



HISTORY
OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OF BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO,
AND
ADDRESSES DELIVERED
AT THE CELEBRATION OF THE
THIRTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE PASTORATE OF THE
REVEREND GEORGE L. KALB, D. D.

1900
PRESS OF
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BELLEFONTAINE

He was ordained in the fall of 1844 in the little brick church on South Main street, Bellefontaine.

See address, "The Pastors."

"He is remembered for his faithfulness and self-denying labors."—DR. KALB.

He married Susan M. Dewitt, the youngest daughter of Zacharia Price Dewitt, October, 1833. Susan M. Gregg died April 20, 1896, aged 83. Their children are as follows:

Harriett Gregg, born July 4, 1835, married James Akey; residence, New Haven, Ind.

Elizabeth Gregg, born January 17, 1838; married William Mackey; residence, Pleasanton, Kan.

Marshall Gregg, born June 30, 1840; married; residence, South Dakota.

Maria Caroline Gregg, born November 19, 1842; married John Willson; residence, Hebron, Porter county, Ind.

George Dewitt Gregg, born September 2, 1844; married; residence, Hebron, Ind.

William S. Gregg, born March 31, 1847; single; residence, Hebron, Ind.

Mary Almedia Gregg, born February 29, 1850; married John Sigler; residence, DeMott, Jasper county, Ind.



REV. EDWIN B. RAFFENSPERGER, D. D.

BY MRS. ANNA F. RAFFENSPERGER.

Edwin B. Raffensperger, son of Daniel and Mary Bowman Raffensperger, was born in East Berlin, Adams county, Pa., January 20, 1824. Removed to Springfield, Ohio, in 1836. United with the First Presbyterian church of Springfield in 1841. Spent two years preparing for college at the high school, under the instruction of Rev. Chandler Robbins. Entered the Freshmen class in Princeton, N. J., August, 1845. Was graduated in the class of 1849. Entered the Theological Seminary at Princeton the same year and was graduated in the class of 1852. Was licensed by the Presbytery of Carlisle, June, 1851. Was called to the First Presbyterian church of Urbana, Ohio, October, 1852; installed as pastor, May, 1853. Released from the pastorate, October, 1854. During his pastorate a new church edifice was built and dedicated, which was occupied by the church until 1895.



REV. EDWIN B. RAFFENSPERGER, D. D.

Mr. Raffensperger was married to Anna Frances Whiting, of Johnson, Vermont, at Urbana, November 16, 1854, by Rev. William Cox.

November 6, 1854, he was invited to the charge of the First Presbyterian church of Bellefontaine, Ohio. Was installed pastor, July 13, 1855. His services continued in Bellefontaine until April, 1859.

He became pastor-elect of the First Presbyterian church of Toledo, Ohio, April, 1859; resigned in September, 1868. He then spent a year in Chambersburg, Pa., in labors for Wilson college. Was called as pastor to the Westminster Presbyterian church of Cleveland, Ohio, April, 1870; resigned April, 1873. At once invited to the pastorate of the First Presbyterian church of Cumberland, Maryland. He was installed October, 1873, and resigned October, 1877. Was engaged in editorial work in Philadelphia the next four years. In October, 1881, he took charge of the First Presbyterian church of Marion, Ohio; closed his services there in June, 1884. Commenced his labors with the First Presbyterian church of Muncy, Pa., July, 1884. Translation to the "General Assembly and Church of the First Born," May 1, 1885.



MRS. A. F. RAFFENSPERGER.

In September, 1861, having been granted leave of absence by this church in Toledo, he entered the army as chaplain of the 14th O. V. I., under the command of Col. James B. Steedman. He remained with the army until late in the fall of 1862, when he returned to Toledo very low with fever. In January, 1863, he resigned his chaplaincy by advice of his physician and resumed his ministerial labors.

He was for many years one of the trustees of Wooster University, having been one of its most enthusiastic founders. He was also a trustee of the Chicago Theological Seminary for several years.

The honorary degrees of A. B. and A. M. were bestowed by Princeton College, and that of D. D. by Heidleberg College.

Dr. Raffensperger was an earnest worker in the Master's Vineyard. That he was an able preacher, there are many still living, to testify. That he was successful in winning souls to Christ many on earth and in heaven will bear record. His passion for souls never left him, and in his dying hours he prayed by name for several persons whom he longed to see brought to Christ. His death was a fitting end of his active life. "Thy will be done," thrice repeated, were his last words.



REV. GEORGE P. BERGEN.

Rev. George P. Bergen, son of David C. Bergen, and in the seventh generation from Hans H. Bergen, of Bergen, Norway, was born January 1, 1820, and married Mary E. Bentley, of Albany, New York.

Mr. Bergen graduated at Center College, and studied divinity at Princeton. He was first settled for a number of years at Springdale, near Cincinnati, and then accepted an appointment in the field of Domestic Missions at Omaha, Nebraska.

After remaining two years, his health failing, he returned to Ohio, and accepted the call of this church, beginning his labors here, August 22, 1859.

His pastorate expired the first Sunday in June, 1863, when he removed to Iowa.

"These were years of great political excitement; nevertheless the church had a steady growth under his ministry."—DR. KALB.

For further data concerning Mr. Bergen, see address "The Pastors" by Dr. Fuller.

His children were Paul David Bergen, born here July 19, 1860, (See chapter, "Those who have gone into the Ministry and Mission Field,") and George Bentley Bergen, born here June 11, 1862.



MRS. GEORGE P. BERGEN.

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