

George W. Ward and Mildred L. Sheldon were married on the evening of Saturday, January 16, 1937 by a Rev. W. H. Perkins from the Cass Avenue Methodist Church in Detroit.

They were attended by Miss Nyda Leslie and L.T. Lyon. It was also mentioned that the couple spoke their vows in front of a few friends. Why did they decide to get married in Detroit? We will never know.



Here is a write-up I found on the Cass Avenue Methodist Church in Detroit. Rev. William Perkins is mentioned in the last paragraph:

In the 1880's the Cass farm, lying between Cass Avenue and Third Avenue and extending northward to the Boulevard, was the very choicest residential section in Detroit, barring the stately homes along Woodward Avenue. A group of Methodists living on the Cass farm, belonging mostly to Central and Simpson Methodist churches, were moved to start a church of their own.

In the early years, the Cass membership and constituency were composed almost wholly of well-to-do people. You need only take in the Tiffany windows or the Johnson tracker pipe organ in the sanctuary as evidence of this (the organ is the largest nineteenth century pipe organ in the state of Michigan). Cass boasted many of the city's oldest families and it was one of the most aristocratic churches in Detroit. Moreover, the membership swelled to over 700 members in the first 25 years.

During the decade 1918-1929, the church membership shrank from 767 to 275. The growth of the city altered the nature of the Cass farm area and, thus, of the Cass Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. Most of the members of the church moved from the immediate neighborhood northward to the city's limits and beyond.

From a district of choice homes, it became an area with rooming houses and boarding houses with businesses constantly encroaching.

The leadership of the church struggled at that time with the option of selling the land and property to build another church closer to where its membership then resided.

Under the leadership of Bishop Thomas Nicholson, the congregation decided in 1928 to remain in the area and to intentionally minister to and with the changed constituency. The name was actually changed to Cass Community Methodist Episcopal Church at that time to reflect its new sense of mission.

It was in the thirties, during the Great Depression, that the church started its first food lines, offering bread and soup to those who were hungry. Cass depleted its endowment fund to make provisions for the unemployed. Rev. William Perkins organized volunteers to go out into rural areas and bring back truckloads of food for distribution. He also deserves the credit for establishing a wide array of programs for the area youth and seniors.

The Cass Avenue Methodist Church history article was found at <http://casscommunity.org/book/export/html/1>