EDITED AND COMPILED

BY

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HISTORY

OF THE

ILLINOIS BRANCH

Woman's Missionary Society

OF

The Evangelical Church

1890 - 1946

OUR MOTTO

"A Woman's Missionary Society in Every Congregation and Every Woman a Member."

FOREWORD

The present time is an heir to past time. We are indebted to our yesterdays for what we are today and for what we hope to be tomorrow. We cannot cut ourselves off from the past without serious loss. Someone has said, "The past is the reservoir into which God has drained the wisdom and experience of generations that are gone, and from which streams of living waters flow down to irrigate the future."

It is with a feeling of deep reverence for the noble past that this glimpse into the history of the Illinois Conference Branch Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Church has been prepared. May we be inspired by what has been done and challenged by what waits to be done.

This history must of necessity be very chary of details. No attempt has been made to give a complete account of the accomplishments of the Branch. The purpose is to give a brief presentation of what God has wrought through the consecrated women of the Evangelical Church in Illinois. There is much that cannot be recorded here and space does not permit mentioning all who had a share in the development of the work. To tell the story of fifty-six years of Illinois Branch work would not be the most difficult task, but to confine it to certain limitations was not so simple.

I wish to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of the other members of the Committee on History, Mrs. Matilda Schumacher and Mrs. Wesley Tash. To Miss Ethel Spreng, our Branch President, my thanks are due for getting the records from the vault in First Church, Naperville, and for her helpful suggestions. To all others who responded so kindly to inquiries for information I am deeply grateful.

Records of the Illinois Branch were practically the complete source of reference for this history though one of the books had been damaged in a train wreck, the wheels of the train passing over the suitcase in which it was contained, and another record covering a period of sixteen years was written in German.

It has been a great pleasure and blessing to review the past of our important work in Illinois. The memory of it will always be cherished. I trust that in a measure at least those who read this history will feel something of the surge of joy that came to me as I recorded the attainments of the women of yesteryear.

This little booklet is sent forth with the prayer that all Evangelical women of Illinois will realize how great a heritage is theirs. May we resolve that with God's help we will keep aflame the torch which was lighted for us and perform well the task which has been "Committed unto us."

I share the opinion of Mrs. Harper Sibley, President of the United Council of Church Women, that God is again entrusting to women a special vision and a special service. Many years ago He trusted a young woman to bring His Son into the world. Then He entrusted to women the first glimpse of His Son risen from the dead, and the first message of His resurrection. These women did not fail Him. Will we fail Him today?

Mrs. Elsie Giese Lipp

INTRODUCTION

This concise history has been prepared in harmony with the action of the Illinois Branch Women's Society of World Service convention of 1947. It is to serve not only as a brief printed record of the "acts" of the Branch from its beginning to the time of the union of the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren Church, but as an inspiration and challenge to our constituency and to all who read the story of how greatly God has blessed the earnest, self-sacrificing efforts of the consecrated Evangelical women who served so joyously in the work of the Woman's Missionary Society throughout these past years. We today are the rich inheritors of this host of godly women.

When it came to the question of who should prepare this history, the choice was spontaneous and unanimous, for it was agreed that Mrs. Elsie Giese Lipp was more than ordinarily qualified for this particular task. Born in an Evangelical home, our historian has always been associated with the Evangelical Church. She was graduated from North Central College and received her M.A. degree from the University of Chicago. Mrs. Lipp has been on the Illinois Branch executive board since 1927, has served as treasurer, second vice-president, president and historian of the Branch, and has presented the mission study at numerous conventions. She has attended every convention since 1927, served as denominational representative on the Winona Summer School Committee and has represented her church as lay delegate at many annual conferences.

Added to this rich cultural and missionary background are Mrs. Lipp's radiant enthusiasm and her deep spiritual qualities of mind and heart, all of which have colored her approach to her task.

With the prayer that this brief history will be a real blessing to its readers and to the missionary enterprise of our beloved Church, it is hereby dedicated to all those noble women who have gone before, whose contribution to the growth and development of the Illinois Branch has been so great and so rich.

L. Ethel Spreng
President Illinois Branch 1948

The year 1890 marked the Genesis of organized missions of the Evangelical women of Illinois. On October 27, 1880, shortly after the Board of Missions had granted the request of the women to be allowed to organize Woman's Missionary Societies, a society was organized at South Chicago, Illinois. This was one of the first two societies to be organized in the Evangelical Association. The other was organized the same date at Lindsay, Ohio.

During the following ten years 22 societies and 8 Mission Bands were organized in Illinois. They reported separately to the General Society and were not bound together by any Branch organization. These auxiliaries were invited by Mrs. W. H. Fouke, who had been appointed organizer by the General Society, to send delegates to a convention to be held July 9-11, 1890, at Salem Church, Freeport, for the purpose of effecting a Branch Organization. Ten auxiliaries responded to this invitation. Delegates were present from Cedarville, Chicago, South Chicago, Davis, Dixon, El Paso, Freeport, Naperville, Sterling, and Clarno, Wis.

After the Branch Constitution and By-Laws had been read and adopted the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. W. H. Fouke; Vice-president, Mrs. L. B. Tobias; Secretary, Mrs. J. J. Rosenstiel; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Mary Messner; Treasurer, Mrs. Ida Haefele; Superintendent of Mission Bands, Mrs. Morrison.

Mrs. W. H. Fouke
1890-1892
1895-1899

Special features of the program included the reading of letters from Rev. and Mrs. T. W. Woodside, missionaries in Africa; a paper by Miss Laura Gemmill on "What is our Horizon in Missions?"; an essay on "Labor" by Mrs. Morrison of Dixon; "Mission Band Work" by Mrs. T. L. Haines; a paper on "Giving" by Mrs. Ida Haefele; a Question Drawer conducted by Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler, President of the General Society.

It is interesting to note that at that first convention a reception including the serving of refreshments was held in "The Ladies' Parlor" for the purpose of welcoming delegates. This has been a happy feature of many succeeding conventions.

Among the items adopted were: That each society be requested to raise at least One Dollar to defray the expenses of the delegates from the Branch to the Sixth Annual Meeting of the General Woman's Society to be held at Calvary Church, Cleveland, Ohio; that each member pay 10 cents annually as a contingent fund; that each auxiliary hold a Thankoffering meeting during the year; that each auxiliary assist the Superintendent and Executive Committee in organizing a Mission Band where there is none.

And here we feel constrained to interject how gratifying it is to note that at the very beginning of the Branch the women realized the importance of missionary education for boys and girls and the truth

of the statement that "The Child is our only Asset". May we of this day never lose sight of this fact and continue to promote this department.

Because "Firsts" are always thrilling experiences we pause to relate that the first Mission Band in Illinois Branch was organized at Naperville on October 1, 1885, under the leadership of Mrs. H. C. Smith. Several who were members of that first Mission Band became leaders and officers of the Branch. Among these we name Miss Cora Frost, Hattie Byers (Mrs. W. M. Givler), and Essie Umbach (Mrs. W. J. Miller).

A resolution passed at this organizational meeting indicates that the Branch took seriously the motto, "A Woman's Missionary Society in every Congregation and every Woman a Member", of which Mrs. W. H. Hammer, one of the seven women who devised the historic petition to the General Conference asking for permission to organize a General Woman's Missionary Society, was the author.

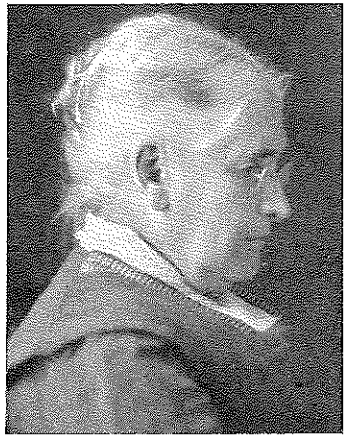
The following ministers were present at this first convention: Rev. Fouke, Rev. Caton, Rev. Entorf, Rev. Messner, Rev. Miller, Rev. Ott, and Rev. Tobias. The convention was not unique in this respect. Throughout our history our ministers have continued to show their interest by attending our annual conventions. Their presence and participation have been an inspiration.

The ten auxiliaries represented reported a total of 199 members and $275.98 raised. The convention offerings amounted to $8.07. The expenses were $4.25. This was truly a mustard seed beginning! The following statement is quoted from the minutes of that meeting—"If interest, enthusiasm, numbers, and God's blessing are a criterion, Illinois Branch starts in upon a career of usefulness." A prophecy truly fulfilled!

The 1891 Convention was held at Shannon on the Campground. Only seven auxiliaries were represented at this convention. A helpful symposium on "What More can Women do for Missions?" was presented by Mrs. Wm. Caton, Mrs. Emma Divan, and Mrs. Ida Haefele. The latter showed by chart the appointments in Illinois Conference and which ones had a Woman's Missionary Society. The offering amounted to $46.00 which included two Life Memberships for Frances and Ruth Woodside.

The Illinois Branch Woman's Missionary Society had scarcely more than started when because of a division in the church due to a misunderstanding the work was interrupted. Reorganization became necessary. For a period of thirty-five years there were two groups, each making missionary history.

FURTHER HISTORY
of the
ILLINOIS BRANCH WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
of the
EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION
1892 - 1902



MRS. WM. NEITZ
1892-1893

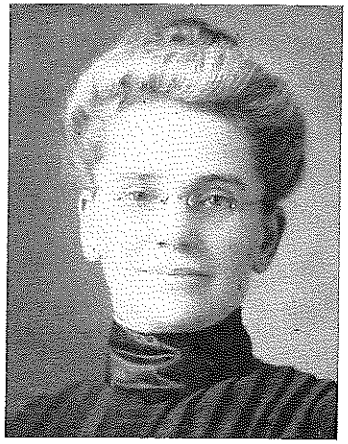
For the purpose of reorganization of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association delegates met at Naperville in the Y.M.C.A. room of Old Main of North Western College, (now North Central College), Saturday, August 13, 1892. Mrs. H. C. Smith, district organizer, acted as chairman. She gave a challenging message on "Go Ye into all the World and Preach the Gospel". Letters of greeting were read from Mrs. E. M. Spreng, President of the General Woman's Missionary Society, and from Amanda E. Rickert, Recording Secretary of the General W.M.S. Election of officers was held resulting as follows: President, Mrs. Wm. Neitz; Vice-president, Mrs. F. Neis; Recording Secretary, Miss Leah Meck; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Grob; Treasurer, Priscilla Musselman. Mrs. Neis was elected delegate to the Annual Meeting of the General Woman's Missionary Society to be held at Elkhart, Indiana.

The Y.M.C.A. room in North Western College was again the place of the Branch Convention in 1893. The 18 delegates present gave reports of their societies. Freeport, Peoria, Geneseo, and Washington sent in written reports. An informal discussion of the question, "How best to induce a larger attendance at the Branch meeting?" proved helpful. The Sunday morning Worship Service was held in the College Chapel with the Pastor, Rev. W. H. Messerschmidt, preaching a sermon on "The Parable of the Woman and the Leaven". The evening service was held at the German Church. The Pastor, Rev. W. C. Frey, gave a short address on "The Mission and Object of the Convention" after which Mrs. H. C. Smith spoke on the subject, "The Object and Work of the Branch Society." Mrs. H. J. Kiekhofer read an essay in German on "Our Share in the Mission Cause." Mrs. Emma Rubright presented a paper on "The Privilege of Mission Work", and Miss Mary Bucks gave a reading entitled "The Lord hath Need of Thee". Mrs. Wm. Schmuss was elected President and served in that office two years. A Mission Band Superintendent was elected in the person of Miss Clara Rickert.

Oak Avenue Church, Freeport, entertained the 1894 Convention. Features of this convention were a paper by Mrs. Louisa Zipperer on "The Work of the Children in the Church", a period of testimony, a Question Box, the Sunday morning sermon by Rev. E. R. Troyer, the organizing of a Mission Band in the Freeport congregation, a reading by Miss Carrie Gamertsfelder.

Mrs. Wm. Schmuss
1893-1895

In 1895 the Annual Convention was held at the Noble Street Church, Chicago. This convention had the high privilege of hearing Senior Bishop Esher preach a masterful sermon based on Matthew 13:33—"Another parable spake he unto them; the kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened." Other participants on the program included Mrs. A. J. Voegelein conducting a Question Box, Miss Mary Gamertsfelder speaking on "Medical Missions", and Mrs. Emma Rubright on "The Volunteer Movement". Mrs. H. J. Kiekhofer was elected President and served for two years.



Mrs. H. J. Kiekhofer
1895-1897
1901-1906

The Ottawa church was host to the 1896 Annual Convention. The following ministers had a part in the program—Rev. F. Theiss, Rev. John Wellner, Rev. John Haller, and Rev. W. H. Messerschmidt. Children's work was again stressed by a paper on "Methods of Work in the Mission Band" written by Mrs. Louisa Zipperer and one on "Mission Band Enthusiasm" by Mrs. Offerle of Geneseo. Other discourses were given on "Possibilities and Dangers of the Woman's Missionary Society" by Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, "Our Duties to the Church" by Mrs. Neitz, "Systematic and Proportionate Giving" by Mrs. Sindlinger. Reverend John Wellner preached the convention sermon and had charge of the Holy Communion Service. Mrs. S. L. Umbach presented the matter of Life Memberships to which nine women responded.

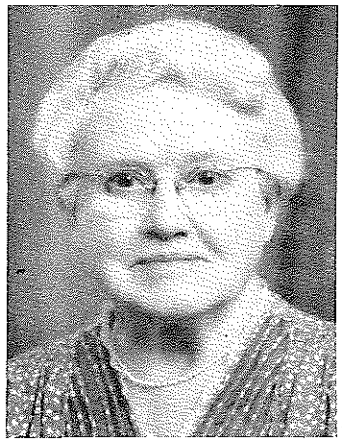
In 1897 the Annual Convention was held at Geneseo. There was rejoicing because of two new societies formed during the year, one at South Chicago and the other at Kankakee, bringing the total number of societies to 20 with a membership of 579 and total raised for the year, $994.76. 11 Mission Bands were reported. Mrs. Geo. Husser's excellent discourse on "The Responsibility of the Mother for the Missionary Spirit of her Family" met with such favorable approval that it was voted to have it published in the "Missionary Messenger". "Our Missionary Literature and how to use it" was the timely subject of a paper given by Mrs. A. Peters of South Chicago. "Deaconess Work in our Church" by Mrs. S. Zinser opened a new area of service which has proved such a blessing in Germany and Switzerland. A Biblical presentation by Mrs. Kiekhofer on the motto for the year, "Pray! Serve! Give!" was most helpful. The highly esteemed Bishop Thomas Bowman in his characteristic way delivered powerful sermons Sunday morning and evening to large and appreciative audiences. Mrs. A. J. Voegelein was elected President. She served in that office for two years.

Mrs. A. J. Voegelein
1897-1899

The 1898 Annual Convention convened at Aurora. In addition to the host Pastor, Rev. J. L. Elfring, other visiting ministers included Rev. J. Kiest, Rev. Geo. Husser, Rev. F. Theiss, Rev. J. S. Geipel, and Rev. Stierle. This convention honored Miss Mary Gamertsfelder with a Life Membership. A paper on "Why we must hasten with the Gospel" was presented by Mrs. F. Beuscher. "Young Ladies' Hour" was a novel and interesting feature. During this period Miss B. Ebert spoke on "Where should our Young Women Work?" President H. J. Kiekhofer of North Western College delivered the Sunday morning missionary sermon. At the mass meeting Sunday afternoon addressed by Rev. Geo. Husser the Spirit of God was manifested in a special way resulting in numerous testimonies. Even the timid rose to their feet and praised God.

The program of the Annual Convention held at Freeport in 1899 was built around children's and young people's work. Mrs. E. M. Spreng, the General Woman's Missionary Society President, addressed the convention on "The Responsibility of the Woman's Missionary Society toward the Mission Bands". Other presentations on children's work were: "Children and Missions" by Mrs. F. Theiss, "Feed My Lambs" by Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, "A Well-organized Mission Band" by Mrs. W. H. Messerschmidt. During "Young Ladies' Hour" Miss Mary Gamertsfelder, Mrs. J. A. Giese, Mrs. H. A. Kramer, and Mrs. Vogt gave short helpful presentations. Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder was elected President. She served in this office for two years as several of her predecessors had done.

Officers and delegates wended their way to Lockport for the Annual Convention in 1900. One of the highlights of this convention was a symposium on W.M.S. work consisting of the following presentations: "Is the Work of the W.M.S. Worthwhile?" by Mrs. Kletzing, "Is It Worthwhile to the Church?" by Mrs. Breisch, "To the Congregation?" by Rev. Theiss, "To Mothers?" by Mrs. C. Bubeck, "To Young Women?" by Miss A. Groth, "To the Men of the Church?" by Mrs. Wm. Schmuss, "To Ministers?" by Mrs. John Wellner. "How must our monthly meetings be conducted in order that they will fulfill their purpose?" was discussed by Mrs. H. C. Smith. The Mission Bands of Joliet and Lockport presented a well prepared program under the direction of Mrs. F. Theiss. Bishop Thomas Bowman delivered the Sunday morning sermon and spoke in the evening on Japan after Miss Susan Bauernfeind, newly appointed missionary to Japan, had spoken on "The Call of the Master to Missionary Service."



Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder
1899-1901
1906-1914

For the first time the Annual Convention convened at Naperville Park. This was in 1901. The Young People's Alliance was also holding a convention there at the same time. This convention had the privilege of having another of the Bishops of the Church present. This time Bishop Breyfogel made a valuable contribution through his address in which he referred to the great blessing the work of the Woman's Missionary Society was bringing to Germany and other countries. Prof. S. L. Umbach preached the sermon Sunday morning using as his theme—"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Other helpful presentations were given by Mrs. H. Hintze on "What Place does Prayer hold in our Work?" and by Miss Clara Neitz on "Bible Methods of Giving." Mrs. H. J. Kiekhofer was again elected to the office of President. This time she served for a period of five years. Though Proportionate and Systematic Giving had been emphasized for some time, at this convention a Superintendent of that work was appointed in the person of Mrs. W. H. Messerschmidt.

It was at the Annual Convention held at Ottawa in 1902 that the Branch Motto "All in All for Christ" was adopted. This being the 10th convention since reorganization short talks were given on the work of the Branch during that period. Mrs. John Minch spoke on "Our History", Mrs. Wm. Schmuss on "Our Experiences", and Mrs. Geo. Husser on "Our Future". Reports revealed that there were 26 societies with a membership of 611 and that $1176.34 had been raised for missions that year; there were 22 Mission Bands with 674 members and 8 Cradle Rolls with 64 members who had contributed a total of $175.50 that year; subscriptions to the "Missionsbote" numbered 276 and to

the "Missionary Messenger" 175. A dissertation written by Mrs. Wellner on "Opportunities of Young Women" was read by Miss Anna Rippberger; a paper on the theme, "How can the indifferent be reached?" was given by Mrs. N. Wunderlich; a forum was conducted by Rev. Stierli on the pertinent subject, "What is the Relationship of the Minister to the Woman's Missionary Society?" Bishop Horn greatly enrcihed this convention by his presence and his inspiring sermon based on Matthew 13:33. Again as at previous Sunday afternoon mass meetings the spiritual tide rose high under the leadership of the local pastor, Rev. Philip Beuscher. Quoting from the record which was written in German by the now sainted Mrs. Geo. Husser, Recording Secretary—"Joyful testimonies of what Jesus Christ has done for his children together with spirited singing made this an unforgettable hour. The Lord revealed himself in a wonderful way among his own". A special offering was received toward a home for the missionaries Bauernfeind and Kammerer in Japan. Also, 15 Life Memberships were secured.

1903 - 1916

In 1903 delegates and officers met in Peoria for the Annual Convention. The program included a paper on "In what Respect is the Missionary Society a School of Missions?" by Mrs. C. Steiner, a challenging message by Dr. H. J. Kiekhofer in which he emphasized the part women have in Kingdom Building ,an address by Deaconess Yaeger who spoke with deep feeling on our deaconess work in Germany and made an appeal for financial support for the establishment of an Evangelical Hospital and Deaconess Home, also pleading for many young women to respond to the call for service as a deaconess.

The Evangelical Church at Elgin, the city widely known as the "Watch City", was the meeting place for the Annual Convention in 1904. Our Deaconess Work was ably presented by Miss Hauser of Chicago. The convention was fortunate in having as Sunday guest speaker Bishop Thomas Bowman who delivered two soul-inspiring sermons. A unique feature of this convention was a pleasure ride around the city made possible through the kindness of Mr. William Grote, a well known member of the Elgin church.

A goodly number of delegates and officers were in attendance at the Annual Convention held at Mendota in 1905. Rev. John G. Schwab brought a helpful message on Mark 14:8, "She hath done what she could". "What do I owe the Church and the W.M.S.?" was presented by Mrs. Koten of Chicago. Dr. H. J. Kiekhofer spoke on Our Mission Work in Europe—the small beginning and the progress made.

The 12th Street Church, Chicago, was the scene of the Annual Convention in 1906. Rev. Leo Schmidt was the pastor. Other ministers present included Rev. Geo. Husser, Rev. E. Burgi, Rev. Hallwachs, Rev. J. Zipperer, Rev. J. C. Kiest, Rev. Wm. Schutte, and Rev. Hintze. A helpful symposium was presented, Miss Laura Minch speaking on "The Call of the Hour", Mrs. E. Burgi on "Our Responsibility", Mrs. F. Theiss on "Our Encouragements". Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder gave a discourse on "Our Work in the Foreign Field" and Miss Marie Gocker on "Missions in the Homeland". Miss Gocker later started a mission of her own in Africa. Through the gracious invitation of Rev. Wellner the convention members enjoyed a visit at the Deaconess Home.

The well-trained choir and orchestra of the entertaining church presented an excellent musical program on Saturday evening. The convention reached its climax on Sunday when Dr. S. L. Umbach delivered two challenging sermons. At this convention Mrs. Kiekhofer closed five years of service as President. Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder was again elected to this office and served eight years.

In 1907 the Annual Convention convened for the third time at Freeport. "Joy in Giving" by Mrs. Wm. Klingbeil and "Experiences in Giving" by Mrs. Louisa Zipperer, were well received. Miss Rose Schweitzer presented the work of the Italian Mission and also conducted Bible Study. Editor G. Heinmiller of Cleveland gave an illustrated lecture on South America. Reports revealed that there were 35 societies with 820 members, amount raised $1723.33; 4 Young Women's Societies, 495 Mission Band members and 106 Cradle Roll members.

The young women had charge of one of the evening services at the 1908 Annual Convention held at Kankakee. Bishop Horn preached a powerful sermon on Sunday morning after which 20 Life Members and 1 Honorary Member were secured. Rev. Louis Buccaletti gave a most interesting talk on Italian Missions. For the first time a Cradle Roll Superintendent was elected. Up to this time the Cradle Roll had been a part of the Mission Band. Miss Josephine Kramer was elected to this office. Mission Study classes for each society were recommended. Also Rally Days for each district.

The 1909 Annual Convention was held at Washington. The Pastor, Rev. J. C. Schaefer, extended a hearty welcome. Several devotional periods were helpfully led by Rev. F. F. Jordan, Presiding Elder of the Peoria District. This convention was greatly enriched by the presence of Miss Susan Bauernfeind, the first missionary to be supported by the Woman's Missionary Society, home on furlough from Japan. The Silver Anniversary of the General Woman's Missionary Society was observed by a reminiscence period of our own Branch. A wave of gratitude swept over the convention when it was announced that the highest level of giving had been reached this year with a total of more than $2500 raised. Holy Communion was observed at the Sunday morning worship hour. Bishop Spreng deeply moved the audience as he portrayed the Christlike life. 42 Life Members and 2 Honorary members were secured.

At the 1910 Annual Convention held at Reynolds Prof. S. J. Gamertsfelder conducted a helpful Bible Study and brought two inspiring messages on Sunday. The treasurer's report revealed that the total raised, $3232, surpassed last year's high mark by $730. Rev. Buccaletti again presented the work among the Italians.

The completion of 20 years of activities of the Branch was observed at the Annual Convention held at Hooppole in 1911 with a Jubilee program including the following: Address on "A World-wide Vision" by Rev. E. Burgi; presentations on "Aims of the W.M.S.—to train Workers" by Mrs. Edw. Claus, "Cooperation of Parents in Children's Work" by Miss Lizzie Sohl; "The Beginning of Things" by Mrs. F. W. Plapp; "Our own Beginning" by Mrs. Geo. Sindlinger; "A Mission Band—why?" by Mrs. A. C. Gegenheimer. Dr. Krumling, medical missionary to China, stirred the hearts of his listeners as he depicted the appalling conditions of "Our Giant Brother". In future the Cradle Roll will go under the name Little Herald Roll. This is in accord with action taken by the General Executive Board. For the

first time W.M.S. work is to be presented to the Illinois Conference at their next session. This task was assigned to Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, President. Giving was still on the increase. A total of $3491.50 was raised, $259 more than the previous year.

For the third time the Evangelical Church at Ottawa was host to a Branch Convention. This was in 1912. The first Branch Secretary of Young Woman's Work was elected that year in the person of Mrs. C. B. Bowman. This was in harmony with the organizing of a Young Woman's Department at the Fifth Quadrennial Convention. In the "Open Parliament" conducted by Mrs. W. J. Miller the duties of officers were clearly defined. The missionaries, Miss Elmina Ranck of Japan and Mrs. Butzbach of China, gave challenging addresses as did also Rev. George Johnson. Recommendations from the Ways and Means Committee included the appointing of organizers on each district. The total raised of $3763 was another gain of $272 over the high mark of last year.

In 1913 The Evangelical Church at Freeport again entertained the Annual Convention. This is the fourth time and makes this church unique in this respect. A banquet tendered the members of the convention by the two Freeport auxiliaries (German and English) also helped make Freeport distinctive. What a marvelous heritage Freeport has! The Branch Woman's Missionary Society was organized there. And think of the later memorable associations with Freeport. In 1934 the fiftieth anniversary of the organizing of the General Woman's Missionary Society was observed at Oakdale Camp. In 1940 the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the Branch was celebrated there also. Was it just a coincidence that these historic events should take place at Freeport? The presence of Mrs. E. M. Spreng, General Woman's Missionary Society President, was greatly appreciated as was her address on "Opportunities of our Young Women". Two new societies for young women had been organized during the year. With the "Spend-a-day" plan $90.70 was given toward the salary of Miss Ranck in Japan. For the first time Mission Study books were reviewed, Mrs. Gamertsfelder presenting the W.M.S. and Mrs. J. S. Stamm the M.B. books. Another innovation was the action taken that the Executive Board appoint representatives to the Winona School of Missions. Dr. L. H. Seager's convention sermon was full of missionary enthusiasm.

The Annual Convention held at Naperville in 1914 was replete in inspiration and challenge. The following participated in the program: Bishop Spreng drew a vivid picture of the sad condition of the work of the Evangelical Association in the war torn countries; Mrs. L. H. Seager, Secretary of the General Young Woman's Department, addressed the convention in the interests of young women's work; Mrs. Mabel Stull Herrold lectured on the area of mission study for the year—"The Red Man" and "Child-life in China"; Mrs. Chas. Unangst, President of the Illinois Branch of the United Evangelical Church, addressed the convention; special music was presented by the North Western College Glee Club; Prof Petticord lectured on "Modern Education"; President Kimmel of Evangelical Theological Seminary preached the convention sermon on Sunday. Over $400 was given in the Sunday offering for work in Europe which had suffered greatly through the war. This in addition to 32 Life Memberships and 7 Honorary Memberships. Springfield Mission was voted as a special project for support. The "Standard of Excellence"

was adopted. With this convention Mrs. Gamertsfelder closed her eighth year as President and was succeeded by Mrs. J. S. Stamm, who later was elected President of the General Woman's Missionary Society.

Rev. S. J. Umbreit, missionary to Japan, was the guest speaker at the 1915 Annual Convention held at Mendota. The systematic use of Thankoffering boxes was introduced at this convention. The highest amount raised thus far was reported as $4346.52. 22 Life Members were secured on Sunday.

Mrs. J. S. Stamm

1914-1917

The Silver Anniversary Convention was held in First Evangelical Church, Elgin, in 1916. At the suggestion of the President, Mrs. J. S. Stamm, "Prevailing Prayer" became the keynote of the convention. Miss Susan Bauernfeind, missionary to Japan, and Miss Tatsu Jumonji, a Bible Woman of Japan, made valuable contributions to this convention. Miss Bauernfeind spoke particularly in the interest of the Bible Woman's Training School. Miss Jumonji with Miss Bauernfeind as interpreter gave an interesting sketch of her life. A reminiscence meeting in which former offcers took part was conducted by Mrs. L. Zipperer. Many interesting facts were related. The historical sketch compiled by Mrs. Zipperer revealed that during the quarter of a century the Branch had grown from 5 auxiliaries with a membership of 95 to 46 societies with 1204 members. There had been an increase in giving from $315.27 the first year to $4328.62 the last year. There were 16 Mission Bands with 350 members, 11 Little Herald Rolls with 268 members, and 5 Young Women's Societies with 123 members. The Branch had been represented at every Quadrennial Convention. Three Vice-presidents of the General Board were from this Branch—Mrs. H. C. Smith, Mrs. Geo. Sindlinger, Mrs. J. H. Bauernfeind. Mrs. S. L. Umbach was Corresponding Secretary, Miss L. Ethel Spreng, Recording Secretary, and Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, Editor of the "Missionary Messenger". Bishop Spreng delivered the anniversary sermon on Sunday afternoon. A Silver Anniversary offering was received by way of a Joash Chest with processional which resulted in $352.00. The total offerings for the day amounted to $875.00. The following is an exerpt from the historical sketch: "From the beginning it was the aim of the Branch 'to go in and possess the land', and while we have not yet reached our goal of having a Woman's Missionary Society in every congregation and every woman a member, it is,

nevertheless, our aim. Our growth in numbers and figures has been normal, our interest in the work is warm, our women are earnest workers for the Master. We praise God for the results."

The SILVER ANNIVERSARY song was written by Mrs. A. J. Boelter, Secretary Young Woman's Work.

Just a quarter century past,
Illinois, Illinois,
Since the bravest of you women,
Illinois, Illinois,
Organized a praying band
Praying for the heathen land,
Praying that you too might stand,
Illinois, Illinois,
Praying that you too might stand,
For your God.

Bravely then these women labored,
Illinois, Illinois,
Strove to win both friend and neighbor
Illinois, Illinois,
Told them how Christ died for all,
That they at His feet should fall,
And should crown Him Lord of All,
Illinois, Illinois,
And should crown Him Lord of All,
Illinois.

Soon their members reached a hundred,
Illinois, Illinois,
Then a thousand strong they numbered,
Illinois, Illinois,
Each one doing her own best,
Praying, toiling with a zest,
Leaving then to God the rest,
Illinois, Illinois,
Leaving then to God the rest,
Illinois.

When they heard the heathen calling,
Illinois, Illinois,
Plunged in darkness so appalling,
Illinois, Illinois,
They responded "Lord send me,
Let me help to set them free,
I will go across the sea",
Illinois, Illinois,
"I will go across the sea",
Illinois.

Not without the Savior's Glory,
Illinois, Illinois,
Could be writ this wondrous story,
Illinois, Illinois,
On the record of thy years
Noble woman's name appears,
She has sacrificed with tears,
Illinois, Illinois,
She has sacrificed with tears,
Illinois.

1917-1927

At the invitation of the Sunday School and Young People's Alliance through its President, Rev. G. W. Engelter, the 1917 Annual Branch Convention met in joint session with the young people at Naperville Park. From 1917 to 1926 all Annual Branch Conventions were held on this plan. This made possible the securing of outstanding speakers from other denominations. Among them were Ex. Governor Hanley of Indiana speaking on "Our Climacteric Opportunity", Rev. Dan A. Poling giving a stirring message on "The New Crusade", Dr. G. L. Robinson of McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, delivering an instructive lecture on the theme, "Genesis and Evolution", Dr. W. M. Danner, Secretary of the American Mission to Lepers" lecturing on "The Bright Side of the Work of the Protestant Church among the Lepers of the World", Dr. W. H. Willet of Chicago University using the subject, "The Church Facing the New Day", Dr. F. A. Agar, Church Efficiency Secretary, giving an address on "Christian Stewardship", Dr. A. H. Gage bringing a message on "Why Religious Education", Dr. C. A. Mock, President of Western Union College, an address on "Religion and Progress", Dr. Frank A. Gageby, Pastor of Union Church, Beverly Hills, Chicago, speaking on "The New Frontiers".

Bishops Heinmiller, Breyfogel, Spreng, and Seager brought illuminating and thought-provoking messages as did also Rev. E. W. Praetorius, General Secretary of Sunday School and Christian Endeavor, Rev. W. G. Bollman, Presiding Elder of the East Pennsylvania Conference, Rev. G. L. Schaller, and Prof. Benjamin Gronewald, Instructor in Roberts College, Constantinople.

Bible Study during this ten year period was conducted by such able instructors as Dr. G. B. Kimmel, President Evangelical Theological Seminary, Rev. W. C. Hallwachs, Editor of Evangelical Sunday School Literature, Dr. H. J. Kiekhofer, Prof. E. F. George of Evangelical Theological Seminary, and Dr. J. A. Heck of Schuylkill College, Reading, Pa.

Many missionaries greatly enriched the conventions of this period by their presence and the messages they brought concerning their work in Kingdom Building. These included Rev. Paul S. Mayer, Japan, Miss Marie Gocker, Africa, Miss Mary Gamertsfelder, Africa, Miss Hulda Chrisner, Racine, Wis., Dr. and Mrs. E. Schmalzried, China, Miss Edna Erffmeyer, Japan, Miss Laura Mauk, Japan, Miss Anna Renninger, China, Rev. A. Guiliani, Milwaukee, Rev. and Mrs. S. J. Umbreit, Japan, Miss Emeline Welch, Kentucky, Miss Lois and

Miss Sarah Kramer, Japan, Miss Frye, Racine, Miss Elmina Ranck, Japan, Miss Elizabeth Rabausch, Kentucky, Miss Tillie Droegkamp, Italian Mission, Mrs. Ritzman, China, Rev. Stanley Kirn, China.

In 1917 Mrs. J. S. Stamm closed her third year of service as President. She was succeeded by Mrs. W. J. Miller who served ten years. The first Prayer League Secretary was appointed at that convention. Mrs. J. S. Stamm was assigned this task. The interest in intercessory prayer increased and by 1926 there were 400 members in the League. As a result of this department in Illinois Branch, Prayer League was assumed by the Woman's Board in 1928 and recommended as a department to be encouraged throughout each Branch.

Mrs. W. J. Miller
1917-1927
1931-1935

Through persistent emphasis upon Proportionate and Systematic Giving reports in 1918 showed 21 per cent of the membership were tithers.

Branch dues were raised to 20c per member in 1919. The largest Sunday offering of $1150.55 was received at that convention. Organizers were appointed on each district at this time.

The Reading Course received special emphasis at the 1920 convention. It was voted that a Branch Secretary of Literature be elected. Miss Lydia Bubeck was elected to that office. It was recommended that a Secretary of Literature be appointed in each local society.

At the 1921 convention Mrs. I. R. Rehm was present as a Fraternal Delegate from the Illinois Branch Woman's Home & Foreign Missionary Society of the United Evangelical Church. She brought loving greetings from her Branch and it was evident that the desire for the merger of the churches and the joining of missionary activities was mutual. During this convention support was pledged to The Forward Movement.

The Mission Cottage was dedicated during the 1922 convention. At this service Mrs. Emma Divan, Fraternal Delegate from the United Evangelical Church and President of the Illinois Branch W. H. and F. M. S., expressed her joy at the prospects of the early union of the two churches. A short Memorial Service was held in honor of Mrs. H. J. Kiekofer, a former Branch President.

Mrs. I. R. Rehm again represented the Illinois Branch United in 1923. She emphasized the spirit of joy that pervaded both Branches because of the union of the two churches that had taken place and expressed the hope that soon the two missionary groups might sit in convention together.

During the 1924 convention loving tribute was paid to Mrs. E. M. Spreng, General President of the Woman's Missionary Society since its beginning in 1892, who had passed away April 5th. It was she who once said—"Tell them not to be afraid of big things". Her

parting words to her co-workers were—"Tell them to be faithful and keep at it".

At the 1925 Convention suitable recognition was taken of the fact that the year 1925 marked the 125th anniversary of the beginning of the Evangelical Association, the 75th anniversary of entrance into Germany, the 50th anniversary of work in Japan, and the 25th anniversary of work in China. It was most fitting that Bishop Spreng who was that same year celebrating the 50th anniversary of his entering the ministry should preach the anniversary sermon. He stated in part—"From the beginning the Evangelical Church has always stood for three fundamental things—sound biblical conversion, holy living, and spiritual worship. These old formulas have stood the test. Millions have found their way to the cross and heaven and it is still the message that will save sinful men in all nations today. 250,000 members operating under 11 national flags where 5 or 6 languages are used, 2000 ministers and 500,000 Sunday School scholars are representative of our denomination which needs $2,800 every day of the year to carry on the missionary operations." The offering amounted to $875.00.

The 1926 Annual Convention of the Illinois Branch Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association was the last to be held under that name and also the last to meet in joint session with the Sunday School and Young People's Alliance at Naperville Park. Since the future history of the Branch will be a part of the merged societies we will give a few statistics showing the growth of the organization since its beginning in 1890. The 1926 reports revealed that the number of societies was 46 with 1758 members and the amount raised for missionary purposes was $6719.81; there were 9 Young People's Missionary Circles with 249 members who had raised $979.49; 16 Mission Bands with 464 members had raised $372.85; 11 Little Herald Rolls with 423 members had raised $186.17—a grand total of $8258.32. In view of the coming merger it was voted that the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for each of the present officers for re-election. The following officers were thus re-elected—President, Mrs. W. J. Miller; Vice-president, Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder; Recording Secretary, Mrs. J. C. Schaefer; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Edw. Claus; Secretary of Young People's Missionary Circles, Mrs. Frank Feik; Secretary of Mission Bands, Mrs. Floyd Shisler; Secretary of Little Heralds, Mrs. S. Sommers; Secretary of Literature, Mrs. H. J. Osterland; Thankoffering Secretary, Mrs. G. W. Engelter; Prayer League Secretary, Mrs. J. Zipperer. The following were elected delegates to the Ninth Quadrennial Convention to be held at York, Pa.—Mrs. W. J. Miller, Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, and Mrs. E. Burgi. Mrs. Andrew Haller and Mrs. E. Burgi were elected to meet with a committee of the United Branch to plan for the coming union of the two groups.

HISTORY
of the
ILLINOIS BRANCH WOMAN'S HOME and FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
of
THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

1892 - 1903

In 1892 the Annual Convention of the Illinois Branch Woman's Missionary Society of the United Evangelical Church convened in Emmanuel Church, South Dixon, with Mrs. W. H. Fouke, President, in the chair. Thirteen societies were represented. Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler, General President, discussed the relationship of the local auxiliary, the Branch, and the General Society to each other. "Missionary Programs and how to make them Interesting" was discussed by Mrs. Josie McLain. The interests of the "Bee Hive", the Illinois paper in which the Missionary Society had a department, were presented by Rev. Thoren and Rev. Entorf. Twenty-five shares were taken and Mrs. Emma Divan was elected Editor of the Missionary Department. Subscriptions to the "Missionary Tidings", which was to be recognized as the official organ of the missionary societies, were urged. The subject "A Woman's Missionary Society at every Appointment in our Branch" was introduced by Mrs. Divan. A discussion on how to overcome the obstacles followed. Recommendations of the Ways and Means Committee included the payment of 10c per member to the Branch Contingent Fund; that the support of the Dixon Chapel be taken up as a special project; that an organizer be appointed for each Presiding Elder District. Rev. S. F. Entorf preached the convention sermon Friday morning on Isaiah 54:2—"Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes." With this convention Mrs. Fouke closed her second year of service as President. Mrs. S. F. Entorf was elected to this office and served for three years. Other officers were: Vice-president, Mrs. Chas. Unangst; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Emma Divan; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Ida Haefele; Treasurer, Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler; Supt. of Mission Bands, Mrs. Wm. Caton.

MRS. S. F. ENTORF
1892-1895

The new President, Mrs. S. F. Entorf, presided at the Annual Convention held at Cedarville in 1893. In a short opening address Mrs. En-

torf suggested as a motto for the coming year — "What can be done shall be done by the Grace of God." This year's program included a Mission Band entertainment by the Cedarville Band when an earthen jug in which the children had placed their pennies was broken and $7.00 disclosed; the "Mission Band Hour" conducted by Miss Cora Frost; the "Pastors' Hour" in which the following ministers participated—Rev. Wm. Caton, Rev. C. Rife, Rev. S. F. Entorf, Rev. C. Unangst, Rev. I. Divan, Rev. J. Stephan, Rev. H. H. Thoren, and Rev. W. M. Stanford; the annual missionary sermon by Rev. Caton, Presiding Elder of the Freeport Dist., on "Speak to the Children of Israel that they go forward"; an address by Bishop W. M. Stanford of Harrisburg, Pa., which was a fitting close to another memorable convention.

Grace Church of Geneseo was host to the 1894 Annual Convention which opened with a reception. The following ministers took part in a Pastors' Symposium—Rev. Fehr, Rev. Schultze, Rev. Entorf, and Rev. Yeakel. They discussed the Woman's Missionary Society thus—Its Origin and Object, Its Power and Responsibility, Its Relation to the Pastor, and the Pastor's relation to it. To get the pastors' view point on these subjects was most interesting and helpful. Dissertations on "How shall we interest our Younger Members?" by Mrs. Drehmer, "Feed My Lambs" by Miss Cora Frost, "Special Work" by Mrs. L. H. Hintz, "Foreign Work" by Mrs. Haefele, "Our Home Work" by Mrs. Zahn, made valuable contributions. Mrs. L. H. Hintz was appointed the first Superintendent of Junior Work. Sterling was assumed as the special Branch work for the year. The treasurer's report showed that a large gain had been made in money raised, the total being $2323. As an expression of gratitude the delegates rose and sang "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow". Pending the establishment of foreign work it was planned that gifts for foreign work be applied to the support of Rev. T. W. Woodside and wife in Africa, missionaries working under the American Board but members of the United Evangelical Church.

For the 1895 Annual Convention delegates, officers, and visitors met at Grace Church, Naperville. Enjoyable features of this year's program were the lecture by Mrs. Thom, a missionary from Mardin, Turkey; the Missionary Rally at which five minute talks were given on the subject, "Your Best Thought on Missions" by Rev. Byers, Rev. Messner, Rev. Klopp, Rev. Fidder, Rev. Entorf, Rev. Shultz, Mrs. Rassweiler, Mrs. Gilman, Mrs. Haines, Mrs. Fouke, and Mrs. Divan; a paper in the German language on "Why should women be interested in missionary work?" by Mrs. Holweg; a paper on Junior Work by Mrs. Hintz and one on Mission Band Work by Mrs. T. L. Haines, General Supt. of Mission Bands; a paper on "What are the greatest hindrances to our work in Illinois and how can they be overcome?" by Mrs. McLain. Mrs. Fouke was elected President for a second term and continued in that office four years.

Ebenezer Church, North Northfield, was host to the 1896 Annual Convention. An important feature of this convention was A Model Missionary Meeting conducted by Mrs. T. L. Haines. We say important because a thought expressed by Mrs. Divan in this presentation was adopted by the convention as the motto of Illinois Branch—"A World of Suffering Humanity, Each Man my Brother, Each Woman my Sister, Calls on me for Work, WORK, **WORK.**" A Home Missionary Evangelist was adopted as a special project for the year and Mrs. Emma Divan was appointed to that important task with the assurance of the earnest prayers of the whole Branch. Dearborn Street

Mission, Chicago, was also designated as Special Work for the year. Mrs. Josie McLain was elected to the office of Junior Superintendent. Her faithful work among young people resulted in her being chosen as General Superintendent of that department some years later.

The 1897 Convention held at Ottawa was highly honored by the presence of Bishop Dubs who preached the annual sermon and was also most helpful in an advisory capacity. During the year the "Bee Hive," the Illinois Conference magazine, in which the Branch had a Missionary Department, was discontinued. This paper had a large share in the early development of Branch work and was therefore relunctantly given up. For the best interests of the work all efforts would be centered upon the one general magazine, "Missionary Tidings." "The Needs of Auxiliaries and how to meet them" was discussed in the form of an experience meeting led by Mrs. T. L. Haines. This proved most helpful.

The presence of Rev. T. W. Woodside, missionary on furlough from Africa, at the Annual Convention held at Shannon in 1898 was greatly appreciated. Rev. Woodside's lecture on Africa illustrated by stereoptican pictures brought that dark continent very near. "Shall we have a W.M.S. Reading Circle?" ably presented by Mrs. T. L. Haines resulted in definite steps being taken immediately to establish a Branch Reading Circle. Miss Lorene Rassweiler was chosen as Branch Librarian and served in that office for eight years. This department has been an untold blessing to the women of Illinois and an inspiration for other Branches. The literature table was planned at this session and became a permanent feature of conventions. Miss Cora Haines was appointed Supt. of Literature. As this was the year of the war with Spain the following resolution was passed by the convention: RESOLVED, that in the Cuban War we recognize the good hand of God in moving the hearts of our American people to interpose, at great sacrifice of treasure and life, for the relief of the oppressed people of Cuba. We highly appreciate the wise direction and daring courage of our leaders, the heroism of our soldiers and sailors, but above all we recognize in the numerous victories the approval of our course in the sight of God, who giveth us the victory. Our earnest prayer is for a speedy termination of the war on such terms as shall give freedom to the downtrodden and make way for the gospel to enter Cuba and the other islands and dispel the darkness and superstition that have so long bound these people."

Unusually fortunate was the Annual Convention of 1899 held at Grace Church, Dixon, to have present Mrs. Elizabeth Krecker, General President of the Woman's Missionary Society. Her words of encouragement and information were greatly appreciated. Bishop W. M. Stanford proved a great inspiration as he conducted the daily Bible Study. Most challenging was his sermon based on Acts 1:8—"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth". A surprise feature of this convention was an invitation from Mrs. Graybill to take an excursion up Rock River in the steamer "Dixon Belle". The invitation was gladly accepted and the business so arranged to give time for this pleasant diversion. Mrs. Fouke declined re-election as President. Mrs. Emma Divan was elected to that office.

The delegates at the Annual Convention held at Hoyne Avenue Church, Chicago, in 1900 numbered 53, the largest in the history of

the Branch up to that time. The German language was used in a devotional service and a special number. Also a paper on "Does the W.M.S. help the Church?" by Mrs. Weisse of Chicago was presented in German. This was later published in the "Zeitschrift". A paper on "Our New China Mission" by Mrs. Ada Collins of Naperville was most informing. Of great interest was the illustrated lecture by Dr. C. F. Rife, returned missionary from Micronesia, and the address by Miss Sarah De Line of the Methodist Episcopal Church recently returned from Bombay, India. It was decided to send a representative from the Branch to the meetings of the Illinois Conference Missionary Society for the purpose of fostering stronger cooperation between the two bodies. Eight Life Members were secured at this session.

Rev. and Mrs. Brothers as host and hostess welcomed the delegation of the 1901 Annual Convention held at Davis. Symposiums have had an important part at several conventions. The one this year was on the subject, "Progress of Christianity"—in Japan, in the Islands, and in India. These papers were presented by Miss Dahlem, Miss Grace Haines, and Miss Carrie Piper. Mrs. Julia Caton gave a paper on "Our Work in the West" and Mrs. Ida Haefele gave one on "City Missions". Mrs. Fouke gave an address on "Our Martyrs in China" and Mrs. Unangst spoke on "The Reflex Influence of Foreign Missions". An Interdenominational Missionary Rally of the Sunday Schools of Davis was held Sunday afternoon. This was a new feature but similar rallies were frequently held after that. Gifts were made to the Foreign Fund, to Chinese Bible Women, to three Turkish children, and to India sufferers. Humboldt Park Mission, Chicago, was chosen as a special project

Mrs. Emma Divan
1899-1910
1920-1927

Mrs. Elizabeth Krecker, General President, was the honored guest at the Annual Convention held at Highland Park in 1902. Her presence as well as her words of advice and cheer were highly appreciated. As the result of an earnest address on the subject of City Missions by Rev. G. F. Rassweiler the convention decided to make Kimball Avenue Church, Chicago, a special project for the year. The offerings at this session totaled $174.65, the largest up to this time.

The 10th Anniversary of Illinois Branch was celebrated in 1903 when delegates met in Convention at Sterling. An evening's program by the Y.P.M.S. was greatly enjoyed. Work in China was emphasized by a symposium on "Looking at China" and an address by Mrs. C. A. Fuessle, missionary recently returned from China. It will be recalled that the China Mission was established in 1899 and the first missionaries appointed were Dr. C. Newton Dubs and family in 1900. Rev. and Mrs. Fuessle sailed for China in September 1901 but due to ill health returned to America in February of 1903. The convention made

Rev. and Mrs. Fuessle Honorary Members. At this session another department of work was added—the Missionary Cradle Roll and Home Department with Mrs. L. H. Hintz elected as the first Superintendent. The Cradle Roll Dept. had been added to the Woman's Board in 1902 and Mrs. I. R. Rehm was elected as Superintendent. At the close of this period there were 52 societies with a membership of 913 and the total raised for the year was $2,789.30; there were 6 Young People's Missionary Societies with 204 members and the amount raised for the year, $138.84; 36 Mission Bands with a membership of 1076 and $545.79 raised.

1904 - 1918

For the Annual Convention in 1904 delegates and officers met at El Paso. Throughout the Church the home-going of Mrs. Elizabeth Krecker, General President, toward the close of 1903 was keenly felt. Loving tribute was paid to Mrs. Krecker at the Memorial Service, also to Rev. C. A. Fuessle, missionary to China. The Jug-breaking in the interests of Western Union College was an unusual feature. These jugs had been circulated on the districts by the organizers.

At the Annual Convention held at Reddick in 1905 a Sunday School Missionary Library was launched. Mrs. E. K. Yeakel, one of the pioneers in the work of the Branch Library, was one of those appointed to supervise this Sunday School Library. It was also voted to establish a fund for the training of young women to do city missionary work. Bishop W. F. Heil gave the annual sermon on the subject, "Witnessing for Christ". The total convention offerings amounted to $140.88.

The 1906 Annual Convention held at Chadwick was the first convention held under the new name—"Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society". This change in name had been authorized by the Woman's Board in 1905 and was in harmony with a change in name of the General Missionary Society. A gavel of unusual value whose handle was fashioned from a beam in the Changsa Chapel and the hammer from the wood of an idol shrine, sent from China by Rev. and Mrs. C. N. Dubs, was presented to the Branch. Mr. E. A. Marshall, Superintendent of the Men's Department of the Moody Bible Institute, brought the Sunday morning message on "The Power of the Gospel as I saw it in Heathen Lands".

The first graduate of the Training School, Miss Ivy Guiley, was given special recognition at the Annual Convention held at Ashton in 1907. She was appointed Field Worker for the Branch. The annual sermon was delivered by Rev. L. C. Schmidt on the theme, "The Kingdom of Heaven as a Force".

Trinity Church, Freeport, was host to the 1908 Annual Convention. For the first time portions of the Mission Study books for the coming year were presented. Mrs. I. R. Rehm devoted two half hour periods to this study. Rev. W. I. Shambaugh, newly appointed missionary to China, preached the annual sermon on the subject, "Witnessing for Christ."

The Annual Branch Convention in 1909 was held at Geneseo. The year 1909 is significant because of its association with the beginning of Missionary Oratorical Contests. The first Missionary Oratorical Contest was held by the Young People's Missionary Society of Forreston. On the recommendation of Mrs. Josie Mclain of Forreston, General Superintendent of Y.P.M.S., the Woman's Board

adopted Missionary Oratorical Contest work as a department and Mrs. Emma Divan was elected Superintendent. Illinois Branch was grateful for the honor of inaugurating this work which has proved such an excellent means of creating missionary interest. Mrs. Sarah Ernest Snyder of Pittsburg who later wrote a Short History of the Woman's Home & Foreign Missionary Society for "The Abiding Past" made a most valuable contribution to this convention by her presentation of the study book, "The Uplift of China", and two inspiring addresses. A postal card shower by the pastors of Illinois Conference was a most welcome and highly appreciated surprise feature.

The 1910 Annual Convention which convened at Polo was unique in that the first Branch Missionary Oratorical Contest was held at that time. It was a gold medal contest with six silver medalists competing. The gold medal was awarded to Mrs. Chester Wessling of Deerfield. The first recognition service of the Illinois Training School for Christian Workers at which a certificate of graduation was presented was held with Miss Laura Hughes the happy recipient. Because of the adoption of a five year time limit for officers many changes were made in the corps of officers. Mrs. Emma Divan after having served eleven years as President was succeeded by Mrs. C. G .Unangst. Through the presence of Rev. A. C. Lindenmeyer, missionary under appointment to China, and Miss Marie Hasenpflug, missionary on furlough, interest in China missions was greatly increased.

Mrs. C. G. Unangst
1910-1915

Rev. and Mrs. A. Haefele and their people warmly welcomed the Annual Convention to Trinity Church, Ottawa, in 1911. Presiding Elder E. K. Yeakel conducted a meaningful Communion Service at the opening session. Mrs. D. B. Wells of Chicago, widely known as a lecturer on Missions, presented the Study Books for 1912. Mrs. Sarah Ernest Snyder had again been secured for this year's program. She gave an excellent Chart Talk on India and two stirring addresses, one on "Our Nation and the Herald of Christ's Kingdom" and the other on "The Missionary Message of Revelation".

Rev. C. C. Talbott, missionary recently returned from China, presented the text books for the coming year and delivered several splendid addresses at the 1912 Annual Convention held at Shannon. Mrs. Divan introduced an Efficiency Chart which she had used as an incentive to better work on her district. This chart was the beginning of the Greater Efficiency Plan inaugurated by the Woman's Board and helped win for Illinois Branch the title, "The Inventive Branch".

The 1913 Annual Convention held at Grace Church, Dixon, took note of the fact that seven of the missionaries in China were from Illinois by making plans to send them a special gift in the form of

a Christmas box. Miss Hie Ding Lin of China studying at Moody Bible Institute Chicago so realistically pictured the need of the Chinese for medical help that the convention gave her a most generous gift toward the establishing of a hospital and foundlings' home in her native land. For the first time a representative was sent to the Winona Summer School of Missions. This became a regular practice in the future. In January of that year Mrs. S. P. Remer, President of the Woman's Board, had passed away. Illinois Branch paid tribute to her beautiful life.

The Memorial Service, always an impressive occasion, was especially so in 1914 when the Annual Convention was held at Grace Church, Naperville. That year the Roll of those who had been called home included several who had rendered conspicuous service to our Lord and Master—Mrs. C. N. Dubs, wife of the Superintendent of the China Mission, Mrs. Wm. H. Fouke, Organizer and first President of Illinois Branch, and Mrs. Ida M. Haefele, who had been an officer in the Branch almost since its organization as well as having served in various capacities in the General Society. Others took up and carried on their unfinished tasks but these faithful workers were greatly missed. Dr. Isaac T. Headland, author of "China's New Day", gave a most illuminating address on the subject, "Some By-products of Missions." The Branch petitioned the Woman's Board to grant the Mission Bands the privilege of supporting Rev. Homer Dubs in China. This request was granted pending Rev. Dubs' preparation and entering the field in China. Mrs. I. R. Rehm was appointed to prepare a history of Illinois Branch.

Rev. B. H. Niebel, Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society of the Church, was the guest speaker at the Annual Convention held at Reddick in 1915. For the missionary sermon Rev. Niebel used the subject—"The Relative Importance and Value of Intercessory Prayer in Missionary Work". During the Memorial Service Rev. Niebel recalled the beautiful life of Mrs. H. S. Voss, beloved missionary, who died at her post and was faithful unto death. The life and character of Bishop R. Dubs who hal also passed away during the year were eulogized by Mrs. I. R. Rehm. Bishop Dubs was the most prominent figure in the history of the church, Mrs. C. G. Unangst having closed a term of five years as President was succeeded by Mrs. J. G. Finkbeiner. Later Mrs. Finkbeiner was elected Treasurer of the General Woman's Missionary Society.

Mrs. J. G. Finkbeiner
1915-1920

Rev. and Mrs. T. L. C. Suhr, missionaries home on furlough from China, created a keener interest in work in China by their presentations at the 1916 Annual Convention held at Stockton. The Branch took steps to contribute toward the Emma Dubs Memorial Hospital in China.

In 1917 the Annual Convention was held at Chadwick with Rev. I. Dunlap

and Bishop Swengel as guest speakers. Rev. Dunlap delivered a forceful address on "China." Bishop Swengel's sermon on "Our Obligation" was full of missionary enthusiasm. Special tribute was paid to the life and labors of Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler who had joined the Church Triumphant. Mrs. Rassweiler was in attendance at the first convention of Illinois Branch. At that time she was President of the Woman's Board. During this long period of years she served the Branch in various offices.

The Silver Anniversary of the Branch was observed at the Annual Convention held in Grace Church, Geneseo, in 1918. Praise, Prayer, Power, and Progress were the keywords for this memorable convention. The Anniversary Commemoration service was in charge of Mrs. Emma Divan. Each society that was a charter member of the Branch was represented on the platform. Greetings were read from former members of the Branch. A history of the last 15 years written by Mrs. I. R. Rehm was read. Mrs. G. E. Fager gave "An Appreciation" of all the workers of Illinois Branch. This year also marked the 25th Anniversary of the Young People's Missionary Society. In recognition of this event Mrs. Josie McLain, General Superintendent, addressed the convention on "Our Responsibility to the Y.P.M.S." The Consecration Service with Holy Communion was in charge of Rev. J. G. Eller, Presiding Elder of the El Paso District. Ninety-one delegates, pastors, and friends knelt together at the Lord's table. Among those who had passed beyond during the year and to whom loving tribute was paid was Mrs. H. Messner who had been the faithful Superintendent of the Cradle Roll and Home Department for seven years. Rev. W. I. Shambaugh, missionary on furlough from China ,and Mrs. R. A. Welch, outgoing missionary to China, brought inspiring messages. The anniversary sermon was delivered by Bishop Fouke on the theme, "A Woman's Vision of Jesus moving her to Service for Him". It was most fitting that Bishop Fouke should bring the anniversary sermon as Bishop and Mrs. Fouke had entertained the first meeting of Illinois Branch. The missionary offering at this outstanding convention amounted to $?00. At this important milestone in the history of the Branch records show there were 58 societies with a membership of 1283, amount raised the past year $5845.10; 5 Young People's Missionary Societies with a membership of 146 raised $460.47; 28 Mission Bands with 687 members raised $799.47; 14 Cradle Rolls and Home Department with a membership of 186 raised $85.2?. The Branch had been represented at all Annual Meetings of the Woman's Board. The following have been members of the General Board—Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler. President; Mrs. W. F. Fouke, Organizer and Vice-president for the West; Mrs. Emma Divan, Editor of the "Missionary Tidings" and Superintendent of M.O.C.; Mrs. S. F. Entorf, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Josie McLain, Y.P.M.S. Supt. and Vice-president; Mrs. I. R. Rehm, Cradle Roll Supt. and Mission Band Supt.; Mrs. T. L. Haines, Mission Band Supt. and Vice-president; Mrs. Ida Haefele, Editor of the Y.P.M.S. Department of "Missionary Tidings". At the close of this Silver Anniversary Convention delegates and officers pledged themselves anew to His Service as they sang the closing stanza of the Anniversary Song written by Mrs. Emma Divan.

WE PRAISE HIM

(Suggested by the song, "I Love Him"

Gone from our Branch, just five and twenty years,
Laden with prayers, with gifts and toil and tears.
Gone forth as bread, upon the waters thrown,
The gospel news—that Jesus saves us—to make known.

Chorus

We praise Him, we praise Him, for all our victory
And celebrate in His dear name this JUBILEE.

Gone with the years, a host of workers dear,
They led us on in spite of all our fears.
Some are at rest in mansions free from sin,
And some are out in other fields still working for Him.

Illinois Branch in the years so quickly past,
Has been at work the precious seed to cast,
Out to the West and on to China too,
Not neglecting work at home which she could do.

Let us go forth still greater work to do,
Knowing His hand will safely lead us through,
Doing our best the "little while" we stay
To tell the whole wide world about the better way.

1919 - 1926

New impetus given to the work at the 25th Anniversary Convention became increasingly apparent. This was especially revealed in the attendance and fine reports at the 1919 Annual Convention held in Aurora. The amount raised during the year was $2600 more than the previous year. All obligations for the Emma Dubs Memorial Hospital were met. The Branch Contingent Fund was advanced to Fifteen cents. A helpful Communion Service was conducted by Rev. H. H. Thoren assisted by Rev. J. G. Finkbeiner. Mrs. I. R. Rehm, the Historian, announced that Histories were ready and on sale. A Diamond Medal Contest and the presence of Miss Minnie Gohn, now Mrs. C. N. Dubs, missionary to China, added much to the program. For the first time a Fraternal Delegate from the Illinois Branch of the Evangelical Association, in the person of Mrs. J. S. Stamm, Vice-president, addressed the convention. After Mrs. Stamm's inspiring message the union of the two Branches was eagerly anticipated.

From the 1920 Annual Convention held at the Adams Street Church, Chicago, a memorial was sent to the Woman's Board asking that the church establish a mission in Kentucky. This request together with similar petitions from two other Branches gave impetus to the establishment of the first definite home mission field. As a result the Southern Mountain Work was established at Red Bird, Kentucky. Rev. J. J. DeWall of Le Mars, Iowa, was appointed Superintendent of the Mission and he and his wife and little daughters

began the new work in 1921. Mrs. Finkbeiner having served five years as President was succeeded by Mrs. Emma Divan.

A half hour with "The Word" was introduced for the first time as a program feature at the opening of each session at the Annual Convention held in 1921 at Grace Church, Naperville. All-day Group Rallies were revived. Pledges for $30 were taken to furnish a room in the Missions Home at Winona Lake, Ind., to be known as "The Evangelical Room" for Evangelical representatives and missionaries.

Mrs. Nellie Frank Smith of the Indiana Branch W.M.S. conducted the Bible Study at the 1922 Annual Convention held at Polo. Mrs. B. E. Niebel gave stirring messages on the work Dr. Niebel and she were doing in China. The annual sermon was delivered by Rev. Lee Wilfred Ames, who spoke on an old missionary character—Jonah.

At the Annual Convention held in 1923 at Peotone Mrs. Emeline Welch brought a message on the new work in Kentucky. Mrs. L. H. Seager, General Secretary of Young People's Missionary Circles, presented the opportunities of that department. Mrs. Walter J. Miller, President of the Illinois Conference Branch W.M.S., of the Evangelical Association, as Fraternal Delegate brought a message on "Our Common Task". There was great rejoicing because of the union of Evangelical women which had been effected in 1922 and all were looking forward to the time when the two Illinois Branches would be merged into one. In view of the coming merger the time limit for officers was removed.

Mrs. S. J. Umbreit was guest speaker at the 1924 Annual Convention held at Freeport Trinity Church bringing messages on the Evangelical Church in Japan. Mrs. Nellie Frank Smith again conducted valuable periods of Bible Study. Strong resolutions were passed relative to efficiency, circulating library, M.O.C. and tithing.

At the 1925 Annual Convention held at Reddick the 25th Anniversary of the Circulating Library was observed. "Our Italian Work" was presented by Rev. A. Guiliani of the Milwaukee Italian Mission. The story of his own life's experience revealed again the power of God's Spirit in a man's life.

The last Annual Convention of the Illinois Branch Woman's Home & Foreign Missionary Society was held at Ashton in 1926. Rev. Paul S. Mayer, missionary to Japan, spoke enthusiastically of our work in Japan. The subject of one of his challenging messages was "The Triumph of Christ in Japan". Rev. Mayer stated "One great triumph of the church in Japan is that the Christian Church will never be eradicated. It is firmly rooted and grounded in Japanese soil. But the greatest triumph of Jesus Christ in Japan is that He satisfies the longing and aspirations of the Japanese heart." Since this was the last meeting of the Illinois Branch (United) it is interesting to note a few statistics. An examination of the reports for 1926 shows there were 51 societies with a membership of 1594, amount raised for missionary purposes that year $6428.88; 16 Young People's Missionary Circles with a membership of 506, amount raised $785.89; 30 Mission Bands with 752 members raised $635.90; 30 Little Herald Rolls with 483 members raised $133.23; 19 Home Departments with 91 members raised $151.20—a grand total of $8135.10. In view of the merger the motion carried that the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the re-election of the entire body of officers of the Branch with the exception of the Y.P.M.C. Sec'y, Mrs. Rehm being unable to accept. Mrs. Ruby Payne was elected to that office. The following were the

officers re-elected—President, Mrs. Emma Divan; Vice-president, Mrs. J. G. Finkbeiner, Recording Secretary, Mrs. S. C. Boswell; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. J. F. Van Evera; Treasurer, Miss Amanda Schroeder; Secretary Mission Bands, Mrs. F. C. Noerenberg; Secretary Little Heralds & Home Dept., Miss Ruth Lentz; Secretary M.O.C., Miss Rilla Webster; Secretary of Tithing, Miss Jeanette Dervey. Mrs. F. C. Noerenberg, Mrs. I. R. Rehm, and Mrs. J. F. Van Evera were elected delegates to the Ninth Quadrennial Convention to be held at York, Pa. Mrs. Divan, Mrs. Rehm, and Mrs. Noerenberg were elected as members of the Merger Committee.

HISTORY
of the
ILLINOIS BRANCH
WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
of
THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

1927 - 1946

On October 12, 1922, at Detroit, Mich., the union of the United Evangelical Church and the Evangelical Association had been consumated under the name—The Evangelical Church. On December 6, 1922, in the historic Calvary Church, Cleveland, Ohio, the Woman's Missionary Societies had been united in one organization under the name—The Woman's Missionary Society of The Evangelical Church. From that time both Illinois Branches looked forward to the time when they would unite their forces and sit in convention together. This high moment came when on July 26, 1927, the delegates and officers of both groups met in one great convocation at Barrington Camp. After each group had met separately and completed and closed their records, the formal union of the two Branches took place. This occurred on the evening of July 27th. Mrs. Emma Divan presided. After a brief history of each Branch had been read by Mrs. W. J. Miller for the Association and Mrs. I. R. Rehm for the United group the following resolutions presented by the Merger Committee were read and adopted: "Since by the grace of God working in Evangelical hearts, the two bodies, the Evangelical Association and the United Evangelical Church, have united their forces as sons and daughters of Albright under the banner of The Evangelical Church, and since it has long been the desire and wish of the Missionary Women of Illinois to join hearts and hands in our great work; Be it resolved that the Woman's Missionary Society of the Illinois Conference Branch and the Illinois Conference United, be merged into one Branch at this session and that we pledge each other and our Master a loving and harmonious service for continued building of His Kingdom." "A Wonderful Story" was the appropriate subject of the splendid message of the evening brought by Mrs. J. S. Stamm, General President of the Woman's Missionary Society. At the close of her address Mrs. Stamm directed the formal merger in the form of a beautiful Candle Lighting service. The Branch groups led by their respective presi-

dents marched from either side of the auditorium and upon reaching the platform each delegate received a lighted candle which, as the delegates met at the center of the platform, was extinguished and only one lighted candle was held by two delegates, one from each constituency. They then formed a double line and passed to seats in the auditorium, merged in act and spirit into the Illinois Branch Woman's Missionary Society of The Evangelical Church. One of the important items of legislation taken from the report of the committee on merger of the two Branches was that there be a time limit of four years for officers. The officers elected were—President, Mrs. F. C. Noerenberg; First Vice-president, Mrs. W. J. Miller, Second Vice-president, Mrs. Emma Divan, Recording Secretary, Mrs. Harold Heininger; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Lucy Boswell; Treasurer, Mrs. Henry A. Lipp; Young People's Missionary Circle Secretary, Mrs. Ruby Payne; Mission Band Secretary, Mrs. F. A. Shisler; Little Herald Secretary, Miss Ruth Lentz; Literature and Library Secretary, Mrs. Frank Feik; M.O.C. Secretary, Miss Rilla Webster. The following appointments were made by the Executive Committee: Organizers—Chicago Dist., Mrs. J. Stryker, Freeport Dist., Mrs. E. Burgi, Naperville Dist., Mrs. Matilda Schumacher, Peoria Dist., Mrs. Ira Holtsman; Supt. Illinois Training Course, Mrs. I. R. Rehm; Branch Historian, Mrs. Emma Divan; Manager for the E. M. Spreng Memorial Fund (Chair of Missions), Mrs. E. Burgi. A Diamond Medal Oratorical Contest, messages on our Italian Missions by Rev. G. Busacca and on China by Mrs. T. L. C. Suhr closed the 1927 memorable merger convention.

Mrs. F. C. Noerenberg
1927-1931

The 1928 Annual Convention was held at Oakdale Camp, Freeport. Daily Bible Study by Rev. Rolland Schloerb, Pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church, Chicago, messages by Mrs. Sadie Voss, missionary to China, and Miss M. Droegkamp of our Italian Mission, a Stereopticon Lecture by Rev. C. H. Stauffacher on "A trip around the World with the Evangelical Church" were highlights. A meaningful Communion Service was conducted by Rev. J. G. Eller assisted by nine visiting pastors. This important sacrament of our church was observed at each succeeding convention. Reports revealed 93 auxiliaries, 3263 members, total raised $19,901.89.

Naperville Camp was the scene of the 1929 Annual Convention. Beginning with the merger annual conventions were held at our three camps in the following rotation—Barrington, Oakdale, Naperville. Fifteen ministers were present and were made advisory members. Participation in the program by Bishop S. P. Spreng, Rev. H. H. Kalas, Mrs. Minnie Dubs of China, Mrs. E. C. Basom, General Secretary of Mission Bands, Miss Charlotte Armold of our Kentucky Mission, made this convention a most helpful one. The Illinois Branch Herald was launched with

Mrs. J. H. Bauernfeind as the first Editor. Group Rallies were becoming increasingly popular. Thirteen were held the past year.

A Memorial year was the year 1930 marking the 40th anniversary of the Illinois Branch and the 50th anniversary of the organization of the first Woman's Missionary Society. Back to Barrington for this celebration. It was a time of pleasant reminiscence, greatful recognition of pioneer labor and sacrifice, and great rejoicing in God's faithful leading. Special recognition was given to the life and work of Mrs. W. H. Fouke, the first President of Illinois Branch, by Mrs. E. K. Yeakel. The presentation of the Mission Study Text Books became a yearly feature of our program. This year Mrs. O. H. Cady conducted the study. She served most acceptably in this capacity at several conventions. The daily Bible Study periods by Rev. Philip Beuscher, messages by Miss Lois Kramer of Japan, Mrs. J. S. Stamm, General W.M.S. President, Rev. A. E. Lehman of Kentucky, and Prof. P. E. Keen of Evangelical Theological Seminary were much enjoyed. Mrs. F. C. Noerenberg, Mrs. J. Zipperer, and Mrs. I. R. Rehm were chosen to represent our Branch at the Tenth Quadrennial Convention at South Bend, Indiana.

The 1931 Annual Convention held at Freeport was significant because it was the first year of the Jubilee Quadrennium during which the challenge to be met was "To go forward with prayer and faith through intensified motives, increased membership, enlarged service, and sacrificial giving." The motto for the Quadrennium was "The Line Shall Not Break Where We Stand". Mission Study was ably conducted by Mrs. H. R. Heininger. Rev. C. W. Guinter, Superintendent of our African Mission, gave an illuminating address on "The New Africa and some of its Problems". Young People's Night was observed. At this program the play "Two Masters" was presented by the Oak Ave. Circle and Mrs. L. H. Seager, Gen. Sec'y of Young People's Missionary Circles, gave a challenging address on "What Shall I do with my Life?". Thirty-nine young people responded to the call to come to the altar to consecrate their lives to Christian service. A recognition service was conducted by Mrs. I. R. Rehm for the nine women completing the Illinois Training Course. This department continued to be a most helpful one for many years. The General Board was petitioned to allow Illinois Branch to be responsible for one-half of the salary of the newly appointed Doctor to Kentucky.

In the friendly contest throughout the Branches on Stewardship materials honors for the Stewardship hymn came to Illinois Branch through Mrs. J. H. Bauernfeind, who wrote the words and music to the Hymn—

HOW MUCH OWEST THOU?

O steward of the vineyard,
The Master is speaking today:
I gave all for thee,
What givest thou me
My boundless love to repay?

Chorus

How much? How much?
How much owest thou unto the Lord?
Give an account of thy stewardship,
Or thou canst no longer be steward.

O Master, we have failed Thee,
We make our confession with tears;
In penitence now
Before Thee we bow,
In mercy quiet our fears.

Our time, our strength, our talents,
With gladness we offer to Thee;
Nor would we withhold
The silver and gold
For Thou hast given so free.

And here we pause to say that the long looked for goal of $50,000 for the Mrs. E. M. Spreng Memorial Chair of Missions Project had been reached indicating that the loyal members of the Woman's Missionary Society had heeded the admonition "Not to be afraid of big things." Illinois Branch was happy to have gone over the top in her quota of $4365. With this convention Mrs. Noerenberg's term as President expired and she was succeeded by Mrs. W. J. Miller.

To have among its visitors two of the Illinois Branch pioneer workers was the happy privilege of the Annual Convention of 1932 held at Naperville Camp. The presence of Mrs. S. F. Entorf, a former Branch President, and Mrs. T. L. Haines, General Mission Band Superintendent, who had been instrumental in the establishing of the Branch Reading Circle, and their words of commendation were a great inspiration to all. A strong Pearl Medal Contest was conducted by Mrs. Emma Divan, M.O.C. Secretary. Contest work had been and continued to be an important phase of our work. Messages by Miss Susan Bauernfeind on Japan and by Rev. I. R. Dunlap on China increased our missionary enthusiasm. Mrs. Frank Feik was elected delegate to the Biennial Meeting to be held at Elkhart, Indiana.

Memorial Services of our conventions have always been a tender period of remembrance of those of our co-workers who have gone to be with God. The year 1933 when the Annual Convention was held at Barrington Camp the Memorial Roll included the name of Mrs. I. R. Rehm, who at the time of her passing was Superintendent of the Illinois Training Course. Mrs. Rehm gave many years of faithful service to Illinois Branch in various capacities. The missionary atmosphere of this convention was intensified through messages by Rev. and Mrs. T. L. C. Suhr and two illuminating and challenging addresses given by Dr. C. H. Stauffacher, Field Secretary of the Missionary Society, in his forceful and convincing manner, as well as by the presence of Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Spreng, Miss Sarah Kramer, and Miss Ignatia Schoch.

"A Jubilee shall that fiftieth year be unto you", Lev. 25:11. The 50th anniversary of the organization of the General Woman's Missionary Society was observed at the 1934 Annual Convention held at Oakdale Camp, Freeport. The inspirational address by Dr. Paul Eller of Evangelical Theological Seminary, the presentation of the Study Book, "Japanese Women Speak," by Miss Irene Anderson, and the two inspiring messages by our esteemed Bishop L. H. Seager on Sunday helped make this convention an outstanding one. Of paramount interest was the Jubilee Service itself held on Saturday evening in charge of Mrs. L. H. Seager. Officers, delegates, Freeport Mission Band and Little Herald children in two long columns led by trumpeters marched in processional to the platform. As the two lines met in front

of the altar the Jubilee offering was placed in a receptacle at the foot of a huge cross. The entire group sang "The Line Shall Not Break Where We Stand". The Jubilee offering amounted to $1,949.46. The program included the dialogue, "Missions Fifty Years Ago and Today", given by Mrs. Matilda Schumacher and her daughter Miriam, "The Branch Album" read by Mrs. S. C. Boswell, A Review of 25 years of M.O.C. by Mrs. Emma Divan. Mrs. W. J. Miller was elected delegate to the Biennial Convention to be held at Bucyrus, Ohio.

The 50th Anniversary of Mission Bands was observed at the 1935 Convention held at Naperville Camp. Mrs. P. O. Bailey, Branch Secretary of Mission Bands, was in charge of the anniversary program. The pageant, "Golden Jubilee", was presented by the Mission Bands of First and Grace Churches, Naperville. The guest speakers for this convention were Mrs. John Hobson, General Promotional Secretary, and Rev. Paul S. Mayer, Superintendent of our Japan Mission. In one of his challenging addresses Rev. Mayer made this significant statement—"The time is not far distant when the Orientals will bring to Western civilization a new interpretation of Christ and Christianity". The Study Book—"Women under the Southern Cross" was ably presented by Mrs. H. H. Kalas. Interest in Prayer Leagues had been on the increase the past several years reaching its peak last year when all but two societies had a League. Mrs. Miller completed four years as President and Mrs. Matilda Schumacher was elected to this office.

The 1936 Annual Convention held at Barrington Camp has the distinction of being the largest to date with 149 delegates and a large number of visitors. The Young People's Missionary Circle program included the pageant, "Headed for a Celebration," written by Mrs. J. S. Stamm for the 50th Anniversary of the "Evangelical Missionary World." Special speakers included two General Officers, Mrs. J. S. Stamm, President, and Mrs. Nellie Frank Smith, Recording Secretary, Dr. Wm. L. Bollman, Executive Sec'y-Treas. of the Board of Missions, Miss Martha Wolff, missionary to China, Rev. and Mrs. Wilbur Harr, newly appointed missionaries to Africa. The Study Book, "Congo Crosses", was presented by Mrs. Elsie Giese Lipp.

Mrs. Matilda Schumacher
1935-1939

Mrs. B. F. Zuehl, General Vice-president, Miss Justine Granner, missionary to China, and Rev. E. M. Miller of our Kentucky Mission, brought informing messages at the 1937 Annual Convention held at Oakdale Camp. Miss Granner's fine sense of humor delightfully interwoven with seriousness thrilled her audience. Music has always made a valuable contribution to our conventions. For this convention "May I Be Faithful" had been chosen as the theme song. Because of its personal message it was much enjoyed. Mrs. Dewey Eder served as director of music at this convention and at many succeeding ones. Others who have served

in this capacity since the merger include Mrs. E. W. Bull, Mrs. Myrtle Cannon, Mrs. Inez Honberger and Mrs. A. A. Krug. Recognition was given to seven women who had completed the Illinois Training Course. This department had been under the direction of Mrs. J. A. Stryker since 1932 and she continued as its Superintendent until it was discontinued in 1946.

The 100th Anniversary of organized Missions in our church was observed at the 1938 Convention held at Naperville Camp. Our Branch Centennial theme, "Forward in Faith", was dramatized under the leadership of Mrs. L. H. Seager. Fourteen women in costumes of various pastel shades placed placards which indicated the department they promoted in the foundation of a cross which was lighted with 100 tiny electric bulbs and sang a hymn of consecration as they pointed to the cross. During the Memorial service special tribute was paid to Bishop L. H. Seager, Mrs. J. M. Ryan, Second Vice-president of the Branch, Mrs. W. M. Givler, who had served as Corresponding Secretary, and the missionaries, Miss Marie Gocker, Miss Mary Gamertsfelder, and Mrs. W. W. McGarrah. Bishop Epp's sermon on "The Christian Message to a non-Christian World" and addresses by Mrs. Minnie Dubs and Miss Lois Kramer brought to a close this most inspiring convention. Prospects were bright for an excellent beginning of a new century of Missions in our beloved church. Mrs. Matilda Schumacher was elected delegate to the Biennial Convention to be held at Lemoyne, Pa.

Through the presence of Mrs. E. W. Schmalzried, General Secretary of Little Heralds, at the 1939 Annual Convention held at Barrington Camp special emphasis was given that department. Rev. Ira McBride, Superintendent of our Missions in Africa, and Mrs. McBride moved the convention with their sincere messages. Mrs. G. Busacca from our Italian Mission in Kenosha gave a most interesting account of our work there. At the request of the Illinois Conference the Branch pledged $250 to the Melrose Park Mission. This was continued annually through 1946. The four year time limit closed Mrs. Schumacher's term as President and Mrs. Elsie Giese Lipp was elected to that office.

Mrs. Elsie Giese Lipp
1939-1942

The 50th Anniversary of the organizing of Illinois Branch was commemorated at the 1940 Convention held at Oakdale Camp, Freeport. There was a record-breaking attendance of 182 delegates and officers in addition to many visitors. Everything had been done to make the observance of this significant milestone a most festive occasion. There were many special features. The reading of telegrams and letters of congratulation from other Branches and former officers helped create an atmosphere which only the coined word "anniversarish" can describe. Each living former Branch President had a share in the first day's program. Mrs. S. F. Entorf's part was of necessity in absentia as she was living in the West but

her gracious greetings were read and much appreciated; Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder conducted the Memorial Service; Mrs. Matilda Schumacher presented an Honor Roll bearing names of all missionaries who had gone out from Illinois in the 50 years; Mrs. J. S. Stamm, Mrs. J. G. Finkbeiner, and Mrs. F. C. Noerenberg shared in the service when a living memorial in the form of a lovely little Chinese elm with a suitable marker was planted; (Thanks to the Freeport friends this tree grew and graces the Oakdale grounds today) Mrs. W. J. Miller led the first evening's devotional period; Mrs. Emma Divan gave the response to the cordial welcome of the Freeport societies. Two of our own missionaries from Illinois, Rev. and Mrs. Roscoe E. Weibel, serving in our Kentucky Mission, brought interesting messages. The anniversary banquet arranged by the Young People's Missionary Circles was a most enjoyable occasion as was also the period of reminiscence. The convention reached its climax on Sunday afternoon when the anniversary pageant, "Fifty Years of Missionary Endeavor in the Illinois Branch W.M.S.", written and directed by Mrs. L. H. Seager, was presented. The pageant began with the organization of the Branch in 1890 and led up through the years to the present and on into the future. In the closing scene all the participants and the congregation joined in singing—"All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of All." The Anniversary song was written by Mrs. Elsie Giese Lipp, Branch President.

ANNIVERSARY SONG

(Tune: "Illinois")

Fifty years of service sweet, Illinois, Illinois,
Dost thou lay at Jesus' feet, Illinois, Illinois,
In the record of thy years,
Fraught with joy as well as tears,
Many a noble deed appears, Illinois, Illinois,
Many a noble deed appears, Illinois!

Hail to all thy pioneers, Illinois, Illinois,
Who adventured 'nspite of fears, Illinois, Illinois,
For their love and faith so strong,
For their zeal to right the wrong,
Let us praise Him with our song, Illinois, Illinois,
Let us praise Him with our song, Illinois!

New frontiers to you are calling, Illinois, Illinois,
Look and see the need appalling, Illinois, Illinois,
Larger tasks for you still wait,
Hasten now His message take,
Deny self for His dear sake, Illinois, Illinois,
Deny self for His dear sake, Illinois!

The Convention voted to give $50 as an anniversary gift to the Woman's Board. Mrs. Lipp was elected delegate to the Biennial Convention to be held at LeMars, Iowa.

The establishment of the Mrs. E. M. Spreng Memorial Chair of Missions in the Evangelical Theological Seminary, Naperville, Illinois, which had been anticipated ever since the project was launched at the Quadrennial Meeting of the Woman's Board at York, Penna. in 1926, but more definitely and eagerly looked forward to since 1931 when the goal of $50,000 had been reached, became a reality in the fall of 1940.

The official establishment of the Chair of Missions occurred September 3rd at First Evangelical Church, Naperville. Because this Chair was endowed by the Woman's Missionary Society the women had an important part on the program. Approximately two hundred fifty members of the Woman's Missionary Societies in the vicinity of Naperville were a part of the long processional.

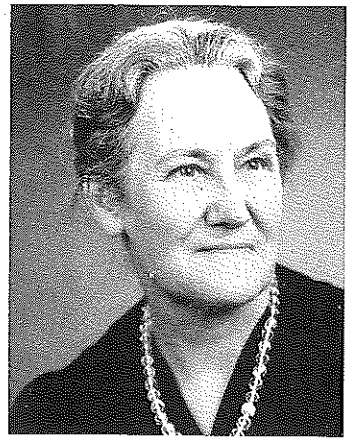
Mrs. J. S. Stamm, our General President, in the name of the Woman's Department of the Board of Missions, transferred to the Evangelical Theological Seminary through the President, Dr. H. R. Heininger, the fund raised for the Chair of Missions. Mrs. Stamm gave an address in which she reviewed the origin of the project, its promotion, and completion. She also paid beautiful tribute to the life of Mrs. E. M. Spreng and challenged the women of the church anew "Not to be afraid of big things".

Professor Wilbur C. Harr, who had been appointed by the Seminary as incumbent of the Chair of Missions, was installed as a member of the faculty in a most sacred ceremony.

The theme for the 1941 Annual Convention held at Naperville Camp was "Follow Thou Me in Witnessing". There was an all time record attendance of approximately 500 on Friday, guest day. Among the guest speakers were Mrs. Carl Heinmiller, General Second Vice-president, Dr. Carl Heinmiller, Field Secretary Board of Missions, Dr. Susan Bauernfeind and Rev. J. W. Deckinger of Japan, and Mrs. Benjamin Re of our Italian Mission, Milwaukee. Special features were a Vesper Service, First Pearl Medal Mission Band Contest, progressive coaching conferences, recognition service for Honor Societies, "Pin Map" made by Mrs. Wesley Tash indicating location of Illinois Conference churches and societies. Mrs. Dorothy Berghorn presented the Mission Study books in a most helpful way. Mrs. Herman Vocks, who closed 11 years of service as Secretary of Literature, at her request was not reappointed to that office. This work was assigned to Miss Cora Hobein.

"Follow thou Me in Service" was the theme of the Convention held at Barrington in 1942. Dr. Alvin Haag of North Central College, challenged the Christians of today to "Out-vision, Out-think, and Out-live the World". The Ways of Service were considered in our daily meditations under the leadership of Mrs. F. W. Kaiser, General Promotional Secretary. Mrs. Kaiser also reviewed the study books in a pleasing manner. During the devotional period of the recognition service of the Illinois Training Course tribute was paid to Mrs. A. W. Haller, member of the Training Course Board and a former Second Vice-president of the Branch, who on that day was laid to rest in Elgin. Our missionaries Rev. Karl Kuglin of Africa and Rev. J. W. Bischoff of Kentucky gave informing messages on their work. Dr. H. R. Heininger, President Evangelical Theological Seminary, preached

a powerful sermon at the Sunday morning Worship Hour on "The Redemptive Power of Christ". After a term of three years Mrs. Lipp requested not to be considered for the presidency another year. Mrs. Wesley Tash was elected to that office and also as delegate to the Biennial Convention to be held at Elgin.



Mrs. Wesley Tash
1942-1946

Due to the difficulties of transportation and food rationing caused by World War II the 1943 Annual Convention was held at the Oak Avenue Church, Freeport, instead of Oakdale Camp. Irene Haumersen, General Mission Band Secretary, Miss Martha Wolff, R.N. from China, Miss Hulda Chrisner, Pastor's Assistant at Melrose Park, and Prof. H. H. Kalas of Evangelical Theological Seminary, made valuable contributions through their messages. During the Memorial Service loving tribute was paid to Mrs. Emma Divan and Mrs. E. K. Yeakel. Mrs. Divan was a former Branch President, M.O.C. Secretary, Historian, and also a General Officer. Mrs. Yeakel had served as Young People's Missionary Society Secretary and in other capacities in the Branch. Reports revealed there were 96 societies with a membership of 3238 and the amount raised, $21,636.52, the largest up to that time. The initial sum of $39.80 for the Kingdom Service Fund later grew to $5429.93. The M.O.C. Department which had been in charge of Mrs. V. D. Hawley since 1936 was discontinued.

"The Discipline of the Kingdom" was the theme of the 1944 convention held at Naperville Camp. The speakers of this convention were Rev. A. J. Faust of Africa, Miss Edna Schweitzer of Japan, Dr. Carl Heinmiller, Executive Sec'y-Treas. of the Missionary Society, Miss Ruth Dietzel, General Secretary Youth Fellowship. The 60th Anniversary of the organization of the General Woman's Missionary Society was fittingly observed Friday evening. The theme of the evening was "The Radiance of the Cross through 60 years". Devotions, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory," were in charge of Mrs. H. J. Eigenbrodt. Mrs. Elsie Giese Lipp, Branch Historian, reminisced on our experiences and attainments. Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, who had been a member for 60 years, in the name of the Branch was presented with a corsage by Mrs. Wesley Tash, Branch President. Miss Edna Schweitzer gave the anniversary address after which a great concourse of people came down the aisle of the tabernacle depositing their gifts in the "Treasure Chest" prepared for that purpose. The Anniversary offering amounted to $4048.70, new members 194, new subscriptions to the "Missionary World," 238. Mrs. Tash was elected delegate to the Biennial Convention to be held at Blue Earth, Minn.

This was an outstanding year for Illinois as in this year we also

celebrated the Centennial of the Illinois Conference. Our Branch was happy to present a centennial gift of $100 to the Conference.

As an emergency measure due to the war five one-day area meetings were held in 1945 at Kankakee, Washington, Freeport Oak Ave., Sterling, and Chicago Grace. The same program was carried out at each place of meeting. Miss Rose Fecker, missionary to China, spoke at the first two meetings and Mrs. H. S. Frank, General W.M.S. President, at the last three. A large official delegation and many visitors attended these area meetings. Many women who had never had the privilege of attending a Branch Convention had somewhat of a convention experience in these "snap-shots". This in a large measure compensated for the things which were missed. The period 1944-1945 marks the launching of a new department of our work—The Christian Service Guild, an organization for young adults who wish to subscribe to the Missionary program but find it impossible to attend the afternoon meetings of the Woman's Missionary Society. It also marks the transfer of the young people between the ages of 12-24 inclusive from the Young People's Missionary Circle to the Evangelical Youth Fellowship. This latter movement was considered a great forward step for the youth of our church. Naturally, we have missed these young people from our conventions but we give our approval to whatever is for their best interest. Last year the Young People's Missionary Circles raised $1961.18 for Missions. The total raised by this department in the 50 years of their activities in our Branch is approximately $55,000. May the unified program for youth meet with even greater success for Kingdom Building.

The 56th Annual Convention of the Illinois Branch Woman's Missionary Society held in 1946 at Barrington Camp was unique and highly significant since it was the last to be held under that caption. The program was dedicated in loving memory to Dr. Susan Bauernfeind, missionary to Japan 1900-1941. The countenance of Dr. Bauernfeind graced the cover of the printed program. The Dr. Susan Bauernfeind Memorial Fund was launched with a nucleus of $300 which later mounted to $2015.83. A most impressive Communion Service was in charge of Dr. I. L. Schweitzer, District Superintendent of the Chicago area. He was assisted by other ministers of the Conference in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. There were approximately 200 communicants. Mrs. Maude Shambaugh, representative of the General Board, led the Devotional Periods. Our missionaries, Mrs. Elizabeth Wahl, Miss Justine Granner, Rev. R. A. Sundberg, and Rev. Frank Wolff brought helpful messages. Mrs. W. H. Arbogast, President of the Women's Missionary Association of the United Brethren Church, spoke on the pertinent theme—"Oneness". The Browsing Table was new this year and very much enjoyed. The Illinois Training Course which had its beginning in 1906 and proved a blessing to so many women was discontinued in view of the coming merger and the fact that many local training courses were being offered. This convention ended Mrs. Tash's fourth year as President. Miss Ethel Spreng was elected to that office and also delegate to the Biennial Meeting of the Board of Missions to be held at Lebanon, Penna. Other officers elected were: First Vice-president, Mrs. E. P. Shipman; Second Vice-president, Mrs. Sherman Burkhart; Recording Secretary, Mrs. A. P. Johnson; Treasurer, Mrs. H. C. Berghorn; Secretary of Mission Bands, Mrs. Clarence Eggestein; Secretary of Little Heralds, Mrs. E. E. Schaefer.

Miss L. Ethel Spreng
1946

Annual reports are always interesting. They were of special significance this year because of the much anticipated merger with the Women's Missionary Association of the United Brethren Church. An examination of the reports shows Illinois Branch Woman's Missionary Society had 96 societies with a membership of 3306; 2 Christian Service Guilds; 79 Mission Bands with 1654 members; 70 Little Herald Rolls with 1671 members; a membership of 2644 in the Fellowship of Prayer; 854 Tithers; 15 Stewardship classes; the promotion of Christian Social Relations resulted in 80 societies having a program on Interracial Understanding; 66 societies observed Christian Family Week; in the department of Missionary Education 409 completed the Reading Course for 1945; 21 members completed the ten years of the Reading Course; there were 2473 readers of the Circulating Library; 2112 subscribers to "The Missionary World"; the Literature table sales at this convention amounted to $424.98; 17 Group Rallies were held with a total attendance of 1797 and total offerings of $1499.78. The total received by the Branch Treasurer broke all previous records, reaching the excellent sum of $30,358.86. Of this amount the Christian Service Guilds raised $273.10, the Mission Bands $3878.63, and the Little Heralds $1539.96. When we compare these figures with those of the first convention in 1890 when there were 10 societies with a membership of 199 and the amount raised was $275.98, we think we can hear the spirit of the Illinois Conference Branch Woman's Missionary Society of the past exclaim—"Can this be I?"

In its little more than half a century of existence the Woman's Missionary Society of Illinois through its various departments raised for missionary purposes more than $650,000.00. Of this amount approximately $55,000 was raised by the Young People's Missionary Circles, $60,000 by the Mission Bands, and $11,000 by the Little Heralds. Of vastly greater moment than these figures, however, is the spiritual growth of the faithful Evangelical women of Illinois resulting from their heroic faith and their unselfish service, and only eternity will reveal the number of souls that have been led to Christ through their efforts. To God be all the glory!

The accent of this convention was upon the theme—"The Demands of the Kingdom for our Day—Service, Unity, Tolerance, Peace". With this challenge we closed a period of 56 years of existence as the Illinois Conference Branch Woman's Missionary Society of The Evangelical Church and eagerly looked forward to the time when the forces of the Woman's Missionary Society of The Evangelical Church and the Women's Missionary Association of The Church of the United Brethren in Christ would unite under the new name, Women's Society of World Service of The Evangelical United Brethren Church.

At the last Biennial Meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society of The Evangelical Church held at Lebanon, Pennsylvania, October 14-16, 1946, the closing chapter of the Woman's Missionary Society was written. On November 16, 1946, at the General Conference held at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, the union of The Evangelical Church and The Church of the United Brethren in Christ was consumated, forming one denomination to be known as The Evangelical United Brethren Church. This was an epochal event in denominational history and under the guidance and blessing of Christ should mark the beginning of a greater service in the building of the Kingdom of God.

May we never lose the thrill of a glorious past. May we draw from it a stimulating challenge to serve well the future.

To all Members Who Have Joined the Church Triumphant

This Page is Lovingly Dedicated

"They are not gone who pass beyond the clasp of hand,
Out from the strong embrace; they are but come so close
We need not grope with hands, not look to see, nor try
To catch the sound of feet. They have put off their shoes
To softly walk by day within our thoughts, to tread
At night our dream-led paths of sleep.

They are not dead who live in hearts they leave behind.
In those that they have blessed they live a life again,
And shall live thru the years eternal life, and grow
Each day more beautiful, as time declares their good,
Forgets the rest, and proves their immortality."

(Anon)

"What are these which are arrayed in white robes and whence came they?

. . . These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Rev. 7: 13, 14.

"And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign for ever and ever." Rev. 22: 5.

ROSTER OF MISSIONARIES
from
ILLINOIS

EUROPE

Hintze, Rev. Henry....1878-1890
Hintze, Mrs. Henry....1878-1890
Ott, Rev. Christian....1868-1873
Ott, Mrs. Christian....1868-1873
Vetter, Rev. George
Vetter, Mrs. George

JAPAN

Anderson, Irene....1928-
Neitz, Rev. F. C....1889-1898
Neitz, Mrs. F. C....1889-1898
Ranck, Elmina E....1905-1926

CHINA

Behrens, Rev. J. E....1913-1920
Behrens, Mrs. J. E....1913-1920
Butzbach, Rev. A. H....1904-1924
Butzbach, Mrs. (Lora Minch)....1904-1924
Dubs, Dr. C. Newton....1900-1936
Dubs, Mrs. C. Newton....1900-1914
Dubs, Rev. Homer....1918-1924
Dubs, Mrs. Homer....1918-1924
Fuessle, Rev. C. A....1901-1903
Fuessle, Mrs. C. A....1901-1903
Heidenreich, Elsie....1921-1924
Hobein, Cora....1914-1926
Lindenmeyer, Rev. A. C....1911-1913
Lindenmeyer, Mrs. A. C....1911-1916
Schoch, Ignatia....1920-1925
Spreng, Dr. R. W. E....1920-1929
Spreng, Mrs. R. W. E. (Eva Bauernfeind)....1920-1921
Spreng, Mrs. R. W. E. (Martha Hake)....1923-1929
Suhr, Rev. T. L. C....1908-1932
Suhr, Mrs. T. L. C....1908-1932
Welsh, Emeline....1923-1927

AFRICA

Miner, Dorothy (Under appointment)....1946-
Walter, Rev. V. E....1926-1938
Walter, Mrs. V. E....1926-1938

KENTUCKY

Bischoff, Rev. John....1940-
Bischoff, Mrs. John....1940-
Fritsch, Edna E....1935-1936
Patterson, Margaret, R. N....1930-1933
Rabausch, Elizabeth....1923-1927
Schaeffer, Dr. Everett....1946-
Schaeffer, Mrs. Everett....1946-
Weibel, Rev. Roscoe E....1928-1931 1934-
Weibel, Mrs. Roscoe E....1928-1931 1934-
Welsh, Emeline....1926-1928

"Lord, let them feel the pressure of our hands
Who serve thy cause in many lands!
Across the measureless expanse between,
Lord, let us grasp their hands.

Lord, of our thinking may they be aware
Who work in lonely places where
The way is difficult, the struggle keen;
Lord, let them know we care.

Lord, every dawning let them know we pray;
When on their spirits burdens weigh,
May they be strengthened by a power unseen;
Lord, let them know we pray."

Edith Portens Thayer

AN OPEN LETTER

Dear members
Women's Society of World Service:

In writing this history of our Branch I have had to confine myself largely to those who were in places of leadership in Branch work and participants on the programs of our annual conventions. But all the while I have been thinking of that larger group of women whose names have never appeared on our convention programs but who through prayer, labors of love, and gifts have made a most valuable contribution to the cause of missions. With some of you I have become acquainted at our conventions, rallies, and institutes, and my life has been greatly enriched through this fellowship. Each year I have looked forward to seeing you again. Many of you I have not met but because we are engaged in a common cause I feel I know you. To all of you I want to say that the Branch could not get along without you. It is to the rank and file, the faithful ones in the local societies, that the victory really belongs. As long as the local auxiliaries are faithful, our beloved Branch will live and go from triumph to triumph.

I have had to refrain from indulging in praise of our Branch presidents and other officers for their efficiency and the excellent service they rendered during their term of office and at our conventions, but I am sure all will be glad just to hear the "Well done" of our Lord and Savior.

Our yesterdays were glorious because of the untiring devotion and dauntless courage of our pioneers. This is our hour of opportunity. My earnest prayer is that the implications of our new name—"Women's Society of World Service" will become a reality in each of our lives.

In glad service for our Master,

Mrs. Edsie Giese Lipp

Batavia, Illinois
April the Sixteenth, 1948

BUILDERS ALL

"Surely, some workmen have builded the pillars as well as the spire;
The cross that painter has gilded was fashioned in somebody's fire.
Surely, men dug in the ditches preparing a place for the wall—
And someone has made with her stitches the flag that shall fly over all.

Someone has blended the plaster, and someone has carried the stone;
Neither the man nor the Master ever has builded alone.
Making a roof from the weather, building a house for the King—
Only by WORKING TOGETHER, men have accomplished a thing.

All have a share in the beauty; all have a part in the plan:
What does it matter what duty falls to the lot of a man?
Each has a hand in the building; no one has builded alone—
Whether a cross he is gilding; whether he carried a stone."

—Douglas Malloch

ROLL OF OFFICERS
ILLINOIS BRANCH WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
of
THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENTS

Mrs. W. H. Fouke	1890-1892
Mrs. Wm. Neitz	1892-1893
Mrs. Wm. Schmuss	1893-1895
Mrs. H. J. Kiekhofer	1895-1897
Mrs. A. J. Voegelein	1897-1899
Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder	1899-1901
Mrs. H. J. Kiekhofer	1901-1906
Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder	1906-1914
Mrs. J. S. Stamm	1914-1917
Mrs. W. J. Miller	1917-1927

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. L. B. Tobias	1890-1892
Mrs. F. Neis	1892-1893
Mrs. H. C. Smith	1893-1895
Mrs. George Husser	1895-1898
Mrs. J. Wellner	1898-1900
Mrs. Wm. Schmuss	1900-1906
Mrs. Louisa Zipperer	1906-1907
Mrs. A. J. Voegelein	1907-1908
Mrs. Ellen Fisher	1908-1909
Mrs. August Muench	1909-1918
Mrs. J. S. Stamm	1918-1921
Mrs. A. W. Haller	1921-1923
Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder	1923-1927

RECORDING SECRETARIES

Mrs. J. J. Rosenstiel	1890-1891
Mrs. Emma Divan	1891-1892
Miss Leah Meck	1892-1893
Mrs. W. H. Messerschmidt	1893-1895
Mrs. S. Steiner	1895-1900
Mrs. George Husser	1900-1907
Mrs. Louisa Zipperer	1907-1919
Mrs. A. J. Boelter	1919-1921
Mrs. J. C. Schaefer	1921-1927

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES

Miss Mary Messner	1890-1891
Mrs. Rachael Kaegle	1891-1892
Miss Grob	1892-1893
Mrs. H. J. Kiekhofer	1893-1895

Mrs. S. Finser....1895-1898
Mrs. E. Rubrecht....1898-1899
Mrs. George Husser....1899-1900
Mrs. S. Steiner....1900-1902
Mrs. N. Wunderlich....1902-1913
Mrs. George Ennenga....1913-1916
Mrs. Edw. Claus....1916-1927

TREASURERS

Mrs. Ida M. Haefele....1890-1892
Miss Priscilla Musselman....1892-1897
Mrs. H. J. Kiekhofer....1897-1898
Mrs. C. Bubeck....1898-1900
Mrs. H. J. Kiekhofer....1900-1901
Mrs. G. Schwarz....1901-1902
Mrs. J. Minch....1902-1912
Mrs. W. J. Miller....1912-1917
Mrs. E. Burgi....1917-1927

SUPERINTENDENTS OF MISSION BANDS

Mrs. Morrison....1890-1891
Mrs. Wm. Caton....1891-1892
Miss Clara Rickert....1893-1894
Mrs. Wm. Schutte....1894-1895
Mrs. F. Theiss....1895-1899
Mrs. R. Arnold....1899-1900
Mrs. F. Theiss....1900-1901
Miss Clara Neitz....1901-1904
Miss Gertie Rickert....1904-1906
Mrs. A. C. Gegenheimer....1906-1913
Mrs. J. C. Schaefer....1913-1921
Mrs. Floyd Shisler....1921-1927

SUPERINTENDENTS OF CRADLE ROLLS (L.H.)

Miss Josephine Kramer....1908-1909
Mrs. W. J. Miller....1909-1912
Mrs. J. S. Stamm....1912-1914
Mrs. A. W. Haller....1914-1915
Mrs. R. H. Good....1915-1917
Mrs. A. K. Spielberger....1917-1921
Mrs. Stacy Sommers....1921-1927

SECRETARIES OF YOUNG WOMAN'S WORK

Mrs. C. B. Bowman....1912-1915
Mrs. A. J. Boelter....1915-1919
Miss Netta Schutz....1919-1923
Mrs. Clarence Erffmeyer....1923-1924
Mrs. Frank Feik....1924-1927

PRAYER LEAGUE SECRETARIES

Mrs. J. S. Stamm....1917-1918
Mrs. Minnie Schleeter....1918-1923
Mrs. Louisa Zipperer....1923-1927

SECRETARIES OF LITERATURE

Miss Lydia Bubeck....1920-1923
Mrs. H. J. Osterland....1923-1927

ROLL OF OFFICERS
ILLINOIS BRANCH WOMAN'S HOME and FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
of
THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

PRESIDENTS

Mrs. S. F. Entorf....1892-1895
Mrs. W. H. Fouke....1895-1899
Mrs. Emma Divan....1899-1910
Mrs. C. G. Unangst....1910-1915
Mrs. J. G. Finkbeiner....1915-1920
Mrs. Emma Divan....1920-1927

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. C. G. Unangst....1892-1893
Mrs. W. H. Fouke....1893-1895
Mrs. Josie McLain....1895-1896
Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler....1896-1899
Mrs. W. H. Fouke....1899-1903
Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler....1903-1910
Mrs. Emma Divan....1910-1915
Mrs. C. G. Unangst....1915-1920
Mrs. J. G. Finkbeiner....1920-1927

RECORDING SECRETARIES

Mrs. Emma Divan....1892-1899
Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler....1899-1901
Mrs. Anna M. Kable....1901-1910
Mrs. E. O. Rife....1910-1911
Mrs. Lillie Arthur....1911-1916
Miss Lucy D. Weis....1916-1921
Mrs. I. R. Rehm....1921-1922
Miss Lucy D. Weis (Mrs. S. C. Boswell)....1922-1927

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES

Mrs. Ida Haefele....1892-1894
Mrs. Allie Sneed....1894-1896
Miss Wolf....1896-1897
Mrs. E. K. Yeakle....1897-1901
Mrs. J. G. Eller....1901-1905
Mrs. B. F. Ludy....1905-1907
Mrs. Josie McLain....1907-1912
Mrs. R. G. Munday....1912-1917
Mrs. I. E. Holtzman....1917-1919
Mrs. Lillie Arthur....1919-1923
Mrs. J. F. Van Evera....1923-1927

TREASURERS

Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler....1892-1896
Mrs. Ida Haefele....1896-1900
Mrs. C. G. Unangst....1900-1910
Mrs. J. G. Finkbeiner....1910-1915
Mrs. F. C. Noerenberg....1915-1920
Mrs. Almeda Pomeroy....1920-1921
Mrs. George Fager....1921-1923
Mrs. H. E. Smith....1923-1925
Miss Amanda Schroeder....1925-1927

SUPERINTENDENTS OF MISSION BANDS

Mrs. Wm. Caton....1892-1893
Miss Cora Frost....1893-1895
Mrs. Nellie Schriver....1895-1896
Mrs. Lizzie Hintz....1896-1898
Miss Mamie Cable....1898-1900
Mrs. Sadie Graybill....1900-1904
Mrs. R. F. Brothers....1904-1908
Mrs. I. R. Rehm....1908-1910
Mrs. Ada Collins....1910-1911
Mrs. C. Wessling....1911-1915
Miss Almeda Plagge (Mrs. Pomeroy)....1915-1920
Mrs. F. C. Noerenberg....1920-1927

SECRETARIES OF Y. P. M. SOCIETIES

Mrs. Lizzie Hintz....1895-1896
Mrs. Josie McLain....1896-1901
Mrs. T. L. Haines....1901-1902
Mrs. Josie McLain....1902-1904
Mrs. E. K. Yeakel....1904-1908
Miss Iva Guiley....1908-1910
Mrs. E. K. Yeakel....1910-1912
Mrs. A. Shaffer....1912-1913
Mrs. Josie McLain....1913-1917
Mrs. Dena Weis....1917-1919
Miss Mabel Grebe....1919-1923
Mrs. Dena Weis....1923-1924

Mrs. I. R. Rehm....1924-1926
Mrs. Ruby Payne....1926-1927

SECRETARIES OF CRADLE ROLL & HOME DEPT. (L.H.)

Mrs. L. A. Hintz....1903-1906
Alice McLane....1906-1907
Mrs. Nellie Schultze....1907-1909
Mrs. S. H. Messner....1909-1914
Mrs. I. R. Rehm....1914-1915
Mrs. W. H. Willison....1915-1916
Mrs. S. H. Messner....1916-1918
Mrs. R. G. Munday....1918-1925
Miss Ruth Lentz....1925-1927

LIBRARIANS

Miss Lorena Rassweiler....1898-1907
Mrs. Ida Haefele....1907-1910
Mrs. E. K. Yeakel....1910-1911
Mrs. L. C. Schmidt....1911-1916
Mrs. Lillie Arthur....1916-1919
Mrs. L. C. Schmidt....1919-1926
Mrs. Samuel Gieske....1926-1927

SECRETARIES OF MISSIONARY ORATORICAL CONTESTS

Mrs. Emma Divan....1916-1920
Mrs. C. G. Unangst....1920-1923
Miss Rilla Webster....1923-1927

SUPERINTENDENT OF ILLINOIS TRAINING COURSE

Mrs. I. R. Rehm....1922-1927

ROLL OF OFFICERS
ILLINOIS BRANCH WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
of
THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

PRESIDENTS

Mrs. F. C. Noerenberg....1927-1931
Mrs. W. J. Miller....1931-1935
Mrs. Matilda Schumacher....1935-1939
Mrs. Elsie Giese Lipp....1939-1942
Mrs. Wesley Tash....1942-1946
Miss L. Ethel Spreng....1946

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. W. J. Miller....1927-1931
Mrs. Matilda Schumacher....1931-1935
Mrs. W. J. Miller....1935-1939
Mrs. Wesley Tash....1939-1942
Mrs. Matilda Schumacher....1942-1943
Mrs. H. C. Berghorn....1943-1945
Mrs. E. P. Shipman....1945-1946

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Emma Divan....1927-1929
Mrs. A. W. Haller....1929-1931
Mrs. Elsie Giese Lipp....1931-1935
Mrs. J. M. Ryan....1935-1938
Mrs. Elsie Giese Lipp....1938-1939
Mrs. Matilda Schumacher....1939-1942
Mrs. M. A. Goss....1942-1944
Mrs. Sherman Burkhart....1944-1946

RECORDING SECRETARIES

Mrs. H. R. Heininger....1927-1928
Mrs. Paul Giese....1928-1929
Mrs. S. C. Boswell....1929-1933
Mrs. Wesley Tash....1933-1935
Mrs. H. H. Kalas....1935-1936
Mrs. W. A. Stauffer....1936-1940
Mrs. Sherman Burkhart....1940-1944
Mrs. H. H. Kalas....1944-1946
Mrs. A. P. Johnson....1946

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES

Mrs. S. C. Boswell....1927-1928
Mrs. W. H. Givler....1928-1932
Mrs. Frank Feik....1932-1934
Mrs. A. L. Reid....1934-1938
Mrs. M. A. Goss....1938-1942
Miss Alice Rehm....1942-1943
Mrs. V. D. Hawley....1943-1944

TREASURERS

Mrs. Elsie Giese Lipp....1927-1931
Mrs. J. M. Ryan....1931-1935
Mrs. Wesley Tash....1935-1939
Mrs. A. L. Reid....1939-1942
Mrs. R. D. Tompkins....1942-1945
Mrs. H. C. Berghorn....1945-1946

SECRETARIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY CIRCLES

Mrs. Ruby Payne....1927-1929
Mrs. John Stryker....1929-1931
Miss Florence Bruns....1931-1933

Miss Alice Rehm....1933-1937
Mrs. John Bischoff....1937-1940
Miss Roberta Fry....1940-1943
Mrs. Willis Plapp....1943-1945

SECRETARY OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

Mrs. Wilbur C. Harr....1946

SECRETARY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE GUILDS

Miss Bernice Wahl (Mrs. Anderson)....1945-1946

SECRETARIES OF MISSION BANDS

Mrs. Floyd Shisler....1927-1928
Mrs. Frank Feik....1928-1930
Miss Myrtle Kubitz....1930-1931
Mrs. P. O. Bailey....1931-1935
Mrs. Amelia Umbach....1935-1939
Mrs. A. D. Shaffer....1939-1943
Mrs. Clarence Eggestein....1943-1946

SECRETARIES OF LITTLE HERALDS

Miss Ruth Lentz....1927-1929
Mrs. Wesley Tash....1929-1933
Mrs. E. P. Shipman....1933-1937
Mrs. Ruby Payne....1937-1941
Mrs. H. R. Neuman....1941-1945
Mrs. J. W. Davis....1945-1946
Mrs. E. E. Schaefer....1946

SECRETARIES OF LITERATURE & LIBRARY

Mrs. Frank Feik....1927-1928
Mrs. H. J. Osterland....1928-1929
Mrs. H. Vocks....1929-1940
Miss Cora Hobein....1940-1946

SECRETARIES OF MISSIONARY ORATORICAL CONTESTS

Miss Rilla Webster....1927-1931
Mrs. Emma Divan....1931-1936
Mrs. V. D. Hawley....1936-1943

SUPERINTENDENTS OF ILLINOIS TRAINING COURSE

Mrs. I. R. Rehm....1927-1933
Mrs. J. A. Stryker....1933-1946

ORGANIZERS (DISTRICT SECRETARIES)

Chicago District
Mrs. J. A. Stryker....1927-1931
Mrs. H. J. Osterland....1931-1943
Mrs. W. A. Stauffer....1943-1944
Mrs. W. J. Rogowskey....1944-1946

Naperville District

Mrs. Matilda Schumacher....1927-1931
Mrs. E. E. Hafenrichter....1931-1943
Mrs. C. J. Attig....1943-1946

Freeport District

Mrs. E. Burgi....1927-1931
Mrs. A. D. Shaffer....1931-1932
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