



1862 - 2012

From the Wilds of Minnesota ...

150 years in the
Minnesota Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists



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Remembering 150 Years in the
Minnesota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

By Kathy Joy (Parker) Parke

From the Wilds of Minnesota ...

“Dear Bro White: I am now living amid the wilds of the West, far from any of like precious faith. In my father's little household is no other Sabbath-keeper; and as far as I am acquainted with the inhabitants of the country, either by report or personal acquaintance, I know of no one who, like myself, is trying to keep all the commandments. But this does not discourage me. My desires are as strong, and my determinations the same, to gain an entrance into the city, that they were when I was amid the Advent friends. ... I would ask the brethren and sisters who, Sabbath after Sabbath are permitted to meet together to pray with and for each other, not to forget to pray for one who is denied the priceless privilege. Pray that she fall not, but that God be her guardian while she sojourns on earth, and enable her to bear the cross, and at last permit her to wear the crown. Is the prayer of your sister. Julia E. Grems. Minnesota, Nov. 12th. 1854.”

Thus goes the first correspondence to the Review and Herald (December 19, 1854) from the Minnesota territory ... from a 17 year old girl in Milton Township, Dodge County.

Little could Julia know that, 150 years later, Minnesota would have a Seventh-day Adventist Conference blessed with more than 30 pastors for more than 70 churches serving a constituency of over 8,250 members, a school system of 11 elementary schools and 2 high schools, and a beautiful summer camp. She could not even know that just a few years later, around 1861, the first five Minnesota SDA churches would be established, most within about 30 miles of her home – churches being located at Deerfield, Pleasant Grove, Ashland, Cleveland, and Oronoco.

Would Julia's solitary Advent faith endure the loneliness amidst the wilds of the Minnesota territory? ... Would she ever again enjoy the prayers and support of like believers?

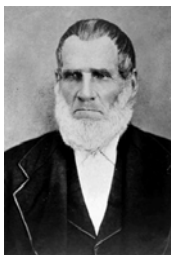
In 1854, Minnesota was not yet a state – statehood not being achieved until May 11, 1858. Inhabited primarily by Native Americans, the arrival of settlers from the east was not always a welcomed event. Pioneers seeking to establish new homes were met with a variety of challenges – breaking prairie sod to cultivate gardens and crops, caring for livestock through fierce winters, fighting disease epidemics that often spared few in families, enduring grasshopper plagues that consumed potential bountiful harvests – trying to protect families and small possessions presented daily trials in this new land. Many had escaped the horrors of the American Civil War (1861-1865) only to be faced with their own battles with Native Americans – battles such as the August 17-23, 1862 Sioux uprising that left over 800 settlers dead while others suffered great indignities. And yet, in the midst of challenges, just as grains were taking root in the deep, rich Minnesota soil, so the Word of God took root in the fertile hearts of the Minnesota pioneers.



Washington Morse

In those early years, "Advent" ministers traveled hundreds of miles, most often on foot, to bring the gospel to settlers in the wilds of the Minnesota Territory. Some, like Washington Morse, a Vermont native who became the 1st MN Conference President, were involved in the earliest days of the Advent movement, Morse having seen the moon appear to turn to blood. He keenly felt the 1844 disappointment, sinking into a resultant time of deep gloom, but in 1845, Ellen Harmon (later White) received a vision about Morse and delivered a message of encouragement to him, reminding him the advent delay meant more time to preach the gospel. Morse took her message to heart and labored diligently in ensuing years to share the Advent message. In 1857, at the age of 41, with encouragement from the Whites and knowing only two other Advent families in Minnesota, Morse, with his family of eight children, moved to Minnesota, becoming one of the first settlers at Deerfield in the Minnesota Territory. Here he worked as farmer, postmaster, and

Justice of the Peace – all the while laboring to bring the Advent message to a vast area of the western frontier, walking sometimes 20-30 miles per day, with no remuneration for his efforts.

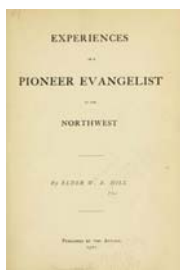


Stephen Pierce

Other Advent preachers soon joined Morse in the Minnesota work – those like Stephen Pierce, another Vermont native who lived through the 1844 disappointment. After 1844, he, with James and Ellen White, Joseph Bates and Hiram Edson, "searched for the truth as for hidden treasure", sometimes studying the entire night and praying for light. As the Civil War closed in 1865, at the age of about 60, Pierce moved to Minnesota, residing in Stewartville and becoming the 3rd MN Conference President. William S. Ingraham, another veteran of the 1844 movement, was another early preacher in Minnesota, hosting the first two Minnesota Campmeetings on his farm between Wasioja and Mantorville, MN in the fall of 1869 and June of 1870. John N. Andrews (3rd GC President, first SDA missionary, and basis for the name of Andrews University) also was a pioneer of the Minnesota work,



William Ingraham



as was W. B. Hill – Hill writing a most interesting account of his work entitled "Experiences of a Pioneer Minister of Minnesota" (available to read online at <http://openlibrary.org>). While some like Morse and Pierce lived long lives dedicated to ministry, there were others like John Bostwick (2nd MN Conference President) whose work was, sadly, brief.

After losing two children, Bostwick's ministry was cut short in 1866 when he died of tuberculosis in Oronoco, MN at the age of 29. A few weeks later, a daughter died, leaving his widow, Jane, with only one of her four children left to comfort her in life - such were the heartaches borne in those days!



John Bostwick

In the early years, women also, took their places in the cause – many women joined the ranks as Bible Workers, giving Bible studies in homes. Women were also "licensed to preach" in Minnesota as follows: 1878 - Anna Fulton; 1879 - Libbie Collins, Libbie Fulton, Lizzie Post; 1880 - Anna Johnson. In his book, W. B. Hill notes that Anna Johnson, known to be a very capable speaker, started as an opponent to Adventist views. Her husband, also a great opponent, boasted, "Just let those ministers come and see my Anna, and she will show them where they are wrong." Anna was moved, however, by the Advent message and she, along with her husband, came to embrace it. She became an ardent minister of the gospel, filling crowded meeting houses with listeners eager to hear the eloquent words that fell from her lips. Women also were especially effective as members of Vigilant Missionary Societies, later merged into Tract and Missionary (T&M) Societies. These societies focused on the sharing of written materials mingled with a great deal of prayer and tender-hearted concern for souls in both near and distant lands. According to John Loughborough, from 1871 on, as many souls were won through tracts and literature ministries as by public evangelists. In later years, women also ministered through "Dorcas" societies (now known as Community Services), bringing assistance to those in need.

As dedicated laborers worked throughout the wilds of Minnesota, many joined the ranks and soon "church" groups were meeting each Sabbath. It seemed wise to further organize the work so a statewide conference was called for February 2-3, 1861. Several believers trekked through the frigid Minnesota winter to Pleasant Grove, Olmstead Co. – two people traveled 100 miles, walking 30 miles of the trip! It was a blessed occasion and, in the business session, plans were laid for evangelistic tent meetings in the state. Later that year, on September 20-22 at Ashland, Dodge Co., they voted to organize, taking the name "Seventh-day Adventist" – this was the 1st official MN SDA conference meeting – or was it? October 4-5, 1862, a 2nd state conference was held at Deerfield, Steele Co. – just 60 miles east of New Ulm

where the Sioux Uprising had occurred a few weeks before (Washington Morse later remarked that the uprising helped the cause in Minnesota as many fleeing settlers found refuge on his farm where he shared the Advent message to great effect). At this meeting they voted to take the name of "Minnesota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". Now the conference was fully organized – or was it? Minnesotans were a bit ahead of schedule for it was not until May 21, 1863, that the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was organized! (MN was one of six state conferences represented.) So, Minnesotans met once again on Sunday, July 19, 1863, where the Minnesota Conference voted to adopt GC recommended bylaws and elected the first President, Washington Morse. At last, Minnesota was fully organized! Membership in the Minnesota conference was a grand total of 69 – Deerfield (19), Pleasant Grove (10), Ashland (10), Cleveland (15), and Oronoco (15).

Secretary's Records

*Minnesota Conference
of
Seventh-day Adventists.*

*Bought at S. Paul
Oct 15 1864
by
J. W. Morse
cost \$15.00*

Record of Business Sessions 1
The first meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist brethren of Minnesota as an organized body for the transaction of business in connection with the advancement of the cause of present truth was convened as per appointment, at Ashland Dodge Co on Sept 20th 1861.
Elders J. W. Andrews & W. Morse were present: Bro Jno Bostwick, a young preacher, also present. Profitable religious services were held during the hours of the Sabbath in which 20 or 25 believers were joined.
On the evening after the Sabbath a meeting was held for the purpose of organization and business transactions; an adjourned session was convened on first day forenoon.
In the evening Bro Jno Bostwick was ordained to the work of the

Minutes by Washington Morse regarding the first official Minnesota meeting in September 1861

Once organized, Minnesotans used a variety of means to spread the message throughout the state – tent meetings, Bible instructors, colporteurs, and Missionary Tract Societies all being employed effectively. These early tent meetings were primarily evangelistic in nature, a tent being pitched in a town for a period of weeks, then moving on to another town. The meetings were highly effective in proclaiming the gospel message and touching lives. Much work was also done in the various immigrant groups – especially the German, Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish peoples. A number of Scandinavian churches were also organized, some functioning well into the 20th century.



Campmeeting at Eagle Lake, MN
James and Ellen White with Uriah Smith
at the center of the stage

In the late 1860's the completion of railroad lines facilitated traveling long distances more easily and, starting in 1869, annual state-wide "camp meetings" were held. James and Ellen White, Uriah Smith, and other notable early leaders attended many of the early Minnesota camp meetings. After the first two held at Ingraham's farm near

Wasioja, the annual event moved around the state – early locations being Medford, Eagle Lake, Mankato, Hutchinson, St. Peter, Stillwater, St. Cloud, Little Falls, Northfield, and a variety of Minneapolis-St. Paul sites (spots such as Lake Calhoun, Lake Harriet, Post Siding, Pleasant Park, Minnehaha Park, Central Park, Merriam Park and Como Park). In 1905, camp meeting was held at Maple Plain near the newly established Maplewood Academy. Two factors were always of utmost concern for camp meeting sites – railroad service must be in close proximity and a body of water was needed to accommodate the many baptisms.



Anoka Campmeeting - 1951

Around the turn of the century, another venue became attractive – Anoka. The first Anoka camp meetings were held 1899-1901 and Anoka was revisited 1915-1918. Finally, in 1923, and through 1955, Anoka was the regular site for the annual convocations, with two exceptions – 1934 when Hutchinson was the venue and 1945 when no camp meeting was held due to a federal government ban on meetings associated with long travels (resources were needed for World War II efforts and GC was also canceled that year). Many, even today, fondly recall the "old Anoka camp meetings" and the great efforts put forth to attend these convocations – the Burgeson family recalls their car was so loaded with provisions that some rode on the running boards despite the length of the journey from northern Minnesota! It was with no small sadness that the camp ground was finally sold back to the City of Anoka in 1955 and camp meetings were relocated to Medicine Lake (1956-1963). From 1964 to 1966, camp meetings were held in various locations, finally coming to rest in 1967 at beautiful Maplewood Academy in Hutchinson where they are still held today. Many early camp meetings provided meetings in languages other than English including tongues such as Danish, German, Swedish, and Norwegian – Scandinavian meetings continuing through 1955. Today this practice of sharing the gospel in other tongues continues with the Hispanic tent meetings and baptisms.



Scandinavian Campmeeting

Through the years, Minnesota has played an integral part in the development of the worldwide SDA work. In 1888, from October 17 through November 4, Minnesota hosted the SDA General Conference at the newly built Minneapolis First English Church on the southeast corner of East Lake Street and 4th Avenue. It was during this session that A. T. Jones and E. J. Waggoner, despite opposition of older leaders, brought forth an emphasis on righteousness by faith in Jesus as a foundation for our spiritual walk. This site was the hub of Adventist work in Minnesota at that time for, in addition to the church, it was the location of the conference office and the Tract and Missionary Society offices.



It was in this same church that the first SDA secondary school in Minnesota was started in the fall of 1888, shortly after the GC session. The Minneapolis Preparatory School (also called the Conference School), opened in the basement of the church – it being the third preparatory school organized by the SDA church.



Minneapolis Preparatory School opened 1888

That first year, 80 students were instructed by 4 staff – Professor Charles C. Lewis serving as principal with Miss Sarah E. Peck, Miss Elsie M. Westphal, and Myrtle G. Griffis as teachers. (Sarah Peck later finished her college studies at Battle Creek and, in 1892, traveled to Africa as the

denomination's first college graduate enlisted in foreign mission service.) The Conference School operated in Minneapolis for 10 years through the spring of 1898.

Throughout 1898-1899, efforts were made to relocate the school on a farm. Indeed, a farm was purchased at Anoka – however, opposition arose to having a school in the area – so, with great disappointment, the farm was resold and the school was relocated within the city limits of Anoka in the former Commercial Hotel on the corner of Main and Ferry Streets. It was renamed the Minnesota Industrial School and opened in the fall of 1899 with 100 students.



Minnesota Industrial School in Anoka



First Faculty at Maple Plain, Minnesota
1904-1905

CENTER—O. O. Bernstein

SECOND ROW—Miss Caroline Hopkins, Dean of Girls; Mathematics,
Mrs. O. O. Bernstein; Miss Wavie Tubbs, Music

BACK ROW—S. E. Jackson, President of School Board; Miss Lena
Rosenthal, Matron; H. J. Sheldon, Bible

The Anoka school, however, was still not the ideal Minnesotans had hoped for – the objective remained to relocate the school to a farm. With great anticipation in 1904, a farm was acquired near Maple Plain on the banks of Lake Katrina, opening that fall with 57 students and 5 faculty – Otto O. Bernstein as principal with Mrs. Bernstein (Myrtle Franklin), Miss Caroline Hopkins, Miss Lena Rosenthal, Harold J. Sheldon and Miss Wavie Tubbs as the teachers. Located in a lovely maple grove, the school was renamed Maplewood Academy in 1905.



Maplewood Academy, Maple Plain - Administration Building

In short order, Maplewood was known as a premiere educational institution throughout the nation, bringing both SDA and non-SDA students from across the country. As students traveled by train and then rode down dusty unpaved Hennepin County roads via horse-drawn wagons journeying to the school, one can imagine their excitement as they embarked upon what would be an educational, social, and spiritual experience they would remember for a lifetime.

In addition to tuition (\$24 per month by 1924), Minnesota's constituents generously supported the school with offerings, providing a sound financial base throughout the years. Starting with an Administration Building housing most school needs along with a few farm buildings, Maplewood quickly expanded, adding girls and boys dormitories besides a teacher's cottage and other structures. The school even had electricity (the surrounding area not having electricity until 1937)! In 1909, Maplewood proudly presented it's first two graduates – Carl J. Martinson and Winifred V. Halverson.

Maplewood Academy at Maple Plain



Students in Chapel (Note library in corner)



Roy M. Christensen, Delena A. Shelton, Ernest L. Shelton, Lela M. Pelicard, Stanley B. Swisher

Class of 1910



THE ACADEMY HORSE POWER



"SETTING UP"

Shortly after Maplewood's first class graduated, the Northern Union Conference decided foreign language studies should be moved from Union College in Nebraska to other locations. In 1910, a German Seminary was established at Clinton, Missouri and a Swedish Seminary was launched at Broadview, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago (at this time, Chicago had more Swedes than any other city in the world except Stockholm). With the large influx of Danish and Norwegian immigrants to Minnesota, it seemed wise to move Danish-Norwegian studies to Minnesota.



SDA Danish-Norwegian Seminary, Hutchinson

After considering Dodge Center and Lake City as possible sites, the conference found God had provided a perfect setting in Hutchinson. The Lutherans had attempted a Scandinavian college endeavor but, beset with financial difficulties, the 2/3-built building was abandoned. W. C. White arrived shortly after the school opened and said his mother would have said that God was saving this school for us. The purchase price of \$22,250 was soon raised by large donations, such as those from conferences and the city of Hutchinson, combined with small donations from individuals. One small donation was in the form of a touching letter from a brother in Nebraska, who, over eighty years of age, lying upon his bed and unable to sit up, expressed his great interest in the school, and accompanied the letter by a twenty-five dollar check. Such was the dedication and support of this school where workers could be trained to go throughout the world to share the gospel.

The Danish-Norwegian Seminary opened September 28, 1910 with the Danish-born President M. L. Andreassen and other faculty greeting 40 students. Andreassen's dedication to the school is unparalleled – one summer the student boys were painting the trim on the four-story brick building and had finished the windows, but they had no scaffolding and could not reach the eaves. M. L., who always insisted he would never ask anyone to perform a task he was unwilling to do, determined he would paint the eaves. Athlete that he was, even though he was a man of short stature, he clung to the eaves day after day, with only a toehold above the windows, finishing the job without a slip!



Seminary Faculty (Andreassen center)

By December 1910, the seminary had 86 students and 6 faculty. The first graduating class, presented in 1914, listed: Vesta Andreassen, Ida L. Christensen, Della Jensen, Julius J. Johnsen, Junius Paulson, and probably Alfred Peterson Darley. Starting with a capacity of only 100, the school soon needed expansion. By 1917, with nearly 150 students and 14 faculty, it became clear that the unfinished west wing of the school must be completed. At the height of World War I, despite tight finances for all, a call went out for funding and \$27,000 was quickly raised! The 1917 school year opened with the new west wing in service along with a new name of "Hutchinson Theological Seminary". The completed building, beautiful in it's symmetry and architecture stood on the hill overlooking Hutchinson, exemplary of Matthew's declaration, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." The school took seriously the command "Go ye therefore and teach all nations", sending workers throughout the world from the Scandinavian countries to South America, from India and China to Hawaii, from Africa to Jamaica and Haiti. Many countries benefited from the ministry of the school's graduates, several being the first to enter these foreign mission fields.



Maplewood Academy at Hutchinson

By the late 1920's however, most seminary students were fluent in English and the need for schools in other tongues was diminished. Most college level classes were merged into the Broadview program, leaving mainly academy level classes at the seminary. Minnesota was left with a heavier financial burden to support the school and a decision was made at the 1928 Minnesota camp meeting to merge the seminary with Maplewood Academy at the Hutchinson site. That fall, the move was made and school opened at Hutchinson as Maplewood Academy.



Maplewood Academy Faculty and Students 1954

Alvin W. Johnson, Principal at the Maple Plain school, continued as Maplewood Principal at the Hutchinson facility. The seminary continued to operate some classes at the Hutchinson location until 1932 when the last of it's operations were relocated to Broadview, Illinois.



Alvin Johnson,

Maplewood, of course, is still at Hutchinson but many changes have occurred through the years. Additional structures such as a gymnasium, cafeteria, and dormitories have been built. In the 1979-1980 school year, the "old Ad Building" that had been built by the Lutherans was removed and a move made to a newly built Administration Building on January 29, 1980. The chapel of this new building rests on the hallowed site of the beloved "old Ad Building".

MWA Class of 2010



MWA gymnasium



Maplewood Academy in 2010 – Administration Building



Dodge Center Church School

While the earliest educational work focused on secondary level training of Adventist workers, education of younger children commenced shortly thereafter. In 1898, while native Minnesotan, Frank (Francis A.) Detamore was attending college at Battle Creek, he heard Mrs. White speak on the importance of establishing local "church schools" for younger

children. Frank was so moved by the appeal that he sent a letter back home, offering to quit classes at Battle Creek and come home to teach students for no pay except room and board. His offer was accepted and he started the first Minnesota church school at Good Thunder with 22 students. The success of this school encouraged other churches to follow this example and by the fall of 1900, church schools were established at: Anoka, Brainerd, Dodge Center, Eagle Lake, Garden City, Gilchrist, Good Thunder, Haitland, Henning, Hutchinson, Lewiston,



Alexandria Church School Group



Gilchrist Church School Group

Mankato, Medford, Minneapolis, Pine Island, Sauk Centre, St. Cloud, St. Paul, and Wells. Through the last 150 years, many dedicated teachers have educated leaders for the worldwide church and for their local communities.

In addition to the educational work done in Minnesota, the constituents have also contributed to the medical work of the church. In 1898, inspired by the Battle Creek Sanitarium, Minnesotan Elders C. W. Flaiz and C. I. Emmerson (father of well-known Minnesota Pastor Vernon Emmerson) started the

Helping Hand Mission in St. Paul, a facility dedicated to improving the lifestyle of the homeless. For a couple of years starting in 1901, the Little family operated the Twin City Nut



Martinson Hospital in Wazata



**Dr. C. J.
Martinson**

Food Co. which produced nutritious foods for a healthy diet. Many young members, after furthering their education elsewhere, have returned to Minnesota to minister to the body and spirit as Adventist physicians, nurses, and other medical professionals – many names could come to mind but one of the more notable ones would be Dr. Carl Martinson who started a hospital in Minnetonka in addition to his clinic. His son, Dr. Elmer, continued that work for many years. In the 1960's, another "healthcare worker" came forth from a Minnesotan's creativity – that being, "Smoking Sam", invented by Melvin Jacobson. For several decades, "Sam" alerted youth to the dangers of smoking as he demonstrated smoking's effect on the lungs.



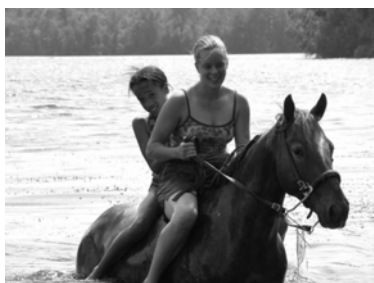
**Melvin Jacobson,
founder of
"Smoking Sam"**

Other notable Minnesota ministry contributions include prison ministries (Artichoke and Stillwater churches being well-known for such work), community service groups, the "One-Day Church" projects initiated by Garwin McNeilus of Dodge Center, and, a more recent addition – radio ministries. Operated by various churches, these radio stations provide Christian music, Bible studies, and other services, reaching into homes throughout the state. Ministries have also sought to nurture believers through groups such as women's ministries (the first women's retreat being held in 1988 at Brainerd), men's ministries, family ministries, and various youth ministries.



**The One-Day Church Project
Founded by Garwin McNeilus**

In addition to educational efforts, youth ministries have included state-wide youth gatherings, Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs, and North Star Camp (opened in 1957 just north of Brainerd).



**Making Memories at
North Star Camp**

The acquisition of the camp is a miraculous and touching story of how one member, Harris Jones, followed God's lead in appealing to the Whiteley sisters to relinquish the last of their family lands and requesting the State of Minnesota and City of Brainerd to release conservation lands – only God could have overcome the many hurdles associated with obtaining the beautiful camp we know today. But God always has a way to accomplish His mission. All these various ministries have endeavored to follow our Master's example by sharing God's love while ministering to human needs in a sin-filled world.

Through the years, many have followed in the footsteps of the Minnesota Advent pioneers – the educational efforts and ministries combined with active church groups and dedicated families have laid a foundation for a work that has stretched around the globe. Many dedicated workers for the gospel cause



Blom Family of Middle River

have come forth from Minnesota – some small churches producing so many leaders for the world work that there were few left in the local church to carry on the work at home. Most churches were established during "hard times" and built by those with few resources except for their "hard work" ethic. Homes like the Ruskjer and Larsen families of Bemidji, the Olson family of Artichoke, the Andersen and Johnson families of Hutchinson, the Blom family of Middle River, the Butterfield family of Wells, the Anderson and Pogue families of Blackberry, the Larsen and Burghart families of Morgan, the Mortensen and Sommer families of Golden Gate, the Franklin, Schram and Detamore families of Good Thunder, and many more too numerous to mention parented church leaders who later worked throughout the denomination. Dedicated pastors – from those mentioned of the earliest days to 20th

century shepherds like Elders N. R. Nelson, Vernon Burgeson, Phillip Young and Vernon Emmerson – brought numerous souls to a knowledge of their Savior and led them to the baptismal waters in Minnesota's 10,000 lakes.



Johnson Family at MWA



Vernon Burgeson Family

century shepherds like Elders N. R. Nelson, Vernon Burgeson, Phillip Young and Vernon Emmerson – brought numerous souls to a knowledge of their Savior and led them to the baptismal waters in Minnesota's 10,000 lakes.

The influence of Minnesotans has been felt at all levels of SDA organization including the General Conference. William Ambrose Spicer, who pioneered the SDA work in India (Spicer Memorial College in India is named for him) and served as GC President 1922-1930, was a native born Minnesotan, his parents being Seventh-day Baptists who joined the SDA church in Minnesota in 1875. Ole Andres Olsen, a Norwegian immigrant was the 5th MN Conference President and later became GC President. Hannah Myrtle Wallin-Wilson, born and raised in Roseau, MN, was the mother of former GC President Neal C. Wilson and grandmother of current GC President Ted Wilson.



W. A. Spicer

The small SDA churches of Minnesota have especially blessed the world wide church with dedicated workers too numerous to mention – starting with some of the earliest churches in the southern tier of the state at Concord (now Dodge Center), Good Thunder, Wells, Golden Gate, Morgan and the Bath Scandinavian church, the work spread out areas like Hutchinson, Gilchrist, Fergus Falls and Artichoke and then further north to settlements like Roseau, Middle River, Bemidji, Blackberry, and Mineral Center – these small but dedicated churches, most of them farming communities, laid a rock



Artichoke SDA Church

solid spiritual foundation from whence came forth conference leaders, teachers, missionaries, ministers, healthcare workers, and other gospel workers who have ministered in the farthest corners of the globe and helped to shape the Seventh-day Adventist work known around the world. Never let it be said that a church is too small or insignificant to make a difference!

As for Julia E. Grems, the 17 year old girl who opened our story, she wrote to the "Review" many more times throughout her life. She married Luther B. Green and mothered seven children. One of these, Joseph Green, was a missionary to Tahiti, where he and his wife spent nearly three years in faithful labor. He worked in the Review and Herald Office before and after his return from the South Sea Islands, and was employed there when he passed away at the age of only 31. A few short weeks later, Luther, also succumbed to ill health, and died just weeks after his son. Even after her husband and son's deaths, Julia remained strong in the faith and a blessing to those around her ... always encouraging others, especially the young people, to dedicate their lives to our loving Savior.



Throughout the last 150 years, consecrated Minnesota Adventists such as these have led the way in establishing the faith, not only in Minnesota, but around the world. In fact, it would be difficult to tell the story of the Seventh-day Adventist Church without including the story of Adventists in Minnesota – the tales of their dedication, challenges, heartaches, and triumphs. Regardless of the obstacles presented, Minnesotan Adventists truly took seriously the charge "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15 No doubt, when we all reach that heavenly home, far from the wilds of Minnesota, these pioneers will have many stars in their crown and certainly it will be said of these, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34

Reflecting upon God's leading in the last 150 years of this conference, may we be led to more fully appreciate the foundation laid by the pioneers and the Lord's guidance of this work. As we remember Julia Grem's solitary plight, may we count as precious the privilege of assembling together each Sabbath and treasure the company of fellow believers. And lastly, as we realize the extent of Minnesotan's ministry throughout the earth, may we fervently look forward to the time when we gather with these laborers and our Savior on the sea of glass in the New Earth!



Faribault SDA Church Group

By Kathy Joy (Parker) Parke

*Kathy hosts a website for
Minnesota Seventh-day Adventist history at
www.mnsdahistory.org*

*Enjoy stories and pictures of Minnesota SDA pioneers, families,
churches, camp meetings, church schools and lots more!*

**A debt of gratitude is owed to
Dr. Adrian R. M. Lauritzen**
author of "Saints of the Northern Star",
a history of Seventh-day Adventism in Minnesota.

Adrian's work was primarily done before
the luxury of online internet searches,
his research rather being done by hard
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Jerry and Alice (Larson) Pettis
Vickie (Cora) Martin

Many thanks to Dr. Elmer Martinson
for sharing his vast collection of photos
and his memories of days-gone-by!

This booklet is provided free to all – if you enjoyed it,
the writer encourages you to make an investment in the next
Minnesota Seventh-day Adventist generation by contributing to
Maplewood Academy or North Star Camp