

Bethlehem

Second Adventist Church

by
Ortha Green

There is evidence that at one time an Advent Church was in the village of Bethlehem. It was so closely associated with the Baptist Church that we might say it was a part of it.

Rev. J.W. Bolster, a native of New York state located in Bethlehem in 1861. He was a Baptist minister, and built the Baptist church here the same year.

In the fall of 1874, an Adventist minister by the name of Samuel (Sam) Baldwin came to Bethlehem and preached in the schoolhouse to a number of disbelievers. He preached for three weeks and at the conclusion of these meetings, one more Advent Christian Church was in existence. In March 1880 A.J. (Judson) Bolster, son of the Baptist minister was ordained by Elders, N.C. Miller and F.J. Adair into the Adventist Church.

Four children of Rev. J.W. Bolster and wife Mary A. Harkin Bolster married here and were a part of both churches.

Judson Bolster married Minerva F. King.

Margaret Bolster became the second wife of Wm. King, storekeeper.

Charles W. Bolster, married Emma F. Prather, a daughter of Dr. A.W. Prather of Lineville.

Ermina Bolster married Andrew M. Corbit in 1861, and they lived near and attended and were members of the Second Day Adventist church in Bethlehem. This A.M. Corbit was one of the donors to the Confidence Adventist church when it was built in 1888.

This evidence seems conclusive that there was an Adventist Church in Bethlehem, Iowa.

Good Water Church

by
Ortha Green

On September 4, 1889, Rachel Hepenstall, widow, gave a warranty Deed to the trustees of the Evangelical Church, a half acre of land in the S.W., S.E., Sec. 5, 70, -20. (Wright township) for the sum of \$10.00. One of the trustees was Charles Humphrey. Other names associated with the church are; Campbell, Branham, Lewis, Mackey, Rhodes and Cook. At this place a church was built in 1890. It was of native construction and the logs for the building material were cut from the timber on the Charles Putman farm along the Good Water Creek. Andy Duer and John Ruark helped Charles Putman cut the logs, and also haul them to the "Terry" saw mill. They with other neighbors built the church.

Since the lumber was obtained along the "Good Water Creek", the name became "Good Water Evangelical United Brethren Church". The neighbors soon shortened the name and for years the church was known simply as "Good Water Church".

The church was abandoned and on February 15, 1934 the Iowa Conference of the Evangelical Church sold the property, and gave a quit claim deed to George D. Lewis, for the sum of \$10.00.

For forty-five years a church lived, then died, but its name is recorded in the annals of time.