On October 7th, 1861, an “Equalization committee to assess the expenses of paying for the Parsonage” published a rearranged numbered list of 148 members much the same as the one printed above, the smaller number may be accounted for by removals out of the community, joining other churches, enlisting in the war, and other causes.

CHAPTER VI
The Old Parsonage

After, the “Kalds Brev” had been issued, the trustees and representatives from the neighboring congregations met to plan out the ways and means to provide the promised parsonage for the expected minister. Springdale had proposed among themselves various tracts of land which they thought would be desirable locations, and undoubtedly other congregations had done the same thing.

On Feb. 5th, 1855, a joint meeting of Springdale, North and South Blue Mounds, and Perry was held at the home of Nils K. Syvrud for the purpose of deciding on a location. After a lengthy discussion, they finally decided to buy forty-two acres of land at the agreed price of seventy ($70) dollars, part of which was owned by Nils K. Syvrud and the remaining part by Lars Pederson Dusterud. Said land being in section 34, Town of Blue Mounds, now commonly called Blue Valley and owned by A. K. Syvrud, a nephew of the first settler. At the same meeting they also signed an agreement with Nils K. Syvrud to make the following improvements on said land for the stipulated sum of $538.00:
1. To dig a well and mason it, water to be plentiful.
2. To build a stable with room for two horses and two cows.
3. To break five acres of field.
4. To inclose the field with a seven-rail fence, safely staked.
5. And lastly to furnish the material and build a frame parsonage 16x24x14, sided on the outside, and lathed and plastered on the inside.

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Tollef Anmarkrud
Mr. and Mrs. Aadne T. Bratlie, Mr. and Mrs. Halvor H. Anmarkrud,
Mr. and Mrs. Iver H. Braaten, Mr. and Mrs. Mikkel Berg, Mr. and
Mrs. Ole Anderson, Mr. And Mrs. Knudt O. Grimstvedt, Mr. and
Mrs. Ole S. Tollerud
The contract stipulated the size and height of the parlor (stue), kitchen, pantry, and cellar. The dimensions of the rooms upstairs were also stated, and it was specified that the stairway should have a railing about it. Then comes the size of the window panes, the panel (speil) in the doors, the doors to be hung on hinges, three of them to be supplied with locks and four with latches.

The contract bears the following signatures:

For Perry—Ole Arneson Ruste, Ole Kittilson Tvedtene, and Hans Johnson Dale.

For North Blue Mounds—(Vermont), Erik Knudson Sevre, Mikkel Blekkelien, Arne Mikkelson, and Gulbran G. Olson.

For Blue Mounds—Nils Knudson Syvrud, Bernt J. Lund, Lars Pederson Dusterud.

For Springdale—Aslak Lee, Tore Toreson Spaanum, John J. Berge, and Halvor H. Grusdalen.

On the 17th of May, 1855, a deed was issued by Nils Knudson Syvrud, Lars Pederson Dusterud, and their wives to the above named congregations, at the before mentioned price and acknowledged before the Justice of the Peace, O. B. Daley.

That the work and inspection was faithfully accomplished is evident by the various reports of the sub-committees and the final joint meeting, and the acceptance of it all on May 31st, 1856. It can thus be seen that the parsonage was fully ready to receive the minister who arrived a couple of months later. It can also be noted that this was a vast improvement over the former conditions that had prevailed. But in spite of these marked changes it was also a known fact that Rev. Brodahl never could get himself accustomed to the environments of Blue Valley.
“Gamle Prestegaarden” was however, alluded to for more than half a century after its evacuation. Even now our octogenarians often tell of when they drove over there with a yoke of oxen and the “kubber-rulle” to get married, and how one of the more fleet footed damsels would run directly across the country and have the coffee prepared till the newly-weds would return home for the “Fest.”

Rev. P. M. Brodahl continued to live here until the early part of 1860. On February 4th of that year the trustees of the various congregations, acting under instructions, met at the parsonage intent upon disposing of the same, but as Blue Mounds was opposed to this project another action was called forth. Thus it came about that after Rev. Brodahl had relinquished all his rights to the parsonage, they decided to lease it for a year to Peder Johnson Klemoen for the sum of $25.00. Rev. Brodahl now rented a house in Black Earth and lived there for about two years.

From a previous arrangement the trustees again met in the parsonage on March 26th, 1861, and sold the same at a public auction to the highest bidder for $529.00. The buyer being “Nabo-Tyskeren” Alexander Gundelfinger. And here ends the saga of the “Gamle Prestegaarden.”

CHAPTER VII
Our First Stone Church

At a special meeting of the congregation held in school-house No. 7 on February 19th, 1855, after arranging several other business matters, considerable time was devoted to, the