—Enlisted in the U.S. Navy at Des Moines, Iowa, and was trained at the Great Lakes Naval Station. His rank was 1st Class Engineman, and he made six trips across the Atlantic. He was discharged Nov. 20, 1919, after two years' service.

**ROSS SILVIUS**—Enlisted at Camp Zachary Taylor in the 21st Co., 6th Battalion, on Sept. 4, 1918, but being under weight was discharged as physically unfit for service.



**CLAUDE SMITH**—Son of Chas. Smith. Entered service May 25, 1918, at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Miss. Assigned to 150th Ambulance Co., 113th Sanitary Train, 38th Div. In September, 1918, transferred to Camp Mills, Long Island, N.Y., and arrived safely overseas in October, 1918. Died of influenza in Alexandra Park Hospital, England, and buried with full military honors at Willow Grove Cemetery, Reddish, England. Body was brought to Mount Morris for burial in October, 1920.

**JESSE SMITH**—Enlisted July, 1917, with Co. K, 3rd Ill. Nat. Guard, at Camp Grant, Ill. Was discharged in August, 1917, because of physical disability.

**CHARLES H. SPIKER**—Enlisted at Great Falls, Mont., in Co. M, 306th Inf. Was sent overseas in August, 1918; returned and was discharged in May, 1919.

**WILLIAM B. STIGER**—Enlisted in September, 1918, at Claremore, Okla., in Co. 260, 15th Sanitary Train, and was trained at Camp Logan, Tex. Was discharged Feb. 1, 1919.

**FRED STEFFEN**—Enlisted in the navy at Milwaukee and was trained at Great Lakes, Ill., and Hampton Roads, Va. He served on the Battleship Missouri as first class seaman and second class gunner's mate from June, 1918, until January, 1919. Was discharged Jan. 25, 1919.

**HARRY STOUFFER**—Entered service December, 1917, at Gordon, Nebr., with C. Co., 313th Signal Battalion. He was appointed cook and was trained at Lincoln, Nebr., and Leavenworth, Kans. Discharged June 19, 1919, after 18 months' service.

**MARTIN STOUFFER**—Entered service with Co. L, 342nd Inf., Camp Grant, Rockford. In December, 1917, transferred to Headquarters Co., 161st Depot Brigade. In February, 1918, appointed corporal clerk. In July, 1918, transferred to Camp Raritan, Metuchen, N.J., and assigned to Co. C.

**JOHN H. STOVER**—Son of Mrs. Sarah Stover. Enlisted in January, 1918, at San Francisco, and assigned to Quartermaster's Corps. Later transferred to Camp Joseph E. Johnston, Jacksonville, Fla., and assigned to Chauffeur's Co., No. 1. Arrived in France in July, 1918. In August transferred to Motor Transport Corps, School No. 1. Later assigned to Prov. Co. C, in motor transport service.

**JOSEPH STRITE**—Enlisted in June, 1918, at Oregon, Ill., in the 310th M.T.C. Was trained at Kansas City, Mo., and promoted to corporal. Was sent overseas in October, 1918. He returned and was discharged in September, 1919, after 15 months' service.

**HENRY CARL SUTER**—Son of Samuel Suter. Entered service May 25, 1918, at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Miss., and assigned to Co. A, 138th Machine Gun Battalion. In September, 1918, transferred to Camp Mills, Long Island, and arrived overseas early in October.

**WORTHINGTON H. THOMAS**—Son of Noble Thomas. Enlisted in Students' Army Training Corps, Sept. 29, 1918, and was assigned to Company B, University of Illinois Training School, Champaign, Ill. Discharged Dec. 17, 1918.

**JAMES TICE**—Son of Cleg Tice. On Nov. 27, 1917, commissioned first lieutenant of Infantry at the Reserve Officers Training Camp, Ft. Sheridan, Ill., and assigned to Camp Grant. In February transferred to the 311th Cavalry, U.S. Regular Army, and sent to Fort Riley, Kans. Promoted to official squadron adjutant of Troops E, F, G, and H. In August, 1918, made Personnel Adjutant, 68th Field Artillery, West Point, Ky. In September, 1918, promoted to Captain. In November, 1918, appointed Personnel Adjutant and Assistant Secretary to the Commandant of the School of Fire for Artillery Officers at Fort Sill, Okla.

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**E. R. TILDEN**—Enlisted in the U.S. Navy at Chicago, Ill. He trained at Great Lakes, Ill., and served as a member of the Armed Guard Crew on the transport "Amphion" during her useful life—Sept. 20, 1917, to June 15, 1918. He was then Radioman on the merchant ship "Arundo" to the end of the war. He made six trips overseas. Was discharged Dec. 15, 1919, after serving 3 years and 2 months.

**CHARLES TOWNS**—Entered service at LaSalle, Ill., in July, 1918, as musician with the 23rd Recruit Co., C.A.C., and was trained at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. He was discharged Dec. 21, 1919, after 5 months' service. He died at Hines Hospital Feb. 8, 1937.

**GLEN UNGER**—Son of Grant Unger. Enlisted in Co. K, 3rd I.N.G., at Rockford. Sent for training to Camp Logan, Houston, Tex. Transferred to Co. K, 129th Inf., U.S.N.G. In November promoted to corporal. Transferred in April, 1918, to Camp Upton, Long Island, N.Y. Sailed for France on May 11, 1918. On June 14, his Division (33rd, Illinois National Guard) was used in line with the British command, near Amiens, and later with the Australians at Hamel. He participated in the Verdun sector during the Meuse-Argonne battle and was a member of the Army of Occupation, stationed in Luxembourg. He was discharged in June, 1919, after 26 months' service.

**GRANT UNGER, JR.**—Son of Grant Unger. Enlisted in U.S. Navy. Sent for training to the U.S. Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill. March 12, transferred to Philadelphia and assigned to duty on U.S.S. New Hampshire.

**WALTER WADDELOW**—Enlisted in Field Hospital Service, Co. 344, Camp Grant, Rockford. Sent to France with 86th Division in September, 1918.

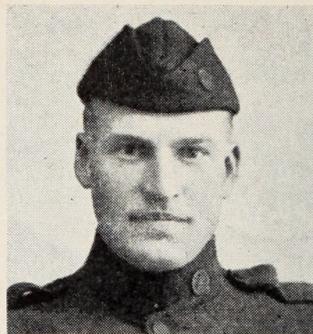
**IRA M. WAGENMAN**. Enlisted May 22, Co. A, 311th Field Signal Battalion, Camp Grant, Ill. Sent to France with 86th Division in September, 1918. Promoted to Corporal.

**CARL W. WAGNER**—Was with 86th Div. He died in 1925.

**HAROLD WALKUP**—Son of Chas. Walkup, enlisted at Evanston, Ill., in Co. B, S.A.T.C. He was in training three months and was discharged Oct. 17, 1918.

**GEORGE WARWICK**—Enlisted at Ames, Iowa, May, 1918, in Quartermaster Dept. Unassigned. Was discharged in May, 1919.

**DONALD F. WYNNE**—Entered service in U.S. Navy at Chicago, Ill. He was trained at Rhode Island as gunner's mate, and was discharged Feb. 14, 1919, after 8 months' service.



**WILLIAM WATSON**—Entered service with Casual Co. 2, 342 Infantry, Camp Grant, Rockford. In June, 1918, sent to Camp J. E. Johnston, Detention Co. No. 5, Jacksonville, Fla. In July assigned to Field Remount Squadron No. 309 and transferred to Camp Hill, Newport News, Va. Promoted to corporal. Sailed for France in September, 1918. Promoted to sergeant. Returned and discharged in July, 1919.

**ROBERT R. WATTS**—Son of Gera Watts. Entered service at Mason, Minn., district. Assigned to Camp Dodge, Des Moines, Ia., and transferred to Camp Mills, Mineola, N.Y., as a member of Headquarters Co., 139th Infantry. Arrived in France in April, 1918. Now in Soldiers & Sailors Home, Danville, Ill.

**THOMAS WILSON**—Enlisted at Corunna, Mich., Nov. 18, 1917. He served as Auto Mechanic in aviation with Co. 10. He was in France from Feb. 10, 1918, to Mar. 11, 1919. Discharged from Camp Sherman, Ohio, May 1, 1919, after 17 months' service.

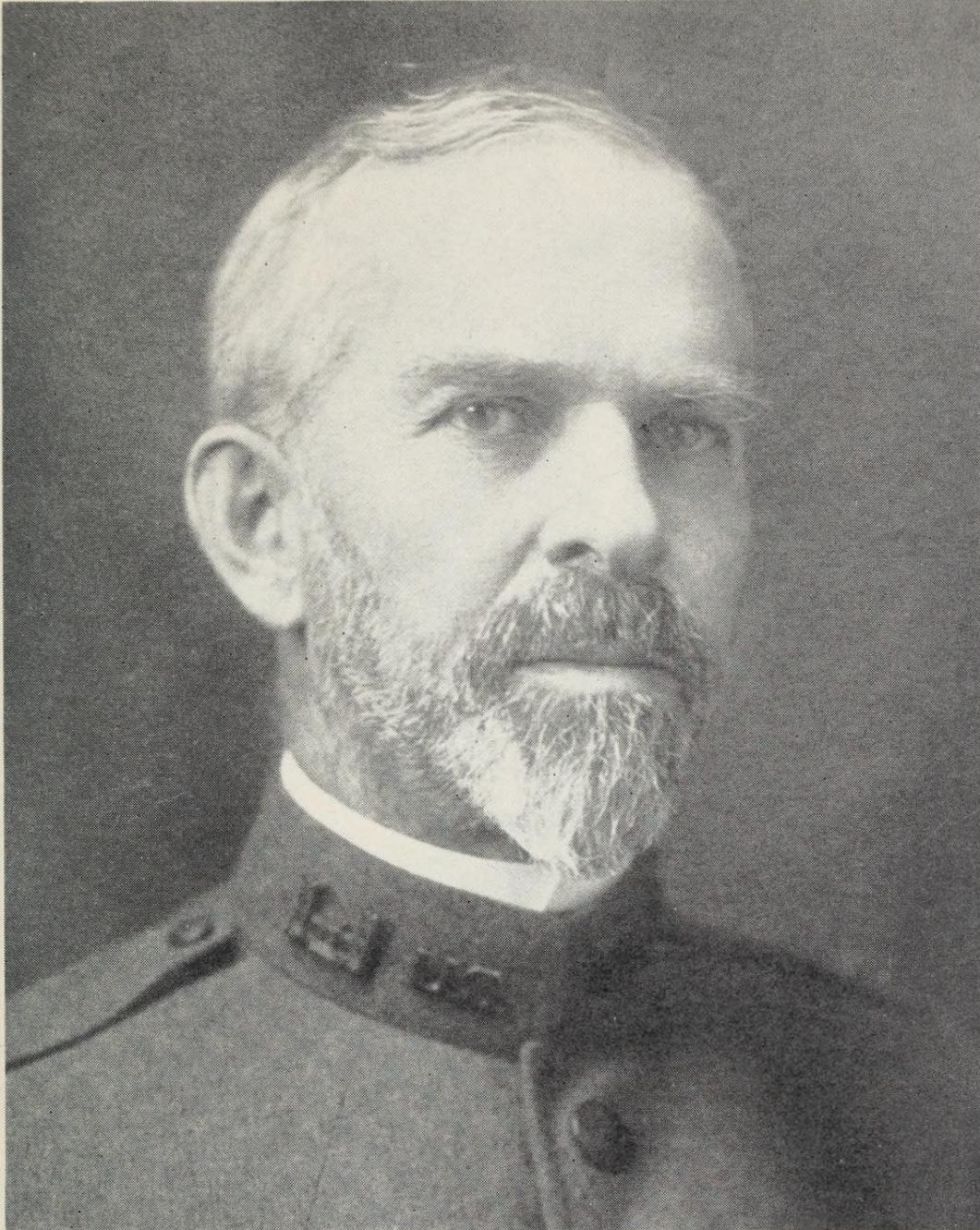
**BERT WINDERS**—Enlisted in Canadian Expeditionary Forces, April, 1916, and assigned to 131st Battalion, Machine Gun Section. Sailed for England in the fall of 1916. Was very severely wounded at Vimy Ridge during the Battle of Arras, April 9, 1917, which crippled one leg and one arm. Was taken to Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool, England, May 9th. Invalided home in January, 1918, and sent to Ontario Military Hospital, Cobourg, Ontario. In July, 1918, transferred to Queens Military Hospital, Kingston, Ontario. In November honorably discharged at Vancouver, B.C.

**CLIFFORD C. WINDLE**—Enlisted from University of Illinois with Headquarters Co., 40th Infantry, stationed at Fort Sheridan, Ill.

**MIL0 D. ZIMMERMAN**—Son of Rev. H. E. Zimmerman. Entered service May 20 at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. Transferred to Camp Jackson, Columbia, S.C., and assigned to Battery A, 10th Battalion, Field Artillery Replacement Depot. Promoted to Sergeant in July, 1918. Discharged Jan. 11, 1919, after 8 months' service.

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HENRY CLAY NEWCOMER, Brigadier-General, U. S. Army, retired, is a Mount Morris boy who made a fine record in the United States Army. He was the son of Dr. David and Mary Shelley (Funk) Newcomer, and was born in Upton, Pa., April 3, 1861. He was brought to Mount Morris by his parents when he was ten years old and graduated from the Mount Morris Public Schools and Mount Morris College. He taught school in the vicinity of Mount Morris and entered the U. S. Military Academy at West Point in June, 1882, from which he graduated with top honors in a class of 77 in June, 1886. He served in the engineering branch of the army and was gradually promoted to First Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Colonel and Brigadier-General. He served four years as an instructor at West Point and had many other important assignments, including one in the Hawaiian Islands. In 1886, he was married to Rebecca E. Kosier and they had three children, Harry S., Francis K., and David A. Mrs. Newcomer died in 1913 and in 1915 he was again married, to Mrs. Lily A. Foster (nee Armour). Gen. Newcomer lives at "The Ontario," Washington, D.C.

## LOCAL ARMY RESERVE OFFICERS

**B**ESIDES the 129th Infantry Band, which is the regimental band of that regiment of the Illinois National Guard, with headquarters in Mount Morris, there are a number of local men belonging to the reserves who would be subject to call in case of war, as follows:

Major C. J. Price, Medical Reserve, Executive Officer, 73rd Evacuation Hospital.

Captain Howard Bronson, Illinois National Guard, Intelligence Officer, 129th Infantry.

Captain J. Harvey Wright, Infantry Reserve, Plans and Training Officer, 420th Tank Regiment.

Captain D. E. Riedl, Dental Reserve, Medical Detachment, 420th Tank Regiment.

1st Lieut. Harry G. Kable, Illinois National Guard Reserve.

1st Lieut. H. G. Dohlen, Quartermaster Reserve, 1st Replacement Center.

1st Lieut. O. T. McCoy, Field Artillery Reserve, 330th Field Artillery.

1st Lieut. Murray Dumont, Medical Reserve, 73rd Evacuation Hospital.

2nd Lieut. Wm. Earl Hovis, Infantry Reserve, no organization assignment.

Private Raymond H. Moody, Enlisted Reserve, Company B, 420th Tank Regiment.



## Chapter 14

### THE POST OFFICE

**D**URING the first few years after the settlement of Mount Morris Township the mail service was very limited, for since there were no railroads in this vicinity all of the mail had to be brought by stage. The first regular mail service in Mount Morris was started in 1839 by a stage line running from LaSalle to Brewster's Ferry. It was known as route number 2838 through LaSalle, Brookfield, Winooski, Grand Detour, Mount Morris, Boonsboro and Freeport, to Brewster's Ferry, 90 miles and back once a week. The contractor was Leonard Andrews, and the schedule for service was as follows: Leave LaSalle every Monday at 6 a.m.; arrive at Brewster's Ferry the next Wednesday at 6 p.m. Leave Brewster's Ferry every Thursday at 6 a.m.; arrive at LaSalle the next Saturday by 6 p.m.

Mails were brought by stage for probably fifteen years until the Illinois Central Railroad was built through Polo in 1853 and a mail route was established from that place. F. B. Brayton, who was postmaster from 1863 to 1881, operated a stage line between Polo through Mount Morris to Oregon in 1864 and carried both mail and passengers from that time until the building of the Chicago and Iowa Railroad through Mount Morris in 1871. This stage operated by Mr. Brayton made daily trips between Polo and Oregon thus affording Mount Morris people their daily mail.

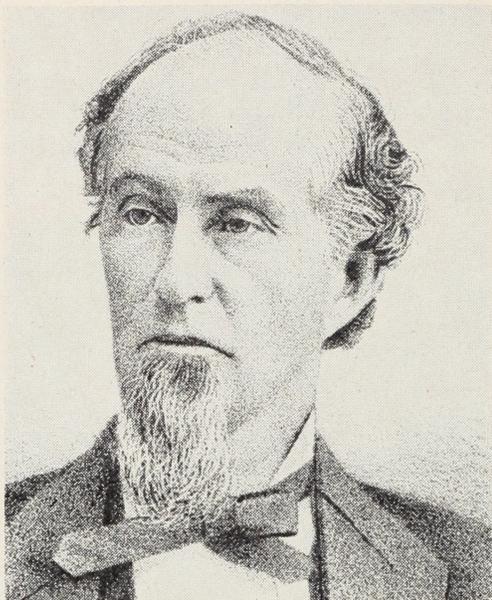
After the building of the Chicago and Iowa Railroad through Mount Morris and the passage of numerous Illinois Central trains over the lines to Chicago, Mount Morris had very good mail service for many years. After the Illinois Central built its own route to Chicago the mails became somewhat less frequent and eventually all train mail

service through Mount Morris was discontinued and the mails are now being picked up by the bus at Oregon three times a day.

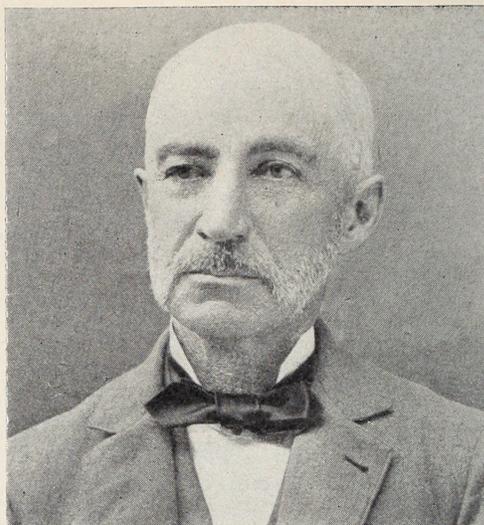


DWIGHT S. SHARER, postmaster of Mount Morris, is the son of Charles H. and Susan (McCosh) Sharer and was born in Mount Morris August 10, 1900. He graduated from Mount Morris High School in 1918 and attended Mount Morris College for two years. He graduated from Northwestern University at Evanston in 1922 and received an "N" in basketball. He is a member of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. He is an accomplished musician and was a former member of the Kable Band and traveled with the University of Iowa State Military Band on a Chautauqua tour. In 1919, he played with the Allied War Veterans' Band in Boston, Mass. After his graduation, he worked in Chicago for a number of years and returned to Mount Morris in 1932. He was appointed Acting Postmaster in July, 1935, and received the regular appointment in February, 1936. He is president of the local Kiwanis Club and Commander of the American Legion Post. Mr. Sharer was married in 1930 to Myrtle Sharpness and they have two children, Richard Lee and Suzanne.

The records of the Post Office Department indicate that the Mount Morris Post Office was established March 31, 1841, and was opened for business on May 4 of that year. John Sharp was the first postmaster and his compensa-



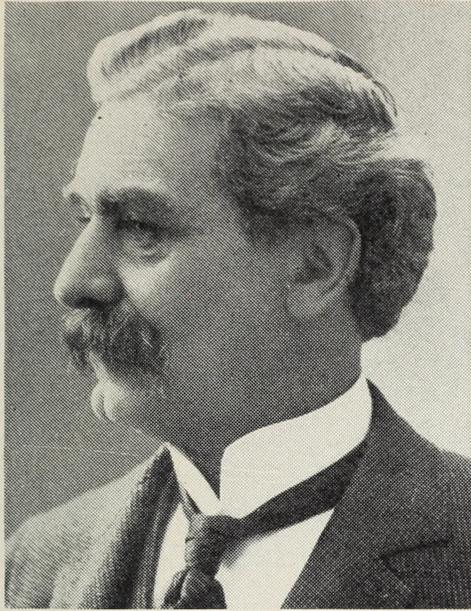
FREDERICK G. PETRIE was postmaster in Mount Morris from May, 1843, to February, 1849, and again from June, 1853, to October, 1855. He was also connected with many of the early business enterprises of Mount Morris. He was the son of Stephen and Lidia (Genery) Petrie and was born Aug. 22, 1818, at Kingston, Canada. He came to Mount Morris in 1840 and the first two years he was engaged in chopping wood for the Seminary and making brick. In 1843, he engaged in the mercantile business with Enoch Wood under the firm name of Wood & Petrie. In 1851, H. J. Farwell bought out Mr. Wood and the firm name was changed to Petrie & Farwell. Later Mr. Petrie was connected with Brayton, Baker & Petrie in operating a sawmill and he lost a hand in an accident in the mill. In 1858, he was elected Sheriff of Ogle County and moved to Oregon. He served one term as Sheriff, and was elected Circuit Clerk in 1860. In 1873, he was elected County Judge, which position he held until 1877. Mr. Petrie was married in 1840 to Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. John Sharp. Their first child, John R., was the first child born in Mount Morris (Feb. 17, 1841). There are two other sons and three daughters. Mrs. Petrie died in 1853 and within a year Mr. Petrie married Mrs. Mary S. Hill. They had one daughter, Mary E., who married Rev. W. M. Satterfield. Mr. Petrie died in 1887 and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery.



FREDERICK B. BRAYTON served as postmaster of Mount Morris for five consecutive terms from 1861 to 1882. He was born in Warren County, N.Y., Aug. 10, 1818, and came to Mount Morris with his father, Rev. Daniel Brayton, in 1841. It is said that they opened the first store in Mount Morris. This store stood at the present location of Schmucker's Cafe, formerly the residence of Jesse Bollinger. It was first a general store, but later all lines were dropped except drugs and books. After the death of his father in 1850, he associated with H. D. Judson, under the firm name of Brayton & Judson. Later Elias Baker was associated with him with the name of Brayton & Baker, and still later John P. Hand became a partner. In 1873, Mr. Brayton's son entered the business and inherited it when the father died in 1897. He was connected with Rock River Seminary in the early days, having held the position of secretary and trustee of the institution. He was married in 1842 to Charlotte L. Wheeler, and they were the parents of five children. The eldest, Ernest W., met his death at the age of eleven years, through an accident in his father's saw mill, which was located on the Hilger farm just south of town. The other children were Elizabeth (Mrs. John P. Hand), Florence (Mrs. Wm. N. Gilbert), Lillie (Mrs. Wm. H. Miller), and Arthur W. Brayton. Mr. Brayton died Dec. 10, 1897, aged 79 years, and the mother died in 1885.

tion from May 4 to June 30, 1841, was \$3.86, and the net proceeds of the office for that period were \$1.01. The compensation of Postmaster Sharp for the entire fiscal year, 1843, was \$138.69 and the net proceeds of the office for that period were \$258.42.

When this office was established, the postage rates on a letter weighing less

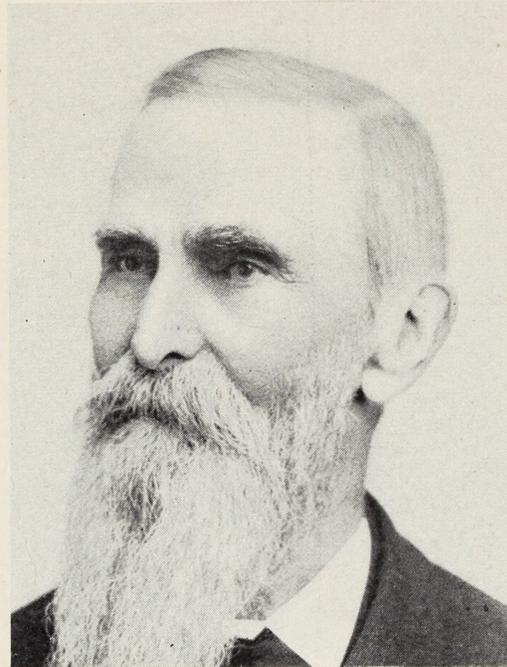


OLIVER H. SWINGLEY, who was postmaster of Mount Morris from February, 1882, to January, 1886, was born near Hagerstown, Md., July 17, 1842, and died in Mount Morris, June 17, 1921, aged nearly 79 years. He came to Mount Morris in the early forties with his parents, Benjamin and Catherine (Hershey) Swingley. He lived on his father's farm when a boy and later attended Rock River Seminary. During the Civil War he served in the 4th Cavalry, with the rank of second lieutenant. When he returned from the war, he married Augusta Alden, and they lived in the house later occupied by J. G. Royer. They had six children: Fred, Mrs. Maude Tate, Mrs. Florence Niswanger, Mrs. Gertrude Evans, Mabel Swingley and a son who died in infancy. Mrs. Swingley died in 1908. Mr. Swingley conducted a drug store in Mount Morris for a number of years beginning in 1868 and later a jewelry store. Later he served as cashier of the Bank of Mount Morris for Maj. Chas. Newcomer, and then located in Omaha for over 20 years, returning to Mount Morris to retire.

than one ounce were as follows: Mail not exceeding 30 miles, 6c; over 30 and not exceeding 90 miles, 10c; over 80 and not exceeding 150 miles, 12½c; over 150 and not exceeding 400 miles, 18¾c; over 400 miles, 25c.

During the 96 years that Mount Morris post office has been in existence, there have been only fifteen postmasters and the records of the Post Office Department give the names of these postmasters and the effective dates of their appointments as follows:

John Sharp.....March 31, 1841  
 Frederick G. Petrie.....May 15, 1843  
 Enoch Wood.....Feb. 19, 1849  
 John Ankeny.....March 23, 1849  
 Frederick G. Petrie.....June 29, 1853

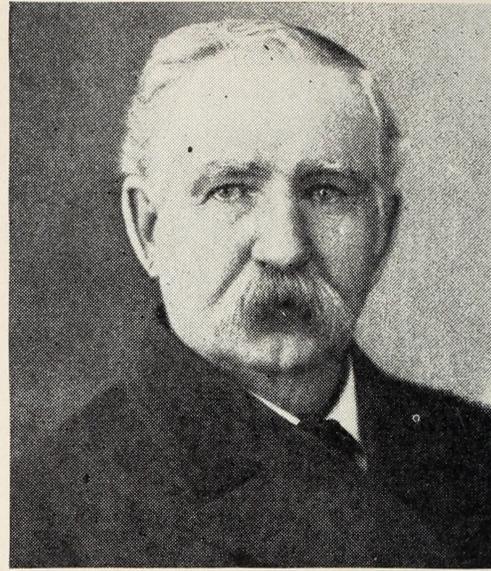


HENRY SHARER was postmaster in Mount Morris from January, 1886, to January, 1890. He was one of the very earliest settlers in Mount Morris. He was born in Washington County, Md., March 29, 1817, and died March 5, 1905, aged nearly 88 years. He was the son of John and Anna (Newcomer) Sharer, and was the youngest of three children. In 1839, Mr. Sharer came west to Mount Morris and purchased land east of town, including the farm now owned by Jacob Bonar. He continued to farm until about 1865, when he came to town and purchased the grocery business of Henry Newcomer and took in John Swingley as a partner, with the firm name of Sharer & Swingley. They were located in the large new building on the southeast corner of Wesley and Main Sts. After a number of years they sold out to William Rine. He was a member of the village board for eight years, was school director for six years and was postmaster of Mount Morris for four years under the first Cleveland administration. In 1845, Mr. Sharer married Cornelia Motter, to whom five children were born: John, Anna E. (Mrs. J. H. Swingley), Luella M. (Mrs. W. W. Wheeler), and two who died in infancy. Mrs. Sharer died in 1853, and Mr. Sharer married again in 1858, to Mrs. Sarah A. (Felker) Hewitt. To them one child was born, Chas. H., who later became a prominent business man in Mount Morris.

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Hiram Beard.....Oct. 20, 1855  
 Edward Davis.....June 23, 1855  
 Fred B. Brayton.....May 21, 1861  
 Oliver H. Swingley.....Feb. 17, 1882  
 Henry Sharer.....Jan. 13, 1883  
 Frank N. Tice.....Jan. 9, 1890  
 John E. McCoy.....Feb. 15, 1894  
 Holly C. Clark.....March 9, 1893  
 Solomon E. Avey.....June 24, 1914  
 Benjamin S. Price.....Jan. 30, 1923  
 Dwight S. Sharer.....June 30, 1925

Up to the year of 1900, the post office in Mount Morris was quite unimportant and as a general rule the post office was housed in mercantile establishments with the merchant as postmaster. However, in the year 1900, when the gross receipts were only \$3,906.00, the business of the post office began to increase by leaps and bounds. In 1910 they were



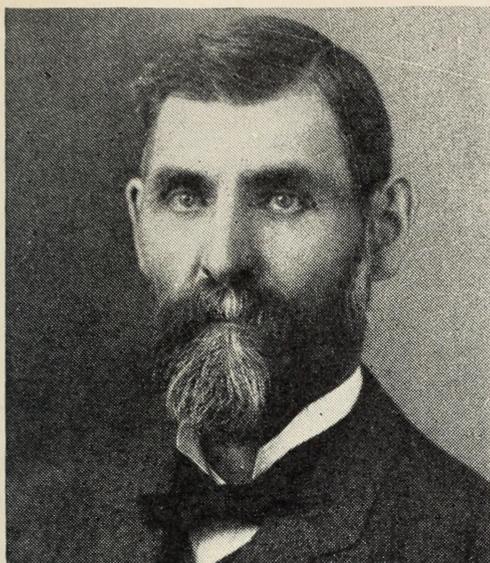
JOHN E. McCOY was postmaster in Mount Morris from 1894 to 1898. He was born in Mount Morris Jan. 22, 1842, and died Jan. 26, 1922, aged 80 years. He was the son of James B. and Elizabeth (Swingley) McCoy, pioneer settlers of Mount Morris, and was the second child born in the village. His father was the contractor who built the original "Old Sandstone" in 1839. Mr. McCoy was educated in the public school and at Rock River Seminary, after which he farmed until appointed postmaster of Mount Morris in 1894. In 1865, he was married to Mary Ellen Swingley, and four children were born to them: Mabel (Mrs. Victor Canode), Grace (Mrs. Frank Coffman), Charles B. and Howard, who died at the age of eleven. Mrs. McCoy died in 1906. Mr. McCoy was a member of the Lutheran Church and the Masonic fraternity.



FRANKLIN N. TICE was appointed postmaster by Pres. Harrison in 1890 and served four years. He was born in Washington County, Md., Dec. 20, 1828, and was the only son of John and Nancy (Newcomer) Tice. He was married in 1850 to Catherine Felker and in 1855 brought his wife and two children to Mount Morris. Later he engaged in the grain and lumber business at Haldane and then moved to a farm north of Forreston. In 1874, he moved to Forreston and in 1876 he established the Forreston Herald. He was elected to the State Legislature from 1875 to 1880, and moved to a farm northeast of Mount Morris. Later he moved to town and died July 25, 1896, aged 68 years.

\$9,053.00; in 1920, \$76,275.00; in 1930, they had jumped to \$388,866.00 and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1937, \$487,178.00. At the rate of increase attained during these last years, the postal receipts will doubtless exceed the half million mark for the next fiscal year. In the year 1919, the Mount Morris post office became a first-class office and at the present time the postal receipts in the Mount Morris office are exceeded in Illinois only by Chicago, Peoria, Rockford and Springfield.

It is very unusual for a city with a population of approximately 2,000 to produce a half million dollars in postal receipts in one year but this remarkable fact in Mount Morris is due to the large



HOLLY C. CLARK was postmaster of Mount Morris from 1898 to 1914. He was born in Beckett, Mass., Nov. 20, 1847, and died in Mount Morris, April 8, 1924, aged over 76 years. In his youth, Mr. Clark worked on his father's farm until 1863, when he enlisted in Co. B, 37th Mass. Infantry, taking part in nearly all of the terrible fighting before Richmond. He was severely wounded at the battle of Sailor Creek and the effect of this wound remained with him until his death. After the war he continued his education and taught school in the East, and located in Mount Morris in 1873, where he was actively engaged in business and political life for a period of 51 years. In the eighties he and Ira W. Wingert purchased the grocery store of Benjamin Rine and after several years sold to Newcomer Bros. Later Messrs. Clark and Wingert went into the lumber and coal business and after a number of years Mr. Clark sold his interest to Mr. Wingert. Mr. Clark was married in 1875 to Josephine, youngest daughter of Rev. N. J. Stroh, and four children were born to them: Roscoe, Riner, Grace and an infant son who lived only a week. Mrs. Clark died in 1934.

amount of second and third class mail matter produced by Kable Brothers Company.

It is something to be proud of, and certainly most unusual, when you consider that the Mount Morris post office started out 96 years ago with annual receipts of less than 5.00 with the postmaster as the only employe and today it exceeds the half million dollar mark with a force of fourteen employes including the postmaster. The annual

payroll of the office in 1937 was approximately \$35,000.00.

The Mount Morris post office has always been located in leased quarters until in 1937 when a fine new federal post office was completed. Under authority of the Emergency Construction Program Act, approved Aug. 12, 1935, \$73,000.00 was allotted by the government for the Mount Morris post office to include the cost of site, building and administration. September 15, 1936, this amount was increased \$2,800.00, making the total limit of \$75,800.



SOLOMON E. AVEY served as postmaster from July, 1914, to March, 1923. He is the son of Thomas and Laura (Davis) Avey and was born in Mount Morris August 9, 1872. He graduated from the Mount Morris High School and attended Mount Morris College two years. For a number of years he was a painting contractor and later proprietor of a book and paint store. He was appointed postmaster in 1914 and since 1923 has been foreman of the mailing and shipping department in the Kable plant. He has served on the Village Board of Trustees and was president one year of the grade school board. He is a Past Master of the local Masonic Lodge and is also a member of the Eastern Star, the Knights Templar, Consistory and Shrine. He is a member of the Lutheran Church and president of the Sunset Golf Club since 1937. Mr. Avey was married to Isabelle Beard Dec. 25, 1895, and they have six children as follows: Gladys (married Chas. Edson), Syril E. (married Lulu Pyper), Olive Bea (married Jule Rohleder), Oliver Maurice (died Dec. 1922), Nellie Mae (married Milton Johnson), and Floy G.

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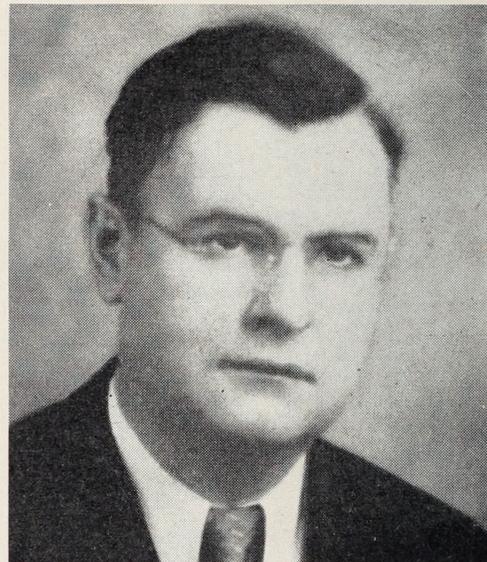


BENJAMIN S. PRICE, postmaster of Mount Morris from 1923 to 1935, was the son of Samuel C. and Elizabeth (Young) Price and was born in Mount Morris, February 27, 1876. He graduated from Mount Morris High School in 1892 and from the commercial department of Mount Morris College in 1897. He started in the hardware business in 1893 and after fifteen years in that business he became associated with the Citizens Bank for ten years. He was appointed postmaster in 1923 and served twelve years under Presidents Harding, Coolidge, Hoover and Roosevelt. He was instrumental in securing the new post office building which was built in 1936 and 1937. He served on the Village Board of Trustees for two terms. Mr. Price was married in 1903 to Alice Bechtold and their home is at 314 E. Center Street.

Sites were advertised for and after investigation, selection was made of the property submitted by the Kable News Company, situated at the Southeast corner of Main St. and Seminary Ave., which was purchased at a cost of \$3,000. Announcement of this selection was made on Sept. 26, 1935, and title was vested with the Government on March 24, 1936. The building was designed by the office of the Supervising Architect, Procurement Division, Public Buildings Branch, Treasury Department, and on Sept. 17, 1936, the Treasury Department awarded construction contract to the C. A. Moses Construction Company of Chicago, Ill., in the amount of \$54,540.00, the building to be completed within 270 calendar days from date of notice to

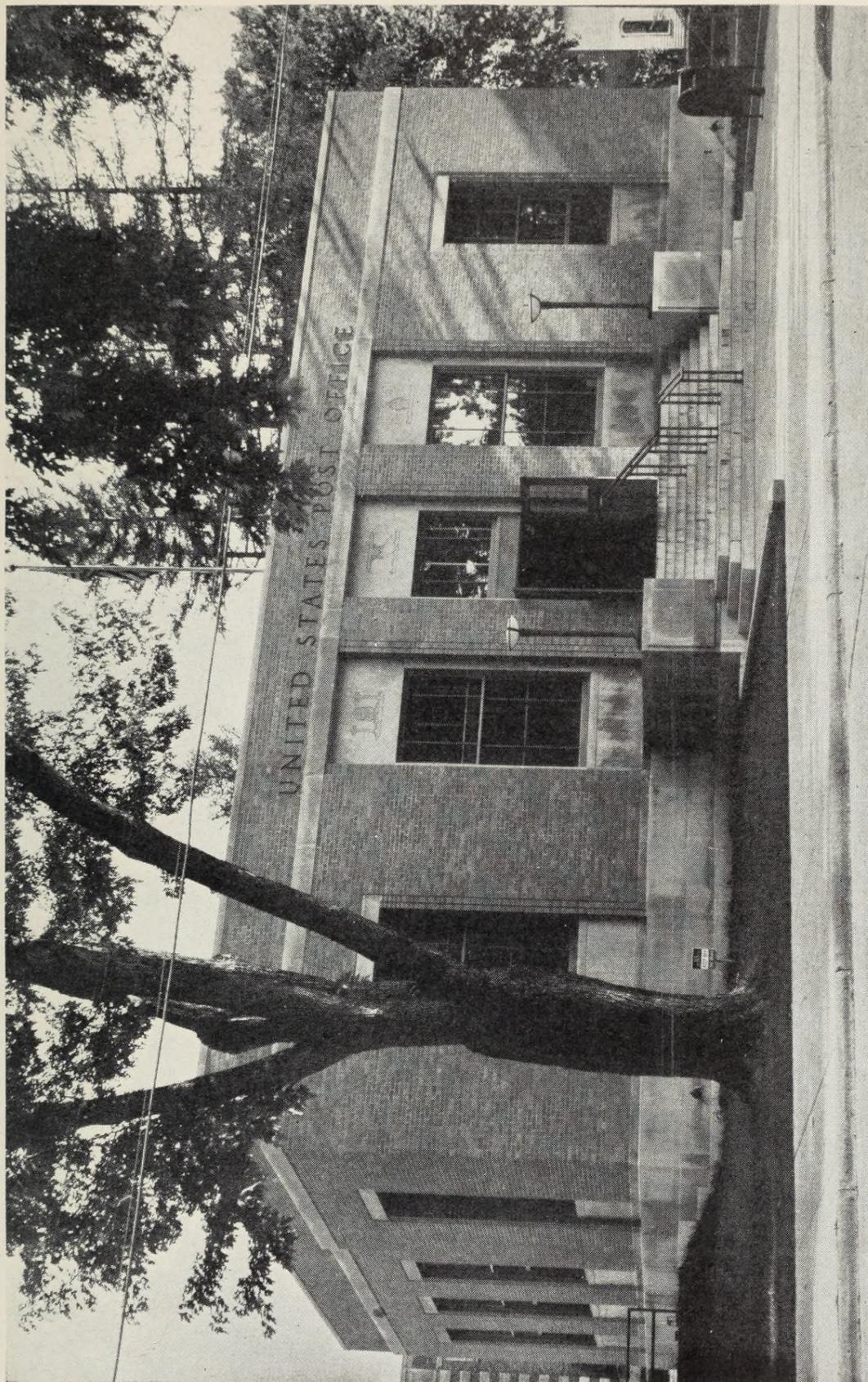
proceed. The building is 68 feet across the front and has a depth of 55 feet. The ground area is 4,056 square feet and the content of the building amounts to 115,800 cubic feet. The building is of contemporary design with buff brick exterior walls, stone trim and metal windows. Granite steps and platform with lamp standards mark the front entrance. At the rear are the usual vestibule and platform for the reception of mail and a mailing drive with space for parking postal automobiles. A flat composition roof of wood and steel construction covers the entire building. Concrete foundation walls and floor slab are used and the structure is generally fireproof.

This building was first occupied on Aug. 23, and was dedicated on Saturday, Nov. 6, 1937, by exercises in the Community Gymnasium. The government was represented by J. M. Donaldson, Deputy First Assistant Postmaster

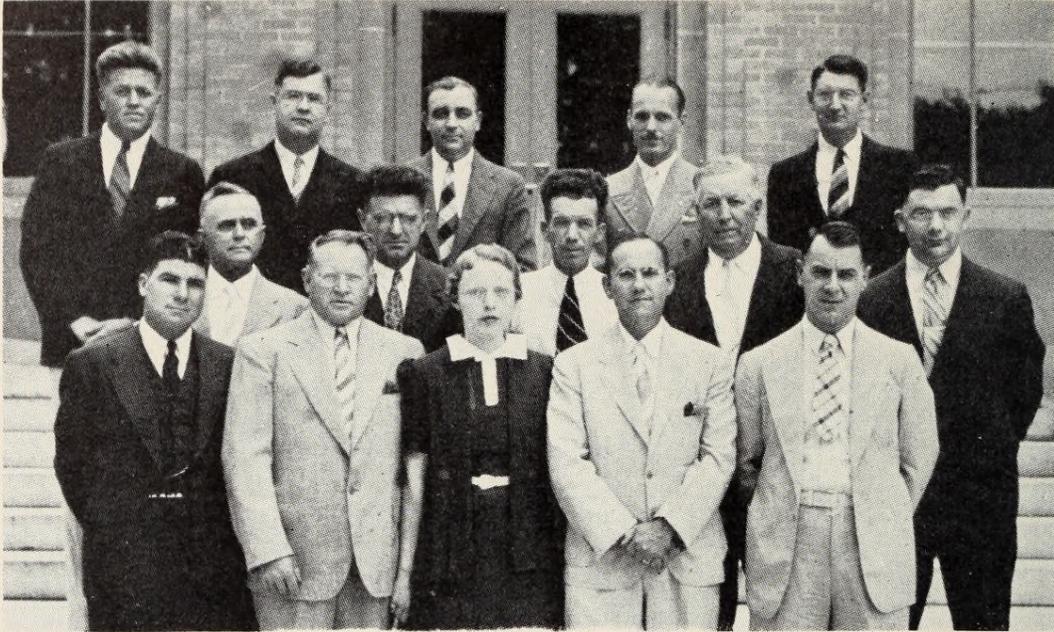


EMMERT J. WOLF started work in the local postoffice in 1913 and was promoted to assistant postmaster in 1919, which position he has held with credit until the present time. He is the son of Carlton and Ella (Fridley) Wolf and was born July 28, 1894, in Mount Morris. He attended Mount Morris High School and graduated from the commercial department of Mount Morris College in 1913. He is a member of the local Masonic lodge and the Kiwanis Club. He is also a competent musician and has been a valuable member of the Kable Band for many years. Mr. Wolf married Uarda Sears of Oregon in 1916 and they have one son, Joseph Sears.

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THE MOUNT MORRIS POST OFFICE building was erected in 1937 at a cost of over \$50,000. It is 55x68 feet in size and is located on the northwest corner of the old college campus.



WORKING FORCE of the Mount Morris Post Office: Front row, left to right: John S. Buck, city carrier; Walter Waddelow, clerk; Edna Neher, clerk; George E. Neher, clerk; Dale M. Lizer, clerk; middle row, George C. Emmert, rural carrier; LeRoy L. Garman, charman; Raymond P. Moore, janitor; Walter S. McNett, rural carrier; Raymond Young, substitute clerk; back row, Maurice McNett, substitute city carrier; Emmert J. Wolfe, assistant postmaster; Ivan E. Rothermel, clerk; Dwight S. Sharer, postmaster; Jay Bechtold, city carrier. Another regular clerk, Ray Holsinger, does not appear in the picture.

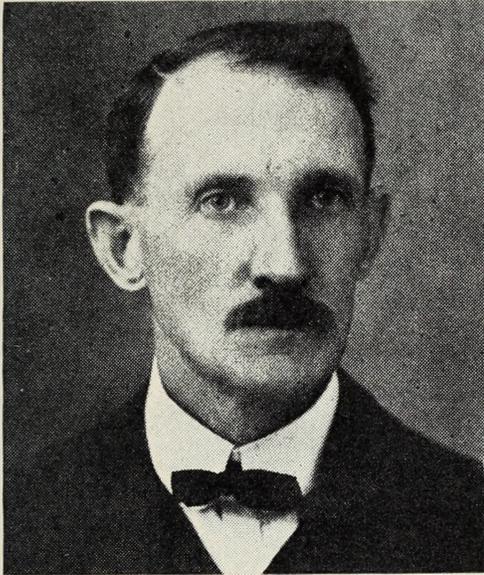


THE ABOVE picture was taken on the occasion of the first air mail to be sent by plane direct from Mount Morris, on May 20, 1938. There were 1,100 letters in the pouch and Pilot Raymond Young delivered the pouch to Moline, Ill., where it was transferred to a Chicago plane.

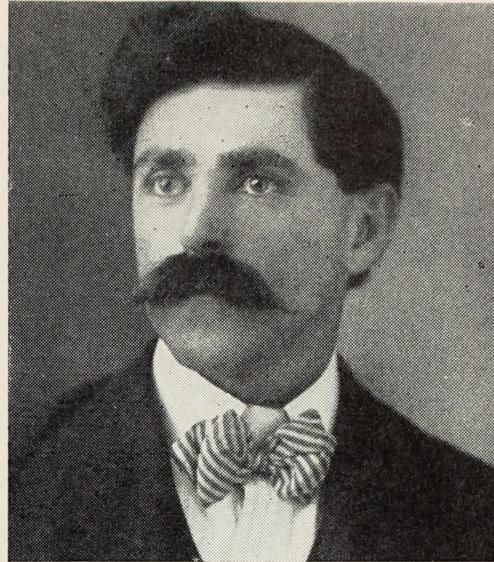
This was during National Air Mail Week, celebrated all over the United States. Those in the picture are, left to right, S. J. Campbell, J. W. Watt, H. G. Kable, D. S. Sharer (postmaster), Raymond Young (pilot), and E. J. Wolf (assistant postmaster).

General, and the principal speaker was Senator William H. Dieterich.

The present employees of the post office in addition to Postmaster Sharer are as follows: Assistant postmaster, Emmert Wolfe; clerks, Walter W. Waddelow, Dale M. Lizer, Ray Holsinger, George E. Neher, Edna Neher, Ivan Rothermel,



THEODORE BRUNER died August 4, 1910, aged 50 years. He was the son of Hiram and Elizabeth Bruner and was born July 5, 1860, at Somerset, Pa., and came to Mount Morris in 1893. In 1879, he married Etta McCoy, to whom were born one daughter, who died in infancy, and three sons—Ernest, Otho and Nelson. When rural free delivery was started out of Mount Morris, Mr. Bruner became the first carrier on Route No. 2, which he continued for six years until the time of his death.



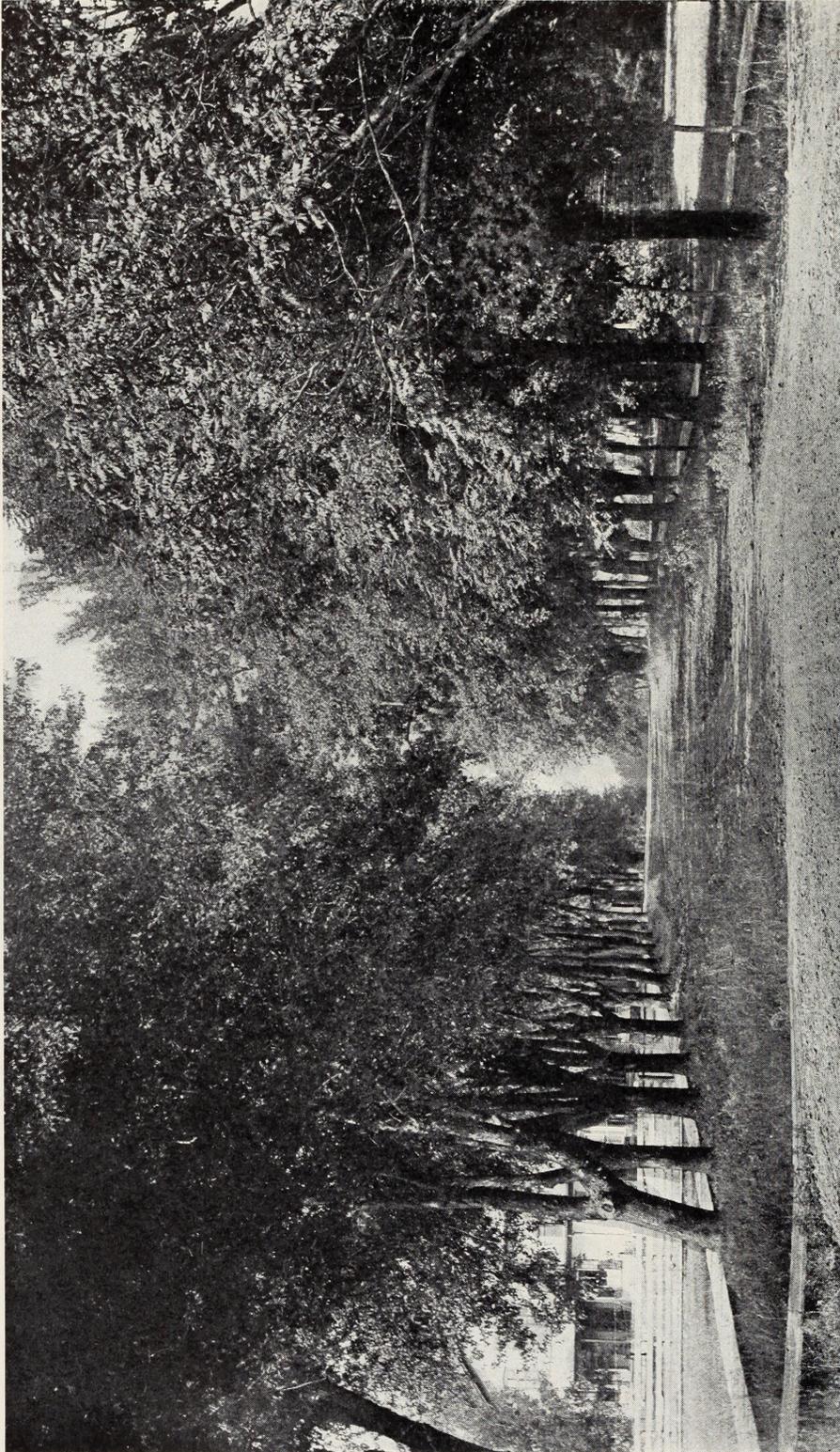
JOHN M. LEEK was the first mail carrier on Rural Route No. 1 out of Mount Morris, established in April, 1904. He had formerly been engaged in farming near Mount Morris.

Raymond Young; city carriers, Jay Bechtold, John S. Buck; rural carriers, Walter S. McNett, George Emmert; substitute carrier, Maurice S. McNett; janitor, Raymond P. Moore; assistant janitor, LeRoy Garman.

The first rural mail routes out of Mount Morris were established April 1, 1904. John L. Leek and T. L. Bruner were appointed as the first rural carriers. The first deliveries were made with horses for transportation.

City mail delivery was first established during the term of Postmaster B. S. Price.





A SHADY STREET in Mount Morris. This picture was taken in 1900, before the street was paved, and is looking north on Ogle Street.

## Chapter 15

### RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

**F**OUR Protestant denominations are well represented in Mount Morris and each has a commodious place of worship. And though they differ somewhat in faith and practice, still they dwell together in perfect harmony.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**O**F the four churches in Mount Morris, the history of the Methodist Episcopal dates back the farthest.

The first preaching in this part of Ogle County, at least the first under Methodist auspices, was by the Rev. Thomas S. Hitt, father of Hon. R. R. Hitt, a cultured and earnest local preacher, who came to Mount Morris in 1837. He entered a large tract of land, but devoted his time very largely to the development of the religious and educational interests of the country. He was in frequent demand for funerals, weddings, church dedications and educational meetings. He was largely instrumental in securing Rock River Seminary for Mount Morris, for which he contributed liberally, and by his influence and eloquence raised large amounts of money. As a pioneer preacher he did faithful work, and laid the foundation from which many strong churches have grown and prospered.

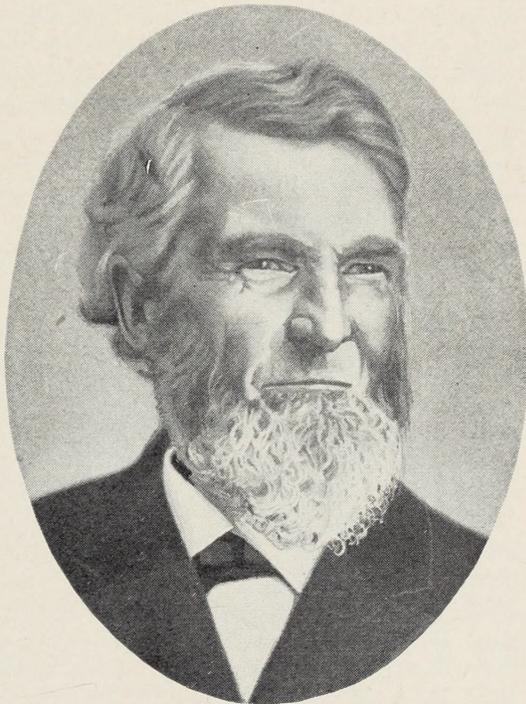
One who recollects Rev. Hitt as he was in vigorous manhood describes him as follows: "As a speaker he was interesting, with a clear musical voice, which expressed every shade of feeling. His language was choice and copious. In bearing he was dignified and easy and his gestures were natural and graceful. He stood six feet tall and seemed under all circumstances, in public or private, perfectly possessed."

He died September 23, 1852, having successfully planted Methodism in this section and giving its religious and educational interests an impulse that has been felt ever since.

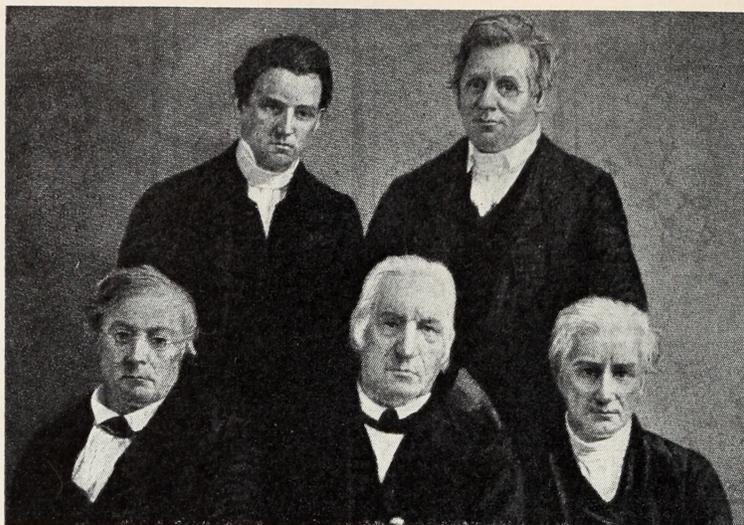
Rev. Barton Cartwright was appointed to the charge, then part of a large circuit, in the fall of 1837.

August 20, 1840, Rock River Conference was organized, at a camp-meeting held in the grove two miles northwest of town. Bishop Waugh was the presiding bishop and Rev. B. T. Kavanaugh, secretary.

The location of Rock River Seminary at Mount Morris, under the control of



REV. BARTON H. CARTWRIGHT was pastor of the local Methodist Church in about the year, 1837. He later became a famous preacher. He was born in 1810 and died in 1895.



THESE were prominent Methodist bishops in the year 1839 and doubtless were instrumental in locating Rock River Seminary in Mount Morris. At the lower left is Bishop Morris, after whom Mount Morris was named. In the center is Bishop Hedding and at the right is Bishop Waugh. At the upper left is Bishop Janes and at the right is Bishop Hamline. It is not known how many of these bishops visited Mount Morris, but Bishop Waugh was present at the Rock River Conference held in August, 1840, in a tent near Mount Morris, at which time he preached a sermon.

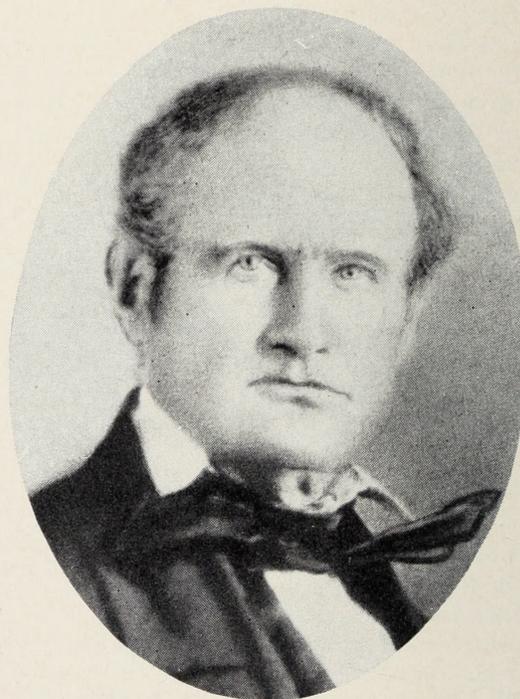
the Conference, gave the local church quite an impetus. When the first seminary building was completed in 1840, the north portion was used for church purposes, until the erection of the second building called "Old Sandstone," when the two lower stories of the east part were fitted up as a chapel and used by the church for about 25 years.

The location of the school gave the church considerable prestige during its earlier history and some of the strongest men of those times served it as pastors.

Beginning in 1837, the pastors that served the congregation were as follows: James McKean, Barton H. Cartwright, Thos. S. Hitt; 1840, G. G. Worthington and Luke Hitchcock; 1841, Asa McMurty; 1842, Jonathan Snow; 1844, Leander S. Walker; 1846, John Wager; 1847, David L. Winslow; 1848, Philo Judson; 1849, George L. Stuff; 1850, Luman A. Sanford; 1851, Bryant Cone; 1852, Samuel Jewett; 1853, Wm. Keegan; 1854, J. C. Stoughton; 1855, Freeborn Haney; 1856, Richard Parks, and 1857, R. A. Blanchard.

Rev. J. H. Vincent was appointed pastor in 1859. Vincent was later elected a bishop and was the principal founder of the Chautauqua and Epworth League

movements. He was the first secretary of the Methodist Sunday School Union.

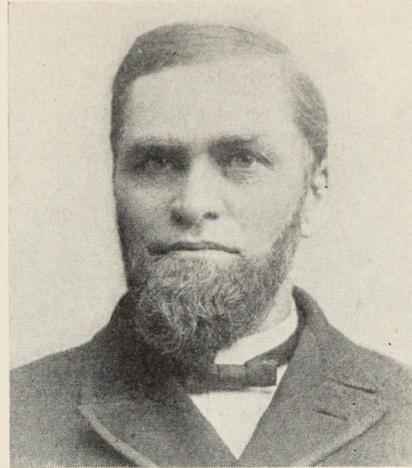


REV. JAMES McKEAN was pastor of the Methodist Church in Mount Morris about the year 1838 or 1839. He was also the first Methodist minister at Buffalo Grove, now Polo.

He was resident minister at Galena at the outbreak of the Civil War, helped Grant raise the first company, and came from Chicago where he was preaching at the close of the war, welcoming Grant home as general of the armies, delivering the address of the day.

In 1860, L. L. Anderson was pastor; 1863, W. A. Smith; 1865, J. H. More; 1867, W. A. Stout; 1868, C. R. Ford; 1869, S. H. Adams; 1872, Lewis Curts, and 1875, E. M. Battis.

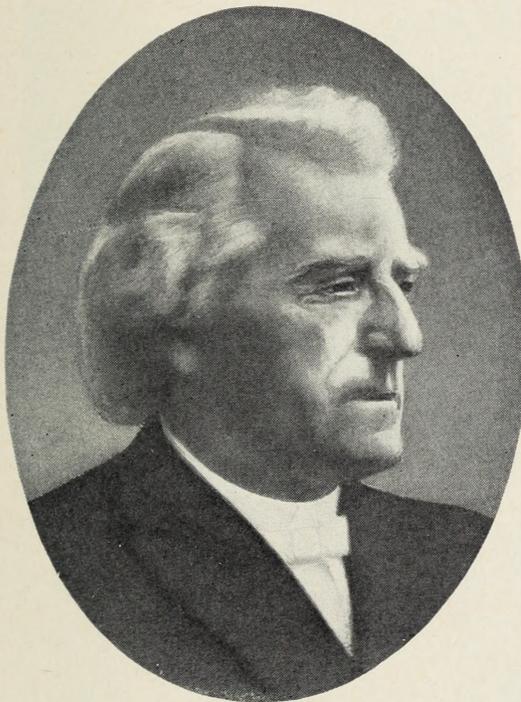
In Civil War times, the location of the church was contemplated at the north-east corner of Wesley avenue and Center streets, where the Sprecher grocery building stands. It came about in this manner: "The Mite Society (the predecessor of the Ladies' Aid) decided they would like to have a church building of their own, instead of meeting in "Old Sandstone." Accordingly they raised \$600.00, intending to buy the lot, and start building operations at once. This represented a great deal of hard work, most of which was earned serving din-



REV. E. M. BATTIS was pastor of the Methodist Church in Mount Morris in 1875. While a student at Rock River Seminary he rang the bell in the old seminary cupola.

ners at 10c each, the usual price of those days for a square meal. However the seminary induced the ladies (with the probable assistance of the men), to continue to meet at the same old place.

In 1877, during the second year of the pastorate of E. W. Adams, the present church edifice was built at a cost of \$8,000.00. When the church was completed, the contractor, a Mr. Bull, refused the members admittance until a balance of \$300.00 was paid. This they were unable to do, due to the heavy expense of building. A group of officials of the church attempted to take possession of the building late at night, but found to their dismay that the con-



REV. LUKE HITCHCOCK, who later became a famous Methodist preacher, was appointed agent of Rock River Seminary in 1841 to assist in soliciting funds for the school. He also served as pastor of the local Methodist Church in 1840. He was born in 1813 and died in 1898.

REV. F. W. NAZARENE was the Methodist pastor in Mount Morris from 1898 to 1902. He was the youngest son of Frederick and Mary A. Nazarene and was born in Washington County, Md., Jan. 25, 1856. He came to Ogle County with his parents in 1864. He graduated from the Polo High School in 1874. He spent some time teaching and then attended Rock River Seminary. He studied for the Methodist ministry and his first charge was at Davis, Ill. He served a number of charges in Illinois and the Dakotas and was appointed to Mount Morris in 1898. Rev. Nazarene was married in 1880 to Amy S. McHoes and they had two daughters: Mary (Mrs. Charles Eigenbrode, deceased) and Ida (wife of the late Dr. M. O. Brush, Shenandoah, Ia.) Rev. Nazarene has retired from the ministry and is living at Rochelle.

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REV. B. A. DICKENS came to Mount Morris in 1921 to assume the pastorate of the Methodist Church. He served one year and had just been reappointed for another year when he died on November 23, 1922. He was born at Amboy, Ill., June 7, 1857, and died at the age of 65½ years. He served a large number of charges in the Rock River Conference of the Methodist Church. In 1879, he married Sarah Skinner and they had five children.

tractor and workmen were sleeping in the church. Both factions sought legal advice the next day. The lawyer told them whichever group got to court first, getting the title to the building, to that person would possession be legal. Both parties raced madly to Oregon. The contractor must have had the fastest horses, for he won, much to the dismay of the other side. The matter was finally adjusted when Frank Stonebraker donated the balance to be paid.

On July 14, 1877, the dedication services lasted all day, including an address by Bishop Wm. L. Harris. The bell for the new church, which is in use today, was personally selected by Mrs. Maria Newcomer, a daughter of Rev. Thomas S. Hitt, at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876. This bell has a beautiful tone.

Two old time ministers are buried in the old cemetery: Spencer Mattison, who died Nov. 5, 1853, and William H. Gloss, who departed this life, April 8, 1880.

Among those who lived here as pre-

siding elders were: Richard Haney, Hooper Crews, John Clark, Lewis Curtis, L. L. Van Horne, Philo Judson and Luke Hitchcock.

The sixtieth anniversary of the church was honored by special services, beginning Dec. 4 and closing Dec. 11, 1898. This was during the first year pastorate of F. W. Nazarene, who lives in Rochelle.

The conference of 1902 sent W. L. Whipple to the church. In 1906, N. R. Hinds received a call to the church. C. W. Thornton was sent to the pastorate in 1911.

During the 5th year pastorate of Rev.



REV. WILLIAM CLARK WILLIAMS was pastor of the Methodist Church in Mount Morris from March, 1930, to October, 1932. He is the son of William C. and Mary (Harms) Williams and was born Nov. 14, 1892, at Sabula, Iowa. He graduated from the Savanna Township High School in 1910. He engaged in insurance and newspaper work until 1923, when he entered the Methodist ministry, serving charges at Thomson, Argo, Cherry Valley and Irene before coming to Mount Morris. While serving the local Methodist Church, he took special work at Mount Morris College and completed his theological training at Union Theological College at Chicago in 1934. Since November, 1935, he has been pastor of the Wittemberg Congregational Church which serves a rural community five miles north of Newton, Iowa. He is a Mason and Kiwanian. Rev. Williams married Grace B. Lanning in 1911 and they have seven living children: William C., Ernest R., Paul E., Ruth E., George A., David E., and Mary L. Three children died in infancy.

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THE METHODIST CHURCH as it appeared many years ago before the steeples were removed.



THE METHODIST CHURCH as it appeared after the large south side addition was erected during the pastorate of Rev. Dickson.



REV. CHAS. LYONS was pastor of the Methodist church for 3½ years, beginning in 1927. He was the son of Cornelius and Susan Lyons and was born Sept. 25, 1875, at Alton, Ill. He was educated at Northwestern University. He served in the Spanish-American War. He was married Aug. 27, 1903, to Ina Helen Pierson. They have three children, Elva, who married Paul Trump; Clifford, who is head of the English department of the University of Florida; and Charles, who is a mortician at Savanna, Ill. While Rev. Lyons was in Mount Morris the church debt was paid and the street paved around the church. Rev. and Mrs. Lyons are now living at Lemont, Ill.

Thornton, on the 26th of August, 1916, the large boulder standing today, in front of the church, was dedicated by Bishop Thomas Nicholson, in memory of the founding of Rock River Conference in our town. The boulder with its bronze tablet was unveiled by Miss Margaret Newcomer, a great granddaughter of Rev. Thomas S. Hitt.

Rev. H. P. Barnes was appointed pastor in October, 1916. The present pipe organ was installed and fully subscribed for, due to the efforts of Rev. and Mrs. Barnes. In 1918, E. S. Nicholas came, filling the pulpit for three years. In 1921, Bertram A. Dickens answered the

call of the church. Mr. Dickens was taken sick in the pulpit and died later, on Nov. 23, 1922. He was a relative of Charles Dickens, the celebrated English author.

The first parsonage was a grout building erected in 1852, during the pastorate of Nathan Jewett. It was located on Center Street west of Seminary Avenue. The present parsonage was built in 1889, during the ministry of Rev. Brown.

Rev. J. L. Dickson came to the charge on Jan. 1, 1923. Under his pastorate the south addition to the church was built in 1923-24. The enlarged quarters were dedicated Dec. 21, 1924. The enlargement greatly aided the church, the church school, and the various societies. Rev. Dickson is now radio minister over station WGN, Chicago.

In the fall of 1926, W. E. Royston was assigned to the church. In 1927, Charles Lyons was designated pastor and W. C. Williams was sent to the charge on March 1st, 1930.

Rev. Reynold N. Hoover was appointed in 1932 and remained five years. He was followed in 1937 by Rev. William N. Manny, who is the present pastor.



REV. WILLIAM L. MANNY, pastor of the Methodist Church in Mount Morris in 1938, is the second son of James and Elizabeth (Bergen) Manny and was born Feb. 13, 1899, in Rogers Park, Chicago. The name Manny is the outcome of a series of alterations of the French

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name De Magne, which belonged to a Huguenot ship captain, who took up residence in what is now New York State, before the Revolutionary War. He attended the Chicago public schools, through the first year at The Nicholas Senn High School. By this time both Mr. Manny's mother and father were deceased, and a first cousin, Miss Susie Manny, who had made her home with the family for many years, continued to keep the home for the brothers. In the fall of 1915, the family moved to Urbana, Ill., so that the older brother, Theodore, could enter the University of Illinois. Mr. Manny graduated from the Urbana High School in 1918. In the fall of the same year he entered the University of Illinois, volunteered, and was enlisted in the Student Army Training Corps there, which was a branch of the regular army. The armistice was signed in November and the men of this unit were discharged just before Christmas. Mr. Manny continued his studies at the University of Illinois, in the department of mechanical engineering, and received the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1922. In September of that year, Mr. Manny was united in marriage with Miss Edna Wardlow of Champaign. He entered the Gar-

rett Biblical Institute in preparation for the Methodist ministry, and was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity in 1925. During his theological studies Mr. Manny served two churches, the Vermillion Heights Methodist Church in Danville, Ill., and the Methodist Church in Lake Villa. Rev. Manny was ordained an elder in the Methodist Church in 1926, and was appointed the resident minister of the Pawpaw Methodist Church, which church he served until 1929. The following five years he served the Methodist Church at Walnut, Ill. His last appointment before coming to Mount Morris was to the Epworth Church in Elgin, which he served for three years. Rev. Manny was appointed to the Mount Morris Methodist Church in the fall of 1937, succeeding the five-year pastorate of Rev. Reynold L. Hoover. The Mannys now have four children: Clara, a student in the Mount Morris Community High School; and Mary, James and Charles, who are in the grade school. Rev. Manny is a member of the Urbana Lodge No. 157, A. F. & A. M., a member of the Ogle County Farm Bureau, is district advancement officer for the Boy Scouts of America, and a member of the local Kiwanis Club.

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOR almost one hundred years, this congregation has stood as a bulwark of the faith it represents in the northern part of Illinois. The church was born in the desire of a small group of people who having come to the new country had been denied the ministrations of the Gospel in the Lutheran form and manner. The history of the congregation is written in the language of the service which it has rendered to this community. As is usual in the church in a pioneering community the early records of the church are very obscure. However enough is known to make possible the piecing together of a rather accurate story of its beginnings and its early struggles.

In the year 1846, the Rev. Nicholas Stroh of Oregon began preaching services in the old chapel of Rock River Seminary. These services were held every two weeks. Because of the numerous services held in the Seminary and the resulting conflicts with his services, Rev. Stroh moved his services to a schoolhouse on the road between Mount Morris and Oregon. When a school building was erected in Mount Morris, the services were held in it

until the first church was dedicated in 1856. This building is still in use being occupied by the Christian Church. This building was erected at a cost of \$3,000.00, which in those days was quite a burden. However the obligation was promptly met by this small but consecrated group of Christians.

The first constitution was drawn and adopted in 1853. The Rev. A. A. Trimper was pastor at that time. Those signing the roster of the constitution at that time were A. A. Trimper (pastor), Peter Knodle, Catherine Tockey, N. J. Stroh, Nathaniel Swingley, Andrew Schecter, Ann McCreary, Mary M. Baker, Elizabeth McCoy, Elizabeth Nikirk, Cornelia Sharer, Mary Swingley, Elizabeth Stroh, Sarah Newcomer, Urilla Swingley, Rebecca Potter, Ann Sharer, Susan Farmer, Elizabeth Allen, Mary Virginia Knodle, Catherine Sprecher, Elizabeth Corgant, Jacob Beard, Eliza Swingley, Elias Malone, Amelia Sharer, Philip Sprecher, Catherine Kennedy.

Many of these names have been and are familiar landmarks in the story of the development of this community. Not only are these names familiar to those who have studied the history of

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Mount Morris but the roster of its pastors contains names that are bright lights in the history of the Lutheran Church in America.

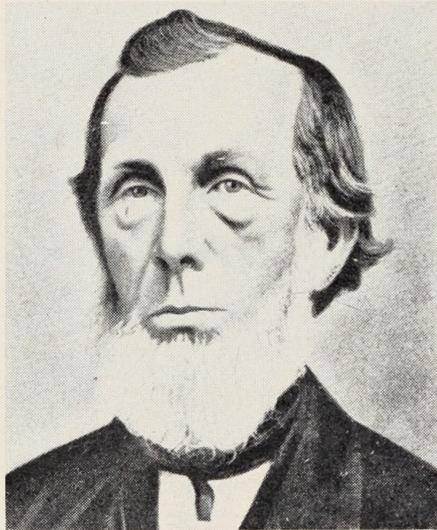
The list of these pastors with the important events of their pastorates:

Rev. Nicholas N. Stroh began the services that led to the formation of the congregation. He came in 1846 and was followed by Rev. Ephraim Miller, who became the first president of the Synod of Northern Illinois. Between Rev. Stroh's pastorate and that of Rev. Miller the congregation was served for a short time by Rev. Nicholas Burkett.

Rev. A. A. Trimper became pastor about 1851. It was during his pastorate that the congregation became a corporate body. The records in the recorder's office show that the first trustees were Andrew Schecter, Elias Malone and



REV. LEANDER FORD probably served as a minister in Mount Morris longer than any other pastor in the village. He served the local Lutheran Church for two different terms, a total of 17 years. He was born Oct. 23, 1836, at Orleans, N. Y., and died at Mount Morris, Sept. 9, 1913, at the age of nearly 77 years. He was educated at Hartwick Seminary, and after graduation taught school several years, meanwhile preparing himself for the ministry. His first pastorate was at Black Lake, N. Y. Subsequently he filled pastorates at Sharon, Wis., Argusville, N. Y., Minden, N. Y., Frey's Bush, N. Y., Oregon, Ill., Sharon, Wis., a second time, and finally Mount Morris again. In 1863, he married Amy Baldwin, and they had two children, Mrs. A. H. Knodle and Chas. F. Ford. During his second pastorate at Sharon, his first wife died after 39 years of married life. Later he married Mrs. Mary Sloat, a sister of his first wife. He is buried in Riverview Cemetery at Oregon.



REV. NICHOLAS J. STROH, pioneer Lutheran minister, was born May 5, 1798, in Halifax, Pa. He preached for a number of years in his native state and came to Ogle County in the fall of 1845. He first located at Oregon and then moved to a farm a short distance north of Mount Morris, but continued active ministerial work in the vicinity, his last charge being at West Grove. He retired from active work in 1880, having served in the ministry more than 60 years. He married Elizabeth Givler in 1827 in Pennsylvania and there were ten children born to them: Maria, Luther M., Meulenber, Martha E., Rhenius, Alfred E., Gustavus A., Augusta C., Cecelia A. and Josephine (Mrs. H. C. Clark). Mrs. Stroh died in 1894. Rev. Stroh died Jan. 1, 1897, aged nearly 99 years.

Samuel Hanes. Under Rev. Trimper's direction the lot was secured and a building was started. The cornerstone of the new building was laid on June 17, 1854.

Dr. George Bowers became the pastor of the struggling congregation in the year 1854 or 1855. He remained as pastor until 1857. Dr. Bowers became one of the finest preachers and rhetoricians that the Lutheran Church has ever produced. It was during his pastorate that the congregation separated itself from the Oregon congregation and became a separate charge.

Rev. Cornelius Reimensnyder came in the year 1858 and served for one year. He left to go east, where he be-

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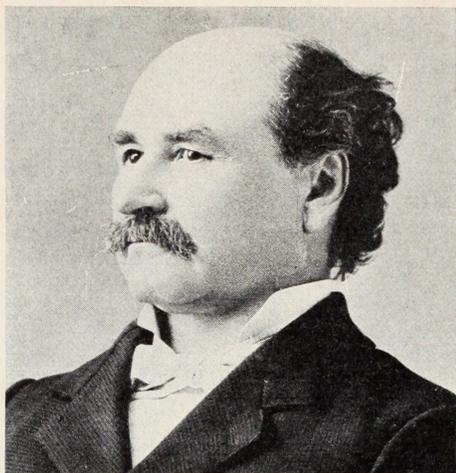
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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH and parsonage as they appeared in 1900 before the steeple was taken down.



Interior of the Lutheran Church, showing the altar and pipe organ.



REV. L. L. LIPE was pastor of the Mount Morris Lutheran Church from 1872 until 1879 and again from 1897 to 1903. He was the son of Daniel and Matilda Lipe, who came to Illinois from North Carolina in 1834, and settled on a farm near Hillsboro, where 10 children were born, the subject of this sketch being the sixth child. He secured his theological training at the seminary at Gettysburg, Pa., and was ordained into the Lutheran ministry in 1871. His first charge was at Mount Morris, from 1872 to 1879, and he later held pastorates at Dixon, Ill., Lincoln, Nebr., West Point, Nebr., Sharon, Wis., and then back to Mount Morris again from 1897 to 1893. He died in May, 1895, at Sharon, Wis., at the age of 80. While pastor in Mount Morris in 1872, he married Miss Flora Stager, to whom two children were born, Olive, who married Chas. Wolfe, and a son who died in infancy.

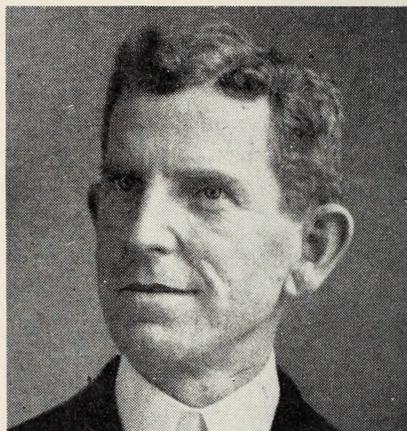
came one of the best known preachers of New York City and a great leader in his denomination.

Then came a series of short pastorates. Rev. Daniel Schindler was followed by Rev. Ephraim Miller, who came back for a second pastorate (1859-1862); Rev. Rufus Smith (1864-1865); Rev. R. B. Whitehill (1867-1869); Rev. A. C. Frick (1869-1871). It was during this pastorate that the church at Adeline became a part of the Mount Morris charge.

The congregation at this time was having severe difficulties financially and otherwise. To help save the church, Rev. L. L. Lipe came as pastor in 1872. He remained until 1879, making this the longest pastorate of the congregation to this date. Rev. Lipe came to the charge when he was president of the

Northern Illinois Synod. The congregation prospered under the leadership of Rev. Lipe and on May 6, 1877, decided to build a new church. The cornerstone was laid on September 30, 1877. This building after extensive alterations and enlargement is still in use by the congregation.

Hon. Robert R. Hitt was the owner of the lot on which the church stands. At that time he was secretary of the legation in Paris, France. In response



HORACE E. ZIMMERMAN was pastor of the Mount Morris Lutheran Church from 1911 to 1918. He was the son of Dr. Luther M. and Louisa A. (Saltzgeber) Zimmerman and was born April 20, 1867, at Johnsville, Md. His boyhood days were spent at Myersville, Md., where his father practiced medicine. After completing the grade school, he attended Avis Academy at Middletown, Md., and entered Roanoke College, Salem, Va., in Sept., 1885. Next he attended Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pa., graduating in 1889, and then received his theological training at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and graduated in 1892. He served charges at Tannersville, Pa.; Clarion, Pa.; Bolivar, Ohio; Dillsburg, Pa.; Dickinson, Pa.; New Haven, W. Va.; Mount Morris, Ill.; and Kansas City, Mo. He then gave up ministerial work because of impaired hearing, and since has been in the employ of Kable Brothers Company in an editorial capacity. For a number of years he has been a contributor to a wide range of periodicals. His hobbies are music and the collection of curious photos from all over the world, many of which are used to illustrate his articles. Rev. Zimmerman was married in 1893 to Anna E. Doub, who died when she gave birth to their son, Milo D., in Oct., 1894. He married again in 1899 to Lillie L. Saunders and they have a daughter, Anna Lee (Mrs. John Reich). The Zimmermans are now living at 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, Mo.

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH as it now appears after the steeple was removed and other extensive improvements made.

to a letter written by Mrs. Harriett Middour, he donated the lot and sent the deed from Paris dated September 24, 1878. The deed was certified by Edward F. Noyes, U. S. Minister to France.

Rev. J. W. Henderson served the church from 1879 to 1881. This pastorate was followed by that of Rev. H. Max Lentz, 1881-1884. It was during this pastorate that the first missionary society was organized and the church pulled itself out of debt. This event was celebrated by a jubilee service that brought several church notables to the community. After Rev. Lentz had resigned and during the subsequent va-

cancy, the congregation was served by Dr. Bartholomew, the president of Carthage College, and now serving as professor emeritus at Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill. Then came in somewhat rapid succession Rev. Eichelberger, Rev. Edward S. Hoffman, and Rev. L. Ford. Rev. Hoffman in reigning had encouraged the congregation to unite with another congregation or disband as they were unable to support a pastor. What Rev. Lipe had been to the earlier congregation, Rev. Ford was to prove himself to be to the congregation now. It was with the beginning of the Ford pastorate that we may reckon the modern era of the church's



REV. CLARENCE H. HIGHTOWER has been the popular pastor of the Lutheran Church in Mount Morris since July, 1924. He was the only son of William L. and Sarah (Dees) Hightower and was born Nov. 29, 1886, at Coffeen, Ill. He was educated at Carthage College and was ordained in the Lutheran ministry in 1916. He held a pastorate at Mt. Carmel before coming to Mount Morris. Rev. Hightower married Kathryn Betebenner in 1910 and they have three children: George Keller, Bernice W., and William W.

development. The parsonage lot was donated by the Hon. Robert R. Hitt and the first parsonage built. From 1886 to 1889, Rev. Ford served the churches of Oregon and Mount Morris. In 1890 he became full time pastor. It was at this time that the parsonage was built.

Rev. L. L. Lipe came to the church in 1897 and served until 1903. He was followed in turn by Rev. Frank S. Delo and Rev. L. Ford, who came for a second pastorate.

## THE BRETHERN CHURCH

**I**N point of numbers the Church of the Brethren is the strongest denomination in Mount Morris. It differs little in point of faith and practice from the other three. The first church of this denomination in Ogle County was at West Branch, about seven miles northwest of Mount Morris in Lincoln Township, where the few members in

Rev. H. E. Zimmerman came as pastor in 1911. He remained until 1918. It was during his service that the parsonage was repaired and the church generally renovated. The church at this time showed a large increase in membership.

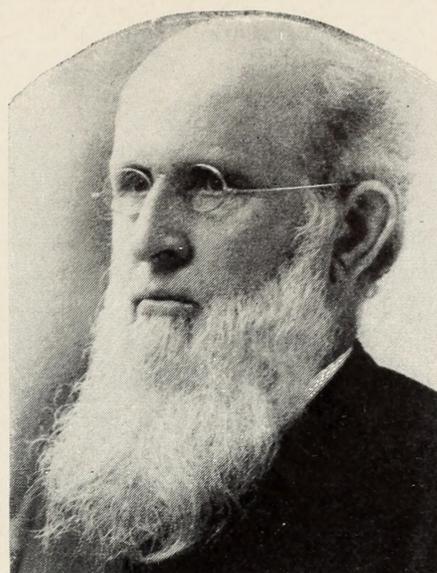
Rev. George P. Kabele, the president of the Northern Illinois Synod, became pastor in 1918. Under his leadership the church as we know it today began to emerge. His leadership was conservative and his building sure. The congregation became a great influence under the guidance of Rev. Kabele. The building soon became too small for the congregation and a program of rebuilding and enlargement was set in motion. The cost of the remodeling, including a new pipe-organ was \$20,000.00. All this was subscribed before the work was started.

Rev. Kabele closed his pastorate in 1924 and was succeeded by Rev. Clarence Horatio Hightower, at that time the general secretary of Carthage College. He came as pastor in July, 1924. Building on the foundations already laid, the congregation has increased greatly in numbers and in influence throughout this part of the state. The confirmed membership is now well over five hundred souls. The church interior has been greatly changed and a new pipe-organ has been purchased. The financial record of this congregation today is an outstanding one in the Illinois Synod. As pastor of the church and the writer of this article, I will say that she or any church is great not because of a long line of devoted and capable pastors but because of the consecration of her people. This consecration makes for life. Without it is death no matter what or who the pastor.

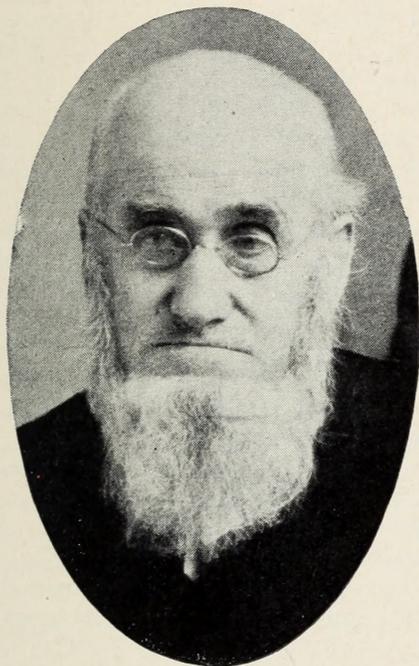
Mount Morris Township worshiped for a number of years. Finally, in the year 1867, the territory of West Branch Church was divided and a new church established in Mount Morris Township about four miles northeast of Mount Morris, known as Silver Creek Church. Elder D. E. Price was put in charge of it and continued its elder until 1903.

From 1867 until about 1879, the Brethren residing in the Village of Mount Morris attended services at this church in Silver Creek.

In the year 1879, as previously mentioned, the old Rock River Seminary, which had been conducted by the Methodist denomination for many years, became the property of several members of the Brethren Church and although it continued the property of individuals it became a strictly Brethren school conducted in accordance with the rules of that church, which in those years were quite strict. The members of the faculty selected were nearly all members of the church and, together with their families and other people of the denomination who were drawn



ELDER J. H. MOORE was a prominent member of the Church of the Brethren in Mount Morris for many years until the removal of the Brethren Publishing House to Elgin in 1899. He was born Apr. 8, 1846, at Salem, Va., and died at Sebring, Fla., in December, 1935, aged 89 years. In 1876 he founded the "Brethren at Work" at Lanark, which was moved to Mount Morris, and for 39 years he was editor of the Gospel Messenger.



ELDER DAVID E. PRICE was born near Waynesboro, Pa., Sept. 7, 1832, and died at Beatrice, Nebr., Aug. 9, 1923, aged nearly 91 years. At the age of 20 he came to Illinois and a year later he was married and settled on the Price homestead two miles south of Mount Morris. His wife was Helen E. Rowland and they had ten children, of whom the following survived the father: Franklin J., Chas. H., Harvey E., and Nannie E. Sommers. The mother died in 1893 and six years later he was again married to Mary E. Hicks. Mr. Price was a very religious man and served at the head of the Mount Morris Church of the Brethren from 1867 until 1903. It was said that he could repeat the entire New Testament from memory.

here to educate their children or for other purposes, soon formed quite a colony of the Brethren living in the village. They began immediately to hold religious services in the old seminary chapel and soon formed a strong church with many members.

As a result of the increased number of members living in the village and of the presence of faculty members who were able to fill the pulpit in an able way, services more and more came to be centered in Mount Morris to the neglect of both Silver Creek and Salem. When College Hall was built in 1891, a new chapel was added to take care of the increasing church needs. By 1900 regular services in both of the country houses had been discontinued, although it was not until 1910 that the name of the congregation was changed to Mount Morris.

In keeping with the practice of the Brethren Church, there was no paid ministry until 1917. The work of the church was carried on by men set apart by vote of the congregation and their

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