

EPWORTH HISTORY

1826 - March 25, 1851

Church was known as Salem Baptist Church, which was a log building with split log seats. Property was given by Simon Lane (whose great grandson, Kelly Williams, was instrumental in the building of the church and reinterment of the cemetery in 1956). Simon Lane's, brother was one of the first pastors (Jesse Lane) who is buried in the original Epworth Cemetery.

March 25, 1851-April 1868

Salem Baptist Church was bought by the Epworth Methodist Episcopal Church for \$100 and was used until a new building could be erected in 1868.

1868-1957

The new building was ready in 1868. The cost was \$1280.00.

1926-

The Epworth School was purchased from the Ohio Township for a sum of \$142.00 and was converted into a Community House.

1932-

A basement was dug under the church for Sunday School usage. The building was used until March of 1968.

1936-

Mary H. Shelton, last known burial in Epworth Cemetery.

1939-

Epworth Methodist Episcopal Church merges to be known as Epworth Methodist Church.

Nov. 4, 1954 Ad Council Minutes

There was a discussion concerning ownership of cemetery. Mr. B. Pride reported his attorney advised that a reliable abstract be made. Dr. Browning's attorney friend has agreed to handle the situation. Ownership of cemetery should be established and then advertised to find survivors. Mr. G. Shoultz made the motion that \$100 be set aside to cover cost of running abstract. Evansville Titles, Inc., will be asked to do the job.

July 6, 1955 AD COUNCIL MINUTES

Authorization was also given to secure the titles to our three parcels of land and the courts (Circuit Court) permission to remove graves to a different plot partially vacate cemetery.

Sept. 14, 1955 AD COUNCIL MINUTES

Kelly Williams, trustee, reads the list of names of people buried in the cemetery in order to find sons/daughters or grandchildren.

----- in the cemetery, in order to find sons/daughters of
grandchildren.

Nov. 18, 1955

Affidavit of Margaret Stacer Wedding re: Quiet Title to
Real Estate.

Dec. 12, 1955

Epworth Trustees vs. "Long List of names" re: Complaint to Quiet Title to Real Estate.

Dec. 12, 1955

Warrick Circuit Court - Beryl Pride, Trustees, et al vs. John Staser, etc. et al re: Quiet Title to Real Estate.

Dec. 15, 1955 AD COUNCIL MINUTES

Mr. Pride reported that the suit to find title of the cemetery will be started by Mr. Leo Warren. It will be advertised in the Boonville Standard three times. If no opposition to the suit, it will proceed into court.

1956-

DISCUSSION BEGAN FOR THE NEED OF A NEW BUILDING TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON THE SIGHT OF THE OLD EPWORTH CEMETERY.

Jan. 11, 1956 AD COUNCIL MINUTES

A commission was named by Rev. Garrigus to help locate graves in the cemetery and next of kin. Appointed were Edith Mathias, Kelly Williams, Gilbert Allen and Chester Broshears.

Feb. 23, 1956

Warrick Circuit Court #3693 Notice to Non-Residents-Trustees vs. John Stacer, et.al.

March 7, 1956

Rev. Garrigus sends roster of grave markers to Warren, Merrell, and Combs (attys.)

March 9, 1956

Warren, Merrell, and Combs sends letter to Rev. David Garrigus re: Procedures to contact family members and in reference to the law.

August 8, 1956 AD COUNCIL MINUTES

Building committee report: A meeting with architect Ralph Robert Knapp was held by Gresham Shoultz, Beryl Pride and Russ. Bauer. Mr. Knapp will have for approval a sketch within several weeks time. Ruth Grimm made a suggestion that another special meeting to be held on August 15 at the Community House for all of the congregation to discuss primarily the moving of the cemetery.

Dec. 6, 1956

Warrick Circuit Court #4027 issued regarding Entry Authorizing Removal of Cemetery - Kelly Williams, Trustees, et al vs. J.W. Dukes, et al.

Dec. 10, 1956 AD COUNCIL MINUTES

Trustee report - The Warrick Circuit Court granted the petition of Epworth Church regarding the establishment of a

Trustee report - The Warrick Circuit Court granted the petition of Epworth Church regarding the establishment of a suitable cemetery site on the northern part of the church property and the necessary reinterment there unto. The decision was reported to the group by Kelly Williams.

Dec. 11, 1956

Warren, Merrel, and Combs sends letter regarding Cemetery permits and applications.

Jan. 9, 1957 AD COUNCIL MINUTES

Announcement was made by Rev. Garrigus that the church now has the completed abstract for the church property. (The church also has a permit from the Indiana State Board of Health to do any necessary reinterment).

March 1957

Gilbert Meyer, licensed undertaker, agrees to officiate at the opening of the tomb(s).

March 16, 1957

Letter to stop disinterment and reinterment was signed by Homer Shelton and witnessed by Gilbert Meyer and Rev. David Garrigus.

Early 1960's-

Kay Lant, Warrick Co. Historian, creates roster of known burials in Epworth Cemetery.

1968 -

Epworth Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren Church (formed in 1946), to become Epworth United Methodist Church.

July 12, 1980

Lulabelle Tafel and Edna Goebel create their roster of known burials in Epworth Cemetery.

March 1983-

Letter written from Pat Cole to the present pastor.

March 23, 1983

Karen Devaisher, church secretary, send response letter to Mrs. Cole.

Oct. 3, 1983

Mrs. Cole submits her roster of known burials of Epworth Cemetery and notes "it is the most accurate list available".

late 1987 - early 1988

C & S, Inc. purchases the property from the church. (worship continued in the church until the new sight was completed).

July 1989

A law to protect cemeteries is created. Epworth is part of the "grandfather clause". *See News article dated Jan.21, 1996.

1996.

1991

Kris Manley and Sharon Patmore create their roster of
Warrick Co. Known Cemeteries including Epworth Cemetery.

April 25, 1995

CHARGE CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES - Rev. Richardt, District Superintendent presiding, John Fleener (head trustee) presents the proposal to the church to sell the parsonage and move the stones to a "cemetery".

June 28, 1995

Trustee Larry Schnautz receives letter from Rose Hill Cemetery regarding plot pricing information.

July 1995

Trustees vote to move the stones to a cemetery and then bury them. One monument to be erected for all of them.

August 18, 1995

General Warranty Deed filed with Richard Reid for parsonage property.

August 1995

Trustees, with verbal agreement from Rose Hill Cemetery, move all the old tombstones to Rose Hill Cemetery. Tombstones were left on the ground, not in a hole, at a location per groundskeepers instructions.

Labor Day Weekend, 1995

Mrs. Patricia Robinson Cole of Brighton, MI. was visiting our community and stopped to see the tombstone(s) of family members at the parsonage. Upon investigation, she was directed to the Rose Hill Cemetery and found the stones in a "unorganized" fashion, claiming stones were dumped, damaged, and dirty. Mrs. Cole notified the media who reported the story throughout the weekend.

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1995

After repeated broadcasts on television, the church was overwhelmed with phone calls from well-intention individuals and organizations regarding the stones.

Sept. 6, 1995

The church ran an "ad" on WFIE radio broadcasting station establishing a P.O. Box.

Sept. 7, 1995

The church was informed to ship the "bronze face" veteran markers to Washington, D.C. The total amount shipped were two stones, (Lt. Charles Lucas and Pvt. F.M. Skaggs).

Sept 27, 1995

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES- A cemetery plot was "purchased" from Rose Hill for stones by trustees.

Sept/Oct. 1995

Sept/Oct. 1995

Don Claspell, descendant, removed seven stones from the church and took possession. (Stones later returned).

October 1995

The church ran two classified ads in the Warrick Publishing newspaper notifying family descendants where and how they could claim their family stones, if desired.

October 14, 1995

Mrs. Pat Cole claims her family stone(s); authorizes Rose Hill to "foot" the Shelton/Williams Stone.

November 24, 1995

Stones are removed from Rose Hill Cemetery per the Cemetery Board and their attorney and put into storage.

November 1995

Monte Williams, descendant, claims the following stones:
-Jesse Lane, footstone of ABW, Stone with Daniel, Loran, Hial, Sherman and Harriet Williams, stone of H.J. Williams, stone of Henry A. Williams, stone of John Williams, stone of Mary C. Williams, and stone of Milton B. Williams.

March 29, 1996

Rose Hill Cemetery sends letter of their intent to accept our monument.

April 3, 1996

Acceptance letter received from Newburgh Library to receive church/cemetery history for genealogical purposes.

June 29, 1996

Stones are placed at Epworth Church by church members and members of the trustees, along with a local monument company. Rev. Dan Rasmussen led a memorial dedication service at 6:30 am.

July 18th, 1996

Grave Marker stone(s) are ordered through a local monument company.

August 9, 1996

Andy meets with Rose Hill Cemetery Board, including Jean Davis and Kay Lant, to purchase plot for memorial.

August 20, 1996

Article appears in Newburgh-Chandler Register regarding 3 stones missing from Monte Williams property.

September 1996

Memorial Plaque is placed at Rose Hill Cemetery.

November 1996

November 1996

Secondary plaque is placed at Rose Hill Cemetery.