

Richardson Chapel

by
Ortha Green



Richardson Chapel (Photo by Ortha Green)

The Richardson Chapel was a Methodist Church. It is located in the corner of the S.E., S.W., Sec. 20-68-21, Jackson township, two and one fourth miles southwest of Harvard.

On March 10, 1870, James T. Selby and Emily L. Selby his wife deeded to James T. Selby, J.W. Richardson, John W. Syford, J.A. Farnsworth, B.B. Gardner, B.H. Belville, and Thomas Richardson, trustees, for the sum of \$1.00 a tract of land nine rods square, to be incorporated and establish a church and burial ground in Jackson township. (Book 15, page 108) in the Records office, Wayne county, Ia.

Richardson Chapple - Article of Incorporation.

- Article 1 - The name of this corporation shall be the Richardson Chappel of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Jackson Twp. Wayne County, Iowa.
- Article 2 - This association takes power of acquiring by grant, purchase or gift and of holding and using in any manner not prohibited by law, all such property real or personal as may be necessary to its use in order to carry out the object of the corporation.
- Article 3 - The general nature of this corporation shall be the erection of a house of worship and establish relations for the government of said church and perform such other acts as may be necessary to effect its legitimate ends.
- Article 4 - The private property of the members of this corporation shall not be liable for any of the acts thereof or any indebtedness arising therefrom.
- Article 5 - J.W. Richardson and J.T. Selby are appointed commissioners to cause these articles to be recorded in testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands this tenth

day of March, 1870.

James T. Selby
James W. Richardson
John W. Syferd
B.B. Gardner
B.M. Belville
Thomas Richardson

The building was started 1870 and finished 1871. This church was a product of labor and love. It was a place to worship, built by their own efforts. For years the church prospered. The older people died and were laid to rest in the cemetery near by. The younger generation moved to other parts of the country.

The building began a period of decay and eventually it fell into disuse. Services were no longer held here. It was partially dismantled in 1967. In 1966 the beautiful old Hanging Lamps, the Bible, some of the straight back pews and some windows were given to the Wayne County Historical Societies Museum and were placed in the small chapel in the building.

In August 1970 the ancestors of the founders, tore down the old church building to make way for the small Chappel they planned to erect. It would house only 16 persons. A generous bequest from Mrs. Tiecia Stephenson Kelso, along with other contributors made this possible.

The Chapel was finished and May 29, 1971 on Saturday before Decoration or Memorial Day the little building was dedicated as "Richardson Chappel", with Rev. Lawrence Jones of Corydon Methodist Church in charge of the services.

The little Chapel built on the spot where the church stood, shows the determination of God loving people to carry on.

May God's love and peace remain always within.