

4-70 OBITUARY. 1906

FATHER JOSHUA B. HARDY.

Rev. Joshua B. Hardy, one of the best known pioneers in the history of the Methodist church in Iowa, was born in Fayette county, Pa., February 7, 1820, and died in Brooklyn April 15, 1906, aged 86 years.

In July, 1843 he was married at Lebanon in this state to Miss Emma Jameson, daughter of Rev. Milton Jameson, another pioneer Methodist preacher in Iowa. To them were born two children, Mrs. Emma A. Stafford of Brooklyn and Mrs. Nora N. Kellum, who died six years ago. Eight grand children and four great-grand children also survive him.

Mr. Hardy grew up in Hamilton county, Ohio, where his father moved when the son was but four years old. From his parents he received a thorough religious training and even as a boy was given to serious thinking. He could recall feelings of tender emotion and religious fervor when he prayed in his earliest childhood. Later he somewhat out-grew this until in his sixteenth year, he became the subject of a deep conviction and was fully converted at a camp-meeting near Oxford, Ohio. Some time later he removed to Iowa where he united with the Old Zion Methodist Episcopal church. Prior to that he was licensed to exhort and the Old Zion quarterly conference voted him a license to preach in the spring 1842 and recommended him to the annual conference for admission on trial in the fall of that year.

In 1844 the Iowa Conference was formed and at its first session at Iowa City, Father Hardy was received into full connection. Two years later at Muscatine, then called Bloomington, he was ordained an elder by the saintly Bishop L. L. Hamline. The official records show that during the years, from 1842, when he began his pastorate in the Mt. Pleasant Circuit until he was retired in 1881, he served twenty-five charges. He first served as elder in the Oskaloosa district in 1852, which position he also held again from 1863 to 1866. His pastorates in this county were at Grinnell in 1869, at Victor in 1877 and at Brooklyn, 1878-9. Thus he served in Iowa a total of twenty-nine years in pastorates, nine years on districts, one year as supernumerary and twenty-five years superannuated. Thus honorably to himself and usefully to the church did he round out the 64 years covered by his ministry.

It should be noted also that, through the early years, many of his fields of labor were quite large, involving much travel and exposure, and danger by floods and storms. Thus his second charge extended from the south part of Washington County to the vicinity of Montezuma, where he preached the first Protestant sermon in Poweshiek County. He used to tell of a person giving him an order that year for a pair of boots on a Burlington merchant, and he gladly rode there through the mud and slush of a wet spring to get the order filled, and tho't himself well paid for the trouble.

No odds what the privation or labor his work required, he patiently and courageously met it, and proved himself faithful in every position of duty and service to which he was assigned.

His long term as a non-effective man was not a time of idleness. For some

Bureau, Brooklyn
care.