

Centennial



First Presbyterian Church
Larned, Kansas
1873 - 1973

1873

1973

Centennial

First Presbyterian Church

Larned, Kansas

August 19 to August 26, 1973

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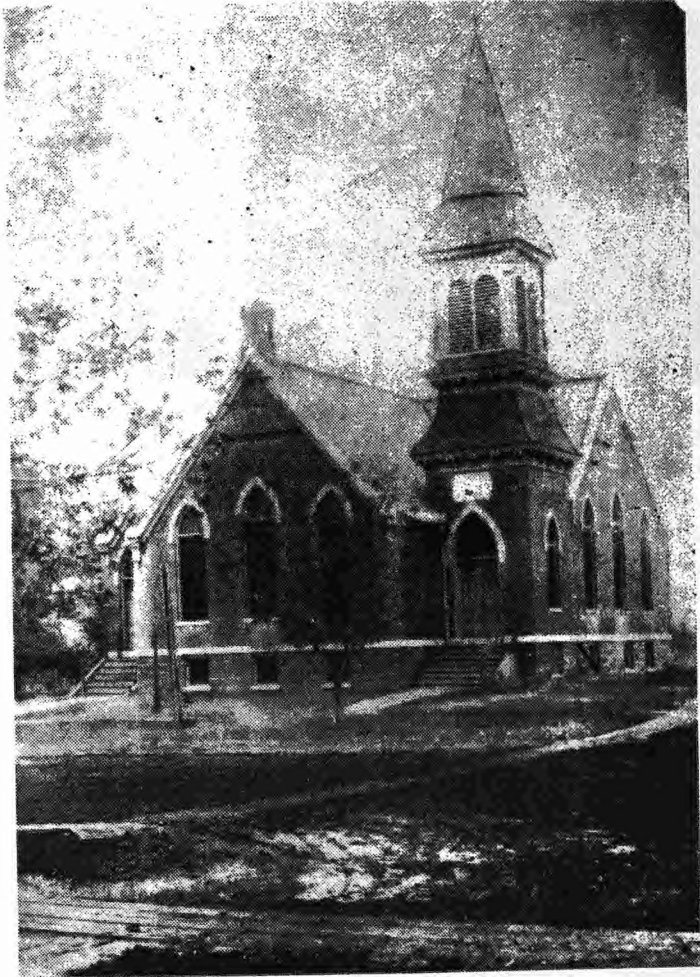
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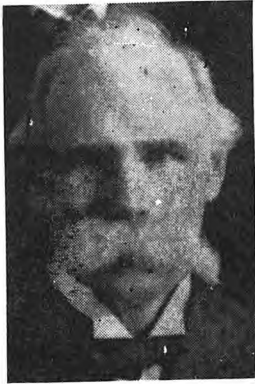


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Larned Presbyterian Church
1888

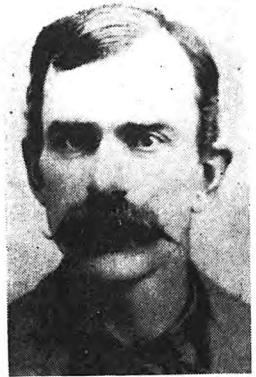
Lightning destroyed the spire in 1896 and funds were not
available to rebuild it.



W. R. Carr

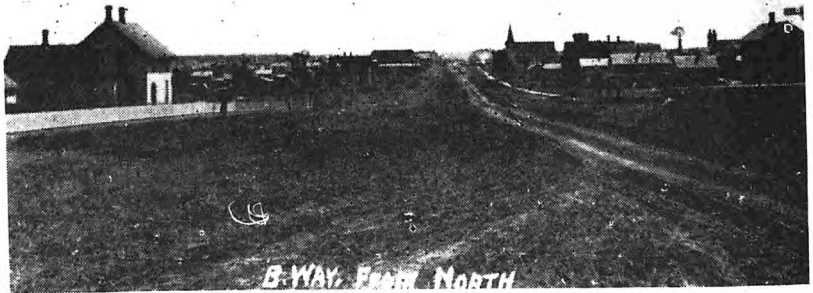


Mrs. Patience Carr



Calvin Carr

Charter members of the Larned Church.



Larned's North Broadway in 1886.

Larned's North Broadway in 1886. In the background can be seen the Presbyterian Church then being constructed.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Seventy-five years ago the seed of Presbyterianism was planted in this community, and that seed flourished and grew into the strong Presbyterian Church we have in Larned to-day. The growth of our church in this place has been marked by trying experiences, dramatic incidents and a spirit of progress. Lest our glorious heritage of history be forgotten, we shall attempt to set down in this historical booklet an account of the progress of the Presbyterian congregation in Larned, something of the personalities and careers of the men who have served the church as pastors, and to provide a pictorial record of the church and its people. Let us turn back to the time when Larned's history was measured by months rather than by years.

The town of Larned was named after Fort Larned, a few miles to the west of the townsite. This fort was constructed as one of a series to protect shipping on the Santa Fe Trail from the Indians. It also served as a place of refuge for the few settlers who had ventured into the frontier lands. Of interest to us as Presbyterians is the fact that Fort Larned, for which our town was named, was named for Gen'l B. F. Larned, Civil War Paymaster General, and at one time an Elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Detroit, Michigan. Larned, then, is Presbyterian even to its name!

The westward projection of the Santa Fe Railroad opened up this section of the country and brought in the settlers who were to build up the country and to populate the towns which were strung along the railroad like pearls of a necklace. The Larned townsite was laid out shortly before the railroad reached it July 20, 1872. With the arrival of families in Feb. of 1873, religious services were inaugurated, and a Union Sunday School was started June 16, 1873. Traveling preachers held services in the Santa Fe depot (one of the few buildings of the town, most of the people living in sod dug-outs), or in a building which was once a saloon, but which had been converted to serve as a school, a carpenter shop, a community gathering place, or for any other purpose to which the people wanted to put it. Among the leading citizens with a religious background who were interested in providing religious services for the new town were Col. W. R. Adams, a Methodist, and Dr. Wm. C. Tompkins, a Presbyterian. At that time the Presbyterians and the Methodists were the most active denominations in sending ministers to the frontier to serve the people there. For many years, even after the formal organization of their churches, the Methodists and the Presbyterians worshipped together, with a Presbyterian minister conducting the services one Sunday and the Methodist circuit rider conducting the services the next. The congregation was the same each Sunday,

for the Methodists attended church when the Presbyterian minister had charge, and the Presbyterians were in attendance when the Methodist preacher was present.

The Presbytery of Emporia had sent Rev. Robert M. Overstreet westward along the Santa Fe Railroad as a missionary to the pioneers. Larned became one of his preaching appointments, and on July 13th, 1873, at the close of the morning worship service he asked all those who were interested in forming a Presbyterian Church in Larned to stay after the service. Seven persons stayed, and it was decided to delay formal action in organizing the church until Sunday, August 10th, in order that letters of dismissal might be obtained from the churches to which they belonged back East. To show the calibre of this man of God who was the founding minister of the Larned congregation, just the week before, July 5th, 1873, Mr. Overstreet had organized the Presbyterian Church at Lyons, Kansas, and he was responsible for the founding of most of the Presbyterian churches along the Santa Fe Railroad in Kansas.

Robert Mitchell Overstreet spent most of his life as a pioneer in the faith, founding and ministering to people on the frontier. He was born in Oldham County, Kentucky, Dec. 22, 1826, and was graduated from Indiana University in 1848. He took his theological training in Princeton Seminary, graduating with the class of 1851. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Indianapolis, Sept. 17, 1851, serving as stated supply at Georgetown and Shiloh, Ind., until he was called to be the stated supply of the Presbyterian Church at Paris, Ill. In 1853 he returned to Indiana to serve a year as stated supply at Newcastle and Hagerstown. From 1854 to 1866 he was a pioneer missionary to the western part of Texas, serving as stated supply at Georgetown and Pleasant Hill, Texas. He then returned to Indiana, serving as stated supply at Prospect, before moving to Sandwich, Illinois, in 1868. From 1869 to 1871 he was pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Emporia, Kansas, and was a member of the first school board of Emporia. From 1871 to 1877 he served the Presbytery of Emporia as a frontier missionary, founding numerous Presbyterian churches in Kansas. When this work was finished in 1877, he returned to the Larned congregation as pastor, and in October 1880 he returned to Lyons, Kansas, in the same capacity. With the founding of the College of Emporia, he became an agent for this Presbyterian institution of higher learning, soliciting funds for its buildings and equipment. His pioneering days were not finished, however, for when the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) was opened, he went to Beaver and served as stated supply from 1887 to 1894, when he retired. He died Feb. 17, 1915, in El Reno, Okla., at the age of 88.

When the people of Garfield, Kansas, discovered that the Presbyterians at Larned were going to organize a church on Sunday,

August 10th, they got together and organized a Congregational Church at Garfield on Saturday, August 9th, in order to claim the first organized church in the county. As agreed to on July 13th, the formal organization of the Larned Presbyterian Church was completed on Sunday morning, August 10th, 1873. Eight persons presented themselves for membership that Sunday: Dr. and Mrs. Tompkins from the Presbyterian Church of Leslie, Michigan, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Carr and son Calvin from the Congregational Church at Elgin, Illinois, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Leicham from the United Presbyterian Church of Olathe, Kans., and Mr. A. J. Boyd from the Presbyterian Church of Milton, Illinois. Mr. Boyd and Dr. Tompkins were installed as Ruling Elders, having previously been ordained to that office in their former congregations. The church was enrolled as a part of Emporia Presbytery, and remained a part of this Presbytery until a new Presbytery was formed and named for the town of Larned, which at that time was predicted to become the chief city in western Kansas. Mr. Overstreet continued to serve the Larned church along with his other missionary appointments until the spring of 1874, when he relinquished this charge to Rev. James C. McElroy.

Before we proceed further, let us say a word or two about the people who were the charter members of our church. Perhaps the most colorful was Dr. Tompkins. He was a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian from Leslie, Michigan, who decided to come west, and settling in Larned he became the town's press-agent, telling the world of the beauty and bounty of the natural resources of western Kansas in general and Larned in particular. He was the possessor of a M.D. degree, but he did not practice medicine, turning instead to the publishing of a newspaper, which was the first in Larned. He was also the owner and manager of a hotel, and was interested in everything in the community, a real booster of local enterprises. A. J. Boyd was a merchant who migrated to Kansas. He was not in good health, and died in 1887. He had been an Elder in the Presbyterian church at Milton, Illinois, and was installed with Dr. Tompkins as an Elder in the Larned church. W. R. Carr was a veteran of the Civil War. He and his family were strong supporters of the Larned church until they left the community soon after the church was constructed. Calvin Carr, who died in Wickensburg, Ariz., in 1942, was the last surviving charter member of our church. Mr. and Mrs. Leicham came here from eastern Kansas, and then moved on to New Mexico. They had a farm near Larned, what is now the Robin Brown place. By 1888 all the charter members of the Larned church were gone from the community, but the church had found new hands to carry its responsibility.

In 1873, a Presbyterian minister who was a veteran of the Civil War, took up a homestead near Larned, and in 1874 he was invited to take over the pastorate of the Larned Presbyterian Church, then meeting in



Services were held in this building until 1886.

the G.A.R. Hall on Main Street. This man was the Rev. James C. McElroy, who served as pastor until Rev. R. M. Overstreet returned to the pastorate of the Larned church in March, 1877. James C. McElroy was born in Morgan County, Ohio, October 18, 1831, receiving his education at Hanover College and Western Theological Seminary. Between the time he was in college and the time he was matriculated at Western Seminary, he was principal of the academy at Highland, Kansas, which later became Highland College. During the Civil War he served as 1st Lt. in Co. H. 13th Kans. Inf., a company made up mainly of pupils from his school. With the close of the Civil War, he married Martha S. Paxton, the daughter of Dr. J. D. Paxton, pioneer missionary in Beyrout, Syria. She died less than a year after her marriage. Mr. McElroy was ordained at Summitt, Iowa, in August, 1868, serving as pastor of the churches at Troy and Martinsburg, Iowa. He homesteaded in Kansas near Larned, and in 1875 he married Eunice E. Green of Pennsylvania, bringing his bride to Kansas. Mrs. McElroy died at Topeka in 1948, at the age of 101. After serving the Larned church, he spent much of his time organizing churches in Kansas. He served as pastor at Chase, Galva, Medicine Lodge, Thayer, Louisburg, Kansas, before retiring in 1897 on account of his health. He died in Topeka, Kansas, Jan. 31, 1908.

The Larned church grew rapidly under the care of Rev. James McElroy and under the pastorate of Rev. R. M. Overstreet when he returned to become the full-time pastor at Larned.

When Mr. Overstreet left Larned in October, 1880, Rev. Charles Sturdevant, a retired Presbyterian minister, served the church as stated supply as long as his health permitted. Mr. Sturdevant had a long and interesting career. He was born in the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania,

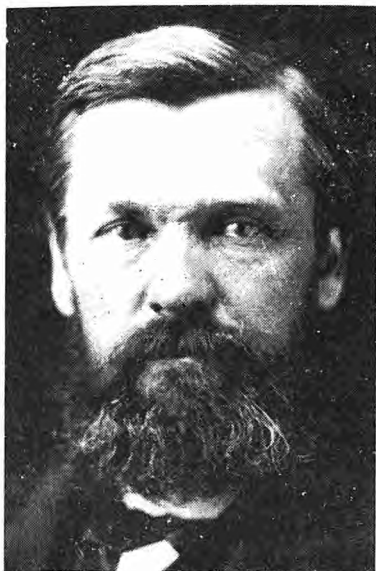
Jan. 20, 1808, graduated from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, in 1834. His first pastorate was at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, where he married Miss Sarah Wardell in 1835. Later pastorates were at Hamilton, Ohio; Connersville, Richmond and New Albany, Indiana. At New Albany, Indiana, his pastorate directly preceded that of the famous Henry Ward Beecher. For six years Mr. Sturdevant was agent for the Presbyterian Board of Domestic Missions in a territory that extended over seven Southern states, and he preached for some time at Natchez, Mississippi. Having strong abolitionist beliefs, he and his wife met with precarious situations during their work in the South. Returning to the North, he was President of the Springfield Female Seminary at Springfield, Ohio. For the four years after leaving the Seminary at Springfield, he was President of McLean Institute in Indianapolis, Indiana. This school was closed after the Civil War and in 1865 the Sturdevant family moved to Independence, Mo., then to Olathe, Kansas, in 1870 and in 1876 they came to Larned, Kansas. Mr. Sturdevant was stricken with paralysis in 1883 and died at Larned July 31, 1886.

About this time the women of the Larned Presbyterian Church produced a revival which deepened the spiritual life of the church. I quote a part of a letter written by Mrs. M. L. Moore to her daughter Mrs. Hurin telling about this revival. I quote her letter:

"Ours is a Presbyterian church made up of many who were members of other denominations. Therefore each one had to bear and forbear with one another more or less in order to preserve unity, and we all got along so nicely that the isms were all forgotten. On the Sabbath our church would be crowded, but our prayer meetings scarce ever exceeded two dozen. I believe one dozen would be the average out of one hundred and fifty church members, and at the prayer meetings nearly everyone had to be called upon to take part. There was little voluntary service to the Lord. As the summer months came the attendance grew less and less, until finally only the ladies would be present and no one to lead the meeting—as—"Women must be silent." Oh how our hearts ached—how we hungered for the good prayer meetings we had had back home. One day two sisters met and talked about the prayer meetings and were led to pray about it, then promised each other they would continue to pray about it every day until the Lord fulfilled His promise to us. "Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass," and we did commit that prayer meeting to Him, and we did trust and felt confident that He would bless us. One Sabbath morning our pastor (Mr. Overstreet) very much to the surprise of everyone, gave out that—The Women's prayer meeting would be held in the church on Wednesday evening. Mrs. Carr would please lead it. The gentlemen need not consider themselves excluded, however, if they chose to come, they would, no doubt, be welcomed. This was quite an innovation in this church, as ladies heretofore were supposed to keep silent in church. Well, we ladies talked, laughed and prayed over it. We felt that the dear Lord had undertaken for us and was about to pour out His spirit upon us, but in a different way than we had expected. We had none of us ever led a prayer meeting, but we dare not refuse the responsibility placed upon us. We felt the Lord would be with us and if He be for us who can be against us, therefore "in

His strength" we would go forward. We promised to earnestly pray for the leader, that she would be only an instrument in His hand for His honor and glory, that we would come as empty vessels for Him to fill and then use as He had need of us and for all assembled that God would bless them. We agreed that it was best that in the meetings to call upon no one, but to let the Spirit move upon each one. The first night there were nearly seventy-five present. Many gentlemen came. Some said they thanked God for putting the prayer meeting into the hands of the women. Some came expecting a grand failure, but when Christ is the head, there is no failure. . . We had a grand meeting, one never to be forgotten. It was the beginning of the great feast our Lord had prepared for us. The ladies carried it on for a few weeks, then appointed a gentleman for one week, and a lady for the next and so on, and it grew and prospered until when it came time for the usual "week of prayer" then the revival really began in earnest, and for six weeks continued with unabated interest. The seventh and eighth weeks we missed Monday and Tuesday evenings, but started again Wednesday, and continued until Sunday night. Our pastor was obliged to be absent part of the time on account of sickness in his family, but the meetings continued on. Sixty-two united with the church, many of them heads of families. There were two lawyers, also the professor of our school, and other well to do citizens."

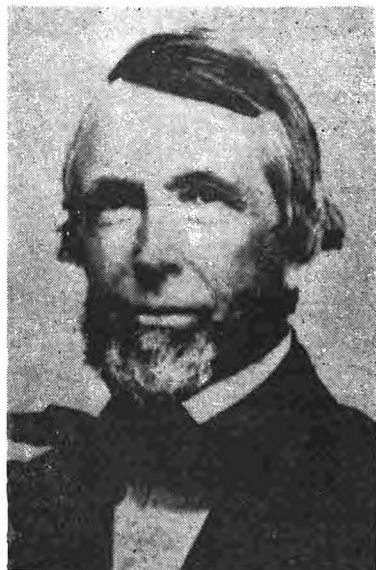
The Rev. Albert E. Thomson was installed as pastor of the church on October 14, 1881. He was born in Lawrence County, Pa., May 10, 1831, graduated from Jefferson College in 1853, and attended Western Theological Seminary from 1854 to 1857. The Presbytery of Beaver granted him a preaching license in December of 1856 and the Presbytery of Chicago ordained him in June of 1858. His first pastorate was at Oswego, Ill., from 1857 to 1860. He served Maryville and Milford Center, Ohio, from 1860 to 1867, Galion, Ohio, for one year, Apple Creek, Ohio, from 1868 to 1874, and Rushville, Ind., from 1874 to 1881, when he came to Larned, Kansas. One of the things that makes Mr. Thomson remembered is his large family. He needed two houses to take care of his family, the boys using one of the houses for sleeping rooms, sharing the house with Mr. Thomson's study, and the girls sleeping in the other house, preparing the meals there, etc. These two small houses occupied by the Thomsons stood at the corner of 8th and Santa Fe streets. During the pastorate of Mr. Thomson the site of the present church was purchased by the Band of Workers, women's organization of the church. The congregation made plans for the erection of a church and began to collect money in a building fund. A public scandal involving members of the church caused difficulty in the church, and in June, 1884, Mr. Thomson accepted a call to become the pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Spearville, Kansas. The year he left Larned, he was honored by the Synod of Kansas by being elected its moderator. After leaving Larned, Mr. Thomson served the church at Spearville, Kansas, from 1884 to 1887, then served Coldwater, Kansas, from 1888 to 1889. Leaving Kansas, he served Talaquali, Indian Terr., from 1889 to 1892, and from 1892 until his retirement in 1897, he was a Home Missionary in Oklahoma. He died at Meeker, Oklahoma, Nov. 1, 1906.



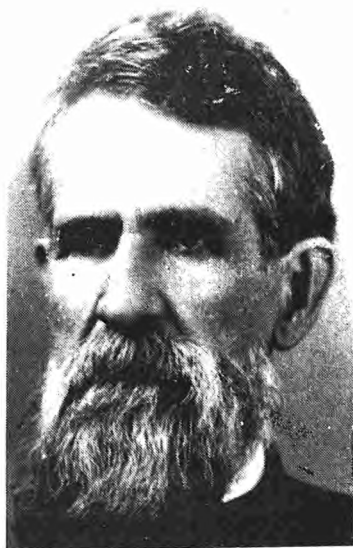
Rev. Robert M. Overstreet
Organized Church Aug. 10, 1873
1873-1874; 1877-1880



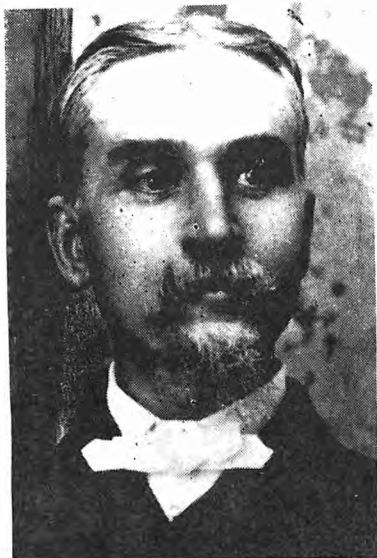
Rev. James C. McElroy
1874-1877



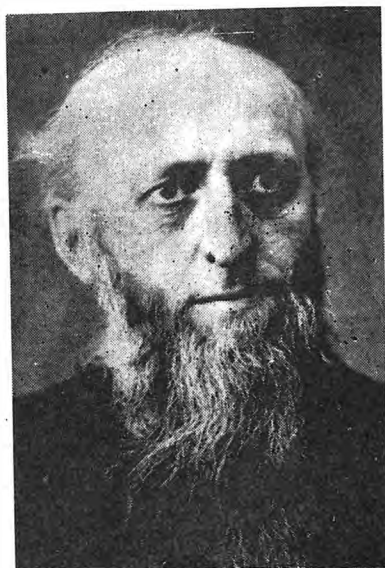
Rev. Charles Sturdevant
1880-1881



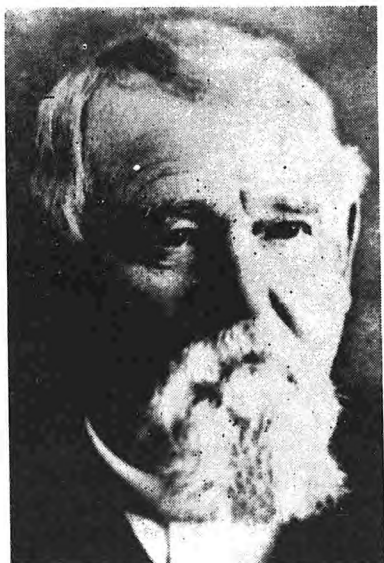
Rev. Albert E. Thomson
1881-1884



Rev. Henry M. Shockley
1884-1887



Rev. B. Frank Boyle
1887-1891



Rev. James Haswell, D.D.
1891-1896

Rev. Hiram G. Fonken

1898-1899

(No Picture Available)

When the Larned pulpit was left vacant with the departure of Rev. A. E. Thomson, the church called the Rev. H. M. Shockley as pastor. Mr. Shockley was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Hutchinson, Kansas, before coming to Larned. Henry M. Shockley was born in Dover, Delaware, in 1824, and graduated from Miami University in Ohio, with an M.A. in 1855. In 1857 he was graduated from Northwestern Theological Seminary (now McCormick) at Chicago, and was licensed by the Presbytery of Oxford. The Presbytery of Whitewater ordained him in 1859, and he served the church at Cambridge City, Indiana, from 1859 to 1862. From 1863 to 1869 Mr. Shockley was Principal of the Public School at New Castle, Indiana, serving a part of that time as Stated Supply of the church at Connersville, Ind. Leaving Indiana, he was pastor at Belle Centre and Huntsville, Ohio from 1870 to 1877. He was pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Sedalia, Mo., from 1877 to 1880, and Stated Supply of the Presbyterian Church at Hutchinson, Kansas, from 1881 to 1884. He was pastor of the Larned church from 1884 until 1887 when he went to Spearville and Cimarron, Kansas, as Stated Supply. Afterwards he served Wamego, Kansas, 1890-1893; Cawker City, Kans., 1893-1896; Phillipsburg, Kans., 1897-1899. Upon his retirement in 1899, he returned to Lewisville, Indiana, where he had a farm, and there he died, December 31, 1905, at the age of 79.

The church building was constructed during the pastorate of Mr. Shockley. I will quote parts of the newspaper account that appeared in the **Larned Chronoscope** for November 19, 1886, following the formal dedication of the church building, which had occurred the previous Sunday;

"Since the earliest days of Larned the Presbyterian organization has been known as one of the most energetic and prosperous of all our live religious denominations, and with the completion of the dedicatory services held on Sunday last, they have realized one of their brightest hopes—that they have a house of worship with all the modern conveniences and fully up with the times, and which all our citizens might look upon with an honorable pride. For a long time past work has been in progress on this building, its foundation having been laid early in 1885, and the first service was held in it about two weeks ago. It is an elegant brick building, containing besides the main auditorium and elegant lecture room, connected with the main room by sliding doors, used for prayer meetings, etc., and two small rooms for library purposes. It is heated by a large furnace of the most approved pattern, well ventilated and lighted by gas. The seats are comfortable and the floor nicely carpeted, and the seating capacity is about 420(?).

"At an early hour Sunday the people began to assemble and before 11:00 o'clock came the house was crowded to the utmost capacity, and hundreds were turned away, unable to obtain even standing room. The services began with a voluntary on the organ by Miss Hartstein, which was followed with an anthem appropriate for the occasion. Rev. Shockley then invoked the Divine blessing and the congregation sang a hymn. W. H. Brown then arose and gave a historical account of the church. . . . 'There

have been a total of 366 members enrolled since the organization, 92 of whom were received by profession and the remainder by letter. Twelve members have died and several have moved away.'

"The financial statement read at the dedicatory service showed that the cost of the grounds, church and furniture totaled \$9,555 of which \$5,977 had been paid. The balance of \$3,578 was pledged through \$2,778 by individuals and \$800 by the Presbyterian Board of Church Erection. With the bell to be added and other expenses, the total investment in the church property will reach \$10,000. The officers, members and pastor of this church are to be congratulated upon their pleasant and beautiful building which is alike a credit to their good taste and good judgment, and especially credit is due those ladies composing the Band of Workers, who have done so much towards securing its completion. This together with their new brick parsonage, makes it one of the most complete and convenient church properties in the state."

A class of young ladies in the Sunday School undertook the raising of funds to provide a bell for the church, and so successful were they in the project, that not one, but three bells were purchased. Through some misunderstanding, only two of the bells were delivered and installed in the tall spire of the church.

Originally our church was built without a basement, and when one was dug under it several years after, it was "the first basement in Larned." The church was under construction in the boom days of the eighties. Pledges were obtained easily and all went well until without warning the bubble burst. Then money was just as scarce as it had been plentiful the day before the collapse. . . . Here was depression, weather and unpaid pledges, a bad combination. The women came to the rescue and agreed to raise the due, well over a thousand dollars. This they did by serving dinners, making cookies and yeast, tatting lace, and doing all they could to make money to help the church. Hard times came to Larned, many of the members moved to other places, and the population of Larned dropped at an alarming rate, but the Presbyterian Church endured.

Mr. Shockley built a brick house to the north of the church on property belonging to the church, with the understanding that when he left Larned, the church could buy the property for a manse. The house was too small for a manse, in the judgment of many of the members, although it was large enough for the family of Mr. Shockley. When the boom days of Larned were past, and Mr. Shockley went on to other pastorates, the church was financially unable to keep its part of the agreement to purchase the house which stood on their property for a manse. They came to terms with Mr. Shockley and transferred the property to him so he could dispose of the house he owned. How often since have we wished that this property had been retained for use of the Presbyterian congregation!

Rev. B. F. Boyle was the first of the pastors who were to serve Larned during the trying days of the lean years of the late eighties and early nineties. Rev. H. M. Shockley left Larned in October, 1887, and Rev. B. F. Boyle came as Stated Supply in November of the same year. He served the Larned church until February, 1891.

Rev. B. Frank Boyle was born at Johnstown, Pa., September 26, 1844, attended Lafayette College and attended Western Theological Seminary from 1870 to 1873. The Presbytery of Steubenville licensed him to preach on April 21, 1872, and he was ordained by the Presbytery of Kittanning, June 24, 1873. His pastorates were at Slate Lick and Shradler's Grove, Pa. (1873-1882); Irwin, Pa. (1882-1887); Larned, Kans. (1887-1891); Salem, Ohio, (1891-1899) and at Atchison, Kans., from 1900 until his retirement. He died July 23, 1912. One item that often appears in the minutes of the congregational meetings of the Larned church during pastorates of this era is the notation that a committee from the congregation and the Session was appointed to wait upon the pastor to offer him what money the treasurer had been able to collect and to ask the minister to accept it in lieu of the salary the church owed him. Usually the minister was willing to accept what the people had collected, and to cancel the balance due, because he knew the people were doing all they could to meet their obligations.

When Mr. Boyle accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church at Salem, Ohio, in February, 1891, the Larned church called Rev. James Haswell, an Englishman with a distinctive brogue. We have been able to discover very little about Mr. Haswell's life and training apart from the time he was pastor of the Larned church. Before coming to Larned he was pastor of Presbyterian churches at Orleans, Stamford and Friendship, Nebr., and when he left Larned in October, 1896, he accepted the pulpit of the Presbyterian church at Effingham, Kansas. Times were hard during Dr. Haswell's ministry. In 1896, when Mr. Haswell wanted to leave Larned, there was no money in the treasury to pay him his salary (\$600 per year). An act of God provided the money for paying the minister in a very unusual way. Lightning struck the tall spire of the Presbyterian Church in Larned and burned it to the masonry work of the tower. There was insurance on the church building, and the money received from the insurance company in payment of the damage claim was used to pay Dr. Haswell his back salary when he went to his new parish. The church was left without a spire until better times prevailed, when the stubby belfry was erected to carry the bells of the church.

With the departure of Dr. Haswell, the Larned church was in such poor financial condition that it could not hire a pastor. Arrangements were made with the Presbytery of Larned to secure half of the services

of Larned Presbytery's pastor at large, Rev. A. H. Parks, in return for a pledge to pay \$60 during the period from Dec. 6, 1896 to April 1, 1897. Mr. Parks preached during this time of emergency and an attempt was made to link the Larned church with the church at Spearville with each church contracting for half of a minister's services. In May, 1897, Rev. Sidney Stone, of La Moure, N.D., accepted the call to the Larned pulpit and moved his family to the parish. The summer of 1897 was one of the hottest Kansas could produce, so in the fall of 1897, Mr. Stone, who had not as yet been installed as pastor at Larned, took his family and departed for the cooler climate of North Dakota, from whence he had come to Larned.

It took about six months for the Larned church to find a minister who would come as pastor of the impoverished church. In March, 1898, Rev. H. G. Fonken came to Larned to serve until April of 1899, a year full of trouble for the church.

Rev. Hirman George Fonken was born May 28, 1865, attended Dubuque University, and received a diploma from McCormick Seminary in the class of 1893. The Presbytery of Dubuque ordained him in 1892. His pastorates include Emerson, Nebr. (1893-4); Williams, Iowa (1894-6); Eldora, Ia. (1896-8); Larned, Kans. (1898-9); Third Presby. Ch., Topeka, Kans. (1900-1901); Nortonville, Kans. (1901-04); Argentine, Kans. (1904-1909); Central Presby. Church, Kansas City, Kans. (1909-10); Latour and Freeman Churches, Kansas City, Mo. (1911-15). From 1915 until his death he was engaged in business in Kansas City.

For almost a year after the departure of Mr. Fonken, the Larned church was without a pastor, but times were improving the prosperity of the community. At a meeting of the congregation held March 16, 1900, a call was issued to the Rev. Thomas W. Rainey, a recent graduate of the Danville Theological Seminary in Kentucky. He was installed as pastor June 14, 1900, and served as pastor until November, 1902. After leaving Kansas because of the health of Mrs. Rainey, Mr. Rainey was pastor for eight years of the Eastminster Presbyterian Church at Cincinnati, Ohio. After that he entered the field of journalism and teaching. Later he was pastor of the Mt. Horeb Prsbyterian Church for twenty-eight years and at age seventy-seven he was still serving as associate editor of the Lexington, Ky., Herald Leader.

The Larned church was vacant after the departure of Mr. Rainey until July 17, 1903, when a call was issued for the services of Dr. Robert Coltman at a salary of \$800 per year and the free use of the manse. This manse was located on Johnson street at Ninth. Dr. Coltman was pastor of the church at Larned from 1903 to May, 1908. He was installed Oct. 22, 1903.

Rev. Robert Coltman, M.D., was born in Washington, D.C., in 1841. He was trained in medicine at Columbian University in the District of Columbia, receiving his M.D. degree in 1865. For a number of years he was a medical missionary to China. The Presbytery of Muskogee licensed him to preach in 1888, and the Presbytery of Santa Fe ordained him a minister in 1889. He was Supt. of Indian Education under the Board of Home Missions at Wealaka Indian Seminary, Albuquerque, N.M., from 1887 to 1891. Other work included a pastorate at the First Presbyterian Church of Flagstaff, Ariz., (1891-3); pastor at large for Wyoming (1893-97); pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of La Junta, Colo. (1897-1903). After his pastorate at Larned, Kansas, (1903-1908) he returned to La Junta to retire and died there, October 23, 1910. Under the leadership of Dr. Coltman, the Larned church grew in strength and in financial stability. The ministry of Dr. Coltman was one of the most beneficial the Larned church had enjoyed to this time, for he knit the congregation together in loyalty and service.

The Larned church gave a call to Rev. R. C. Fleming on May 3rd, 1908. A salary of \$1000 a year and free use of the manse was pledged in the call, and Mr. Fleming was installed June 29, 1908.

Rev. Roy C. Fleming was the son of a pioneer Presbyterian minister in Kansas. He was born at Arkansas City, Kansas, August 1, 1881, graduated from the College of Emporia in 1902, and from Princeton



Larned Presbyterian Church
1910

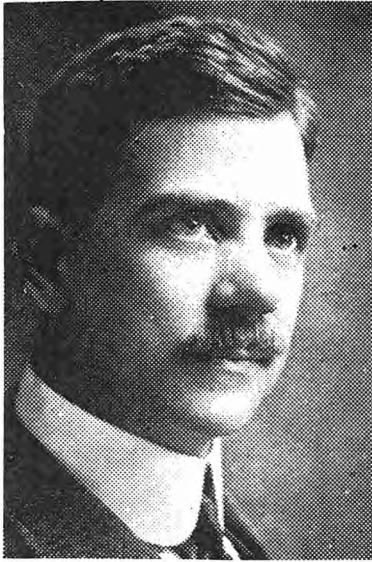
Theological Seminary in 1905. The Presbytery of Emporia ordained him on May 15, 1905, and he was installed as pastor of the church at Kingman, Kansas, which he served until 1908 when he accepted a call to the church at Larned. His ministry in Larned was brought to an untimely end by his death at Larned, June 12, 1912. Mr. Fleming was the only minister to die while in the Larned pastorate.

In November of 1912, the Rev. J. T. M. Knox, Ph.D., was called to the pastorate of the Larned church at a salary of \$1400 per year, free use of the manse and a month's vacation each year. Dr. Knox, although troubled by personal harassment, led the Larned church in one of its most expansive periods. During the early part of his pastorate an annex was added to the church and the pipe organ bought and installed. Dr. Knox was one of the most influential preachers the Larned church has ever had in the pulpit.

Rev. J. T. M. Knox was born at Wheeling, W. Va., July 16, 1866, and graduated from Franklin College in 1888 and attended Western Theological Seminary. He had a Doctor of Philosophy degree, and was in every respect a gentleman and a scholar. The Presbytery of St. Clairsville licensed him on April 22, 1890, and he was ordained on May 24, 1893, by the Presbytery of New Castle. From 1893 to 1895 he was pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Port Deposit, Md., and from 1895 to 1897 he served the Presbyterian Church at Watsonville, Pa. Other pastorates before Larned were at Cairo, Illinois, 1897-1905; Miles City, Montana, 1905-1908; Minneapolis, Kansas, 1908-1910; Marshfield, Ore., 1910-11; North Bend, Ore., 1911-12. Dr. Knox served the Larned church until December, 1919. Leaving Larned, he was pastor at Maroa, Ill.; Jefferson City, Tenn.; Morristown, Tenn., and White Pine, Tenn. He retired about 1935, and passed away at Morristown, Tenn., Sept. 4, 1943, after a long illness.

The seven year pastorate of Dr. Knox was followed by a short pastorate of eighteen months by Rev. C. Levi Shelby, D.D. The congregation of the Larned church called Dr. Shelby to their pulpit at a salary of \$2000 per year, free use of the manse, and a month's vacation each year.

Rev. Clarence Levi Shelby, D.D., was born Oct. 26, 1889. He took his schooling at Franklin College, Temple University, Dubuque University, McCormick Theological Seminary, and Chicago Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1913 by the North Central Association of Congregational churches of Ohio and transferred to the Presbyterian church in 1914. His pastorates were: Lucas, O. (1911-17) Lexington, Ill. (1917-19); Larned, Kansas (1920-21); Ellsworth, Kans. (1922-25); Gor-



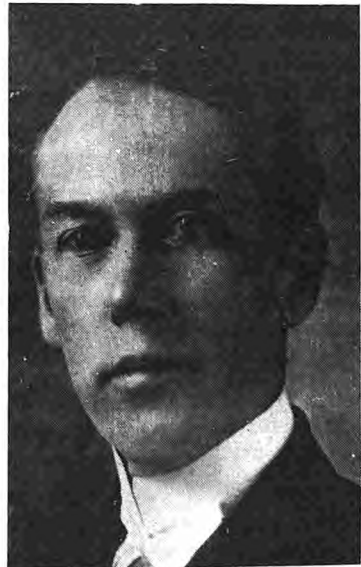
Rev. Thomas W. Rainey
1900-1902



Rev. Robert Coltman, M.D.
1903-1908



Rev. Roy C. Fleming
1908-1912



Rev. J. T. M. Knox, Ph.D.
1912-1919



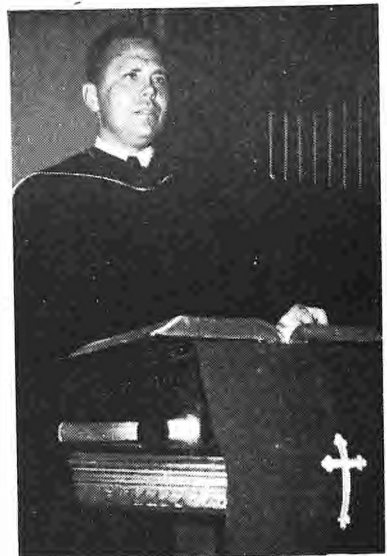
Rev. C. Levi Shelby, D.D.
1920-1921



Rev. Jay C. Everett, D.D.
1922-1930



Rev. Alfred G. Cheney
1930-1946



Rev. Ralph M. Martin
1946-1955

don, Nebr. (1925-30); Greensfield, Tenn. (1930-34); Rayland, Ohio (1934-); and Jonesboro, Tenn., then Fleming, Ky.

After the departure of Dr. Shelby, a call was issued to Rev. Jay Carroll Everett, D.D., on December 4, 1921, at a salary of \$2000 per year, free use of the manse, and a month's vacation each year. Dr. Everett accepted the call and was installed as pastor in January, 1922. During the ministry of Dr. Everett the old manse was sold and the manse on West 9th street was purchased. The pastorate of Dr. Everett lasted for eight and a half years, the longest pastorate of any minister in the Larned church, exceeded in length only by that of the Rev. A. G. Cheney, who served the church for sixteen years. Dr. Everett served until May, 1930.

Rev. Jay Carroll Everett was born January 30, 1871, at Turin, N.Y. When he was a child his parents moved to Kansas and he lived and ministered in this state all his life. He graduated from the College of Emporia in 1894 and this college later honored him with a D.D. degree. He graduated from Princeton Seminary in 1898. The Presbytery of Wichita licensed him in 1898 and the Presbytery of Osborne ordained him the same year. Dr. Everett served the following Kansas churches: Oakley and Colby (1898-1901); Norton (1901-03); Wakeeney (1903-09); Third Presbyterian Church, Topeka (1909-14); Paola (1914-19); Asst. Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Topeka (1919-22); Larned (1922-30); Minneapolis (1930-38); Scandia (1938-40); Solomon (1940-1941). He died while serving the Solomon church, Nov. 27, 1941. Dr. Everett was Stated Clerk of the Synod of Kansas from 1912 to 1941, and was Moderator of the Synod of Kansas in 1926.

Rev. A. G. Cheney was called to the Larned church at a meeting on July 6, 1930, at a salary of \$2200 per year, free use of the manse, participation in the pension fund, and month's vacation each year. Mr. Cheney served the Larned church for sixteen years, through the trying days of the drought, through the years of World War II, until he left the Larned church in August, 1946.

Rev. Alfred Goldery Cheney was born Feb. 5, 1886, in Iowa. He was graduated from Coe College in 1913 and from the McCormick Theological Seminary in 1916. He took additional work at Garrett Biblical Institute in 1922. The Presbytery of Waterloo ordained him in 1916, and from 1916 to 1923 he served as a Foreign Missionary at Oaxaca, Mexico. He served as a Home Missionary at Bisbee, Ariz. (1923-24); Stated Supply at Clifton, Kans. (1924-30); pastor at Larned, Kansas (1930-46); work with National Mission in Kansas (1946-7), then pastorates at Irwin Memorial Presbyterian Church in Hutchinson, Kansas and First Presbyterian Church in Topeka. He has retired and lives in Topeka.

The Rev. Ralph M. Martin, was called to the Larned church, Sept. 15, 1946, at a salary of \$3000, free use of the manse, and vacation time of one month each year, with participation in the pension plan. He was installed as pastor, October 18, 1946.

Rev. Ralph M. Martin was born in Chicago, Illinois, August 12, 1912. He graduated from Wooster College in 1936 and from McCormick Seminary in 1939. He served the Alexis, Ill., church for two years and the Elm Street Presbyterian Church in Alton, Illinois, for two years before entering the Navy as a Chaplain in 1943. He served almost four years in uniform, coming to Larned upon his release from service. The Presbytery of Baltimore licensed him in June, 1938, and the Presbytery of Rock River ordained him in April of 1939.

We are deeply grateful to the Reverend Ralph M. Martin who did the research and the writing of our first seventy-five year history. The minutes of our early session meetings which date from 1873 to 1900 were faded and scarcely legible. Mr. Martin took the time to transcribe them in type for the archives of our church. This, too, is much appreciated.

As was stated the Rev. Ralph M. Martin's pastorate at the First Presbyterian Church of Larned began October 15, 1946. At the annual meeting the following January (1947) a report was given by Will Vernon, chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Hugh Shuss, local contractor, regarding the condition of the church building and the cost of repair. Discussion followed whether it would be more practical to repair the church or consider building a new one. Roscoe Peterson made the motion that the congregation undertake the construction of a new church building as soon as practical. A committee was chosen to act with the Board of Trustees to consider both temporary repair and the building of a new church.

In October of that same year a report was given that the cost of a new church building would be \$100,000 or more. Again Roscoe Peterson made the motion that we conduct a campaign to obtain contributions to the amount of \$50,000 toward the cost of a new building. This was to be in cash or pledges payable within one year. The motion was made by Robin Brown that the committee base their plans on building on the church site at 8th and Bradway. Both of these motions were carried.

In the pastor's 1948 report it is stated "The church has collected only about 25% of the money needed to replace the present building and at least \$50,000 more is required."

In the meantime in 1947 the church received citation of honor awards from General Assembly for the years 1942, '43, '44, '45 for ex-

ceeding its quotas to the War Time Service Fund. Another citation award was received for exceeding the quota to the Restoration Fund.

On October 1947 the session approved the union of the Band of Workers and the Missionary Society into the organization known as the Women's Council of the First Presbyterian Church.

The Band of Workers was organized March 22, 1882 when church services were held in the old G.A.R. Hall. Their first objective had been to raise funds for a suitable building site for their own church. Through the years these faithful women came to the rescue of the work of raising funds, repairing the church, adding equipment which included furniture, carpets, heating equipment, real estate, building of sidewalks, the erection of "hitchracks" along with many other projects.

The Missionary Society organized later was concerned with spiritual and missionary projects of the church.

In 1948 the Christian Faith and Life Curriculum was adopted for the Sunday School.

The Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in the fall of that same year.

At the Congregational meeting in January 1951 a recommendation of the session was adopted by the congregation to send the magazine Presbyterian Life to each contributing family and the item be included in the church budget.

At this same meeting the Church Building Committee reported that the minimum estimated cost of repairs to our building would be \$1779 and the Board of Trustees was authorized to start with the repairs and improvements. They were also authorized to purchase the 5 lots east of the church building which were owned by the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Later session minutes show that the treasurer of the Trustees was instructed to cash bonds amounting to \$7000 in the "Fund for Future Church Use" to purchase the property at 8th and Topeka.

The repairing of the church in 1951 was the first work done on the building in two decades.

After years of consideration the pipe organ was repaired in January 1953. The organ was bought and installed during the pastorate of the Rev. J.T. M. Knox. In the minutes of the Band of Workers dated March 12, 1913 is stated: "Should a pipe organ be decided on at the congregational meeting the Band voted to give \$500 toward the fund. Later the motion was amended and the Band pledged themselves to give \$1000 providing the Board added an addition to the church in which to place the organ." An annex was added to the building at that time.

Also in 1953 the installation of an air conditioning unit was added which was a great comfort to worshippers and increased summer time attendance.

At the annual January Congregational meeting in 1954 the following report of a committee of the Women's Council was read: "We move acceptance of the following resolution: Because it is evident that the present facilities of our Church and Sunday School are inadequate the Women's Council is requesting that the Building Committee be reactivated to carry out the wishes of the congregation as decided upon in a previous congregational meeting and report back in a short time." This was carried and by motion of the Board of Trustees was instructed to investigate and if possible transfer some funds from the General Fund to the Building Fund.

Charles Clutter, Jr., Robin Brown and Stanley Moffet were elected as additional members to the Building Committee. The first official meeting of this committee was held March 17, 1954 and it met regularly for weekly meetings and on call for special business until February 1956. At that time their meetings were reduced to once a month unless it was necessary to get together for special purpose.

In March the Building Committee was reorganized with Stanley Moffet as chairman and Robert Yeager, treasurer.

Since more space was needed for the Christian Education Department and traffic and parking were a major problem a motion to build at a new site was made at the special congregational meeting in May. When it passed a motion was made to rescind the action taken back in '47 to build at the present location. Another motion passed at that time was to move the present organ to the new church. It was decided to have a congregational supper and meeting the first Sunday of each month to receive a progress report from the Building Committee.

In August the Cleve Yeager tract, 300 feet by 443 feet, was purchased for \$16,000. Also that month the congregation moved to contract Cummaford Inc. to assist in a Fund Raising Campaign at a flat rate of \$600 per week for 5 to 6 weeks. Robin Brown accepted the appointment of campaign chairman.

In October a Consecration Service was conducted for the workers of the Building Funds Campaign by the Rev. Martin. The campaign raised just over \$117,000 in 6 weeks. Shaver and Shaver Architects of Salina were engaged to draw up the plans for the new church building.

The pastor's report for that year states: "The year 1954 will be remembered as the year of the Building Fund Drive and the year the church put before its members the greatest challenge ever to face the congregation."

In the spring of 1955 the Rev. Martin with his wife, Edna, and their three children moved to Camden, Ohio, where he became pastor of the Presbyterian Churches at Camden and Somerville, Ohio. They are presently living at Litchfield, Illinois where Mr. Martin is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church.

In September 1955 the plans and specifications of the new church as prepared by Shaver and Shaver Architects were presented to contractors for bids. The congregation authorized the session to sell the church site at 8th and Broadway including the vacant lots to the east.

The general contract for the construction of the church was let to ABR Contractors of Salina, Plumbing and Heating contract to A. A. Doerr Merc. Co., Larned, electrical contract to Spencer Smith Electric, Larned.

On October 2, 1955 at 2:30 p.m. the ground breaking ceremony was conducted by Dr. A. G. Cheney, former pastor of the church and the following members participating: Miss Virginia Reed, Mrs. E. F. Ammerman, Fred Reed, E. D. Frizell, C. Eugene Row, Mrs. Harold Deever and Miss Ann Yeager. The Rev. Robert Foster of Great Bend reminded the congregation of the gap between the ground-breaking and the burning of the mortgage, but expressed confidence that the church would discharge the obligation.

The Reverend Charles P. Ford was called to the Larned Church on December 4, 1955 at a salary of \$5000, free use of the manse, a month's vacation each year, with participation in the pension plan. A native of South Dakota, he attended Wheaton College at Wheaton, Illinois and prepared for the ministry at Omaha Seminary, Omaha, Nebraska. He had been in the South Dakota Synod of the Presbyterian Church for twelve years with pastorates at Lemmon, Wilmot and Scotland. The last two and a half years were spent at Scotland. The Fords, Charles and Doris with their four daughters ranging in age from twelve years to twenty months moved to Larned in February 1956. On February 12th Charles Ford was installed as pastor.

At the decision of the session later that month two services were scheduled for Easter Sunday morning, a custom that continued through 1966.

On May 13, 1956 an impressive ceremony was held when the Laying of the Cornerstone at the new church building was celebrated. Among the documents placed in the box was a copy of the "Diamond Jubilee" booklet containing the history of the church from 1873 to 1948, two brochures, one "In the Spirit of the Band of Workers" the other "In the Spirit of Proud Humility" both inspired by the Building committee and the Finance Campaign Committee. The cornerstone was set in place by

Frank Vratil with the following inscription upon it "First Presbyterian Church, Larned, Kansas, 1873-1956." The service was closed by a prayer of consecration by the Rev. Charles Ford, the Doxology and the Benediction.

In September the Church Life Committee of the session made the suggestions that we have Sunday morning greeters, provide child care service and the formation of a Board of Deacons. The session moved to accept the gift of a communion service from Dr. and Mrs. J. T. Naramore. The session also decided that the offering plates be made of mahogany and the communion accessories of brass.

On October 29, 1956 work of removing the organ from the old church and modernizing it for the new church was begun by the Kilgen Organ Company from which it was originally purchased. It was estimated that between three and four weeks would be required to complete this work which was contracted for \$8,185 by the Trustees of the church. Though it had seen much service its value had increased with the years so that with the improvements and installation in the new church its evaluation was considered approximately \$20,000.

The session decided that the pews of the old church were to be polished and moved to the new building for the time being.

The report of the Building Committee for 1956 states: "The Ladies Have Done It Again! It was their suggestion at the Annual Meeting in January '54 that the Building Committee be reactivated. Now 36 months and countless man-hours later the Building Committee is prepared to make a final inspection of the completed new church. Basic structure, foundations and footings are solid but in order to provide the necessary space some of the refinements of finish and trim have been sacrificed. So the Committee hopes the refinements etc. of this Church will be a continuing process and that we may grow spiritually far more than we have grown physically."

January 7, 1957 marked the day that the move into the new church building was made. The first service was held on Sunday January 13th. A notice in The Tiller and Toiler states, "Due to unforeseen difficulties it will be impossible to hold services in the sanctuary of the new Presbyterian church Sunday morning, but the regular 11 o'clock worship service will be held in the Fellowship room of the new church instead of the Sanctuary."

That evening the annual congregational meeting was held in the Fellowship hall with a church dinner for one hundred thirty-four people. A resolution of thanks was passed by official vote expressing appreciation to all the many that worked for months and years on this project. The people at both the morning and evening service unitedly expressed the theme of the worship message "Praise the Lord".

The formal dedication of the church followed on Feb. 24, 1957.

In June the Stewardship Committee reported the completion of the sale of the old church property to Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and the letting of the bid for the razing of the building. This work was done in August. The cornerstone of the old church which could not be found earlier was uncovered by the wrecking crew but its contents proved a disappointment since the box which had been stored therein had not been sealed securely and the contents were badly damaged by moisture. However the names of all but one of the members of the first building committee were legibly written on a sheet of paper on which was the letterhead "W. H. Camp owner of Cherry Dale Cattle Ranch" and the chairman of the committee. Other names were J. M. Diffenderfer, J. W. Rush, Dr. J. M. Cummins and the fifth almost obliterated but the first name was John and the surname ending with "house".

In the spring of 1959 a complete housecleaning of the church was done in preparation of entertaining Presbytery and Presbyterial in April.

In September the Mariners which had been organized in the spring of 1957 were granted permission to supervise the parking of cars during High School athletic events for a nominal parking fee.

At the annual Congregation dinner in January 1960 a decision was reached that starting the following year the officers normally elected at the congregational meeting would be elected at a special congregational meeting in the fall at the time that the budget is considered.

In July that same year the session reported the sale of the lots adjoining the old church to the City of Larned for \$9500.

At the Annual Congregational meeting January 21, 1962 a resolution was read addressed to the High Plains Presbytery stating that "the manse is in such physical condition that it is economically impractical to repair and remodel, and we desire to secure other manse facilities and to sell said present manse only when other suitable manse facilities have been secured by leasing, purchase or construction".

The Manse Building Committee was selected with Gene Row, chairman. Later their findings and recommendations were reported to the congregation. The committee was instructed to proceed with the building of the manse at an estimated cost of \$30,000 to \$32,000.

At this same time the decision was made to air-condition the church at an estimated cost of \$9,000.

In 1973 the old manse was sold for \$9000 less sales commission and closing costs. This with the generous gifts from friends and members of

the church along with the Campaign pledges made possible the final payment on the new manse and the air-conditioning in 1965.

On May 13, 1962 the new pews were dedicated. These were a memorial to Edith M. Reed given by H. M. Reed. The old pews were given to the First Baptist Church of Belpre, Kansas.

On December 10, 1962 the Rev. Charles Ford officially notified the session of his intent to request Presbytery to dissolve his relationship with the Larned Church as he had accepted a call of the Trinity Presbyterian Church of Manhattan, Kansas.

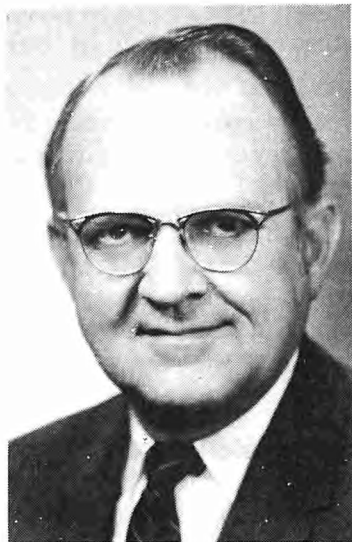
On January 2, 1963 Virginia Lupfer, church treasurer, presented the paid up Church Mortgage to Robert Yeager who represented the Church Building Committee. Mr. Yeager burned the mortgage in the presence of the Congregation.

Under the capable leadership of Mr. Ford the church made strides in many areas. The building of the church was completed and paid, leadership was organized for service, benevolence giving increased, two prayer and study groups were organized with regular meetings, one for women, the other for men. The Deacons were organized and the plans for the manse were started. The regular publication of the Presbyterian Visitor was begun which received national rating as a mimeographed church publication in 1959.

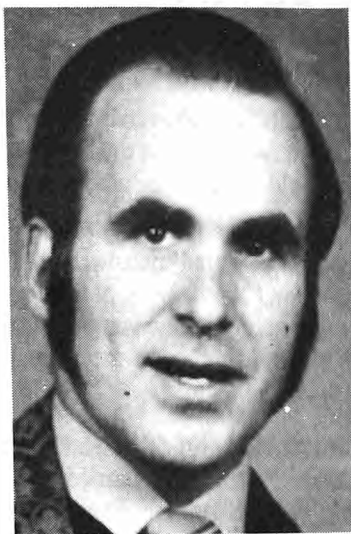
Charles Ford's last sermon to the Church on Sunday, January 27, '63 was fittingly entitled "Don't Park Here!" The Fords are presently living in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he is minister of the Second Presbyterian Church.

From the Presbyterian Visitor, March 1, 1963: "In April 1959 the First Presbyterian Church in Larned was host to the regular meeting of Presbytery. At this meeting a young man declared his intention of service to God as a minister of the Gospel and was taken under the care of the Presbytery. That young man was William M. Witt of Colby, Kansas."

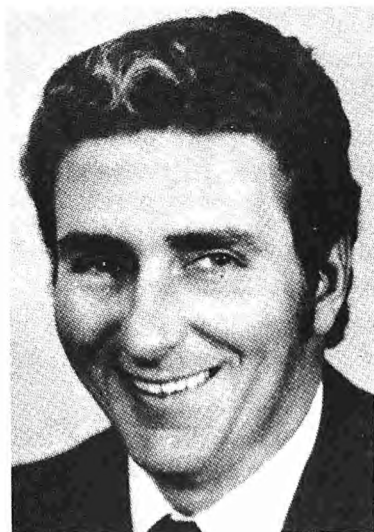
William M. Witt began his duties as interim student pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Larned Sunday, March 1, 1963. He graduated from Kansas University with his junior year spent at Forman Christian College in Lahore, West Pakistan under the Junior Year Abroad program of the United Presbyterian Church. Studying on a Rotary Fellowship. Mr. Witt completed his first year theological studies at New College, University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh, Scotland. The remainder of his work was done at Yale Divinity School where he graduated in January 1963.



Rev. Charles P. Ford
1956-1963



Rev. William M. Witt
March 1963-July 1963



Rev. Joseph E. Kurtright
1964-1967



Rev. David P. Irwin
1968-1973

William M. Witt was ordained at his own home church in Colby, Kansas March 24, 1963. He served the Larned church till July 1st when he entered the Army Chaplaincy for three years.

"Bill" and Shari with their two children endeared themselves to the Larned congregation during their brief stay. They are presently living in Fairfield, California, where he is minister of the Presbyterian Church.

At a called meeting of the Congregation on December 1, 1963, the motion was unanimously carried to issue a call to Joseph E. Kurtright of Junction City, Kansas, at a salary of \$6,500, full payment of the pension fund, travel and convention allowances of \$700, use of the manse with water and telephone expenses included and four weeks of vacation a year.

The Reverend Joseph E. Kurtright and his wife, Pat, with their two children arrived in Larned late 1963. They were the first occupants of the new manse. His first service in the Larned Church was January 5, 1964.

Mr. Kurtright graduated from Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill. in 1956, received his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1960, then took post-graduate work at San Francisco Seminary. He came here from Junction City where he had been assistant minister and director of youth work in the churches in Solomon Presbytery and in the Synod of Kansas. He was installed on Sunday February 16, 1964.

During the four years that Joseph W. Kurtright was minister of the Larned Church much emphasis was given to Christian Education. Numerous books were studied in the Adult Education Classes including "The Protestant and Politics", "Honest to God", "The Cost of Discipleship" and many others. An Officers Training Program was used in the session.

In the series of sermons "Death of God" Mr. Kurtright encouraged Talk-Back sessions.

His sermons were stimulating and thought provoking. His vision was far ahead of many in the congregation.

The Group Teaching Plan in the Sunday School was started in the fall of 1965. The Christian Education Committee was reorganized and Teachers' Training classes presented.

In September 1965 the session carried a motion to increase their number from nine to twelve and preferably with a woman or two. At the Congregational meeting October 1965 Mrs. Kenneth Hewson and Mrs. Glenn Converse were elected as the first women to serve on the Larned Presbyterian Church session.

On January 29, 1967 the Church observed the 10th anniversary of being in the new building with a covered dish dinner and a short program of reminiscing and a resume of events of importance during the years.

In May '67 the women, now called United Presbyterian Women, placed a cabinet in the Fellowship Hall to display the silver monogrammed spoons. These treasured spoons had been given to the church by various women members in the 1800s up to 1935.

On October 24, 1967 Mr. Kurtright notified the session of his intent to request Presbvterv to dissolve Pastoral Relationship with the Larned Church to be presented at the Congregational Meeting Nov. 5, 1967 and to be effective Dec. 31, 1967.

An item in The Tiller and Toiler Dec. 20, 1967 states: "On December 17th following the worship service, the congregation met for a covered dish dinner to honor Rev. and Mrs. Kurtright and their family in one of the largest gatherings ever held in the Fellowship Hall."

Joseph E. Kurtright had accepted a call as Minister of Christian Education of the Moreland Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon, where he is at present.

From January until October 1968 the pulpit was filled by interim ministers each Sunday. The Reverend David P. Irwin began his ministry at Larned October 20, 1968. He came here from the Presbyterian Church at Wilson, Kansas, where he had served three and a half years.

David P. Irwin graduated from Sterling College with an AB degree in 1956, received his BD degree from Dubuque Theological Seminary and was ordained on October 23, 1963. He served as student assistant at Level Green and Sunset Hills both in Pennsylvania. For six months he worked in the Oljato Presbyterian Mission to the Navajo Indians in Utah. Before going to the Wilson church he was pastor at Moran and Carlyle Presbyterian churches.

Rev. Irwin was called to the Larned church at an annual salary of \$7000, four weeks vacation per year, full use of the manse with water and telephone expenses included, full payment of pension and expenses of \$400 for car, \$200 for conference and expenses of moving from Wilson.

Mr. Irwin married Margot Gevardy in 1965. They had one son when they came to Larned. An exciting event of their first year here was the arrival of twin boys born in April 1969. The Irwins were not expecting twins or such an early birth. Mrs. Irwin was visiting her parents at their cabin on the Lake of the Ozarks when a hasty trip to the hospital at Sedalia, Missouri had to be made. In 1972 a baby girl was born.

In April 1970 Mr. Irwin was selected to appear in the 1970 edition of the publication "Outstanding Young Men of America."

In September of 1970 the 57 year old organ in the church was rebuilt as a memorial to Mary Schnack and Mabel Baxter, both deceased members of the church.

An impressive custom of "The Living Creche" was started in December '70 which has continued each year since. A pageant of the Christmas story is enacted in front of the church several nights during the season with members of the Mariners, students and young couples playing the parts of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men. Live sheep and a donkey complete the scene before the manger.

In 1971 risers were added in the choir area.

Upon the request of the youth the Christian Education Committee asked for session approval for a Contemporary Church service to be started at 9 a.m. September 1971. By December attendance had dropped to the point that it was advisable to discontinue the program. This was later followed by the Rev. Irwin establishing the custom of a Children's Sermon at the regular 11 o'clock service to which both the children and adults have responded enthusiastically.

Early in 1972 the Church Parlor was beautifully redecorated using memorial monies that had accumulated in recent years.

On April 30, 1972 a dialogue entitled "Power to Permit" was presented at the morning service by the Rev. Victor V. Victoria, Jetmore, and the Rev. Paul G. Palmer, Dodge City. On June 12th of that same year action by the session was taken to permit baptized children of members of the Larned Presbyterian Church to take communion after instruction and when deemed advisable by their parents.

A Saturday morning prayer group was started in the spring of 1972.

In the fall of '72 the session granted permission to Mr. Irwin to attend three months of clinical Pastoral Education at the Larned State Hospital. This was extended to six months.

Early in 1973 the Centennial Committee was appointed by the Rev. Irwin with Gene Row as chairman. The dates chosen for the Centennial celebration were August 19th and 26th. The UPW started the promotion of a Centennial cook book, the session approved the design for the Centennial plates.

The Summer Vacation Bible School in 1973 had as their Centennial theme "Tall Tales with Old Timers" recalling the heritage of the Larned Presbyterian Church.

At a Congregational meeting March 18, 1973 David Irwin requested dissolution of the pastoral relationship with the Larned Presbyterian Church. He and his family are now living at Osawatomie, Kansas where he is assistant chaplain at the State Hospital and supply minister at the Presbyterian Church.

In the passing parade there are too many names and incidents to mention them all but lest we forget, let us recall a few:

Mertie E. Ammerman, 106 years old Jan. 29, 1973, has been a member of the church since March 12, 1892.

The thirty some years of service given to the Primary Department of the Sunday School by Miss Virginia Reed, Miss Hazel Lawton and Mrs. Ethel Eyer.

The early Thanksgiving Dinners, the Harvest Home Dinners. The hours and hours of work by the kitchen committee and other women of the church. Who can forget the stacks and stacks of dirty dishes? A rerun with the Smorgasboard.

The Fifty Million Dollar Fund chairmaned by Stan Moffet.

The excitement when the Carlos Ruiz family arrived from Cuba.

The clothing drives for Roy Carpenter and his work in the Southwest.

Anna Ens, missionary to Ethiopia.

The World Service Drives.

Our choir directors, organists, soloists and choir who have enriched our Sunday morning services.

The memorial stained glass windows in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall along with all the other lovely memorials to past members.

The faithfulness of our Deacons, the Christmas baskets.

The accomplishments of our Trustees.

The years of service given to our Sunday School by the teachers, our ever loyal Sunday School treasurer.

Vacation Bible School.

The Christmas Eve Communion.

Maundy Thursday.

The Great Hour of Sharing.

The canned goods shower

The ministers and sponsors who make Camp Lark a success.

The wrapping of bandages.

Baskets of Love on May Day.

Senior Recognition Day.

Every Member Canvass.

Special Offerings.

Supply ministers —Nick Pettit, his untimely death.

The responsibility of the Session.

The Communicant classes.

The years of excellent service given by our church treasurer,
Virginia Lupfer.

Our ever faithful office secretary, Edith Sooby.

We are deeply grateful to the ministers who have led us, inspired us to spiritual growth and brought us to a greater understanding of our purpose as God's Church. As Presbyterians our heritage is great. May we be worthy of carrying on the faith which inspired our forefathers that in a spirit of humility we may be a blessing to our fellowmen.

The history from 1947 to the present was compiled from the Minutes of the Session, Annual Reports, Minutes of the Band of Workers, and clippings found in the Scrap Books in the Church Office.

Linda Grove