

# Lineville Congregation Of Jehovah's Witnesses

by  
Ardon Williams



By (G.W. Molleston)

It is difficult to say exactly when our congregation had its beginning. Many people in this area had listened to Judge Rutherford's talks on the radio and some were subscribers of the Watchtower magazine.

In July 1957, Ardon Williams, on his fortieth birthday, with his wife were immersed at the District Assembly in Denver, Colorado. After my baptism, I began to feel that I really belonged back home. In Nov. 1957, we moved back to the farm northwest of Lineville, Iowa, with the purpose in mind to help establish a congregation in this area.

Soon all meetings were being held in our home. At this time women were not allowed to take part in meetings. There were only three brothers to carry the entire load. This meant at least one talk in the Theocratic Ministry School and a part in the Service Meeting each Friday night.

After attending the International Assembly in New York City, one taxi driver said, "Jehovah's Witnesses came to New York with the Ten Commandments and a ten dollar bill, and left without breaking either."

Brother Stahl recommended that they were an organization unit of the world wide organization. The servants appointed were; Congregation Servant Wayne Milford; Assistant Cong Servant, Ardon Williams; Watchtower Study Conductor, Wayne Milford; Ministry School Servant, Ardon Williams; Accounts Servant, Gladys Griffin; Bible Study Servant, Clarence Griffin; Magazine Servant Lucille Milford; Literature Servant, Jackie Milford.

Others of this first Congregation were; Loyd Peck of Highpoint, Glenn Rucker, Leon, Charles Allard,

Leon, Dorothy McClatchey, Leon, Virgil and Ruby Bloom of Mercer, Mo., These were soon joined by Margaret Cox, of Mercer, Mo. and the Goin family of Lineville, also Gretchen Harrison, of Lineville.

It soon became evident that our home was no longer suitable as a proper meeting place. In January 1959 we purchased a small triangular tract of ground north of Lineville. (Note - in the Records Office of Wayne county in book 85, page 663 is a deed, Ray Goin and wife to Clarence Griffin, Ardon Williams and Ray Goin, trustees of Lineville Congregation of Jehovah Witnesses. Date May 6, 1959.)

The next summer we purchased a large apartment house in Des Moines that was in the path of the freeway. Building of the hall progressed slowly through the summer of 1960. The only help hired was a bull dozer for the excavation of the basement. On July 1st 1961 the first meeting was held in the new hall, named "Kingdom Hall" The territory of Kingdom Hall includes all of Decatur county, Iowa, five townships in Wayne co., and all of Mercer county, Missouri.

The Congregational Servant is Ardon Williams, Assistant Servant Clarence Griffin. Other servants are Margaret Cox, L.H. Kephart, Robert Cruz, G.G. Haynes. All present servants.

We sincerely thank the Almighty God for the privilege of ministering to the people in this area and are looking forward to the day when all people everywhere will in sincerity and truth worship the Creator of all things, Jehovah, the One and Only God.

Ardon Williams  
1963

John Brodene  
1966-7