

Autobiography of
C. L. Barham

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Courtesy of Doug Chadwick

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Cristian L. Schwartz was born at Hartfield, N.Y. Sept. 1, 1863. His father was a grandson of a soldier in the American Revolution, and his grandfather Brant was a soldier in the War of 1812. On his mother's side, his ancestry is traced back to Captain Smith who lost his life in defending his countrymen in the American Revolution; and to Governor Smith of Colonial Connecticut.

The extent of his education was in the common schools, and academy of his native county, supplemented by instruction in the ancient languages by Rev. L. P. Laine, a graduate of Dartmouth College. He was prepared for Hamilton College, but temporal circumstances prevented his admission. He always kept up his interest in classical studies, and when over seventy years of age, readily translated from Greek and Latin authors.

In February, 1883, he was ~~mutually~~ converted in a glorious revival meeting and soon after united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. He had conversed to some extent with Hon. Austin Smith, of Westfield, N.Y. but immediately after conversion he decided that he could be a Methodist preacher. However, patriotic feelings were so high, that he enlisted in the army.

His army service began in August, 1883. Upon the organization of his company he was made third duty Sergeant; in December 1883 he was made Orderly Sergeant; and, on February 28, 1884 he was promoted as First Lieutenant. When the severe campaign began, his company was in Libby Prison, and so he accompanied his company in from battles, and until being severely wounded, he was obliged to retire from service at the front. But, he recovered so that he was placed on office duty at Columbus, Ohio. While there, he was honorably discharged March 11, 1885.

He was wounded three times, and his last and severest wound was received while commanding a company of skirmishers.

In July 1865 he was admitted on trial in the Erie Conference. After spending six years in that Conference, which were attended with many precious revival meetings, he asked to be transferred to the Michigan Conference. His appointments here have included Schoolcraft, Galasburg, Muskegon, Big Rapids, First Church Jackson, Ionia District, Albion, Charlotte, and Mason. In 1891 his health had become ~~as it~~ so impaired, that he felt it necessary to live an outdoor life. His physician told him that he added from ten to fifteen years to his life by so doing.

But, in 1906, although 64 years of age, he longed to be again in the pastorate. As he was not vigorous physically, and was so old, he asked for different work than he had been accustomed to have, and preferred to be on light stations. Accordingly he served the small but worthy stations of Lacota, and Climax, two years each, and there was two years at Plainfield. His last year there was attended with much physical suffering, and, at the Conference of 1912, at his own request, without urging from his people, or District Superintendent, and with the best of feeling toward his last flock, and Conference brethren, he was placed on our Retired List. He selected Coldwater as his home, and his relations to that church, and city, have been exceedingly pleasant.

Dated June 3, 1914.

A D D E N D A

Mr. Barnhart was married twice. His first wife was Jennie A. Martin, to whom he was married Sept. 2, 1862. She died on his first circuit, leaving a daughter only three weeks old, now the wife of W. S. Burne of Grand Rapids. On July 30, 1867, he married Martha R. Stuntz,

of Albion, Pa., and a sister of our Bishop Homer S. Sturte. They have had six children, George H., died at Muskogon, April 13, 1870, when five years of age. The other five children are living, as follows: Alice, wife of J. B. Foote, of Coldwater; Amanda, wife of H. C. Pierce of Galushburg, Illinois; Grace, wife of H. D. F. Rowland, of Detroit; Paul, a missionary of our denomination, and laboring in Chile, South America; Mary, wife of E. W. Gents, of Grand Rapids. All these children and their companions, are professing Christians.

He has fourteen grandchildren.

Dated June 17, 1914.

APPENDIX

At seventy-nine years of age Mr. Burdett still resides at Coldwater. Soon after coming there to live, he was made Sheriff of the local G. A. R. post and has continued so ever since. He has had a long experience in teaching the Man's Class in the Sunday School, of the M. E. Church. He still continues to love translating from the ancient classics, and is now translating from Horace, and Demosthenes, as well as from Epistles of the New Testament. He also delights in reading the latest and strongest works. He especially enjoys reading from MacLaren's Exposition.

His children now reside as follows: Mrs. F. S. Burns at Grand Rapids, Mrs. J. B. Foote, at Albion, Mrs. H. C. Pierce at Galushburg, Ill., Mrs. D. F. Rowland at Detroit; Mrs. E. W. Gents at Grand Rapids. His son Paul is the temporary representative for the M. E. Church in South America and resides at Santiago, Chile.

Dated Sept. 30, 1921.

MILITARY RECORD

Clinton L. Barnhart was born at Hartfield, N.Y. Sept. 1, 1842. He enlisted at Portland, N.Y. Aug. 22, 1862, and was mustered into the service of the United States at Janestown, N.Y., Sept. 30, 1862. He became a member of Co. E, 154 Regt. N.Y. Vol. Inf. Upon the organization of the company, he was made Third Duty Sergeant. In March December 1863 he was made First Sergeant. On February 26, 1864, he was mustered as First Lieutenant. Soon after that he was assigned to the command of his original company. As it's captain was in Dixey Prison, he commanded that company, in the campaign against Atlanta until he was severely wounded, and disabled from service at the front. He participated in the battles of Chancellorsville, Chancellors, Dog Gap, Resaca, Dallas, and Lost Mountain. At Chancellorsville, he was wounded ~~twice~~ twice, and taken prisoner. He was kept near the battlefield about two weeks and then paroled, and allowed to come within our lines. He was declared exchanged in the following September. At Resaca his canteen was shot away from him; and, at Dallas, he was knocked down by a spent ball. At Lost Mountain, while in charge of a company on the skirmish line, he was severely wounded in his right thigh, and obliged to leave that field. He had a long and critical time in recovering. But, in January, 1865, although using a cane, he was assigned to office duty at Columbus, Ohio, and remained there until honorably relieved, and discharged, March 11, 1865. He has resided in Cold-water since Oct. 1, 1912.

