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Ruste, C.O.

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**Sixty Years**  
of  
**Perry Congregation**

**Digitally Reproduced for the 150th  
Anniversary of the Norwegian Evangelical  
Lutheran Church of Dane County Wisconsin  
September, 2004**

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Sixty years of Perry  
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*and their children*

*Ben-----Lulu*

*Roy-----Hazel*

*Walter---Archie---Glenn*

*by Mary Lu Moore,  
daughter of Lulu Paulson Vanderhoof*

# Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

A souvenir of the sixtieth anniversary of the  
founding of the Norwegian Evangelical Luth-  
eran Church of Herry, Dane Co., Wisconsin

COMPILED AND EDITED BY  
C. O. RUSTE, 1915

To the memory of the pioneers who braved the dangers  
of a long voyage—the hardships of a life in the  
wilderness—and still found time and means to  
organize and maintain churches and congregations  
for themselves and their posterity, this little volume is  
respectfully dedicated

# Preface to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition

September 2004

## **Dedication**

We dedicate this digital resurrection of the sixtieth anniversary story of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Perry, Dane County, Wisconsin, to our children and grandchildren — who continue the quest for God's truths in a world filled with unhealthy diversions and alternatives.

## **Decision to Digitize Book**

The option of computerizing or digitizing this, the story of the sixth largest Norwegian immigrant settlement in the United States, grew from discussion between Kristin Brue, historian for the Perry church and David Battey, a church historian in Snoqualmie, Washington and a fifth generation descendant of four ancestors resting in the Perry churchyard: Ole Svendson Øyo (old style Oie) and his wife Astrid Hoverud and Knut Olson Grimstvedt, (Grimstad) and his wife, Mari Nes.

## **Digitizing the Book**

Dave has been involved with computers since 1961 and suggested scanning with optical character recognition (OCR) as an alternative to simply photocopying the original for the sesquicentennial. OCR has come a long way in the past twenty years — but is far from perfect, especially when presented with special Norwegian characters such as ö and ø but the opportunity to recreate the book in a computer searchable form overrode the technical difficulties and after untold hours at the computer and with intuitive and sensitive proofing by Kris Brue and her husband James plus assistance from Professor Johan Hoff and Janice Grimstad — the digital copy was born.

## **Format Changes**

Initially Dave focused on re-creating the book in the original format, including the 5" X 7 ¾" size and 9.5 point type. Kris

lobbied for a larger, easy to read format, and the 8 ½ X 11, sixteen-point version was born. The quality of the original photographs precluded them being ‘blown up’ to match the larger type and they have been kept in their original format. During re-formatting, some data has migrated to the next page — but this has been kept to a minimum. A few obvious spelling/typo/date errors have been corrected, but the flavor of the original (Brot and Thot, for example) has been retained. The short indexes of contents and illustrations in the back of the book have been updated to reflect the new format, but the primary index for this digitized book is your word processing search engine.

### **Searching the Digitized Version**

The digitized book was finalized on Microsoft Word 2003 and will be made available on a CD in Microsoft Word 2003 format for searching as well as Adobe Acrobat’s PDF (Portable Document Format) to provide stability for the creation of printed pages and porting to other platforms. Microsoft Word will give differing pagination results on different computer installations and on some computers the pages will overflow and picture placement on the page may even migrate. **This does not, however, affect your ability to search the book** using the ‘Edit/Find’ option on your word processor. You can search on any name and find all appearances of that name that are printed anywhere in the book text or captions. Since the search is not ‘case’ specific, you can use lower-case for all searches. Please note that you may have two special Norwegian alphabet characters, ö or ø to use in your search text. An unmlauted ö is created by turning on “Num Lock” (it is normally on) and holding down the ‘ALT’ key, while typing 0246 on the NUMERIC keypad (usually to the right of the normal keyboard). The other character is a slashed ø, which is made the same way as ö but by typing 0248 on the NUMERIC keypad.



## **Additional Material**

We have added a photo of author Christian O. Ruste (frontpiece). Also new with this edition are translations of selected Norwegian text by Professor Johan Hoff, a scan of the original book cover, a discussion of the provenance of the scanned book, and an aerial photograph of the Perry Church and surroundings. These can be found beginning on page 149 — following the original 1915 text.

## **Corrections**

We accept full responsibility for any inaccuracies that may have crept in during the computerization. Please bring any corrections to Dave's attention.

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**Author/Editor Christian O. Ruste about 1915**  
From the Perry Church Photo Collection

## Preface to 1915 Edition

At the fifty-ninth annual meeting of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Perry, Dane County, Wisconsin, held November 25th, 1913, a committee was appointed to compile a history of the congregation for its sixtieth anniversary. The committee elected consisted of A. K. Grimstad, B. T. Daley, E. F. Goli, Thor Kittleson, and C. O. Ruste.

After having given careful consideration to the matter, the committee appointed the undersigned to prepare and publish such a history. While all the members of the committee have spent much time in perusing the manuscripts, and furnishing data, it will be remembered that the undersigned alone is responsible for the shortcomings that may unconsciously have entered into its pages.

The undersigned has chosen to use the language of our country in this little volume because it is the language of the future, and is universally understood. While we love the language of our ancestors and desire its continued use, we are not blind to the fact that it will not be the heart language of even our children or grandchildren. It is our hope also that this effort on our part may in a measure serve to instill in the hearts of our children, and in their children, reverence and love for our sturdy ancestors, and an ardent desire to emulate them in all that is good, true, and noble, in all fields of activity.

A few chapters on the early Norwegian immigration have been placed in this volume, in order to remind the readers of the rude and primitive conditions, the difficulties and hardships that marked the beginning from which the present has sprung. The reader will readily note, that no attempt has been made to limit this account to what pertains strictly to church matters. We acknowledge that God's providence and goodness has reflected its glory from the House of God, upon our entire community, and has

brot both spiritual and material blessings to every sphere of our activities. This same God has given us all, spiritual and physical growth, health, happiness, and progress. Therefore the history of our church and that of our community are so closely interwoven that we shall not attempt to hold them apart.

In touching on matters pertaining to the community, we desire to pay due respect to the memory of many of the pioneers who were not of our nationality. There were many of them, sturdy, noble, honest, and God fearing men, with whom our fathers stood shoulder to shoulder, in peace and in war, and whose mind and hand has left its imprint on this community.

References which have furnished the data for the contents of the first few chapters, are from the authors, Anderson, Dietrichson, Langeland, Holland, Ulvestad, Jenson, Norlie, and Berg. In the, majority of these chapters, however, much help has been received from various old settlers and others, as well as from our present pastor, J. M. Green, who has given valuable suggestions and compiled the parochial reports.

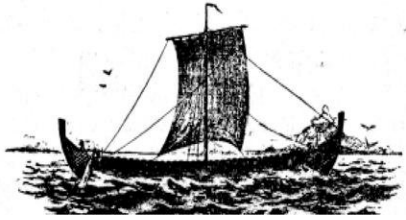
That errors and omissions may have crept in goes without saying, as the author is far from posing as an authority on rhetoric and composition. The sole motive for the publication of this little book being the love for our congregation and the hope that it may be one of the links in the chain that shall bind us and our children more closely to the church of our forefathers.

“Rippling Rill Farm,” April, 1915.

**C. O. RUSTE**

## CHAPTER I.

### The First Norwegian Settlements in America.



In reviewing briefly the first few settlements that lead up to our own community we omit all the early explorations and discoveries of the Vikings, such as Lief Erickson's 1000 A. D., Jens Munk's in 1619 as well as the numerous Norsemen with the Dutch at New Amsterdam in 1613, and others in smaller numbers at various times.

In the beginning of the nineteenth century there was in Norway considerable strain between the state church officials and the plain people, as well as between the aristocracy and the lower classes. There was no mutual feeling of sympathy among the various classes, religious tolerance was a thing unheard of and unknown. An example of this may be cited in the case of Hans Nilson Hauge, a layman who was imprisoned for ten years (1804-1814) for preaching the Truth from place to place. In other instances children from dissenters of the church were taken and forcibly baptized, people were even fined for not attending communion, showing the autocracy, of those in power.

Along in 1820 there were around Stavanger some dissenters of the Church known as Friends or Quakers. Like the Huguenots of France and the Puritans of England in previous times, these Quakers did not find living very pleasant and as a result they were instrumental in sending Cleng Peerson and Knute Eide to America in 1821, with a view of finding a suitable place to establish a colony in the new world.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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After three years of absence, Cleng Peerson returned, bringing with him reports that brot about the organization of the Sloop party which was composed of 52 people who left Norway on board the ship "Restaurationen" July the 4th, 1825. The leader of this party was undoubtedly Lars Larson Jeilene, a Quaker, but it would not be correct to infer that they were all of that denomination, in fact it is known that they were not, as that form of religion has had no influence on immigration from Norway later on. It may be safe to assume that the predominating issues of the day could be summed up in the one word "BREAD."

That first little ship, after a perilous journey, aroused a great deal of excitement on arriving safely across the turbulent waters of the mighty Atlantic to New York. From here most of the immigrants under the leadership of Cleng Peerson founded the first Norwegian settlement in this country at Kendal, Orleans County, N. Y. This settlement was however, not destined to reach any great prominence as far as the Norwegian immigration was concerned. It was in a heavily timbered region which was hard to clear. About eight years later Cleng Peerson again made an inspection tour thru the various states, walking hundreds of miles thru a comparative wilderness and finally selected a site a short distance west of Chicago, at Fox River, La Salle County, Illinois, as a more promising place for a Norwegian settlement.

It is hard to grasp the full meaning and significance of all the difficulties that had to be encountered nearly a hundred years ago. The means of communication and transportation were so entirely different, there being no railroads nor even wagon roads for the travelers. The stage coach came out to Chicago twice a

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month from the East, the knowledge of the other parts of the country being almost nothing, all was new and unexplored.

In the Sloop party there was a scholar by the name of Gjert Hovland who wrote some lengthy and interesting letters back to Norway in the year 1831, describing the conditions of living in the New World. These letters were copied by the hundreds in the Old Country and passed from man to man, who read and re-read them, the contents forming the chief topic of discussion wherever people chanced to meet.

Such was the feeling in Norway when in 1835 Knut Slogsvig, a member of the Sloop party, visited his Fatherland after living ten years in America. Excitement ran high when this news spread and people came to see and speak with a man who had really been to America and returned alive. He was the hero of the day. When Knut Slogsvig returned to America in 1836, the two ships "Norden" and "Den Norske Klippe" could not accommodate all those desiring to go with him; consequently two more ships were fitted out in 1837. In the meantime the opposition to the migration from Norway had not remained idle. The clergy and aristocrats united in placing barriers in the path of the emigrants.

When Knut Slogsvig landed in New York with his newly acquired bride and 160 other passengers, he immediately set out for the Fox River settlement, La Salle County, Ill. Most of the arrivals of 1837 were also bound for Fox River but on arriving at Chicago for various ascribed reasons they turned some miles to the south and founded the unfortunate Beaver Creek settlement. The location of this settlement was picked during the dry fall months and looked promising enough until the spring rains proved that it was founded upon a marsh and was very

## *Sixty Years of Perry Congregation*

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unhealthy. The poor immigrants having invested all their money in land and buildings tried to stay, but thru the summer malarial fever broke out and caused 14 or 15 deaths among which was a bright student, Ole Rynning, who the previous winter, while on a sick bed, had written a book which was later published in Norway, and which did much to stimulate Norwegian emigration. Most of the remaining settlers fled to the Fox River settlement.

One of the survivors, Ole Knudson Natestad, came to Clinton, Rock County, Wisconsin, on July 1st, 1838. He may safely be said to be the first Norwegian settler in Wisconsin and the founder of the fourth Norwegian settlement in the United States, the so-called Jefferson Prairie. In 1839 the second Wisconsin settlement was founded by immigrants direct from Norway. Their destination was also Fox River but at Milwaukee they were induced to take land some fifteen miles southwest from that place. This became the noted Muskego settlement, the first settlers being the Luraas Brothers, Even Hegg and some forty others.

The famous Koshkonong settlement in eastern Dane County was founded in 1840 and settled mostly by the overflow of the Fox River settlement and a few representatives from Jefferson Prairie.

The following decade of years found the Norwegians scattered in various small settlements thruout Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, and Texas. While many went direct from Norway to other places most of the immigrants came thru one or the other of these settlements as a port to their future homes. The main requirements that the settlers looked for were



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water, timber, and grass land for hay. The open prairie lands were shunned at first as a desert, as well as being considered too exposed to the elements to ever be occupied by settlers:

The hardships of the early pioneers can hardly be overestimated, isolated into a comparative wilderness one hundred miles from market with very little to sell, and even if a few bushels of wheat were laboriously raised it brot probably only twenty-five cents a bushel; add to this the rumors of Indian massacres, sicknesses, as was the case at Muskego in 1849 when that grim reaper of DEATH thru the agency of cholera carried away its people by the score. It surely took strong hearts and determined minds to hold out against these trying periods. Add again to all this the lack of a spiritual adviser and the Holy Sacraments, their children growing up without baptism and education, the picture is not a bright one, but their bridges were burned behind them and their only alternative was to stay and make the best of their situation.

To Ole Olsen Hetletvedt belongs the honor of being the first lay-minister to expound the Gospel to his countrymen in the New World. He was a well educated school-master from the Old Country and a member of the Sloop party in 1825. There is hardly any doubt that he preached on the Sloop and again at Kendal. We find him again in 1837 as the first to gather the settlers at Fox River for a "Samling." As a lay-preacher and agent for the American Bible Society he traveled extensively in the settlements of the Northwest.

Elling Eielson came to America in 1839 and made his home mostly at Fox River and partly at Muskego. He had traveled extensively in the Old Country as a lay-preacher of the Hauge

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**Elling Eielson** He was ordained as a minister by the Rev. F. A. Hoffman, Oct. 3rd, 1843.

Claus L. Clausen was a Dane who had intended to go to South Africa as a missionary, but thru the influence of Tollef O. Bache of Norway he decided to follow the Norwegian emigration to America as a teacher, and arrived at Muskego in August, 1843. He soon discovered that they needed a preacher more than a teacher, so he was examined and found to have the required qualifications, thus it came about that he was ordained by a German Lutheran minister, the Rev. L. F. E. Krause, Oct. 18th, 1843, and received a call from the Muskego congregation. The same fall they decided to build a church, and until it was ready services, including confirmations, were held in Even Hegg's barn. This Muskego church was the first to be erected by the Norwegians in America, altho it was not dedicated until March 13th, 1845. This same Church, after standing for more than half a century on that site was transferred to St. Anthony Park where it now stands as a relic along the side of our Theological Seminary.



**Claus L. Clausen**

Rev. J. W. C. Dietrichson was the first minister educated at the University of Norway and regularly ordained by the Norwegian

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Bishop to come and work among and organize the newly settled immigrants. He was a man of firm and convincing manners, authority was imprinted in his very character. He arrived at Muskego in August, 1844, and stayed with Rev. Clausen with whom he worked in harmony and good understanding.

Rev. J. W. C. Dietrichson preached his first sermon at East Koshkonong in Amund Anderson's barn August 30th, 1844, and at West Koshkonong under a big oak tree September 2nd of the same year. The East Koshkonong Church was organized October 10th, 1844 in the now town of Christiana and was built of logs, 36 x 28. It was dedicated January 31st, 1845. The West



J. W. C.  
Dietrichson

Pleasant Springs was organized October 13th, 1844, built of the same material and size as the EAST church, and dedicated December 19th, 1844, by the Reverends Dietrichson and Clausen.

The lot of these early ministers and teachers was not an easy one, besides the primitive mode of living, the small house accommodations, the long distances of almost impassable roads, the crude mode of transportation, and probably the worst of all the way the immigrants were separated into factions and sects. Surely the early settlers were like sheep without a shepherd.

Rev. Claus L. Clausen can truly be considered the pioneer among the Norwegian ministers. He shared all the toils and

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privations of the early settlers at Muskego and the surrounding country, and when immigration again moved westward he took up the frontier life and founded the St. Ansgar settlement in Iowa. When the horrible civil war shook our country he again showed his patriotism, love, and faith by enlisting as chaplain of that famous Norwegian Regiment, the 15th Wisconsin. He was the first president of the Norwegian Synod in 1850 and again held the same office in the Norwegian Conference of 1868.

Rev. Dietrichson's first stay in America was only nine months but he returned in 1846 to Koshkonong and served these congregations for the rest of his stay in this country, until June, 1850, when he was relieved by Rev. Adolph C. Preus who had been called as his successor from Norway.



**CHAPTER II.**  
**Blue Mounds Settlements.**

The Blue Mounds settlements included a vast territory of land about the "Mounds." In colonization it ranked about sixth among the early Norwegian settlements of this country, and was widely known both in Europe and America. In the early territorial days "Smoky Mts." as it was then known, was dotted off on maps of the Northwest Territory which was then a wilderness.



**Blue Mounds in the Distance.**

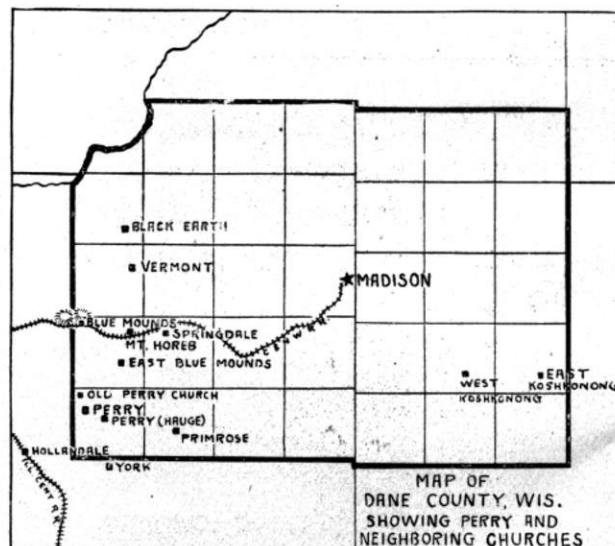
The first white settler traces back to Ebenezer Brigham who, in the year of 1826, ventured up from Galena in search of mineral lands. He was successful in finding rich lead ore deposits and

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hundreds of tons of lead were mined and carted one hundred miles over the country to Milwaukee and Galena.

During the "Black Hawk Indian War" of 1832 the place became famous by the building of the "Mounds Fort" which was situated one mile south of the "Mounds" on the open prairie. The Fort consisted of a solid log house with a substantial stockade about it. Here the miners and settlers found protection together with the few heads of livestock they had, during the uprisings.



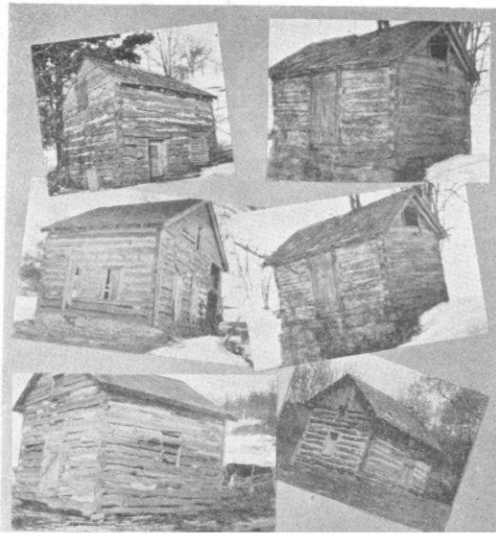
Map of Dane County Showing Churches

The Fort was never attacked by the Indians but four fatalities are reported. The Indians, lying in ambush succeeding in their fiendish thirst for blood, shot and scalped the soldiers and laborers who had wandered too far from the Fort. Here also two white girls were restored to civilization, the Indians having captured them and held them for ransom.

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Along the dividing ridge from east to west runs the old military road where the four-horse stage coach would make its regular trips. The sight of these stage coaches caused more of an excitement at that time than the steam trains did later. Aside from the early mining operations there was very little settling for other vocational purposes.



### Early Homes

Within the present boundaries of the town of Blue Mounds there were very few settlers at the time when Mr. Brigham and a few others brot about the organization of a town by an act of legislature, the eleventh of March 1848. It is reported that a lonely Norwegian, Iver Thorson, commonly called "Brekings Iver," lived for a short time in this neighborhood but his foot-prints have long ago been obliterated.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

During the years of 1848-49-50 there was a large influx of Norwegian immigrants, some coming from the older settlements, but the majority coming directly from Norway. A list of these immigrants follows in the order they arrived and settled: Ole O. Barton, Peer Dusterud, Gulbran Elseberg, Lars Pederson Dusterud, Saebjörn P. Dusterud, Thore Maanum, Gullik Eveinsru, Gulbran O. Frogne, Knudt Syvrud, Nils K. Syvrud, Ole Jelle, Bernt I. Lund, Andrias Stutelian, Helge Pisla, Ole Bole, Erik Engen, Arne E. Ruste, Ole A. Ruste, Knut A.



### **Perry's First School House**

Jordet, Thomas Anderson Jordet, Ole Tollerud, Syver Lien, Neri Dahlen, Tov Kittelson, Peder Johnson Klemoen, Iver Halsteinson Braaten, Christian O. Skogen, Ole Finhart, Erik Skogen, Anders Boe, Gulbran Rud, Inga Lund, Nels Brendene, Hans Hanson Hammerhagen, and possibly others whose names we have not found recorded.



## *Sixty Years of Perry Congregation*

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The town of Perry was named after Commodore Perry, the gallant young American officer who, in 1812, won fame and distinction in the naval battle of Lake Erie. The township was a part of the town of Primrose up to the year of 1854, when it was organized as an independent town and elected Anders Sanderson as chairman, and O. B. Daley as town clerk, town treasurer, justice of the peace, and superintendent of the schools. The first white people settled in the town in 1846, when John Brown moved in from, the East, and the Keller Brothers arrived from Germany. The town had probably less than a dozen settlers when the first Vikings came in and started to take possession of her domains.

Among the first Norwegian settlers who arrived in the year 1848 we find the following names recorded: Ole O. Bakken (Hill), Lars Halvorson Langemyr, T. Thompson, Hans Johnson Dale, and Targe Targeson Tvedt. During the next three years the following arrived in the order named, some settling beyond the west boundary of the town, into the town of Ridgeway, Iowa County, but they always remained with the same church and settlement: Targe Targeson Hastvedt, Anders Sanderson, Halstein Haadem, Hellig Helligson Forlie, Ole Jorgenson Hastvedt, Knudt Olsen Grimstvedt, Isaac Syftestad, Jacob Nordby, Fredrik Ellertson Goli, Nekolai Arneson Omland, Nels Grovem, Ole O. Granum, Halvor Halvorson Piperen, Tollef Syverson Anmarkrud, Knudt Oleson Hastvedt, Paul Kittelson, Gunder Paulson, Paul Syftestad, Lars Langemoen, John Grovem Gabriel Björnson, Ole Torgerson, Jul Haaverud, Erik K. Jorstad, Embrik Paulson (Halling), Ole Dalby, Ole A. Clifgard, Gulbran Renden, and Nils Gangset.

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The first white settler in the town of Springdale was John Harlow, who later married a daughter of Jörgan Lee. He settled there in the year of 1845. The first Norwegian settlers arrived there during the following year; they were: Thore Thoreson Spaanum, John J. Berge, Tosten Thompson Rue, John Thompson Rue, Nils Grasdalen, Halvor Grasdalen, Ole Knudson Kvisterud, Knud Knudson Kvisterud. The town was organized in 1848; from then on the Norwegian influx was great. Among these first Norwegian settlers we name: Ole Lee, Aslak Lee, Gulbran Throndrud, Arne Hoff, Erik Skindrud, John Lund, Knudt Lund, Lever Lien, Ole Stensbolet, Hans Gute, John Sylland, Knudt Steenerson, Knudt Skredde, Kittil Luraas, Jörgen Lee, Thore Lee, Knudt Herbranson Nees, Ole Anderson, Iver Thorson Aase, Hendrik Skogen, Engebret Tortun, Erik Solve, and Harold Hoff.



T. T. Spaanum  
and Wife

In the town of Primrose we find the first Norwegian settler in the year of 1846 as being Christian Hendrickson. By the year of 1848 a large number of Norwegians had settled there. The following are named: Salve Jörgenson, Nels Evenson, Nels N. Skogen. In 1849 we find Hon. Gunolf Tollefson, Knudt Bowerson, Ole Tollefson, Kittil K. Melland, Peter Hasklerud, Halvor Luraas, Gunder Stamm, Elling Stamm, Ole Skuldt, Eli Pederson, H. Hustad Gunhus, and possibly others.

## *Sixty Years of Ferry Congregation*

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The town of Vermont was politically a part of Blue Mounds until 1856 when its settlers perfected a local self-government. Among its first Norse settlers from 1849 and on we find Erik K. Sevre, Ole Brunsvold, Mikkil K. Blekkelién, Halvor Ruste, Arne Mikkelson, Ole Grotodden, Halvor Bakkene, B. Nees, Arne Vasfaret, Harold Vasfaret, Christian Vestrom, Gul Kantum, Jörgen Haugen, Halstein Nordby, Harald Brager, Peter Brager, Ole Brager, Hans Tomptene, Mikkil L. Tolebraaten, Ole Bakken, Ole Langedraglien, Arne Haugen, Ole Tollefson, Anders Espelien, Gulbran Ingemoen, Ole O. Thorsrud, Thrond Mikkelson, Anders Winden, Barsness, Amund Hillestad, Peter Moe, Einer Millelson, Hans Opsal, Iver Brennum, Knudt Horner, Knudt Kjorstad, Jens Moen, Thomas K. Lee, Mrs. Thomas K. Lee (Syverud), Ole Syvrud, Gul Olson, Gilbert Halstein, Halstein G. Docken, Arne Steensrud, Anders Stensrud, Ole Flashaugen, Gulbran Docken, Aamund Hillestad, Anders S. Oberbo, Mr. Wilken, Store Lars, Ole Hagen, and P. C. Paulson.

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### CHAPTER III.

#### Pioneer Life 1846-54.

Having seen how the settlers scattered themselves thruout the various towns, it might not be amiss to try and lift the veil of the past and get a glimpse of some of the hardships that had to be gone thru in those earlier days.

What bothered the early settlers the least was their worldly possessions. The majority of them had a few clothes packed in a "drag-kiste," or had them tied in a "skaut." Very few had any

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money left after the voyage, with which to buy their own yoke of oxen, to say nothing about buying land. Land at this time sold for a dollar and a quarter per acre but still it was too far out of reach of the poor immigrants. The first requisite of the pioneers was to get a hut or a “dug-out” to protect themselves from the elements of the weather; until this was ready they found shelter under extending cliffs and large trees. The later arrivals found shelter among these earlier pioneers until they were able to build a hut of their own. It is almost incredible how many people and families one of these ordinary 12x14 log-houses could accommodate, but it was “hjerte-rum” that counted in those days and good reason why.



An Old “Dug-Out”

An interesting anecdote is told of a large family that arrived in the early sixties. They temporarily overwintered in an evacuated “dug-out,” which was so low that the massive Viking had to go

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outside to put on his coat, and when the older girls came home for Christmas (having been out to work and acquired some style), had to leave their wide hoop skirts outside as there was not room for them in the little hut.

In the timbering of their abodes, the Norsemen's agility in swinging the axes and their strength in rolling up the heavy logs, which the annual prairie fires had left, became a valuable asset. The first dwellings were very primitive indeed, four walls made of heavy logs which were again plastered with clay, a dirt floor, a little door, a half sized window, and a hay roof. It was not long, however, before improvements manifested themselves in the floors which were now made from heavy timbers split in two, the smooth side being placed up. The roofs were made from somewhat the same material and ingeniously "locked" together, as such a thing as nails was an unthot of luxury in those days.

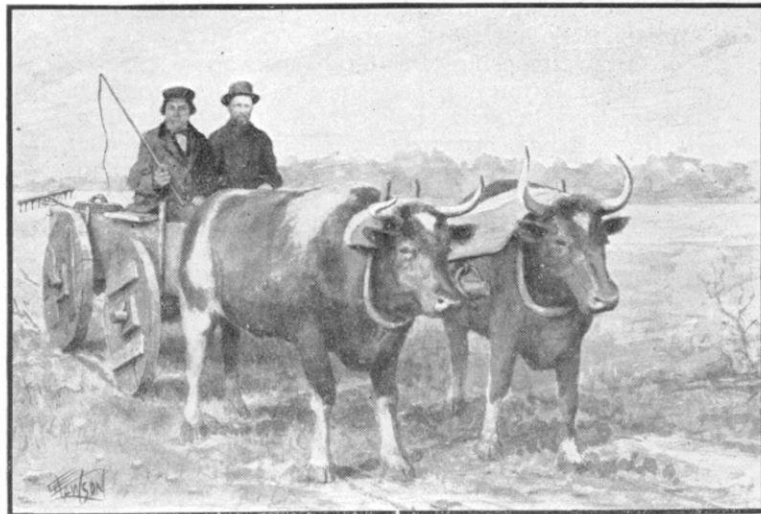
It was not an unusual thing for a neighbor to walk many miles to another family to borrow some flour or salt. The food supplies were almost invariably brot up from Koshkonong or Milwaukee in the spring time of the year, and this supply would have to last until the next trip would be made a year later. Thus, if a family ever ran out of any of the necessary food supplies, brotherly love would have to be practiced among the other settlers, or the unfortunate family would have to make the best of the situation.

Now we come to the essential adjunct of the family which has stayed us these seventy years with ever increasing fidelity, namely, the buying of a cow. If it happened to be the last part of the summer the settler would swing the "arm strong mower"

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

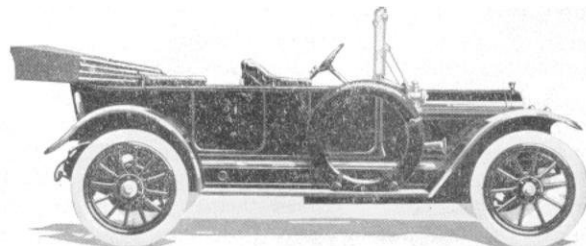
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and put up a winter supply of hay before leaving his wife and children to take care of themselves. Then he would tramp the country in search of work. Among some of the earlier and better situated settlers work could be had at any season, paying the enormous sum of fifty cents a day during harvesting and



**1854**

corn husking while in the winter six dollars a month was the average price paid for rail-splitting.



**1914**

**24**

## *Sixty Years of Perry Congregation*

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The early settlers had to rely chiefly on the lead ore mines of Wiota, Mineral Point, Crow Ranch, Miflin, and Blue Mounds for the sale of their labor. Some of the pioneers even rafted down the rivers to the south to cut wood thruout the winter months.

No homestead law was yet in force, all land was offered for sale by the government at \$1.25 per acre; after being on the market for a certain length of time it was reduced to \$1.00 and later to seventy-five cents per acre. It was often customary for the settlers to live on Uncle Sam's generosity for a year or two before filing their claims and paying the government's price. This method of disposing the land was however, destined to be short lived as it was not long before a different view formulated itself. As the land became settled its scarcity began to be realized and consequently its standard of value rose in direct proportion. This was also the time when that bug commonly known as the "land shark" or "speculant" and the money men from the East bought up the remaining tracts of land, and as the poor settlers accumulated enough money to buy an acre or two to add to the few they had, they were forced to pay them a large royalty together with a semiannual interest ranging all the way from 12 to 35 per cent.

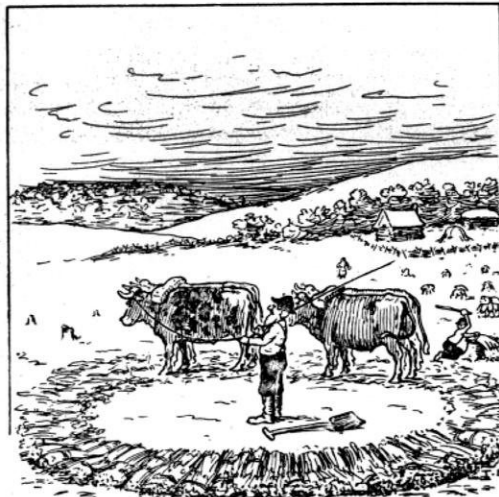
In the spring the settlers had to busy themselves in preparing the few acres of land which they had cleared to plant their wheat and corn. Then next in order was to get this little piece of land fenced, either with a rail or sod fence, the latter being one half ditch and the other half sod, rock, or dirt piled up by the side of the ditch. The live stock had the "run of the range" as hay was always plentiful.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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The breaking of the virgin soil was no easy task. It required ten oxen well broke and strong to turn the massive furrows of two feet or more, at the same time pulling out and turning all the second growth trees which the oxen could wade over, and circling about the Centenarians which had withstood the prairie fires for ages.

The virgin soil had only to be “tickled” before she responded most generously with a bountiful crop of golden grain. Harvesting at this time was of the crude and patience testing



Threshing Scene in 1850's

type. At sun rise the sturdy Norseman could be seen going to his field to reap the results of his labor. Picture to yourself the scene of our early forefathers as they swung with dexterity the massive hand-cradles and laid the yellow grain in swaths, later to be picked up and bound by their “better halves,” then shocked and carried into stacks. After this a still more difficult proposition presented itself to the immigrants, namely, the thrashing of the crops.



## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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One of the early methods in vogue was to have the oxen tramp the kernels out. The frozen ground was made smooth and clean, the open sheaves were laid in a circle and two yokes of oxen were driven around and around until the kernels were out. Then the straw would be shaken and often the chaff would be fanned off with a hand-pan. This method of thrashing was a very laborious one to say nothing of its cleanliness.

One difficulty followed the other and the bothersome problem of getting the grain to the mill was not an exception to the general rule of affairs to the immigrant. The mills were up to thirty miles or more away, which was the distance the early pioneers had to travel with their loads of grain transported in a “kubbe-rulle” by a yoke of oxen. Often they had to travel greater distances in order to avoid rivers, creeks, and other impassable places. On arriving at the mill the driver would have to await his turn, which would often take days. The food for the driver and his yoke of oxen would always be supplied from his home as this tedious trip would often take a week. One of these early landmarks was the “Smit Mylla” (Moscow) where a “groseri” or country store was in operation for a long time. Pokerville, situated at the foot of the “Mounds” was also a lively and prosperous trading place decades of years—before “Straangji” (later called Mount Horeb) was ever thot of.

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### CHAPTER IV.

#### Early Religious Services and Schools.

1850-54.

Our early pioneers had not more than settled down and estab-

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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lished rude huts and “dug-outs,” and provided for some of the necessities of life when an unbearable yearning took possession of their minds.

They longed for the chimes of church bells, such as they were accustomed to hear in their respective places of worship across the briny sea. They had not the Sacraments for their children nor for their own hungry souls. All these things they had not missed until now when they were entirely deprived of them. No wonder then that they had meetings and discussed means and plans of securing an opportunity to again hear the blessed Word of Peace and Salvation expounded to them.

The first religious service held in this neighborhood was at the home of Thore Thoreson Spaanum, in Springdale, about April 1st, 1850, when Rev. J. W. C. Dietrichson from Koshkonong preached to a large and appreciative audience that had assembled from many miles around. At this meeting eighteen children were baptized; among them were: Mrs. Ole Hill, nee Jelle; Mrs. Ole Rockstad, Mrs. C. Arneson, Halvor Sorenson, and Soren K. Sorenson. At this meeting the larger children were catechised.



**H. A. Stub**

The second meeting was held in July, 1850, on the property of Saebjörn P. Dusterud. This is about three-fourths of a mile west of the present East Blue Mounds church. The services were conducted by Rev. H. A. Stub. Sander Sanderson and others were baptized at that time and place. Late in the fall of 1850 Rev. A. C. Preus of Koshkonong, who the June before had taken

## *Sixty Years of Perry Congregation*

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Rev. Dietrichson's place, conducted communion services at Tore Maanum's home in Blue Valley.

Undoubtedly the first Norwegian sermon preached in the town of Perry was at Anders Sanderson's residence (Volstad) March 28th, 1851, where Rev. A. C. Preus officiated. Anton O. Ruste and possibly others were baptized then. It was either at this or a subsequent meeting that Mr. Sanderson had departed for Wiota to get the minister, and while the congregation awaited their return rain beat in and flooded the earth floor. But our sturdy pioneers could not adjourn for a trifling matter like that; instead they carried some marsh hay from a nearby hay stack which made a very serviceable carpet.

According to the memory of the pioneers, they had from now on an average of three services a year, but the authentic records of all of them have thus far not been found, due mostly to the fact that these early pioneer preachers did not find or take time to write down all their missionary journeys. Up to this time services were conducted in private houses or out in the open. The same was also true of the Norwegian or Parochial schools. The first Sunday school in Springdale was in charge of John J. Berge and was conducted at his house, while in Blue Mounds and Perry the children met with Ole A. Ruste. The latter also taught Parochial school (Omgangs-skule) in Springdale in the fall of 1850, and again in 1851, always staying as many days at each place as they had subscribed to the school; the children assembling there from as great a distance as they were able to walk. When we remember the size of the average one-room abodes (12x14) of these earlier days and that the family, often quite large, lived there with all their furnishings and household

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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activities, and in addition accommodated the community school with its equipment, we may conceive that the pupil's room for expansion was larger mentally than physically.

The first confirmation service in this neighborhood was held in the summer of 1852, at the newly erected school house, near the present East Blue Mounds church. Rev. A. C. Preus conducted the services and the following renewed their baptismal vows: Knudt A. Lee, Bergit Spaanum, Svend Spaanum, Christen Lund, Peder Maanum, Ragnild Lien, Knudt Lien, Beret Syverud, Siri A Ruste and possibly others.



**A. C. Preus**



**First Norwegian Lutheran Church  
in Western Dane County 1852**

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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The need of a special House of Worship became more and more apparent as the settlers had become accustomed to their new environment. Mr. A. L. Lien, formerly of Springdale, while writing in "Sambaand," gives Knudt O. Grimstvedt, Hans J. Dale, Ole A. Ruste and others, credit for being leaders in getting the settlers together at a meeting to discuss the ways and means for the erection of a Church. This meeting must have been some time in 1851, and they chose a site on the land belonging to Anders Sanderson. The dimensions of the church were to be



**H. A. Preus**

"20x20," and it was also agreed that each settler should cut and draw a certain number of logs, and help gratuitously to erect the church.

Consequently the logs were furnished thru the fall of 1851 and the following winter, the church being built early in the spring of 1852. The church as well as a "Stikat Fence" around it, was erected by all the settlers of the neighborhood. This church, with its original timber, is still standing and is maintained intact as a relic by the Hauge Congregation, on the same site as it was originally built. From the Ministerial records of Koshkonong we learn that Rev. A. C. Preus held services here May 21st and November 27th, 1852, March 5th, 1853. On May 27th of the same year he conducted the first confirmation services held in this church. The Catechumens were Anders Ruste (A. E. Arneson), Jul J. Haaverud, Lars C. Sanderson, Tosten Hanson, and Ingebret Ostensen. They had been prepared by the parochial school tea-

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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cher, Ole A. Ruste, but received no instruction from the minister until the evening prior to the day of confirmation. Services were also held as above stated on the 31st of July, 1853, and again in December of the same year.



This was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ole A. Ruste from 1851 to 1896. They raised a family of ten children. The author has temporarily removed the siding on the walls to show the original logs and size of the first room. The frame part in the rear was added in 1865 and the rock addition in 1872. In this one room log house the first year's confirmants of Perry Congregation received their instruction. Sunday and Parochial school was also taught. In this room the public school district comprising the south-west quarter of the town of Blue Mounds, was organized in 1854, and last but not least here, like in all the other pioneers' huts, many a tired and footsore wanderer found shelter and refreshment.

Rev. A. C. Preus conducted most of the services here thru the year 1854 and the first half of 1855, after which the Rev. Herman A. Preus of Spring Prairie, Wisconsin, continued the services up to the coming of Rev. P. M. Brodahl in July, 1856. The records show that these services were paid for at the rate of five dollars for each meeting.

## *Sixty Years of Perry Congregation*

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The second confirmation service in Perry was conducted by Rev. A. C. Preus in the summer of 1854; the following renewed their baptismal vow; Erik F. Goli, Hans F. Goli, Ole Paulson, Hans Larson, Anne Dusterud, Anne Gisleberg. These also were prepared by Ole A. Ruste, with whom they usually met on Sundays, walking from their respective homes which were sometimes as distant as ten miles. These were also instructed only once by Rev. Preus, which was the day prior to the day of confirmation.

In this log church was also held the first English school in the immediate vicinity (1852), Ole O. Bakken being the school clerk, it became his task to find a teacher. After some unsuccessful attempts he found in Sigri Omland a candidate who cleared the trials of the examination held before the chairman of the town of Springdale, and became the first teacher in a school which had enrolled about ten pupils. The following year a log school house one-fourth of a mile east of Daleyville was built, and inside its rude walls many of our most prominent citizens have acquired their "education." That the country was new is evident by the fact that these pupils, still living, remember distinctly of seeing deer by the score roaming about the school house. Religious services were also conducted in this school house. It is remembered that Rev. Elling Eielson was here at least once; likewise Rev. D. F. Dietrichson. It is possible that we have omitted names of other preachers and laymen.

The first grave dug in the first cemetery was for Arne E. Ruste, who had cut the first log for the church. He died April 12th, 1852. The second grave was for Anne O. Wolstad, and the third for a young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Knudt O. Grimstvedt.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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Aside from the singing of some psalms by the invited guests, no funeral sermon was preached at that time, but at the first service after the burial the minister performed the “Jord-paakastelse” at the grave.

This House of Worship, being the first built in western Dane County, at least by Norwegian immigrants, deserves more than a passing glance. It represented when erected, the united people of a community eager and anxious for a place of public worship and was used as such for a short time, but alas, we are all only mortals, she was soon to see in place of the countenances of its builders beaming with brotherly love, the set features of her children stamped with the doctrine, (“as I see it”). These factional motives going even into the extremes of placing lock and key upon the House of the Lord, one for the other.

It is not our purpose here to enter into the different questions that presented themselves about “Lægmands-virksomhed, Søndagsspörg-smaalet, O. S. V.” but simply to say that the same difference of opinion that had been brewing in the Old Country presented itself here. There seems to have been two great and conflicting systems of religious thot in the Church of Norway at that time; one loyal to the State Church with its established forms of worship and its ministers, the other conforming more nearly to the Hauge type of Christianity, but



Ole Paulson. Confirmed in the old log church in 1854. Continuously a member of Perry Congregation. Auditor 1878-9. Klokkar 1885, 1905 -6-7-8. Delegate 1896.



## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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**Erik F. Goli. Confirmed in the old log church 1854. Always a member of Perry Congregation. Trustee 1885-6-7-8-9-90. Auditor 1877. Secretary 1907. Delegate 1898. Deacon for fifteen years.**

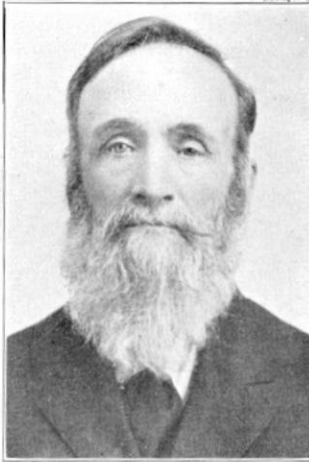
holding in contempt the liturgical forms of worship, and also tending strongly toward an extravagant subjectivism, giving undue importance to the testimony of personal experience in spiritual things.

Soon therefore, we had a faction in our midst that would not tolerate a preacher with “Krage og Kjole paa.” When the Reverends Preus, Dietrichson, and Stub came to preach they no longer had a united congregation to address. The old church was however, used by both factions, with more or less friction until the larger congregation got our first stone church ready to be used in 1858. The Hauge congregation continued to use the original church for some thirty years more, until it built its new church southeast from there. An eloquent tribute to its service and usefulness was paid to it by its faithful shepherd, Rev. K.

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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Hageseth, at the last regular service held there before moving to the new church.



**Juul Haaverud.**  
A member of the  
first class con-  
firmed in log  
church in 1852.  
Moved west.

Much credit is due to the Hauge Congregation for maintaining and keeping intact a structure of such historical value and interest. A nice and commendable deed they are also doing in having one annual meeting on the old site; it is like offering sweet fragrance to the past.

In searching the misty decades which our ancestors have lived in this country we find many records and documents that are curious and interesting in the light of our day. We have yet looked in vain for anything of wider scope than the old Articles of Incorporation, said to have been adopted by a congregation less than a hundred miles from here (Wiota), which declares that the aforesaid congregation shall extend “Saa langt

I Nord Og Syd, I Vest og Öst som Norske Folk maate komme til at bo.”

Of the early documents one is recorded in the Register of Deeds office on September 1st, 1853, which shows that an election was held in the old church Nov. 7th, 1852, and that Anders Sanderson and Knudt Olson were appointed conductors of said election, and that Anders Sanderson, Knudt Olson,

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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and Ole Jacobson were elected trustees of the congregation. On the 30th of March, 1853, Anders Sanderson and Knudt Olson acknowledged the same before David Thomas, a Justice of the Peace in the Town of Primrose. There is no record of how many votes were cast at said election.

In 1861 Anders Sanderson deeded to the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation, served by Rev. J. N. Field, for a consideration of \$2.00, the land on which the old church stands, in section 7, Town of Perry.



Wedding picture from 1861. \*Anders Ruste confirmed in Perry 1852. Marit Anmarkrud confirmed in Springdale in 1853. \*Mr. Arneson a trustee in Perry in 1886-7-8. Delegate 1877, 1881, 1886, 1895.

In the Protocol of Springdale an election is recorded to have taken place in the school house of school district No. \_\_, in the Town of Blue Mounds on December 1st, 1852, for the "sub-division of Blue Mounds and Springdale of the Norwegian Lutheran Congregation of Dane and Jefferson Counties." The following trustees were elected to serve from January 1st, 1853, until their successors were duly elected and qualified: Alsak Lee, Nels Sjuru, and Erik Sevre. The document is signed by John J. Berge and Saebjörn Pederson as conductors, but does not appear to be acknowledged or recorded.

In Springdale is also found a "Kalds Brev," issued to (name unintelligible) by Springdale, Söndra Blue Mounds, Nordre Blue Mounds (Vermont), and is signed by 36

\*Confusing as written. Anders Erlandson Ruste and Anders Erlandson Arneson are the same person. See bottom of p 31. Such name changes were not unusual. *Kris Brue and Dave Battey.*

# Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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voters from Springdale, dated January 8th, 1854.

Up to this time we have dealt more or less with the community as a whole, because lines and subdivisions have not as yet had a chance for political, material, or spiritual development. After this we shall follow more closely to our church organization and development as such, touching our sister congregations only as far as we may have come in touch with them in forming a joint charge, or in other business relations.

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## CHAPTER V.

November 5th, 1854.

The birthday of the “Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Perry, Dane County, Wisconsin.”

The above date and name as well as the reprints from the first three pages from the original Protocol of Perry Church published below will speak plainer and more effectively than we could writing a volume. Of the large and representative number of voters present at the above date there is only one, one lonely one, yet living at this time (April, 1915), in this neighborhood. He is Allan Arneson Ruste, since 1898 retired to Mt. Horeb, Wis., and a member of that church.

The election was held in the old church and all indications seem to point to the fact that Rev. A. C. Preus was present at said organization and election. How well those pioneers built, they probably did not themselves realize, but for us who now,

## *Sixty Years of Perry Congregation*

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sixty years later, lean and rest on the foundation they laid at that time, it is a good sample of our forefathers' work on an organization that has stood the test of time against all the trials and tribulations of a "Stridende Kirke," here on earth.

While first we humbly acknowledge the rulings of an all-wise and kind Providence who everlastingly has helped and maintained us all, we wish also to weave a little wreath to the memory of our ancestors by publishing the names of the family fathers, with the dates of their admission, as they appear upon the records of the church.

At a meeting of the members of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church held in the Town of Perry, Dane County, Wisconsin, on the 5th day of November, A. D. 1854, pursuant to due notice.

The purpose of said meeting was to organize the Norwegian Lutheran Church at said place and to elect trustees of the said congregation.

Ole Arneson and O. B. Daley were nominated to receive the votes cast for trustees at said election. The following persons were elected to serve as trustees of the said place and for said congregation.

Ole Kittleson was elected and by lot drew for the term of three years; Hans Johnson by lot drew for the term of two years; Ole Arneson by lot drew for the term of one year. The aforesaid society shall forever be called and be known by the name of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Town of Perry, Dane County, Wisconsin.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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We, the subscribers hereto, certify that the above statement is a correct report of the result of the election to elect trustees for the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church held in the Town of Perry, on the fifth day of November, A. D. 1854.

O. B. DALEY,  
OLE ARNESON,  
Conductors.



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Jørgenson Hastvedt, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Bole, Mr. and Mrs. Isak Olson Syftestad, Hellick Hellekson, Nils Haldorson, Mr. and Mrs. John Fjelstad, Mrs. Barbro S. Lien, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Arneson.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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O. B. Daley and Ole Arneson, conductors of the above election, to me acknowledged that the above is a correct statement, of the aforesaid election.

Town of Perry, November 5th, A. D. 1914.

WALQUAR JENSEN,

Justice of the Peace.

Recorded November 9th, 1854.

GABRIEL BJORNSON,

Clerk Board of Supervisors,

Dane County, Wisconsin.

\*For organisation af det Norsk Evangeliske Lutherske Menighed I Town of Perry, Dane County, Wisconsin, Samt for Kaldelsen av en rettelig prøvet og ordentlig indviet Prest for samme Menighed fra Norge.

1. Menighedens navn skal være den hvorunder den er indcorporet under Wisconsin's Kirkelove.

2. Menighedens lære er den som er aabenbaret i det gamle og nye Testamentes canoniske skrifter, fortolket i overensstemmelse med den Norsk Lutherske Kirkes bekjendelse-skrifter.

3. Den Kirkelige deciplin i Menigheden og de udvortes Gudsjenstlige handlinger udføres i overensstemmelse med Norges Kirke-ritual og Alterbog.

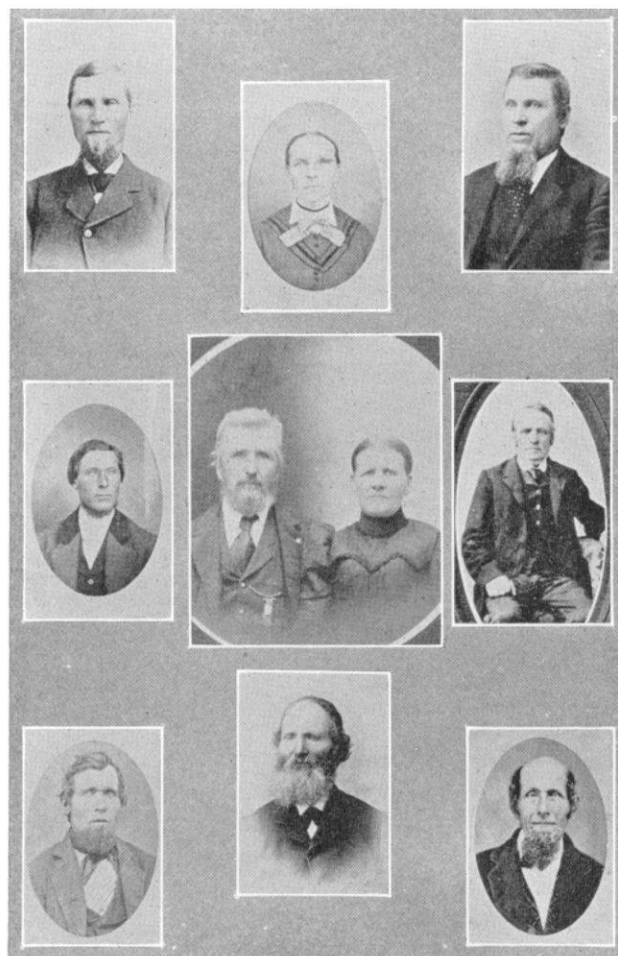
4. Menighedens lærer skal være en i den Norsk Lutherske Kirke prøvet og ordineret Prest.

5. Menighedens lærer maa ogsaa i sin vandel giv et godt vidnesbyrd om den tro som er i ham og blive et eksempel for dem, til hvis veileder han er sat.

\* See page 150 for a full translation of this text

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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John Dalby, Mrs. Hans Hanson Hammerhagen, Ole Hanson, Hans Hanson Hammerhagen, Mr. And Mrs. S. Chestelson, Thomas Anderson, G. Haavorson, P. O. Syftestad, Elling Knudson.



## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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6. Saa er og vi villige til at lyde vor Prest i alt hvad han efter sin Embeds-medfor og i overenstemmelse med Guds ord maatte byde os.
7. Kjendende Apostelens formaning at de, som forkynde Evangelium ogsaa skulde leve av Evangelium, er vi ogsaa av hjertet villige til efter evne at opfylde, idet vi tilbyde vor Prest følgende öconomiske betingelser.
8. Vi forlanger av ham atten Son-og-Hellig dages gudstjenester samtoffentlig cathickisationer med vor ungdom.
9. For denne tjeneste yde vi Presten en fast aarlig lön, hundrede dollars som betales i 2de terminer, hvert 14 April og 14 October, hvilkebesörger indkrævet av menighedens trustees om Presten saa önsker.
10. Forresten höitids-offer naar Gudstjeneste paa de store Höitider forrettes i menigheden, og betaling for Ministralle forretninger efter enhvers hjertelag.
11. Vi forpligte os til at bidrage vor anpart i anskaffelsen av en passende bolig for Presten i forbindelse med med Menigheden i de nordre Towns.
12. Paa foranstaaende betingelser som ogsaa er vedtagne av den Norsk Evangeliske Lutherske Menighed i Perry og tilgrensede Towns, befuldmaegtige 8i herved paa Menighedens vegne, som dens forstandere, Kirkeraadet for den Norsk Evangeliske Lutherske Kirke i Amerika til at kalde en rettelig prøvet og ordineret Prest til at vorde denne Menigheds Lærer og Sjælesörger for et tidsrum av fem aar.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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Town of Perry, Dane County, Wisconsin, 17de December, A. D. 1854.

OLE ARNESON (Ruste).

OLE KITTLESON (Tvedtene). HANS JOHNSON (Dale).

Trustees.

ANDERS HALVORSON,

HALVOR JOHNSON,

Medhjelpere.

“Til yderligere bekræftelse paa foranstaaende betingelser tegner vi samtlige medlemmer av den Norsk Evangeliske Lutherske Menighed av Perry vore navne og tilføier i serskilte rubrikker vores frivillige bidrag til Preste-gaardens opbyggelse, samt aarlig løn til Presten,” Datum.

- Feb. 19th, 1855.
1. Valquar Jensen.
  2. Ole Kittleson Tvedtene.
  3. Neils Olsen Grovum.
  4. Ole Arneson Ruste.
  5. Hans Johnson Dale.
  6. Ole Jorgenson Hastvedt.
  7. Necolai Arneson Omland.
  8. Halvor Johnson Grovum.
  9. Abraham Knudson Levang.
  10. David Torgrimson.
  11. Abraham Davidson.
  12. Anders Halvorson Grovum. (Udflyttet.)
  13. John Gunderson Fjelstad.

## Sixty Years of Ferry Congregation

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14. Torgrim Davidson.
15. John Halvorson Grovum.
16. Tollef Syverson Anmarkrud.
17. Knudt Olson Grimstvedt.
18. Torje Torjeson Hastvedt.
19. Torje Ormson.



Mrs. John Dalby, Kittle Paulson. Mrs. O. Hanson, Mrs. Elling Knudson, Hans Johnson Dale and family, Mrs. O. B. Dahle, Mrs. Anders Weehus, Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Anderson, Mrs. Jens Pederson Tyvan.

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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20. Jacob Olson Aarhus.
21. Paul Olson Syftestad.
22. Ingebret Paulson. (Udtraate den Ode Nov., 1862).
23. Jacob J. Nordby.
24. Jacob Christianson Grovum.
25. Kittil Kittilson Saga.
26. Johan Olson Dalbye.
27. Jorgen Olson Grovum.
28. Hans Olson Björndalen.
29. Thomas Thomassen Landmark. (Udskreven.)
30. Ingebret Ingebretson Lie.(Udskreven.)
31. Hellik Hellikson Forlie.
32. Jens Tyvan.
33. Aslak Anderson Aaboe.
34. Elling Knudson.
35. Andrias Knudson.
36. Ole Svendson Oie.
37. Halvor Johnson Dahle.
38. John Tjereson. (Udtraadt 4de Nov., 1862. )
39. Tarje Bjönson Dale.
40. Erik Mikelsan Helen.
41. Ole Syverson Rundhaug.
42. Erik Knudson Levang. (Udreist til Minnesota.)
43. O. B. Daley. (also spelled Dahle)
44. Ole Syverson Tollerud.
45. Erland (Allan) Arneson Ruste.
46. Engebret M. Byfuglien.
47. Anders M. Byfuglien.

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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48. Anders Anderson Klefgaard.
49. Thomas Anderson. (Jordet.)
50. Sigur Halvorson.
51. Aslak Arneson Smed. Flyttet til Blue Mounds.
52. Ole Olsen Bakken. (Hill.)
53. Tore Hermandson Boe. (Udmeldt 1857.)
54. Siri A. Ruste (Senere No. 47.)
55. Ellef Knudson Tvedt. (Faaet attest til York.)
56. Knudt Tostenson. (Udmeldt, 1856.)
57. Fredrik Ellertson. (Goli.)
- March, 1855. 58. Ole Gulbrandson.
59. Peder Knudson Levang.
60. Erik Thoreson Fjeld.
61. Arne Olsen Klevgaard.
62. Ole Anderson Klevgaard.
63. Arne Knudson Kirkedalen.
64. Gulbrand Gulbrandson Paalsbraaten.
65. Erik Iverson.
66. Hans Svendson Fie. (Udflyttet.)
- May, 1855. 67. Kittil Olson Tvedtene.
68. Erik Olson Kjorstad.
69. Kittil Paulson. .
70. Paul Kittilson Grimstvedt.
71. Thomas Johannessen Huse.
72. Tore Torgerson Tvedtene.
73. Amund Olson Jordet.
74. Kittil Aaneson.
75. Niels Olsen Gangset.

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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76. Erik Olsen Dokken.  
77. Nuub Syverson Roeseland.  
78. Isak Kittilson.  
79. Einer Nuubson Avom. (Udmeldt Feb., 1859.)  
Nov., 1855. 80. Gulik Ostenson Rye. (Udmeldt Dec. 30,  
1857.)  
81. Isak Olson Syftestad.



Mrs. Thomas Anderson, Mrs. Thor Torgeson, Mr. and Mrs. Ole K. Grimstad, Ole Knudsen Lee, Mrs. Valquar Jensen, Mr. Jens Pederson Tyvan, Mr. and Mrs. Allan A. Ruste, Mrs. Ole A. Ruste, Mr. Ole A. Ruste.

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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82. Horgus Olson Gangset. (Udflyttet.)  
83. Hellig Helligson Forlie. (Den yngre.)  
84. Ole Tollefson Wigen. (Udflyttet.)  
85. Arne Toveson Rye. (Ikke indmeldt.)  
86. Anne Lever Fjöse (Udtraadt Dec.,  
1856.)  
87. Aadne Tollefson Bradtlie.  
88. Tormoe Evenson Storke.  
89. Torof Halvorson Sonderland.  
90. Kittil Anstenson Kaase.  
91. Andrias Olson Huset.  
(Ikke indmeldt.)  
92. Aane Olson Belestad.  
93. Knudt Bendikson Fellestad.  
94. Sigur Kjestelson.  
March 21, 1856. 95. Ole Kittilson Kaase. (Stoulen.)  
96. Halvor Halvorson.  
June, 1858. 97. Ower Halvorson Grovum.  
July, 1856. 98. Syver Syverson Lien.  
November, 1856. 99. Gabriel Björnson.  
100. Ole Olson Thorhaug.  
Feb. 20th, 1857. 101. Ole Jörgenson.  
April 19th, 1857. 102. John Guttormson Brenden.  
April 19th, 1857. 103. Ole Erikson Kalvskin.  
May, 1857. 104. Mikkel Iverson Berg.  
105. Ole Knudson Fladland. (Udflyttet.)  
June 14th, 1857. 106. Halvor Arneson.  
June 14th; 1857. 107. Halvor Ostmundson (Harrison).  
108. Aadne Bjorguson Springen.

## Sixty Years of Ferry Congregation

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August, 1857.

December, 1857.

109. Erik Olson Slimsen.

110. Peder Amundson (Dalbye).

111. Ole Jacobson Dalbye.

112. Jacob Jorgenson Grovum.

113. Ole Aslakson.

114. Stener Olson Masteri.



**Valquar Jenson, Nels O. Thorhaug, A. A. Clifgard, Anders Weehus, Ellef Knudson, Mr. and Mrs. Knudt Olson Hastvedt, Knudt Rundhaug, Mrs. Haavorson, Mr. O. B. Dahle.**



## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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115. Anders Jorgenson Weehuus.  
116. Kristofer Knudson Braaten  
(of Black Earth).  
117. Gunder Paulson Grimstvedt.  
(son av No. 70).
- January, 1858. 118. Targe Johnson Aarhus.  
119. Ole Kittilson Tvedt.
- March, 1858. 12. Knudt Olson Hastvedt.  
32. Jens Larson (Lie).  
33. John H. Daley.  
42. Jens Nielson Moen.  
53. Nils Olson Turhaug.
- April, 1858. 56. Arne Knudson (Oien).
- May 30th, 1858. 80. Lars Paulson. (Udflyttet.)
- June 6th, 1858. 82. Knudt Syverson Frifodhaugen.  
84. Christian Pederson. (Udflyttet.)  
85. Paul Larson. (Udmeldt.)  
80. Peder Evenson Huset.  
105. Anders Helligson Forlie.
- Dec. 12 1858. 29. Iver Iverson Berg.  
30. Rolef Gunderson.
1859. 79. Ole Hanson Hammerhagen.  
Hans Hanson Hammerhagen.  
120. Ole Helgeson Bole.
- July, 1859. 121. Erik Erikson Gaarden. (Udflyttet.)  
122. Ole Olsen Espeseth.
- November, 1859. 123. Ole Asbjörnson.  
124. Peder Pederson.  
125. Anders Erikson Lundene.

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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1860.	73. Simon Nilson Kolbotten.
	126. Hans Fredrikson.
	127. Lars Olsen Oie.
	128. Gudmond Halvorson Fendring.
Feb. 4, 1860.	129. Ingeborg Tidemanson Elseberg.
Feb. 20, 1860.	130. Knudt Christenson Klevgaard. (Udreist.)
Nov. 5, 1860.	131. Gulbran Christoferson Renden.
Nov. 25, 1860.	132. Knudt Olson Björndalen.
	133. Knudt Aslakson Kampen.
Dec. 6, 1860.	51. Iver Halsteinson Braaton.
Dec. 10, 1860.	134. Reier Thoreson Quernen. (Udskreven.)

Then the following twenty-eight persons, thru December, 1860 and January, 1861 subscribed various sums from \$2.00 to \$37.00 each for the completion of the church and most of them paid "Prestelön." They are not numbered in the Protocol, but their names appear in the following order: Tolef Reierson, Asmund Kjöstelson, Tarje Kjöstelson, Einer Nilson Grovum, Ole Hanson Grovum, Ole Larson Bjorgeseter, Peder Anderson Mago, Lars Hanson Lien, Tollef Knudson Skjeggedal (Udtraadt), William Larson, Ole Paulson, Halvor Johnson Grovum, Peder Olson Gjere, Hans Hanson, Sigvart Olson Frankerig, Lars Nilson Moen, Peder Olson Moen, Jacob Abrahamson Tvedtene, Aslak Tjostofson, Ole Knudson Grimstvedt, Abraham Olson Sluten, Soren Olson (Udtraadt), Tallef Sörenson (Udtraadt), Peder Sörenson (Udtraadt), Ole Olson Braaten, Knudt Johnson, Ole Knudson Lee, Anne Asbjörnson Björndalen, Erik Toreson Engen.

## *Sixty Years of Perry Congregation*

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On October 7th, 1861, an "Equalization committee to assess the expenses of paying for the Parsonage" published a rearranged numbered list of 148 members much the same as the one printed above, the smaller number may be accounted for by removals out of the community, joining other churches, enlisting in the war, and other causes.

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### CHAPTER VI The Old Parsonage

After, the "Kalds Brev" had been issued, the trustees and representatives from the neighboring congregations met to plan out the ways and means to provide the promised parsonage for the expected minister. Springdale had proposed among themselves various tracts of land which they thought would be desirable locations, and undoubtedly other congregations had done the same thing.

On Feb. 5th, 1855, a joint meeting of Springdale, North and South Blue Mounds, and Perry was held at the home of Nils K. Syvrud for the purpose of deciding on a location. After a lengthy discussion, they finally decided to buy forty-two acres of land at the agreed price of seventy (\$70) dollars, part of which was owned by Nils K. Syvrud and the remaining part by Lars Pederson Dusterud. Said land being in section 34, Town of Blue Mounds, now commonly called Blue Valley and owned by A. K. Syvrud, a nephew of the first settler. At the same meeting they also signed an agreement with Nils K. Syvrud to make the following improvements on said land for the stipulated sum of \$538.00:

1. To dig a well and mason it, water to be plentiful.

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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2. To build a stable with room for two horses and two cows.
3. To break five acres of field.
4. To inclose the field with a seven-rail fence, safely staked.
5. And lastly to furnish the material and build a frame parsonage 16x24x14, sided on the outside, and lathed and plastered on the inside.



Mr. and Mrs. John C. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Tollef Anmarkrud  
Mr. and Mrs. Aadne T. Bratlie, Mr. and Mrs. Halvor H. Anmarkrud,  
Mr. and Mrs. Iver H. Braaten, Mr. and Mrs. Mikkel Berg, Mr. and  
Mrs. Ole Anderson, Mr. And Mrs. Knudt O. Grimstvedt, Mr. and  
Mrs. Ole S. Tollerud

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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The contract stipulated the size and height of the parlor (stue), kitchen, pantry, and cellar. The dimensions of the rooms upstairs were also stated, and it was specified that the stairway should have a railing about it. Then comes the size of the window panes, the panel (speil) in the doors, the doors to be hung on hinges, three of them to be supplied with locks and four with latches.

The contract bears the following signatures:

For Perry—Ole Arneson Ruste, Ole Kittilson Tvedtene, and Hans Johnson Dale.

For North Blue Mounds—(Vermont), Erik Knudson Sevre, Mikkell Blekkelién, Arne Mikkelson, and Gulbran G. Olson.

For Blue Mounds—Nils Knudson Syvrud, Bernt J. Lund, Lars Pederson Dusterud.

For Springdale—Aslak Lee, Tore Toreson Spaanum, John J. Berge, and Halvor H. Grusdalen.

On the 17th of May, 1855, a deed was issued by Nils Knudson Syvrud, Lars Pederson Dusterud, and their wives to the above named congregations, at the before mentioned price and acknowledged before the Justice of the Peace, O. B. Daley.

That the work and inspection was faithfully accomplished is evident by the various reports of the sub-committees and the final joint meeting, and the acceptance of it all on May 31st, 1856. It can thus be seen that the parsonage was fully ready to receive the minister who arrived a couple of months later. It can also be noted that this was a vast improvement over the former conditions that had prevailed. But in spite of these marked changes it was also a known fact that Rev. Brodahl never could get himself accustomed to the environments of Blue Valley.

## *Sixty Years of Herry Congregation*

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“Gamle Prestegaarden” was however, alluded to for more than half a century after its evacuation. Even now our octogenarians often tell of when they drove over there with a yoke of oxen and the “kubber-rulle” to get married, and how one of the more fleet footed damsels would run directly across the country and have the coffee prepared till the newly-weds would return home for the “Fest.”

Rev. P. M. Brodahl continued to live here until the early part of 1860. On February 4th of that year the trustees of the various congregations, acting under instructions, met at the parsonage intent upon disposing of the same, but as Blue Mounds was opposed to this project another action was called forth. Thus it came about that after Rev. Brodahl had relinquished all his rights to the parsonage, they decided to lease it for a year to Peder Johnson Klemoen for the sum of \$25.00. Rev. Brodahl now rented a house in Black Earth and lived there for about two years.

From a previous arrangement the trustees again met in the parsonage on March 26th, 1861, and sold the same at a public auction to the highest bidder for \$529.00. The buyer being “Nabo-Tyskeren” Alexander Gundelfinger. And here ends the saga of the “Gamle Prestgaarden.”

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### CHAPTER VII

#### Our First Stone Church

At a special meeting of the congregation held in school-house No. 7 on February 19th, 1855, after arranging several other business matters, considerable time was devoted to, the

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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discussions as to the “moving” of the church. The same meeting decided to buy our present church-site consisting of two acres, from O. B. Daley for the agreed price of \$1.25 per acre.

On April 9th, 1857, O. B. Daley and wife gave a quit-claim deed on above land to the trustees of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Perry, “where the church is now being built.”

On June 3d, 1859, O. B. Daley gave an additional and adjoining strip of land two rods wide, gratis.

Lest any of us “later arrivals” give up courage and grow tired as we labor with these affairs when they do not proceed as smoothly as would be desired, we quote some of the trials and tribulations of yore, as we learn them from the records. Let each of us draw from his or her imagination pictures of the exciting discussions and feelings which led up to and surrounded each of them.

The first annual meeting was called and held in the old church November 5th, 1855. Ole A. Ruste was re-elected trustee and a full constitution adopted. A special meeting was held at O. B. Daley’s home on December 27th, 1855, where it was decided to build a stone church on the land formerly bought from O. B. Daley, the church to be 46x65 and 18 feet high. The expense incurred by said building to be assessed against the members according to the provisions in the constitution adopted November 5th, 1855.

Another special meeting was called and held in the old church on March 21st, 1856, to “see if other and better means could be found to carry out the former decisions and to keep peace and harmony among us.” After a lengthy debate the former decision

## *Sixty Years of Herry Congregation*

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to build was upheld, but in place of an assessment a voluntary subscription was started with promising results among those present. O. B. Daley and Hans Johnson were appointed as a building committee.

Another special meeting was held at O. B. Daley's home on May 12th, 1856, to "determine whether the building site should be moved further east, closer to where stone could be found?" and also whether or not the erection of the church should then be started with the subscription on hand. It was then finally and for the third time voted to proceed with the building as originally planned.

The second annual meeting was held in the old church on November 3d, 1856, and besides the ordinary routine business a building committee of ten was appointed as follows: Gabriel Björnson, Kittil Paulson, John Halvorson Grovum, Hellik Hellikson Forlie, Aslak Anderson Aabye, Ole Olson Bakken, Knudt Olson Grimstvedt, Torger Olson, Ingebret Paulson, Jakob Olson Aarhus, and O. B. Daley as their treasurer.

At a special meeting in the old church held, February 11th, 1857, John Gunderson and Valquar Jenson were elected on the building committee in place of Hellik Hellikson Forlie and Jakob Olsen Aarhus.

At a special meeting held in the old church March 31st, 1858, a new building committee composed of five members was elected as follows: Ole Jakobson Dalbye, Ole Kittilson Tvedtene, Hellik Hellikson Forlie (Sr.), Isak Syftestad, Ingebret Paulson, and O. B. Daley was re-elected their treasurer.

The treasurer's report showed that up to this time there had been subscribed \$1,690.08 and the question arose now, as to



## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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what to do to secure additional funds for the completion of the church.

Another voluntary subscription list was now started, on the condition however, that unless \$300.00 could be raised the list was to be null and void. The report states that the lists were



Mr. and Mrs. Ole O. Espeseth, Mr. and Mrs. Ole K. Tvedlene, Mr. and Mrs. John Hanson Hammerhagen, Mr. and Mrs. Nels Uldrickson (Elseberg), Ole Olson Braaten, Mr. and Mrs. Amund Jordee, Mrs. Tarje Hastvedt, Mr. and Mrs. Anders Hellickson, Mr. and Mrs. George Paulson.

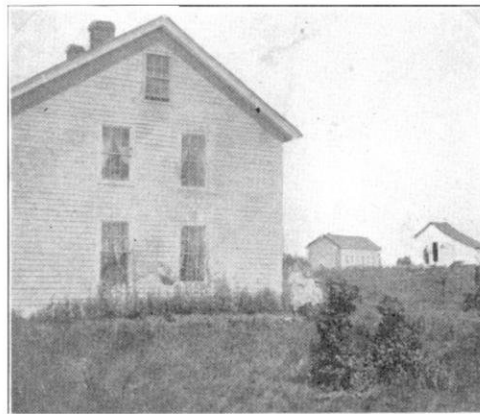
## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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started among those present and that all indications appeared promising.

Enough has now been stated to show that in those days as well as before and after, there were always difference of opinion and that the erection of our first stone church cost its builders something more than dollars and cents.

From various sources it now appears that the foundation walls were laid in 1856 by Gunolf Jackson. How much ceremony was given to the laying of the cornerstone we are unable to say, except that the secretary did furnish copies of the Scriptures, Katekismus, Forklaring, constitution, and possibly other Book-



**The First Stone Church in Distance.**

lets, and that they were securely inlaid beneath the same, on the north-east corner of the building by Rev. Brodahl.

Wilhelm Larson was the chief mason to erect the walls in 1857, whether the roof was built that year or not we are unable to say, but records seem to show that it was not put on until 1858.

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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The first service in the stone church was held Christmas day, 1858. A few services may have been held there before but no authentic proof has yet been found to verify it.

Scores of people still living can testify that the building was used a long time before it was completed. Yes even a long time before the floor was laid, a few planks or boards were spread on the joists and foundation walls which served as seats, while the space below provided ample accommodation for the newly greased cow hides.

Various items were gotten along without for some time. A very good indication that the church was not empty on Sunday mornings, we readily notice by the fact that on March 14th, 1861, a gallery was ordered built.

On the fifth day of January at a special meeting a committee of three was appointed to assess the members of the congregation, in order make up the deficit and complete the church building. The assessment was based on \$2.00 per voter of the congregation which brot \$240.00, some members being excused, and the assessed rate of .0055% on \$77,670 valuation brot another \$427.18. It will thus be seen that the pioneer congregation, with a settlement built up of empty-handed newcomers, averaging less than ten years in the land, erected a church building with equipment at a cost of about \$3,000.00, and undoubtedly a great deal of labor thrown in gratis. Who will dare say it was not a most excellent monumental work, considering the time and conditions under which the task was performed and finished?

It may be interesting to recall some of the early customs, to note how strange and foreign they look to us even now only a few years' space of time having elapsed since. On December

# Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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Mr. and Mrs. Ole O. Bakken, Tarje Hastvedt, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Dalby, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Grinder, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob H. Walstad, Mr. and Mrs. Hellick Hellickson, Mrs. Erick Engen, Mr. and Mrs. John Fjelstad, Mr. and Mrs. Fredrik E. Goli.

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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18th, 1860 for instance, the pews were ordered numbered and the members assigned to their respective places in proportion to the funds they had contributed to the building of the church, the women of each family getting pews to correspond in rank to those of their "bigger halves," but, of course, on the "women's side" of the church. One exception to this rule was that pews Nos. 2 and 28, were reserved for "old and deaf people." This arrangement was in vogue during the life of the old church only. After the new church was taken into use in 1880, it was decided to let each member or stranger take any unoccupied seat.

Another custom we now would call queer was that the sexton received orders, on March 30th, to lock the doors while the minister was in the pulpit. This was of course, done to maintain better order, but later it was deemed impractical and on November 25th, 1872, the order was rescinded.

Church weddings during services, was a custom now prevalent but later discontinued, as they did not work in harmony with good manners or decent order, when during services a large part of the congregation would "run out and look" to see if the bridal couple had arrived at the church.

The first child baptized in the stone church was Siri O. Ruste, the baptism being performed on Christmas day, 1858. (She died April, 1862).

The first grave dug in the cemetery was for a child of Nils Gangset, and the second was for Siri A. Ruste, who died in August, 1856, age 20 years. The first marriage which took place in the church was that of Ole Staulen to Torbjör Springen, in March, 1859; the second marriage was that of Halvor Grovem to Birgit Sanderson, while the third was A. E. Arneson to Marit

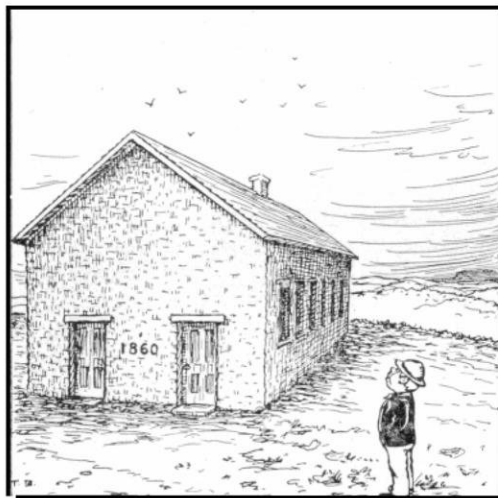
## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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Amarkrud on April 1st, 1861.

The church was dedicated in February, 1861. During the exercises Rev. Brodahl was assisted by Rev. H. A. Preus, Rev. Otteson, and possibly others.

This first church saw much joy and grief, much happiness and sorrow. She had served us for twenty years when touched by a stronger Power than human hands, being wrecked by a cyclone on May 23rd, 1878.



### A Little Boy's Soliloquy.

It may be true that her floors were cold—that her ceiling was low—that her walls were wet—that her inside was rough—that her accustics were bad—that the entrance was strange—that the roof was crude—and many other things. But for so many of us who there got our first impressions and inspirations, as we dangled to our beloved mothers' skirts, or clung to our esteemed father's hand, as we passed thru the multitude of people, and in there where they sang so powerfully loud. Then the preacher

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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that every-body looked at—how much he must have known, being he spoke so long—what a noise it made when they all stood up—and when the minister finally came forward and started to say “Om Gud vil” we soon knew we were to go out. Then we would all shake hands with everyone we knew—yes, even uncle shakes hands with father, a thing which he never does when he comes to our house. Then there were all those peculiar birds that live up under the roof—what were they crying for—none of us could get up and take their eggs even tho there should be some bad boys among us and I guess there weren’t any anyway. How could father possibly know so many people and what did they all stand around for? They ought to have realized that I was getting hungry. Finally when the “left over” of the horses’ hay for dinner had been re-adjusted into the wagon box and the extra cross-boards placed in order, I stood and waited, while the horses were being hitched up to the newly bought lumber wagon, and I painted a picture on my mind of that church, that dear old church, that the storms and tempests of forty summers have not been able to sully, nor the frosts of forty winters been able to fade.

“Then here, my Church! my dear old Church!  
Thy child would add a vow,  
To that whose token once was signed  
Upon his infant brow—  
Assault who may, kiss and betray,  
Dishonor and disown,  
My Church shall yet be dear to me,  
My father’s and my own!”

## CHAPTER VIII.

### Rev. Peter Marius Brodahl

We have now noted that the first thing that the congregation did after its organization was to send a call to Norway for an ordained minister. The other congregations undoubtedly took up similar actions. Records show that this first call was issued thru the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, most commonly known as "Den Norske Synode," which was organized the year before at Koshkonong by six Norwegian ministers then in America.

We have also seen how these congregations had struggled with the erection of a joint parsonage, while ours had already started the building of a spacious church. They were getting along with the sparse visits of the neighboring ministers whose fields were already too large to be efficiently managed, and



Rev. Brodahl. Born in Norway Sept. 1st, 1822. Teacher and klokkar until 1856 when he came to Perry and vicinity, serving as minister until his re-turn to Norway in 1868. He also served as minister in Norway until his death, Feb. 13th, 1906. In 1848 he married Johanne Caline Hoff, who died in Perry, 1867. In 1872 he married Johanne Marie Bull, who survived him.



## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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whose visits would always make a few days' journey. We need not wonder then that interest ran so high when the blessed news spread that Rev. P. M. Brodahl had arrived at Koshkonong on his way to the Blue Mounds settlements to be their regular minister. In all probability there has never since been such a general rejoicing, such tender and thankful feelings, which seemed to permeate the very souls of the entire community with true Christian love, as was manifested at the installation service of Rev. Brodahl. People from far and near came to attend this service, which was held on the 20th day of July, 1856, under the large trees near the schoolhouse, one fourth of a mile east of Daleyville. Surely then the pioneers had reason to rejoice on such a rare occasion as this. Rev. Brodahl was a man of a pleasant personality, an eloquent preacher, but what pleased the pioneers the most of all was the fact that they now had a minister of their own.

At his first service the following were baptized: Ole V. Jenson, Anne Hellikson Forli, Targe Daley and Gunild Hiline Erickson.

Rev. Brodahl held eight more services in Perry during the balance of the year 1856, including "Alle Helgens Dag," together with "Menigheds Möde" on Nov. 3d, Thanksgiving day, confirmation on December 19th, and Christmas day. In 1857 he held twenty-two services in Perry, most of them being conducted in the old log church. By this time the new parsonage in the town of Blue Mounds had been brot to completion and was now ready to be occupied by the new minister who moved there with his family. This became his home for nearly four years. From here he moved temporarily to Black Earth, where

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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he stayed for nearly two years, after which he returned to Perry making his home with Halvor Halvorson Piper, from whom he had rented a few rooms until the Perry parsonage would be ready for occupation.

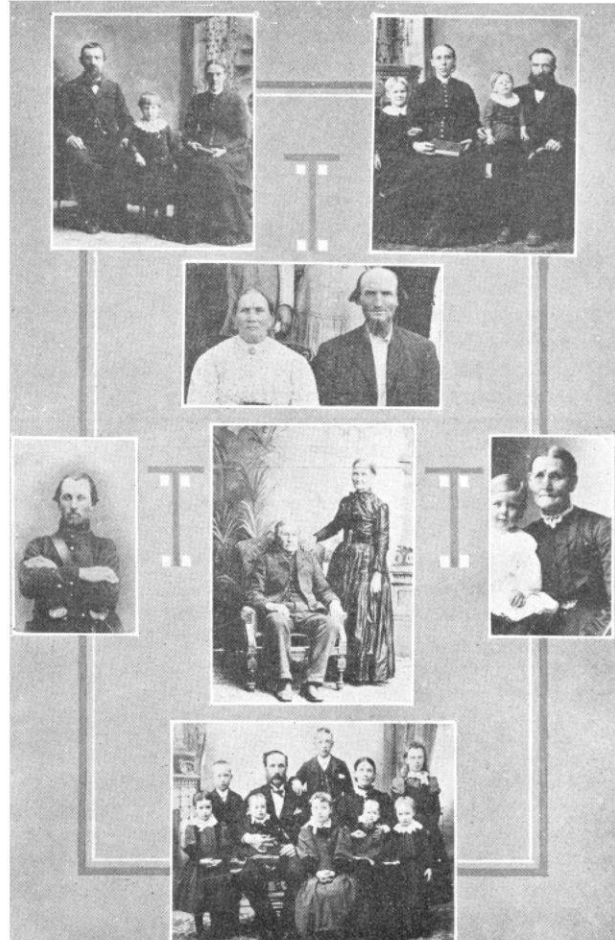
Rev. Brodahl was in Perry not only for its services but took an active part in its various "Menigheds Möder," church building, and all other activities. When the five years of his call had elapsed he was again called by the Board of Trustees for an indefinite time, an action which received the unanimous approval of the congregation. Rev. Brodahl however, wished to resign; his resignation was accepted November 18th, 1867. The reason he assigned for this move was his impaired health, believing that the cooler climate of his Mother Country would at least partly restore it. Thus it came about that he preached his last sermon in Perry on May 24th, 1868, after which he returned to Norway, having spent twelve years of active service in this locality.

Rev. Brodahl's path in our midst was not all strewn with roses; his field of labor was large and the country was comparatively new. In many ways his work was that of a missionary, organizing congregations, and working among the scattered settlers. Nor did he confine himself to those of his own nationality, but labored among the German Lutherans as well, baptizing their children, and reading to them the messages of Truth. "Preste Kallenderen" asserts that Rev. Brodahl served as many as twenty-one congregations at one time, but whether this is authentic or not we do not know. But we do know that his charge was large from the records which states that on

## *Sixty Years of Perry Congregation*

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Aug. 29th, 1859, the following change was proposed, namely, that Perry, Wiota, Primrose (Green County), and Springdale, should form one parish, while Vermont, Blue River, Spring Green, Richland, Big Hollow and others, should form another.



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Kittleson Stolen, Mr. and Mrs. Juul Knudtson Hovrud, Mr. and Mrs. Thor Kittleson Stolen, Peder Dalby, Mr. and Mrs. Iver Berg, Mrs. Peder Dalby, Mr. and Mrs. Kittle Kittleson Stolen and family.

## *Sixty Years of Herry Congregation*

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That which caused the severest strain between Rev. Brodahl and his people was undoubtedly the slavery question in the early sixties. When we reflect on the intensity of the situation in times of war, and on the strength of the opposition to slavery among the northern people, we do not wonder that the people were thoroughly aroused when a majority of the pastors of the "Norske Synode" including Rev. Brodahl, declared that the holding of slaves was in and by itself not an absolute sinful relation according to the Bible. This teaching was not an expression of sympathy with slavery on the part of the ministers, but was first voiced in response to a public inquiry concerning the Biblical doctrine on this point. The answer however, brot on a storm of protests and criticisms, in the face of which the ministers defended their action on the ground that the Bible, and not they, prompted the answer to the inquiry as given. It mattered very little how convincingly this view was presented as "it would not down with the people." At our time a matter of this nature might seem unimportant, but at that time it was an exceedingly pertinent question which had set the feelings of the people to a white heat.

About six of our members withdrew from the congregation on December 29th, 1862, and immediately applied for membership in the congregation served by Rev. J. N. Fjeld. Their stay with this congregation was hardly any more satisfactorily than with the first as on the fourth of April, 1863, the Board of Trustees deposed of their pastor on the very same charges.

While our fathers rejected the doctrine on slavery, that we refer to it here, it seems that they had no animosity toward the

## *Sixty Years of Perry Congregation*

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Synode. As at a special meeting on March 30th, 1863, the Perry congregation sent an invitation to the Synode to hold its annual meeting with them. The same action was again taken the following year. And finally on April 5th, 1865, four days before the surrender of the Appomattox Court House, she sent in her application for admittance with only two dissenting votes. Our application was accepted at the annual meeting of the Synode, and we remained a member of that body until our congregation withdrew therefrom during the "Naadevalg Striden" on July 9th, 1887.

Rev. Brodahl's farewell sermon is described as a masterpiece of eloquence and pathos. During the twelve years of his pastorate he had shared with his people both joy and sorrow. They had been taught to love and respect each other as only hardships and trials can teach. And surely Rev. Brodahl must have had his share of trials as four of his children were called to a "Better Land," and on March 22nd, 1867, his beloved helpmate, Johanne Caline Brodahl passed away in death, all of whom rest beneath the green sod in our cemetery. No wonder then that he declared he should never forget Perry and its people.

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### CHAPTER XI

#### Perry's First Parsonage

The first indication on the written records showing that Rev. Brodahl was not satisfied with the parsonage in Blue Valley was at a special meeting in Perry. At this meeting a motion to buy the "Dotty Farm" to be used as a parsonage was defeated by one vote. This meeting was held on August 29th, 1859, and the reason assigned against its purchase was the lack of means to buy

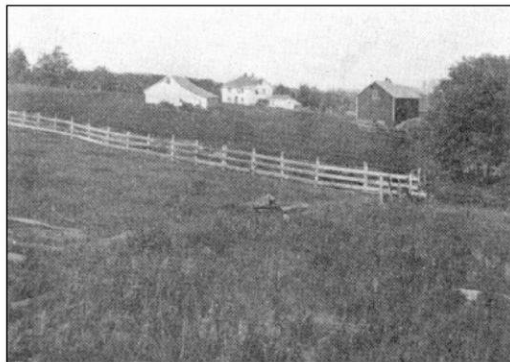
## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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the property with at that time.

After the minister had left the parsonage in Blue Valley and moved to Black Earth, the question was continually brewing until at a special meeting on Sept. 9th, 1861, Perry Congregation bought the Prindable farm of 60 acres for a parsonage. There were divided opinions as to whether Perry congregation should carry this burden alone, as is seen by the vote of March 3d, 1862, which however, ratified the former decision with 28 for and 20 against.

On April 4th the same year Dennis Prindable and wife gave to the trustees of our congregation a warranty deed on what has since been our parsonage for a consideration of \$700.00. The



**Perry's First Parsonage**

trustees giving a mortgage on the same land for more than half of the purchased price. (This mortgage has since been paid.) After the land had been bought the neighboring congregations were invited to buy part share in it, and to participate in the erection of the minister's dwelling, but as there is nothing further on the records it must be taken for granted that they did not accept the invitation.

When we remember that this was the gloomy times of the

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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great Civil War, when there was not a home that did not fear for their loved ones at the front, many of whom already laid in their final sleep, under the scorching sun of the south. Others again still home, but ready to answer the bugle call when our beloved land needed them took all these sorrows and uncertainties coupled with the other hardships of a war-ridden country with high courage. Money of doubtful value and other difficulties incident to such times now gives to us a thrill of admiration as we think of our ancestors, who, besides going thru all these trials, found time and means to provide themselves with a church and a place of abode for their spiritual advisor.

A meeting of the congregation in January, 1863, decided to proceed with the building of a parsonage on the land previously bought, and to erect a log house 24x30. The logs were to be taken from the farm. The meeting accepted a loan of \$100 from Rev. Brodahl, and elected Valquar Jensen and Ole Jörgenson Hastvedt as a building committee and superintendents of the work, specifying what part of the work each should oversee. Those present at the meeting then went in a body and staked out the first parsonage, which was situated where the barn is now located. Rev. Brodahl moved in as soon as the house was completed (in the summer of 1863) and lived there until his departure for Norway in 1868.

It is very easy to chronicle that a building had been erected and a farm had been bought, but the work involved in the building and the means to be found often causes many a heartache, worry, torment, and blister. This parsonage was no exception judging by the numerous subscription lists that crossed and recrossed each other's trails, for the land, the buildings, the

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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fences for the farm and church yard had to be provided and paid for. But when the end is well, all is well, and when the toils and sacrifices of the past pass in review before our vision, they should teach us to work with renewed perseverance and vigor. History invariably points to that as the only true course to successful and worthy accomplishments.

After Rev. Brodahl's departure, we notice the congregation in a meeting assembled on the 18th of May, 1868, instructed their delegate-elects to the "Synode-møde," to urge Rev. A. Jacobson to accept the call from this charge. Rev. Jacobson accepted the call, and with his family lived in this parsonage during their entire ten years' stay in Perry. From the minutes of that same meeting we read the following interesting paragraph: (2) "Prestegaards-bygningen skal males over tre gange med hvid farve, og dørene og vindues karmene indvendig med Ege Kolour."

The buildings were quite badly damaged in the storm of May 23rd, 1878, but were repaired and slightly remodeled from time to time and were used as a parsonage until the present one was erected in 1893. It was further used by Rev. Voldal as a miscellaneous building for six years. Then it was sold to the sexton for two years' service, who moved it into Daleyville where it is still being used as a dwelling.

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### CHAPTER X.

#### Rev. Abraham Jacobson

After Rev. Brodahl moved away the congregation sent a call to Rev. Otteson of Koshkonong to serve them temporarily, with the privilege of sending any of his colleagues to serve in his

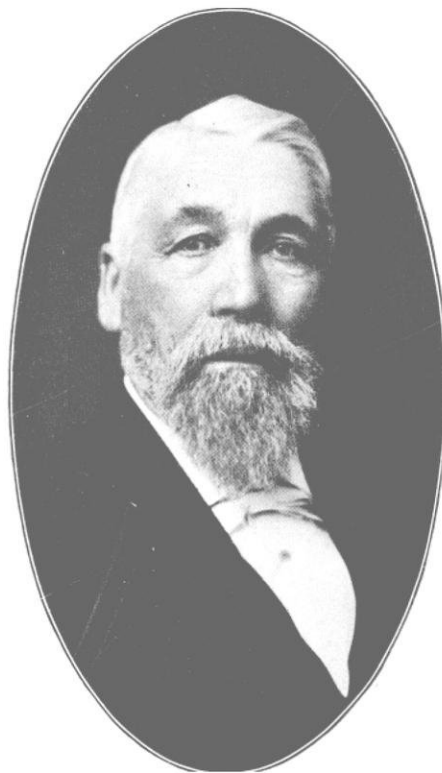


## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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absence, but no records are found of any of their visits.

Directly after Rev. Brodahl's resignation the congregation directed him to communicate with Rev. A. Jacobson, who was then at St. Louis, and who answered rather favorably as early as November 25th, 1867, but it was not until the "Synodemöde" in Chicago the following June, that he promised to come.



Rev. Abraham Jacobson. Born in Norway Jan. 3rd, 1836. Came to America at the age of 12 years. Ordained as minister in 1860. First Norwegian Lutheran way Jan. 3rd, 1836. Served Perry 1868-78. Died May 15th, 1910.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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Mrs. Rev. Abraham Jacobson, nee Necoline Hegg;  
married 1863. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson have raised a large  
family. She resides on their homestead near Decorah,  
Iowa

This was the only call issued, although Rev. Magleson was mentioned as a possible candidate.

# Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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Mr. and Mrs. Torje Ormsen, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kittleson, Mr. and Mrs. Erick Kjorstad, Mrs. Meri Hammerhagen, Mr. and Mrs. Gulbran Renden, Mr. and Mrs. Peder Bratbakken, Mrs. Annie Thorhauey, Mr. and Mrs. Anders M. Byfugelien.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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Rev. Jacobson was installed in Perry on August 2nd, 1868, by Rev. J. N. Fjeld, but the official "Kalds brev" was not signed by the trustees and "medjelpere" from Perry, Blue Mounds, and Springdale until December 10th, 1868. The letter of acceptance was dated the 23rd of the same month.

It is not the purpose of this volume to make any comparison between the good men that have served as ministers, but as they pass before our minds we can not help but remember some of their individual traits which were most prominent. In Rev. Jacobson we had everybody's friend and a personality as pleas-



**Rev. Jacobson's Family Group**

ant as a spring morning, a pastor who carefully looked after the spiritual welfare of his people, and a man of wide experience. For practical observation and knowledge of agricultural, mechanical, scientific, and political problems Rev. Jacobson's equals are few.

During his ten years' ministry in our midst he continuously served the three congregations which had called him, all of whom experienced a healthy and natural growth. Along in the

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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early seventies people began to realize that the distances which many of the members of the Perry Congregation had to travel in order to get to church was too great. In consequence of this Rev. Jacobson and others accommodated the people in the north-west section of the congregation by preaching quite regularly in the "Brigham" and the "Pokerville" school-houses.

The constitution which had been adopted in 1855 was revised on February 7th, 1872, and after having been elaborately engraved on the new Protocol by teacher Gulbran Jensvold, it was unanimously adopted on March 25th, 1872. The annual meeting, which had been changed in 1866 to the last Monday in November, was again changed to the last Tuesday in November of each year. The last change was made in 1902.

From March 7th to 9th, 1873, the president of the Synod, Rev. H. A. Preus, made a "visitas" in Perry and left a very favorable report

In 1875 the new Hymn Book was adopted, with the understanding however, that the number of the hymn should also be announced from the old book for some time. The use of the new or Synode book was made exclusive in 1880.

At a special meeting on March 4th, 1878, Rev. Jacobson asked to be relieved from the ministry of this charge, since it was so large that he feared his health could not withstand the strenuous traveling and service. The meeting with regret accepted the resignation with one dissenting vote.

Rev. Jacobson preached his last sermon on July 7th, 1878, after which he moved to his farm near Decorah, Iowa. He died there May 15th, 1910.

## CHAPTER XI.

### The Cyclone.

On May 23d, 1878, shortly before five o'clock in the afternoon Perry and vicinity was visited by a terrible hurricane that left death and destruction in its path. Its strength was so great that no tree, building, or other object could stop its fury—even 100 foot iron pumps were “sucked” out of their places in the deep wells, and cast and twisted around like toys.

Its appearance from a distance could be compared to a powerful smoke pouring out from a locomotive on a moving train, only in volume and roaring noise it would be hundreds of times more intense.

It gathered from the west and traveled east off northeast, accompanied with torrents of rain.

The first victim in our vicinity was a school teacher, Miss Campbell, who was killed while returning home from her work.

On the Swenson farm both the parents of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Swenson\* were instantly killed, a son George had a thigh bone broken, and a daughter Julia had a deep gash cut in her forehead. All the buildings were demolished.

The following lost either all or part of their buildings: Peder Bratbakken, Anne P. Levang, George Paulson, Edward Peterson, Lars O. Haaverud, Halvor Hoiby, Mary J. Dalby, August Goebel, Lewis Lewis, and two sets of buildings on the Dalby and Huser farms.

\* This is somewhat confusing as written. Ole and Astrid (Hoverud) Swenson were killed. They were the parents of Ole Swenson Jr. Their son George had his thigh broken and their daughter Julia sustained a deep gash in her forehead. Ole Jr. and his wife Lisa (Paulson) were unhurt. *David Battey*

## *Sixty Years of Herry Congregation*

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Mrs. Lewis had her arm broken, and east of the church a young man by the name of Jylland was killed, having been carried bodily thru the air—no one knows how far or how long.

Rev. Jacobson was just packing his goods preparatory to moving when the storm reached the parsonage, destroying the barn and granary, tearing the roof off the dwelling, breaking every window, demolishing the lean-to and the kitchen, and hurling Rev. Jacobson some distance thru space, giving him numerous cuts and bruises. Mrs. Evenson, who was helping there, was also injured. The other members of the family were unhurt, even the little baby in the cradle who was lying among broken glass and debris—smiled up to the open Heaven.

Mr. Anderson, an inmate of the County Farm, whom Rev. Jacobson had befriended and let stay at the parsonage some time for a visit, was fearfully mangled by the storm. As soon as help could be gathered he was carried on a mattress to a neighbor's house, the broken bones in his body protruding out thru the remnants of the clothing that still covered him. He suffered untold of agony until relieved by death six hours later.

Four of those who were killed were buried the following day in our cemetery, while Miss Campbell's funeral was held the following Sunday at Middleburg.

Our first stone church had most of the roof torn off, and its interior was considerably damaged, so it was not used again after the storm. Gulbran Jensvold, who was teaching school some miles away, saw the storm in the distance but did not realize the great danger his family went thru. He lost all his farm buildings, some live stock, the roof of the dwelling was entirely gone, and a large part of the stone structure was demolished. Mrs. Jensvold

tells:

“I was alone with our small children and a young niece, when that awful moment of the storm’s furious approach swept upon us. The last look out of the window saw a giant oak lying flat to the ground, then all was complete darkness. I had gathered the children around me—thinking only of that final Judgment when “Heaven and earth shall perish,” and tried to pray, while my little girl began “Fader vor Du som er i Himmelen.” We were hurled around like feathers among splintered glass and crashing stone. When daylight again appeared one of my children was removed uninjured from underneath the rocks which I had been unable to lift after the storm. My niece was carried out unconscious but came to again when the rain beat down upon her. Some of my children carry marks yet from the bruises received, but no bones were broken. When the one was carried out who had started “Fader vor,” she clasped her tiny arms around my neck and finished her prayer from where she had left off, “Den Gud vil bevare er udenfor al fare.”

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### CHAPTER XII.

#### The Second Stone Church.

After the first shock of this terrible storm had subsided, the congregation met and decided to rebuild the church with all possible haste. The plans and specifications to be placed in the hands of a competent architect, the material and size to be of the same kind as was contained in the first church. A building committee was elected composed of O. B. Daley, John O. Dalby, Knudt O. Hastvedt, Kittil Paulson, Valquar Jenson, Ole

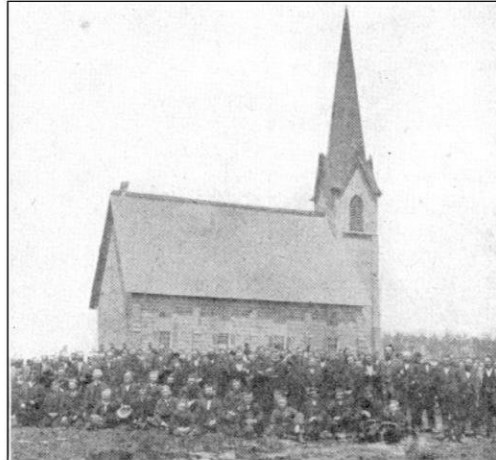


## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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A. Ruste, and Tollef Syverson. The thirty-two members present at this meeting started a subscription list with \$1,300.00.

At a subsequent meeting the architect and contractor, Martin Sonstebo, submitted plans and specifications for a new church to be built on the old foundation walls. After deliberate discussions he was awarded the contract. The subscriptions and the work on this second church now proceeded with the usual trials, delays, and tribulations. The church seems to have been practically finished when on the 7th of December, 1879, the records of the treasurer of the building committee showed that the contractor had been paid \$3,665.00. A collection of \$200.25 was taken and presented to Mr. Sonstebo on the following day in order to show him their appreciation of his work, and to cover the possible losses that might have incurred to him.



Dedication of Perry's Second Church, May 23rd, 1881.

Besides the general subscriptions the congregation received the following gifts: From O. B. Daley, the altar; from G. Jensvold, an organ; and from Kittil Paulson, a font of marble.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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The first and only church bell that Perry had ever possessed was now placed in order. It was put in at a cost of \$330.86. The total expenditure on the church and parsonage after the storm was approximately \$5,000.00. A glance at the accompanying pictures will convey to the reader a better idea as to the appearance of the church at that time than our description, thus it will suffice to add that the height of the steeple was 132 feet. As the church stands on a very high elevation, it can be seen from all parts of the congregation, pointing heavenward with its admonishing spire and spreading its blessed influence in all directions. The church was dedicated May 23rd, 1881, three years after its destruction by the storm.

About August 1st, 1888, the steeple was struck by lightning. Thus, at a special meeting of the congregation held on August 20th of the same year, it was decided to take immediate action in the repairing of the steeple. The following members were elected on the building committee: Ole Hastvedt, Tollef Bratlie, and Iver Retrum.



Altar Perry Church, 1881.

There were many other improvements under way, but as all large bodies move slowly, it required a great deal of time as well as patience. It took many years of agitation before we finally

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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decided to install a modern furnace in our church, which added much to the comfort as well as to the appearance of our House of Worship. The necessity of having hitching posts was almost as incomprehensible to some of us for a long time.

On the 28th of August, 1903, we were again visited by one of the stronger elements, as lightning struck and destroyed the wooden steeple besides doing other damages, following the window frames and stone wall down to the ground, from whence it passed thru the sod into a well fifty feet away. After some preliminary arrangements it was decided at the annual meeting of November 30th, 1903, to rebuild the whole steeple, according to the plans and specifications of Gorden and Paumack, architects, whom the committee in charge had employed to assist them according to the instructions of the former meeting. The members in charge of this work were John Stensby, K. T. Kittleson, H. V. Jenson, A. K. Grimstvedt, and S. K. Rundhaug.



Perry, August 28th, 1903.

The church tower was at this time built of our local lime rock, the steeple being covered with copper which has since been connected and topped off with a double cross in rosette form. Edward Grinder and Carl Rud furnished the rocks for this large tower. Most of the wall was constructed by Mr.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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Erickson, the cutting being done by Mr. Saether of Blue Mounds. The main contract was held by Nels Syverson of Hollandale, John Stensby acting as foreman of all the work. The accounts filed by Edward Goli, treasurer of the steeple fund, on December 1st, 1909, showed the total cost to have been \$3,916.05.

Judging from all the temporary loans the three-fold "prestelön" which was collected, it would seem that the building of a church steeple is almost as hard for humanity as to follow in the direction to which it points.

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### CHAPTER XIII.

#### Rev. Adolph Bredeson.

On April the 25th, 1878, the congregation issued a call to Rev. Adolph Bredeson. This call was accepted and the installation service took place in Perry on August 18th, 1878. Rev. Bredeson is remembered as the classical, refined and polished young minister who went after his tasks with vim and vigor. His stay among us was only three years, which is the shortest stay of any of our clergymen.



Rev. Bredeson. Born in Norway, 1850; came to America at the age of two years. Ordained as minister 1873. Perry 1878 to 1881. Died Nov. 17th, 1913. Married Inanda Torrison in 1878; she died in 1914.

#### Rev. Adolph Bredeson.

## *Sixty Years of Perry Congregation*

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Rev. Bredeson's work in Perry was accomplished under numerous difficulties. During more than half of his stay found the church under a course of reconstruction. Thus it followed that the services including the confirmation exercises were held in the grove east of the school house. When the weather would not permit, these services were held in the various school houses thruout the congregation. Rev. Bredeson made a special effort to arouse interest in the work of our Sunday and Parochial schools. He was deeply interested in the instruction of the youth. That he was an able and earnest teacher, we who have had the benefit of his instruction are able to testify.

Public dances and other vices received a very ruthless overhauling from this zealous young minister, who called a special joint meeting of the congregations, in order to lay plans for a campaign to condemn and stamp out these evils.

It had long been an acknowledged fact that the charge was too large to be handled efficiently by one man. Thus it came about that after a number of preliminary meetings, East Blue Mounds and Springdale sent a committee to a meeting held at Perry on May 24th, 1880, requesting that the present charge be divided into two parts. The first one to consist of East Blue Mounds, Springdale, and Vermont, should form one charge, while Perry, together with her annex congregations, West Blue Mounds, and Adamsville should form the other. The request was not granted

On June 13th, 1881, Rev. Bredeson presented to the congregation a "Kalds Brev" from Stoughton, suggesting however, that providing the present charge be divided, he would remain with one of them if wanted. He made it clear to them,

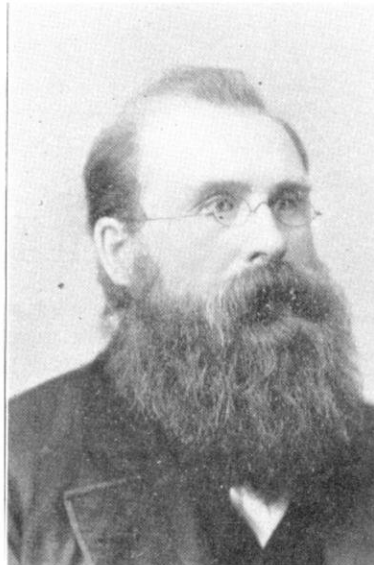
## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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that he felt unable to discharge his duties under the then existing conditions. The charge was not divided. Consequently he tendered his resignation to the congregation on July 18th, 1881, and preached his farewell sermon on the 11th of September of the same year. He returned from Stoughton once a month the balance of the year, preaching to the congregations thruout the week days.

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### CHAPTER XIV. Rev. Peter Isberg.



**Rev. Isberg. Born June 22nd, 1850. Ordained as minister in 1878. Perry, 1882 to 1888. Married and has a family. Lives in Minnesota.**

Rev. Isberg's pastorate is the turbulent one in our history. The principal causes of agitation were "Naade-valg-striden," the dissolution of the charge, and the forming of another. No dis-

## *Sixty Years of Perry Congregation*

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cord should however, be attributed to the minister's personality, which was pleasing enough. The years of his pastorate happened to be a time in our history when many mooted questions were ripe for final and definite disposal, and clamored for action. Such times are always and of necessity, turbulent, and the leaders of them must bear the brunt of the battles.

When Rev. Bredeson had resigned, the congregation decided to "Staa paa Smit's side I Naadevalg-striden," which controversy had then begun to assume large proportions in the Synod, and to express that no minister should be called who was not of the same mind.

The first call to Rev. Isberg was issued by East Blue Mounds, Springdale, and Perry. He accepted early in 1882, and preached his first sermon in Perry on Palm Sunday, April 2nd, 1882. He served as minister in these congregations until August 19th, 1883, when he returned the "Kalds-brev" as a formality to give them a chance to dissolve the charge. Springdale and East Blue Mounds for the third time appealed to Perry to be permitted to withdraw from the charge. This was now granted, and the intimate congregational relations which had bound these three older congregations together for almost thirty, years, were no more.

At a special meeting August 28th, 1883, Perry issued a second call to Rev. Isberg, giving him 48 votes out of 50, and then making it unanimous. The same meeting decided that Perry request one-half of the services, besides granting the minister the use of the parsonage, paying \$350.00 of the salary and an offering on each of the three high festivals of the church year, and finally to pay for ministerial services according to each one's

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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desire and ability. The trustees were authorized to issue the call together with York and Primrose, provided these congregations also make their call to the same minister. As for Adamsville, she was left to make her own private arrangements with our minister for his services, and to agree with him on the question of compensation.

East Blue Mounds, Springdale, and Vermont now organized a charge and issued a call to a theological candidate, Mr. O. P. Syftestad, a Perry boy who was then ordained to the ministry. He accepted this charge, and also served West Blue Mounds for about six and one-half years. Rev. O. P. Syftestad's day as a minister was comparatively short, being called by death to a "Better Land" on February 27th, 1890. The pastorate has since been filled continuously by Rev. S. Gunderson.



**Perry Church in the distance.  
Confirmation class in the eighties.**

York congregation has since maintained "Kaldsfor-bindelse" with Perry and Primrose. West Blue Mounds and Adamsville (later Hollandale) have also at different times been served by the Perry pastor.



## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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From the time of the calling of Rev. Isberg in 1881 until the withdrawal from the Synod in 1887, every one of the congregation's meetings bear the marks of being touched by "Naade-valg-striden." During the second year of Rev. Isberg's pastorate the congregation entertained the "Synode-möde" at their annual meeting in June of that year, an event which is remembered with pride by all our elderly people.

On December 29th, 1882, a special meeting was called to discuss the question of election. Numerous neighboring people and also some theological students from Madison were present. Rev. Rasmussen's "Opraab til Synodens Mennigheder" was used as an outline for the discussion, and the different points were adopted by a vote of sixty-three, nine not voting.

At this meeting Ole A. Ruste resigned his position as secretary of the congregation and Mr. Homme, a candidate for the ministry, was appointed temporary secretary. When at the following meeting Mr. Ruste, after urgent requests, declined to reconsider his resignation, Gunder Paulson was elected to take his place, and a unanimous rising vote of thanks was tendered the retiring secretary for his long and faithful performance of duties. He had served the congregation as secretary for more than a quarter of a century. The following year, when Mr. Ruste's tenth successive three-year term as trustee expired, he also declined re-election to that office.

The record of these things make us admire the cool sense of fairness and justice in the fathers, when in the heat of a controversy that touched the depths of their Christian lives and experience, they expressed a unanimous recognition of the worth of a retiring officer's service, even when it was fully

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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understood that his resignation was intended to be a protest against the position in the controversy which a large majority held. Too often an organization's intolerance and want of self-control has made martyrs of men under similar circumstances.

A special meeting was held on March 9th, 1885. The records of this meeting show that the discussions cover 20 pages of the Protocol. The discussions on predestination appears to have reigned in Perry, after the withdrawal of the congregation from the Synod on July 9th. 1887. The vote for withdrawal being sixty-one for, four against, and six not voting.

During the summer of 1886 Rev. Isberg made a visit to Norway to see his aged father, and a Divinity student, Mr. Larson, preached in his place.

On January 15th, 1887, Rev. Isberg handed to the congregation a communication, deploring the then existing condition of things and suggested that if the congregation thot it advisable he would resign. The congregation gave Rev. Isberg a confidence vote of fifty-four for, and thirteen against, after which he decided to stay another year.

Rev. Isberg tendered his resignation to Perry on September 24th, 1887, to take effect April 1st, 1888. He preached his farewell sermon here on March 25th, 1888.

## CHAPTER XV.

### Rev. Henrick Voldal.

The same special meeting which accepted Rev. Isberg's resignation, began the consideration of calling Henrick Voldal, who was then a student at Augsburg Seminary, after the reading of a personal letter from him as to his scholarship, and also six recommendations from Norway. The meeting decided to ask the advice of Prof. F. A. Smidt and Rev. Jaastad. After a favorable reply was received from them as well as from Rev. Rasmussen, Perry issued a call to Student Voldal, giving him a vote of 82 out of 100 votes cast. Mr. O. B. Dahle moved to make it unanimous



Rev. Voldal. Born in Norway March 12th, 1860; came to America in 1885. Ordained as minister in 1888. Served Perry from then until 1903. Studied in Norway for two years and since then minister in Dakotas. Married Sigrid Femreit in 1893.

and it was carried. This meeting was held on November 16th, 1887. A committee was then elected to go to York and Primrose to inform them of our decision, and make arrangements

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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for sending a joint "Kalds-Brev."

On December 23rd, 1887, the trustees of Perry issued a call to Student Voldal, which he accepted in a letter dated January 13th, 1888. He was ordained into the ministry by Rev. L. M. Biörn on June 27th, 1888, and was installed as pastor of Perry by Rev. Nodtvedt, in July the same year.

Rev. Voldal served as minister here for a longer time than any other man, spending nearly sixteen of his best years at this place. His fame as an orator is too well known to need any mention in this volume.

In Rev. Voldal's early pastorate among us, the Norwegian Church of America went thru one of its important evolutions by the forming of the United Church out of four of the different factions. In 1888, at one of the large preparatory meetings held in Scandinavia, Wis., Rev. Voldal and B. T. Daley attended as delegates from Perry. Much interest was manifested in the Union of 1890. While the sympathies here were not unanimous, the large majority were tolerant, while the minority were submissive, so all was well.

On February 28th, 1890, Perry congregation, at a special meeting adopted the Constitution of Articles of Incorporation for the then formed "United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America," by a vote of 59 for, one against, and one blank.

A few of the historical events thru these years might be mentioned. The Madison "Kreds" held its semi annual meeting here in September, 1891. On September 26th, 1891, Rev. T. H. Dahl held a "visitas" here and left a favorable report. In 1893 Rev. Voldal was united in marriage to Sigri Femreit of Norway.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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The Synod Hymn Book was used for a long time but after January 1st, 1898, Landstad's, as rearranged by the United Church, has been in use exclusively. In the summer of 1901 Rev. Voldal made a visit to his native land, to which he was much attached.

York was added to the Perry charge in 1892, Primrose in 1888, and West Blue Mounds after Rev. Syftestad's death in 1890. Rev. Voldal also served Adamsville from 1888 to 1901.

Rev. Voldal's esteemed pastorate was getting along so nicely that it created extreme consternation when from the pulpit, without the least warning, he tendered his resignation to take effect at the end of the year.

Rev. Voldal gave as his only reason for resigning his pastorate, an ever increasing desire to return to Norway to continue his studies.

To show the confidence and esteem in which Rev. Voldal was held we quote the vote of the joint meeting to call a pastor after Rev. Höverstad's resignation in 1909, giving Rev. Voldal more than two-thirds majority vote to come and serve us again. He however, declined the call.

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### CHAPTER XVI. The New Parsonage.

The preliminary steps for the building of the present parsonage were taken at the annual meeting in 1891 when Ole Paulson made a motion to take a trial subscription in order to see if the sentiment of the congregation was favorable enough to justify the undertaking. When the annual meeting of 1892 received a

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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favorable report, it decided to build the parsonage the following spring, and a committee was elected consisting of George Paulson, chairman; A. K. Grimstad, A. E. Arneson, H. O. Grinder, and H. V. Jenson to have full charge of the work. The dwelling was erected by Kleven Brothers under contract, and the total cost of building and extras was \$1,498.77, the members of the congregation doing all the hauling, gratis.

The building was overhauled and painted in 1904, and a furnace was installed, which has given only questionable service. The building was repainted in 1910, but to Rev. Green belongs the credit of having improved the water supply which in the past, has always caused much botheration and trouble.



The new barn at the parsonage was erected in 1910 by Ole E. Stensby, contractor; the committee having the planning and erection of the same in charge was composed of A. K. Grimstad, Johan E. Stensby, Henry Knudson, H. V. Jensen, and C. O. Ruste. The total cost amounted to \$1,424.00. We note by the records that on these two buildings the subscriptions and funds were both adequate for the completion of the work as proposed and finished by the committees.

# Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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## CHAPTER XVII.

### Rev. Helge Høverstad.

Rev. Høverstad was installed as pastor of Perry on May 15th, 1905, by Missionary J. J. Skaar who had served us as temporary minister since January 1st of that year. The call was issued to Rev. Høverstad by Perry, York, and West Blue Mounds on November 8th, 1903. He accepted it on February 8th, 1904, and arrived to take charge of his duties on above stated date.



**Rev. Helge Høverstad. Born in Norway March 15, 1870. Ordained as minister in 1896. Perry 1904-09. Now at Sioux Falls. Unmarried.**

In 1908 West Blue Mounds withdrew from the parish to join the Mt. Horeb Congregation, after which Primrose again became a part of the Perry charge.

We all remember Rev. Høverstad as our genial and popular companion, who had the full confidence of all his people, old and young. Whether it was this popularity or his intense interest in Missions and his other pastoral duties that was the cause, we

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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do not know, but it is a fact that he is the only one of our pastors who has not been insured with the hymnal fetters.

In his cousin, Miss Bertha Lockrem however, he had not only an able housekeeper, but one whose personality is sure to make friends wherever she goes.

Rev. Höverstad is not only a brilliant penman but an organizer and an exact and dependable recorder, whereby much work was facilitated, which forms a very essential adjunct to a minister's many other and arduous duties. In the summer of 1907 he made a visit to Norway to see his aged mother.

Rev. Höverstad's pastorate of five years among us seemed entirely too short, when he resigned July 18th, 1909, to accept a call from Sioux City, Ia. He preached his farewell sermon December 15th of the same year. The only reason assigned by him was that Sioux City needed his services more than we did here.

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### CHAPTER XVIII.

#### Rev. Joseph Marinius Green.

More than half a century has now elapsed since these congregations issued their first call for a minister, and as should be expected, in view of the material advancement of the settlements and their higher standard of living, there is some difference in the financial terms of the call as now made compared with those specified in the first one.

In 1909 the charge that issued the call was composed of three congregations. They decided to reward the minister for his services with the offerings on the three church festivals of the year gratuitously, and an annual salary of \$800.00. Of this salary Perry pays \$450.00, York \$150.00, And Primrose \$200.00.



## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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Perry furnishes the parsonage.

On October 10th, 1909, a joint call was issued to Rev. Joseph M. Green who accepted the same on December 8th of the same year. He was installed in Perry in June, 1910, by his father, Rev. L. E. Green, who had served us as temporary minister since the Christmas preceding.

That a minister does not have to move away or die to be appreciated by his people is exemplified in Rev. Green's case, who



Reverend Joseph M. Green, born in Madelia, Minn., Feb. 17, 1877, ordained as minister in 1904, in Brookings, S. D., 1904-10. Perry, 1910. In 1905 he married Agnes Bertha Estrem, who died in 1913 leaving him with three little boys.

is both loved and respected. The devotion of his people was plainly apparent when it was his heavy lot—like that of our first minister's—to part with his estimable wife and helpmate, Agnes Bertha (Estrem), who died February 17th, 1913, and is buried in our cemetery.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

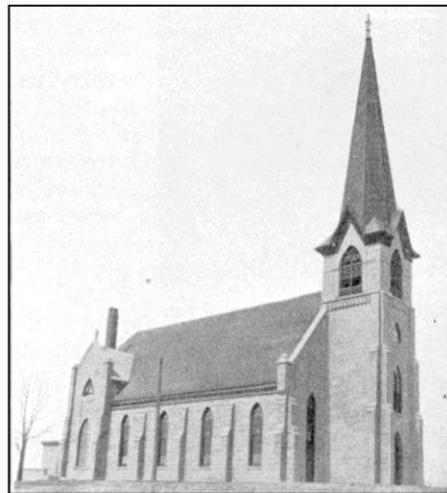
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Besides creditably performing the other duties of his ministry, Rev. Green deserves special mention for his marked leadership in the erection and equipment of our magnificent church which will be prized even more as the years roll on, and which we hope will stand as a monument to the piety and devoutness of its builders long after many of them have entered the Eternal Portals, to which it shall help show us the way.

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### CHAPTER XIX.

#### Our Church, 1915.

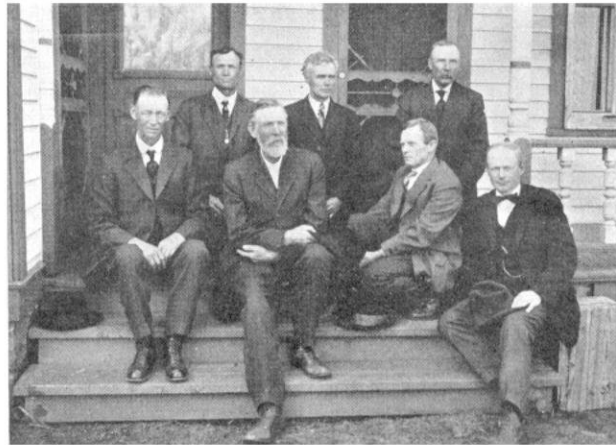


A ladies' waiting room has always been a pressing need in Perry church. Various meetings for the last twenty years have proposed different plans for such a room only to be rejected at the next meeting. When we add to this the necessity of a new roof on our church and finally the approaching Sixty-year Fest we have the nucleus around which Rev. Green won the public

## *Sixty Years of Herry Congregation*

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sentiment, so that a special meeting on April 28th, 1911, a committee was appointed to investigate and lay plans for the remodeling of our church. The preliminary committee was composed of A. K. Grimstad, P. P. Syftestad, H. V. Jenson, O. K. Stenseth, and C. O. Ruste, who employed Architect T. H. Kempf of Beloit, Wisconsin, whose plans have been followed with a few modifications.



### **Building Committee**

**Knut H. Stolen, O. K. Stenseth, chairman; Henry Knudson, H. V. Jensen, A. K. Grimstad, inspector; Theodore Grinder, treasurer; J. M. Green, secretary.**

When this committee made its report on November 28th of that year the congregation appointed Rev. Green as a committee of one, with authority to select one helper in each school district to solicit a trial subscription, to see if the means could be procured to build according to the proposed plans. This committee besides the chairman consisted of Erick F. Goli, Ole T. Kompelin, Hans Valstad, Knudt Retrum, Knut H. Stolen,

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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L. M. Kittleson, David Davidson, and John Fjelstad. This soliciting committee made a favorable report at a special meeting held on August 21st, 1912, and the congregation decided to proceed with the remodeling of the church according to the plans. A. K. Grimstad was elected building inspector, and a building committee with full power to act for the congregation was chosen. The committee consisted of J. M. Green, O. K. Stenseth, H. V. Jensen, Knut H. Stolen, and Henry Knudson. Theodore Grinder was later elected treasurer of the building and equipment funds.

Hon. T. G. Cretney of Ridgeway was given the contract to do the work and furnish the material, which was hauled from Blue Mounds eight miles away, this being the nearest railroad. The rocks were taken from Mr. Erickson's farm about a mile away. It is a well known fact that Mr. Erickson, who is a skilled mason, has performed more work on our church than any other man, having labored there for more than four hundred days. Edward Grinder was also one of the chief masons on the new addition as well as men from Ridgeway and other places. Many other local men, old and young, have also rendered valuable service.

Mr. Cretney employed Mr. Hendrickson of Ridgeway as foreman of the carpenter work; Mr. Swiggum of Blanchardville and Mr. Baker of New Glarus did the plastering.

The finishing of the church basement was not included in the original plan, but the matter was taken up and accomplished by the women of the congregation. Mr. Erickson had a contract for and performed most of this work.

## *Sixty Years of Herry Congregation*

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### **Furniture.**

When the church was nearing completion the prevailing feeling among the members of the congregation was indicated at a special meeting, when it was decided to buy and install new furniture of such a quality as would be suitable to the interior of the church, provided the funds would be available, when asked for.

The following composed the soliciting committee: J. M. Green, Henry Berg, J. J. Hegland, Albert Kittleson, Ole T. Kompelin, C. O. Ruste, Edward Goli, P. P. Syftestad, and Theodore Grinder. After a favorable report was made to the congregation assembled, the building committee was authorized to proceed with the purchase of the same. The new equipment was installed and used for the first time Easter Sunday, 1915.

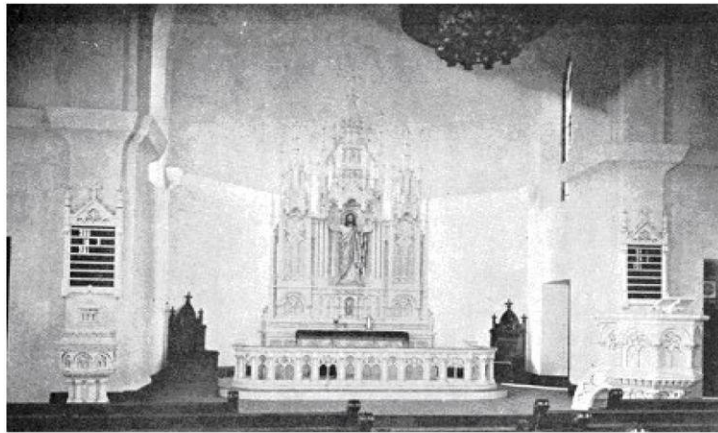
Many pretty and valuable articles have been donated in memory of deceased members by their families. Among these are artistically painted windows in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Knudt O. Grimstvedt, Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Dahle, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Valstad, Valquar Jensen, Hans O. Grinde, and Ole A. Ruste. A Christ statue in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Erick Helland, a chancel in memory of Gulbran Jensvold, and likewise one in memory of Martin Grinde, an altar-desk in memory of Martin Goli and a baptismal font in memory of Mrs. Ole Huser. One hymn board has been presented by Mr. and Mrs. Gulbrand Rundhaug, and the other by Ole Paulson.

The Pige-förening and women of the congregation have provided the matting and carpet for the church as well as other things. The Mission Band has given a set of brass collection plates, and the "Little Helpers" has presented a pair of beautiful

# Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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brass candlesticks.



**Perry Church, Interior**

### **The Pipe Organ.**

The same meeting that decided to buy furniture for the church authorized the Luther League to take the initiative in the securing of a pipe organ. The subscription lists which were circulated for the furniture had also a space set aside for the pipe organ donations, which brot in \$1,400.00; the balance of \$600.00 has been provided by the members of the league. The committee of the league having the selecting and buying of the organ in charge consisted of the following members: Edward Goli, Henry Berg, Wm. Grimstad, Mrs. Amanda Goli, and Miss Clara Holden.

### **Our Cemetery.**

We have long known that the cemetery has not presented as attractive an appearance as it should, but it was not until September, 1912 that the congregation seriously undertook any step toward its improvement. A special committee consisting of J. M. Green, P. P. Syftestad, and Theodore Grinder was elected to formulate plans and place them before the annual meeting in the November following. These plans were adopted and a temporary committee was elected to make improvements along certain described lines. The work was accomplished thruout 1913-14, and was directed by a committee consisting of Juul Nelson, B. T. Daley, and P. P. Syftestad, who also had in charge the financial side of the undertaking. The means to defray the expenses were obtained thru voluntary donations. This work is being continued in 1915 by a permanent board of directors. About one hundred monuments have been moved, straightened, or given new foundations. Several graves have been moved, the old iron frames removed, and the whole ground replaced.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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The annual meeting in November, 1914 adopted permanent rules and regulations which are being executed by a board of five members — three men and two women — chosen by the congregation. This board has full charge of the cemetery, most of the executive duties are laid upon the chairman who is elected by the Congregation, while their treasurer is elected by the committee.

The means for maintaining the cemetery in the future is provided for by an assessment of one dollar annually on each family in the congregation and others who have moved away but have dear ones buried there.



**B. T. Daley. Always a member of Perry Congregation. Trustee for fifteen years. Auditor four years. Delegate 1914. First chairman of the cemetery board.**

The directors in charge for the year 1915 are as follows: B. T. Daley, chairman; P. P. Syftestad, Erik F. Goli, Mrs. Ellen Goli, and Mrs. O. K. Stenseth.

### **Expenses.**

The various money expenditures for improvements made during the past three years, as mentioned in this chapter, may be innumeraled as follows:



# Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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The new addition, cross, chancel, sacristy  
and waiting room, and the remodeling  
of the old part of the church.....\$10,031.75  
The church parlors (basement).....955.00  
Pews and chancel furnishings .....3,206.35  
Pipe organ .....2,000.00  
Memorial gifts (about).....1,000.00  
Cemetery fund.....268.90  
Adding to this considerable local labor that has been  
gratuitously done, the amount expended would reach about  
eighteen thousand dollars; and it is a source of great satisfaction  
to know that these improvements have been paid for before the  
dedication and festival June 20th, 1915.

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## CHAPTER XX. List of Officers 1854-1915.

We submit herewith a list of the officers with their terms of  
service as we find them on the church records.

### Kirkesanger.

The first name we find on the records to hold the office of  
“Kirkesanger” is Knudt Olson Grimstvedt, who performed those  
duties in 1855 and 1856, as well as furnished as “Bröd og Vin” for  
the Communion.

In 1857 Ole Jörgenson was elected as Klokkar and school  
teacher. He held this office for at least four years. Tharald  
Larson is mentioned next as resigning in August, 1864, but at  
what time he took teacher Jörgenson’s place we are not certain.

Gulbran Jensvold will be remembered as serving the longest

## Sixty Years of Ferry Congregation

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time, being permanently located here from September, 1866 until his death July 21st, 1884. Arne Nape held the position thru 1885, and a number of others are remembered to have officiated temporarily for shorter periods of time; among them we can mention Halvor Hoberg, Harald Hanson (I Dalen), O. M. Helland, Aadne Urness, and likely many more.

O. T. Saevre was engaged as Klokkar and school teacher in January, 1887, serving as teacher until 1899, and continued as Klokkar until his death in April, 1904.

Ole Paulson served as Klokkar in 1885 and again in 1905-6-7-8. Paul P. Syftestad has officiated continuously from 1909 up to this time, 1915.



### First Officers

K. O. Grimstvedt, O. B. Dahle,  
Ole A. Ruste, H. J. Dale.

### Trustees.

Ole Kittilson Tvedtene, 1854-5-6; Hans Johnson Dale, 1854-5-6, 1861-2-3, 1870-1-2; Ole Arneson Ruste, 1854, 1855-6-7, 1858-9-60, 1862-3-4, 1865-6-7, 1868, 9-70, 1871-2-3, 1874-5-6, 1877-8-9, 1880-1-2, 1889-90-1, 1892-3-4; Valquart Jenson, 1858-9; Johan Olsen Dalby, 1860-1-2; Ole Jörgenson Hastvedt, 1856-7-8;

## *Sixty Years of Herry Congregation*

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Knudt Olsen Grimstvedt, 1859-60-1; John Gunderson Fjelstad, 1863-4-5; Paul Olson Syftestad, 1864-5-6; Hans Björndalen, 1866-7-8; Hans Olson Grinde, 1867-8-9; Jakob Hanson Valstad, 1869-70-1; Kittil Paulson, 1872-3; Ole Torgerson, 1874; Peder Amundson Dalbye, 1875, 1876-7; Gunder Paulson, 1874-5-6, 1878-9-80; 1881, 2-3; Even Burgeson, 1878-9; Ole K. Staulen, 1880-1, 1882-3-4; Knudt O. Hastvedt, 1883-4-5; Björn T. Daley, 1884-5-6, 1887-8-9, 1890-1-2, 1883-4-5, 1902-3-4; Erik F. Goli, 1885-6-7; 1888-9-90; A. E. Arneson, 1886-7-8; Paul P. Syftestad, 1891-2-3, 1894-56; C. O. Ruste, 1895-6-7, 1907-8-9; A. K. Grimstad, 1896-7-8; P. A. Tyvan, 1897-8-9; Martin Mikkelson, 1898-9-1990; Syver Rundhaug, 1899-1900-1; Knudt Kittelson, 1900-1-2; H. H. Anderson, 1901-2-3; H. V. Jenson, 1903-4-5; Ole T. Kompelin, 1904-5-6; T. K. Retrum, 1905-6-7; Even Swenson, 1906-7-8; Knudt Retrum, 1908-9-10; Edward Goli, 1909-10-11; Henry Knudson, 1910-11-12; John Swenson, 1911-12-13; L. M. Kittilson, 1912-13-14; G. H. Aavang, 1913-14-15; Knudt S. Rundhaug, 1914-15.

### **Secretaries.**

Ole Arneson Ruste, 1854-5-6-7-8-9-60-62-3-4-5-6-7 8-9-70-1871-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-80-1-2; Gunder Paulson, 1883; Ole Grimstvedt, 1884-5-6-7-8-9-90-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8; Jacob J. Hegland, 1899-1900-1-2-3-4-5-6; Erik F. Goli, 1907; A. K. Grimstad, 1908-9-10-11-12; C. O. Ruste, 1913-14.

### **Auditors. (Reviserer.)**

O. B. Daley, 1855-7; Kittil Kittilson, 1855; Ole Jörgenson, 1857; Tharald Larson, 1863; Lars O. Sanderson, 1863-5-6-7-8-9; Knudt Grimstvedt, 1864; Abraham O. Tvedtene, 1865-6-7-70-74; Ole T. Olson, 1868-9-71-2-3-5; Jens Kampen, 1870; J.

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Isaacson, 1871; Gunder Paulson, 1872-3; Hans O. Grinder, 1874-7-8-9; G. Jensvold, 1875-6; Anders Ruste, 1876-7; Erik F. Goli, 1877; Ole Paulson, 1878-9; Ole Grimstvedt, 1878-9-80-81-2-3; B. T. Daley, 1880-1-2-3; Iver Retrum, 1884-5-6-7-8-9; Erik F. Goli, 1884; Paul P. Syftestad, 1885-6-90; A. K. Grimstad, 1890-1-2-3-4-5; N. J. Dalby, 1891-2-3-4-5; J. J. Hegland, 1896-7-8; Albert M. Grinder, 1896-7-8-9-1900-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8; Albert Kittilson, 1899; Ed. Magnussen, 1900-1-2-3-4-5; Edward Goli, 1906-7-8-1912-14; Theodore Grinder, 1909-12-13-14; L. M. Kittilson, 1909; Henry Berg, 1910; Edward Grinder, 1911; Gustav Larson, 1911.

### **Delegates.**

(Those before 1890 were sent to the "Synodemöde," while those after that date represented Perry at the annual meetings of the United Church.)

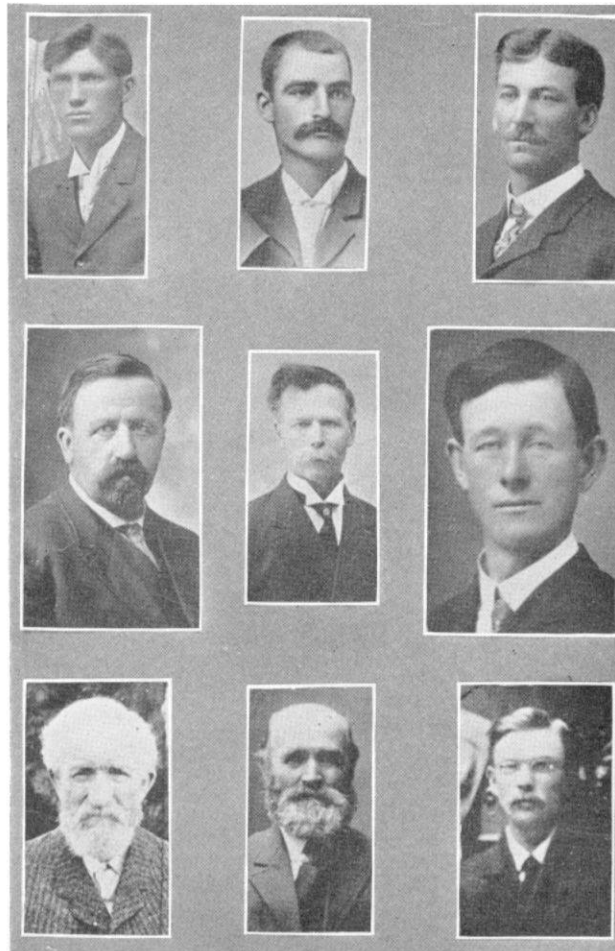
Hans J. Dale and Ole A. Ruste, 1861; Knut O. Grimstad, 1865; Gulbran Jensvold, 1866; Hans J. Dale, 1867-8; Ole A. Ruste, 1870; Valquar Jenson, 1872; Johan O. Dalby, 1873, 1875 1893; Jens Tyvan, 1874; Gunder Paulson, 1876-88-90-92; A. E. Arneson, 1877-1881-86-1895; Knut O. Hastvedt, 1879-83 1892; Ole Grimstvedt, 1880; Ole Kittilson Staulen, 1882; O. B. Dahle, 1884-7-8-90-91; Halvor Fie, 1885; Hans O. Grinder, 1893; Henry L. Dahle, 1894; Paul P. Syftestad and Ole Paulson, 1896; Jakob J. Hegland, 1897; Erik F. Goli, 1898-1909; P. A. Tyvan, 1899; Thor Kittilson, 1900; T. K. Retrum, 1901; Hans N. Valstad, 1902; S. K. Rundhaug, 1903; Martin Grinder, 1905; H. V. Jenson, 1906; Gulbran Rundhaug, 1907; C. O. Ruste, 1908; A. K. Grimstad, 1910; John Swenson, 1911; Knut H. Stolen and Gunder H. Aavang, 1912; Henry Helland, 1913-14; B. T. Daley, 1914.

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## Deacons. (Medhjelpere.)

Knudt O. Grimstad, 1872-3-4-5-6-7; Ole Hanson Hammerhagen, 1872-3-4-5-6-7; Tollef S. Anmarkrud, 1872-3-4-5-6-7; Valquar Jenson, 1878; Jakob Hanson, 1878; Allen Ruste, 1878; Anton O. Ruste, 1879-80-1-2-3-4; Iver K. Retrum, 1879-80-1-2-3-4;



## PRESENT OFFICERS.

L. M. Kittilson, trustee; G. H. Aavang, trustee; K. S. Rundhaug, trustee; C. O. Ruste, secretary; P. P. Syftestad, klokkar; Henry Berg, deacon; Jacob Ronold, deacon; Halvor Brue, deacon; Melvin Retrum, medhjælper.

## *Sixty Years of Ferry Congregation*

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Gulbran Jensvold; 1879-80-1-2-3; Christen Lund, 1879-80; Juul Knudson, 1882-3-4; Johan O. Dalby, 1884-5-6; Ole A. Ruste, 1885-6-7-8; Erik Helland, 1885-6-7-8-9-90-1-2-3-4-5-6; Halvor Fie, 1885-6; Hans Nilson Valstad, 1887-8-9-90-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-1900-1901-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13; Ole H. Huser, 1887-8-9-90-1-2-3-4-5-6; A. E. Arneson, 1889-90-1-2-3-4-5-6-7; Gulbran Throndrud, 1897; Halvor Brue, 1897-8-9-1900-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14; Erik F. Goli, 1898-9-1900-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-14; Ole Hill, 1808-9-1900-1; Jakob Ronold, 1902-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12; Melvin Retrum, 1913-14; Henry Berg, 1913-14.

### **Ushers.**

George Paulson, 1872-3-6-7-8-9-80-1-2-3; Hans O. Grinder, 1872-6-7-8-9-80-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9; Ole F. Olsen, 1873; Ole Rinde, 1884-5-6-7-8-9; John T. Johnson, 1890-1-2; Albert M. Grinder, 1890-1-2; B. T. Daley, 1893; Jacob J. Hegland, 1893-4-5-6; Henry Paulson, 1894; Tollef Bratlie, 1895-6-7; Sam. Paulson, 1897; Knut Kittilson, 1898-9-1900-1-2-3-4; G. O. Paulson, 1898-9-1900-1-2-3-4; Knut S. Rundhaug, 1905; H. H. Anderson, 1905-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14; N. J. Dalby, 1906-7; Edward Grinder, 1908-9-10-11-12-13-14; Juul Nelson, 1913-14.

### **Sextons.**

Knudt Bendikson, 1861; Knudt O. Björndalen, 1862-4-5; Ole Kittilson Tvedt, 1863; Peter Aasen, 1866; Ole Christianson Rusetter, 1868-9-76-78-9-80-1-2; Nils Hanson, 1872; Johan Gaarder, 1873-4; Hans Evenson, 1875-7; Hans O. Grinder, 1883; Ole H. Rinde, 1883; Ingebret Knudson, 1884; Knudt Halvorson, 1885; Nekolai Dalby, 1890; Helge Skartum, 1886-7-8-9-91-2-3-4-5; Juul Nelson, 1896-7-8-9-1900-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10; Olaus Thompson, 1911; I. B. Daley, 1911-2-3-4.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### Parochial Schools and Teachers.

Considering the importance for the spiritual welfare of its people, and the outlook for the future of the church, our parochial schools are possibly the worst treated and poorest organized of all our local institutions.

The congregation does not seem to lack interest for at almost every annual meeting since its organization it has pondered over the question: What can we do to better the condition of our parochial schools? The question has not been answered, and yet our people see the necessity and importance of maintaining them. But with true loyalty to our public schools it seems hard to find the time and means necessary for our parochial schools, which are confined to four or six weeks in each district thruout the middle of the summer.

With the great distance to travel in a large country congregation the central Sunday School system is impracticable, and in the local school districts it meets with only moderate success. And when also home instruction is much neglected the result is that the weight of instruction is left to the minister while he is preparing the youths for confirmation.

We have made mention in a previous chapter of the very earliest parochial schools in the settlement. From 1856 we find Ole Jørgenson in charge of the schools of the congregation. In 1858 the congregation was divided into four districts, Mr. Jørgenson having charge of three of them, Ole A. Ruste again being pressed into service and taking charge of the fourth district. From his private records we see that thru four years—1860-1-2-3—taught seven months and nineteen days, most of

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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which was paid for when the record was made. The teacher's salary at that time was ten dollars per month, of twenty-two days. In 1864 the salary was raised to sixteen dollars per month of twenty four days, and now they are mostly paid at the rate of one and one-half dollars a day.

The number of districts have been increased from time to time; for some years now we have had eight, corresponding in number and area to those of our public schools.

Of all the faithful laborers in the school room for the past sixty years we make special mention of the two having the longest periods of service. In Gulbran Jensvold, Perry Congregation had for sixteen years a parochial school teacher whose very soul and deepest interests lay in the instruction of the children, to get them to walk in the paths of rectitude.



**Gulbran Jensvold. Born October 17th, 1841, Norway. Married Bertha Gaarder March 17th, 1868, who with five young children survived him at his death July 21st, 1884.**

In the school room he was in his right element, but judging by the records his path was not without thorns. Different rules and



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changes were ordered by the congregation which were contrary to what he thought best and in "Naade-valg-striden" he took his stand with the minority. But in spite of all those temporary controversies the author will, without fear of contradiction, lay a wreath to his memory — "Gulbran Jensvold was a good man and the world is better for him having lived in it."



**O. T. Saevre. Teacher in Perry for twelve years and Klokkar for seventeen. Mr. Saevre was married twice, but only some children from his first marriage are now living. He died April 29th, 1904.**

O. T. Saevre served in Perry as a teacher from 1887 to 1899. Mr. Saevre came to us from Wiota as an elderly man; he too, has made parochial school teaching most of his life work. Among us they had to teach when the public schools were not in session and even then it was impossible to get around to all the districts each year. We have been very fortunate in securing much local help, and take great pleasure in naming those who have done most of such work: Mrs. Amanda Goli, Minnie Rundhaug, Clara Daley, Elizabeth Paulson, Belle Tyvan, Alma Ankaltrud,

## *Sixty Years of Herry Congregation*

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Ole J. Dalby, Belle Sanders, Rebecca Swenson, Taarund Vik, and many more. The following names are found on the records as "Skoleopsyns-mend" for their respective districts for the years as stated: Ole A. Ruste, 1858, 1868, 1878-9-80-1-2-3-4; K. O. Grimstvedt, 1859; Ole Jörgenson, 1858; Tollef Anmarkrud, 1858-9; Ingebret Paulson, 1859; Targe Ormson, 1859; Johan O. Dalby, 1859, 1870; Hans Björndalen, 1868-9-70-2-3; Kittil Paulson, 1868-9-70; Ole Torgerson, 1868-9-70-3; Valquar Jenson, 1868-9-70-2-4-6-8-80-1-5; Allen A. Ruste, 1869; Hans Dale, 1869; Ole Hanson Hammerhagen, 1870-2-3-4-6-7; Isaac Kittilson, 1870-2-6; Gunder Paulson, 1872-3-80-1-3; Tore Tvedtene, 1872; Johan G. Fjelstad, 1872-4-6-7-81; Erik Knudson, 1873; Ole Espeseth, 1874; Halvor Fie, 1874-6-7; Erik Rundhaug, 1874-6-7; Ole Rinde, 1874-6-7-80-4-5; Helge Olson, 1876-7; Ole Grimstvedt, 1878-9; Abraham Tvedtene, 1878-9-80; Ole Paulson, 1878-9; Erik Helland, 1878-9; 1894-5-8, 1900; Knudt Hastvedt, 1878-9-80-1; Hans Grinder, 1880-1, 1891-2; Ole Kittilson, 1880-1; Hans N. Valstad, 1882-3-94; Thor Staulen, 1882-5; B. T. Daley, 1882-3-1896-7, 1900-6; Olaus Dalby, 1882-3-4-5-6; Peder Tyvan, 1882-3-4-7-8-9, 1890-3-4-5-8-9; Erik F. Goli, 1883-4, 1897-8-9-1901; Jakob Halvorson, 1884-5; Ole Steensland, 1884-5-6; Iver K. Retrum, 1884-5; Martin P. Anderson, 1885-6-7-8; Sigur Chestelson, 1886-7-92-3-5; Ole O. Hill, 1886-7-8, 1902; Juul Knudson, 1886-7-8; Halvor Gunstad, 1886; Ellef Homme, 1887-8-9; Niels Moen, 1887-8; Sigur Halvorson, 1888-9; Erik Domholdt, 1889; Kittil Kittilson, 1889-1907-8; Amund Dalby, 1889-90-1-2-3; Knudt S. Lien, 1889-90-6-7-8; Helge Jeglum, 1890-1-2-3-4-5-6; Gulbran Rundhaug, 1890-1-96; Syver Rundhaug, 1892-8-1905-9-11; George Swenson, 1890; Christian Ankaltrud, 1890-1; Ole Burgeson, 1891-2; Syver Moen, 1891-2; Knudt Retrum, 1893-1904-9; C. H. Gaarder, 1893-4-5; T. A. Bratlie, 1893-8-9; Ole J. Dalby, 1894-1912; John Thompson, 1894; P. P. Syftestad, 1895; Arne Thompson, 1895; Nils

## *Sixty Years of Perry Congregation*

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Espeth, 1896-7; Torgrim Rundhaug, 1896-9-1903; Hans V. Jenson, 1896-1900-1-8-11-14; Vraal Pederson, 1897-1906; K. T. Kittilson, 1897; Thor Jacobson, 1897-1902; A. K. Grimstad, 1898-9, 1904-5; Marius Jenson, 1898; Tosten Retrum, 1899; John Oimoen, 1899; Iver Oimoen, 1900; Halvor Brue, 1900-7; Iver Berg, 1900-2-3-4-5-10-12; C. O. Ruste, 1900-1-3; A. M. Grinder, 1901-4-5-8; John Thompson, 1901-2-8; Torgrim Knudson, 1901-7; Ed. Tvedt, 1902-3; Embrik Glaedom, 1902; Henry Knudson, 1902-3; A. C. Bruflat, 1902-4-5-6; Andrew Thompson, 1903; Julius Iverson, 1903; J. Midthun, 1903; Martin Lokken, 1904-5-7-9-13; L. M. Kittilson, 1904-5-8; Christian Nelson, 1904; Olaus Espeseth, 1905; Anton Knudson, 1906-8-9-13; Nekolai Bratlie, 1906-7; Anton Mitmoen, 1906-7; Knudt Kittilson, 1906-8; D. A. Davidson, 1906-10-12; H. H. Anderson, 1907; Anton K. Tofsrud, 1907, O. K. Stenseth, 1908-13; Juul Nelson, 1909-14; Ole T. Kompelin, 1909; Halvor Helgeson, 1909; Ole Slutten, 1909; Even Swenson, 1910; N. B. Lund, 1910-11; G. H. Aavang, 1910-11; Halvor Gorden, 1910; Lars Swenson, 1910; Albert Lonne, 1910-12-14; C. E. Paulson, 1911-14; John Valstad, 1911-12; Theodore Homme, 1911-13; H. Kellesvik, 1911-13; John Fjelstad, 1912; Blaine Steensland, 1912; Adolf Thronson, 1912-13-14; Ole Johnson, 1913; William Kittilson, 1913; Edward Jeglum, 1914; Melvin Retrum, 1914; T. A. Thompson, 1914.

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### CHAPTER XXII.

#### Higher Institutions of Learning, Missions and Charity.

In the preceding chapters we have spoken of the various activities in our local affairs, but to show that Perry Congregation has also been alive to the needs of the church at large we submit a few figures which we have gleaned from the

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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records as entered from time to time. The following items are however, incomplete for various reasons. In the first place it has been the custom as each committee has made its report and showed the receipt for the money sent away, that the transaction has ended there without being entered upon the permanent records of the congregation. The annual report of the church did not show the amount of contributions in its earlier years.

Then also many private individuals have sent contributions directly and many solicitors have canvassed our people, getting much help for worthy causes.

It appears therefore, that the following items can only serve as an indication of the amounts that have been contributed to schools, missions, orphan homes, and charities from time to time.

The first record we find dates back to 1865, when Johan O. Dalby presented a receipt for \$80.25, sent from members of the congregation to a church school, presumably Luther College at Decorah, Iowa.

In 1870 Rev. Jacobson urged the necessity of maintaining our higher institutions of learning, and personally solicited and sent financial aid from himself and the members. In 1887 Johan O. Dalby collected and sent \$246.00 to the "Northfield Schools," from the members of the Perry Congregation. In the early nineties Rev. Voldal collected \$1,637.50 for the Professor's Fund of the newly organized United Lutheran Church. Rev. Höverstad in his pastorate here received \$1,735.00 for Mohn Hall at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., and the Deaconess Hospital at Chicago.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

In the early history of the United Lutheran Church it was customary in Perry to let the school superintendents collect for the "Samfunds-kassen," and on a few occasions the trustees also collected "double and treble" annual dues to cover this and other appropriations that the congregation might have made, but most of the years a solicitor has been selected in each school district to collect the amounts called for.

While great credit is due all these solicitors for their unselfish and often thankless labors, it follows that the list would be so large as to fill a chapter by itself, and for us to chronicle the many answers received by them in their efforts to fulfill the mission given them, we willingly admit our space to be entirely inadequate both in volume, vocabulary, and humor.

It appears that the annual subscriptions to "Samfunds-kassen" from Perry the first decade of years from 1890 and on, ranged from one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars. The annual Mission-fest, with one exception in the year of 1914 when our church was under re-construction, has been held regularly. The following table shows the contributions from Perry for the two items mentioned in the years as stated:

Year.	"Samfunds-kassen"	Missions
1905	\$129.25	\$ 402.00
1906	174.05	456.90
1907	159.75	929.90
1908	157.75	No record
1909	167.50	995.89
1910	178.25	1,086.52
1911	230.05	662.61
1912	264.35	921.43

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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1913	275.40	638.12
1914	275.95	183.00
1915	345.00	Year not closed

Furthermore, the congregation subscribed \$2,500.00 in the spring of 1915, to the United Church Jubilee Fund.

In all these matters the congregation has shown much generosity, and a lively interest in the well being of the church and its institutions at home and abroad, as these accounts go to show. The record of it, we hope, will serve to imbue the coming generation and its children with love for the church of their ancestors, with interest in all things that pertain to its mission, and with the spirit of sacrifice, which also is the true spirit of Christian love.

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### CHAPTER XXIII.

#### Perry Church Choir.



We are pleased to be able to present above, a picture of the choir of Perry Congregation. When we reflect on the importance of music, instrumental and vocal in our public worship we are glad to see still in the choir persons who have been members for twenty years, as well as the members of the junior choir, which was organized by Miss Christine Goli in the spring of 1915. The choir received special help and encouragement from Rev. Höverstad, who also acted as instructor when he was here. For the last five years Mr. Edward Goli

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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has ably filled that position

### **Perry Kvindeforening.**



Perry Congregation has within its area five missionary societies.

The Perry Kvindeforening, sometimes called "Den Store Forening," was organized at the parsonage by Mrs. Rev. Isberg on August 29th, 1883, and has had regular meetings from twelve to sixteen times each year ever since. Receipts of last year amounted to \$141.55. Since its organization \$3,609.43. Besides this it has sent a boxful of gifts and clothing to Homme's orphan home every fall. All the money goes to missions, except when otherwise agreed on at the meetings.

Presidents: Mrs. H. Kellesvig, 1914; Mrs. Andren Moen, 1915.

### **Barber Kvindeforening.**

It must not be inferred that the members of this society are "Barbarians." Some men have lived with them all their lives and have fared well in all respects. The name is taken from the ex-postoffice which "Uncle Sam" supplied the neighborhood with mail for more than thirty years. The first meeting of the society was held at Mrs. A. E. Arneson's in the first part of 1886. They have had regular meetings ever since.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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The average yearly receipts are about \$80.00 which amount is sent to missions and charity as the membership may decide at their meetings.

Mrs. C. O. Ruste, president; Mrs. Anton Knudson secretary; Mrs. Olin Ruste, treasurer.

### Daleyville Mission Forening.



The above named society was organized at the home of Mrs. Jensvold in 1892. Mrs. Guro Dalby was its first president. The name it went by at that time was "Coffee Party." We have never heard of Rev. Höverstad objecting to "coffee" in its place, but he must have the credit for changing the name of this organization. This society keeps a missionary in Madagascar; it has done much work for Homme's orphan home, as well as extended benevolence in other places. The receipts for last year amounted to \$89.00.

Presidents, Mrs. Ole J. Dalby, 1914; Mrs. Thore Grundahl, 1915.



# Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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## Clay-Hill Mission Forening.



These auxiliary societies are in all instances formed merely for the convenience of the neighborhoods as distances would be too great and the crowds would be too large to be entertained at the same time in any one home. Clay Hill had its first meeting at the home of Mrs. Anne Chestelson, who was also the first president of the society, in March, 1895. The receipts of the first year amounted to \$13.00, but the interest and membership has increased so that there are now fifteen members and the yearly receipts amount to \$50.00 which is sent to the missions and different branches of church work.

Mrs. C. O. Ankaltrud, president.

## Homme's Mission Forening.

The latest missionary organization among us is the Homme's. It was organized as a "Coffee Party" in the fall of 1900 at the home of Mrs. Tosten Retrum, who also became its first president. Here also Rev. Höverstad was instrumental in providing a more fitting name for the organization. Like all the others it has meetings at the homes of the members once in every three or four weeks.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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The collections from Homme's last year amounted to \$92.67 and since its organization its receipts have amounted to \$1,146.67. All of which is used for missions and charity.

Mrs. Knudt Kleppe, president.

### The Perry Pigeforening.



"The pride of our present, the hope of our future." This society is composed of the confirmed young ladies of the congregation and was organized at the parsonage March 24th, 1900 by Rev. Voldal. They meet every third Saturday afternoon at the home of one of its members and render a program; refreshments are served and a collection is taken. A number of sales and bazaars have also been held. The receipts have amounted to \$2,500.00 which total has been used to maintain a teacher, "goaa," in the mission fields of China, and the balance has been given to support the missions and other church activities.

Lillie Ronnold, president; Christine V. Brue, secretary.

# Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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## The Little Helpers.

An organization for young girls living near Daleyville. Held its first meeting at the home of Miss Anne Jelle October 7th, 1905. Besides creating an interest in missions it provides a good social time, and able instruction in domestic art and in Christian literature and singing. Total collections have amounted to \$357.32, which has been given to Homme's orphan home and other noble causes.



This society has presented the church with two beautiful candlesticks.

President, Lulu Paulson; vice President, Agnes Sanders; secretary, Rose Magnusson; treasurer Beulah Goli.

## The Mission Band.

This society for little boys was organized by Mrs. Amanda Goli in 1905. The boys have worked mostly for foreign missions but have also sent donations to the orphans' home at Wittenberg, Wis., and the hospital missions in Minneapolis, Minn. The society has also presented two beautiful collection plates to our church.

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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Issac Grinder, president; Archie Paulson, secretary; Walter Paulson, treasurer.

### The Young People's Luther League.

This branch of the church work was organized by Rev. Höverstad on February 26th, 1905, for a purpose which is quite plainly set forth in Article 2 of its constitution.

“The object of this league shall be the improvement of its members, morally, socially, intellectually and spiritually, and to render to the church such aid as may be in its power.

The society will seek to accomplish this by the use of God word and prayer, by speeches, declamations, lectures, reading, song, music, and other proper means. Also by a conscientious fulfilling of duties imposed, and a Christian behavior towards each other.”

The pastor of the church is president of the society ex-officio. The meetings are held in the church every other Sunday evening, and are conducted in English.

While this society is not intended as a money gathering organization, the “nickle-a-month” levy for its members was a great help in procuring our magnificent pipe organ which has just been installed in the church.

The officers serving for the first half of 1915 are as follows: President, Wm. Grimstad; secretary, Lillie Ronold; treasurer, P. P. Syftestad; librarians, Edna Goli and Ruth Daley; organist, Christine Goli.

CHAPTER XXIV.

From Perry.

(a). In presenting the records as they are found on the ministerial books of Perry Congregation it is apparent from the numbers given that Rev. Brodal, from 1856 to 1868, has entered on our records all such official performances from the parish, while from then on the records show the number from Perry Congregation only.

Total number of baptismals from July 17th, 1856 to December 31st, 1857, 142; 1858, 138; 1859, 138; 1860, 190; 1861, 211; 1862, 177; 1863, 182; 1864, 130; 1865, 73; 1866, 48; 1867, 106; 1868-9, 135; 1870-72, 224 ; 1873, 52; 1874-78, 219; 1879, 47; 1880, 33; 1881, 35; 1882, 27; 1883, 32; 1884, 34; 1885, 40; 1886, 33; 1887, 36; 1888, 29; 1889, 27; 1890, 44; 1891, 27; 1892, 12; 1893, 24; 1894, 37; 1895, 26; 1896, 36; 1897, 23; 1898, 30; 1899, 25; 1900, 31; 1901, 22; 1902, 21; 1903, 31; 1904, 26; 1905, 26; 1906, 31; 1907, 28; 1909, 19; 1910-1914, 97.

A total record of baptismals amount to three thousand one hundred and eighty-six, of which about two thousand belong to Perry Congregation.

Of deaths there are 460 recorded in Perry from 1868 to 1910.

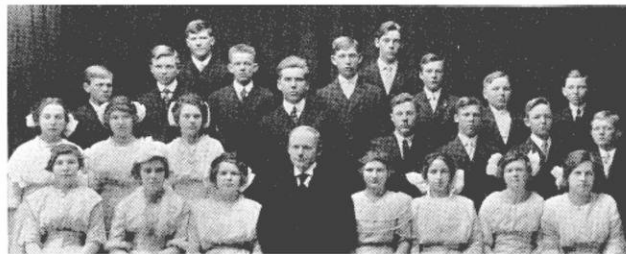
Of marriages we find 573. The following is the record for each year: 1856, 11; 1857, 21; 1858, 19; 1859, 17; 1860, 19; 1861, 21; 1862, 19; 1863, 13; 1864, 14; 1865, 5; 1866, 14; 1867, 12; 1868, 15; 1869, 22; 1870, 12; 1871, 11; 1872, 14; 1873, 8; 1874, 11; 1875, 12; 1876, 9; 1877, 11; 1878, 9; 1879, 4; 1880, 10; 1881, 6; 1882, 11;

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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1883, 11; 1884, 4; 1885, 8; 1886, 5; 1887, 5; 1888, 6; 1889, 7; 1890, 14; 1891, 7; 1892, 4; 1893, 7; 1894, 8; 1895, 8; 1896, 4; 1897, 6; 1898, 5; 1899, 3; 1900, 9; 1901, 7; 1902, 2 ; 1903, 1904, 6; 1905, 10; 1906, 9; 1907, 9; 1908, 6; 1909, 10; 1910, 9; 1911, 10; 1912, 13; 1913, 9; 1914, 12.

Of the seventeen hundred and thirty-four young people who are recorded as having renewed their baptismal vow, it is apparent that about fifteen hundred belong to Perry Congregation. The number for each year follows: 1856, 43; 1857, 30; 1858, 10; 1859, 20; 1860, 23; 1861, 30; 1862, 66; 1863, 45; 1864, 29; 1865, 55; 1866, 52; 1867, 33; 1868, 105; 1869, 28; 1870, 47; 1871, 54; 1872, 46; 1873, 1874, 41;



**Confirmation Class of 1914.**

1875, 38; 1876, 33; 1877, 30; 1878, 45; 1879, 10; 1880, 17; 1881, 34; 1882, 35; 1883, 23; 1884, 16; 1885, 21; 1886, 29; 1887, 39; 1888, 20; 1889, 13; 1890, 19; 1891, 23; 1892, 25; 1893, 22; 1894, 21; 1895, 17; 1896, 25; 1897, 22; 1898, 18; 1899, 21; 1900, 30; 1901, 20; 1902, 23; 1903, 27; 1904, 19; 1905, 200; 1906, 24; 1907, 11; 1908, 34; 1909, 31; 1910, 31; 1911, 20; 1912, 33; 1913, 30; 1914, 28.

(b). Perry Congregation has supplied the Church with six ministers of the Gospel; one is now a student at our seminary. A

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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much larger number of Perry girls have found special work in the Master's vineyard as deaconesses, nurses, and teachers.

Rev. A. K. Sagen was born at Koshkonong in 1851, but lived most of his childhood days in Perry Congregation. He served as minister in "Den Norske Synode" from 1879 up to his death in 1907. He has held many offices of trust and responsibility.



Rev A. K. Sagen



Rev. Erik O. Ruste

Rev. Erik O. Ruste was born in Blue Mounds the same year his father helped to organize the Perry Congregation (1854) . With the exception of his school days, all his early life was spent here



until he was ordained to the ministry in 1879. He served as minister in the Norwegian Synod for twenty years in South Dakota, Idaho, and North Dakota and has since been farming near Montrose, S. D.

### Rev. O. P Syftestad

Rev. Olaus P. Syftestad was born in Perry Sept. 13th, 1857. Practically all his life was spent in this neighborhood. He was ordained to the ministry in 1883, and served the adjoining parish composed of East Blue Mounds, Springdale, Vermont, and West Blue Mounds until his death, Feb. 27th, 1890.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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**Rev. J. A. Urness**

Rev. Johannes A. Urness was born Nov. 20th, 1858. He was ordained to the ministry in 1889, and has served the church in that position ever since, first a charge in Minnesota, then one in Wisconsin, and since 1901 at Osage, Iowa. During the first two years of his pastorate he was an "Antimissouri," but since the formation of the United Lutheran Church, he has been a member of that body.



**Rev. Edward Hegland**

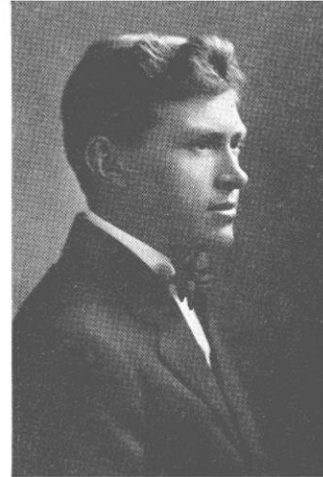
Rev. Edward Hegland, born Nov. 15th, 1868. Ordained as minister in the United Lutheran Church in 1898, and has been in such service at Vignes, Wis., and Menomonie, Wis., ever since. In 1898 he married Mollie Thompson of York. She died in 1913 and is buried in our cemetery



## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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Grant M. Rundhaug was born April 5th, 1887. During vacations he has taught parochial school. He is now a senior at the United Lutheran Theological Seminary.



Grant M. Rundhaug

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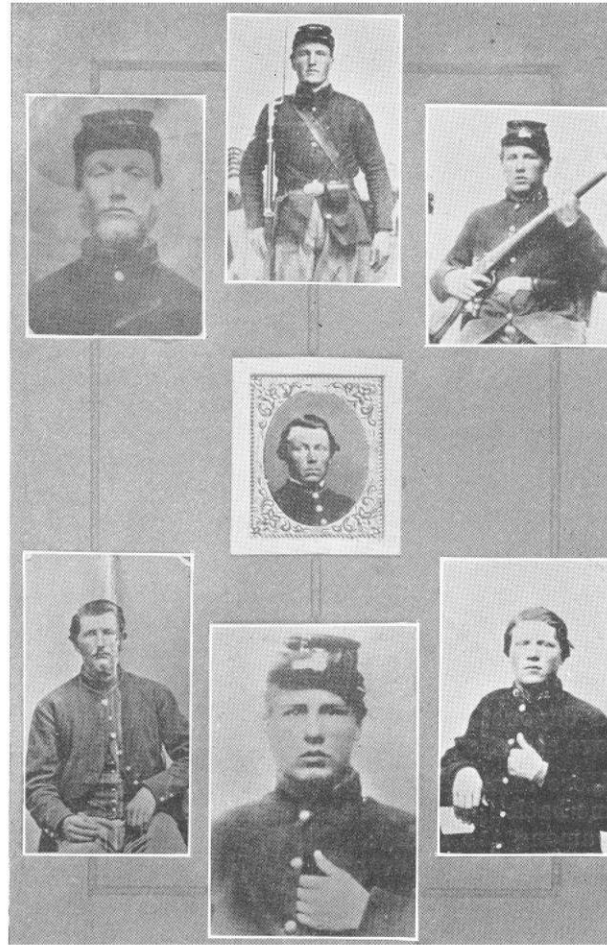
### Our Soldier Boys of 1861.

We take off our hats to the following list of sixty-one boys and men who were members of the Perry Congregation and who shouldered the musket when our country was in need and called for help. It has sometimes been said that the citizens of foreign birth are slow to acquire patriotic love and loyalty to their adopted land, but as we think of our fathers, uncles, and brothers, more than one-third of the entire community, as these "boys in blue" march before our vision to the tune of the fife and the beat of the drum some of them still wearing the homespun from Norway, as we see them march even unto the Cannon's mouth and bayonet charge, any comment by us on the above assertion becomes superfluous.

More than one-fifth of the following list "never came back"; less than that number are still counted among the living: Ole H. Rindy, Jul Julson, Isaac Kittilson (Levang ), Ole Milesten, Peder A. Dalbye, Jens Jenson, Jacob Jörgenson, Jens Kampen, Hans Evenson, Björgulf Springen, Jacob Syftestad, Tollef Guttormson,

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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### “Some of Our Soldier Boys”

Even Julson, Mikkell Berg, Jacob Jacobson Nordbye, Kittil A. Jorde, Christian Jenson, Erik Helland, Nils Jörgenson, Ole Kittilson (Stolen), Ole Nelson Kleven, Ole Knudson, Peder Erikson, Helge Stenson, Knudt A. Leevang, Ole Steensland, Martin P. Anderson (Mago), John Helgeson, Kittil Paulson, Peder Bratbakken, Peer Levang, Erick Kleppe, Hans Grinder, Knudt Johnson Fie, Aslak Chestelson, Ole Nikulson, Halvor Ormson, Hellik Hellikson Forlie, Ole O. Barton, Christian Toreson, Nils Haldorson Haae, A. E. Arneson Ruste, Christian A. Ruste, \_\_\_\_\_ Brodahl, Gulbran Anderson Dahlen, Gulbrand

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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Mago, Ole Bjergesether, Isak Syftestad, George Paulson, Ole Paulson, Ole Grimstvedt, Martin Grinder, Sigur Chestelson, Targe Chestelson, Targe Ormson, Knudt Olson Hastvedt, Anders Weehvus, Ole Hanson, Syver S. Lien, Timan Knudson, Allan Arneson Ruste.

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As the narrative of these sixty-years draw to a close we cast a glance about us to see how many of the charter members of our congregation are still living, and as could be expected the very large majority of them have long ago entered the eternal beyond.

At this writing (April, 1915) We can count twelve, all octogenarians, still living, the first two in Minnesota and the others in Perry or immediate vicinity: Mrs. Isak Syftestad, Mrs. Gabriel Björnson, Mrs. Valquar Jenson, Mrs. Johan D. Dalbye, Mrs. Ole A. Ruste, Mrs. Thomas Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Arneson Ruste, Mr. and Mrs. Ole K. Lee, Mrs. Peder A. Dalbye, Anders Hellikson Forlie.

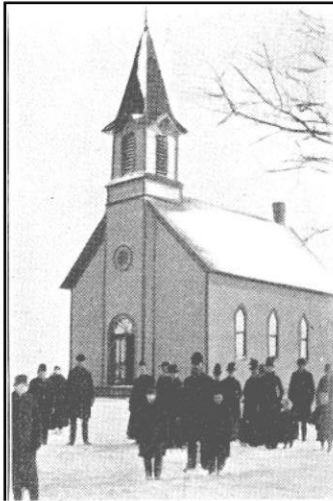
# Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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## CHAPTER XXV.

### Our Neighbors.

#### Hauge Church in Perry.



Congregation organized Nov. 7th, 1852. Permanent pastors having served this congregation are as follows: Rev. P. A. Rasmussen, 1854-1860; Rev. J. N. Fjeld, 1860-1863; Rev. P. J. Solberg, 1869; Rev. Knudt Hageseth, 1881-1906; Rev. J. A. Quelle, 1907; Rev. T. J. Spande, 1908; Rev. J. A. Johnson, 1908-1912. The present church was built in 1878, the above picture was taken at the dedication that year.

Hauge Church in Perry

#### Springdale Church.

Congregation organized on Dec. 1st, 1852. Rev. A. C. Preus, 1850-1856; Rev. H. A. Preus, 1855-1856; Rev. P. M. Brodahl, 1856-1868; Rev. Abraham Jacobson, 1868-1878; Rev. Adolph Bredeson, 1878-881; Rev. Peter Isberg, 1881-1883; Rev. O. P. Syftestad, 1883-1890 ; Rev. S. Gunderson, 1890. The first church was built in 1861; the present one in 1895.



Present Pastor, Rev. Jacob Dordal, 1912

# Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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Springdale Church.

## East Blue Mounds Church.

Congregation organized in the early fifties. Rev. A. C. Preus, 1850-1856; Rev. H. A. Preus, 1855-1856; Rev. P. M. Brodahl, 1856-1868; Rev. Abraham Jacobson, 1868-1878; Rev. Adolph Bredeson, 1878-1881; Rev. Peter Isberg, 1881-1883; Rev. O. P. Syftestad, 1883-1890; Rev. S. Gunderson, 1890. The present church was built in 1868.



Rev. S. Gunderson



East Blue Mounds Church

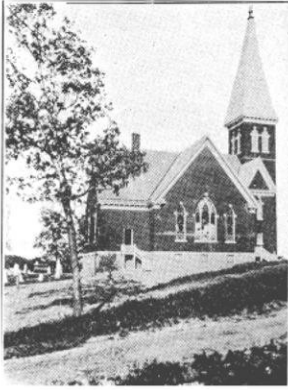
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# Sixty Years of Ferry Congregation

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## Vermont Church.

Congregation organized in. 1856 (?) and served from then until 1860 by Reverends P. M. Brodahl and P. A. Rasmussen. The first building used for a church was transferred from Black Earth by means of twenty-two oxen, in 1857. First church was built on the hill in 1862, and their present magnificent church built in 1913 was dedicated May 24th, 1914. Pastors having served there are: Rev. J. N. Fjeld, 1860-1883; Rev. O. P. Syftestad, 1883-1890; Rev. S. Gunderson, 1890—.



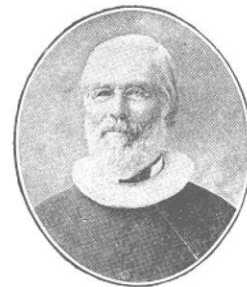
Vermont Church

## York Church.

This congregation was organized by Rev. P. A. Rasmussen in 1855. He served as their pastor until 1860, when he was succeeded by Rev. J. N. Fjeld, who was its minister until 1881. The church was built in 1861. After Rev. Fjeld's resignation there arose differences of opinion as to the call of a successor, the "Konference" friendly calling Rev. T. H. Dahl, while the original congregation recalled their former pastor, Rev. Fjeld,



York Church



Rev. J. N. Fjeld

## *Sixty Years of Perry Congregation*

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who served them another year, after which Rev. Peter Isberg served as minister from 1882 until 1888.

In 1884 the church property was divided and "Konferencen" built a church nearby. The ministers having served since then are: Rev. O. M. Seevig, 1888-1892; Rev. H. Voldal, 1892-1903; Rev. Helge Höverstad, 1904-1909; Rev. J. M. Green, 1910—.

### **Primrose Church**

The official organization of the congregation dates back to 1870, but as a matter of fact Primrose was among the eleven signers to issue a call to Rev. J. N. Fjeld in 1859, who served as their minister from 1860 to 1883. Since that time they have been in the same parish with Perry and consequently have had the same ministers which are: Rev. Peter Isberg, 1883-1888; Rev. Hendrik Voldal, 1888-1903; Rev. Helge Höverstad, 1904-1909; Rev. Joseph M. Green, 1910—. The congregation is composed of thirty-seven families.



**Primrose Church.**

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

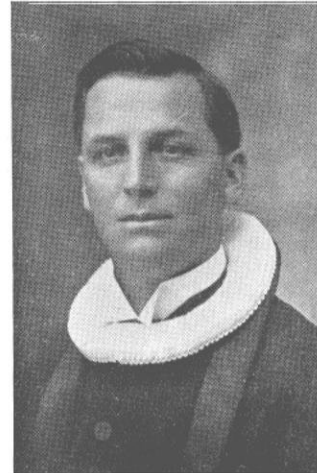
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### West Blue Mounds Church.

It has previously been noticed that the Perry pastors have preached in the various sections of the congregation, and that West Blue Mounds was mentioned as early as 1872 as a possible "annex." In 1880 a separate congregation was organized and Rev. Adolf Bredeson became its first pastor, serving that and the following year. Rev. Peter Isberg served this congregation in 1882-3, Rev. O. P. Syftestad, 1884-90, and Rev. Henrik Voldal, 1890 to 1903. It now became a part of the Perry parish and joined with them in issuing a call to Rev. Helge Höverstad, who served as its pastor until 1908, when she withdrew and joined with the Mt. Horeb Congregation, forming an independent parish, and issued a call to Rev. Otto Moström, who has since been its minister.



West Blue Mounds Church.



Rev. Otto Moström

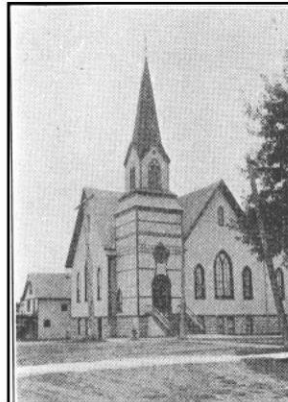


# Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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## Mount Horeb Church

The formation of this congregation is caused by the rapid growth of the thriving village of Mt. Horeb of which practically all its members are inhabitants. It was organized as a congregation in 1887, Rev. O. P. Syftestad serving as its minister until his death in 1890. Its pastors have since been: Rev. S. Gunderson, 1890-1894; Cand. Theol. C. H. Biorn, 1894-1895; Rev. G. T. Rygh, 1895-1898; Rev. H. H. Holte, 1899-1907, and Rev. Otto Moström, 1908. The congregation is composed of 145 families, 450 members all told.



Mount Horeb Church.

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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### Hollandale Church.

The location of this church has evidently been decided by the moving of the population to the rather newly formed village of Hollandale.

As early as 1862 we find Rev. J. N. Fjeld holding regular services every three months for the people of Adamsville and vicinity, and since 1868 all the Perry pastors have preached there. In 1893 a union was formed between this Adamsville Congregation, the "Konference" people of Hollandale and neighborhood. This church was built in 1894, and its first pastor was Rev. Paulson, 1893-1896; Rev. O. M. Seevig, 1897-1898; Rev. C. L. Rachie, 1898-1903; Rev. P.J. Johnson, 1903-1912; and Rev. M. P. Dommersness 1912—.



Hollandale Church.



Rev. Dommersness

CHAPTER XXVI.

Retrospective.

Let us tarry a few moments and ponder over the history and achievements of our community and country for the past seventy years. What a wonderful panorama of advancement presents itself to our mind's eye, as we try to picture before us our ancestors in the mountainous Land of the Midnight Sun, where they saved and hoarded their lonely shillings for years in order to get their transport tickets for America. How they labored on the massively ironed "Kufferts" and filled them with "lunch" for a four months' perilous voyage over the briny blue to the unknown beyond. And when the day of departure dawned how they fought with that "lump in the throat" and the tears that would not stop as they bid farewell to the dear ones they were leaving behind, some of whom probably had uttered all kinds of ill forebodings. And finally when the sails were raised to the breeze and the boat glided out over the fjord, the "bjerg og li" of Mother Norway smiling her last Good-Bye so serenely beautiful that it must be seen and felt in order to be fully appreciated.

We will only touch a few of the trials and hardships of the early pioneers as we make comparison with the present, for instance: when we think of the uncertain speed of the sailing crafts and the present rapid whirling steam turbines; the easy going mule on the canal's bank compared to the powerful railroad locomotives; when we think of Uncle Sam's bi-monthly mail coaches to Chicago, and the twentieth-century limited and extended branches all around. When we think of the personal messenger on foot or horse-back as being displaced by the

## Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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lightning flash of the telegraph and the telephone; when we think of the primitive dug-outs and rude little houses and see our own commodious residences. When we remember the poverty and scant necessities of life then and the luxurious abundance of today; when our thots run from the sedate oxen of that day to the speedy automobiles of the present time; when we reflect on the crude and primitive implements for hand and muscle power, contracted to the scientifically manufactured machinery for horse, steam, gas, and electric power, we should thank God for having let us live in such an extremely active age, for it can truly be said that the evolution of the past seventy years has been greater than thru many centuries at any other time in the world's history.

It behooves us however, not to rest upon the progress of today but faithfully speed along as we are given to see the light conscientiously performing our daily duties. The maxim that followed our fathers still holds true with us: "As thy days are so is the power given you."

In this great picture one fact looms up as being especially "a live one," and that fact is the Church. As the Church edifice towers heavenward on the highest point in the community and trains the eye to look higher than any other structure, so the spiritual value that it represents has been the ever present force that has guided the life of the community to a broader outlook, a higher ideal, a purer and better standard of real living. The Church has always been the central point of attraction in our neighborhood. It has commanded more interest, it has received by far more attention and sacrifices, efforts and affections than any other cause that we have had in common; and yet when we

## Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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think of the very large number of beings who have been taught, reminded, convicted of sin, assured of Grace, who have been inspired to hate the evil and love the good, it is fully apparent that the Church has given more than she has received. She has largely moulded the thought, the will, and the deed; and the community bears the stamp of her effort.

But the Church is the power, the influence of God on earth. Thru it He saves men from sin unto righteousness "that we might be His own and serve Him." In the material and in the spiritual things we see the movement of His fatherly hand. To God should we bring thanks for His goodness, and we may well join in that beautiful sentiment:

"Our fathers God, to Thee  
Author of liberty, and all good,  
To Thee we sing."

May the beautiful Church that we have been enabled to complete at this time, ever stand as a monument to the blessings of God upon our community. May its beautiful appointments ever remind us that it is the House of God, the palace of the King of Kings, the gate to Heaven. May its blessed influence ever be a fortress against evil, an inspiration to the fear of God, a balm unto the sorrowful heart. And when the sunset of our lives has come, and our bodies shall be carried to their last resting place, may its Holy light cast its reflection upon the dust, in the hope of resurrection unto eternal life and joy.

# Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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# Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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# Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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MOHN PRINTING COMPANY  
NORTHFIELD, MINN.

**MATERIAL ADDED TO THE 2004 EDITION**

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**Translations Courtesy of Professor Johan Hoff\***

- p. 11 **Samling**: a collection, a get-together Here: a provisional congregation
- p. 21 **dragkiste**: a chest as luggage for travel  
**skaut**: kerchief, shawl
- p. 22 **Hjerterum**: literally “heart room”, kindness; goodheartedness
- p. 27 **kubberulle**: a primitive horse or ox-drawn wagon where the wheels are slices or cross-sections of a tree trunk.
- p. 31 **Sambaand**: probably the name of a contemporary periodical. The name means “togetherness” or “holding together”
- p. 34 **Jordpaakastelse**: the action of the pastor at a burial of throwing earth on the coffin  
**Lægmandsvirkosmhet**: literally, layman’s activity; probably the dubious liturgical activity of a lay person  
**Søndagsspørgsmaalet**: the Sunday question, O.S.V., etc.
- p. 35 **Krage og Kjole paa**: Literally, Collar and dress on. Referring to the pastor’s church outfit
- p. 36 **Saa langt I Nord og Syd, I Vest og Øst som Norske Folk maate komme til at bo**: As far to the North and the South, to the West and the East as Norwegian people could happen to live
- p. 37 **Kalds Brev**: a “call” letter; the official invitation received by a pastor to come to a congregation
- p. 39 **Stridende Kirke**: A fighting church, presumably fighting against sin and evil?

\*Johan Hoff is a retired Professor emeritus from Perdue University who enjoys gentleman farming in Wisconsin and wants to “fill his world with trees.”

# Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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p. 41 through 44 **Constitution:**

For the organization of the Norwegian Evangelic Lutheran Congregation in the Town of Perry, Dane County, Wisconsin, as well as for the Call of a properly examined and correctly ordained Pastor from Norway for the same Congregation.

The name of the Congregation shall be the one under which it is incorporated according to the Church Laws of Wisconsin.

1. The Teachings of the Congregation shall be the one that is revealed in the canonical Scriptures of the old and the new Testaments, interpreted in conformity with the confessional scriptures of the Norwegian Lutheran Church.
2. The Churchly discipline in the Congregation and the external God-serving actions are to be exerted according to the Church ritual and the Altar Book of Norway.
3. The Teacher of the congregation shall be a Pastor examined and ordained by the Norwegian Lutheran Church.
4. The Teacher of the Congregation must also in his conduct be a good Witness of the Belief that is in him and become an Example for those whose Guide he has become.
5. Then we are willing to obey our Pastor in everything he, in virtue of his office and in accord with God's Word, may tell us to do.
6. Being knowledgeable of the exhortation of the Apostles, that those who preach the Gospel should also live the Gospel, we are also heartfully willing to at the best of our ability to fulfill, as we offer our Pastor the following economic conditions.
7. We demand from him eighteen Services on Sundays and Holydays as well as official catechism indoctrinations for our youth.
8. For this service we offer the Pastor one hundred dollars which is paid in 2 installments every 14th of April and 14th of October, which are to be collected by the trustees of the Congregation if the Pastor so desires.
9. In addition also offerings collected when the Service takes place during the Great Holidays in the Congregation, as well as pay for any ministerial business as felt proper.
10. We pledge ourselves to contribute our part in the purchase of a proper habitation for the Pastor in cooperation with the congregations in the Northern towns.
11. On the aforementioned conditions which are also agreed to by the Norwegian Evangelic Lutheran Congregation of Perry and adjoining towns, give we here on behalf of the Congregation, as its board officers, a Power of Attorney to the Church Council of the Norwegian Evangelic Lutheran Church of America to call a properly examined and ordained Pastor to become the Teacher and spiritual guide for this Congregation for a period of five years.

# Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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Town of Perry, Dane County, Wisconsin, the 17<sup>th</sup> of December , A.D. 1854

(Signatures listed)

“For additional confirmation of the aforementioned conditions we, the total membership of the Norwegian Evangelic Lutheran Congregation of Perry, sign our names and add in special columns our voluntary contributions to the construction of the parsonage, as well as to the yearly salary of the pastor” Date Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1855

P. 44 **medhjelpere**: helpers, assistants

p. 44 through 52, Concerning membership:

**Den yngre**: junior or jr. (Or the younger of two siblings with the same first name)

**Flyttet**: moved

**Ikke indmeldt**: not a member

**Udflyttet**: moved away

**Udmeldt, Faat attest to York**: resigned, given recommendation to York

**Udreist**: traveled away

**Udtraadt**: resigned

**Udskreven**: deleted from membership list?

**Udtraate den Ode**: I cannot find this one (Johan Hoff)

**Udmeldt**: deleted from membership list?

p.52 **presetelön**: pastor’s salary

p.56 **Gamle Prestegaarden**: the old parsonage

**kubberulle**: a primitive horse or ox-drawn wagon where the wheels are slices or cross-sections of a tree trunk.

p.60 **Katekismus**: catechism

**Forklaring**: explanation

p.65 **Om Gud vil**: If God will

p.67 **Alle Helgens (Helgeners ?) Dag**: All saints day

p.67, 68 **Menighets Möder**: Congregation meetings

**Preste Kallenderen**: “The Pastor Calendar”, apparently a printed document of some sort.

p. 71 **Naadevalg Striden**: Literally, Grace Choice Fight, the Fight about Grace and Choice. A bitter fight beginning in 1877 about the finer parts of interpretation of the Scriptures.

# Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

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p. 74, 75 **Synode møde or Synodemøde:** Meeting of the synode

**Prestegaards-bygningen skal males over tre gange med hvid farve, og dørene og vindues karmene indvendig med Ege Kolour:** The Parsonage is to be painted with three coats of white color, and the doors and window frames inside with Oak Color.

p. 78 **medhjelpere:** helpers, assistants

**Kalds Brev:** a “call” letter; the official invitation received by a pastor to come to a congregation

p. 82 **Fader vor du som er i Himmelen:** Our Father you who are in Heaven

**Den Gud vil bevare er udenfor al fare:** One who is protected by God is safe from all danger.

p. 86 **presetelön:** pastor’s salary

p. 87 & 89 **Kalds Brev:** a “call” letter; the official invitation received by a pastor to come to a congregation

p. 88 **Naade-valg-striden:** Literally, Grace Choice Fight, the Fight about Grace and Choice. A bitter fight beginning in 1877 about the finer parts of interpretation of the Scriptures.

p. 89 **Staa paa Smit’s side I Naadevalg-striden:** be on Smit’s side in the Grace-Election fight

p. 90 **Kaldsfor-bindelse:** connection to the call (meaning that the pastor to some degree has served the other congregations)

p. 91 **Naade-valg-striden:** Literally, Grace Choice Fight, the Fight about Grace and Choice. A bitter fight beginning in 1877 about the finer parts of interpretation of the Scriptures.

**Synode møde or Synodemøde:** Meeting of the synode

**Opraab til Synodens menigheder:** Appeal to the synode congregations

p. 94 **Kalds Brev:** a “call” letter; the official invitation received by a pastor to come to a congregation

the Madison “**Kreds:**” circle, here used to indicate an group of people sharing similar views or living in the Madison “area”.

**visitat:** an authorized inspection by someone serving an office higher up in the hierarchy.

# Sixty Years of Herry Congregation

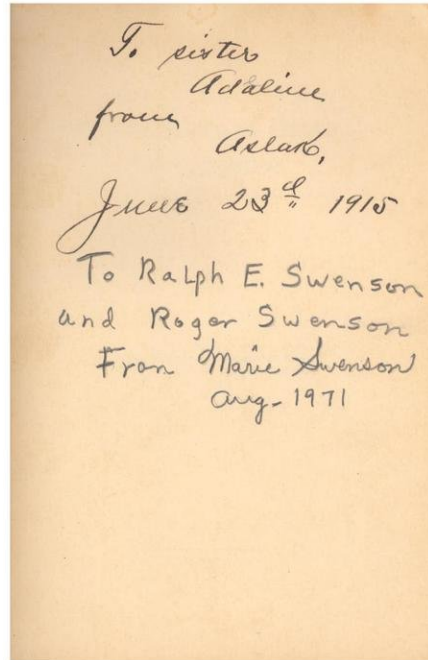
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- p. 98 **not insured with the hymnal fetters:** feeling unrestricted by orthodox church rituals
- p.103 **Pige-forenings:** the girls' club or association or organization
- p. 107 **Brød og Vin:** bread and wine  
**Kirkesanger:** Church hymn leader. 'The Historic Norwegian Settlement' (1994), p 166 states: "leader of the liturgy in the absence of the pastor."
- p. 107, 108 **Klokkar:** deacon, the person who tolls the church bell (bell = klokke)
- p. 110 **Synode mode or Synodemode:** Meeting of the synode
- p. 111 **medhjelpere:** helpers, assistants
- p. 114 **Naade-valg-striden:** Literally, Grace Choice Fight, the Fight about Grace and Choice. A bitter fight beginning in 1877 about the finer parts of interpretation of the Scriptures.
- p. 119 **Samfunds-kassen:** the society box; the name of a fund used for the needy?
- p. 121 **Den store Forening:** the great (or large) club, association or organization  
**Kvindeforening:** the women's club, association or organization
- p. 122, 123 **Mission Forening:** a Mission association or organization
- p. 124 **pige-förening:** the girls' club or association or organization
- p. 129 **Den Norske Synode:** the Norwegian Synod
- p. 141 **Kufferts:** a large trunk, here referring to the large wooden chests brought from Norway by the immigrants.  
**Berg og li:** mountain and mountain side

# Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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## Image of Original Flyleaf



## Provenance of the Scanned Book

Aslak Knutson Grimstad, son of Knut (page 45 #17) and Mari (Nes) Grimstvedt and a member of C. O. Ruste's committee formed to create 'Sixty Years of Perry Congregation' (see page 5), gave this copy to his younger sister, Adeline Marie (Grimstad) Swenson on June 23, 1915. Adeline had married George O. Swenson, son of Ole Svenson Øyo (page 36 #46) and Astrid Hoverud, who both died in the cyclone that destroyed the church (page 80).

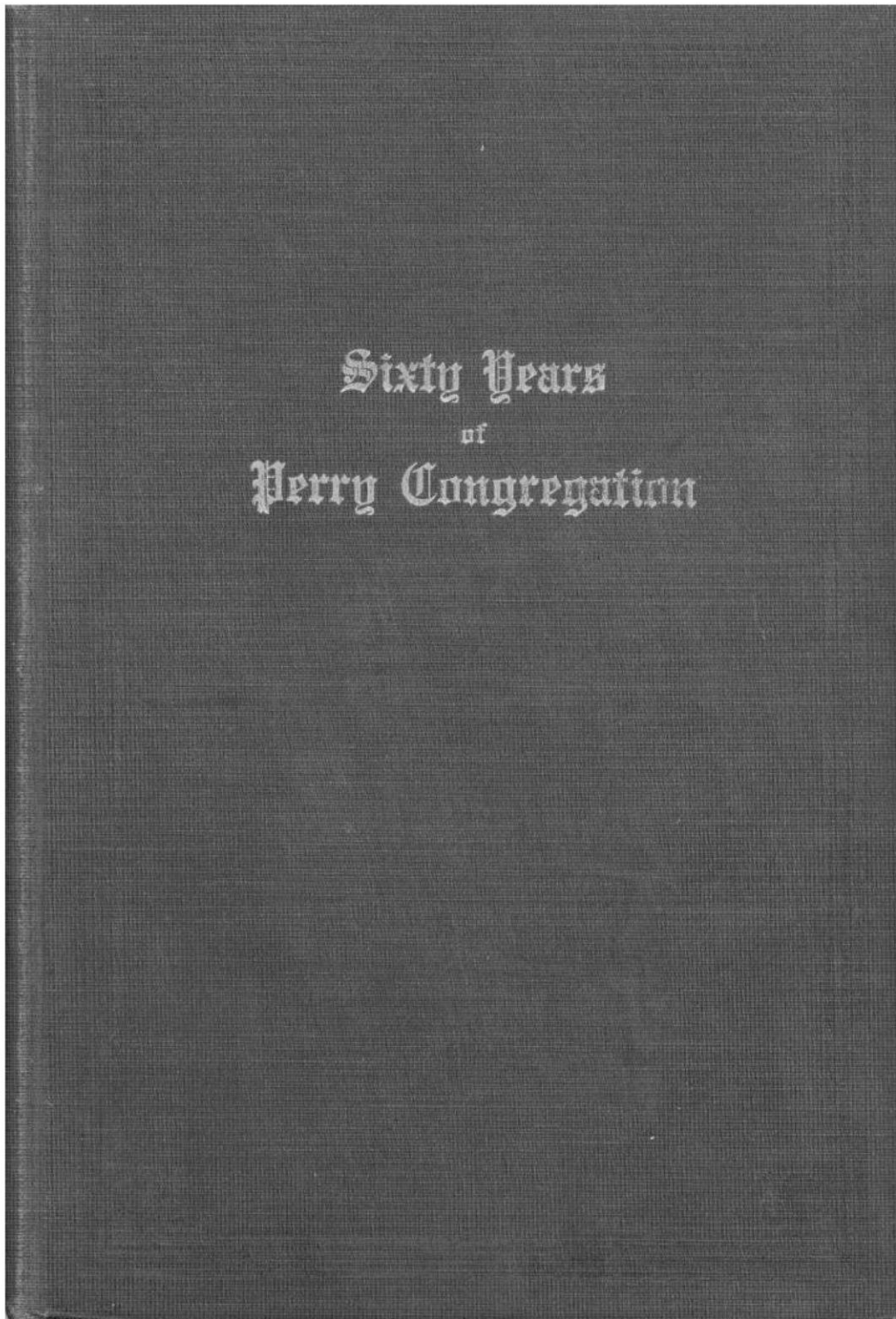
The book was passed on to Miss Cornine Marie Swenson, youngest daughter of Adeline and George, who presented it to Ralph Elliott Swenson, son of her brother Ralph Johan Swenson, in 1971. His son, Roger H. B. Swenson, made it available for scanning. Dave Battey (who computerized this book) and Roger Swenson are the oldest grandsons of Ralph Johan Swenson.



*Sixty Years of Perry Congregation*

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Original Book Cover — 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> by 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Inches



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# Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

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## Perry Church and Surroundings — Circa 1990

*Photo compliments of Peter R. Rathbun of Rathbun Associates*





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