

Confirmation Class Reunion Trade River, Wisconsin

[Next Page](#)



**Trade River Evangelical Free Church Confirmation Class
1911**

Reunion of First Confirmation Class of Trade River E. Church Printed in the Leader newspaper in 1939.

Sunday, October 1st, a reunion of the first Confirmation class of the Trade River Free church was held at the church. The class, consisting of fifteen girls, were confirmed July 30, 1911. Rev. Alfred Stone was the pastor of the church at that time. Sunday morning the members attended services and Rev. Alfred Stone of Milaca, Minn., delivered the sermon.

The entire service was very impressive. The members sat in a body on the left side of the church. Rev. Stone's sermon was fitting for the occasion and at the conclusion he called roll as he did when the class met for their lessons. Each member responded by standing, after which the class sang the song, "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder." A history of the class was read by one of the members. Viola Davis read a poem composed for the occasion, entitled "Only One Life" which was very touching. The entire class then marched to the altar forming a semi-circle and Rev. Stone closed the service with prayer.

David Peterson, photographer from Princeton, Minn., who took the confirmation picture twenty-eight years ago, came and took a picture of the reunion. Those present were Mabel Tollander Twetten, Elk River, Minn.; Beda Wallen Bloom, Minneapolis; Maymie Anderson Bloom, Wood Lake; Jennie Johnson Ecklund and Ellen Hedberg Herrell, St. Croix Falls; Effie Ecklund Westlund, Cushing; Vina Granquist Danielson, Wood River; Gerda Gabrielson Oberg, Trade Lake; Hannah Lindgren Maack, Hazel Anderson Granquist, Edith Ramstrom Anderson, Edith Hedman Armstrong and Alice Granquist, all of Trade River. Myrtle Gravestrom Hedberg passed away several years ago. Maud Tollander Swedberg of Minneapolis was not present.

The first Confirmation class of the Trade River Free church was organized in the spring of 1911. Every Saturday afternoon until the last part of July the fifteen members of the class walked to the Trade River Free church to receive instructions in the catechism by Rev. Alfred Stone.

In after years the members often had pleasant memories of those happy hours spent together in the little church. Rev. Stone always made the lessons so interesting and had so much patience with the girls. One of the members, Myrtle Grafstrom Hedberg, passed away several years ago.

Of the fourteen members living, three live about seventy miles from Trade River. The others live in the community or very near. There are thirty children in the families of the members. Two members are grandmothers. Since the confirmation, the following members have lost both parents: Mesdames Eric Anderson, Ellen Herrell, John Ecklund and Sam Oberg. The following have mothers living: Mesdames Clarence Westlund, Henry Twetten, Oscar Swedberg, Algot Granquist, Abel Bloom, Rudolph Maack, Albert Danielson and Miss Alice Granquist. Mrs. George Bloom is the only one whose father is living. Mrs. E. Armstrong is the only member who has both parents living. Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Grafstrom, parents of the late Mrs. Axel Hedberg, are

living. The reunion committee consisted of Mesdames Eric Anderson, George Bloom and Ernest Armstrong.

ONLY ONE LIFE (by Viola Davis)

The past, it cannot be relived, But memories linger on, Sometimes we find joy in reminiscing The days that are gone.;
This morning we'll forget the plane The automobile as well, The uncanny radio, And of that time we'll tell- ;
When horse and buggy had their sway And folks were all content To either walk or ride the brae Wherever they then went.;
In nineteen hundred eleven, A July morning so fair, Fifteen sweet young girls Met at Miller Peterson's, over there.;
They had gone to confirmation; Rev. Stone had taught the word, Now the morn had come to tell What they had learned and heard.;
They came in white embroidered dresses Bought at Charles Anderson's store, Long white elbow gloves, a bow in their hair or more.;
Thrilled and excited were they, The first event of this kind, And also over at church An interested crowd we find.;
The organ played a melody, They marched in two by two, Ready and eager to tell What of the Word they knew.;
They knew their lessons well;
Diplomas then were given, They'd learned the Blessed Word of God Which lights the path of Heaven.;
The inspired Word of God, Of Christ who gave His life, Shed His blood on Calvary To cleanse from sin and strife.;
Oh, the Power in that blood! Friend, have you plunged therein, Do you know the joy of Jesus- Have you His Peace, within?;
Are you living a Life of Jesus, Ready to live or die, Without the fear of the marrow If not, my friend, why?;
We are so unworthy, But Jesus loves us still, And He wants to save us all If we but humbly will;
Rev. Stone then presented To each one in the class, A lovely New Testament To be read by every lass.;
Do you have this Word of God Hid away in your heart today, Has it been read daily, Or put on the shelf to stay?;
They journey on to Grantsburg Their picture, then, to take; Having now been confirmed, Wanting one for keeps sake.;
Years have come and gone, Changes have off' been made, Fourteen of these girls are living, One to rest has been laid.;
Her faith was anchored in Jesus, He took her over the tide, One day redeemed in His Glory, We shall stand by her side.;
The past, the past - it is now gone, Here is nineteen thirty-nine, And in our midst this morning Fourteen ladies do we find.;
Quite remarkable Wonderful God has been, To make it possible For you to meet again.; Some of you have grown a little But you all look rather nice,
The few added pounds and gray hair Makes you all appear so wise.;
And here is Brother Stone, a faithful servant of God, Great shall be your reward As through life's path you've trod.;
Winning souls for His Kingdom, Breaking the Bread of Life, God bless you, our Brother, Your children, and your wife.;
Sweet is this reunion- Will we meet again? Will it be on earth or Heaven- The question it is- when?;
God bless each one of you- Walk in His Holy way, May health, joy and peace be yours All through the coming day.;
Only one Life, 'Twill soon be past; Only what's done for God Will last.