

Saturday, September 5, 1942

Brief Illness Fatal to City's Oldest Cleric

The Rev. T. Pliny Potts Dies; Was Minister 50 years; Funeral Tuesday

The Rev. Thomas Pliny Potts, 79, oldest active minister in Fort Wayne died of heart failure at 8:30 o'clock this morning at his residence, 4622 Indiana Avenue. He had been ill since Sunday.

The Rev. Mr. Potts was in the ministry more than 50 years, serving half that time as pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, from which post he resigned last September.

The Rev. Mr. Potts was born October 23, 1862, in Millville, Pa., of Quaker stock, Thomas Maxwell and Mary Miller Potts. He studied medicine for a while at Johns Hopkins University, but later transferred to Washington and Jefferson College, from which institution he was graduated in 1891. He was graduated in 1894 from the Western Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, beginning his first ministry in that year in Beaver County, Pa.

In 1902, the Rev. Mr. Potts became a Bible teacher at the Pittsburgh Bible Institute and stayed there until 1909 when he and Mrs. Potts became instructors at the Fort Wayne Bible School, now known as the Bible Institute. They organized a Sunday School on South Calhoun Street and another in Westfield. The latter group was organized into the Westfield Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Mr. Potts served as the church's first pastor from 1913 to 1916. He became supply pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in the Spring of 1915 and was appointed full-time pastor a year later.

The Rev. Mr. Potts was a direct descendant of Major General Potts, a Revolutionary War General.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Mary N. Potts; a daughter, Mrs. Albert Olson; two grandchildren, Barbara Lee and Beverly Jean Olson; two brothers, Dr. Louis M. Potts, Chicago and Willard Potts, Canonsburg, Pa.

Funeral services will be held at 11 am Tuesday at Klaehn & Sons Funeral Home. The Rev. S. A. Witmer, dean of the Bible Institute and the Rev. Robert C. Strubhar, pastor of the First Missionary Church, former pupils of the Rev. Mr. Potts at the Fort Wayne Bible School, have been asked to officiate. Strictly private interment will be held Wednesday morning at Lindenwood Cemetery. The body may be viewed at the funeral home after Sunday noon.

**Adams County Historical Museum**

**Feb-Nov 1942 Scrapbook, image 146**

**Transcribed by Jim Cox**