



Winnebago Community Historical Society

Winnebago Area Churches: Then & Now Winnebago Area Churches Timeline

The letters (A,B,C) following each date are keyed to individual churches to help trace each church's timeline.

- 1839 A Organization of **Westfield Methodist Episcopal Church** with neighborhood meetings.
- 1841 B Formation of **Twelve Mile Grove Congregational Church** (parent of **Seward Congregational Church**).
- 1846 C Organization of **Winnebago Congregational Church**, meeting at Westfield.
- 1848 T Completion of stone church building at **Twelve Mile Grove** for school & **Methodist** congregation.
- 1854 C Beginning of use of **Old Stone Church** building on Westfield Rd. by **Winnebago Congregational Church** (location of present Winnebago Cemetery).
- 1854 B Building of the meeting house of the **Seward Congregational Church** at Jackson & Comley Rds.
- 1855 D Organization of **Winnebago Methodist Episcopal Church** as part of Byron circuit (met at railroad station).
- 1855 E Organization of **Middle Creek Presbyterian Church**, meeting in Byron area.
- 1855 F Building of **Wempletown Baptist Church** in Burritt Township.
- 1855 A Building of **Westfield Methodist Episcopal Church**, corner of Westfield and Montague Rds.
- 1859 E Beginning of use of **Middle Creek** cemetery.
- 1860 D Dedication of **Winnebago Methodist Episcopal Church** building on S. Seward St. (Building later moved to Burritt Township and is now the Burritt Town Hall).
- 1861 E **Middle Creek Presbyterian Church** building completed, corner of Kendall and Montague Rds.
- 1865 H Organization of **Free Methodist Church of Winnebago**.
- 1866 H Building of **Free Methodist Church of Winnebago** building on NW corner of W. Winnebago and S. Benton Sts. (Building no longer standing.)
- 1868 B Dedication of new building for **Seward Congregational Church at Seward Center**, NE corner of Kelley and Pecatonica Rds.
- 1868 I/E Formation of **First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago**, daughter church of **Middle Creek Presbyterian Church**, by Rev. Joseph S. Braddock.

- 1869 I Dedication of **First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago** on SE corner of W. Winnebago and S. Pecatonica Sts.
- 1870-71 J **St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Mission Church** built on Pecatonica Rd. south of Murphy Rd.
- 1877 T Collapse of **Twelve Mile Grove** stone church.
- 1878 K Formation and construction of **North Burritt Methodist Episcopal Church** on Cemetery Rd. east of Trask Bridge Rd.
- 1879 T **Twelve Mile Grove** stone church demolished. A new wooden chapel, known as a Union Church, was built using stone from the old church. The building is now owned by **Seward Historical Society**.
- 1883 C Building of **Winnebago Congregational Church** building on S. Elida Street. **Old Stone Church** building eventually abandoned.
- Late 1880s L Closing of **South Burritt Methodist Episcopal Church** at the corner of Winnebago and Smith Rds. across from Prospect Cemetery. The building was moved to the Glawe farm and used as a granary.
- 1893 C Demolition of the **Winnebago Congregational Old Stone Church** building and deeding of 2 acre site to Winnebago Cemetery Assn. formed in 1863.
- 1899 A Closing of **Westfield Methodist Episcopal Church**. Building later was home of Westfield Grange and today is the Winnebago Township Westfield facility.
- 1901 B Moving of **Seward Congregational Church** building to its present location on Pecatonica Rd. in Seward.
- 1901 G **Seward Methodist Church** formed when **Hoisington Corners Methodist Episcopal Church** moved its building (built in 1866) into Seward on Pecatonica Rd. across from **Seward Congregational Church**.
- 1911 E **Middle Creek Presbyterian Church** completely remodeled.
- 1914 I/H Dedication of new building for **First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago**, on site of original building, which was demolished. The congregation used the vacant **Free Methodist Church of Winnebago** building while its new building was being built.
- 1915 C Ending of church services at **Winnebago Congregational Church**.
- 1919 H Demolition of **Free Methodist Church of Winnebago** building. The vacant building was used by the congregation of **First Presbyterian Church** during the construction of its new building. It's said that materials from the building were used in the construction of the **Free Methodist Church in Rockford**.

- 1923 C/D **Winnebago Methodist Episcopal Church** purchased the **Winnebago Congregational Church** building on Elida St. The old WMEC building on S. Seward St. was moved to Wempletown and is now the **Burritt Town Hall**.
- 1925 E Medill McCormick, United States Senator, buried in an elaborate tomb at **Middle Creek Presbyterian Church**. His remains have since been removed.
- 1930 E Lest We Forget boulder placed at **Middle Creek Presbyterian Church** remembering 74 early members.
- 1938 M/F/K Dedication of **Burritt Community Church** on Trask Bridge Rd.; merging of **North Burritt Methodist Church** and **Wempletown Baptist Church**, combining two buildings on the site of Wempletown Baptist.
- 1954 I Education wing added to **First Presbyterian Church**.
- 1956 J Closing of **St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Mission Church** on **Pecatonica Rd.** south of Murphy Rd.; cemetery still in use.
- 1961 G Final service at **Seward Methodist Church**. The building was sold and converted to apartments in 1964..
- 1961 E Education wing added to **Middle Creek Presbyterian Church**. The congregation met there while the old sanctuary was demolished and rebuilt.
- 1969 E Dedication of new sanctuary for **Middle Creek Presbyterian Church**.
- 1977 N Formation of **Winnebago Evangelical Fellowship**, meeting in the Winnebago Town Hall.
- 1988 N Dedication of **Winnebago Evangelical Fellowship** building, W. Winnebago St.
- 1992 O Formation of **Countryside Bible Chapel** meeting at the Farm Bureau Building on Meridian Rd (current status unknown).
- 1994 B Addition to **Seward Congregational Church** building
- 1997 P Formation of **New Life Bible Church**, meeting in the Winnebago Town Hall.
- P Dedication of **New Life Bible Church**, corner of US 20 and Hoisington Rds.
- 2002 Q **Morning Star Baptist Church** began meeting in the **Burritt Town Hall**. Congregation is now on Newburg Rd. in Rockford.
- R Formation of **Risen Savior Lutheran Church**, meeting in the Winnebago Town Hall. Congregation moved to Byron and is now inactive.
- 2015 S Formation of **Crossroads Community Church Winnebago Campus**, worshipping at Winnebago High School with meeting space at 103 N. Benton St.

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