

# The Old Mission Methodist Episcopal Church

A Brief History-by Chris Rieser

1857-1858- A Methodist Episcopal pastor, Reverend David R. Latham, moved to the Traverse City area and started new parishes in Traverse City, Old Mission and Elk Rapids.

1858- W.W. Johnson, the first pastor assigned to Old Mission and Traverse City was able to use the log church of Peter Dougherty's former Presbyterian Mission as a parish for the residents of Old Mission. There is mention of other parishes in Ogdensburg and Archie although it is likely they used houses or other buildings such as barns as was the custom of Methodists at the time.

1858-1916- The Old Mission log church was a Methodist Episcopal parish from between 1858 and 1916 when the Michigan Methodist Episcopal Conference closed it leaving the members to find another house of worship in the area. The Conference stated that it was leaving the parish in the hands of the Congregationalists who were "strong" in the community.

1858-1916- The Old Mission ME Church had 27 assigned pastors over the 58 years of its existence in addition to other "circuit rider" ministers who traveled around the area giving sermons in multiple locations.

1908- A parsonage for the pastor was erected directly behind the log church as illustrated in the 1908 plat map of the area. No records have come to light indicating when it was built prior to 1908.

1912- The log church was moved from the bayshore to the spot currently occupied by the Replica Log Church at a point prior to 1908. Again no records have come to light giving us a date of the move. There is however a record in the 1912 Annual Minutes of the Methodist Episcopal Church that there were \$225 worth of "improvements to the property" which may be when the log church was sided and a new steeple erected.

1916- Listed at the time of closing were 13 members at Old Mission, although there were probably other residents attending. Overall, 54 members are listed on Old Mission Peninsula including Archie and Ogdensburg.

1916-1920's- No records have been found as to how the building was used between 1916 and when it was torn down for its lumber in the 1920's. Afterwards, the only thing left was the cement steps which were eventually removed.

Annual Minutes of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church: Detroit, MI: The Conference, v.58 (1893)

<https://archive.org/details/annualminutesofm5818meth/page/152/mode/2up>