CHAPTER XV.
Rev. Henrick Voldal.

The same special meeting which accepted Rev. Isberg's resignation, began the consideration of calling Henrick Voldal, who was then a student at Augsburg Seminary, after the reading of a personal letter from him as to his scholarship, and also six recommendations from Norway. The meeting decided to ask the advice of Prof. F. A. Smidt and Rev. Jaastad. After a favorable reply was received from them as well as from Rev. Rasmussen, Perry issued a call to Student Voldal, giving him a vote of 82 out of 100 votes cast. Mr. O. B. Dahle moved to make it unanimous.

Rev. Voldal. Born in Norway March 12th, 1860; came to America in 1885. Ordained as minister in 1888. Served Perry from then until 1903. Studied in Norway for two years and since then minister in Dakotas. Married Sigrid Femreit in 1893.

and it was carried. This meeting was held on November 16th, 1887. A committee was then elected to go to York and Primrose to inform them of our decision, and make arrangements.
for sending a joint “Kalda-Brev.”

On December 23rd, 1887, the trustees of Perry issued a call to Student Voldal, which he accepted in a letter dated January 13th, 1888. He was ordained into the ministry by Rev. L. M. Biörn on June 27th, 1888, and was installed as pastor of Perry by Rev. Nodtvedt, in July the same year.

Rev. Voldal served as minister here for a longer time than any other man, spending nearly sixteen of his best years at this place. His fame as an orator is too well known to need any mention in this volume.

In Rev. Voldal’s early pastorate among us, the Norwegian Church of America went thru one of its important evolutions by the forming of the United Church out of four of the different factions. In 1888, at one of the large preparatory meetings held in Scandinavia, Wis., Rev. Voldal and B. T. Daley attended as delegates from Perry. Much interest was manifested in the Union of 1890. While the sympathies here were not unanimous, the large majority were tolerant, while the minority were submissive, so all was well.

On February 28th, 1890, Perry congregation, at a special meeting adopted the Constitution of Articles of Incorporation for the then formed “United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America,” by a vote of 59 for, one against, and one blank.

A few of the historical events thru these years might be mentioned. The Madison “Kreds” held its semi annual meeting here in September, 1891. On September 26th, 1891, Rev. T. H. Dahl held a “visitas” here and left a favorable report. In 1893 Rev. Voldal was united in marriage to Sigri Femreit of Norway.
The Synod Hymn Book was used for a long time but after January 1st, 1898, Landstad’s, as rearranged by the United Church, has been in use exclusively. In the summer of 1901 Rev. Voldal made a visit to his native land, to which he was much attached.

York was added to the Perry charge in 1892, Primrose in 1888, and West Blue Mounds after Rev. Syftestad’s death in 1890. Rev. Voldal also served Adamsville from 1888 to 1901.

Rev. Voldal’s esteemed pastorate was getting along so nicely that it created extreme consternation when from the pulpit, without the least warning, he tendered his resignation to take effect at the end of the year.

Rev. Voldal gave as his only reason for resigning his pastorate, an ever increasing desire to return to Norway to continue his studies.

To show the confidence and esteem in which Rev. Voldal was held we quote the vote of the joint meeting to call a pastor after Rev. Höverstad’s resignation in 1909, giving Rev. Voldal more than two-thirds majority vote to come and serve us again. He however, declined the call.

CHAPTER XVI.
The New Parsonage.

The preliminary steps for the building of the present parsonage were taken at the annual meeting in 1891 when Ole Paulson made a motion to take a trial subscription in order to see if the sentiment of the congregation was favorable enough to justify the undertaking. When the annual meeting of 1892 received a