

Evangelical United Brethren Church of Sewal, Iowa

by
Rev. Donald Jones



Sewal United Brethren (Photo by Ortha Green)

The first class of the Sewal United Brethren Church (became the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1951) was organized in 1893 with T.J. Yeager, C.C. Osborn, Henry Whiteley, A.E. Allen and I.M. Maxwell as the Board of Trustees. Services were held on the street, in the Whiteley Bros. elevator, and in an old store building until the church was built.

On March 9, 1894 the above mentioned board of Trustees met and purchased Lots 8,9 and 10 of Block 1 in Sewal, Iowa for a church building.

The church 28 ft. by 40 ft. with a recess of 8 ft. by 10 ft. under the steeple was built for a total cost of \$1033.87 and it was dedicated in June 1894.

The charter members of the church were; Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Allen, Mrs. Clint Brattain, Mr. and Mrs. James Califf, Mrs. Whitmore Califf, Mrs. Ed Spencer, Earl Banta, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Whiteley, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Whiteley, Mr. and Mrs. M. Savage, Dr. and Mrs. I.M. Maxwell, Charles Liggett, Mr. and Mrs. William Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Yeager, Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Yeager, and Mr. and Mrs. William Schneider.

In 1894 the Sewal, Otterbein, Clinton Chapel, Big Springs and Pleasant View Churches were in the Allerton Circuit which later became known as the Sewal Circuit. In 1921 Sewal and Pleasant View were in the Seymour Circuit where they remained until 1946 when Rev. S.A. Allen was assigned to Sewal and was their

first resident pastor since 1917.

In 1951 the church was moved to a new foundation 32 ft. east of its original location and the interior completely remodeled.

In June 1952 the Gregg Chapel Church was purchased from the Iowa Conference to be used to build a 40 ft. by 20 ft. addition to the present structure.

In 1960 the Seymour and Sewal churches were again united into a circuit. The parsonage was built in 1895 on the north 60 ft. of Lot 5, Block 1 of the Longman addition of Sewal, Iowa. Throughout the years various additions and improvements have been made.

Due to incomplete records all pastors and time of service are not available at this time. The following are the ones we know.

Wm. M. Stice, 1894, - T.G. Breaw 1899,1901, - J.S. Miller, 1901-W.T. Richardson, 1902 - E.J. Clackburn, 1903,1907 - P. Jennison, 1907,1914- F.W. Hiddleston, 1914,1916 - Ira A. Holbrook, 1916 - G.M. Halsey, 1917 - Geo. Winters, 1921,1923 - C.F. Cantrell, 1923,1925 - J.F. Hedges, 1925,1929, - W.O. Duncan, 1929,1930 - H.N. Hulse, 1930,1933, - Howard Mintle, 1933,1940 - Clifford Carter, 1940,1946, - S.A. Allen, 1946,1949 - O.L. Atwood, 1949,1951 - Corliss J. Fry, 1951,1956, - Clive Cook, 1956,1961 - Donald Jones, 1961-62.

The Trustees signing the Articles of Incorporation on Sept. 11, 1899 were; Abraham Johnston - D.P. Clark

G.M. Housley and Lelah Housley-Ella Allen and Melissa Bay. (Recorders office, Bk.1-page 303)

First incorporation by Ortha Green from Wayne Co. Recorders (Bk.1, page 182.)

Incorporation of the United Brethren in Christ in Sewal, Wayne. county, Iowa.; Be it known, that we whose names are subscribed, Thomas J. Yeager, C.C. Osborn, Henry Whiteley, A.E. Allen and I. Melvin Maxwell, were by Quarterly Conference of the Allerton Circuit annual conference of the United Brethren, elect a board of trustees of the church property for the said church in Sewal.

Said action of said Quarterly Conference being taken at PLEASANT VIEW United Brethern in Monore township on March 3, 1894.

1. Name, Sewal United Brethren
2. Purpose; electing and maintaining a house of worship and other business in accordance with Discipline of the church and constitution of the General Assembly of 1885. approved by the General Conference of 1889 at York, Pennsylvania.

3. Place of business, Sewal, Iowa.
4. The Officers shall be President, Secretary and Treasurer, to be chosen annually.
5. Membership to be determined at one fourth attendance of Conference, and to hold office until their successors are named on the first Monday in March annual election.

The first officers of this incorporation for 1895 shall be;

Thomas J. Yeager, Pres.
Charles C. Osborn, Secy.
Henry Whiteley, Treas.

Witness;

March 1894. Thomas J. Yeager, C.C. Osborn, Hnery Whiteley, A. Ed. Allen, and I. Melvin Maxwell.
Justice of Peace, Maxwell Scooge.

Rev. Donald Jones served as Pastor, 1961-2-3- Rev. L.W. Mendenhall 1964-5-6-7-. Rev. Wilford M. Robinson. 1968-69.

In 1968, the Sewal and Seymour E.U.B. churches united with the Methodist Churches of the county and it retained its name Sewal E.U.B.