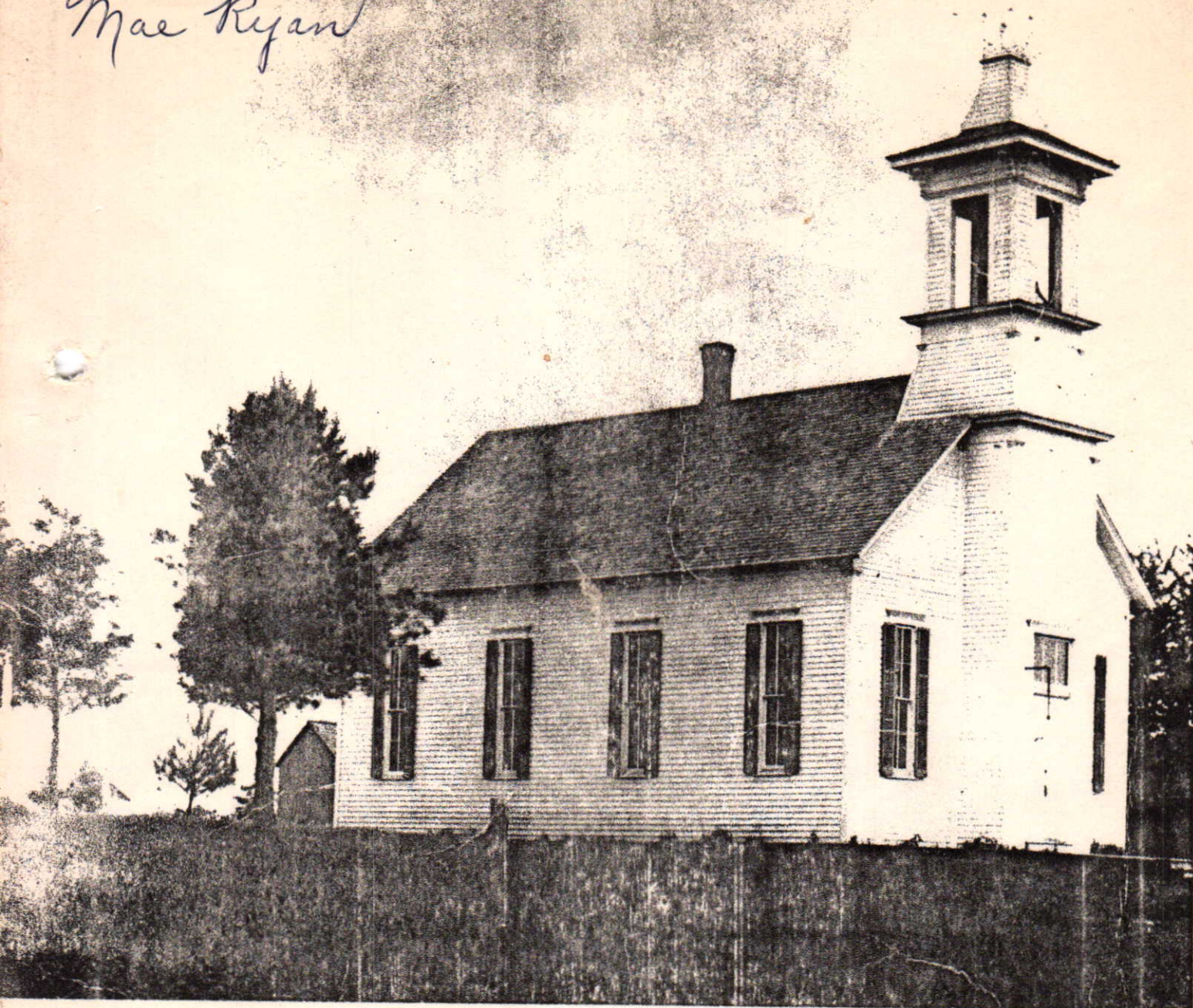


Mae Ryan



Tingley Methodist Church 1886

CENTENNIAL HISTORY  
of  
TINGLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
and  
TINGLEY, IOWA

1877 - 1977

# CENTENNIAL HISTORY

## OF THE

### TINGLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

It is one hundred years since the beginning of the Methodist Church in Tingley, as the first was in 1877, and our year is 1977. Before the first minister there were those who wanted and prepared for his coming.

Like most pioneer churches, the Methodist Church had its beginning in a Sabbath School in a country schoolhouse, the old Center School, (which was located across the road north of the present Charles Case house). (It is my understanding that the old Center Schoolhouse is now used for a garage on the Dean Johnson farm just north of our present church.)

The Rev. Charles H. Burleigh organized the first Methodist class at the Center Schoolhouse in the spring of 1877. At that time he was stationed at Hopeville and preached Oliver, Rice, Cornwall, and Tingley schoolhouses, and also at High Point. Rev. Burleigh was one of the first "circuit riders", making his journeys by horseback. There wasn't any town of Tingley here at this time.

The charter members of that first Methodist class, so far as it is possible now to ascertain were: Mr. and Mrs. E. Atwood, Mr. and Mrs. Mordicai Smith, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Stafford, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Willey, Mrs. A. Pollock, Mrs. Lucy Foster, Miss Mary Smith, J. E. Atwood, J. J. Atwood, Link Smith, Link Willey, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Wilcox and daughter, Miss Nora. No doubt the ladies in the group had to make their own candles to be used when light was needed in their meetings at the schoolhouse.

Sabbath School was closed for the winter with this old notation:

Died: In the prime of life of rapid decline--Sunday School--surrounded by numerous and sympathizing friends, it passed away, in hopes of a vigorous resurrection next spring. (Ringgold Record)

Sunday School survived, and the Rev. Chas. Brewer was the minister in 1878.

To understand the beginning and survival of our church is to know a little of the events that took place in those early years.

1878---There were 1000 acres of prairie broken up on Tingley Township this year.

Railroad interest is being worked up.

Feb. 20, 1879---Hauling corn to Afton, 15 miles, and getting 16¢ per bu., is what some of the Tingley farmers are doing. Very little romance about it, but then it is practical and brings the money. (The Onward)

June 10, 1879---The M. E. Classes at Tingley Center and High Point, have been cut off from the Hopeville Circuit and Father Nixon, of Afton, will preach to them the balance of this conference year. (The Onward)

At the time the town was first started, before it was incorporated, there were only two homes--one just south of where the depot was built and occupied by N. L. Marshall; one across from where the Methodist Church was built, and occupied by Pat Dempsey. (History of Ringgold County)

1880---The border city of Eugene (just north of Keith Liningers) to lose its merchant, George Swaine, to Tingley. (Ringgold Record)