

Old seminary record tells tales

This article is one in a bicentennial year series for The Link by WHBC Historian Bonnie Healy.

Before Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, there was Colgate Rochester Divinity School. Before Colgate Rochester Divinity School, there was Rochester Theological Seminary.

Baptists founded RTS concurrently with the University of Rochester in 1850. The seminary and college shared classrooms and professors -- but never administration -- on West Main. RTS expanded to its own campus on East Avenue at Alexander Street until 1928 when it merged with Colgate Theological Seminary, America's oldest Baptist seminary, and built the school on the hill on Goodman Street. In 1970, Colgate Rochester merged with Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa., Martin Luther King Jr.'s alma mater.

From its earliest years, Rochester Theological Seminary provided West Henrietta Baptist with a ready supply of pastors, many of them still students during their pastorates. Records of 14 pastors are found in the *Rochester Theological Seminary General Catalogue 1850-1920*. These brief records provide a glimpse into the lives of these ministers.

Eight of the 14 were foreign born. Revs. John C. MacFarlane, Donald B. MacQueen, James M. Warner, and James D. MacLeod were Canadian. Warner would ser-



REV. JOHN C. McFARLANE
Graduated 1907



REV. DONALD B. MacQUEEN
Graduated 1907
Completed graduate studies 1910



REV. FREDERICK N. SMITH
Graduated 1910

vice as a captain in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War I. MacLeod was from Prince Edward Island. Revs. Alexander Mackenzie and James Macpherson were as Scottish as their names. Rev. W. Entwistle, who served the church during the Civil War was English.

The average age of a pastor beginning his ministry at WHBC was 36 years. At 51 in 1874, Rev. Uriah Gregory, a veteran of the Civil War who went on to become president of California College, was the oldest pastor. Iowa-born Rev. Frederick B. Iglar was the youngest at 28. His pastorate from January to April 1917 was apparently too brief to note in the sanctuary list of pastors.

Probably because their ministries overlapped seminary training, terms were short. Only Rev. MacLeod served significantly after his seminary training. Rev. W.T. Taylor, the only Rochester native among the 14, and Rev. Mackenzie, both served five years, the longest terms. The average stay was 2.7 years.

Although seminarians, most had been ordained before admission to school. Rev. MacQueen, who was a WHBC member throughout his seminary years and succeeded Rev. MacFarlane in 1908 was ordained at WHBC. He continued graduate studies at the seminary during his pastorate. Seminary records indicate that he served at Camp Cody, a National Guard training camp in New Mexico, during World War I. His successor, Rev. Frederick Smith, was a graduate of Princeton University. As a missionary in China, he taught boys. During his furlough in 1918, he earned his master's degree at Columbia University. He was 32 year old and newly wed while here.

Pastors who attended RTS between 1853 and 1920

Rev. George Webster
1855-1856 (*Years at WHBC*)

Rev. W. Entwistle
1863-1864

Rev. Uriah Gregory
1874-1875

Rev. A. B. Sears
1890-1894

Rev. W.T. Taylor
1896-1901

Rev. Harry Greensmith
1901-1904

Rev. J.C. MacFarlane
1904-1908

Rev. D.B. MacQueen
1908-1911

Rev. Frederick N. Smith
1911-1912

Rev. Alexander Mackenzie
1912-1917

Rev. Frederick B. Iglar Jr.
1917

Rev. James M. Warner
1917-1921

Rev. James Macpherson
1921-1924

Rev. James D. MacLeod
1926-1929