

# NOBLE RECORD AS MINISTER

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Rev. J. W. Toland a Successful  
and Honored M. E.  
Clergyman.  
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## IN THE PULPIT 36 YEARS

Rev. John Watkins Toland, D.D., aged 58 years, pastor of the First M. E. church in Wellsville, who died at the parsonage at 12:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon, had been in failing health for a year, but had been confined to his bed only three weeks. Although gradually growing weaker he retained consciousness to the end. His bereaved wife, members of the family and a number of friends were about his bedside when he answered the death summons. Dr. Toland had been in the ministry nearly 36 years and had twice served the same appointment, Wellsville, which is a rare occurrence in the case of a Methodist minister. He has made quite a remarkable record in the ministry in more ways than one. From 1880 to 1891 he was presiding elder of the Canton district. In 1888 he was a delegate from the East Ohio conference to the general conference held in New York city. Previous to his second appointment to Wellsville in the fall of 1902, he served eight years as pastor of Grace M. E. church in Coshocton. The present large and a handsome church was built during his pastorate. The membership of the church was tripled while he was there.

In Wellsville also Dr. Toland's efforts have met with much success in the way of an increased membership. Dr. Toland was a quiet, earnest worker and much of his success is attributed to personal work. He was liked both in and out of the church and all with whom he was in any way associated held him in the highest respect and confidence. He preached the gospel fearlessly according to his belief in what constituted the highest Christian standard.

Dr. Toland was admitted to this, then the Pittsburg conference, in 1870, and served Plainfield and Deersville circuits each one year and Adamsville circuit three years. Since that time he has served the following charges for the time indicated: Barnesville, two and one-half years; Bellaire, three years; Wellsville, three years; Alliance \_\_\_ years; presiding elder of the Canton district, six years; Miles Park church in Cleveland, three years; Coshocton, eight years, and Wellsville, over three years.

On every charge he served the full time limit allowed by the discipline and while he was at Coshocton the time limit was removed. At the time he completed his work there he had served one charge longer than any preacher in Methodism. His time at Barnesville was cut short six months by a change in the conference year from spring to fall.

Dr. Toland was the son of Thomas and Susana Toland and was born on a farm near Carrollton October 22, 1847. He spent the early years of his life on the farm. Before he was 15 years old he enlisted in the civil war in the One Hundred and Thirty-Second regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry, and served throughout the greater part of that war. He was never very rugged and it was while in the service of his country that he contracted troubles from which he never recovered and which probably shortened his life several years.

After finishing his course in the country school near his home he went to Harlem Springs academy and later to Scio college, from which institution he graduated in 1869. Some years later he took a post-graduate course in Allegheny college, Meadville, Pa. While presiding elder at Canton he received the degree of doctor of divinity from Mt. Union college. Dr. Toland was a member of the G. A. R. in Coshocton and of the F. & A. M. in Alliance.

On March 21, 1872, Dr. Toland was married to Susan M. Fribly, daughter of Daniel and Leah Fribly, of New Philadelphia, who survives, together with two children, Frank F. Toland, of New Philadelphia and Mrs. Allie Montgomery, wife of Thaddeus L. Montgomery, a banker of Coshocton. His father, Thomas Toland, of New Philadelphia, and two sisters. Mrs. James Hummell, of New Philadelphia, and Mrs. C. V. Criss, wife of a prominent minister of Springfield, Mo., and two grandchildren, John W. Toland, of New Philadelphia, and Edward E. Montgomery, of Coshocton, also survive.

Services will be held at the house at 7 o'clock this evening. Rev. Dr. C. E. Manchester, presiding elder of the Canton district, will officiate. The remains will be taken to Coshocton tomorrow morning and services held in Grace M. E. church at 2 o'clock. Rev. Dr. O. E. Clark, the pastor, who preceded Dr. Toland as pastor of the Wellsville church, assisted by Rev. Dr. Sylvester Burt, of Northingham, will conduct the services. Dr. Burt, who is one of the oldest ministers in the East Ohio conference, received Dr. Toland into the church, baptized him, licensed him to preach the gospel, officiated at his marriage and baptized the children born to him. The internment will be made in South Lawn Cemetery.

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