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 UBILEE  ALBUM

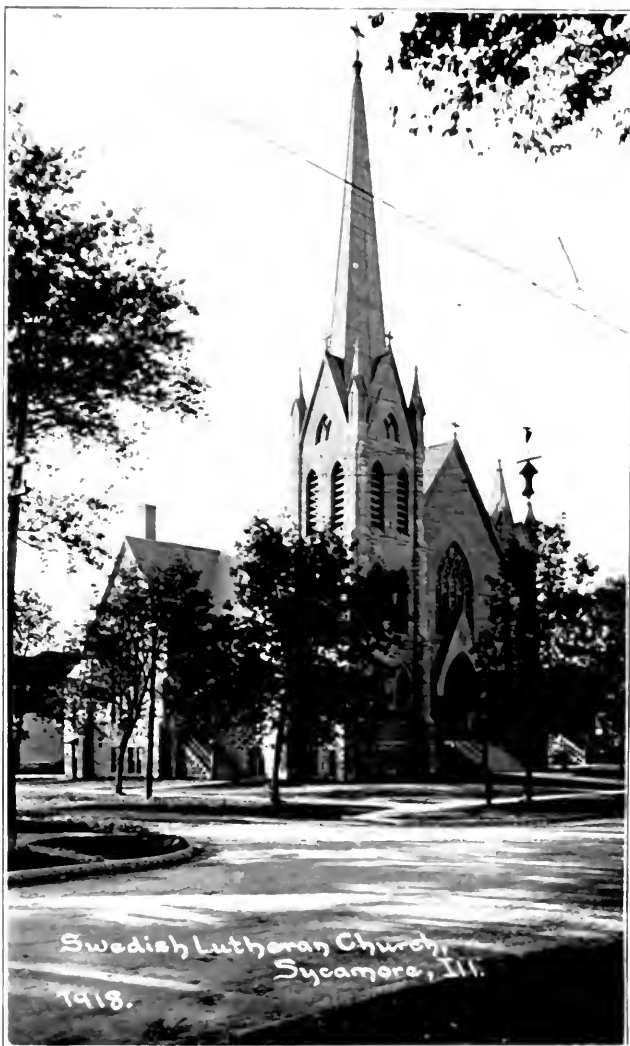
SWEDISH EV. LUTHERAN
SALEM CONGREGATION
SYCAMORE, DE KALB CO., ILL.

1870-1920

THE HISTORICAL CONVEY

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Swedish Lutheran Church,
Sycamore, Ill.
1918.

THE PRESENT CHURCH.

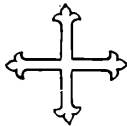
JUBILEE ALBUM

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE
SWEDISH EV. LUTHERAN
SALEM CONGREGATION

OF
SYCAMORE, DE KALB CO., ILL.

1870—1920

WRITTEN BY THE PASTOR
DR. ALBERT OKERSTROM



PUBLISHED BY
THE SWEDISH EV. LUTH. SALEM CHURCH
SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS



INTERIOR OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FOREWORD

At the annual business meeting of the Sw. Ev. Luth. Salem congregation of Sycamore, Ill., held January 1, 1920, the following resolution was unanimously passed: That whereas fifty years have passed since the founding of this church, April 4, 1870, and as it is proper to celebrate this significant fact, be it therefore resolved that this celebration shall take place and on some suitable date between May 20 and 30 of this year. The pastor was authorized to appoint a committee of ten, including himself, who should have full authority to take complete charge of this festivity, and that this committee should also publish an appropriate Jubilee Album in commemoration of the golden jubilee of this church. The committee thus appointed included the following: Dr. Albert Okerstrom, Mrs. A. Okerstrom, Mr. G. H. Carlson, Mr. Gustaf Nelson, Mrs. Albert Carlson, Miss Bertha Stromberg, Mr. Harold Welander, Mrs. Fred Carlson, Mr. John Ahlstrom, Mr. John Quist.

The work of publishing the present book has not been an easy matter. The records from the earliest years are very incomplete. Much interesting material from these early years are no doubt lacking, yet we believe that the essential facts are given. Errors are not lacking, but we hope the readers of this Album will kindly pardon these, considering the difficulties encountered in such an undertaking. We hope, nevertheless, that much enjoyment and much good may come from this book. May it be a stimulus to each member of our church to feel the spirit of thankfulness to God for His lovingkindness in guiding this church so wonderfully through the years past, and to realize that its future rests entirely in His hands. To Him be all glory now and evermore!

COMMITTEE.



THE REV. DR. ALBERT OKERSTROM,
The present pastor.



RETROSPECTION

How swiftly years in grand array
Have in their course sped on!
Fleet time its changes has performed,
Our friends have come and gone.
The old and weird and weary days
Seem like a dream, an hazy blast;
Yet in our mind we see them still,
The landmarks of the past.

In hard and often dreary work
The men of old kept pace.
They tried their duty to fulfil,
Each in his own set place.
They loved their country, hearth and home,
And in their simple, pious way
They founded churches in their midst
Where they could worship, pray.

And here upon this hallowed ground,
In dear old Sycamore,
Our fathers have in Salem met
For fifty years or more;
They met devoutly as of old,
In Jesus' precious name,
To render service to the Lord,
To Him their love proclaim.

The faith of Luther they embraced,
 —The living Gospel, true—
 Their lot was wrought with sacrifice,
 Their trials would endure.
 Through many years of fleeting time
 God's favor did abound,
 Which left a legacy to us,
 An heritage profound.

Our thanks, O God, to Thee we give
 For all Thy goodness, grace,
 For bounteous love Thou didst bestow,
 For care in bygone days,
 Sweet memories from departed years,
 From decades left behind,
 From happy hours of long ago,
 Add solace to the mind.

When heaven is the final goal,
 With comfort in the Lord,
 When riches for the soul we seek
 In God's dear chosen Word,
 Then matters not what light or gloom
 The future has in store;
 God's fullest blessings shall befall
 Our church in Sycamore.

CARL KRAFT.





A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SW. EV. LUTHERAN SALEM CHURCH, SYCAMORE, ILL.

BY THE REV. DR. ALBERT OKERSTROM.

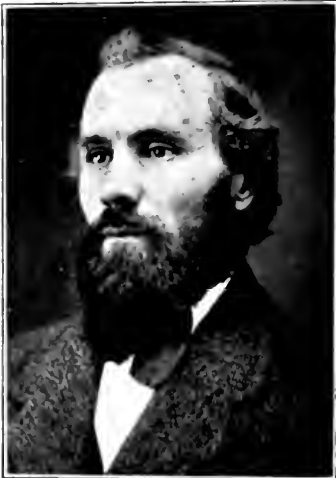
FROM "Swedes in Illinois" we learn that Sycamore, De Kalb county, Illinois, had a population of 262 in 1848. In 1835 a young Norwegian, a certain Dr. Norbo, came to Sycamore and secured a small tract of land in the neighborhood of the village. This site is still known to many as Norwegian Grove. He did not remain here for any length of time, however. A great number of young men of Swedish birth came here in search of work even in the early 50's, but few remained here permanently. The first Swedish family to settle here was Mr. and Mrs. Magni Carlson, whose relatives are still living in our community, respected and honored citizens. Mr. and Mrs. Magni Carlson arrived in Sycamore in 1854. Shortly thereafter Mr. Andrew Johnson arrived and became a permanent settler. In 1857 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Johnson settled here. Their daughter, Mrs. Hanna Davis, is the first child born in Sycamore of Swedish parentage. The following years witnessed a continual influx of Swedish immigrants. These early immigrants were nearly all Lutherans. This common faith was the potent agent which in 1861 brought a number of these Swedish immigrants together for the purpose of organizing a Swedish Lutheran church. This meeting was presided over by the Rev. A. Andreen, long ago departed from this life. The minutes of this early meeting are still in the possession of this church, but this is really all that is left from that time, as nothing was done to carry out its decisions until another meeting, called for the same purpose, nine years later, when the church became a reality and from which time the founding of the church is dated.



MRS. M. CARLSON.



MR. M. CARLSON.



MR. ANDREW JOHNSON.



MRS. ANDREW JOHNSON.



GENERAL C. J. STOHLBRAND.

Our countrymen were not in want of spiritual care, however, during this period. Through the good will and interest of the Sw. Ev. Luth. church in De Kalb, which had been founded some time before, the pastor of that church visited his countrymen in Sycamore also and held services. These services were held either in private homes or at the courthouse. General C. J. Stohlbrand, who afterwards became a famous general in the Civil War, was living in Sycamore at that time and took some interest in the work of the Swedish Lutherans. In 1870 the Rev. A. Hult

became the pastor of the Swedish Lutheran church of De Kalb, Ill. He also held regular services in Sycamore and on the fourth day of April, 1870, organized the Sw. Ev. Luth. Samuel church of Sycamore, De Kalb county, Illinois, and so became its first pastor. According to the words of the Rev. M. Frykman in his history of the church, read at the festivi-



THE REV. A. HULT.†

ties held twenty-five years ago in commemoration of the founding of the church, twenty-five years before, there were about fifty persons who joined the church and so became charter members. The records from those early days do not show definitely who these fifty were. Some of them we do know. However, there are very few of them still with us. At this meeting, the constitution, which had been accepted in 1861, was again read and accepted with necessary changes. As secretary pro tem. Mr. C. J. Anderson of De Kalb, Ill., was elected, and later during the



MR. PETER JOHNSON, †1909.



MRS. PETER JOHNSON, †1897.

course of the meeting Mr. S. M. Söderling was elected regular secretary. The election of trustees resulted as follows: Andrew Johnson and John Lindahl to serve three years, O. Benson to serve two years, and P. M. Roos to serve one year. The election of deacons resulted as follows: Peter Johnson and E. Anderson to serve for three years, C. Carlson and P. Benson for two years, A. Holmgren and S. M. Söderling to serve one year. The question of building a church was taken up for consideration. The discussion resulted in a unanimous decision to build a church as soon as possible. This was a decision of far-reaching consequences. This decision proved plainly the perfect trust in the help of God, as our people in this locality at that time had very little means at their disposal. They were all poor in worldly goods. The dimension of this church as given in the old minutes were to be as follows: 50 feet long, 32 feet wide, and height in proper proportion to length and width. There

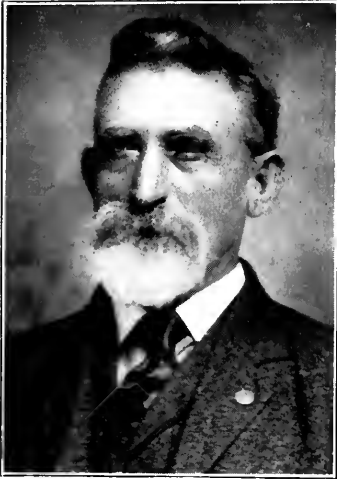


MRS. HANNA DAVIS.



THE FIRST CHURCH, EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR

is a special decision recorded that there must be a steeple, but no especial description of this steeple is given. The foundation was to be built of brick and stone. Mr. E. Anderson was selected to supervise the building of the church, but because of his resignation, Mr. A. Johnson was elected as superintendent of the construction of the church. A subscription com-



MR. JOHN LINDAHL, †1912.



MRS. JOHN LINDAHL, †1903.

mittee was elected, consisting of the following men: The members of the Board just elected, viz., A. Johnson, J. Lindahl, O. Benson, P. M. Roos, Peter Johnson, E. Anderson, C. Carlson, P. Benson, A. Holmgren, S. M. Söderling. At following meetings this committee was somewhat changed. A subscription was begun at this meeting and amounted to \$220. The great problem seems to have been how sufficient money could be raised for this undertaking. About this time the celebrated Swedish nightingale, Christina Nilsson, was in this country on a concert tour, and at this particular time in Chicago. Several of Christina Nilsson's relatives lived here in Sycamore at this time. Through their influence and the good will of the celebrated singer, she was induced to come to Sycamore on Christmas day, 1870, to give two concerts, the earnings of which were to go to the treasury of the Sw. Ev. Luth. church. This was a great day for the entire population of Sycamore. The proceeds which came to the church amounted to \$628.36. To-day that amount seems very small, but at that time it was quite a sum of money. The dedication of the church, however, did not take place until April



MADAME CHRISTINE NILSSON,
Comtesse de Miranda.

6. He must not allow beginners to practice on the organ, nor anyone to play except at services.

7. To keep the church comfortable and warm in cold weather.

8. To open up his residence for meetings of the Board.

9. It is to be the duty of the Board to see that these rules are given proper heed.

The sexton promised to comply with regulations.

28, 1874. The entire cost of the building was \$3,300; and there remained of this sum a debt of \$1,164. At this service Dr. G. Peters of Rockford preached the sermon. His text was the 84th Psalm.

Some very interesting data are recorded. At a congregational meeting held May 1, 1876, the following regulations were accepted governing the duties of the sexton:

1. The floors of the church must be scrubbed at least twice every year.

2. The lamps should be cleaned once a month.

3. The church must be swept and dusted every Saturday.

4. To keep the organ closed when the church is being swept.

5. To take care of church furniture as well as possible.



OLD M. E. CHURCH AND WILKINS HALL
where Madame Christine Nilsson gave her concerts while
in Sycamore, Christmas Day, 1870.

From the very beginning of the church a great deal of attention has been paid to the proper Christian education of the children and young people. Hence the establishment and maintenance of the congregational or parochial school. This has with very few exceptions been continued every year up to the present time. The church owned its own building in North Grove until a very few years ago, when it was sold for public school purposes. About this time this Ladies' Aid Society was organized, according to the old minutes.



The Rev. Dr. G. Peters. †

In 1873 the Rev. A. Hult resigned his charge both in De Kalb and in Sycamore and took up similar work in another locality. Thus the congregation became vacant. During the pastorate of the Rev. Hult, the young people had often discussed the feasibility of organizing a young people's society. Such an organization was really organized about this time, but the exact date cannot be given. The vacancy caused by the removal of Rev. Hult fortunately did not last very long. During the short vacancy the services were conducted by two devoted and sanctified men, members of the church, viz., Mr. P. M. Landfors and Mr. J. A. Pihl. Toward the close of 1873 the Rev. N. Nordgren arrived in De Kalb as the pastor of our church there. At the same time he became the pastor of this church. Both Hult and Nordgren served the two churches.

At a congregational meeting here in 1878 it was decided that the Rev.



MR. J. A. PIHL, †1898.



MRS. KRISTINA PIHL, †1900.

Nordgren should continue to serve this church as hitherto, namely, give half of his time to the service of this church, but that he should take up his residence in Sycamore instead of in De Kalb as heretofore. This petition was presented to the pastor as well as to the church in De Kalb. This request was refused by the church in De Kalb. As a result of this refusal the church here at a regularly called extra meeting of all voting



THE REV. N. NORDGREN.



THE REV. S. G. LARSON.†

members decided to call its own pastor, who should give the congregation his whole time of service. This marks the separation of the two churches. The result of this decision has proven its wisdom to the two churches in the wonderful progress of both of them.

This church now issued calls to various pastors in the Synod, but the call in each case was declined. A period now ensued during which the church was served by various theological students from the seminary, then located in Paxton, Ill. Finally a very peculiar thing happened, the motive of which it is hard to judge to-day. Rev. Nordgren, who was still pastor in De Kalb, was unanimously called as pastor of this church to devote all of his time here and to live here. The salary offered was the largest ever offered any pastor here before and after, up to the last two years of Rev. Frykman's service in the church. Nordgren, however, found it necessary to decline the call.

At an extra business meeting of the church held July 10, 1878, the



THE NEW PARSONAGE.

Rev. S. G. Larson was called to this church. He accepted the call and arrived shortly after. He thus became the first pastor of the church, who served it exclusively, and took up his residence in Sycamore. In 1881 the congregation was legally incorporated and changed its name from the designation Samuel to Salem Sw. Ev. Luth. church. Here the minutes record another peculiar statement. The reason for changing from Samuel to Salem is that it has become among us more customary to call a church Salem than Samuel. During Larson's time here many difficult problems found their solution. One of these problems was the question of a parsonage. The church needed a parsonage now, as a resident pastor had been secured. Concerning this matter the Rev. Frykman says in one of his records: "The congregation was divided between two distinct views. The one was to buy a lot and build a new house on it. The other was to buy the house on the corner of Charles and Somonauk streets, and at present occupied by the Rev. Larson." Opinions clashed concerning the matter and not a little personal envy and grudge was brought into the discussion. It has taken years to heal the wounds of that conflict. The residence rented for Rev. Larson was secured by a few individual members of the church and held for the church in case it should later see fit to buy it. In 1879 this property

finally was obtained by the church, a transaction which has proven to be a wise one. The Rev. Larson remained here exactly seven years. Pastor Larson resigned his charge here in September, 1885, and moved to New Windsor, Ill.

At a congregational meeting held July 29, 1885, for the purpose of calling a pastor, the Rev. M. Frykman was called. He accepted the call and came here shortly before Christmas, 1885. This brings us to



THE REV. M. FRYKMAN.†

a very important period in the history of this church. The years Rev. Frykman served this congregation cover nearly half of the years of its existence. He spent the best part of his life in the service of this church. During Larson's pastorate the church had grown in numbers and strength. Shortly after Frykman's arrival it became evident that it would soon be necessary to secure a larger and more suitable church building. Some years, however, passed before any definite steps were taken to realize this wish. At the annual business meeting of the church held on January 1, 1896, a committee was elected to prepare plans and submit these

plans for a new church building at an extra meeting of the voting members of the church, to be held January 29, the same year. Members of this committee thus elected were as follows: The Rev. M. Frykman, Mr. Axel Stroberg, Mr. A. W. Anderson, Mr. B. A. Welandier, Mr. Gustaf Nelson, Mr. P. J. Lundquist, Mr. Solomon Quist, Mr. Arthur Johnson, and Mr. John Israelson. This committee reported its plans at the meeting held as above stipulated. As a result of this report the meeting passed the following resolutions:

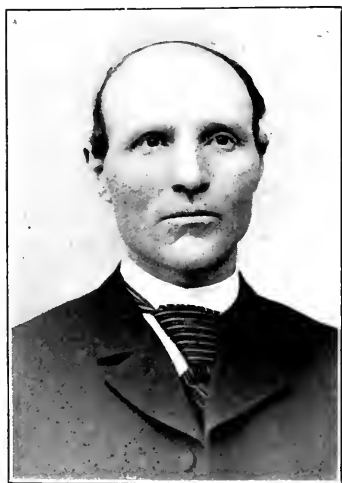
1. That the votes be cast by ballot.
2. To build a church, the material to be of stone (76 for and 6 against).



MR. B. A. WELANDER.
Treasurer 25 years.



MR. GUSTAF NELSON.



MR. JOHN ISRAELSON. †1897.



MRS. EMMA ISRAELSON.



MR. JOHN JOHNSON, 5/1911.
MRS. EMMA JOHNSON, 5/1911.

3. To build on the corner of
Somonauk and Charles streets.

4. To elect a subscription com-
mittee.

The following were elected on
this committee: Mr. F. Sandberg,
Mr. C. O. Johnson, Mr. John
Johnson, Mr. Gustaf Nelson, Mr.
G. E. Nelson, Mr. Carl Peterson,
Mr. John Israelson, Mr. Göran
Johnson, Mr. Alfred Johnson,
Mr. Emil Grahm, Mr. Fred Te-
lander, Mr. Albert Carlson. The
following were added to the build-

ing committee, which had been elected at a previous meeting: Mr. John
Johnson, Mr. F. Sandberg, and Mr. John Swanson. At this meeting it
was also decided that all who subscribed to the church building fund
should each give a note for the amount promised, providing he or she



MR. CARL CARLSON, 5/ March 22, 1910.

MRS. CARLSON, 5/ Oct. 21, 1910.



THE CHURCH BELL, DONATED TO THE CONGREGATION BY THE Y. P. S. IN 1908.

could not give a cash donation. These notes were to be made payable in May and October and bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum after due. The parsonage was moved from the corner of Somonauk and Charles streets to the present location. Mr. E. J. Peterson of Englewood, Ill., was secured as architect for the new building and to superintend the work. Mr. J. W. McAlpine received the contract to erect the building. The total cost of the building was \$16,094. This amount, however, does not include the pipe organ, which was donated to the church by the Y. P. S., in 1900. Neither does it include the church bell, which was also donated to the congregation by the Y. P. S., and which was used for the first time on December 13, 1908. This bell with its installation cost the society \$600. The inscription on this bell is as follows:

"Ring out my summons clear,
Come, the Word of God to hear,
Return to do without a tear.

This bell was presented to the Sw. Ev. Luth. Salem church of Sycamore, Ill., by the Luther League of the church."

Neither does it include the church furnishings, which amounted to a considerable sum. The corner stone was placed in position with customary ceremonies on July 9, 1896. The program as carried out at that



THE REV. DR. OLOF OLSSON,†



THE REV. DR. P. M. LINDBERG,†

time included, among many other features, speeches by Dr. P. M. Lindberg and Dr. O. Olsson, both of Rock Island, Ill., and the Rev. A. T. Horn, pastor of the M. E. church at Sycamore at that time. The corner stone contains the following:

1. A copy of the Holy Bible.
2. Copies of the following papers and periodicals: Augustana, Augustana Journal, Barnens Tidning, Lilla Missionären, Hemlandet, True Republican, Sycamore City Weekly, history of the building of the church.
3. Roll of deacons and trustees since the beginning of the church.
4. List of officers in the church at that time.

5. Roll of Sunday-school teachers.
6. Building and subscription committees, names of architect, contractor and foremen at the work.
7. Portraits of the old church and of the pastor at that time.
8. Minutes of the synodical meeting 1895, minutes of the meeting of the Illinois Conference 1896, catalog of Augustana College and Theological Seminary 1895—1896.
9. \$1, 50c, 25c, 10c, 5c, 1 öre, and \$1 in paper.
10. Program at the corner stone placing festivities.

Thus it is seen that this stone contains many things of great interest to future generations.

The dedication of the new church took place on Sunday, February 28 1897. The present church is 90 feet long, 45 feet wide in its narrowest width and 59 feet in its greatest width. The tower is 117 feet high. The material is Portland sand stone and rock-faced. It has besides its splendid auditorium, a fine basement, is supplied with gas and electric light and all necessary equipment for social purposes. The seating capacity of the auditorium is 700. After much hard work and many severe problems solved, the beautiful edifice was now ready and dedicated to its holy purposes. The Rev. M. Frykman, the pastor of the church at that time, who was serving also in the capacity of president of the Illinois Conference of the Augustana Synod, officiated as such in the dedication of his own church. It might be interesting to be reminded of the income in money at this service:

Collection at the morning service.....	\$ 23.81
Collection in the afternoon	159.12
Collection in the evening	16.62
Supper served on Monday evening.....	34.50

Total income \$386.80

There remained at the dedication a debt on the church of about \$5,000. At a meeting held on March 17, 1897, by the voting members of the church, the following resolution was unanimously passed: "Whereas the great undertaking on which the congregation for about a year ago launched, has been so successfully accomplished, really a surprise to the members themselves as well as to others, therefore be it resolved: That we in the first place glorify God, remembering that, 'Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it,' and from the bottom of our hearts thank Him, that with His loving and mighty arm

He has guided and helped us in all respects, and that He has protected those who have labored in the erection of this house of God so that no evil or accident has happened to anyone connected with this project." (This was accepted by a rising vote.) Likewise a vote of thanks was accorded all who in one way or another had lent a helping hand in the accomplishment of the new church building. At a meeting held August 1, 1897, it was reported that the old church building had been sold to



MRS. P. M. ROOS, †1915.



MR. P. M. ROOS, †1900.

Mr. P. M. Roos. The old records do not say the price Mr. Roos paid. During the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Frykman some great things were done. After the new church was ready and dedicated to its holy purposes, the congregation continued to grow slowly but with a steady increase, so that at his removal there were 600 communicants with 283 children, making a grand total of 883 members. In 1898 the Illinois Conference held its annual meeting here. The Rev. Mr. Frykman complains somewhat, however, in his last pastoral report to the annual meeting of this church held January 1, 1909, that the congregation had failed to meet its financial obligations to the conference and Synod.

Toward the close of this period, the Y. P. S. was to some extent reorganized and became known as the Luther League. This organization was rather imperfect, however, but nevertheless it was a move in the right direction. During this period the Dorcas Society was organized through the initiative of Mrs. J. L. Ericson. Toward the close of the



year 1908, the Rev. M. Frykman resigned his charge here after a service of twenty-three years and moved to Gibson City, Ill., in the beginning of 1909. At an extra meeting held December 9, 1908, for the purpose of calling a pastor, the Rev. Dr. Albert Okerstrom, then pastor in Hibbing, Minn., was called to become the fifth pastor of this church. He accepted the call and took up his work here in May, 1909. The church was just at work building a new parsonage when he came. He and his wife lived for several weeks at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Swanson, on Locust street, until the new parsonage became ready for occupancy. The great and difficult problem confronting the new pastor was the language question. Up to this time very little, if any, English had been used in the work of the church. A great number, especially among the younger generation, demanded some English services and English instruction in the Sunday-school. When the new pastor arrived he found all the various treasuries in the societies within the church completely depleted of funds. This was due to the fact that the business meetings of the various societies had been held in the month of December instead of January. These facts also show that this course had been taken in order to clear up the expenses for the year 1908. There was also a financial problem to solve. There was an indebtedness of nearly

\$6,000 resting upon the church. This seemed to the new pastor to be entirely unnecessary. His question was this: Why pay out large sums of money for interest? Why couldn't that interest money just as well be used for benevolences, charity? At the annual meeting January 1, 1911, Miss Selma Erickson, representing an organization known as The Mite Collectors Club, organized and guided in its work by Mrs. Albert Okerstrom, presented the congregation a sum of \$800 as the first contribution for the payment of the debt. This stimulated the meeting to pass the following motion: That this congregation resolves to pay the debt resting on it during this fiscal year, and that the pastor together with the council be authorized to secure subscriptions and donations for this purpose, and that the sums of money thus assured be paid in full before the next Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving Day, 1911, will never be forgotten in this church. The debt had been paid, and in consequence special services were held. High Mass was held in the morning, at which Dr. C. A. Blomgren and Prof. J. Sebelius, both of Rock Island, officiated. Dinner was served to many hundred people who had come out for the celebration. This splendid dinner was free to all. In the evening a splendid musical program was given by home and outside talent. Considerable sums of money were received for church purposes.

During this period English was introduced in the Sundayschool, and English services were becoming more popular. English has been coming into use more and more as the years have sped by. The Sunday-school and nearly all of the societies have been thoroughly reorganized, in order to do more effective work. In 1913 the interior of the church building was repaired and many improvements installed. The expenses of those improvements amounted to about \$1,500. The following year the Augustana Synod of the Lutheran Church in the U. S. of North America held its fifty-fifth annual meeting here. Some 400 delegates attended the meeting. This meeting will long be remembered by those who had the opportunity to attend. This meeting was held in the month of June, when Sycamore is robed in all its springtime grandeur. The people of our city deserve recognition for the splendid courtesy extended this church in doing all in their power in assisting us in the care of the large delegation. In 1916 a new financial system was inaugurated, the Duplex Envelope System. The old system of a certain amount levied at the annual meeting on each member is not just, nor satisfactory, hence the inauguration of this new system. The introduction of this system created a new



MR. J. L. ERICKSON,
First Financial Secretary.



MR. BERT QUIST,
Second Financial Secretary.

office, the financial secretary. Mr. J. L. Erickson was elected to fill this office. The next financial secretary was Mr. Bert Quist, now of Rock Island, Ill. The present incumbent of the office is Miss Selma Erickson. In 1918 the constitution of the church was changed, with the consent of the Illinois Conference, so that the ladies of the church who have attained to the age of eighteen years have voting rights at the meetings. The first meeting at which the ladies enjoyed this privilege was at the annual meeting held January 1, 1919. Quite a few of our ladies made use of this opportunity and took not a little interest in the deliberations of the meeting. The meeting was consequently of historic import. In the same year the Salem Men's Society was organized. It is now a member of the L. B. A. In the early spring of 1919 a grand subscription was taken up in the church by the general superintendent of the charitable



MISS SELMA ERICKSON,
Present Financial Secretary.

MINISTERS' WIVES IN SYCAMORE DURING THE LAST FIFTY YEARS



MRS. S. G. LARSON.



MRS. A. HULT.



MRS. N. NORDGREN.



MRS. M. FRYKMAN.



MRS. ANNA M. OKERSTROM,

institutions in the Illinois Conference, for the payment of a debt on these institutions, which amounted to some over \$4.50 per communicant. The last years have seen the birth of a number of organizations within the church: the Fidelis Society, the Junior Missionary Society, W. H. and F. M. Society, etc. Another important step was taken when the congregation began the publication of a parish paper, *Salemsbudet*. Its first number appeared in 1908. The object of this publication is well stated in its first issue, written by the editor at the time. It reads as follows: "This small and unpretentious periodical or parish paper, which is hereby placed in your hands for perusal, is the fulfillment

of a long-cherished wish and is intended to fill a similarly long felt need of a local church paper. The object of it is to scatter broadcast among us little kernels of precious seeds and bring to us all messages of peace from the God of peace, as well as words of warning and of awakening to them who are slumbering unto death, to every nook and corner of our congregation. This is to be accomplished through the publication of devotional articles, Christian stories and short paragraphs of religious news at home and also from other churches and congregations. We hope also that it may be of comfort and cheer to those who are living far from the church and find it difficult to regularly attend divine services, as well as for shut-ins.

"The object is also to inform the members at frequent intervals of the financial condition of the church, to give local church news concerning members and our countrymen in general. We believe that the lack of interest sometimes found among church members is in a large measure due to lack of information as to real conditions. We propose to keep the readers of this church paper informed on matters pertaining to their own church. We would inspire to more zealous interest in the things of the church!

"The name of this paper, *Salemsbudet*, is significant, meaning a mes-



THE JUBILEE CONFIRMATION CLASS

senger of peace, thus in full harmony with the official name of our church. May Salemsbudet make good its name."

The Rev. M. Frykman was its first editor, editing, however, only the first six issues. The following numbers have been edited by its present editor. It has taken care of its own finances and never cost the church a penny.

During the first years in the history of this church the confirmation classes were confirmed alternately in De Kalb and Sycamore. The first class to be confirmed in Sycamore was in 1875 and consisted of the following members: Carl Johan Pihl, Gustaf Adolf Pihl, Carl Olof Johnson, Johan Victor Larson, Claes Johan Anderson, Anders William Anderson, Carl Anton Landfors, Mattias Svensson, Carl Oscar Gustenson, Clara Mathilda Anderson, Maria Kristina Jakobson. With the exception of the years 1876 and 1878 a class has been confirmed every year since, numbering in all 926, this year's class included. Since 1886, 1,165 children and a few adults have received holy baptism, 561 burials and 360 marriages belong to the records of the pastoral service of the church. No records as to pastoral acts performed are to be found before the year 1886. The records show that on January 1, 1880, the communicant membership was 320. To-day the communicants are 710, with a total membership of 1,060.

The total income as recorded by the treasurer in 1881 was \$1,784.74. The total income for 1918 was \$5,026.17.

The societies which are at present active and successful are the following: Luther League, Fidelis Society, Junior Missionary Society, W. H. and F. M. Society, Salem Men's Society, Dorcas Society in three departments, Ladies' Aid Society in three departments, Salem Jubilee Chorus.

Of the pastors who have served this congregation only the Rev. N. Nordgren, besides the present pastor, is still living. The history of this church is exceedingly interesting. I marvel at the trust and confidence of these poor old settlers in their God and church. The foundation they laid is good enough even for us and this present age. There have been many trials and much difficulty on the way, but the results will show that God has abundantly blessed the work and looked upon it with favor. The spiritual results, however, will not be known till upon the final accounting, when the Lord shall decide as to all servants and their work. Our work, however, has not been in vain.

The council at present is composed of the following members: Mr.



THE CHURCH BOARD.

C. A. Norheim, John Ahlstrom, G. L. Nelson, Harald Carlson, Abdi Quarnstrom, Fred Carlson, Gustaf Nelson,
G. H. Carlson, J. H. Johnson, S. T. Anderson, Dr. A. Olostrom, N. P. Helsing, Albert Carlson.



MR. JOHN QUIST, Secretary.



MR. G. E. NELSON, Treasurer.



MRS. EMIL CARLSON,
Organist and Choir Directress.



MR. ANDREW ELMBERG, Sexton.

G. H. Carlson, Mr. Gustaf Nelson, Mr. Fred Carlson, Mr. Adolf Quarnstrom, Mr. N. P. Husberg, Mr. Albert Carlson. The board of trustees is composed of the following: Mr. Uno T. Anderson, Mr. John H. Johnson, Mr. C. A. Noren, Mr. Hakan Carlson, Mr. John Ahlstrom, Mr. G. E. Nelson.

Other officers in the church are as follows: Mr. J. M. Quist, secretary; Miss Selma Erickson, financial secretary; Mr. G. E. Nelson, treasurer; Mrs. Emil Carlson, organist and choir directress; Mr. Andrew Elmberg, sexton.

God grant His continued good will toward us, and all honor and glory shall now and forever be rendered unto His holy name by His people.





SCHOOLS AND SOCIETIES

THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL

BY MR. ADOLF QUARNSTROM

SHORTLY after the organization of the church, a Sunday-school was also organized. This took place in 1871. The first teachers were the following: Mr. J. A. Pihl, Mr. P. M. Landfors, Mr. Anders Carlson, Mr. C. G. Quarnstrom, Mr. Malcolm Wallin, and Mr. John Peterson. The books used were the following: the Bible, the Bible History, the Luther Catechism, and, for the small children, the ABC-book.

The school assembled every Sunday afternoon at three o'clock. The Bible Class was very well attended at this time and constituted the essential feature of the school. The fact that the older people regularly attended the Sunday-school gave a splendid example for the younger generation. A few years later the time was changed from three o'clock to twelve o'clock noon, immediately following the morning service. This time has been maintained for many years. In 1920 this was again changed to ten o'clock in the morning, immediately before the service, the aim being to have the Sunday-school scholars remain for the services.

In 1878 a Sunday-school was started in North Grove by Mr. C. G. Quarnstrom. This school grew to be a larger school than the one at the church. More teachers were employed out there than in town. The highest number of scholars was sixty enrolled pupils. At present this Sunday-school is merged with the school in town. For many years no English classes were found in our Sunday-school, but in 1907 Mrs. J. M. Nelson started an English class in the regular Sunday-school in the church. This beginning has been of immense value in our work. To-



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN THE NORTH GROVE SUNDAY SCHOOL.



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

day more than half of the number of children in attendance are instructed through the medium of the English language. During the last years a graded and systematic organization has been perfected, and has been of great help in the work. There are some 120 children receiving instruction in the Sunday-school, given by thirteen teachers. The following teachers are at present serving: Mr. Adolf Quarnstrom, the Rev. Albert Okerstrom, Mr. F. Bexell, Mrs. Emil Carlson, Miss Bertha Stromberg, Mr. Frank Swanson, Mr. Albert Carlson, Mrs. Frank Swanson, Miss Selma Erickson, Miss Hulda Roos, Miss Helen Aberg, Mrs. Albert Okerstrom, Miss Abbie Quarnstrom.

THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

BY MR. B. A. WELANDER

It is a well known fact that the Swedish people who came to this country and became permanent citizens, as most of them did, were anxious not only to establish churches in their midst, but also to maintain schools for their children, in which they might receive instruction in the principles of religion and also learn the language of their fathers, that

they might profit from a study of a rich and abundant literature. These statements apply also to the early Swedish settlers in this part of the state. In the years of 1868 and 1869 there was a great influx of Swedish settlers in the regions immediately surrounding Sycamore, and as early as 1870 a Swedish congregation had been organized, and shortly after that the parochial school came into existence. The members of the new congregation were widely scattered throughout this part of the county, and hence the congregation was divided into three distinct districts, viz., City, Ohio Grove, North Grove. In 1872 this work began in earnest and with few exceptions has been continued



MISS JENNIE ABERG,
School-teacher for many years.

every year since that year. Of late the instruction has been mainly religious and given in English. The first teachers were students from Augustana College, now located in Rock Island, but at that time in Paxton, Ill. This work has been of far-reaching consequences in the development and maintenance of the local church. Some of those who attended this school in its early existence are now among the old members of the church. Some of them are fathers and mothers, and some are even grandfathers or grandmothers. This work is still being conducted in this church and is of vital importance.

The following persons have been employed as teachers during the last fifty years: Mr. A. M. Broleen, Mr. J. Laurin, Miss Maria Hörberg, Mr. P. Löfgren, Mrs. P. Löfgren, Mr. E. Nelander, Mr. August Johnson, Mrs. S. G. Larson, Mr. E. P. Olsson, Mr. Claes Larson, Miss Mathilda Nylander, Mr. J. A. Pihl, Miss Hanna Holmberg, Mr. A. E. Hiller, Mr. B. A. Welander, Mr. C. G. Lindsten, Mr. P. O. Bersell, Mr. O. B. Nelson, Mr. Carl Rask, Mr. Erik Samuelson, Mr. J. Högstedt, Mr. Einar Jöranson, Prof. C. F. Fredrickson, Mr. Victor Frykman, Mr. Waldo Ekeberg, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. R. A. Jacobson, Mr. G. E. Oström, Miss Jennie Aberg, Miss Adele Thurstone, Mrs. Albert Okerstrom, Mr. Emil Johnson.

THE LUTHER LEAGUE

BY MISS BERTHA STRÖMBERG

A society of young people in this church was organized very early, the exact date cannot be given. The name adopted for this society was the following: Svenska evangelisk-lutherska ungdomsföreningen. The meetings were held in the various homes of its members. In spite of a small membership, this organization contributed much to the support of the church and was of inestimable value to its members. In 1892 a small house near the church was purchased, which was used for social purposes. When the new church was being erected, the society took an active part in this undertaking. The society decorated and furnished the basement, that it might hold its meetings here. The society at this particular time realized that a new and larger pipe organ ought to be installed in the new church, hence they went to work with energy and much enthusiasm in this interest. The result was that our



THE FUTURE LEAGUE.

present fine pipe organ was installed in 1900. A new piano was bought for use in the basement. A few years later another fine piano was secured for the church auditorium. In 1908, on the suggestion of the late Rev. M. Frykman, who was pastor at that time, the Young People's Society changed its name to the "Luther League" of the church, and a new constitution was adopted. One of the happiest moments in the history of this league was at the new years' wake, December 31, 1908, when the great bell in the church tower was rung for the first time. Every Luther leaguer felt a just pride at this moment. This bell was a gift to the church from the Luther League. The league had worked for this cause for two years. A few years ago the Luther League installed new fixtures for the electric lighting of the church auditorium. The chairs in the balcony of the church are also a gift to the church by the league. Under the auspices of this league, the Rockford District Luther League was organized in Sycamore in 1909. The District league has held annual meetings here at various times during the course of time. A reception for the confirmation class is given by the league each year. A great number of the confirmands each year join the league, and by interesting and instructing them, experience is gained for helping in the congregational work at large. Under good leadership the league has accomplished much good both socially and financially, and, with God's help, much more will be accomplished in the days to come.

The following are members:

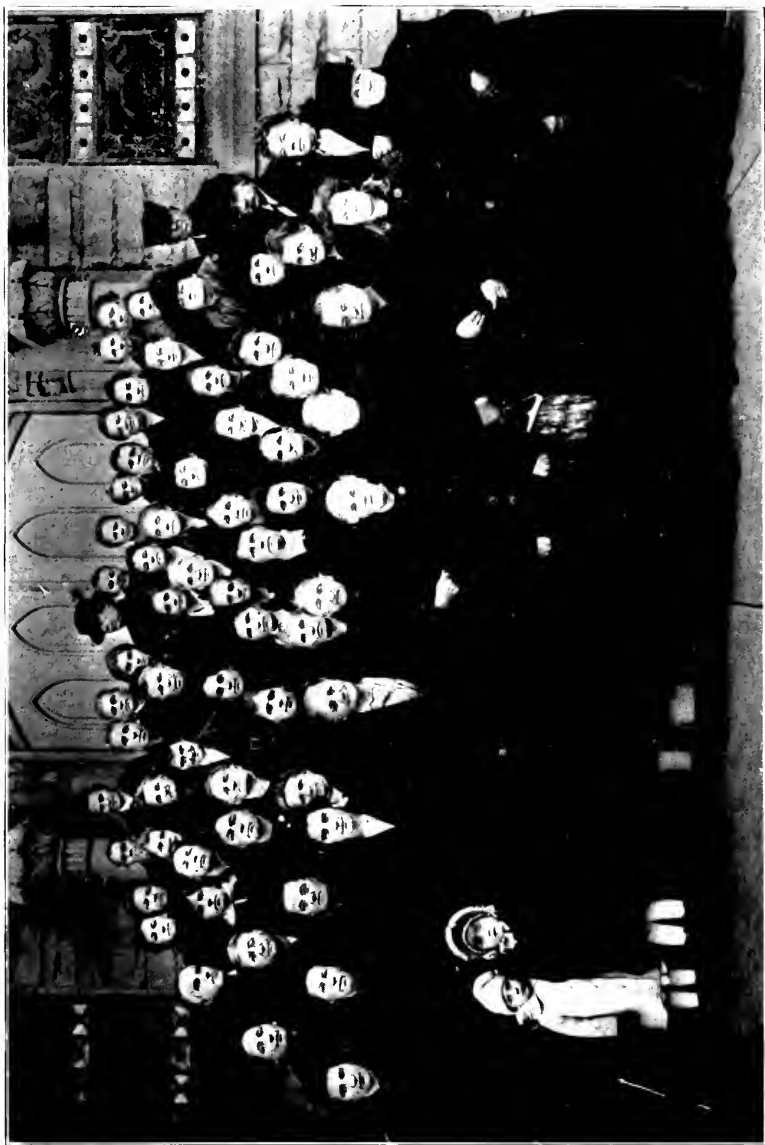
Helen Aberg	Selma Erickson
Jennie Aberg	Martin Eklund
Marjorie Anderson	Carl Eklund
Edgar Anderson	Edmund Eklund
Vernie Blade	Walter Gronberg
Clifford Blade	Irene Haugen
Paul Carlson	Pearl Haugen
Elmer Carlson	Viola Haugen Jenkins
Jessie Carlson	Ruth Johnson
Marie Carlson	Sophia Johnson
Joyce Carlson	Stanley Johnson
LeRoy Carlson	Florence Johnson
LaVerne Carlson	Herman Johnson
Claude Carlson	Paul Johnson
Arthur Carlson	Maurice Johnson
Henry Carlson	Ellen Klemendson
Harry Carlson	Hildur Lindgren
Vernie Castenson	Edith Norlin
Dewey Eckland	John Nachtigal

Alice Nachtigal	Ruth Stroberg
Anna Aberg Okerstrom	Leonard Stroberg
Dr. Albert Okerstrom	Bertha Stromberg
Mabel Quist Oleson	Alvina Sandholm
Albert Pearson	Beatrice Sandholm
Jennie Wellander Peterson	Victor Swanson
Alvie Peterson	Chester Swanson
Elmer Peterson	Jennie Swedberg
Bessie Peterson	Mabel Wing
Helen Peterson	Grace Wing
Gunhild Palmer	Earl Wellander
Abbie Quarnstrom	Harold Wellander
Alma Quist	Pearl Wellander
Helen Stroberg	

LADIES' AID SOCIETY OF SYCAMORE

BY MRS. SAM. QUIST

I joined the Ladies' Sewing Society in 1877. How long before that date the society had existed, I cannot tell, but from various facts known, the society had held meetings almost from the organization of the congregation, in 1870. We used to meet once a month in the homes of members. At these meetings various articles, such as wearing apparel, etc, for which material had been bought and cut by the ladies elected to have charge of the work, was distributed among the members for sewing. The articles which were not completed were to be taken home to be worked at leisure hours and, when finished, returned to the society. At the time of the annual Sunday-school picnics, generally held about midsummer, all of the finished articles and other articles which were donated were sold at auction. These occasions constituted an attraction within the church which few auctions later on ever could create. Some member of the church served as auctioneer. Upon him depended in a great measure the financial results. The cash thus secured was used for home and foreign missions and for the poor and needy within our own church. Later a house was bought by the congregation, which was located just west of the old church building, and in which the society held its meetings for a considerable length of time. This meeting place was abandoned when the new church was built and ready. During the early days the ladies of both city and the country districts held meetings



LADIES' AID SOCIETY OF SYCAMORE.

in common. The need, however, required a division in the work, and so the Ladies' Aid Society of North Grove was started in 1886. The Ladies' Aid of Ohio Grove was started in 1887. From this year on, instead of making and finishing articles for the auction, we donated various articles, and the meetings partook more of the nature of a devotional character. The society at this time changed the date for this festivity to Thanksgiving Day, in the evening. These festivals have with very few exceptions been very successful. In the course of time the name has also been changed from Sewing Society to Ladies' Aid Society. Thanksgiving Day is still devoted to this splendid work of gathering of money for the Lord's cause. It now partakes more of the nature of a thank-offering unto the Lord for benefits received. There are at present seventy members enrolled. The present officers are the following: Mrs. G. E. Nelson, secretary; Mrs. Uno T. Anderson, treasurer; Mrs. Emil Carlson, organist. A lot of the work is accomplished through committees. It has been of great service to the church in its various departments of service. Members:

Mrs. U. T. Anderson	Mrs. Chas. Lilja
Mrs. John E. Anderson	Mrs. Chas. E. Larson
Mrs. John Ahlstrom	Mrs. Hakan Larson
Mrs. Albert Brooman	Mrs. G. H. Lindberg
Mrs. Frank Bexell	Mrs. Otto Lindberg
Mrs. C. Emil Carlson	Mrs. Hanna Lindstrom
Mrs. Alfred Carlson	Mrs. Peter Medeen
Mrs. A. P. Carlson	Mrs. John M. Nelson
Mrs. Hakan Carlson	Mrs. Christine Nelson
Mrs. Emil Carlson	Mrs. Hilda Nelson
Mrs. Frank Ericson	Mrs. G. Emil Nelson
Mrs. J. L. Ericson	Mrs. Gustaf Nelson
Mrs. Will Ecklund	Mrs. Herman Nachtigal
Mrs. Carl Ecklund	Mrs. Bert Nelson
Mrs. Andrew Elmberg	Mrs. A. Okerstrom
Mrs. J. E. Fant	Mrs. Otto Olson
Mrs. C. A. Fant	Mrs. Carl Palmer
Mrs. Will Gustafson	Mrs. J. A. Peterson
Mrs. N. P. Husberg	Mrs. Chas. Peterson
Mrs. Anton Hedlund	Mrs. Axel Peterson
Mrs. C. O. Johnson	Mrs. Otto Peterson
Mrs. J. P. Johnson	Mrs. John M. Quist
Mrs. C. D. Johnson	Mrs. Sam Quist
Mrs. Aron Johnson	Mrs. Adolf Quarnstrom
Mrs. Oscar Johnson	Mrs. C. G. Quarnstrom
Mrs. John Linqvist	Mrs. C. E. Roose
Mrs. Peter Lindgren	Mrs. Bert Roose

Mrs. M. A. Rasmussen	Mrs. C. August Swanson
Mrs. Oscar Stroberg	Mrs. Edward Swanson
Mrs. Elmer Stroberg	Mrs. Nellie Sampson
Mrs. Axel Stroberg	Mrs. H. L. Sandholm
Mrs. Alfred Stromberg	Mrs. John Strombom
Mrs. C. A. Swanson	Mrs. Augusta Welander
Mrs. F. O. Swanson	Mrs. Peter Wing
Mrs. A. F. Swanson	

LADIES' AID OF NORTH GROVE

BY MRS. ALBERT CARLSON

This is a branch of the congregational Ladies' Aid Society. It is not a very recent organization. We find that this society was started as early as 1886. The first meetings were called Sewing Societies. At these meetings the ladies would do work. Everybody was busy. The articles made would later be auctioned off at some festivity within the church and the funds thus secured used for the work of the church. A great deal of interest has constantly characterized this society. The meetings have somewhat changed during the course of years. No sewing is done as these meetings any more. Meetings are held in homes of members once a month. Those who attended the first meeting of the society are the following: Mrs. Carl Carlson, Mrs. A. C. Svedberg, Mrs. B. A. Welander, Mrs. Gustaf Fant, Mrs. S. M. Linden, Mrs. Nels Lind, Mrs. John Stroberg, Mrs. John Swanson, Mrs. Carl Peterson, Mrs. M. Lindström, Mrs. John Lindahl, Mrs. Gust Grönberg, Mrs. Håkan Bengtson, Mrs. Lena Johnson, Mrs. A. P. Samuelson, Mrs. Gust Lindström, Mrs. J. P. Marsh. There are only four of those above mentioned who are still members, viz., Mrs. A. C. Svedberg, Mrs. B. A. Welander, Mrs. Lena Johnson and Mrs. G. Grönberg. This society has constantly shown its good will toward the church by its frequent donations of considerable sums of money to be used for various purposes in the church and in missions. The usual officers and committees are elected at the regular business meeting, generally held in January of each year. The following are the members:

Mrs. Alfred Reed	Mrs. Nels Benson
Mrs. Daniel Freed	Mrs. Walter Marsh
Mrs. Charles J. Johnson	Mrs. Oliver Nelson
Mrs. John Nelson	Mrs. A. C. Swedberg



LADIES AID SOCIETY OF NORTH GROVE

Mrs. Gust Gronberg	Mrs. Andrew Peterson
Mrs. Albert Carlson	Mrs. Frank Gronberg
Mrs. Richard Swedberg	Mrs. Axel Lindstrom
Mrs. Axel Roose	Mrs. John H. Johnson
Mrs. Andrew Turkelson	Mrs. Chas. Lindström
Mrs. B. A. Wellander	Mrs. Lena Johnson
Mrs. Oscar Carlson	Mrs. Josephine Martinson
Mrs. P. Ecklund	Miss Lydia Svedberg
Mrs. Edward Gronberg	Miss Nathalia Pearson

THE OHIO GROVE DIVISION OF THE LADIES' AID

BY MRS. FRED CARLSON

During the pastorate of the Rev. S. G. Larson, meetings were regularly held in Ohio Grove, but were held in the nature of prayer meetings. These meetings were continued even during the first period of the Rev. M. Frykman's pastorate here. The ladies of Ohio Grove felt, however, the necessity and need of a specific organization of women in this district of the church. Several meetings were held in this interest, the first one being held at the home of Mrs. Carolina Bladström, the second one at the home of Mrs. Anna Svenson. Here at the meeting in the home of Mrs. Anna Svenson, in 1887, the Ladies' Aid Society of Ohio Grove was organized. Mrs. Amanda Frykman presided as president. The organization was very incomplete, but it was an organization nevertheless. At first the meetings were held the third Friday of each month, refreshments were served, a fee of 10 cents charged, the money thus secured to go to the general church treasury. The day of meeting was later changed from Friday to Thursday. At first quite a little sewing and work was done, but after a little while this was abandoned altogether. The Rev. M. Frykman served as treasurer for the organization for twenty-two years. Of the ladies who organized the society only four remain among us still, namely: Mrs. Göran Johnson, Mrs. Anna Svenson, Mrs. Mary Larson, Mrs. Charlotta Anderson. The first two are still residents of Ohio Grove, Mrs. Larson living in Sycamore and Mrs. Anderson residing in St. Charles. In 1909 Dr. Albert Okerstrom became the pastor of the local congregation and so also the leader of this society. At this juncture in its history a complete organization was inaugurated, a secretary elected, also a treasurer, a member of the society to fill the office of



LADIES AID SOCIETY OF OHIO GROVE

treasurer, members to pay the stipulated fee whether present or not. Proper reports were to be rendered at the end of the year for submission to examination by the church board of audit. There are at the present time twenty-five members enrolled. This society has been very successful and has done a lot of good, its members devoted to the Master's cause. The following are members:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Mrs. Carl E. Anderson | Mrs. Carl Källman |
| Mrs. P. A. Anderson | Mrs. Edward Lydig. |
| Mrs. Frank Blade | Mrs. Fred Larson |
| Mrs. Henry Carlson | Mrs. Henning Magnusson |
| Mrs. Fred Carlson | Mrs. John Norlin |
| Mrs. Magni Carlson | Mrs. C. A. Noreen |
| Mrs. Ed Carlson | Mrs. Chas. Nelson |
| Mrs. Louise Castenson | Mrs. Chas. Olson |
| Mrs. Gunnar Elvert | Mrs. J. A. Peterson |
| Mrs. John A. Johnson | Mrs. Ernest Peterson |
| Mrs. Sigfred Johnson | Mrs. Reuben Peterson |
| Mrs. Geo. Johnson | Mrs. Carl Swanson |

THE SALEM W. H. AND F. M. SOCIETY

BY MRS. A. OKERSTROM

A Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was organized in Sycamore, February 21, 1919. A number of annual and life members had been secured before this time, but a need was felt for an organization whereby the work for missions would become more effective. Upon invitation of Mrs. J. L. Erickson, Mrs. Wm. Gustafson and Mrs. Augusta Wellander, the women of the church were asked to meet at the home of Mrs. J. L. Erickson. A large number of women responded, and it was decided to organize as a part of the district, conference and synodical W. H. and F. M. Society, meetings to be held quarterly. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Albert Okerstrom; Vice President, Mrs. Uno Anderson; Secretary, Mrs. J. M. Nelson; Treasurer, Mrs. C. Aug. Swanson.

Besides the annual dues of fifty cents, it was decided to have an offering at each meeting, to apply on the special objects for which the society is working. Valuable missionary programs have been given at each meeting. The society now numbers sixty-one annual and twenty-one life members.



THE WOMAN'S HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

It has already been shown that the more our women stop to study and realize the needs of missions, both foreign and home, the greater is their willingness to give and work for them. And what nobler object is there for our service than to help spread the blessed Gospel of Jesus Christ, through whom alone we have peace on earth and life everlasting! God grant that every woman in our church may join this organization and thus become actively engaged in furthering its big program of world saving service.

"And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his neighbor also." 1 John 4: 21.

THE DORCAS SOCIETY

BY MRS. J. L. ERICKSON

The Dorcas Society was organized March 21, 1906. As its members were living widely scattered in different parts of the city, it was decided to organize the society into four distinct divisions, yet working in harmony and for a common purpose. The object of the organization of this society was the result of a long felt need for some organized effort in behalf of works of charity. The society has ever since its organization kept this object in view. It meets monthly in the various homes of its members, generally on the last Wednesday afternoon of each month in the year. These meetings gather money for charity and especially for the orphanages of the Illinois Conference located in Andover and in Joliet, Ill. A great deal of interest has constantly characterized this society. The ladies constituting its membership are women who love to do good. They realize more and more the truth of the words of Christ when He said: "What ye have done unto one of these little ones, who believe in me, ye have also done it unto me." God has abundantly blessed the work of this society and has shown it plainly that it meets with divine approval. The following are members:

Mrs. Uno T. Anderson	Mrs. J. P. Johnson
Mrs. Ed. Carlson	Mrs. Oscar Johnson
Mrs. Henry Carlson	Mrs. Charles Lindsten
Mrs. Fred Carlson	Mrs. Ed. Lydig
Mrs. Albert Carlson	Mrs. Peter Lindgren
Mrs. David Chapman	Mrs. Hokan Larson
Mrs. C. O. Johnson	Mrs. Gust. Nelson



A GROUP OF THE DORNAS SOCIETY



A GROUP OF THE DORCAS SOCIETY.



A GROUP OF THE BOHEMIAN SOCIETY

Mrs. J. M. Nelson	Mrs. J. M. Quist
Mrs. O. E. Peterson	Mrs. A. Stromberg
Mrs. Gust. Peterson	Mrs. John Erickson
Mrs. Sam Quist	Mrs. Emil Fant
Mrs. A. Quarnstrom	Mrs. Emil Roos
Mrs. Gust Swanson	Mrs. Eva Swanson
Mrs. Ed Swanson	Mrs. Chas. Swanson
Mrs. A. F. Swanson	Mrs. Peter Wing
Mrs. Hokan Carlson	Mrs. Andrew Jacobson
Mrs. E. P. Doyle	Mrs. Gust Johnson
Mrs. Frank Ericson	Mrs. Will Gustafson
Mrs. A. Hedlund	Mrs. C. P. Wellander
Mrs. P. Husberg	Mrs. Emil Nelson
Mrs. S. M. Linden	Mrs. Oscar Stroberg
Mrs. H. F. Nachtigall	Mrs. Otto Lindberg
Mrs. Ingrid Oberg	Mrs. John Lindquist
Mrs. S. H. Olson	Mrs. Aron Johnson
Mrs. C. A. Peterson	Mrs. Will Eklund
Mrs. J. A. Peterson	

THE FIDELIS SOCIETY

BY MISS HELEN ABERG

A junior missionary society was organized in the fall of 1915 with an enrollment of sixteen girls. The pastor, the Rev. Dr. Albert Okerstrom, named the society Fidelis, for he felt sure that these girls would prove to be faithful workers. The Fidelis now has an enrollment of twenty girls. It has become an annual member society of the W. H. and F. M. Society, the only missionary band in the conference started as juniors.

Mrs. A. Okerstrom was its first president. She guided the girls through a year's activities in such a manner that an interest was awakened which has never died out. It has been the aim of the society to choose new officers each year, in order that every girl in the society might realize the value of the work and concern herself more individually in the cause. The officers for the year 1920 are as follows: President, Helen Aberg; Vice President, Abbie Quarnstrom; Treasurer, Helen Stroberg; Secretary, Helen Peterson.

During the four years of the society's activities it has made numerous donations to both home and foreign missions. The Fidelis Society holds



THE FIDELIS SOCIETY.

Top Row, left to right: Abbie Quarncroon, Helen Aborg, Florence Nelson, Gumbild Palmer, Florence Anderson, Martha Rolander
Middle Row: Helen Peterson, Ellen Coleman, Elvira Gohl, Hilda Lindgren, Marie Carlson, Mrs. A. Okerstrom,
Front Row: Ruth Carlson, Joyce Carlson, Esther Nelson, Alvina Sandholm, Sophie Johnson, Helen Stroberg.



JUNIOR MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

one meeting every month, at which time missionary programs are carried out.

Surely our "faithful workers" should be thankful to God for His guidance in their work. May the Fidelis Society live on to be an aid in the evangelization of the world in this generation. May its members not forget the Bible quotation found in the Gospel of Luke, chap. 6: 38. "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom."

JUNIOR MISSIONARY SOCIETY

A Junior missionary society was organized in Sycamore, for the first time, a little over five years ago. Most of those present at this organization meeting are now annual adult members. The present members of this society have been enrolled since October, 1918. At present the society numbers forty children. Our aim is to enlist every Sunday-school child. The society has monthly meetings. The mission studies for these meetings are particularly adapted to children. To the children thus trained from their youth to learn Christ's commands and to help fulfill them, we are confident we can look for workers in the future. The zeal manifested by these young workers may well be an inspiration to all of us. May God bless their efforts, and help keep them true and steadfast thruout their lives!

THE SALEM MEN'S SOCIETY

This society was organized in 1918. Its membership has never been very large, but the organization has accomplished a great deal of good in the church. Its organization was the result of a long felt need for such an organization. It has held its meetings in the evening of the second Thursday every month. Its programs have been principally of a literatry nature. Some evenings have been devoted to the discussion of current events in the state and nation, besides the problems of the local church and also of the church in general. It has also a social feature, as refreshments are regularly served at its meetings by some of its members. The money gathered at these meetings are used for pur-



SALEM MEN'S SOCIETY.

poses both at home and in other places where the needs, of one nature or another, are most pressing. At present the pastor is president, Mr. G. H. Carlson serves as vice president and organist, Mr. J. M. Quist is secretary and Mr. Gust Swanson, treasurer. Besides these officers, there are two committees, viz., a program committee and a committee on social matters. The men of the church seem to take a real interest in the organization now, but it has taken some perseverance to bring about this interest in this new organization. There is a need among us for this society, and we do believe that it will flourish in the years to come. The present members are:

Uno T. Anderson	J. M. Nelson
Frank Bexell	Gustaf Nelson
Peter Bellendorf	G. E. Nelson
John A. Bruce	Albert Okerström
Hakan Carlson	Swan Olson
Henry M. Carlson	Andrew Peterson
Harry Carlson	J. A. Peterson
Albert Carlson	O. E. Peterson
Ed Carlson	Ernest Peterson
G. H. Carlson	Emil Peterson
Andrew Elmberg	Martin Rasmussen
George Flöjt	Adolf Quarnström
N. P. Husberg	J. M. Quist
J. P. Johnson	H. L. Sandholm
Arthur Johnson	Gust. Swanson
Gust. Lindstrom	Axel Stroberg
Ed. Lydig	

THE JUBILEE CHORUS

This organization was effected in 1918 in anticipation of the jubilee festivities in 1920. The chorus has faithfully practiced during some time. It has rendered a great service to the church already. It has faithfully adhered to its motto of service to its beloved church. By its participation in the ordinary services of the church it has added much to the beauty of our divine services every Sunday. It has been and is of immense value in leading the congregational singing, and in the rendition of appropriate and beautiful hymns at the morning services especially. Mrs. Emil Carlson, a daughter of one of the pioneer members of this church, Mr. John Johnson, is the leader of this chorus.



THE JUBILEE CHOIR.

Top Row, left to right: Emil Carlsson, Atolph Quarnstrom, Paul Carlsson, Lavonne Carlsson, Elmer Carlsson, LeRoy Carlsson, G. Henry Carlsson.
Middle Row: Abbie Quarnstrom, Helen Aberg, Mrs. Emil Carlsson, Martha Bolander, Marjorie Anderson, Florence Nelson.
Front Row: Genevieve Stroberg, Joyce Carlsson, Alvina Sandhedin, Esther Nelson, Irene Haugen, Ganhild Pallmer, Helen Stroberg.

Some of the Former and Present Members



MRS. G. NELSON, 1909.



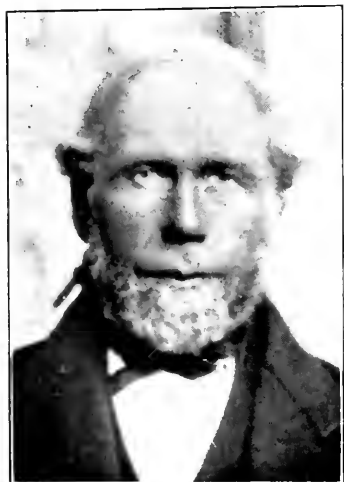
MRS. PETER BELENDORF, 1909.



MRS. ANNA LINDSTRÖM.



MRS. A. F. SWANSON.



HAKAN BENSON, †1900.



MRS. ELNA BENSON.



JOHN SVENSON, †1905.



MRS. JOHN SVENSON.



MR. FRANK ERICSON, †1911.



MRS. FRANK ERICSON.



MRS. GUSTAFVA LILJA, †1903.



MRS. NELS LIND.



MRS. AND MR. GUSTAF NELSON.



MRS. ANNA ANDERSON.



MR. JOHN SVENSON.



MRS. JOHN SVENSON, †1904.



MR. CARL BLANK.



MRS. CARL BLANK.



MR. AXEL CASTENSON.



MRS. AXEL CASTENSON, 71919.



MRS. MARIA PETERSON.



MR. CHAS. PETERSON. †1906.



MRS. G. V. GRÖNBERG,



MR. G. V. GRÖNBERG.



MR. GUSTAF FANT, †1918. MRS. JOHANNA FANT, †1917.



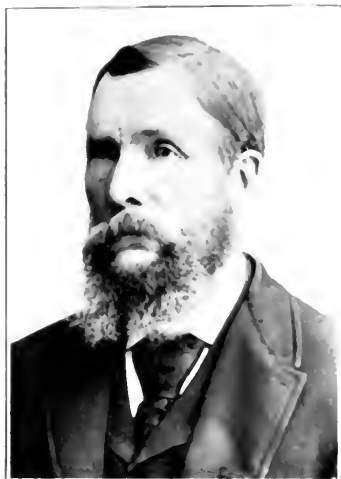
MRS. STINA STRÖBERG, †1919. MR. JOHN STRÖBERG.



MR. AND MRS. B. A. WELANDER.



MR. ANDERS DAVID JOHNSON, †1901.
MRS. LENA KAJSA JOHNSON, †1904.



MR. A. C. SVALDBERG



MRS. A. C. SVEDBERG.



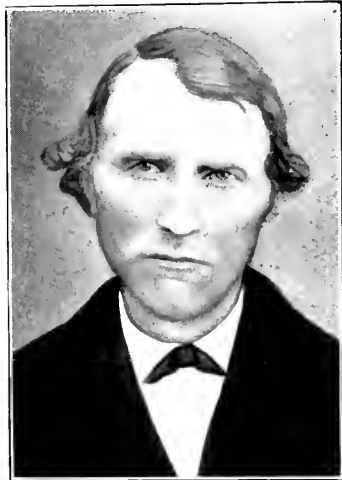
MR. A. E. BLADSTRÖM. †1887.



MRS. CAROLINA BLADSTRÖM. †1907



MRS. NELS NELSON.



MR. NELS NELSON.



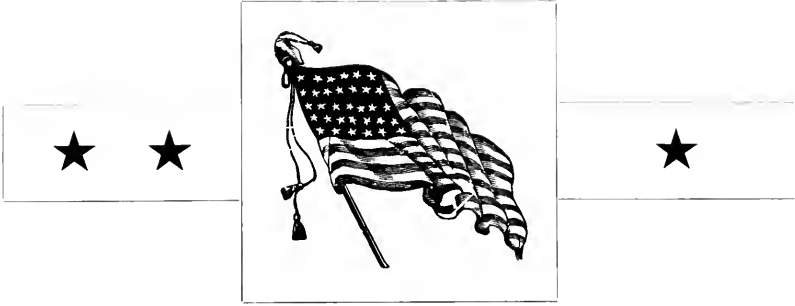
MRS. G. BOLEEN, †1891.



MR. G. BOLEEN, †1910.



MR. CONRAD PETERSON. 1915.



OUR GOLD STAR BOYS

THE following names, so dear to us all, are marked on our Service Flag with a Gold Star: First Private Herbert Quarnstrom, Lieutenant Geo. P. Gustafson, Private Axel Nelson. Mr. Quarnstrom died at Camp Dodge, Lieut. Gustafson and Private Nelson in France. The following tributes were read by the pastor, the first one at the funeral of Quarnstrom, and the second and third at the memorial services of Gustafson and of Nelson respectively.

I.

MR. AUGUST HERBERT QUARNSTROM

died at Camp Dodge, Iowa, from pneumonia, on April 8, 1918. Mr. Quarnstrom was 22 years, 1 month and 30 days old at the time of his death. He was born in Sycamore, Ill., on February 9, 1896. He was baptized in this church as a child on March 8, 1896. After several months instruction in the principles of Christianity he was confirmed in this church with the class of 1910. He graduated from our High School in the spring of 1915, and in the fall of the same year he matriculated as a student at the Wesleyan College, Bloomington, Ill. He studied at this institution for two years, or until he was drafted into the service of his country and sent to Camp Dodge for military training in the fall of 1917. Sorrowing at his bier are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adolf Quarnstrom; Carl Quarnstrom, a brother, who has seen service in the U. S. Navy for many years and is at the present time serving on the battle-



FIRST PRIVATE HERBERT QUARNSTROM.
Died at Camp Dodge.

ship South Dakota. Besides Carl there are two more brothers, Roy and Arthur Quarnstrom, and one sister, Abbie Quarnstrom. Besides these there is a large circle of friends and acquaintances, who mourn the loss of this splendid young man. Mr. Quarnstrom was secretary of our Sunday-school for many years; he was a member of our Luther League. [The funeral was held from the home and our church Tuesday, April 11, 1918. This was the largest funeral ever held in our church. The floral tributes were many and beautiful. Our entire community came out to honor the memory of its first sacrifice in

the present conflict. The representative of Herbert's company at the funeral paid a beautiful tribute to his memory.]

May the memory of Herbert Quarnstrom's beautiful life live long among us!

II.

LIEUT. GEORGE P. GUSTAFSON

This country is a party in the great world-drama which is now being enacted on European soil. One of the most distinguishing characteristics of its people is their intensive love of freedom and civic righteousness. Our high ideals of life, of national and international justice have been violated and utterly disregarded by our foes. Our aims at present can be nothing higher than to maintain and defend these principles of right. To accomplish this purpose means sacrifice. The cost must be enormous. I do not mean the billions of money necessary, but human lives, the death upon the nation's sacrificial altar of a great number of our stalwart, brave and noble young men, the flower of our manhood. I realize that tears, agony and sorrow will darken homes in nearly every village and hamlet in our land. But this common sacrifice will tend to unite the

various elements of which our nation is made up, like a tapestry weave, into one mighty people, more than anything else could possibly do.

Three months ago this community assembled in this sanctuary to pay its tribute of honor and respect to the memory of First Private Herbert Quarnstrom, who died at Camp Dodge while in the service of his country. To-day we are again gathered here for a similar purpose. We can see no casket, nor any grave. These are yonder in France. The casket over there contains the earthly remains of Lieut. George Philip Gustafson, one of our brave Sycamore lads. France becomes dearer, comes closer to us, as the war goes on, and because so many of our boys are laid to rest in her bosom. Some day the cemeteries over there will become a hallowed Mecca to us Americans. As I am about to sketch in a few words the life of our departed hero, I feel that this death is a personal loss. No one, however, can feel the loss so deeply as those who have been called upon for so costly a sacrifice. Yet this community would share with them the burden of this heavy cross.

Lieutenant Gustafson's life was not in vain. He did more in a few short years than many of us can accomplish crowned with years and age white. His death while performing life's highest and noblest duty should stimulate us all the more to do our bit in destroying the most detestable tyranny of our age. There can be no peace until this is accomplished. Our sacrifices are too great to be satisfied with anything less than a complete victory.



LIEUT. GEO. P. GUSTAFSON.
Died on the battlefield in France.

Lieutenant Gustafson was born in Chicago, December 8, 1894. He was only a boy when he came to Sycamore with his parents. He attended our public schools and the Sunday-school of this church. He was confirmed in this church with the class of 1908. He was an active member of our Luther League and a member of the church at the time of his death. He graduated from our local high school in 1912. In the fall of the same year he matriculated in Illinois State University at Urbana, Ill., from which institution he graduated in 1916. In 1917 he was admitted to the First Officers' Reserve Corps at Fort Sheridan, passed his examinations and in August of the same year was commissioned a second lieutenant. He was soon assigned to active duty across the waters. He has ever since been at the front.

He was a courageous lad and feared nothing. Though still young, only a little past 23 years old, he had a clear and vivid conception of the great questions involved in the present struggle. Lieutenant Gustafson had a great host of friends who, besides the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Will Gustafson, two brothers and a sister, mourn his early departure. Here I wish to read to you two recent communications—one from Col. H. A. Smith and the other from Major Theodore Roosevelt:

26th Infantry, France, June 16, 1918.

Mr. William Gustafson, 915 West State Street, Sycamore, Ill.

My Dear Mr. Gustafson: I wish to express my sympathy to you in the loss of your son, Lieut. George P. Gustafson, who died June 4, 1918, as a result of a recent gas attack by the enemy.

He is buried in a French military cemetery at Chempuis, France. His death is lamented by officers and men of the regiment.

Lieut. Gustafson's services have been loyal and efficient. He led his troops fearlessly until disabled. A soldier asks no more.

It is hoped that this may be of some consolation to you in your loss.

H. A. SMITH, Colonel 26th Infantry.

Only yesterday the mother of Lieut. Gustafson received the following letter from the major of her son's battalion, Theodore Roosevelt II, son of a former president of the United States:

June 19, 1918.

Dear Mrs. Gustafson:

Word has just reached me to-day of the death of your son, and I want to write you about him as I have known him. He served in my battalion in my brother's company, and not only won our respect but

our affection through his courage and fineness of disposition. He showed marked ability as a leader of men. The day my brother was wounded his courage and coolness under very trying circumstances were particularly marked. I was recommending him for promotion—not the promotion obtained by men in the United States, which means nothing, but the promotion earned by a man leading in battle. I have two small sons and would be indeed proud if they lived the life and died the death of your son.

Yours very truly,

MAJOR THEO. ROOSEVELT.

Lieut. Gustafson would have been successful in civil life. His future seemed assured. It was my privilege to speak with him a few days before his departure to France. He was all enthusiasm for his country. There are higher duties, he said, than merely to self. The nation's need must be ahead of personal comforts and desires.

He gave his best to the country he loved so well. May this death fire our souls to a supreme effort in carrying on this war to a successful issue. To accomplish this end, I fear that many services like this will be held in our churches, but death is far better than slavery. Let me conclude by reading to you two short poems, one entitled, "In Flanders Fields," and the other, "America's Answer," the first one written by one who died in Flanders.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS.

By Lieut.-Col. John McRae, who died while on duty in Flanders.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row,
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
 Scarce heard amidst the guns below,
 We are the dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrels with the foe!
 To you from falling hands, we throw
 The torch. Be yours to hold it high!
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.

AMERICA'S ANSWER.

By R. W. Lillard.

Rest ye in peace, ye Flanders' dead,
 The fight that ye so bravely led
 We've taken up. And we will keep
 True faith with you who lie asleep
 With each a cross to mark his bed,
 And poppies blowing overhead,
 Where once his own life blood ran red.
 So let your rest be sweet and deep
 In Flanders fields.

Fear not that ye have died for naught,
 The torch ye threw to us we caught,
 Ten million hands will hold it high,
 And Freedom's light shall never die!
 We've learned the lesson that ye taught
 In Flanders fields.

—*The Evening Post*, New York.

III.

AXEL NELSON

was born in Cortland, De Kalb county, Ill., December 27, 1890, and was baptized February 13, 1891. He was confirmed in this church on June 3, 1906, and has ever since remained a member. He loved his home and seldom ventured on any extended journeys until he was called into the service. As a child he attended the public schools in Cortland.



PRIVATE AXEL NELSON.
 Died on the battlefield in France.

When called to service by his country, this stalwart young man had no excuses. He knew the dangers confronting him, but he also knew how the bitter waters might be sweetened. He, no doubt, did as another of our boys writes: "I filled my heart with prayers and my rifle with shells and went over the top."

When Mr. Nelson visited his son at Camp Grant, an officer said to him: "Are you Axel Nelson's father?" Upon receiving an affir-

mative answer, he said: "Mr. Nelson, you ought to be proud of such a son as that."

Axel Nelson went to Camp Grant in September, 1917. He was transferred to Camp Logan, Houston, Texas, and assigned to Co. H, 130th Infantry, and in May went with that company to France. He had been at the front most of the time since his arrival in France. He was killed in action on November 10, 1918, 27 years, 10 months and 14 days old. His body has been laid to rest in French soil, and on his grave the little cross bears his name, company, regiment and these words: "Rest in peace."

Sorrowing at this soldier's death are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Nelson, a brother and sister, both younger than Axel, besides other relatives and a host of friends. One of his comrades from Sycamore, Lawrence Nelson, says in one of his letters home: "Axel's death was instantaneous. I saw him fall. Everybody in the company liked him." He concludes by saying: "He was certainly a fine fellow."

Mr. Nelson and family, you have made a sacrifice acceptable to your country and to God.

OUR SOLDIER BOYS

Rudolph Anderson
 Roy Ahlström
 Fred Bexell
 Geo. Bodeen
 Geo. Boleen
 Theo. Dahlquist
 Carl Eklund
 Edwin Fant
 Reuben Freed
 Edward Freed
 Leonard Gustafson
 Geo. Gustafson
 Roy Gustafson
 Rudolph Junell
 Bert Johnson
 Alvin Johnson
 Albert Johnson
 Arthur Johnson
 C. Martin Johnson
 Victor Johnson

Clarence Johnson
 Martin Johnson
 William Lindstrom
 Emil Lindstrom
 Elmer Lindgren
 Walter Lanegren
 John Larson
 Carl Lundstrom
 Laurence Nelson
 Axel Nelson
 Henry Nelson
 Arthur Nelson
 Edward Nelson
 Elof Olson
 Floyd Ohrlund
 Melvin Palm
 Arthur Palm
 Louis Palm
 Roy Peterson
 Elmer Peterson

Herbert Quarnstrom	Vernie Stromberg
Carl Quarnstrom	Harold Swadberg
Roy Quarnstrom	Geo. Swanson
Leonard Quist	Sigtrid Swanson
Bert Quist	John Wahlberg
Walter Roos	Elmer Westberg
Benjamin Sallberg	Roy Wing
Frank Sandholm	Carl Swanson
Ray Stroberg	

Some of the above young men belong at present to other Lutheran churches, but most of them still remain members of this church.

OUR RETURNED SOLDIER BOYS

Out of the great number of soldiers from this church all have returned except First Private Herbert Quarnstrom, Lieut. Geo. P. Gustafson and Private Axel Nelson. For those who have returned, a splendid reception was given in their honor on New Year's eve., 1920, by the Church Board in conjunction with our Luther League. A splendid supper was served to the soldiers and their nearest kin, together with a great number of friends and members of the church in general. An exceedingly interesting program was also carried out. There was great joy in Salem. God be praised for the return of these our brave boys! May He console those whose dear ones were left to make the supreme sacrifice! They did their highest patriotic duty. They died for their country.





FORMER PASTORS IN SYCAMORE

THE REV. A. HULT

PASTOR ANDERS HULT was born in Fryksände parish, Värmland, Sweden, October 24, 1833. In his younger years he tasted the bitter experiences of poverty. For a time he labored at Vägfors' factories as a blacksmith. The boy was, however, not satisfied with this employment. He craved knowledge. He was anxious to get away to school. Some time after his conversion, kind and interested men of wealth became attached to this young man and helped him with necessary means, so that he was finally admitted to the Ahlberg's College. He served later and for a number of years as private tutor. For a time he conducted a small school of his own. With wife and children he emigrated to the United States and arrived in Boston, Mass., on October 5, 1868. From here they started out after a few days en route for Chicago, arriving here about October 9th. He almost immediately proceeded to Paxton, Ill., to enter the Augustana College and Theological Seminary, which at that time was located at Paxton. The following year Hult was ordained to the holy ministry at Moline, Ill., having been called as pastor of the Sw. Ev. Luth. Salem church, Chicago, Ill. He has been pastor of the following churches: Salem, Chicago, Ill.; De Kalb—Sycamore, Ill.; Sterling, Ill.; Elgin, Ill.; Campello, Boston, Quincy, North Easton, West Bridgewater, Mass.; Pontiac, R. I.; Lisbon and Grand Rapids, Mich.; Scandia, Minn.; Trade Lake, Wis.; Harris, Minn.

Pastor Hult was an author of rank in our church. Let me mention some of his productions: Barnvännen, ABC-boken, Barnvännens lyra,

Biblska historien, Familjestjarnan, Familjealtaret, Om äktenskapet, Om dopet, munga predikningar, etc.

Pastor Hult was married to Miss Charlotta Wilhelmina Hammarstrand of Gothenburg, Sweden. This union was blessed with five children. Mrs. Hult died in Lisbon, Mich. Some time after her death, Hult was again married, this time to Miss Mathilda Jakobson. A few years ago he retired from active work and settled down in Lindsborg, Kansas. He died in Lindsborg, Kansas, October 27, 1913. The remains are resting in the beautiful cemetery in Lindsborg, Kansas.

THE REV. N. NORDGREN

The Rev. N. Nordgren is still among us. He is the only one of the former pastors of this church who is still living. A biography is therefore not available. The following items, however, may properly be inserted here. He was born in Nyed, Värmland, Sweden, December 20, 1839. He came to the United States in 1868. He was ordained to the holy ministry at the synodical meeting held in Galesburg, Ill., September 29, 1872. Rev. Nordgren was very happily married and enjoys the knowledge that a number of children given to him in this union are loyal to the teachings given them in his home. For many years he served congregations within our denomination with distinction and success. No pastor was ever more loved and respected in Sycamore. The old minutes of the business meetings of this church indicate this fact very clearly. He is spending his life's eventide in Moline, Ill. God grant him a long and peaceful eventide!

THE REV. SVEN GUSTAF LARSON

Pastor Sven Gustaf Larson was born in Eds parish, Kalmer, Sweden, January 20, 1833. His parents were Lars Larson and his wife, Lisa Andersdotter. Although merely a boy, he was very ambitious and loved to read and study whatever book came into his possession. His parents were poor and were unable to send him away to school. He studied, however, privately the few books he could borrow and thus built a foundation for future studies. In 1855 he came to realize his natural depravity before God. After much inward conflict he saw the light

that shattered the darkness in his soul and illuminated the Saviour of man, and he believed in His atoning merits and was happy in the knowledge of God's grace. He began to realize also the condition of his fellow-men, and so began to speak, both in private and in public, of the great questions that were uppermost in his heart. He studied for a while at Fjellstedtska skolan in Stockholm, Sweden, but only for a comparatively short time. In 1858 he came to this country. Immediately upon his arrival here he entered the Scandinavian department of the university at Springfield, Ill. This university paid some attention to Scandinavian students and employed a Swedish professor for this work. When this department was moved to Chicago, he went to Chicago. He completed his studies here and was ordained at Galesburg, Ill., June 9, 1861. His first charge was at Burlington, Iowa. He was married to Miss Johanna Carolina Lagerström in Galesburg, Ill., November 17, 1861. This union was blessed with nine children, four boys and five girls. Rev. Larson was endowed with an unusually strong physique. He was enthusiastic in his work and very conscientious in all things, and avoided, as far as he was able, to do any one an injustice. He was always an industrious student throughout his whole life. He was a well read man on almost any question one might mention. He served the following churches during his career as a pastor: Burlington, Iowa., 1861—1863; Knoxville, Altona, Ill., 1863—1868; home missionary in Nebraska and other states, Omaha, three years; Sycamore, Ill., 1878—1885; New Windsor, Ill., 1885—1888; Worcester, Mass., 1888—1892; Kansas City, Mo., 1892—1894; Pueblo, Colo., 1894—1897; Council Bluffs, Iowa, 1897—1904.

On November 11, 1904, he died in childlike faith in his Redeemer, of whom he had so often with enthusiasm and conviction borne testimony both in private and public life. The remains are resting in the cemetery at Mead, Nebraska.

THE REV. M. FRYKMAN

This name is familiar to everyone. Rev. Frykman was a well known citizen here for many years. During twenty-three years he served this church as its faithful pastor. His services covered nearly half of the fifty years of its existence. There were lacking only two years of being twenty-five, or half of the fifty now past. Rev. Frykman was born in Sunne, Värmland, Sweden, October 3, 1844. He studied for some years

at Ahlberg's College in Sweden. He came to the United States in the fall of 1873 and matriculated immediately at Augustana College and Theological Seminary, Paxton, Ill. After finishing his theological training, he was ordained a minister of the Gospel at the Synod's meeting held at Vasa, Minn., June, 1875, being called as pastor of the Sw. Ev. Luth. church at Chariton, Iowa. He served the Chariton church for five years and moved from there to Peshtigo, Wis., serving in turn the following churches: Republic, Marquette, Michigamme, Mich.; Sycamore, Gibson City, Ill. He was married to Miss Amanda Olson on December 4, 1884. This union was blessed with twelve children, of whom ten are living. Frykman was not a man who tried to push himself forward. In spite of this he held many and important positions of trust and responsibility in the conferences and Synod. He served for two years as secretary of the Iowa Conference, secretary of the Illinois Conference for two years, president of the Illinois Conference for five years, member of the Mission Board and Board of Charities of the Iowa Conference, member of the Board of Directors of the Augustana Hospital, Chicago, Ill. Rev. Frykman died in Chicago, Ill., February 17, 1919, after a visit to Sycamore. His remains are laid to rest in the cemetery at Gibson City, Ill.





GREETINGS

FROM THE REV. FRED WYMAN

To the Salem Ev. Luth. Church, Sycamore, Ill.

THIRTY-SEVEN years have passed since I was confirmed in your church. That was May 20, 1883, a memorable day never to be forgotten. The Bible which I received from you at that time I am still using, though now it is somewhat age-worn and ragged from constant use. The old and venerable pioneer in our Christian work, the Rev. S. G. Larson, was our pastor. He is resting in the Lutheran Cemetery in Mead, Neb. I had the opportunity of seeing him once more before his final departure from this life. This was in Mead, in 1904.

You did not have such a beautiful church in those days as you have now. At that time the church was located in about the middle of the block between Park avenue and Somonauk, on the south side of the street. My cousin, Mr. Malcomb Anderson, painted the first altar painting for the church. It represented Christ bearing the cross, as painted by Gustaf Doré. The organist at this time was Miss Augusta Engquist, and the janitor was the old man J. A. Pihl. I remember well the prayer meetings held in the various homes at this time. We were not ashamed in those good old days to fall down upon our knees to pray. To-day you have a large and a beautiful church, a large membership, etc. We hope sincerely that you also have grown in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let me send a greeting to you upon this

grand Jubilee festivity, and especially would I include those who were confirmed with me and who are still with us.

May the grace of God and His blessings rest upon you as a church, upon your pastor and your members in general!

FRED WYMAN.



THE REV. FRED WYMAN.



THE REV. A. T. FANT.

FROM THE REV. A. T. FANT

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Cor. 15: 58.

In extending my greetings and congratulations to the church of my childhood, I know of no other Scripture passage that so fully expresses my well-wishes as these words of Paul. You have as a church continued steadfast in faith and abounding in the work of the Lord during fifty years. When your day is ended and your work finished, then will it be gloriously revealed that your labor has not been in vain.

A. T. FANT.

FROM THE REV. N. NORDGREN

“Cry aloud and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.” Isaiah 12: 6.

Only the children of Zion have a real cause for rejoicing because God dwelleth in Zion to guide, instruct and console them on the way heavenward. The celebration in your church this year bears testimony to this fact. No one who through the new birth has become a child of Zion, regrets having become an inmate of Zion. To dwell with God and His people is the greatest privilege and joy. I am powerfully reminded as I am writing this of the time long, long ago when I served your church as a young pastor, how we rejoiced together in our Salem. Most of those dear old friends have passed into that great beyond. I have reached the age of eighty-one years and am still quite active, although somewhat feeble, but I am awaiting with great expectations to receive the summons home very soon. May God grant us a rich entrance into that home which is eternal in heaven! Rom. 8: 38, 39.

Yours in the Lord,

N. NORDGREN.

FROM THE REV. C. A. WENDELL

Fathers and mothers whom I knew in my childhood, schoolmates and classmates of long ago, boys and girls of the later years, Christian friends who dwell in Salem, greeting and Godspeed this festive day!

Gladly do I join you in praising the Lord for the years that are gone, and in praying that He may not depart from you in the days to come. Troublous times have befallen us and greater troubles may yet be in store for us, but “the eternal God is thy dwelling-place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”

Fifty years has Salem stood; may she stand full fifty more, and many more besides. May she ever be a shelter from the storm, a bulwark against the billows, a haven of rest for the heavy laden, a banqueting hall for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, a place of communion with Him who died that we might live.

C. A. WENDELL.



THE REV. C. A. WENDELL.

THE REV. DR. G. A. BRANDELLE,
President of the Augustana Synod.

FROM THE REV. DR. G. A. BRANDELLE

The Swedish Lutheran Salem Church, Sycamore, Ill.

It seems only a few years since your congregation was organized, and yet fifty years have gone by. The day of small things was filled with work, hard and plentiful, and worry besides. But the goal, a spiritual home, was always in your mind, and naught was permitted to interfere with the reaching of it.

The first church was small, plain and simple, but withal so inviting, and such a treasure! The second church is much larger and finer, even magnificent, a reflex of the moral, intellectual and financial character of the congregation. Some there are, however, who seem to feel that the sermons and prayers and festivals of all sorts that were given in the first church were more warm, hearty and uplifting than those of the second. Advancing age, time and again, alters the point of view, clings enthusiastically to memories of by-gone days and finds it difficult to adjust one's self to the environments of the present.

The Word of God has been preached in its truth and purity in both

of the churches. The young have been pointed to the one and only Saviour, the middle-aged have been counselled to follow the footsteps of Christ, and those tottering on the brink of the grave have been assured that the Lord will remember them and finally take them unto Himself—a mission more glorious than that of all the banks and armies of the world put together.

What of the future? All the members of the congregation, parents, children and others, are to walk in the light of the Word. That insures the future of this congregation until the end of time and the salvation of a host of men, women and children. This end is worthy of your best endeavors.

With sincerest congratulations,

G. A. BRANDELLE,

President of the Augustana Synod.

FROM THE REV. PETER PETERSON

Dear Salem Church of Sycamore.

Allow me, at this your golden jubilee, to greet you with these words of Moses, the man of God, recorded in the last verse of the 90th Psalm: "Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."

The pilgrimage through the wilderness was drawing to a close. Moses finds himself the leader of a new generation; the people led out of Egypt were resting along the winding line of march through the trackless wastes. The people were going to establish themselves in the land of Promise beyond the Jordan. What truth and treasure did they bring into that land? Moses is thinking of the Tabernacle and the Ark of Covenant, of the Law and the presence of Jehovah, of their form of sacrifice and worship, and he prays that God would establish these for them in the new land.

You, dear Salem church, are looking back upon fifty years of church life and church activity, and you are facing new conditions after these fifty years. We are no longer strangers and sojourners, we are established in this great and good land, we are a part of this new nation, living its life, sharing its hopes and aspirations. The walls of language and nationality have given way; our horizon has suddenly widened. We



THE REV. PETER PETERSON,
President Illinois Conference.

have come to realize that we are here, not only to gather the people of Swedish descent into our churches, but to make our contribution to the religious life of this land of Promise, to help win America for Christ. We are facing new conditions, enlarged opportunities, graver responsibilities. We have something to establish in this land, something to give. We have our faith, once delivered to the saints; we have our form of worship and our type of piety; we have our sermons and our songs; we

have our churches and educational institutions, our missions and institutions of mercy. Let us ever remain what centuries of church history has made us; let us earnestly so pray and so do, that God, through us, may establish our spiritual heritage in this land of Promise. Be true to your faith and to your task, dear Salem, until our glorified Saviour shall come again.

PETER PETERSON,

President of the Illinois Conference.

FROM THE REV. GEO. A. FAHLUND

To the Swedish Ev. Luth. Salem Church of Sycamore, Ill.

The Rev. Dr. Albert Okerstrom, pastor.

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of De Kalb sends you congratulation and greeting upon the occasion of your momentous celebration of the fiftieth anniversary as a church of Jesus Christ.

From the very beginning we have been closely united, not only in the faith of our fathers, but in the work of the pioneers, who labored to provide for the spiritual needs of our Lutheran constituency in De Kalb county.

We rejoice, indeed, with you to-day, and we may well together look back upon the past and with praises and thanksgiving acknowledge the marks of success and prosperity which God has granted in great measure to your church, both spiritually and in a temporal sense, and will continue to bless His Church as long as it adheres to and faithfully uses the means of grace.

Brethren, march on, in the name of Jesus Christ, faithfully and courageously! The Lutheran Church possesses a great possibility of making faith effective even in modern thought.

Very sincerely,

GEO. A. FAHLUND, Pastor.

President Rockford District, Illinois Conference.



The illustrations and pictures in this volume are nearly all made by Mr. John Carlson, photographer, Sycamore, Ill.



SALEMSBUDET

THIS publication was the result of a unanimous decision of the church board in January, 1908. The first number was published in March, 1908. The first editor was the Rev. M. Frykman, who served in this capacity until his removal from Sycamore early in 1909. Mr. B. A. Welander served as business manager from the beginning until the close of 1918. After that Mr. C. E. Roose was elected to this office and served one year. In January, 1920, Mr. John H. Johnson was elected to this office with Mr. John Ahlstrom and Mr. Adolf Quarnstrom as assistants. Salemsbudet was at first published only four times a year, but it is now issued every other month. It is hoped that in a very near future this periodical may be published every month. Its language is as yet mostly Swedish, but will soon have to be published entirely in English to meet the growing demands in this matter.

Its regularly published financial statements have been and are of much value in the work. Every member is by reading this paper in a position to know the exact financial condition of the church. He may also know his own relations to the various funds of the church. He may thus keep informed as to the work of the departments, organizations, etc., in the congregation. It offers a splendid medium for the pastor to speak to those who seldom get to the services for one reason or another. It also serves the purpose of an advertising medium for our business houses. This publication has so far not been a financial burden to the church, as it has succeeded in managing its own expenses, meeting its financial obligations regularly. The Rev. Albert Okerstrom, the present pastor of the church, serves as its editor and has served in this capacity since May, 1909. The name "Salemsbudet" is appropriate and can be translated into English thus: The Salem Messenger.



Programs on Festive Occasions

PROGRAM OF THE CHRISTINA NILSSON CONCERT IN THE M. E.
CHURCH, SYCAMORE, DECEMBER 25, 1870.

- Cujus Animum ("Stabat Mater").....*Rossini*
SIGNOR BRIGNOLI
- Ave Maria*Gounod*
M'LE CHRISTINA NILSSON
- Violin Obligato
M. VIEUXTEMPS
- Cantanique*Faqré*
SIGNOR VERGER
- Romance, Violin*M. Vieuxtemps*
- Song, Angels Ever Bright and Fair.....*Handel*
M'LE CHRISTINA NILSSON
- La Mia Letizia.....*Donizetti*
SIGNOR BRIGNOLI
- Solo, Una Voce.....*Rossini*
M'LE CHRISTINA NILSSON

A special concert was given in the evening of the same day at Wilkins Hall for the especial benefit of M'lle Christina Nilsson's countrymen. The hall was filled to its utmost capacity even at this time.

PROGRAM AT THE CORNER STONE LAYING OF THE NEW SW. EV.
LUTH. SALEM CHURCH BUILDING, SYCAMORE, ILL., JULY 9, 1896.

1. MusicSycamore Band
2. Song (Sw. Psalm No. 208: 1).....Congregation
3. Bible Reading and Prayer.....*The Rev. A. T. Horn*
4. Song (Gören portarna höga).....Church Choir
5. Address (in Swedish).....*The Rev. Prof. P. M. Lindberg*
6. Song (Oh, had I wings).....Male Quartette
7. Address (in English).....*The Rev. Prof. Olof Olsson*
8. Remarks*The Rev. A. T. Horn*
9. Music during the receiving of the collection....Sycamore Band
10. Song (Selected).....Church Choir
11. Laying of the corner stone.....*The Rev. M. Frykman*
12. Song (Rock of Ages).....Male Quartette
13. Remarks*The Rev. M. Frykman*
14. Song (Selected)Male Quartette
15. Benediction.....*The Rev. A. W. Stark*
16. Song (Sw. Psalm No. 124: 4).....Congregation
17. MusicSycamore Band

PROGRAM AT THE DEDICATION OF THE SWEDISH EV. LUTH. SALEM
CHURCH, SYCAMORE, ILL., SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1897.

MORNING SERVICE—10:30 O'CLOCK

Sermon, Text, Mark 10: 32—45....*Rev. F. A. Linder, Lemont, Ill.*

DEDICATION—2:30 O'CLOCK P. M.

- Song, Hymn No. 268.....Congregation
- Address (Swedish).....*Prof. O. Olsson, D.D., Rock Island*
- Song, "Remember Now Thy Creator" (Rhodes)....*Illinois Quartette*
- Address (English).....*Rev. J. Telleen, Chicago*
- Song, Ps. XXIII.....Duet
- Dedication*Rev. M. Frykman*
- Song, Hymn No. 320, 1—3.....Congregation
- Remarks and Collection.
- Song, "When as Returns This Solemn Day" (Tenney) *Illinois Quartette*
- Benediction.
- Song, Hymn No. 3: 7.....Congregation

EVENING SERVICE—7 O'CLOCK

- Song, Hemlandss. No. 154.....*Congregation*
Bible Reading and Prayer.
Song, "Jesus Lover of My Soul".....*Trio*
Address (Swedish).....*Rev. C. Granath, Chicago*
Song, Hemlandss. No. 124.....*Sunday-school*
Address (English).....*Rev. E. C. Jessup, St. Charles*
Remarks.
Song, Hemlandss. No. 141.....*Congregation*
Collection for the church.
Benediction.
Song, Hemlandss. No. 5.....*Congregation*





Church Officers, 1870-1920

DEACONS AND TRUSTEES DURING THE LAST FIFTY YEARS

DEACONS

E. Anderson	A. Holmgren	Oliver Nelson
Uno T. Anderson	A. Ingemanson	Hakan Olson
A. W. Anderson	Peter Johnson	J. A. Pihl
P. Benson	A. D. Johnson	Johan Peterson
Frank Bexell	John Johnson	E. L. Peterson
P. Broderson	John P. Johnson	C. G. Quarnström
C. Carlson	J. A. Karlson	A. Quarnstrom
Fred Carlson	Joset Lind	N. P. Roose
G. H. Carlson	Nils Lind	John Svenson
J. A. Carlson	John Lilja	John Svenson, Jr.
Albert Carlson	Gustaf Lindstrom	Peter Swanberg
Anders Carlson	S. M. Linden	S. M. Söderling
Frank Erickson	P. M. Landfors	E. Sandberg
Gustaf Fant	Bengt Nelson	C. P. Welander
C. S. Hallgren	Gustaf Nelson	J. M. Wallin
N. P. Husberg		

TRUSTEES

John Ahlstrom	Frank Engstrom	C. O. Johnson
N. M. Anderson	J. L. Erickson	C. Oscar Johnson
Uno T. Anderson	Gustaf Fant	J. P. Johnson
A. W. Anderson	Anton Hedlund	Göran Johnson
O. Bengtson	A. Ingemanson	John Johnson
Carl Blank	John Israelson	Peter Johnson
Hakan Carlson	Andrew Johnson	J. Lindahl
Carl Carlson	Aaron G. Johnson	P. M. Landfors
Bengt Carlson	John H. Johnson	S. O. Lundgren
Axel Castenson	Gust. P. Johnson	P. J. Larson

P. J. Lundquist	C. A. Noreen	Albert Roose
Josef Lind	H. Olson	N. P. Roose
Håkan Larson	Adam Peterson	P. M. Roos
Gustaf Lindström	Christian Peterson	H. L. Sandholm
C. Malm	E. J. Peterson	John Swanson
P. J. Marsh	Carl Peterson	Frank Swanson
Benjamin Nelson	C. M. Peterson	F. Sandberg
Gustaf Nelson	Niklas Peterson	Axel Ströberg
J. M. Nelson	Andrew Peterson	Rickard Svedberg
Knut Nelson	John M. Quist	B. A. Welander
G. E. Nelson	C. E. Roose	J. M. Wallin

SOME OF THE ORGANISTS OF THE PAST FIFTY YEARS

Otto Welander	C. F. Fredrikson	Mrs. Emil Carlson
Anna Larson	Mrs. M. Frykman	Marjorie Anderson
Augusta Engquist	Naomi Oden	Adele Thurstone
G. H. Carlson		

SOME OF THE TREASURERS OF THE LAST FIFTY YEARS

C. M. Peterson, for 3 years.	N. P. Roose, for 3 years.
K. P. Nelson, for 3 years.	B. A. Welander, for 25 years.
Gust P. Johnson, for 3 years.	G. E. Nelson, the present treasurer.



MR. N. P. ROOSE. †1917.



PROGRAM

FOR THE

JUBILEE FESTIVITIES OF THE SWEDISH EV. LUTH. SALEM
CHURCH OF SYCAMORE, ILL., MAY 23, 24, 25, 1920

SUNDAY, MAY 23

10 O'CLOCK A. M. HIGH MASS WITH COMMUNION SERVICES.

1. Hymn—Sw. Psalm No. 424: 1, 2.....Congregation
2. Preparatory Address—The Rev. Peter Peterson, Pres. Ill. Conf.
3. Song—"Gören portarna höga" (*Wennerberg*).....Jubilee Chorus
4. Sermon.....The Rev. Dr. G. A. Brandelle, Pres. Aug. Synod
5. Song, "Herre, du utransakar mig" (*Wennerberg*).....
.....Jubilee Chorus
6. Announcements.
7. Collection.
8. Hymn—Sw. Psalm No. 352: 1.....Congregation
9. Communion.

2:30 P. M. THE ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL.

1. Hymn—Sw. Psalm No. 268.....Congregation
2. Invocation.
3. Song—"Herrens lof" (*Ricc.* Arranged by *Prof. P. R. Melin*)
.....Jubilee Chorus
4. Reading of the history of the church.....The pastor
5. Hymn—Sw. Psalm No. 124: 4.....Congregation
6. *Greetings from church officials:*
The Rev. G. A. Fahlund, Pres. Rockford Dist. of Ill. Conf.
The Rev. Peter Peterson, President Illinois Conference.
The Rev. Dr. G. A. Brandelle, President Augustana Synod.

- 7. Song—"Ye that stand in the House of the Lord" (*Spinney*)
..... Jubilee Chorus
- 8. *Greetings from pastors confirmed in this church:*
 The Rev. Fred Wyman, Minneapolis, Minn.
 The Rev. C. A. Wendell, Minneapolis, Minn.
 The Rev. A. T. Fant, Ophiem, Ill.
- 9. Announcements.
- 10. Offering.
- 11. Hymn—Sw. Psalm No. 272..... Congregation
- 12. Benediction.

8 O'CLOCK P. M. SACRED CONCERT BY THE JUBILEE CHORUS.

- 1. Organ Prelude Mrs. Emil Carlson
- 2. Invocation The Rev. A. T. Fant
- 3. Song—"Lofven Herren i hans helgedom" (*Wennerberg*)
..... Jubilee Chorus
- 4. Piano duet, The Misses Marjorie Anderson and Helen Stroberg
- 5. Song—"Come, Thou Fount" (*Miles*)..... Jubilee Chorus
- 6. Vocal Solo *Selected*
- 7. Address..... The Rev. C. A. Wendell
- 8. Song—"A dream of paradise" (*Gray*)..... Jubilee Chorus
- 9. Song—Quartet: Miss Alvina Sandholm, Miss Abbie Quarnstrom, Mr. G. H. Carlson, Mr. Emil Carlson.
- 10. Vocal Duet *Selected*
- 11. Song—"Hallelujah Chorus" (*Arr. after Handel*) Jubilee Chorus
- 12. Benediction The Rev. Fred Wyman

MONDAY, MAY 24

8 O'CLOCK P. M. The Young People's Meeting. The program arranged by the Luther League of the church.

TUESDAY, MAY 25

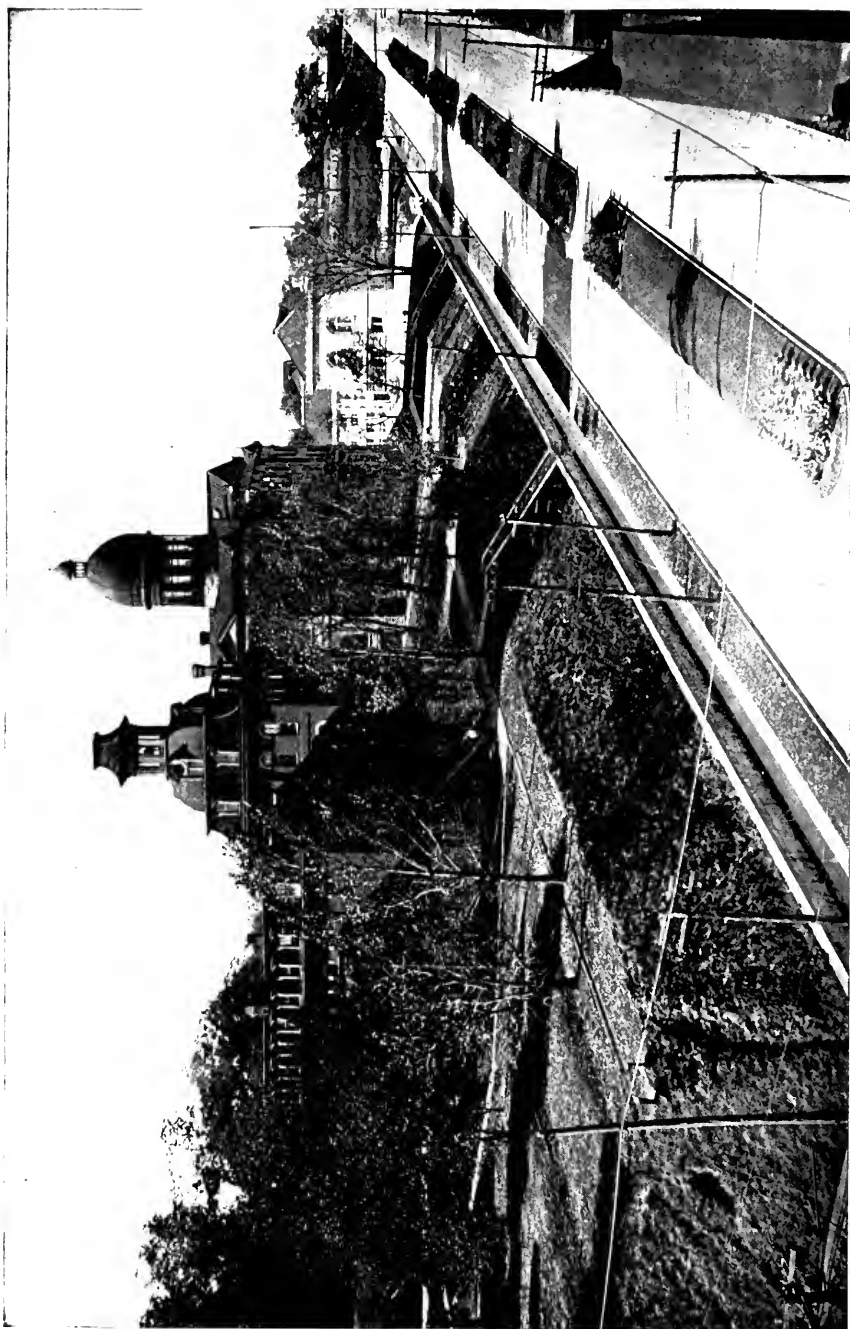
8 O'CLOCK P. M. The Ladies' Meeting. Program arranged by the Program Committee of the united Ladies' Societies within the church.



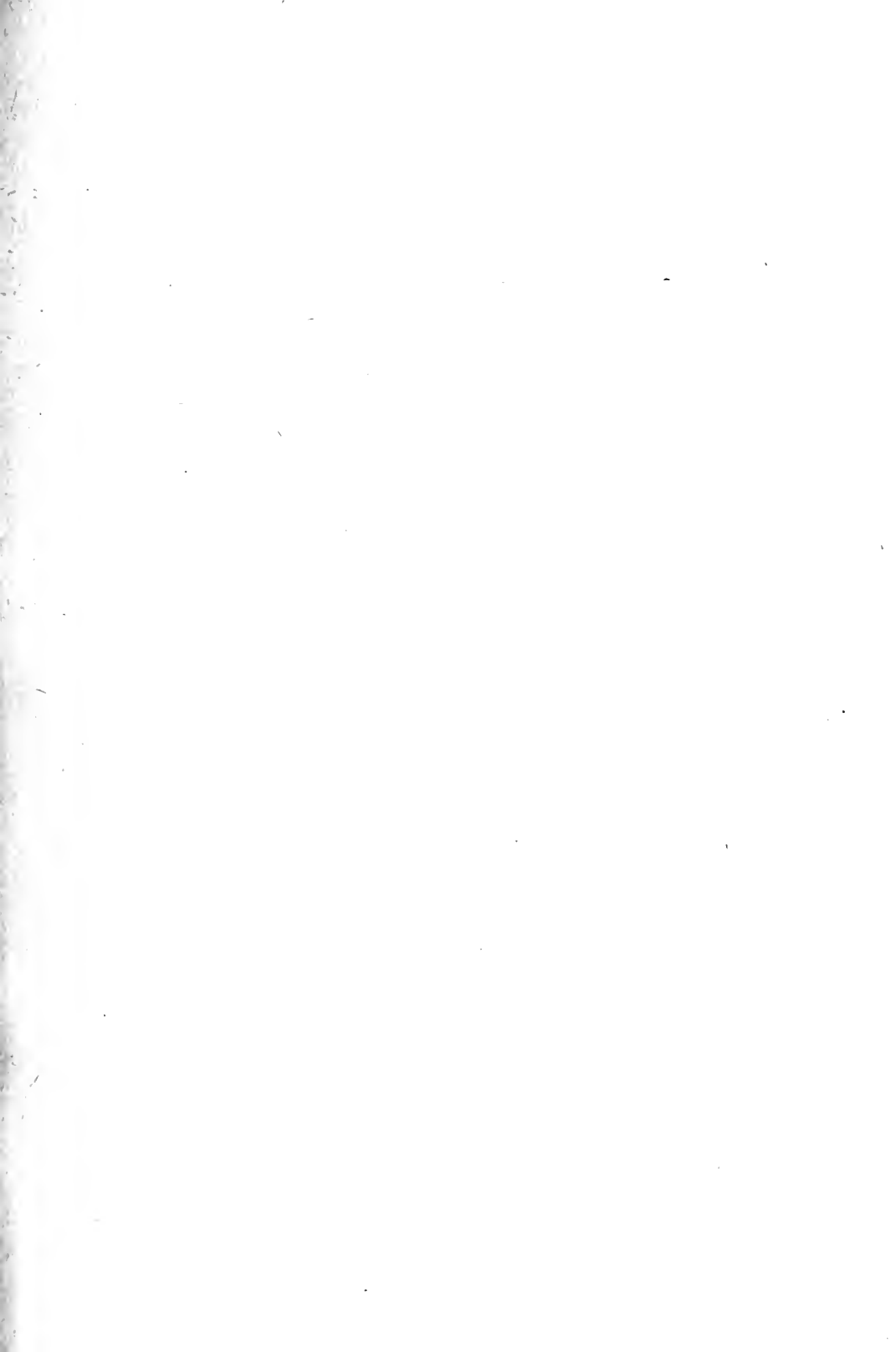


THE JURIED COMMITTEE

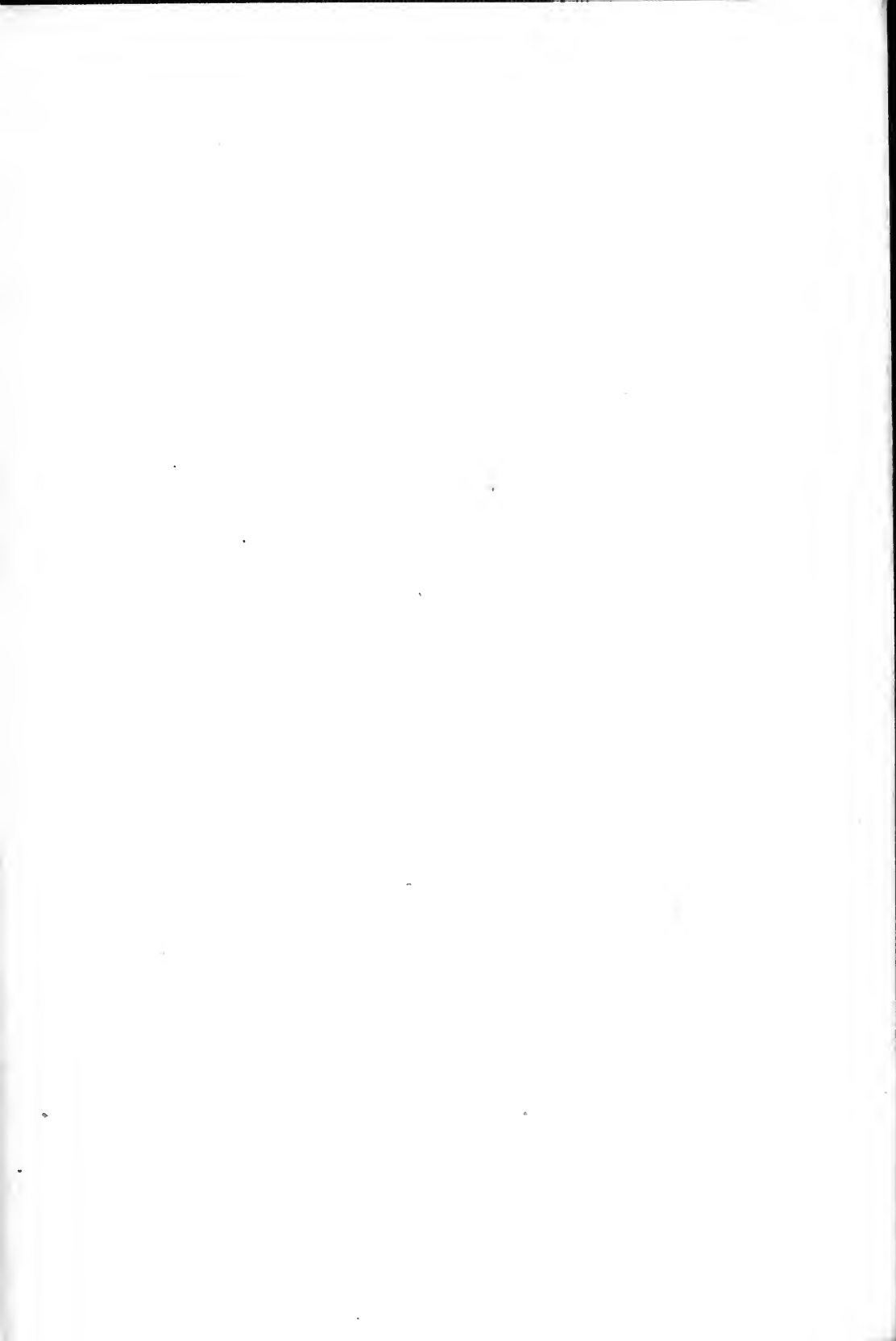
Mr. G. H. Carlson Mr. Harold W. Under Mr. John Ahlstrom Mr. Philip C. S.
 Miss Bertha Stromberg Mr. Gust Nelson Mrs. Fred Carlson Mrs. Fred Carlson
 Mrs. A. Carlson Dr. A. Carlson Mrs. A. Ahlstrom Mrs. C. A. S.



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