Freeport Methodist Church History (1833 to 1945)
by William E. Golder

William E. Golder (1856-1945)

William E. Golder was a lifelong resident of Freeport. He was the son of William T. Golder, a harness maker, who was killed in the Civil War. Mr. Golder opened a drug store in Freeport in 1881 and later operated a branch in Baldwin. He was the Freeport Bank’s first secretary in 1891 and elected president of the bank in 1929. He was the treasurer of the Methodist Church and was a superintendent of its Sunday school. He died in 1945 at the age of 89 and is buried in Greenfield Cemetery in Uniondale.

In his later years, Mr. Golder wrote about his life in Freeport. The original handwritten history of the ministers of the Methodist Church is located at the Freeport History Society and was transcribed in the late 2000s by a Trustee. All grammatical and spelling errors come from the original document.

Library of W. E. Golder

In memory of the Ministers who have served in succession the Freeport Methodist Episcopal Church. The Society was started in 1833. The place of worship was on the Hempstead and Babylon Turnpike known as the Sand Hill Church. Class leaders and local preachers conducted the meetings. But in 1858 the Society was more definitely organized and located on Main Street [in] this
Village and appointed pastors to serve this parish. These ministers who have come and gone have known personally in a way. Some of them faintly in early youth from remembrance; the others more intimately since becoming a member of the Church. Have written a brief description of these men from remembrance who were preachers of the Gospel in this community, who went out and in among the people of the parish as pastors in their visitation and ministry. They administered the ordinance of Baptism, the marriage rites and the last sad service to our dead. Most of these men have finished their labors in the church here on earth and have gone to join the church triumphant, which is spotless before the throne of God. Some of these men still are abiding in this earthly house watching and waiting for the dissolution that leads to their coronation. Them too there are others that are active in the work of the ministry doing effectual service in the vineyard of the Lord honoring the Blessed Christ and His Church as ambassadors [sic] for their Lord and master. If I have been too critical in these notes in personalities it isn’t with any intention to detract; but to give my observations from memory as they appeared to me. For I hold in reverent memory the men mentioned herein for their works sake, friendship and fraternal relations that have existed will I believe be renewed in the spiritual realm beyond. Have written from pleasant remembrances these occurrences that have floated bye as a vision in panoramic effect the scenes that I have transpired in the days gone bye. (Sept 1923.)

The 1st minister of the little church on Main Street Freeport (Methodist Episcopal) was Rev. Samuel M. Hammond. When he first came to Freeport I
was too young to remember; but he coming [sic] again to this charge. Some years later became acquainted so as to know him.

The 2nd minister was Rev. Wm. Miner. Remember him coming into my father’s harness making shop one day. He sat down, but what attracted my attention was the white headed cane he carried. My mother has informed me that he wasn’t generally liked by the members of the little church. It is stated that he manifested considerable impatience at a Sunday school picnic. Have no information further concerning his life and work.

The 3rd minister was the Rev. Albert Booth. My recollection of him was that he had the appearance of a foreigner resembling a Cubaian [sic] or Spaniard. Am informed that he rendered good service while here and for many years did efficient work in various churches as a pastor and preacher of the Gospel. He lived a long and useful life, died at the age of 91 and the place of burial Bridgeport Conn.

The 4th minister was Rev. Wm. Wake. He was an Englishman and an elderly man. My remembrance of him as being a short and stught [sic] person, with grey hair. He was energetic. It was during this pastorate there was a revival and several souls were saved by the grace of God am informed. And a favorite expression of his which he repeated often “When I hang my harp on the willows.” Have no further information concerning him.
The 5th minister was Rev. Chas. P. Cosner [sp?]. He was from Canada coming to Freeport while young in the ministry. In a mild and persuasive way he preached the Gospel truth. In personal appearance he was of average size, dark brown hair and whiskers which were always well kept. Upper lip clean shaven. A mild kindly expression of countenance was ever visible this description is as I observed him in the later years of his life. I remember when a boy Mr. Cosner calling at our home it was about noon time, he had dinner with us as he was making pastoral call in Freeport, the parsonage then was at Baldwin being a circuit charge. Mr. Coser preached the Gospel in many places and lived a long and useful life to the Glory of God. He died in Brooklyn at 86 years of age was interred in Greenfield Cemetery.

The 6th minister was Rev. F.W. Ware also was from Canada. He had a fine physical appearance light brown hair with full beard upper lip shaven. He was a fairly good preacher. As he had the two places Baldwin and Freeport. He purchased a horse it was young sorrel in color and a good trotter. The Dominie being a lover of horses enjoyed getting out on the road and speeding up a little as he thought had something fast, was inclined to do a little brushing up with those he overtook on the road way. At one time it was said he wanted to get his horse in on the race course at the Queens County Fair, but was persuaded not to engage in that diversion. Mr. Ware liked Freeport better than Baldwin not withstanding the parsonage being at the latter place. At the expiration of his term was appointed to another charge then was transferred to the Nebraska Conference.
The 7\textsuperscript{th} minister was another Canadian by the name of Rev. W. Warner Clark. He was stout and of a dark complexion with one defective eye; but not withstanding this defect he commanded attention being a good preacher. He liked Baldwin better than Freeport and gave his best energy to the work in that place. While on this circuit he was instrumental in erecting a new church building at Baldwin. This church was dedicated by Bishop Harris. Mr. Clark was studious and a few years later became Dr. Clark in the ministry. And further showing his desire for information and advancement while pastor in the City he attended lectures in a Medical College but did not become a physician. Dr. Clark had some very good appointments. In 1891 when the members of the M.E. Church erected it present church building on Pine St. during the week of dedication services Dr. Clark was present he preached a very earnest and forceful sermon on this text: “Enoch walked with God.” A few years later Dr. Clark passed from this life to a better life beyond at the age of 63. Place of burial Greenwood, Brooklyn.

The 8\textsuperscript{th} minister was Rev. Samuel M. Hammond he was small in stature with a dark full beard. Prior to his coming Freeport and Baldwin were circuit charges. In 1872, they were made separate pastorates. Mr. Hammond was appointed pastor of this new independent charge. This wasn’t a new field for him for he was the first preacher at the little church on Main Street. This time he came to give his undivided attention to Methodism in Freeport. Mr. Hammond was the brother of Dr. Hammond the physician who practiced medicine for many years in this Village who was my preceptor in the drug business. Mr. Hammond
was a good preacher also a strong advocate of temperance reform. He served
the Freeport church for 3 years and while here the society build [sic] a new
parsonage which was modern and commodious well suited for its purpose. Mr.
Hammond after leaving Freeport served several churches in Connecticut died in
1892 age 59. Place of burial Greenfield Hempstead, L.I.

9th minister was Rev. Eben S. Hebbert an elderly man large in stature,
grey hair and beard venerable in appearance looking like one of the patriarchs of
old many called him Father Hebbert. He served this church well for two years.
Shall always cherish the remembrance of him for it was under his preaching on
one Sunday evening I became convicted and gave my heart to God. Shall
forever be thankful that father Hebbert had a message from God that pierced my
soul and I yield myself to Jesus and His saving power Glory to God this occurred
in Dec. 1876. A few months before Mr. Hebbert’s term expired from this time on
I became interested an identified with the cause of Blessed Christ and His
kingdom. Mr. Hebbert had a genial and cheerful disposition. Even being a
minister did not prevent him having domestic troubles. When he came to
Freeport he had his second wife. Her disposition was much different from his.
She was unkind to the stepdaughter and failed to make the home pleasant. Bro.
P. lived next to the parsonage became acquainted with what was going on with
his neighbors. Bro. P. said frequently the dominie would be seen going outside
with his plate of food to the shed to eat in peace. One day it being icy [sic] he
was going out to the milk wagon to get the usual supply of milk. He slipped up
and went down. His wife called from the door: “Did you break my pitcher?” This
was such a surprise to the old dominie that his wife should under the circumstances be considering the pitcher more than his welfare! He answered “No, but I will” and crash went the pitcher! Father Hebberd’s daughter married one of the members of the church and became a resident of Freeport. Mr. Hebberd served two more appointments then became a retired minister. The second wife having died he married again once more in his old age. Taking to himself another wife with whom he lived happily in Brooklyn where he died in 1896 being 83 years old. Place of burial Mount Olive, New York.

The 10th minister was Rev. Wm. R. Webster. He was of medium height well developed physically well rounded face with a full thin beard. His eyes a vacant stare which was obscured by the wearing of glasses. Shall always have occasion to remember him for it was with the laying on of his hand in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. I was Baptized in the Christian faith and he extended to me the right hand of fellowship admitting me into the membership of the Freeport M.E. Church from probation on one Sunday morning in June 1877. Also he performed the marriage ceremony when I selected a young lady for my companion in life this was on Nov. 28, 1878.

Mr. Webster believed in doing things and generally carried into effect what he undertook to do! There was a gracious revival during his pastorate the Lord blessed his efforts in the saving of souls. Night after night the little church would be crowded with people the pastor said “as long as there was interest manifested the meetings would be continued up to the time of conference.” Some were
saved to the glory of God. The church building being small Mr. Webster thought it ought to be enlarged. This was accomplished largely by his strenuous efforts and solicitations the funds were raised! So the work went forward to completion! The building enlarged, new furnishings, remodeled pew backs, furnace in the cellar. Mr. Webster succeeded in getting Bishop Simpson on from Philadelphia to preach and dedicated! Also Prof. Butz of Drew Seminary who preached and officiated. This renovated building answered every purpose as a place of worship until the present church building was erected on Pine St. in 1891. Mr. Webster was a good revivalist but his qualities for preaching were limited by his frequent repetition of sermons and illustrations. Well remember the text for his first sermon: “And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion, with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness and sorrow and sighting shall flee away.” After leaving Freeport he was engaged in field work for some of the Institutions connected with the conference he filled other appointments. Also acted as a supply on various churches, he passed from this life in 1912 at 75 years of age. The place of burial Medford, Mass.

The 11th minister was Rev, David S. Stevens he was tall and pale dark brown bread his expression showed plainly that he was in poor health his preaching lacked vigor on account of his infirmity. He was a good and pious man it was an effort physically for him to proclaim the gospel message. One Sunday morning he preached a sermon with more enthusiasm and the quality and outline of the sermon was much more than usual. Remember his giving a word picture of an arch. On the left segment of the circle, were placed some of the prophets
of the Old Testament scriptures and on the right segment of this arch were placed some of the apostles of the New Testament scriptures and Jesus on the Apex as the keystone or crown to the arch. The pastor gave a glowing description of each especially dwelling upon the virtue and merits of Jesus the blessed Christ. After service shaking hands said “Bro. Stevens that was a good sermon.” He replied something like this: “Bro. Golder I worked very hard to get up that sermon it was with much study and effort.” I remember him a number of times use this scenic phrase “I was out on old ocean’s billows,” but one time he got a little mixed he said “I was out on old ocean’s.” He hesitated for a moment and exclaimed “No! Not this time but it was on the Hudson river.” Mr. Stevens was our pastor for 3 years the last year he was willing to say for a salary of $600.00 on account of ill health. The church attendance had fallen off during his last year here. There were others reasons why the congregations were small at this time, at this particular time our Presbyterians friends had a very popular pastor, very energetic in preaching. His discourses and exposition of the scriptures increased the attendance at the Presbyterian church and lessened that of the Methodist! Bro. Stevens was a brother in law to Rev. S. M. Hammond a former pastor who has been already mentioned. Mr. Stevens died in 1897 age 62. Buried at Gilboa, New York.

The 12th minister was Rev. J. Howard Hand. He was a fine looking man just about the right height well proportioned. A clear light complexion brown moustache and side whiskers. He had the reputation of being the handsomest man in the N.Y. East Conference. His gestures and oratory were in remarkable
harmony it wasn’t any effort for him to preach no better sermons would any one wish listen to. I remember him preaching on this text “Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of and to be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with? They say unto him we are able.” It was indeed a powerful discourse showing the matchless supernatural insight and humility of the Blessed Christ. Another time heard him preach on habits. He said a thing repeated twice became a habit. Some thought he neglected his pastoral duties for his gun and dog he certainly enjoyed hunting. Near the close of his term I was elected a trustee of the church also Superintendent of the Sunday school. The three years rapidly passed bye and the pastor had to go to another field of labor on account of the time limit which was in effect in those days. But several years later he returned to us for the second time.

The 13th minister was Rev. William C. Wilson he was an Irishman, dark hair quite bald large face and eyes physically tall and muscular looking. Mr. Wilson came from the Cedar St. Church Brooklyn and returned again to that church after one year as a pastor. Mr. Wilson was fairly good preacher often times quaint in appearance and remarks. Remember hearing one Sunday morning preaching with apparent effort finally stopped and with a tired like expression that was forlorn he said “Brothers and sisters. How can you expect a man to preach that has got the mumps? I’m sick” and he was done for that morning. Needless to say he was excused from preaching the rest of the day. He served other churches faithfully in his way to the glory of God. Died in 1912, at the age of 68. Place of burial Woodlawn, New York City.
The 14\textsuperscript{th} minister was Rev. Francis C. Hill a man about 65, grey hair and beard, deep set eyes and a prominent nose. Mr. Hill was another pastor that stayed only a year. Apparently he was satisfied with the parish he had been serving and the official board had no desire for a change. But the minister owned an orange grove in Florida and he thought this required his attention. Mr. Hill was a fairly good preacher. Preaching the gospel with methodical ease and plainness. I remember this text which formed the basis of a remarkable inspiring sermon: “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in there which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois and thy mother Eunice and I persuaded that in thee also.” Mr. Hill has two married daughters when he came to Freeport, he was very much devoted to them, especially to the older and it is not surprising for she was also devoted to her father. The name of this daughter was: Nettie Hill Weeden she was an earnest pious Christian lady assisting her father in his work in the prayer meetings her testimony and exhortations were always helpful and inspiring. She did considerable evangelistic work on Long Island especially at the Merrick Camp grounds with the young people. A few years after leaving Freeport Mrs. Weeden died happy in the faith. Mr. Hill felt the loss of his daughter keenly and to show expression of her life and work he wrote a biography of her life and work entitled “Robed and Crowned.” It is a splendid Christian book to read. Mr. Hill died in 1898 age 75. Place of burial, Riverhead, L.I.

The 15\textsuperscript{th} minister was Rev. Robert Wasson. He was about 60 years of age, grey hair and whiskers, medium size and saintly in appearance. He was a
Canadian and a preacher in the Methodist connection of the Wesleyan church system of Canada. Mr. Wasson was humble and modest in manner. His preaching was ordinary delivered softly with a somewhat nervous attitude. He would say as an introductory often time: “I declare I have a message for you this morning.” Then he would unfold spiritual truths from God’s word. In daily converse speaking of his family he would say “We are 17.” Mr. Wasson was pastor here for two years he served other churches in Brooklyn and the Island. Retired in 1907 and died a year later. Age 72. Buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

The 16th minister was a former pastor: Rev. J. Howard Hand. He came the second time to serve this charge in response to a call from our church. Have previously given a description of his appearance when he became our pastor the first time. Mr. Hand hadn’t lost any of his good looks or preaching qualities. Well remember him preaching a sermon on this topic: “Swing low sweet chariot.” He certainly was a pulpit orator and one summer when the church interior was being repaired we had meetings in a tent on the church grounds. His preaching eloquent and inspiring. Those sermons would compare favorable with any I ever heard in tented grove or elsewhere with a few exceptions. Mr. Hand excelled as a preacher but was some what lacking as a pastor for the pastoral duties were somewhat neglected but however this failing is not altogether uncommon among ministers especially if endowed with extra preaching ability. Some of the official board thought he was carried away too much with grooming. They said he would unduly expose and fatigue himself, take cold then would be unable to take care of such duties that demanded his attention. The church however was successful
during Mr. Hand’s last 3 years as pastor – a number of conversions, increased membership and a new modern church building for a place of worship. Mr. Hand after leaving Freeport had other good appointments. His health became impaired by heart trouble temporarily he gave up preaching and accepted a position as an accountant with the Title Guarantor Company of Jamaica, L.I.

One day at noon time going to or returning from lunch his soul suddenly passed into eternity. This was in 1907 age 57. Place of burial Cromwell, Conn.

The 17th minister was Rev. Millard F. Compton. He was a man of medium height well built good physique black hair moustache and chin whiskers. Well rounded face broad nose and bright eyes but his nose frequently gave considerable annoyance and needed much attention presumably due to some catarrhal trouble. This condition wasn’t any drawback to his favorable appearance or activity. One summer he had his whiskers shaven off. Then he would compare favorable in appearance to a Catholic priest. In fact he was taken for such a personage and addressed as father. This he mentioned concerning one his visits to the City. Mr. Compton was about 36 years of age when he came to Freeport active energetic he was an all around minister more so than any we had before or since taking him all in all in every department of church work and activity. For he was a good preacher, a good pastor and revivalist. Also a strong advocate of temperance. During his pastorate we had the largest average congregations in the history of our local church; frequently all the pews would be taken in the auditorium and chairs had to be placed down the aisles! Oh how I wish it was so these days when we have better facilities and
accommodations. But alas! There is so much to allure and draw the people away from the house of God. Mr. Compton preached a series of sermons on the 7 churches of Asia which were very interesting and helpful in the Christian life which I remember a little. The Church was very prosperous under his ministry.

At the expiration of 3 years the Official board desired Mr. Compton to stay longer as our pastor but he was desirous of being transferred to another conference. Instead of this being done the Bishop appointed him to a new field of labor in this Conference at Port Chester and sent to our church at Freeport his predecessor at Port Chester Dr. Wilson as our minister! Mr. Compton in 1899 was transferred to the West Virginia Conference where he had very good appointments and is still engaged in the work of the ministry. P.S. Died in April 1939 at Moundsville, West Virginia.

The 18th was Rev. William Wells W. Wilson D.D. He was transferred from the Wilmington Conference to the New York East Conference and located at Port Chester, from that place. He came to Freeport by appointment. Dr. Wilson was a large man physically big every way, weighing 250 lbs or more. Large head full face double chin close trimmed hair and beard, upper lip shaved, a portly looking man. His voice was mild in talking; but somewhat a little harsh in preaching. His sermons were carefully prepared and memorized. Every word had to be in its right place and every sentence had to be grammatical. If a word should happen to be misplaced in his preaching you could notice he was a little uneasy for the moment. If anything occurred in the congregation to detract his thought from the sermon would also confuse him temporarily. Heard one member of the church
say of his preaching: “If Dr. Wilson should miss a cog he would go to all to pieces.” A brother minister enquiring after Dr. Wilson said to me one day: “Mr. Golder does Dr. Wilson’s shadow grow any less?” As this question was in reference to his size physically. I answered in the negative. Everything he did was systematic even his visitations were made and regulated with precision as to the day for certain sections of the Village. His wife often accompanied him in making his regular pastoral visits. Remember him preaching a stirring sermon on the “Eagle stirreth up her nest!” The application produced serious thought. Dr. Wilson did good service during his 5 years pastorate he was the first pastor of this church for the 5 year period. During the last year or two of his term, the congregations began to wane. The reason for this I know not, except possibly the members desired a change after the 3 years term not being accustomed to a longer period!” Dr. Wilson’s next appointment was Danbury, Conn. Where he remained 5 years then to other city parishes where he has preached acceptably the unsearchable riches of Christ. Dr. Wilson has been with us as a supply minister during the absence of the pastor for one Sunday about a year ago: then on funeral occasions several times. He is now located at Glen Cove, L.I.

[Regina’s note: NYT’s has his obit: May 1, 1947 – photo included]

The 19th minister was Rev. James A. MacMillan he came from Astoria to Freeport and became our pastor for 2 years. He was very erect in form but small in stature, also in facial features. Dark brown hair Van Dyke beard. Mr. MacMillan labored some what under a disadvantage following Dr. Wilson, the
opposite contrast was so strikingly apparently from large to small in size, from a loud strong voice to a voice mild and effeminate. The difference was so noticeable for the people to adapt themselves to the change! Mr. MacMillan was a Godly man and preached the Gospel of Christ earnestly to the best of his God given ability. Remember him preaching one Sunday evening on this text: “And when the south wind blew softly.” I was on a committee that went down to Astoria on one Sunday morning to hear Mr. MacMillan preach and we favorably recommended him to the official board and they extended a call to him to come to Freeport. Personally I was sorry he could not remain with us longer than two years. But the majority of the official board thought it advisable to make a change. Mr. MacMillan’s next appointment was South Park Church Hartford from there he served in other churches in Connecticut and on Long Island and is now located at Naugatuck Conn.

N.B. Mr. MacMillan died in 1926, age 68. Place of burial Cypress Hills Brooklyn.

The 20th minister was Rev. Dwight A. Jordan D.D. He came from Brooklyn to Freeport. He was a man of considerable experience in the ministerial field, for he had served a number of years in the New England Southern Conference and was a P.E. on the Providence District before coming to Brooklyn.
In personal appearance medium height stout and stocky, light brown hair, moustache, bald head, full red face and grey eyes. A jovial good natured disposition. Some said he looked like a farmer one day he was cutting grass. The Catholic priest came along not knowing him asked if he could do a little job for him? The dominie would occasionally tell about this little incident much to his amusement.

When Dr. Jordan first came to Freeport he and I were talking on the street in front of my place of business. Mr. Rhodes came along he stopped and I introduced him to the minister and he said in a don't care way acting if really surprised: “Why is this Dr. Jordon the new minister? I thought you were some saloon keeper!” Dr. Jordan smiled and said: Mr. Rhodes I have heard a great many things said about me; but this is the meanest yet.” Dr. Jordan could preach and talk on most any subject, fluent in speech, great flow of words, easy in manner complete control of his thoughts and words. All that were lacking in his preaching were gesture and inflection of voice with these few would have been his equal. His usual attitude in preaching would be standing to the side of the desk with the hand sometimes only the thumb in his pants pocket. During the 6 years he was pastor here, never saw him but once read [his] sermon and that was on one Sunday evening. He never made much use of notes. Dr. Jordan was gifted in prayer to a remarkable degree and is yet so today at the time of this writing! His memory wonderful often quoting entire chapters from the Bible! Also reciting many hymns as various occasions warranted. Many of his sermons had a scientific turn and his thoughts concerning nature were very interesting. His
Gospel sermons were forcable [sic] messages well presented. I remember this text: “Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God.” Dr. Jordan was our pastor for 6 years the longest term of consecutive years of any minister on the Freeport charge. Mr. Hand a former pastor served this church 2 terms of three years each. Dr. Jordan after leaving Freeport was appointed as pastor of the Trinity M.E. Church N.Y. City. He served that church for 4 years. A year later in 1914 entered into the relation as a retired minister and became a resident of this Village holding membership in our church at Freeport. After a long and useful life in active ministry, his declining years are not exactly spent in retirement for the local church has the benefit of his counsel, his prayers, the leading of meetings and occasionally consents to preach to the edification of believers. At the memorial services of President Harding held in the M.E. Church, Dr. Jordan gave the address to a multitude of people that came out from their homes to the church that afternoon to show sympathy and honor to the departed dead. The auditorium and Sunday school room were full and many in the gallery. Dr. Jordan with out notes or manuscript gave a remarkable address on this occasion. It was not only a laudable eulogy; but a wonderful description of the life and work of President Harding. In this discourse Dr. Jordan fully exemplified his old time vigor of 20 years ago!

Addenda

Dr. Jordan died in 1926 age 79. Place of burial Willimantic, Conn.
The 21st minister was Rev. William A. Richard D.D. Physically was well built and good form, about 6 feet in height. Black hair and moustache. Wearing smoked colored glasses gave him rather a stern facial appearance. But he had a magnetic personality which was drawing and lasting making many friends. Dr. Richard was a man of considerable experience in the ministry. He has served as superintendent of the New Haven District. Also as Chaplain of the Connecticut Legislature and as a preacher of the Gospel serving various churches since 1884. I served on the committee which extended a call to Dr. Richard to become our pastor. At the expiration of this term as P.E. on the New Haven District, came to Freeport. Dr. Richard was a plain practical preacher presenting to his people the Gospel message in a feeling tender way. Remember him preaching on this text: “Whom so ever compel you to go a mile go with him twain.” Dr. Richard made many friends in the street in his genial cheerful and unassuming manner. He was faithful in his pastoral visitations. In prayer and Revival meetings he manifested considerable Spiritual interest. He served the church well for 5 years which prospered under his ministry and his last Sunday with us as pastor he preached to a full house. His farewell sermon a great majority of whom regretted his departure. Dr. Richard went to Brooklyn to declare the glad tidings of salvation. He was engaged in active work for the Blessed master until he was called to his eternal home. Age 65. Interred in Greenwood Cemetery.

The 22nd minister was Rev. Saul O. Curtice PhD. A man of medium height, dark complexion, black rim of hair fully bald on the top of head, mouth rather large clean shaven face strong clear voice. He wore a clergyman’s vest
which buttoned up nearly to the neck. When coming in the church on Sundays carried a small black folder or book which contained the notes for the sermon. Dr. Curtice made considerable use of his notes in his preaching; perhaps more so than any other minister that preceded him as pastor of the Freeport Methodist Church. The 2nd or 3rd Sunday evening he practically read his sermon and I heard one member remark: “If he is going to read his sermons he won’t do for Freeport.” That was the only time he did this to my remembrance. There was much originality in his make up both in method and preaching! His sermons were well thought out as to his subject and composition. Dr. Curtice had a masterly way of using notes which were no draw back to the effect of his preaching. For a few minutes or less would read from his notes: then would turn from them and for several minutes with all earnestness preach the theme of his discourse in a very affective way. Dr. Curtice would frequently make use of these words when they would fit in: “All wrapped up in the bundle of life.” Also “I desire to stir up your pure minds in the way of remembrance.” There were a few who didn’t like his preaching said he was too practical in his application of his subject they thought him to personal said “he did too much ‘knocking.’

Dr. Curtice often made reference to his recreations and exercises in away that were interesting. Dr. Curtice remained pastor for 5 years. His next appointment was Hempstead, L.I. severe that church 5 years, then from there to Astoria where he now is preaching in charge of that parish.
Addenda

Dr. Curtice died in 1931 age 71. Place of burial Greenfield Cemetery, Hempstead, N.Y.

The 23rd minister was Rev. Everett A. Burnes. He came from Bridgeport to Freeport. He was the son of Rev. Harvey Burnes now deceased but formerly a distinguished preacher of the New York East Conference. One of the members of our official board who knew Mr. Burnes Sr. when at Greenport said of the son. “If he takes after his father he surely has a way of his own?” This estimate was well verified! Mr. Burnes our pastor was a large portly looking man mixed grey hair, large nose, face clean shaven. He was a fairly good preacher but his preaching appeared somewhat formal. The 2 ½ years he was pastor of this parish, on an average he didn’t preach much more than ¾ of the time for he was sick for a while. Then sometime after had a operation which necessarily laid him up for a time. Also Mr. Burnes introduced a new innovation for one or two Sunday evenings a month. It would be either addresses by some outside speaker or something in the way of a musical entertainment on the side Mr. Burnes giving a short address. He thought some form of attraction would bring the people out and get them in the way of coming, this method only increased the attendance them in the way of coming. This method only increased the attendance temporality! Mr. Burnes said to me one Sunday evening: ‘Bro. Golder you must be happy for your face shines?” I answered “if it doesn’t it ought to if I have the love of God in my heart!” Nearly half of his 3rd year had
gone bye and it was in the middle of the conference year! When behold Mr. Burnes received a call from the M.E. Church, Meriden Conn. to become their pastor within a few weeks, not willing to wait until the conference year expired! Mr. Burnes made this known to the Official board, they left the decision with him to accept or decline the call! And he decided for Meriden his resignation taking effect Oct. or Nov. 1\textsuperscript{st} 1920. Leaving the Freeport Church without a pastor until the following conference year. Mr. Burnes was pastor of the Meriden Church until April 1923 when he was located at Port Chester N.Y.

Addenda:

Mr. Burnes died in 1929 age 55. Place of burial Norwalk, Conn.

The 24\textsuperscript{th} minister was Rev. Walter E. Thompson D.D., he became a member of the Troy conference in 1900 serving several churches in northern New York until 1909 when we was transferred to the New York East Conference coming to a Brooklyn church as pastor, from there to Connecticut then back to Brooklyn. 1919 he was appointed a special speaker in the interest of the National Service league visiting various Industrial Plants addressing the employees. The last of the Conference year of 1920. Dr. Thompson came to Freeport as a supply to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Rev. Mr. Burnes who had accepted a call as pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Meriden, Conn. Dr. Thompson made a very favorable impression as a supply
preacher. The Official Board extended to him a call to become pastor of the Freeport M.E. Church for the following Conference year, also made this desire known to the District Superintendent from him to the Bishop presiding at the Conference who honored the request and appointed Rev. Walter E. Thompson for the Freeport Charge. Dr. Thompson was fortunate in possessing a fine physique and a pleasing personality. He was about 50 years of age when he came to Freeport he would however at the time passed for 3 score on an estimate. Grey hair a smooth fair complexion, face clean shaven and a prominent chin, this feature indicating firmness and determination of purpose, which was somewhat modified by a mild temperament. Dr. Thompson had the capacity for making friends, also as a leader in the various enterprises of the church; his activities were much in evidence in promoting the building of the Parish Hall. It had become a custom with the Official Board of the Freeport M.E. Church not to keep anyone person as pastor, for a longer period than 5 years and this was a matter of record on the church minutes. Dr. Thompson having completed the 5 years term and in order to retain him and be consistent with the resolution, the matter of record was considered and rescinded by vote of the Official Board and the incumbent pastor, has been returned to the Freeport charge year after year, until 12 years have passed by and Dr. Thompson is still pastor. This term exceeds that of any other minister in charge of this Parish by more than 6 years at the time of this writing Dr. Thompson wasn’t considered a brilliant preacher, or a pulpit orator, nor a profound thinker of marked ability. And yet he was an interesting preacher not withstanding his preaching from notes
which he used freely, his gestures and speaking were attractive. His sermons engaged attention because of the variety of subjects presented ranging all the way from Gospel messages from Holy Writ to subjects from Bruce Barton’s works, Dr Van Dyke’s Blue Flower and other distinguished writers, also on current events such as the 18th amendment war amendments, national days and heroes all these discussed and sermonized which were interesting and instructive. Then too for a change these features were presented occasionally stereopticon views and moving pictures of religious subjects. Also other attractions brought in such as a lady harpist, bell ringing, impersonations, colored singers and praying bands. Also Bishops and war veterans may be added to the long list of variations. Dr. Thompson made use of all these features to attract and influence an attendance also to hold a congregation. Strange as it may appear membership increased. Large Sunday morning congregations; but the Sunday evening attendance almost a failure! It is simply unaccountable with all that is being done the evening services should be so poorly attended! Alas! I regret to state that for the lack two summers the Sunday evening services and the weekly prayer meeting were discontinued for the lack of attendance during the months of July and August. This wasn’t any fault of the pastor; but serious condition that is prevailing within the churches of the city and suburban districts. From observation sincerely believe the only way this condition will be overcome is by a powerful revival of religion that shall bring about an awakening of the membership of the Evangelical churches then there will be a change yes a vital change that will effect Christian conduct and the method of Christian living. Then
there will be more reverence for the church and the Sabbath day and a less desire for worldly pleasures that detract from church attendance. The writer failed through an oversight to place in position a feature worth while to mention. It is this: the pastor’s Sunday morning sermons for 2 years or more were radiocast through station WGBB Freeport and it was reported that many person within the wave length of this station listened to hear Dr. Thompson’s Sunday morning sermon. Dr. Thompson has been well supported in the work of the church by assistant pastors and local preachers to make the work more effective. Thus the time goes on and the years pass bye, one by one, with all its changes in the church and out of it! But this we know notwithstanding the changes that come to pastor and people that Methodism still is an active and effective force in the morals of this community. So what more can we say than what has been said as we take a look forward into the future? If Dr. Thompson should be our pastor for several years more or there should be a change in the near future. The work of the church will go forward as it has in the past to the glory of God and up lift of humanity in this vicinity if the members are faithful to Christ and His Kingdom. His heavenly blessing will rest upon it.

In addition to what has already been record, we will state that through the leadership of Dr. Thompson a centennial celebration of Methodism for out church in Freeport was carried into effective operation for a week in Oct 1933. Bishop McConnell and Dr. Corson preaching on the two Sunday mornings. A splendid program was rendered with something special for each evening during the week.
In January of this year 1934, the Official Board by unanimous vote invited Dr. Thompson to become our pastor for another year he appreciated the call and gave assurance that would be pleased to return providing the Dist. Supt. and Bishop conferred it by appointment.

The N.Y. East Conference early in its annual session. The Dist Supt. thought it advisable to offer Dr. Thompson a Brooklyn charge and send to Freeport a new pastor. This proposed change was made known to the committee representing our church. They had an interview with the Dist. Supt. and by mutual agreement; Dr. Thompson goes to the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, Brooklyn. Dr. Thompson has served our church as pastor faithfully and well for 13 ½ years. He holds the distinction of having been pastor of this parish for the longest period of time than any other minister that has preceded him on the Freeport charge.

The 25th minister was the Rev. E.A. Pollard Jones D.D. he became a member of the New England Conference in 1918, serving as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy in the World War. This service gave him the opportunity of seeing the world and visiting some important and historic places abroad. Then on return joined the Maine Conference in 1922 and 1928 became a member of the New York East Conference and pastor of the Grace M.E. Church, Brooklyn from there to Freeport succeeding Dr. Thompson who Succeeded Dr. Jones in Brooklyn.

Apparently Dr. Jones was somewhere in the 40’s as to age, he was tall and slender a good figure physically a well shaped head, dark brown hair quite
close cut smoothed down clean shaven face, wearing glasses; he had a student like expression with compressed lips when not speaking. Dr. Jones was the first minister of our local church to wear a clergyman’s robe. His had raised bands or stripes indicating his degree in the ministerial profession!

A change in the order of worship were very noticeable even on the first Sunday! Brevity from start to finish. Omission of the Apostles Creed, one less hymn in Congregational singing, brief prayer scripture lesson a few verses from Moffett’s translation, a short sermon, service concluded and the congregation dismissed at 11:50 a.m.!

Dr. Jones was an able and scholastic preacher. His sermons on Sunday mornings were more educational than spiritual. Used no text selection; but a coined topic for a subject from the Scripture lesson formed the bases for his discourse which was well presented giving the hearers something to think about appealing more to the intellect that the heart? The sermons too brief another 5 of 10 minutes would have been profitable to pastor and people we have reason to believe? His attitude in prayer was rather peculiar leaning on the desk with bowed head his position was so that he could as well unobserved read the prayer if he so desired. He usually concluded the invocation with these words of reverence: “In the Master’s Name Amen.” Several of the church officials said that Dr. Jones was to socialistic in his views and a minister said to me that ‘Dr. Jones preached too much political economics” this however is more and more the modern way of preaching. Am informed that his work with the young people
has been very helpful. This is in the right direction, very proper for it is from this class we look for our future membership, rather than from any other source or field for the continued activity in Church work.

Dr. Jones carried into effective operation a successful convention of the young people of the New York East Conference! Some thought it couldn’t be done in Freeport? But it was: a fine delegation of young people from most all the churches in the conference! There was a systematic program a large congregational attendance the delegates were well entertained it was in every way a pronounced success! For the last 2 or 3 years Dr. Jones sermons appear more vital as to spiritual interest in Christian edification. Dr. Jones still manifests a strong urgency for changes which he believes to be progressive viz: has adopted and carried into operation a city method of the communion service. It is questionable whether this innovation has any advantage over the custom formerly in use for now the pastor is an observer and not a participant in of administering the sacred elements to his members.

During the years 1938 the Sunday evening services were so poorly attended the pastor deemed it would be wise to omit the regular evening service and put into effect a vesper service at an earlier hour. This proposed change evidently doesn’t meet with favor as a public church service and a brief service called the high school fellowship has taken its place. For several years during the summer vacation season there were union services with the Methodists and Presbyterian dividing the time for an open church for the Sunday morning
service. At one time there was an unsuccessful effort by some members of the Official Board to make a change in the pastorate this attempt was considered unwise at the time. This was followed by a reception to the pastor and a renewal of a better fraternal relation with the pastor and his parishioners.

Doctor Jones has served as president of the Inter Faith Clergy and was one of the Chief promoters of this friendly organization among the ministers of the Village Protestant, Catholic and Jewish.

Thus the days and years have come and gone with transpiring events that go to make up life in the church and out of it. The minister has his part in it to face problems that arise to be made understandable. Dr. Jones has endeavored with earnestness to present his views concerning the solution of many questions and propositions in regard to civic, moral and religious life of the church and the world at large. He recently stated that he believed that “Jesus” sermon on the mount was practical “this evidently was presenting a declaration of a future event for a better condition made possible if the coming generation carried into effect the authoritative command of the Son of God our blessed Savior in regard to moral and religious conduct. Dr. Jones having served the Freeport Methodist Church 11 years. On March 11th 1945 the following announcement appeared in the church calendar: “Bishop Oxram has recently made these appointments effective as of April 30th the close of our annual conference. Dr. Jones. As District Superintendent of the New York District; Dr. Hubert D. Jones as his

The Bishop of the New York area being called away the Annual Conference of the New York East was postponed until June 12th for this reason, the appointments did not go into effective operation until the Conference had convened. On May 29th Dr. Jones was given a farewell reception which was well attended by his parishioners. June 10th was Church School Promotion Sunday and the last appearance of Dr. Jones pastor. Dr. Willie Miller one of my Sunday school scholars of many years ago made a request to say something on this occasion. Dr. Miller had received a letter from the Philippines with some kindly remarks in regard to Dr. Jones which he read then with a few well chosen words added a tribute to the pastor’s work among the young people this was followed by an approvable and feeling prayer by Dr. Miller.

After the Benediction the Church choir sang softly “God be with you till we meet again.” This service concluded Dr. Jones’ work as the 25th minister of the Freeport Methodist Church.