

OUR CHURCHES.

The Morals of Farmington Well Looked After.

The Methodist Episcopal church in Farmington presents a long and varied history. Ministers of that denomination having lived regular appointments here for about seventy years. During the first ten years the services were held in dwellings, schoolhouses, and for a time the gospel was proclaimed in a cooper shop; but with the characteristic energy of Methodist classes in rural districts a church edifice was erected as early as 1840. This building was enlarged and much improved in 1878, making it the most commodious place of worship in the village. The society, we regret to say, has not always enjoyed the prosperity of the earlier years but has at times been subjected to such experiences as have weakened sister churches in more promising communities. There have been periods when the membership was large; the society strong and the life of the church full of spiritual vigor, while at other times conditions have



REV. W. H. LLOYD,
Pastor of the Methodist Church.

not appeared so hopeful. But is not a church with a record of long pastorates as is indicated by the fact that no less than forty-eight different ministers have been appointed to this charge since the church was organized seventy years ago. The pastorates during the ten years that have elapsed since the church began its career have been as follows: Rev. F. B. Ling, two years; James Hall, one year; Henry F. Sher, one year; A. Ebling, two years; Clarence E. Allen, one year; B. Dufrais, two years; and the present incumbent, W. H. Lloyd, who has recently entered upon the second year here. The most important event in the life of this church during the last decade was the revival conducted by Rev. C. E. Allen, in the winter of '96, as a result of which some thirty members were added to the church. Recognizing this organization as one of the best factors in the life of any community, we delight to see the greatest possible prosperity attend the work and ministrations of the society in our midst.

BAPTIST.

Forty-one years ago in the summer of 1857 the Farmington Village Baptist Church was organized, and admitted to the sisterhood of churches, called the Wayne Baptist Association. Rev. J. H. Jones was the leader in the movement and the first pastor.

They worshipped in the Moses Whipple's school room, except a few months in the Presbyterian and Union churches. The meeting house was built, and dedicated (Oct. 9th, 1861, Rev. James Hughes, then of Detroit, preaching the dedication sermon. The Wayne Association met with the church in 1864, and were invited to meet with them again in 1874, but the invitation was not accepted.

In January 1872 a parsonage was bought. Rev. I. Bloomer, father of the editor of the ENTERPRISE, settled as pastor Feb. 1874, and remained three years. One of the pleasant occasions of his ministry during his pastorate was the Thanksgiving reunion of the church members, at the parsonage the first year. The letters of absent pastors, Rev. H. Base, Eastwood, Grove, Brown, Northrop and others, are a treasure to the water, and keep fresh memories of the past. Also the organization of the Women's Missionary Society of the church; Mrs. I. Bloomer being the first President.

The church and society furnished the dining hall on the fair ground the seasons of 1885-86-87, making a successful business transaction for the fair and themselves. The greatest number of baptisms were in the years 1896 and 1897. One of the young men baptized in '96 has become one of the most successful pastors in the denomination, Rev. N. A. Varnham, now of Kansas City. The church has entertained four ordaining councils and one for discipline.

Ten years ago Rev. J. S. Hayden was preaching to the church for the second time, coming from Novi for an afternoon service. Rev. D. Q. Barry commenced labor in 1891, and Rev. J. J. Tickner in 1894, each serving as pastor

OUR SCHOOLS.

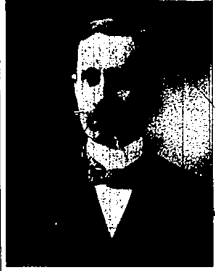
They Stand Among the First in the State.

"Religion and morality being necessary for good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." As this principle was set forth in the Ordinance of 1787, instilled into the Michigan people, so Farmington included her share of that true spirit of education. The school building is situated in a pleasant part of the eastern portion of the town. The school was graded ten years ago, and since that time, has sent out forty-eight graduates who have taken various positions and filled them so ably that they have reflected great credit upon the thoroughness of work done while in the school room. By the untiring efforts of the board and teachers, and the encouragement of the patrons, the standard of the school has constantly been raised until today it ranks as one of the best schools in the county. The standings are given full credit in all surrounding schools and the graduates are admitted to the law department of the U. of M. without examination, while the school is on the approved list of the Agricultural College at Lansing.

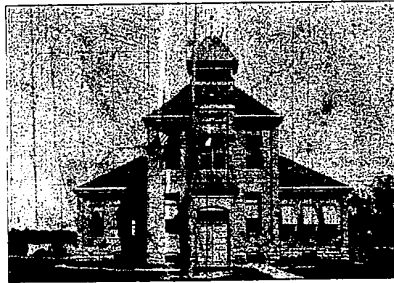
The aim of the school has always been to make the work practical along all lines, and so it is pupils that they would be able to leave the school, well fitted for the various vocations of life. The graduates seldom fail to secure certificates, while some of them hold second grade. Each room in the building is well lighted and ventilated, and is heated by a hot air furnace. A reading room with many of the best publications of magazines and papers as well as a library containing several volumes is an attractive feature of the school, and pupils have access to this constantly. Rates of living are very reasonable here, and foreign students are invited to investigate the merits of our High School. Any inquiry by letter will be promptly answered by the secretary of the school board.

H. N. MC CRACKEN.

H. N. McCracken, the efficient principal of the Farmington public schools, is a native of this township, his father having lived for many years on the same farm he occupies at present, four miles northwest of the village. "Harry," as he is familiarly known by many of his fellow townsmen, has spent the greater part of his life in obtaining a thorough training and equipment for the profession he has chosen. Attending the district school until 1881, he went from that to the State Normal school, teaching winters and studying with the summer classes until he had completed three years' work in the Normal; later he graduated from the Cleary Business College, a fact which may largely account for the practical character of his educational work.



Five years ago he took a five months course at the Northern Indiana Normal before entering upon his duties as principal of the Farmington School, which position he has held since that time. In 1896, Mr. McCracken was elected to serve as a member of the County Board of School Examiners, and it will be unnecessary to say any more respecting his qualifications and reputation as a teacher than simply to add that he has just been re-elected to that position by the unanimous vote of the board of Supervisors, with the exception of two who undoubtedly were not sufficiently informed on the subject.



Farmington Union School.
Photo by Geo. Hanson, Northville.



MISS EVELYN DELLINGER.
Teacher of the intermediate department, Farmington public school. She graduated from the High School, class of '96, and has taught successfully two years.

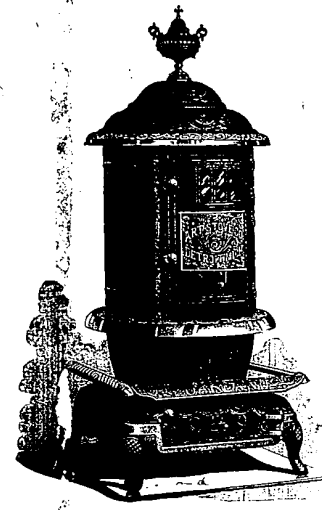


MISS ANNA CONROY.
A graduate of Farmington High School, class of '97, she is now making a success as saleslady in E. C. Drake's general store.



MISS NELLIE BLOOMER.
Teacher of the primary department, Farmington public school. She is a graduate of Farmington High School, class of '96, and is making a specialty of primary work.

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Fall and Winter Styles are now being opened for inspection and a call is requested. The new goods are all up-to-date, and the prices are very low.

Come and see how cheap you can buy goods.

Wishing to close out the Odds and Ends I will sell several lines of Suits and all Summer Goods at Cost.

JOSH W. BIRD, PONTIAC, MICH.

Hard Wood Lumber...

That's what we deal in and we are ready to furnish you any thing you need in the line at prices that will surely please you.

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Best grade of sawed posts always on hand.

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We have a wood yard in connection. Wood delivered.

Mill and yard one mile east of Farmington.
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C. J. SPRAGUE, Vice-President.

Farmington Exchange Bank...

Transacts a general banking business. Receives deposits subject to check. Issues certificates of deposit payable on demand.

INTEREST PAID ON TIME DEPOSITS.

Money to loan in large or small amounts at reasonable rates. We solicit business from Merchants, Farmers and others.

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In our fire proof vault to rent at low rates.

C. W. WILBER, Cashier.

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