

## Reverend George De La Matyr

Submitted to Inyo County GenWeb by Ruth Ann Montgomery of Evansville, Wisconsin.

### DeLaMatyr Family News Items

Rev. Mr. De La Matyr left town yesterday for Oshkosh, whether he has gone to purchase the materials for the new Methodist Church' services will be held in the old house next Sabbath for the last time.

-July 4, 1866, The Evansville Citizen

The friends of Rev. De La Matyr will be pleased to know that he is continued on this charge another year. The church has exceedingly prospered during the past two years, under his spiritual care, and greater hopes are in expectancy for the coming year. No other man could have been sent to this charge so acceptable to the wishes of the people.

-September 19, 1866, The Evansville Citizen, Evansville, WI

The Revival in the Methodist Church. The church is filled every evening and jammed on Sabbath. Nearly thirty have been converted or reclaimed; and interest continues unabated. Last Sabbath the Sunday School and General Class were united and took the form of a Love Feast, minus the bread and water. The singing of the scholars added much joy of the meetings; many of them also testified their personal and happy knowledge of the Savior. Opportunity being offered, five joined the church by letter and twenty-two on probation.

-February 13, 1867, The Evansville Citizen, Evansville WI.

Donation—There will be a donation and oyster supper for the benefit of Rev. G. W. DeLaMatyr at the house of Mr. ? at the brick school house in ?

-February 13, 1867, The Evansville Citizen, Evansville, WI

There will be a donation and oyster supper at the Methodist Church on Wednesday evening March 6, for the benefit of Rev. G. W. DeLaMatyr. Tickets for admission 25 cents for sale at the door. Tickets for supper 50 cents. Oysters extra, 35 cents a plate. A general invite to all.

-March 6, 1867, The Evansville Citizen, Evansville, WI

The donation party held in the basement of the new church on Wednesday evening last, for the benefit of Rev. G. W. DeLaMatyr, was a pleasant and highly entertaining affair. Tables were spread in the unfinished audience room and well supplied with everything the most fastidious could desire. The ladies of the society and those who aided them, did ample justice to themselves, in the rich bounties provided, and in the excellent manner it was presented, deserve more than a passing notice. The committee who

had the affair in charge done honor to themselves in their unwearied attention to render the

-March 13, 1867, The Evansville Citizen, Evansville, WI

Severe Accident—As Mrs. Dr. DeLaMatyr and Mrs. R. R. Thomas of the Seminary, were returning from Janesville last Tuesday, on leaving the Monroe train at Hanover Junction, Mrs. DeLaMatyr fell to the ground by some mishap, and striking upon her arm, broke the bone at the elbow joint. Attempts were made by an inexperienced surgeon to set it, but was not effectually done till some six or seven hours later by Dr. Evans, on her arrival at home. Her sufferings were very severe but at this time she is quite comfortable and will not lose the use of her arm, as was first feared.

-May 22, 1867, The Evansville Citizen, Evansville, WI

About a year since, the Methodists sold their old building, which is said to be the first church building begun in the county, are now completing a building of white brick. Its size is 40 x 60 with high basement and beautiful tower. It will probably be dedicated the latter part of September.

The membership is nearly two hundred. Rev. G. W. DeLaMatyr, the pastor, is an able preacher and has proved himself an active laborer. He has toiled indefatigably in building the new church, and all regret that his labors among us must soon close.

-August 14, 1867, The Evansville Citizen, Evansville, WI

Married in Evansville, Sept. 3d, 1867 by Rev. G. W. DeLaMatyr, Mr. Willowby Walter of Evansville and Miss Mary McCarthy of Porter.

-September 11, 1867, The Evansville Citizen, Evansville, WI

Rev. G. W. DeLaMatyr leaves for Conference this week. His pulpit will be temporarily supplied until his successor shall return.

-September 25, 1867, The Evansville Citizen, Evansville WI

Goes to Delavan—We are glad to congratulate the good people of Delavan upon the pastoral services of Rev. G. W. DeLaMatyr, for the coming year. He has been in this place for the past three years, and has so endeared himself to the hearts of the people that we part with him now with much reluctance. He is an active, zealous working Christian. The church in this place owes much of its success at the present time to the indefatigable labors of Mr. DeLaMatyr.

In the social circle his wife and co-laborer, has few equals; in the pastorate—her Christian examples may be imitated with becoming grace by many. At the bedside of the sick she is ever found administering comfort; to the stricken and desponding her heart is full of pity and kindly words and heavenly greetings for all. No effort is so great or task so arduous, when duty prompts her to perform a needy work, that she is not found with a ready hand and a willing heart. It is hoped they may meet with the

reception they so dearly merit.

-1867, The Evansville Citizen, Evansville, WI

We learn that Capt. W. A. De La Matyr, has resigned his position as principal of the High School at Mazomanie, and will accept a similar one in Elkhorn.

-April 12, 1871, Evansville Review

Exerpt from information about the Evansville, WI Methodist Church and Reverend De La Matyr's service from 1864 to 1867. Original site may be found at:

<http://mywebpage.netscape.com/ruthannmontgomer/Methodist%20Church.html>

"Rev. George DeLaMatyr was assigned to the Evansville church in 1864. DeLaMatyr remained at the church during its move from Main Street to Madison Street.

Plans for a new church building began to develop in 1866. The site of the church was needed for commercial buildings as Evansville's business district expanded. The congregation had also grown and the church building was too small. The trustees decided to sell the property and seek a new location.

In the June 13, 1866 issue of the Evansville Citizen, editor Isaac Hoxie, announced to his readers that the Trustees of the Methodist church had sold their old meeting house and were planning to build "a more commodious house fronting on Madison street, 40 by 60, of brick".

The Evansville Citizen wrote the eulogy for the old church. "The Old Methodist Church that was erected nearly twenty years ago, as the boasted pride, and quite an ornament to the village & almost the first church edifice erected in the Territory of Wisconsin, west of the Rock River, has now grown into rather insignificance by the more elegant buildings around it."

In July, Rev. DeLaMatyr went to Oshkosh to purchase materials for the new Church. The Citizen announced that the final services were to be held in the old church on Sunday, July 8, 1866.

The Methodist property on East Main Street was sold to Nels Swager in 1866. Swager moved the building slightly to the west and closer to East Main Street so that it was in line with the other business buildings on the block.

The Swager's new store and hall received a face-lift and an addition so that it barely resembled the old church. An addition of fifteen feet was built on the front of the building and a second story was added for a public hall. The second story was known as Swager's Hall. The churches often used the hall for Christmas programs and other fund raising events.

The village of Union also had a Methodist Church. In the fall of 1866, the Union Methodist church was dismantled and moved to Brooklyn. Construction of the new Evansville church on South Madison Street began in July 1866 with the excavation of the basement. By October, the brick work was well under way. The white brick purchased for the building was known as "Fulton brick".

Moses Vervalin was the mason hired to lay the brick veneer for the building. Only one other workman on the building is known and his name was reported because an accident at the building site.

Erastus Enos was helping to build the roof of the church when he fell to the first floor. Several of the wood pieces of the roof framing fell on top of him, breaking his wrist. His other injuries were not serious, but the mishap did give him recognition as one of the construction crew.

Cold weather prevented the brickwork on the exterior from being completed. However, because the building was enclosed, the congregation was able to move into the church.

From January to March 1867, the Methodists held a revival in their new church. Every evening the pews were filled and on Sunday the building was "jammed" according to Isaac Hoxie's newspaper, the Citizen. During the revival, twelve people were converted and the new Methodists were baptized at the next quarterly meeting.

The church could not fund activities and building programs without raising money from its members and other members of the community. Fundraisers were necessary if the new church was to be completed and furnished. There were also the ongoing expenses of maintaining the church building and providing an income for the minister.

In March, the Methodist trustees announced that an oyster dinner was to be held. Supper was 50 cents and a plate of oysters cost 35 cents. The donation party, as the dinner was called, was held in the new church. The Evansville Citizen reporter attended the dinner and gave this notice: "Tables were spread in the unfinished audience room and well supplied with everything the most fastidious could desire."

As yet another means of meeting the church expenses, the pews were rented. Jacob West, Lloyd T. Pullen and John Dawson served as the pew renting committee. A seating plan for the new church was available for viewing at Pullen's store and a special day was set aside for the people to sign up for the area of the church they found most desirable.

The women of the church donated their time and talents to raise money. In the winter months of 1867, the Methodist ladies' Sewing Society met every Friday afternoon at the church and began making articles to sell at a fair. "The ladies of that society are untiring in their efforts to place the conditions of their church in the foreground of

spiritual and temporal success," the local newspaper noted.

The Ladies Fair and Festival was held on June 14, 1867. The women served a strawberry dessert and sold bazaar items made at their Friday meetings. The proceeds were used to purchase furniture and other items for the new church.

In addition to the fund raisers there were many donations to the building fund from members of the congregation and the community. The gifts ranged from \$1 to \$200 and these relatively small amounts were enough to raise the more than \$6,000 needed for the building and furnishings.

In May 1867, with the funding in hand and the weather stabilized, masons were once again at work laying the brick on the exterior of the church. The chief of the mason crew was Moses Vervalin and the church was the last building he built in Evansville. Shortly after the church was completed, he moved to Marysville, Missouri.

The church seemed very impressive compared to the old frame building. The main floor was a large auditorium with a choir loft at the east end of the church. The pulpit was at the west end of the church, with the seats facing to the west. The audience turned to face the choir and organist whenever hymns were sung.

There were two classrooms, one on either side of the entrance and the basement lecture room was 28 x 40 feet. The belfry tower with its 100 foot spire was in the center of the roof of the church.

The exterior of the church was completed in June 1867. By early July, the staging and mortar beds used by the masons had been removed and the carpenters began putting seats into the main auditorium. Volunteers from the congregation graded the grounds and removed the construction debris from around the new church. Members also donated their time to build a wooden sidewalk in front of the church. The entire project cost \$6,250.

The local correspondent to the Janesville Gazette noted the new church building. "The Methodists are now completing a building of white brick. Its size is 40 x 60 with high basement and beautiful tower. It will probably be dedicated the latter part of September."

The Gazette correspondent also gave special tribute to the minister, Rev. George W. DeLaMatyr. "The pastor is an able preacher and has proved himself an active laborer. He has toiled indefatigably in building the new church and all regret that his labors among us must soon close."

Before the church was dedicated, the annual Wisconsin Conference meeting was held and Rev. DeLaMatyr was reassigned to a church in Delavan."

