

Dedication of the New United Brethren Church at Mulberry Center

Sunday, July 13th, 1890

Sunday, July 13th, 1890, will be a long remembered day at Mulberry Center, as it was the day our beautiful little church was dedicated. The church was crowded to its utmost capacity, and a crowd outside of belated ones. The dedication sermon was preached by the Rev. Geo. Miller, of Carlisle, Iowa. His address was of high order intellectually and spiritually. It was an effort indicating culture --- of vigorous thought and sound doctrine, and held the audience with eager interest to the end.

The speaker drew a graphic picture of the wonderful and ever changing times in which we live, and what is demanded on every intelligent Christian to meet the necessities of such a time. A portraiture of equal vividness and power was drawn setting forth the character and gifts of the men and women fashioned after the Bible models, whom God is calling to such a work.

We should like to give the Freeman's readers some parts, if not the whole, of this fine address....

In the evening the church was again comfortably filled with an appreciative audience to listen to the closing address, which was well suited to the occasion --- full of interest and kindly

admonition. I think we shall all feel under lasting obligation to Elder Miller for the excellent service he rendered us while here.

It is only a year ago that the idea of a new church building entered the brain of one of the citizens of Mulberry Center; but it was considered as an impossibility by a majority of the people of the vicinity and of the church, to raise enough money to build it, when it was all they could do to pay their pastor. Yet that one went forth with pencil and paper, and the faith that God would help those who help themselves. It seemed rather hard to get the wheels in motion; but little by little the people became interested in the project, and what at first was considered as an impossibility became an easy matter. As one another put their shoulders to the wheel it became a settled fact that we really could build a new church. Yesterday morning we were \$250.00. At the close of his discourse Elder Miller asked the congregation to make up the deficiency, and I think that all hearts (and especially those of the workers) were sheered by the large and unexpected contributions. As for ourselves our heart was too full for utterance. These contributions place us out of debt. **Our church is comfortably seated, carpeted, and beautifully papered,** and the society extends their heartfelt thanks to the Webster City people for the interest they have evinced and the gifts they have bestowed on us in our time of need; and making us a liberal donation in money. **I also desire to say right here that the people of the Congregational Church of Webster City --- notwithstanding they are building a new church of**

their own --- have given about \$100.00. We feel very much honored in having Cady Swain here to lead our choir in the forenoon services. As stated in the beginning of his article, it was a day long to be remembered by the people of this vicinity.

Copied from an article in the Webster City Freeman (No issue date) by *Carolynn Miller*.