CHAPTER XXIV.
From Perry.

(a). In presenting the records as they are found on the ministerial books of Perry Congregation it is apparent from the numbers given that Rev. Brodal, from 1856 to 1868, has entered on our records all such official performances from the parish, while from then on the records show the number from Perry Congregation only.

Total number of baptisms from July 17th, 1856 to December 31st, 1857, 142; 1858, 138; 1859, 138; 1860, 190; 1861, 211; 1862, 177; 1863, 182; 1864, 130; 1865, 73; 1866, 48; 1867, 106; 1868-9, 135; 1870-72, 224 ; 1873, 52; 1874-78, 219; 1879, 47; 1880, 33; 1881, 35; 1882, 27; 1883, 32; 1884, 34; 1885, 40; 1886, 33; 1887, 36; 1888, 29; 1889, 27; 1890, 44; 1891, 27; 1892, 12; 1893, 24; 1894, 37; 1895, 26; 1896, 36; 1897, 23; 1898, 30; 1899, 25; 1900, 31; 1901, 22; 1902, 21; 1903, 31; 1904, 26; 1905, 26; 1906, 31; 1907, 28; 1909, 19; 1910-1914, 97.

A total record of baptisms amount to three thousand one hundred and eighty-six, of which about two thousand belong to Perry Congregation.

Of deaths there are 460 recorded in Perry from 1868 to 1910.

Of marriages we find 573. The following is the record for each year: 1856, 11; 1857, 21; 1858, 19; 1859, 17; 1860, 19; 1861, 21; 1862, 19; 1863, 13; 1864, 14; 1865, 5; 1866, 14; 1867, 12; 1868, 15; 1869, 22; 1870, 12; 1871, 11; 1872, 14; 1873, 8; 1874, 11; 1875, 12; 1876, 9; 1877, 11; 1878, 9; 1879, 4; 1880, 10; 1881, 6; 1882, 11;
Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

1883, 11; 1884, 4; 1885, 8; 1886, 5; 1887, 5; 1888, 6; 1889, 7; 1890, 14; 1891, 7; 1892, 4; 1893, 7; 1894, 8; 1895, 8; 1896, 4; 1897, 6; 1898, 5; 1899, 3; 1900, 9; 1901, 7; 1902, 2; 1903, 1904, 6; 1905, 10; 1906, 9; 1907, 9; 1908, 6; 1909, 10; 1910, 9; 1911, 10; 1912, 13; 1913, 9; 1914, 12.

Of the seventeen hundred and thirty-four young people who are recorded as having renewed their baptismal vow, it is apparent that about fifteen hundred belong to Perry Congregation. The number for each year follows: 1856, 43; 1857, 30; 1858, 10; 1859, 20; 1860, 23; 1861, 30; 1862, 66; 1863, 45; 1864, 29; 1865, 55; 1866, 52; 1867, 33; 1868, 105; 1869, 28; 1870, 47; 1871, 54; 1872, 46; 1873, 1874, 41;

Confirmation Class of 1914.

1875, 38; 1876, 33; 1877, 30; 1878, 45; 1879, 10; 1880, 17; 1881, 34; 1882, 35; 1883, 23; 1884, 16; 1885, 21; 1886, 29; 1887, 39; 1888, 20; 1889, 13; 1890, 19; 1891, 23; 1892, 25; 1893, 22; 1894, 21; 1895, 17; 1896, 25; 1897, 22; 1898, 18; 1899, 21; 1900, 30; 1901, 20; 1902, 23; 1903, 27; 1904, 19; 1905, 200; 1906, 24; 1907, 11; 1908, 34; 1909, 31; 1910, 31; 1911, 20; 1912, 33; 1913, 30; 1914, 28.

(b). Perry Congregation has supplied the Church with six ministers of the Gospel; one is now a student at our seminary. A
much larger number of Perry girls have found special work in
the Master’s vineyard as deaconesses, nurses, and teachers.

Rev. A. K. Sagen was born at Koshkonong in 1851, but lived
most of his childhood days in Perry Congregation. He served as
minister in “Den Norske Synode” from 1879 up to his death in
1907. He has held many offices of trust and responsibility.

![Rev A. K. Sagen](image1)

![Rev. Erik O. Ruste](image2)

Rev. Erik O. Ruste was born in Blue Mounds the same year his
father helped to organize the Perry Congregation (1854). With
the exception of his school days, all his early life was spent here
until he was ordained to the ministry in 1879. He served as minister in the Norwegian Synod
for twenty years in South Dakota, Idaho, and
North Dakota and has since been farming near
Montrose, S. D.

![Rev. O. P Syftestad](image3)

Rev. Olaus P. Syftestad was born in Perry Sept. 13th, 1857.
Practically all his life was spent in this neighborhood. He was
ordained to the ministry in 1883, and served the adjoining parish
composed of East Blue Mounds, Springdale, Vermont, and West
Blue Mounds until his death, Feb. 27th, 1890.

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Rev. J. A. Urness

Rev. Johannes A. Urness was born Nov. 20th, 1858. He was ordained to the ministry in 1889, and has served the church in that position ever since, first a charge in Minnesota, then one in Wisconsin, and since 1901 at Osage, Iowa. During the first two years of his pastorate he was an “Antimissouri,” but since the formation of the United Lutheran Church, he has been a member of that body.

Rev. Edward Hegland

Rev. Edward Hegland, born Nov. 15th, 1868. Ordained as minister in the United Lutheran Church in 1898, and has been in such service at Vignes, Wis., and Menomonie, Wis., ever since. In 1898 he married Mollie Thompson of York. She died in 1913 and is buried in our cemetery.

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Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

Grant M. Rundhaug was born April 5th, 1887. During vacations he has taught parochial school. He is now a senior at the United Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Grant M. Rundhaug

Our Soldier Boys of 1861.

We take off our hats to the following list of sixty-one boys and men who were members of the Perry Congregation and who shouldered the musket when our country was in need and called for help. It has sometimes been said that the citizens of foreign birth are slow to acquire patriotic love and loyalty to their adopted land, but as we think of our fathers, uncles, and brothers, more than one-third of the entire community, as these "boys in blue" march before our vision to the tune of the fife and the beat of the drum some of them still wearing the homespun from Norway, as we see them march even unto the Cannon's mouth and bayonet charge, any comment by us on the above assertion becomes superfluous.

More than one-fifth of the following list "never came back"; less than that number are still counted among the living: Ole H. Rindy, Jul Julson, Isaac Kittilson (Levang ), Ole Milesten, Peder A. Dalbye, Jens Jenson, Jacob Jörgenson, Jens Kampen, Hans Evenson, Björgulf Springen, Jacob Syftestad, Tollef Guttormson,
"Some of Our Soldier Boys"

Sixty Years of Perry Congregation

Mago, Ole Bjergesether, Isak Syftestad, George Paulson, Ole Paulson, Ole Grimstvedt, Martin Grinder, Sigur Chestelson, Targe Chestelson, Targe Ormsen, Knudt Olson Hastvedt, Anders Weehvus, Ole Hanson, Syver S. Lien, Timan Knudson, Allan Arneson Ruste.

As the narrative of these sixty-years draw to a close we cast a glance about us to see how many of the charter members of our congregation are still living, and as could be expected the very large majority of them have long ago entered the eternal beyond.

At this writing (April, 1915) We can count twelve, all octogenarians, still living, the first two in Minnesota and the others in Perry or immediate vicinity: Mrs. Isak Syftestad, Mrs. Gabriel Björnson, Mrs. Valquar Jenson, Mrs. Johan D. Dalbye, Mrs. Ole A. Ruste, Mrs. Thomas Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Arneson Ruste, Mr. and Mrs. Ole K. Lee, Mrs. Peder A. Dalbye, Anders Hellikson Forlie.