Preface to 1915 Edition

At the fifty-ninth annual meeting of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Perry, Dane County, Wisconsin, held November 25th, 1913, a committee was appointed to compile a history of the congregation for its sixtieth anniversary. The committee elected consisted of A. K. Grimstad, B. T. Daley, E. F. Goli, Thor Kittleson, and C. O. Ruste.

After having given careful consideration to the matter, the committee appointed the undersigned to prepare and publish such a history. While all the members of the committee have spent much time in perusing the manuscripts, and furnishing data, it will be remembered that the undersigned alone is responsible for the shortcomings that may unconsciously have entered into its pages.

The undersigned has chosen to use the language of our country in this little volume because it is the language of the future, and is universally understood. While we love the language of our ancestors and desire its continued use, we are not blind to the fact that it will not be the heart language of even our children or grandchildren. It is our hope also that this effort on our part may in a measure serve to instill in the hearts of our children, and in their children, reverence and love for our sturdy ancestors, and an ardent desire to emulate them in all that is good, true, and noble, in all fields of activity.

A few chapters on the early Norwegian immigration have been placed in this volume, in order to remind the readers of the rude and primitive conditions, the difficulties and hardships that marked the beginning from which the present has sprung. The reader will readily note, that no attempt has been made to limit this account to what pertains strictly to church matters. We acknowledge that God's providence and goodness has reflected its glory from the House of God, upon our entire community, and has
brought both spiritual and material blessings to every sphere of our activities. This same God has given us all, spiritual and physical growth, health, happiness, and progress. Therefore the history of our church and that of our community are so closely interwoven that we shall not attempt to hold them apart.

In touching on matters pertaining to the community, we desire to pay due respect to the memory of many of the pioneers who were not of our nationality. There were many of them, sturdy, noble, honest, and God fearing men, with whom our fathers stood shoulder to shoulder, in peace and in war, and whose mind and hand has left its imprint on this community.

References which have furnished the data for the contents of the first few chapters, are from the authors, Anderson, Dietrichson, Langeland, Holland, Ulvestad, Jenson, Norlie, and Berg. In the, majority of these chapters, however, much help has been received from various old settlers and others, as well as from our present pastor, J. M. Green, who has given valuable suggestions and compiled the parochial reports.

That errors and omissions may have crept in goes without saying, as the author is far from posing as an authority on rhetoric and composition. The sole motive for the publication of this little book being the love for our congregation and the hope that it may be one of the links in the chain that shall bind us and our children more closely to the church of our forefathers.

"Rippling Rill Farm," April, 1915.

C. O. RUSTE