

HISTORY  
OF THE  
CENTRAL OHIO CONFERENCE  
OF THE  
Methodist Episcopal Church

*ILLUSTRATED*  
*1856 - 1913*

*HISTORIANS:*

REV. ELIAS D. WHITLOCK, D. D.  
REV. NATHANIEL B. C. LOVE, D. D.  
REV. ELWOOD O. CRIST, D. D.



CINCINNATI  
PRESS OF THE METHODIST BOOK CONCERN

# Delta section starts at below

at the home of Isaac Smith, on Main Street, and held a prayer-meeting and class meeting. Soon after this first service these good people secured the services of the Rev. Garbuson, of Spring Hills, who organized the class and, by his earnest labors and faithful preaching, was enabled to greatly increase and strengthen the membership of this young society.

In 1857 the first Methodist church building was erected on Koke Street. In this structure the Methodist people worshiped and prospered until the year 1872, when the church was wholly destroyed by a tornado.

The second church was erected in the year 1873, under the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Miller.

The present oldest members of the Church, who joined in 1857 or soon thereafter, are T. J. Smith, A. J. McElroy, and Anna Gilchrist.



REV. EARL S. KELLER, PASTOR.

During the intervening years, through the faithful labors of more than a score of Methodist preachers, this society has had a splendid growth. Under the pastorate of Rev. E. L. Davis, the old church was so completely remodeled and enlarged that it has the appearance of a new edifice. This extensive improvement was made possible only after an expenditure of \$18,000. A \$3,000 pipe organ adorns the interior. It is one of the best equipped plants for the size of the community that there is in this great Conference.

Rev. E. S. Keller is the present pastor, having received his appointment to this work in the fall of 1911. In the fall of 1913 this Church led in a tabernacle evangelistic campaign which resulted in a great ingathering into the Church. One Sunday in November the pastor baptized eighty-eight adults. The total number received into the Church was 134. The present membership is 493 resident and twenty-six non-resident members.

## DELTA CHURCH.

In May, 1834, at the residence of Sidney Halley, located in what was known as the "Six Mile Woods," now Delta, was held the first Methodist prayer-meeting. The meeting was led by Sidney

Halley. There were present at this meeting Halley and wife, William Meeker and wife, David Williams and wife, Willard Trowbridge, Lydia Trowbridge, William Fewless, Caroline Fewless, Eccless Nay, and Elizabeth Nay. In August, 1834, the second public service was held at the Eccless Nay residence.

In 1835, at his residence, Rev. Elisha Trowbridge, who was a trusted and efficient local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church, organized the first Methodist Episcopal society. From this energetic planting is come the present prosperous organization. The first Methodist Episcopal church built in this section was built on ground donated by Rev. Elisha Trowbridge, located about one mile west of Delta, Ohio. In this church Rev. E. Trowbridge spent his life in faithful work for humanity, he being the only preacher in this section for many years. The second church was built just north of the first church, on the farm of Mr. Thomas Bayes, and was ever after called the Bayes appointment.

William Fewless was the first class leader the Church had in this section. The first local preachers were Rev. Elisha Trowbridge, Rev. Geo. Wood, and Rev. Russell Kimbel.

The first regular itinerant Methodist preacher that preached at Delta was the Rev. C. Brooks, later of the Minnesota Conference.

The northern part of Ohio until after 1839 was included with Michigan. From this Conference (North Ohio) Brooks had received his appointment to preach at Maumee, Perrysburg, and Waterville. Delta territory was embraced in Waterville Circuit. Brooks was followed by Shortiss and Coleman, Brooks and Fleming being on the year before. Shortiss, a zealous and pious young man, died at his post and is buried in the graveyard at the Springfield Church, near Holland Station on the Air Line Division of the L. S. & M. S. R. R. Presumably the first presiding elder after Delta became an appointment was John Janes, a good preacher and a very sharp debater, who has long since gone to his reward. The next preachers appointed to the work were A. Coleman, Chas. Thomas (who left the work), and Hatch (who took his place). Janes was followed on the district by John J. Kellam. After Coleman and Hatch, a man by the name of Campbell traveled the circuit. Then Liberty Prentice and Cushman. Then William Thatcher and Samuel Mower. J. J. Kellam was succeeded on the

district by Wesley Brooks. The next preacher on the then Water-ville Circuit was T. J. Pope, 1845, Rev. Thomas Barkdull, presiding elder.

In August, 1847, the North Ohio Conference met at Ashland, Ohio. At this Conference a new mission was formed called Clinton (Wauseon) Mission, consisting of the following appointments, viz.: Delta (then called Bayes Meeting House, about one mile northwest of the village of Delta), York Center, William Bayes, Clinton Township, Lutes (in German Township), Gorham, and Chesterfield.

In 1847 B. Herbert was the preacher on the mission; T. Barkdull, presiding elder. Barkdull was a very fine preacher and long lived in the affection of the people.

When B. Herbert traveled Clinton Mission in 1847, the most prominent villages west of Maumee and Toledo and north of Defiance were Bryan, West Unity, and Hicksville. There were but very few frame or brick houses west of the Maumee River. Maumee City then was the place where the principal milling and trading was done as far west as Wauseon.

In 1848 Rev. A. Foster, later in Iowa, was sent to the mission. Geo. W. Breckinridge, presiding elder in 1849, and 1850, O. Waters.

In the Bayes Church the Rev. Octavius Waters held one of the greatest revivals of religion ever witnessed in this section. In 1849 the name was changed from Clinton Mission to Chesterfield Circuit. In 1851 John McKern was the preacher in charge and William C. Pierce, presiding elder. In 1852, John Crabbs and A. Hollington. In 1853, James Evans and John Frownfelter. In 1854, James Evans and J. W. Thompson; David Gray, presiding elder. In 1855 the circuit was first named Delta Circuit, with Martin Perky pastor, who also traveled the circuit in 1856.

The first Methodist Episcopal church in Delta, Ohio, was built by Rev. George Wood in the year 1856, at a cost to the society of \$1,000. In this house he often preached.

The Rev. Martin Perky was the first pastor to occupy the pulpit. Rev. L. B. Gurley was the first presiding elder on Maumee District. Rev. David Gray was on the district at the time of the dedication of the original church in Delta Village. Up to this time the district was called Maumee, but in 1857 it was changed to Toledo District.

The pastoral succession from 1856 to the present (1914), as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows: W. W. Winters and D. D. S. Reigh, D. D. S. Reigh and G. W. Money, A. B. Poe and P. S. Slevin, A. M. Carey, G. W. Miller, B. Herbert and C. Hoag, S. B. Maltbie, A. C. Barnes, John R. Colgan, A. Coleman, N. B. C. Love, William Deal, John F. Davies, Nathaniel Barter, G. W. Miller, Richard Wallace, C. W. Taneyhill, J. A. Ferguson and J. H. Fitzwater, P. Biggs, J. M. Mills, Jefferson Williams, Isaac Newton, Daniel Carter, Frederick Miller, W. W. Scoles, Jacob Baumgardner, F. W. Stanton, F. A. Zimmerman, A. S. Watkins, J. W. Donnan, M. D. Scott, C. A. Moore, and P. Ross Parrish.

Delta was first made a station in September, 1871; N. B. C. Love, pastor, and L. A. Belt, presiding elder. R. Wallace was pastor from September, 1876, to September, 1879, during which time there was a notable and long remembered revival interest.

During the pastorate of Charles W. Taneyhill, 1881, the old parsonage was sold and the proceeds, with additional subscriptions, invested in building the present brick parsonage adjacent to the church.

During the pastorate of Jefferson Williams steps were taken toward building a much needed new church. Rev. Williams published an "Outline History and Directory of the Church," January 1, 1888, in which reference was made to the new project as follows:

"On Thanksgiving evening, November 24, 1887, the society, moved with gratitude to God for His goodness to the children of men, authorized a thank-offering of ten thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting a new M. E. church edifice, to be of brick, and to be erected in 1888."

Bishop John M. Walden, of Cincinnati, Ohio, laid the cornerstone of the present (1914) church October 28, 1888, preaching from 2 Peter 1:15. Dr. Earl Cranston, of Cincinnati, Ohio, dedicated the new church on Sunday, September 15, 1889. He preached on the occasion from Luke 14:28-30.

The Sabbath school work was not neglected by the early Church. The first Sunday school in this section of the country was a Methodist Episcopal Sunday school. It was organized in the year 1839 by Willard Trowbridge, Joseph Jones, and William Fewless. Three elect ladies, Mrs. Mary McClure, Mrs. Sylvia Thayer, and Mrs. Hannah Carpenter, stirred up interest and took the first steps

toward the organization of a Methodist Sunday school in Delta proper. From this organization has grown the present prosperous Sunday school of three hundred.

Rev. M. D. Scott was reappointed to Delta for the fourth year in September, 1908. A splendid addition to the church was built this year, affording greatly improved facilities for Sunday school work, also kitchen and dining room. The project was conceived and executed by Mr. James Schlappi, a noble layman and Sunday school superintendent for many years. The total cost, \$2,500, was easily pledged and quickly paid. But the Sunday school has already (1914) outgrown these quarters and is needing larger and better facilities.

During the pastorate of C. A. Moore, in 1913, a union tabernacle meeting under Evangelist Honeywell added a considerable number to the Church. During Brother Moore's last year the church was repaired and the church auditorium tastefully decorated.

Rev. P. Ross Parrish, D. D., the present pastor, is having a very successful pastorate.

#### DELPHOS CHURCH.

Methodists held their first service in Delphos in the spring of 1845, nine years after the first white settlers reached the place. The Rev. John Graham, father of Mr. E. R. Graham, one of the Publishing Agents of the Church, preached the sermon. He was at that time preacher on the Van Wert Circuit.

In the fall of that year a class was formed, composed of R. M. Peddicord and wife, Joseph Gruver and wife, and one or two others.

R. M. Peddicord was appointed class leader.

This organization was the first Protestant society in Delphos.

The class remained with the Van Wert Circuit until 1854, from which time Delphos has either been a circuit or the head of a circuit.



REV. LOUIS H. GRESSLEY, PASTOR.

(There seems to have been but little if any immediate necessity for arithmetic, since there was not much to count up.)

→ The fourth quarterly meeting was held in the barn of Elisha Trobridge, near Delta, and the one following in a schoolhouse near Samuel Barrett's in the neighborhood not far from Waterville.

Up to the last of the year 1840 there was no church building or parsonage at Waterville, and no Sunday school on the circuit under the control of the Methodist Church, but soon thereafter a church and parsonage were built. The church was begun in 1841 and finished in 1844 or 1845.

In 1884 the total receipts for ministerial support were a little over \$30, the presiding elder, the Rev. J. A. Kellam, receiving \$7.50, and the pastor, the Rev. H. K. Bain, \$25.

In 1846 the treasury was as lean as ever. The Rev. Thomas Barkdull was presiding elder; Wm. Thatcher, senior, and Samuel Mower, junior preacher. Strange as it sounds, the Church at Waterville, having an indebtedness of \$460, decided to rent the pews in order to pay it off.

Out of this old Waterville Circuit has grown prosperous stations and circuits in Wood, Fulton, Lucas, and Henry Counties.

Within the winter of 1912-13 Waterville, under a great religious awakening, received over one hundred persons into the Church, and as one of the lasting results the society is erecting a new church edifice, to cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

#### WHITE HOUSE CHURCH.

The society at White House was formed March 8, 1866, by the Rev. Benjamin Herbert, in compliance with the request of a number of the members and other friends living at White House.

This society is attached to the Waterville Charge. A new lot was purchased in 1913. The church was moved to the new lot and remodeled in 1914, giving a basement and an addition for Sunday school purposes. Rev. Charles W. Jameson is the present pastor.