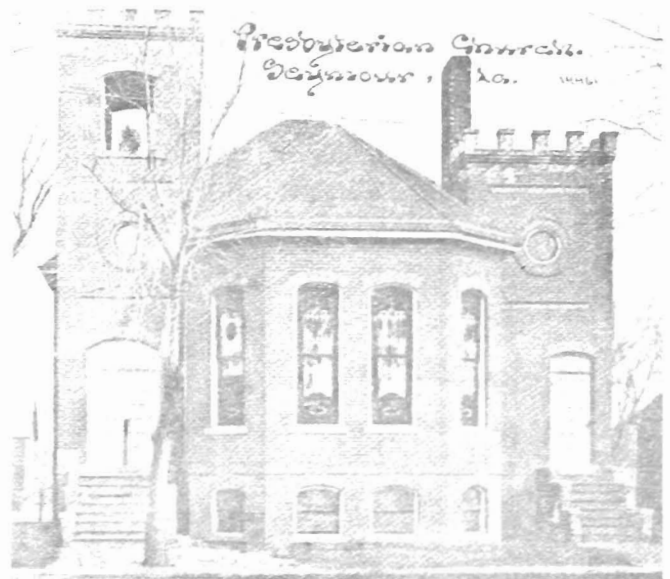


Presbyterian Church of Seymour

by
Mrs. W.H. Earnest



Seymour, Ia. The first Presbyterian Church in the town was built in the spring of 1847 at a cost of \$2000. The Rev. D.R. Hineman was the first pastor.



The completed Presbyterian Church of 1907. Rev. Beebe was the minister.

In some respects the history of the Presbyterian church is a sad one as in the space of the 61 years since its organization it has passed from a thriving prosperous church into non-existence but we hope not into entire oblivion.

Nearly all of the original members have passed on, into the great Beyond.

The church was built in the year 1874. The first pastor was the Rev. D.R. Hindman, and among the earliest members were the John Potters, E.J. Browns, Wm. Mannings (I think these three were the first elders); Capt. Hiram Evans, J.D. Stripe, Dr. H.S. Rogers, J.W. Loomis. Then a little later came the John Hecathorns, John Caldwells, the Webbs, Theo. Rosengrens, Senator L.W. Lewis, Editor, Will M. Sanger, H.C. Briggs, Dr. Runyon, the Ferguson and John Shannon's, the Robert and John Lowerys, J.A. Hendersons, Elmer, Mae and Lily Yarnell, the McCaffertys, Hosea Messersmith, McElvains, Barnett Neel family, and Mrs. Ella Wilson. There are others many of whom I do not recall at this time.

In 1907 it was decided to build a new church. The old one was located on a lot now owned by Andy Gump, it was sold and moved away. After being used for various purposes it became the "Majestic Theatre".

For the new church a lot was bought on Wall Street one block east of the square and under the able leadership of the Rev. L.M. Bebee, who was our pastor at that time and with the assistance of his most efficient and devoted wife and the Ladies Aid a fine modern brick church was built and for several years

was most prosperous and successful. But for some reason it seemed that all of the people of Seymour who died or moved away were from this church and as there were very few additions the membership dwindled until it was found impossible to support a minister and very reluctantly by the few remaining members it was decided to disband. It was voted to donate the church building (with its small indebtedness) to the town of Seymour to be used as a City Hall. The offer was accepted and on January 6, 1927 the church title was transferred to the city of Seymour. Council meetings and elections are held there now.

(Pub. in the Seymour Herald 1935)

From the Presbyterian Synod of Iowa, we obtained the following; The Seymour Church appeared in 1874 with nineteen members. They list pastors thus; 1874-75 vacant, 1876-78 D.L. Hindman, 1879 vacant, 1880-81 S.T. McClure, 1882 vacant, 1883-84, D.H. Stewart, 1885 C.S. McElhinny, 1886 vacant, 1887 C.S. McElhinny, 1889-90 vacant, 1891 F. Orr, 1892 vacant, 1893-94 stated supply, 1895-99, S.H. King, 1900 A.M. Eells.

From the Wayne County Records office, book 3, page 471.

Milton Courtright, trustee of the City of Erie in Pennsylvania, to W.J. Manning, D.J. Stipe, and Winfield Furgison, trustees of 1st Presbyterian Church of Seymour, Lot 6 block 26, Price \$37.50.