

service was without pay. It was democracy and free-will service carried to the extreme. How well and why the church grew and prospered in the years that the college was in operation is seen from the following extract from "Mount Morris: Past and Present," published in 1900:

"The members of the Mount Morris Brethren Church are far ahead of the great majority of churches in the way of religious advantages for their spiritual advancement. The presence of the college adds many individuals of ability to its ranks who can readily take prominent part in services of all kinds. Among the professors are always a number of ordained ministers of the gospel and together with an exceptionally large number of resident preachers who have been drawn to Mount Morris by its exceptional religious and educational advantages, give the church much prestige. Regular attendants at the College Chapel have opportunity to hear a great variety of sermons, as no man preaches there oftener than once in two or three months. Then, too, it is very frequent that visiting ministers, some of the best in the Brotherhood, preach in the chapel on Sundays or hold long revival services during the winter time. The attendance during the school year, while the students are here, nearly equals that of all the other three churches combined, especially on Sunday evenings in the winter.

"Besides the advantage of an endless change in ministerial appointments the frequent occurrence of enlivening revival meetings, and the vim and vigor of all doings of the church due to the presence of the large ministerial force, the Mount Morris congregation has access to a two weeks special Bible term at the college. Frequently the church has the pleasure of entertaining a large gathering of the Brethren, such as the District meeting, Sunday school and ministerial meetings, etc., with delegates from all over Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin, which add much to the interest in church work.

"Prominent among those who have served the church in its ministerial work and helped to build it up to its present strength are Elds. D. E. Price,

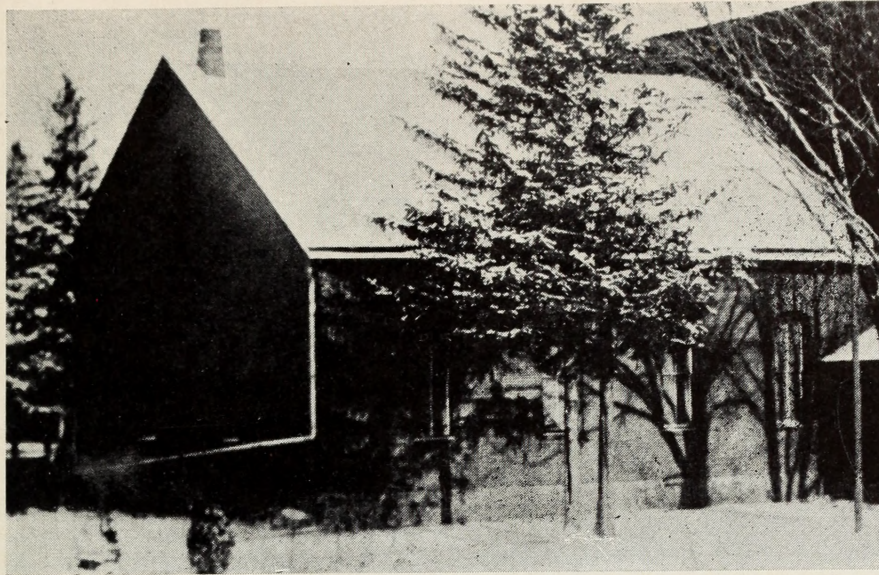
D. L. Miller, J. H. Moore, J. G. Royer and Joseph Amick. Elder Price is already mentioned as having served the church as the presiding elder for thirty-three years. During this period he has devoted much time to the duties of his office, and deserves much credit for the harmony and the standard of loyalty which he has preserved among the members. Elder D. L. Miller is another to whom the church is deeply indebted. He has spent over twenty years in Mount Morris connected with the Brethren Publishing House and Mount Morris College. His travels in Europe and Bible Lands make him one of the best informed men in the Brotherhood and one of their very best preachers. When it comes his turn to preach in the chapel he is always greeted by a very large audience. Elder J. H. Moore, while pursuing his work as one of the editors of the Gospel Messenger, preached his turn and took active part in the affairs of the church. He is a deep thinker and presented weighty sermons. His removal to Elgin with the Brethren Publishing House was much regretted, as was also that of Eld. Joseph Amick, business manager of the Publishing House, and Galen B. Royer, secretary of the General Missionary and Tract Committee. Both of these gentlemen were able preachers and were prominent in the church here. Prof. J. G. Royer still remains with the church to continue his long term of usefulness. His sermons are second to none in point of excellence to any clergyman in Mount Morris.

"The spiritual vim of the members of the church is kept from flagging by two prayer meetings, one Sunday evening and one Thursday evening. On Sunday evening there are senior and junior sections, the latter being attended by the younger members of the church and students. Among the students are always a considerable number of men who are preparing for the ministry and young ladies who expect to do missionary work, and together they have very enjoyable and profitable meetings. In the senior sections there is also plenty of talent to discuss the questions adopted for each week's consideration. On Thursday the two sec-

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FOR MANY YEARS the Church of the Brethren held all their religious services in this chapel which is built on the west side of "College Hall." After the new church building was erected, this chapel was used by the college for lectures, recitals and concerts.

tions combine. The church also has a sister's aid society, a missionary society and a missionary reading circle. The future of the church is very encouraging."

While the new chapel for a time served the needs of both congregation and school, in the course of time there developed a conflict of interests that made it seem advisable for the church to have an edifice of its own, separate and apart from the college. An effort in this direction was first made in 1903 by a committee appointed to raise the necessary funds, but was unable to do so, hence the matter was dropped.

In 1910, the question of a new church house was again revived and a soliciting committee was appointed, but it was not until 1920 that the necessary amount was pledged. A building committee consisting of J. P. Holsinger, Joseph Rodeffer, W. Price Stouffer, W. E. West and Elmer Snowberger was appointed. This committee started to work on actual building operations early in 1921 and, having purchased a corner lot at West Front and Seminary Streets, the cornerstone of the new edifice was laid with appropriate ceremonies July 14, 1921.

The walls were constructed in 1921

and were put under roof, but owing to money stringency, building operations ceased, although the lathing was done during the winter, money for which was raised by subscription and labor donated for the most part. In the summer of 1922 the way opened up for building to begin again and the work from that time was pushed to completion. The dedication of the church was on March 18, 1923, with President Otho Winger of Manchester College preaching the dedicatory ceremonies.

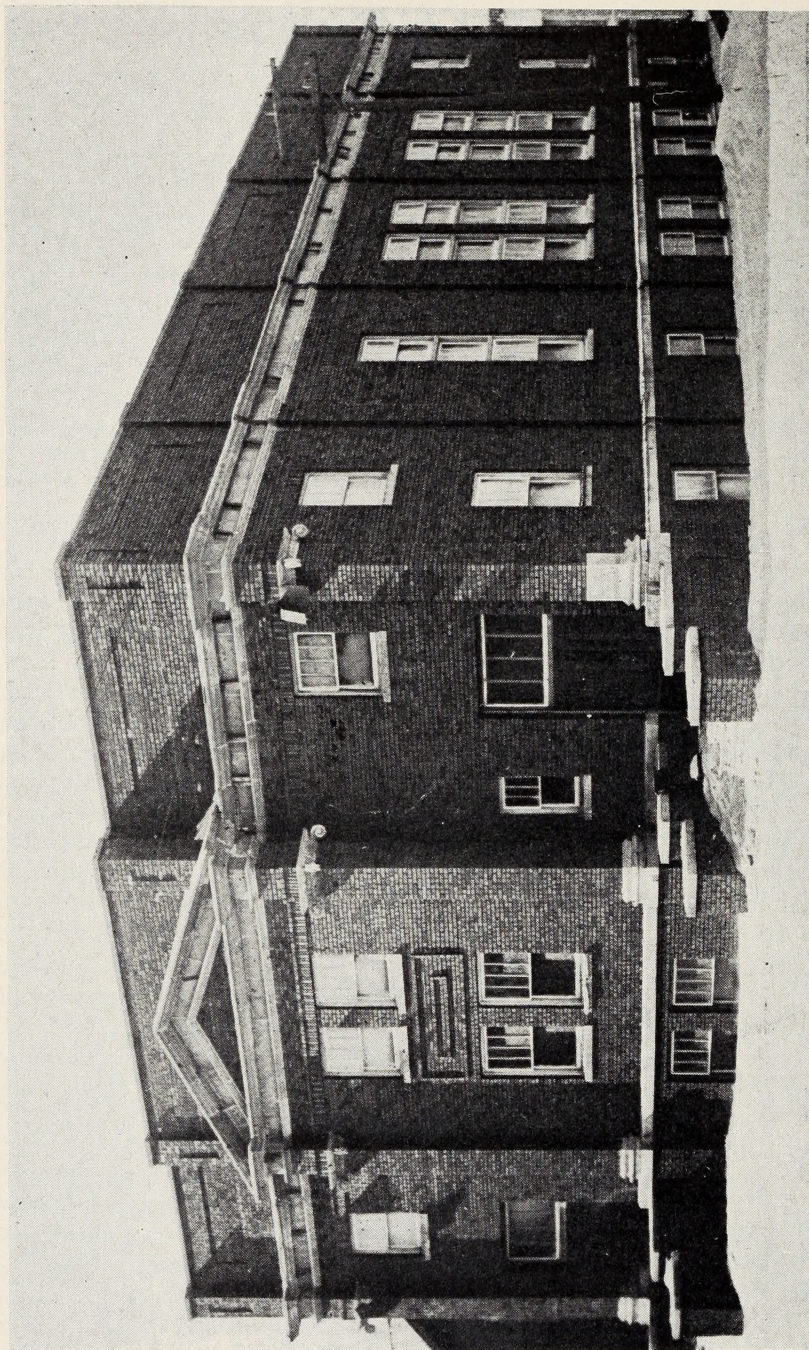
The building is strictly modern in its equipment and style of architecture. It is 56 feet by 90 feet in size, built of Shelltex brick and trimmed with Bedford stone. It contains a basement with ample room for primary and junior Sunday school needs. A well-appointed kitchen, heating plant, and toilet rooms likewise are on the basement level. The main floor contains an auditorium 50 x 54 feet with a balcony along the rear end. Also there are nine Sunday school rooms. A baptistry is located at the right of the pulpit, entrance to which is from the rear from two dressing rooms.

In 1927, the Gigous property on West Front Street was purchased and a well-arranged and commodious parsonage was erected. Like the church, it is

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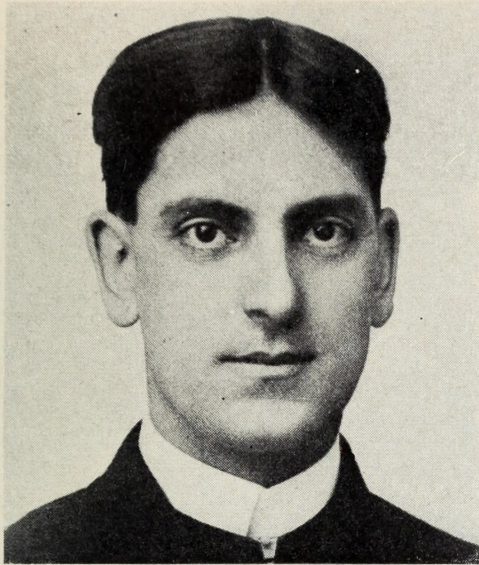
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THE CHURCH of the Brethren erected this fine brick building in 1921-1922. It is 56 by 90 feet in size and strictly modern.





REV. L. H. ROOT was the first regular pastor of the Church of the Brethren in Mount Morris. He came to Mount Morris from Rockford in 1919 and served the church for two years.

completely free from debt.

It was not until 1916 that a pastor was secured in the person of L. H. Root who served the church for two years. He was followed by Frank E. McCune who remained pastor until 1924. It was during the pastorate of Rev. McCune that the present building was built, evidence of his successful leadership. In 1924 Elder G. E. Wine assumed the pastorate. In 1928 he resigned to accept a call from the college church at Bridgewater, Va. The church again recalled Rev. McCune who served for 8 years. After searching the field for more than a year the church unanimously extended a call to F. B. Statler, who had served the college church at Huntingdon, Pa., for eleven years. He began his ministerial duties in September, 1937, and has proved himself to be a splendid leader and an able sermonizer.

In accordance with the general practice of the Brethren Church, musical instruments were not permitted in church services until recent years. Singing was strictly congregational without organ or choir. However, the development of a strong music department in the college and the influence of a new generation gradually created

sentiment in favor of the use of both instrument and choir. At first a piano was introduced for use in the Sunday school; later a reed organ was added with both instruments used in all services. Recently a Hammond electric organ has been purchased. Both a junior and senior robed choir now serve the church under the able direction of E. R. Henricks.

During the seventy years of its existence the church has been served by a large number of very able men, most of whose connection was primarily with the college and whose mention would be made in that connection. However, it is fitting that mention should be made of those men who served as elders of the church, for in a very true sense they were leaders of the church. Elder David E. Price had charge of the Silver Creek congregation from the time of its founding in 1867 until 1903. He was

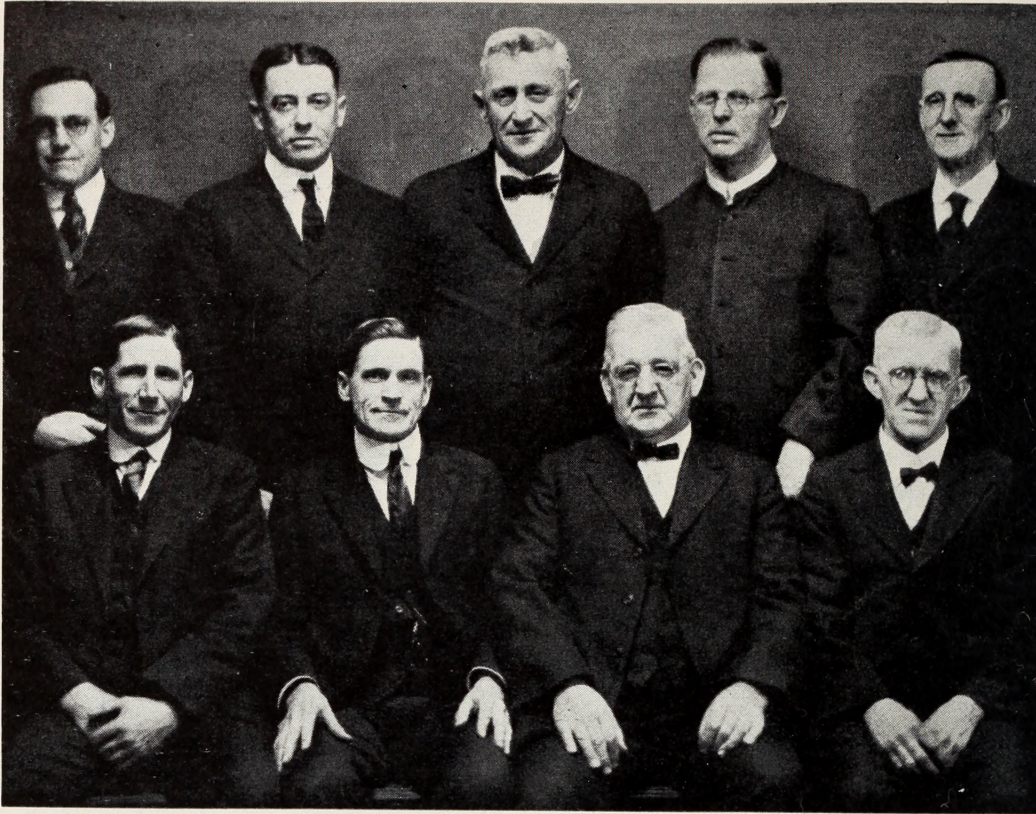


REV. F. E. McCUNE, pastor of the Church of the Brethren in Mount Morris for 12 years, was born near Lanark, Ill., Aug. 15, 1882. He was the son of Robert F. and Mary Ellen (Rowland) McCune. He graduated from the Dallas Center (Iowa) High School in 1901 and from the Ottawa University at Ottawa, Kans., in 1907. He also attended Bethany Biblical Seminary for two years and was ordained to the ministry in 1906. He held pastorates of Brethren Churches as follows: Muncie, Ind., 2 years; Lawrence, Kans., 3 years; Mount Morris, 5 years; Kitchel, Ind., 5 years; Mount Morris, 7 years; Kitchel, Ind., since 1936. He married Ona May Hogan, of Norborne, Mo., in 1913, and they have two children: Robert F. and Samuel E. Rev. McCune is a fine pulpit orator and made a fine record in Mount Morris.

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**BUILDING COMMITTEE** of the new Brethren church erected in 1921: Front row, left to right, Ira Rodeffer, Joseph Rodeffer, J. P. Holsinger, Leslie Johnson; back row, Daniel Miller, Prof. Levi S. Shively, Price Stouffer, W. E. West and Elmer Snowberger.

naturally conservative in his tendencies but his mind was broad enough to see the need of changes as the church progressed in its work. He was a self-made man and a profound student of the Bible. His ability to quote Scripture seemingly without end will always be remembered by those who were privileged to hear him preach. He had a prominent standing throughout the entire Brotherhood, serving at least one year as moderator of the annual conference. He lived to a ripe old age, dying at the home of his son, Charles Price, at Beatrice, Nebr. Elder D. L. Miller followed Price as Elder, serving from 1902 to 1910. He was a man universally loved and esteemed for his kindness, honesty, and generosity. He proved a splendid leader of the church. After giving up his position of elder, he continued his activity in church work, ending his labors during an evangelistic meeting in Huntingdon, Pa., when he was stricken with pneumonia

which proved fatal. Elder Miller was always very desirous that the church not become ecclesiastical in its methods. He believed that all matters of importance should come before all members of the church instead of being decided by committees of the church. He was a well-read man, having at his disposal a very large library and in his sermons he always had something new and fresh for his hearers, gathered from his vast store of information. When he preached members of other churches often attended the services to hear the interesting messages which he had to bring. In this connection it is interesting to note that he was a fast friend of Hon. Robert Hitt, and the latter always attended his services after his return from Congress to hear his friend preach.

Following Elder Miller's resignation in 1910, J. G. Royer assumed charge of the church for one year. He will always be remembered, principally as an organizer and leader of young people.





WILBUR B. STOVER and wife spent many years as missionaries in India for the Church of the Brethren. Mr. Stover was the son of Jacob A. and Mollie (Lasher) Stover and was born May 5, 1866, in Pennsylvania. He entered Mount Morris College in 1884 and graduated in 1891. He was a minister for several years and in 1893 was married to Mary Emmert. They went to India in 1894 and continued as missionaries for 26 years, returning in 1920. They were home on furlough twice during this period. They were compelled to give up their missionary work in 1920 because of the ill health of Mrs. Stover. There were five children, Emmert, Miriam, James, Daniel and Helen. They were all born in India except Miriam and all were sent to Mount Morris College to be educated. Elder Stover died Oct. 31, 1930, in the State of Washington where he had accepted a pastorate. Mrs. Stover and the children are now living in the West.



MR. AND MRS. WILBUR B. STOVER and family posed for the above picture in July, 1920. The two children in front are Helen and Daniel, and at the rear, Emmert, James and Miriam.



He took a deep interest in seeking out prospective young students to train them for positions of leadership and responsibility in the church. He fostered many Bible classes and special meetings in which an attempt was made to inculcate the doctrines of the teachings of the church. He had a finger on every phase of work in the local church and was constantly on the look-out for young men and women to fill places of responsibility and service. He was also especially interested in the local prayer meeting and was most always present and ready to contribute some thought to the meeting. People both in town and college learned to love and admire him. He called on many people, especially the aged and sick, to bring words of comfort and cheer. Although not occupying the position of pastor of the church, he served well in that capacity, in addition to his added responsibilities as president of the college. Following his retirement from the active leadership of the church he continued to live in Mount Morris until the time of his death in 1917.

In 1911, M. W. Emmert was elected to take charge of the work and served most efficiently and faithfully as elder until 1915, and then again from 1921 until 1925 when failing health compelled him to give up the work.

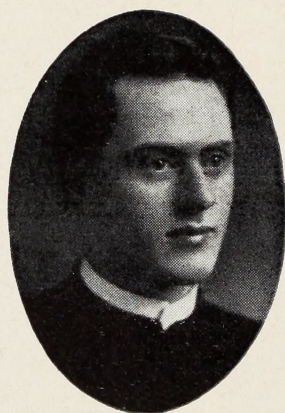
During the period between 1915 and 1921, M. M. Sherick had oversight of the church. Since the retirement of



REV. FOSTER B. STATLER became the pastor of the Church of the Brethren in September, 1937. He was born at Windber, Pa., April 23, 1895, and was educated in the Windber High School, Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pa. (A.B. 1920) and at Princeton Theological Seminary (Th.B., 1924). Before coming to Mount Morris, Rev. Statler held pastorates at Morrellville Church, Johnstown, Pa., two years; and at Huntingdon, Pa., eleven years.

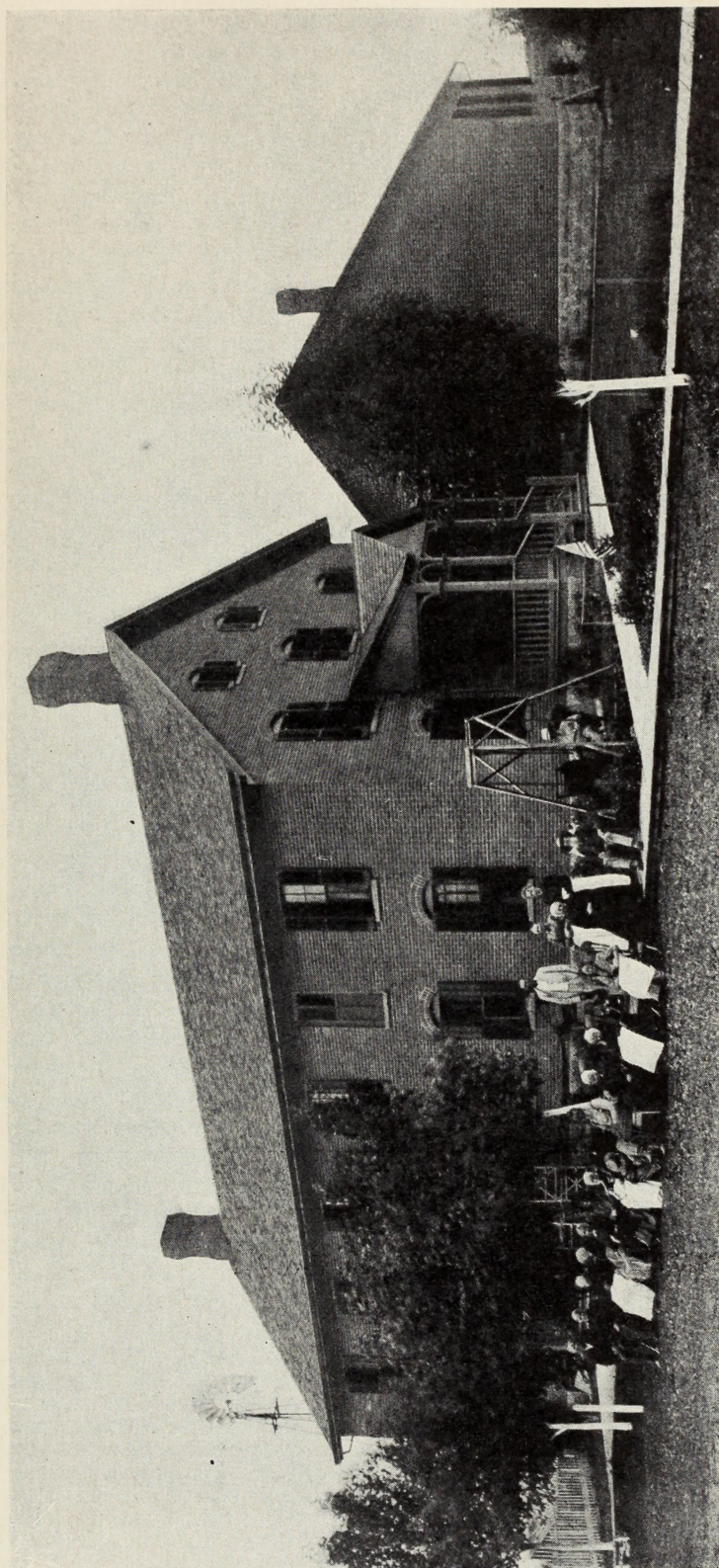
Elder Emmert the eldership of the church has been in the hands of W. E. West, save only during the pastorate of Rev. Wine who served both as pastor and elder.

There are a number of special organizations within the church, all of which are alive and active. The Sunday School was first organized in 1887 under the leadership of D. L. Miller. It proved highly successful from the beginning and always has enjoyed a large attendance. It early developed a marked missionary spirit and since 1903 has maintained a missionary on the foreign field, as well as contributing generously to home missionary needs. The present officers of the Sunday School are: H. M. Knodle, superintendent; M. H. Diehl, assistant superintendent; Roy McNutt, secretary.



REV. G. E. WINE was pastor of the Church of the Brethren in Mount Morris from 1924 to 1928, when he resigned to accept a call from the church at Bridgewater, Va.





THE OLD FOLKS HOME of the Brethren Church as it appeared in 1900 while Lewis Miller was superintendent.



The Ladies' Aid Society was organized in 1895. The society is largely occupied in raising funds for religious purposes by means of quilting and doing other sewing. It also collects garments to supply needs at missionary points. It has proved a valuable adjunct to the church. The officers are: Mrs. Anna Long, president; Mrs. H. E. Keller, vice-president; Mrs. Alta Barnhizer, secretary-treasurer.

The Missionary Society is interested in the study of the needs of the mission field and in the development of a truly missionary attitude. It meets for a program monthly at which time various phases of missionary interests are dis-

cussed. The officers of this organization are: A. E. Hecker, president; Jane Wingard, vice-president; Ira Rodeffer, treasurer.

Recently a Men's Brotherhood was organized in which all the men of the church are enrolled. It meets once each month to discuss problems vital to the church and to propose policies to be followed. Two results of its activities have been the liquidation of the parsonage debt and the purchase of a Hammond electric organ for the church. The officers of the organization are: Ira R. Hendrickson, president; Dale Lizer, vice-president; Kenneth Zellers, secretary-treasurer.

## CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mount Morris was organized in March, 1880, by State Evangelist J. H. Wright with about forty charter members. Prior to 1880 there were probably about a dozen members of this faith living in Mount Morris. The Christian Church at Pine Creek was the nearest place where they could worship according to their faith and frequently they were in attendance at that place.

During the fall of 1879, Rev. D. G. Howe, pastor of the Lanark Christian Church, conducted a series of revival meetings here, lasting over three weeks, during which time about fifteen converts were made. These, with those already members of the church, immediately decided to establish a church in Mount Morris, and after extended negotiations finally purchased the brick edifice in the eastern part of the town, which had been property of the Lutheran Church and been used by them for many years, but was vacant on account of the building of their new edifice in the west part of town. For this property they paid \$900.00 and during the winter of 1879-'80 several hundred dollars more were expended in repairing the church—painting it inside and out, building the steeple, furnishing the interior with new seats and putting in the baptistry under the pulpit and the dressing rooms on either side.

After the building had been prepared

for occupancy, occurred the organization of the church by State Evangelist J. H. Wright, in March, 1880, as previously mentioned. Jacob Keedy, W. S. Blake and Joseph Wagner were chosen the first trustees; Dr. Mershon and C. G. Blakslee, elders; and W. S. Blake and Scott Kennedy as deacons.

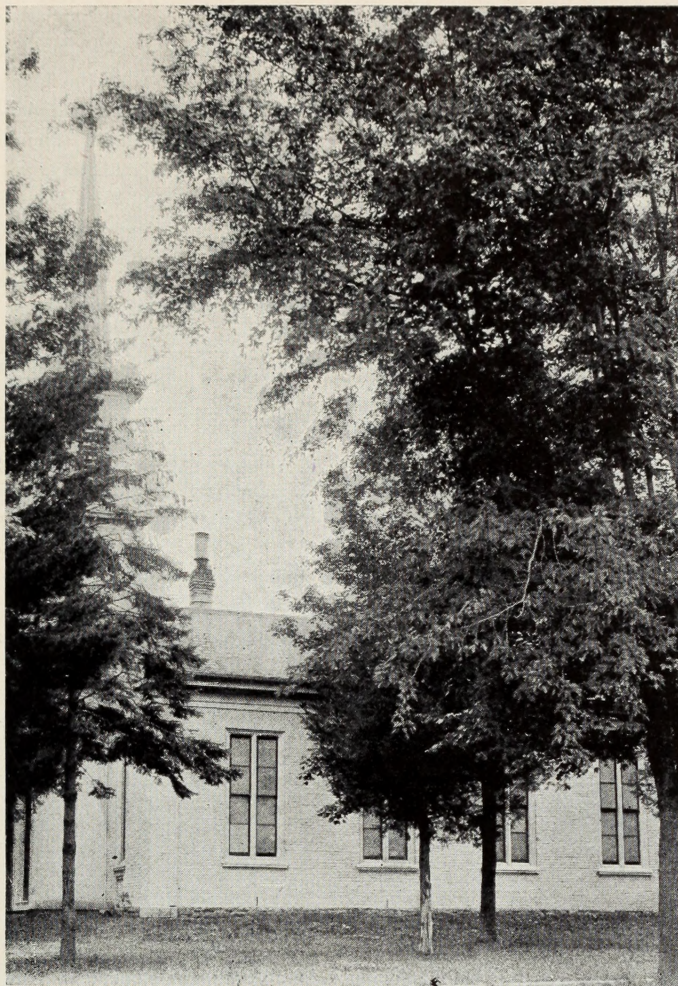
For about a year the organization conducted its own services, until 1881, when Rev. G. W. Ross was engaged as pastor, dividing his time equally with the Pine Creek congregation. Rev. J. H. Carr came next in the spring of 1885, and remained two years, and was followed by Rev. D. R. Howe, who came over from Lanark every two weeks to preach. His pastorate was brief, and the Rev. G. W. Pearl took charge, alternating every other Sunday with the Pine Creek congregation.

Following him came in succession the Revs. T. B. Stanley, C. T. Spitler, J. B. Wright and H. G. Waggoner, all of

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REV. DAVID F. SEYSTER was pastor of the Christian Church for several years beginning in 1900. He was the son of David and Catherine (Newcomer) Seyster and was born June 14, 1858, in Pine Creek Township. He attended the country school and Polo High School. He graduated from Eureka College in 1894 and entered the ministry. He served churches at Kankakee and Lynnville before taking the Mount Morris and Pine Creek charges. He married Emma Wolf in 1885.





THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, which was built in 1854 by the Lutherans and sold to the Christian congregation in 1879, when it was repaired and improved.

whom devoted their entire time to the charge, each remaining about two years with the exception of Messrs. Spittler and Waggoner, who were here only about one year. After the departure of Rev. Waggoner the church was without a pastor about a year, until Rev. D. F. Seyster took charge in February, 1900. Rev. Seyster lived at Pine Creek and divided his time between the Mount Morris and Pine Creek churches.

Rev. Seyster served the church for a number of years, then was followed by a long list of ministers who served only one or two years, as follows: Revs. De-Poister, Goss, Carr (second ministry here), Hacker, Sales, Madden, Candler, Page, Shearer, Hurst, Sparks, and Nethercutt.

In 1928, Rev. N. A. Bolinger began

what was to be the longest ministry in the history of the church, serving until early in 1938. During his ministry, he renewed the cooperative arrangement with the Pine Creek congregation, which had been discontinued some time previously.

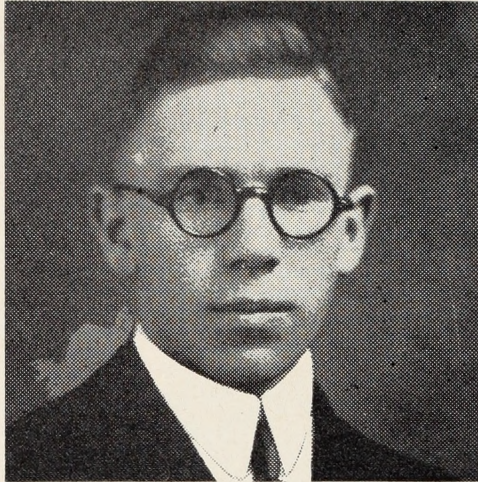
In May, 1938, the present minister, Rev. W. Harold Wiltz, took charge, and he also serves both the Mount Morris and Pine Creek congregations.

During its occupancy by the Disciples of Christ, the church building was enlarged three times. About 1886, a small room was built as a wing to the south of the original brick building. In 1927, this wing was extended to its present size, and a kitchen was constructed at the rear of the wing. Then in 1936, a full basement was completed under the

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REV. NOBLE A. BOLINGER, who has just finished a successful pastorate of the Christian Church in Mount Morris, is the son of Andrew and Ida (Hoke) Bolinger, and was born in Huntington, Ind. The family consisted of 13 children. He married Clara Elizabeth Wine in 1924 and they have two children, John Andrew and Harry Wayne. Rev. Bollinger is now located at Rock Island, Ill.

original building, a more modern heating plant was installed, and various other repairs were made.

Of far greater significance than these facts of ministers and buildings, was a change in program made at the beginning of 1935. The services of church and Sunday school were unified in program and budget. Special services for children were arranged, beginning with the church hour and continuing through the church school period. All offerings and methods of financing the work of the church except voluntary offerings at the church service were eliminated.

The reason this change of program is of interest to others than the local congregation is that its successful application here encouraged other congregations of various faiths, who had been thinking along similar lines, to adopt these changes, resulting in a greater interest on the part of both children and adults, and the placing of church financing on a sounder basis in those churches.

Looking ahead, it is hoped that these first 60 years will be but the beginning of a long service to the community, expanding and strengthening the Christian faith among men, in close cooperation with other churches.

The church has grown with the community and because the two have grown together we have a kindred spirit one with the other. The span of a hundred years history belongs to this people. From a group of houses and people, this church has witnessed the building of a highly progressive community with a publishing house that has risen from a very small beginning to one of the finest in the country. The things physical have helped us to grow but our real development and growth as a church depends on the Christian attitude of our people. We face the future with joy and anticipation.



REV. W. HAROLD WILTZ came to Mount Morris in May, 1938, to become pastor of the local Christian Church. He is the son of Oliver J. and Margaret (Ferris) Wiltz and was born March 1, 1907, at Champaign, Ill. His education was obtained in the Peoria schools and at Eureka College where he graduated in 1931. His theological training was at the Hartford Theological Seminary, Hartford, Conn., where he received his B. D. degree in 1935. He has been in the ministry since 1927, serving churches at St. Augustine and Lexington, Ill., Bolton, Conn., and Havana, Ill. Rev. Wiltz was married Oct. 15, 1933, to Edna Maye Richey.



## Chapter 16

### MUSICAL ORGANIZATIONS

THE people of Mount Morris have been in many respects different from those in other communities. The village was founded by the seminary and as a result enjoyed an unusual educational and religious atmosphere during her entire hundred years of existence.

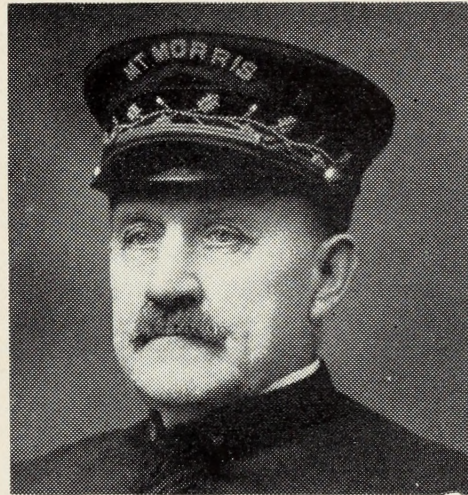
Furthermore, Mount Morris people seemed to have unusual musical talent and produced many competent musicians and musical organizations.

As early as 1845, only six years after the founding of the village, a brass band was organized to which many early citizens belonged who later became prominent men in the community. This was doubtless the first band in the county. Old records of the band preserved by Mrs. Mary Knodle, kept by her husband, Peter Knodle, show that the members were H. J. Burns, Peter Knodle, John F. Grosh, Samuel Knodle, Jacob A. Knodle, Jonathan Knodle, Nathan Evans, A. C. Marston, Simon Warner, A. Coffman, Robert S. Hitt, Chauncey Sheldon, Andrew Hitt, Frederick Finkbohnar, Christian Finkbohnar, Frederick B. Brayton, Henry Neff, William Lott, William J. Fouke, F. Hendrick and B. G. Stephens. These were not all members at its first organization, but some came in later to supply the places occasionally made vacant by the dropping out of older players.

John F. Grosh assumed the leadership shortly after organization. This band appears to have existed until sometime in the early fifties, and, owing to the scarcity of such organizations in northern Illinois at that time, traveled among the surrounding towns quite extensively.

Before proceeding further, it will be well to mention two musical families who have lived in Mount Morris and

were intimately connected for many years with all matters concerning the melodious art. Henry A. Neff has already been mentioned as a member of the first band in Mount Morris. His wife also possessed musical talent and this talent was transmitted undimin-



DAVID S. McCOSH, nationally known band leader and composer, was the son of Dr. John and Elizabeth McCosh, and was born Dec. 15, 1847, in Franklin County, Pa. He died at Polo, Ill., Nov. 1, 1936, aged nearly 89 years. The family moved to Mount Morris when he was 17 years old, and after attending Rock River Seminary, he began his musical career. He became a talented cornet player and was the director of many famous bands and orchestras. He wrote and arranged hundreds of band and orchestra selections, the most famous of which was "Hear Dem Bells." In later years he became an expert music engraver and was engaged by music publishers to write, arrange and engrave books of orchestra dance music. For a number of years he resided in Mount Morris and directed the local band. In 1879, he married Charlotte Huntington, and two sons, Dudley and Leighton, were born to them.





GREGOR THOMPSON'S ORCHESTRA of about the year 1890. Front row, left to right, Chas. Ford, Thomas Newcomer, Gregor Thompson, Levi Bear, Irvin Thomas; standing, E. E. Winders, Henry Magoon, John Thomas and Oscar Doward.

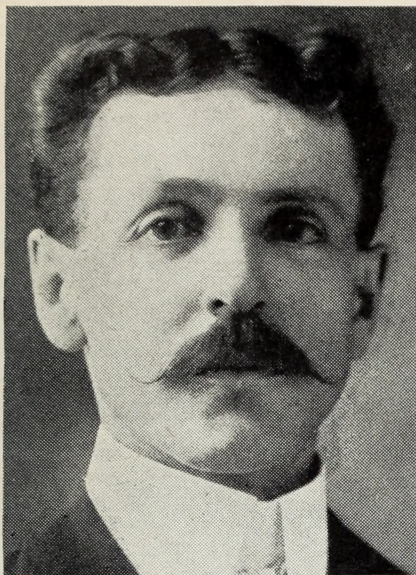
ished to their four sons, Milton, Clark, Addison W. and Emery I., and two daughters, Lura (Mr. A. S. McCoy's first wife), and Nettie (Mrs. G. W. Deppen). Milton was the musical genius of the family, having been probably the best all-around cornet player the town has ever produced. When leader of the band, he contributed much to its success by his fine execution of cornet solos. Clark Neff, for many years also leader of the band, was also a fine cornetist, and figured conspicuously in musical circles. Milton died at Mount Morris in 1878, and Clark also died in Mount Morris in 1892.

The other family in question is the McCosh family, consisting of Dr. and Mrs. John McCosh and their five sons, David S., James, Dr. George B., Scott, and Benjamin; and three daughters, Sarah, Susie and Lucia. D. S. McCosh made music his profession, and wrote hundreds of fine selections for band and orchestra and led many large bands. He played a variety of instruments and when younger was a fine cornetist. In fact, he was the musical genius of the family. "Hear Dem Bells," a vocal selection composed by him, reached the circulation of many hundred thousand

copies. His musical publications have altogether been very successful on the market. Dr. G. B. McCosh attained much proficiency as a tuba player in some of the old bands, and also played a number of other instruments. He composed some music, showing that he possessed much undeveloped ability. Benjamin also became a music publisher and band leader. These three and also Scott and James, who lived in Tennessee, all were thorough musicians and played for years in the old bands of Mount Morris. The three daughters of the McCosh family were equally talented. Sarah, who married Jacob Strock and raised a musical family, was a talented vocalist. Susie, who married Chas. H. Sharer, raised a large family, all of whom had exceptional musical ability. She possessed a fine soprano voice and became very well known as a soloist. Lucia, who married Milo R. Maltbie, now living in New York City, became a very talented pianist and for a number of years headed the music department of Mount Morris College.

Among vocalists who claimed Mount Morris as their home, probably the most conspicuous was Miss Catherine McNeill, daughter of Dr. Francis A.





ULYSSES C. NYE, a talented musician who spent many years in Mount Morris, was the son of John H. and Catherine R. (Coffman) Nye and was born at Mount Morris, Apr. 12, 1864. He was educated in the Mount Morris Public School and Mount Morris College, after which he spent seven years at Huron, S. Dak., returning to take up a musical course at Chicago Musical College, where he graduated in 1894. He spent two years in California and then returned to Mount Morris, where he followed his vocation of music teacher, part of the time with Mount Morris College. In 1887, he married Ella M. Fellows, who died in 1895. Their daughter, born in 1888, died in infancy. Mr. Nye moved to Phoenix, Ariz., where he married again and is now a resident of Los Angeles, Calif.

and Barbara McNeill, who was married to Dr. Hoffman at Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, in 1899. Miss McNeill's beautiful contralto voice was developed in the best schools at Boston and Paris, after which she traveled extensively with the best opera companies of the country.

Among the talented musicians Mount Morris has turned out, in addition to the Neff and McCosh families, should be mentioned Mrs. Maria (Hitt) Newcomer, who taught music in Rock River Seminary; U. C. Nye, a graduate of Chicago Musical College; Olive Lipe, daughter of Rev. L. L. Lipe and a graduate of the Wisconsin State University; Mrs. J. L. Rice, who studied in

Boston; Miss Pearl Williams, student at Chicago Musical College; Mrs. Aida (Neff) Remmer, talented pianist; Lura (Neff) Chambers, who taught both voice and piano at Mount Morris College; William Lohafer, cornet; Merritt S. Miller, violinist, graduate of Chicago Musical College; and many others of exceptional ability.

Among musicians of the present day should be mentioned Lorraine Brown Thomas, pipe organist at the Lutheran Church and former instructor of piano at the college; Mrs. Robert Hough, pipe organist at the Methodist Church; Mrs. Dolores Huffman, instructor of piano; Jerry Huffman, cornet soloist with local band, formerly with Sousa; Howard Bronson, director of Kable Band and formerly with Sousa; and many other members of the band who



MERRITT S. MILLER, only son of Jacob G. and Anne Catherine (Swingley) Miller, was born in Mount Morris, May 5, 1885. He graduated from Mount Morris High School and the commercial department of Mount Morris College. He attended the Chicago Musical College, where he graduated in violin, harmony and theory. He also attended the Machek Violin Institute in Chicago. He was employed as linotype operator by Kable Brothers Company from 1907 to 1910 and during this same period was director of the Kable Brothers Company Band. Since 1910 to the present, he has been continuously employed as a linotype operator on Rockford newspapers, and in the meantime he has kept up his work as a professional musician. He was married in 1910 to Lela Keedy and they have one daughter, Jean Elizabeth.

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THIS PICTURE shows the first public appearance of the band organized in the winter of 1897, which has been in continuous organization for over forty years. This picture was snapped of the Decoration Day parade and the old soldiers may be seen following the band with Robert Crosby carrying the flag. The members of the band are Harvey Kable and Harry Kable at the front, followed by Robert Buser, Leslie Rees, Earl Clevidence, Burton Strock, Wm. Fouke and Vernon Rees.

formerly were professional musicians.

To get back to the subject of bands, the first old band was disorganized in about the early fifties. About the year 1867 a new band was organized with Morris Gaffin as leader. Some of the

early members were Clark and Milton Neff, David and James McCosh, William Bull, Calvin Potter, David Rine, John Nye, Frank Knodle, Lee Crofts, George Keplinger, Jacob Fager and Charles Knodle. The band continued



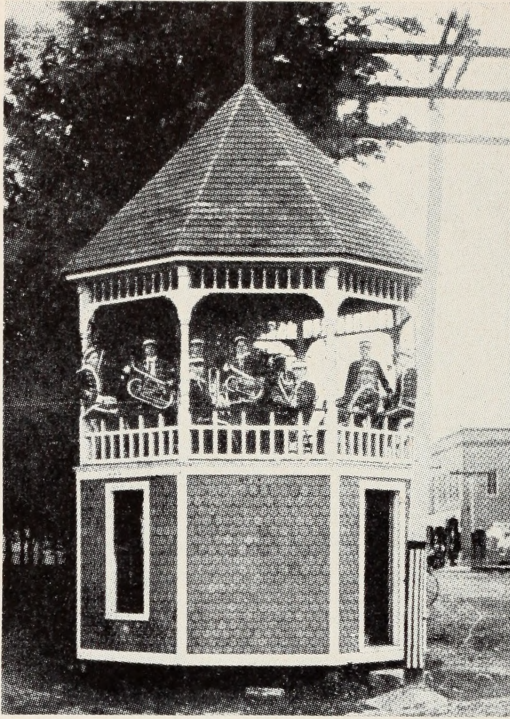
THIS MOUNT MORRIS ORCHESTRA was in existence about the year 1930, and includes the faces of some of Mount Morris's best musicians. First row, left to right, Mildred Strock, H. G. Kable, Verne Roland, Joseph Moats, Blair McCosh, Frank Knodle, Chas. Weaver, David S. McCosh, Merritt Deppen; standing, Burton Strock, Oscar Olson, Merritt S. Miller, Roy Brayton, Oscar L. Doward.





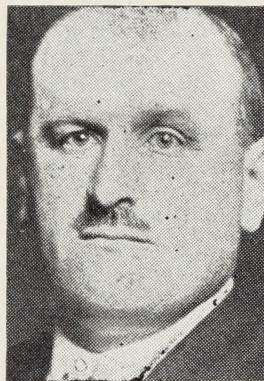
McCOSH'S ORCHESTRA OF 1907: (1) Wentworth Sharer, (2) Aida Neff Remmer, (3) Chas. Weaver, (4) D. Geo. B. McCosh, (5) Merritt Deppen, (6) Max Sharer, (7) Harvey Kable, (8) Milford Hinds, (9) Frank Knodle.





THIS WAS THE FIRST BANDSTAND built in Mount Morris. It first stood on the corner of the campus opposite the hotel, but was later moved north to the center of the business section. It was torn down in 1917 to make room for a larger and more modern stand.

in organization for probably not less than twenty years, with, however, a continual change of membership, owing to the coming and going of musical talent. Probably the best period in its existence was during the time when



JOSEPH VEZZETTI was director of the Kable Brothers Company Band in the year 1918. He was an Italian and a musician of unusual ability both as a performer and as director. When last heard from he was located in West Virginia.

Milton Neff was leader. At that time some of the members were Clark and Emory Neff, George and Benj. McCosh, Charles and F. F. Knodle, Charles Sharer, Ed. Allen and James Webb. They played in a number of contests and had many engagements at fairs at Oregon, Rochelle and Mount Carroll, and for numerous other events.

The outstanding musical organization in Mount Morris, however, during the past 40 years has been the concert band, now known as the Kable Brothers Company Band. This famous musical organization was organized in 1897 by Chas. H. Canode and H. G. Kable. On page 336 will be seen a picture of



JAMES WATSON came to Mount Morris as director of the band in November, 1916. He was born in Scotland, and at the age of eight years he started his musical career by playing cornet on the concert stage. Later he came to Canada and directed a number of bands. For five years he was director of the Montana State Prison Band. Mr. Watson directed the Mount Morris Concert Band from November, 1916, to the end of the 1917 season.

the first appearance of this band of only eight pieces and the members who belonged to it. During the intervening 40 years the band existed under a number of different names and was directed by a long list of competent bandmasters.

When organized in 1897 it was known as the Mount Morris News Band and was taught by Chas. H. Canode, the publisher of the Mount Morris News. The next director was Burton Strock, a descendant of the musical McCosh family, and he was followed for a short period by Wm. Lohafer.

Merritt S. Miller directed the band





THIS PICTURE of the Mount Morris Military Band was taken in 1898 while the band was filling an engagement at Forrester. First row, left to right, David S. McCosh, Blair McCosh, Roy Brayton, Leighton McCosh, Burton Strock, H. J. Kable, H. C. Walrath; top row, Roy Jackson, Leslie Rees, Earl Clevidence, Ernest Brayton, Wm. Fouke, Robert Buser, Harry Kable, Vernon Rees.

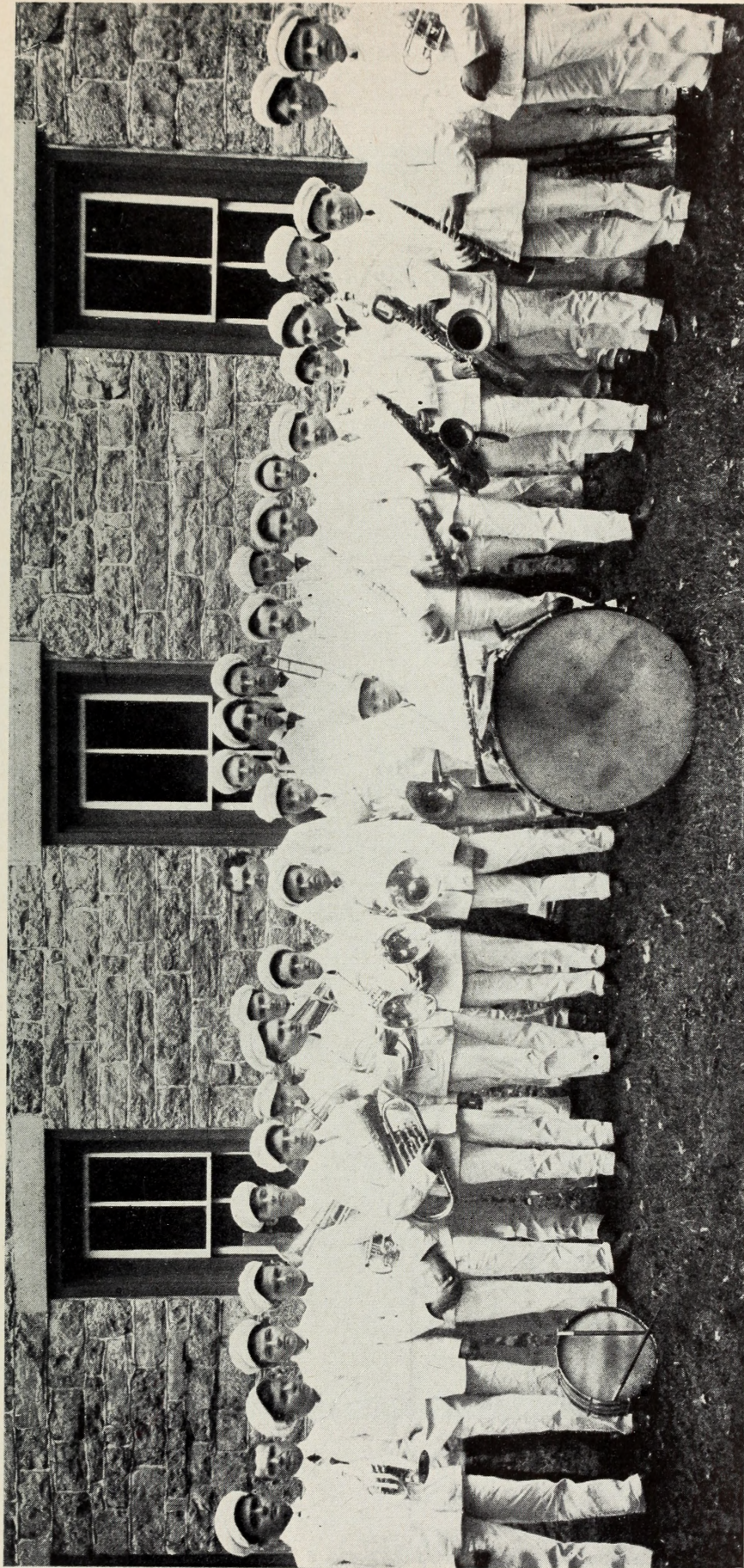




Gloss and Harvey Kable. Middle row: Merritt Deppen, Vernon Rees, Leslie Rees, Earl Clevidence and Wm. Fouke. Front row: Oscar Olson, Burton Strook, Roy Brayton, Roy Jackson.

MOUNT MORRIS has always had a good band. Here is the band which existed in 1900. It was named the Mount Morris Military Band and Burton Strook was the leader. Those in the picture are, top row: Ernest Brayton, Harry Kable, Elmer Shank, Clayton





THE ABOVE picture of the band, which was then known as the Mount Morris Concert Band, was taken during the summer of 1905. From left to right, those in the picture are George Emmert, Frank Canode, Perley Rees, C. G. Gloss, Clifford Miller, Roy Deppen, John Donaldson, Wentworth Sharer, Clyde Davis, Ray Iler, Carl Stutsman, S. E. Avey, Dr. C. J. Price, Chas. Baker,

Chas. Weaver, Merritt S. Miller, Mac McCosh, Merritt Deppen, U. C. Nye, Walter McNett, Frank Brunker, Harry Longman, H. J. Kable, Roy Thomas, S. S. Goughnour, Dr. J. H. Ritson, Max Sharer, Maurice Tice and H. G. Kable. Many of these members were beginners, and not one of them is now a regular member of the band. Merritt S. Miller was the director of the above band.

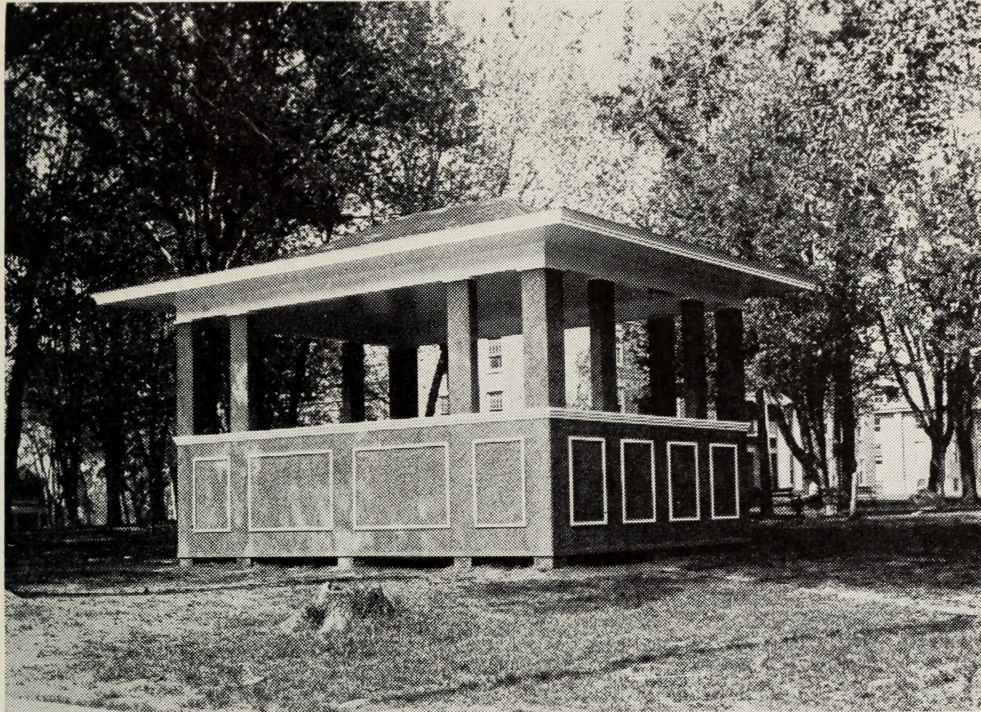




THE ABOVE picture of the Mount Morris Concert Band was taken at Mount Carroll, Ill., on Aug. 27, 1913, at which time the band was awarded first prize in a band contest at the Carroll County Fair. Those in the picture are, from left to right, top row: Mac McCosh, H. E. Longman, Harry Rock, Leslie Rees, Clifford

Windle, C. G. Gloss, Wentworth Sharer, William Lohafer, Robert Clark. Second row: H. J. Kable, Max Sharer, Oscar Olson, John Donaldson, Joe Rock. Front row: H. G. Kable, Robert Toole, Ed. Marvin, D. S. McCosh (director), Max Mishler, Frank Knodde and Orville Rock (at bottom).



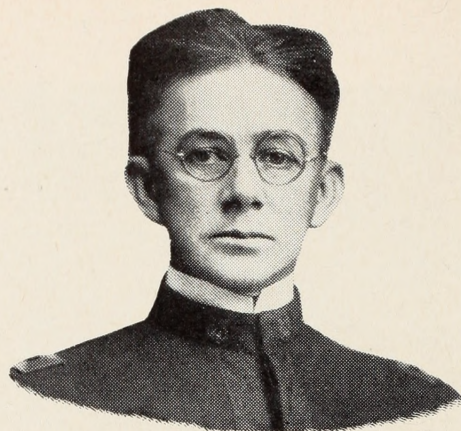


THIS BAND STAND was erected on the college campus in 1917 at a cost of \$500. Herlock Longman solicited the funds for building the stand and superintended its construction. This stand was replaced in 1922 by the present shell.



THE TUBA or bass section of the Kable Brothers Company Band in 1920. From left to right, H. E. Longman, Emmert Wolfe, Leslie Rees and Harry Rock.





FRANCIS A. MYERS, well-known composer and bandmaster, came to Mount Morris in 1920 and was director of the Kable band for three years, during which time the organization made marked progress. Prof. Myers returned to Utica, N.Y., where he has since continued his band work.

for two different periods, first in 1905 and again in 1909 and 1910.

David S. McCosh directed the band during the season of 1906 and also from 1911 to 1915. Dr. George B. McCosh was the director during the season of 1907.

From 1916 to 1920, the band had a



MURDOCH J. MACDONALD, talented cornet and xylophone soloist, and bandmaster, came to Mount Morris to take charge of the Kable band in November, 1927. The concert season of 1928 was one of the most popular in the history of the band. Mrs. Macdonald, a professional vocalist, added much to the programs. Mr. Macdonald is now located in Detroit.

different director each season, as follows: 1916, M. G. Rader; 1917, James Watson; 1918, Joseph Vezetti; 1919, Ned Smith.

In 1920, Francis A. Myers came to Mount Morris from Utica, New York, and over a period of three years built the organization up to a fine 50-piece concert band. During this period the band shell was erected. From that time until the present, the band has been recognized as one of the finest concert bands in the country.



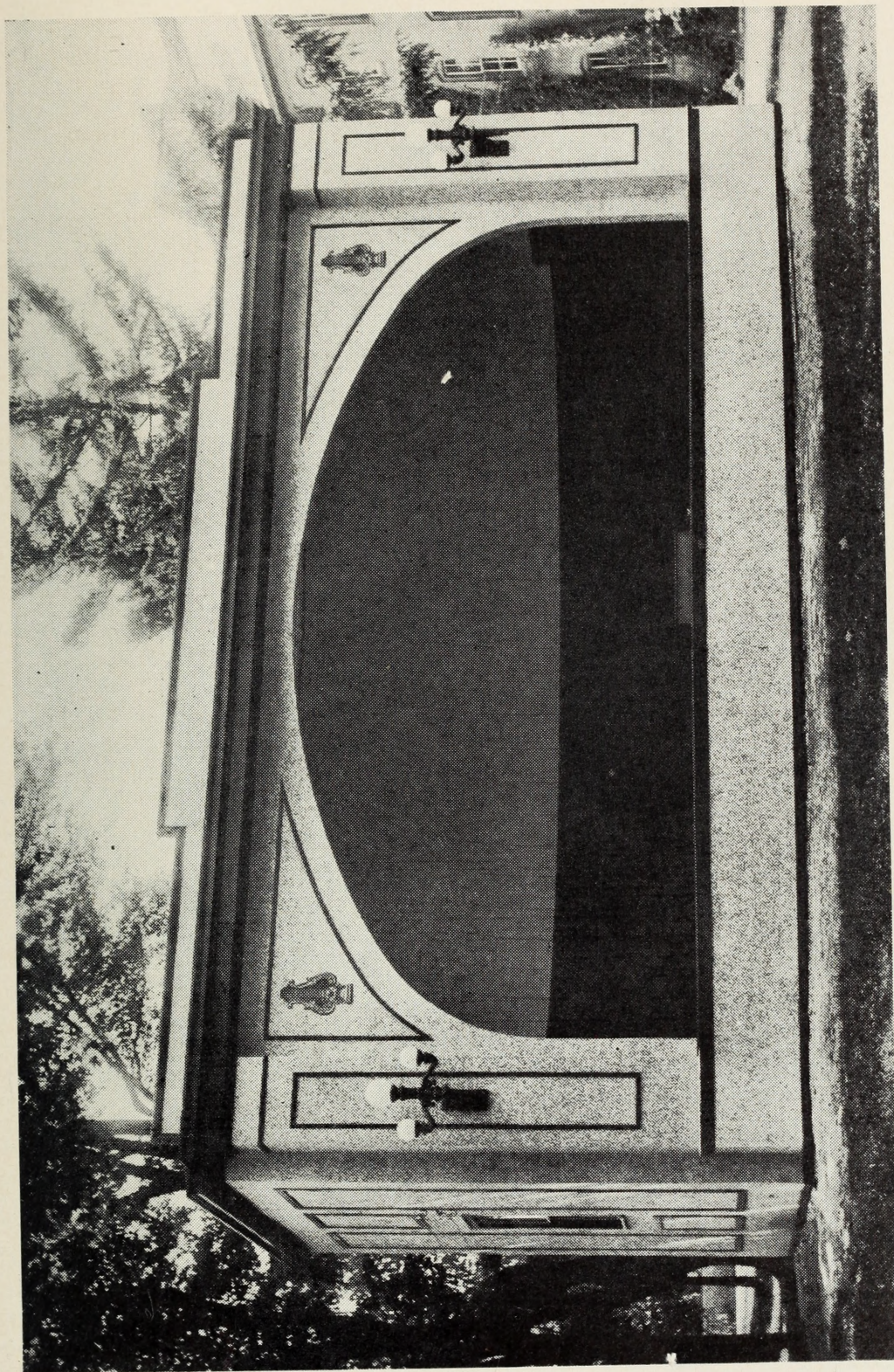
GERALD HUFFMAN, talented cornet soloist and assistant director of the Kable band, came to Mount Morris in February, 1930. He previously played with Sousa's Band, the United States Navy Band, Smith's Scotch Highlanders and other organizations. He belongs to a musical family and is considered one of the very best cornet soloists in the country.

Prof. Myers left in 1922 and was succeeded in 1923 by L. M. DeArvil, who proved to be a competent bandmaster and continued to improve the organization for a period of four years. During this period the band became the regimental band of the 129th Infantry, Illinois National Guard, which position it has held up to the present time. Each year in August the band goes to

Original from

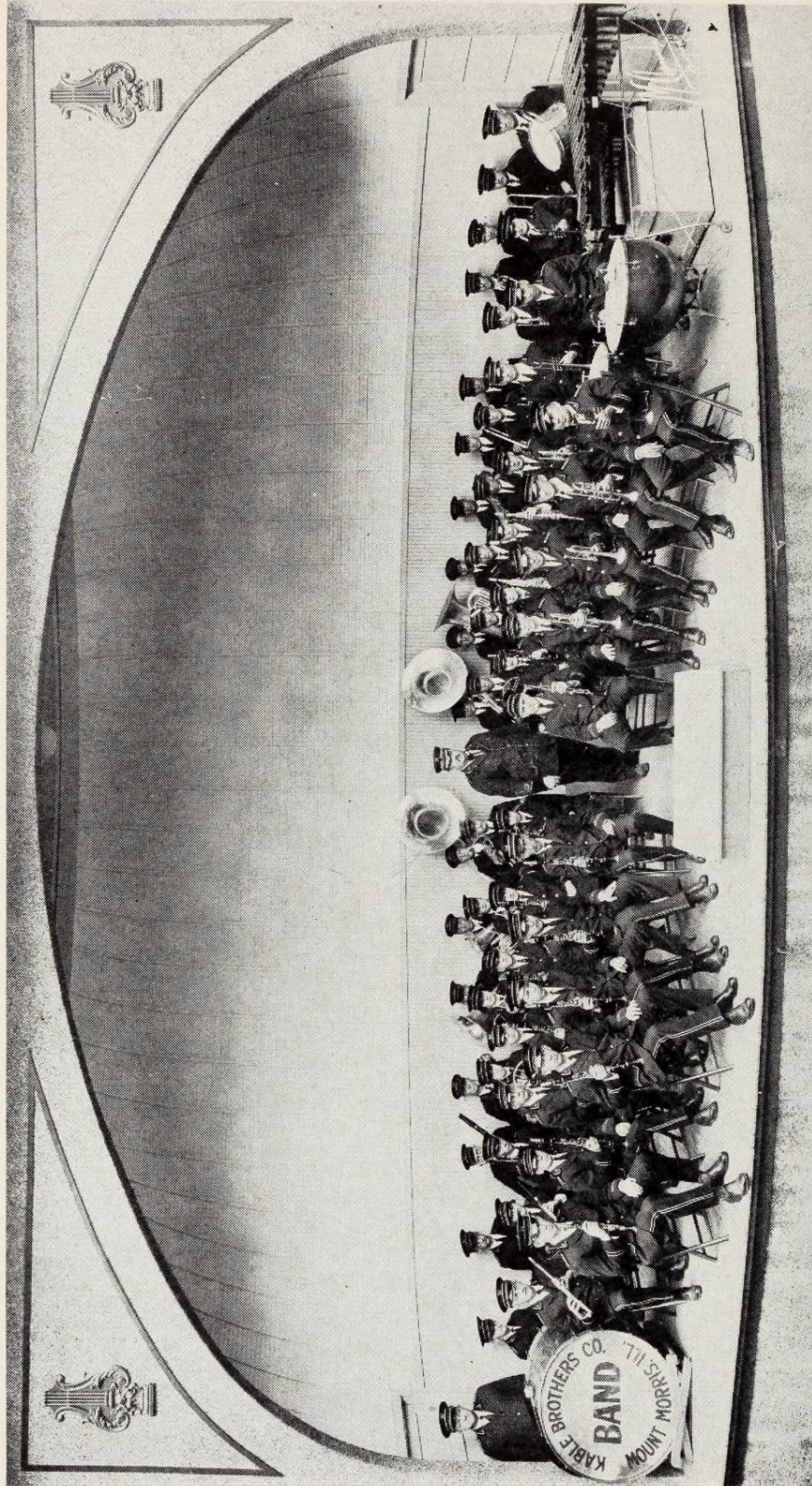
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THIS SHELL-TYPE BANDSTAND was erected in 1922 at a cost of nearly \$3,000.00. It is 45 feet in length, 20 feet deep and 26 feet in height. It will comfortably seat 50 musicians. The stand was constructed by Frank McPherson and superintended by Willis Mumma and Herlock Longman.





KABLE BROTHERS COMPANY BAND about the year 1924, under the direction of L. M. De-Arville. There were a number of women in the band at that time.