

TURN BACK PAGES OF HISTORY FOR DARRTOWN M. E. IN DITMAN LETTER

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Greetings Sent By Former Member Of Church, Jos. Ditman, Of Maryland

Special To The Journal-News.

Darrtown, O., Sept. 14.

The following interesting letter from Joseph Ditman, 23 North Church street, Westminster, Maryland, was received by the homecoming committee of the M. E. church, at Darrtown, Monday morning, September 11, too late to be read at the homecoming on Sunday, September 10. With the letter was a contribution of money to be used for the church.

The letter follows:

To The Dear People of the Darrtown M. E. Church:

If there is one gathering we would like to be numbered with, it will be the 'Homecoming' of the dear old **Darrtown** M. E. church, on Sept. 10.

Since limitations will not permit our being present, the next best we can do is to write some lines.

Maybe some of our older living friends will be interested to know we think of them today and of the years gone by, when our communion together in services of Thanksgiving and our humble desire to serve God brought joy and peace to us all.

In those days of the church away back, in 1873-1874 when our pastor came down from Camden and Billy McCord would come down from Oxford to help out on extra occasions. I used to ride horseback over the country to get contributions to defray the churches' expenses. This was long before the "Envelope System" was thought of.

The good brothers and sisters who used to contribute, William Harris, Henry Harris, Kate Barnum, Mary Teague, The Ledwells; the Imhoff's, Margaret Kramer, Mrs. Fred Hansel, Mrs. Joe Nichol, Mrs. Gib Marshall, Mrs. Zebedee Brown, have long since gone to their reward.

Then we think of Benay Brown (the blind man) who went to church regularly. We also think of the time before any organ was used in church, Mr. Dick Kendall led us in our anthem of praise. Those good old hymns: "Rock of Ages," "Arise My Soul Arise," "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," and others will never lose their power.

Brother Kendall was the father of Mrs. Bertha Earhart who by the way is in far-off California, may be thinking of the homecoming today with fond recollections of the little "Church in the Dale."

We cannot forget David Markle ever at his post serving us janitor, ringing the bell loud and long to call the people to service. Then we think of James Bradberry, ever faithful in attendance who held the church dear to his heart. Then many other good faithful ones who labored zealously to rebuild the church after it was blown down by the storm. Some of these have gone and their works follow them.

If we could be with you today we would see many new faces of good people holding up the pillars of the church and some dear ones we used to be co-workers with. To you all and to your pastor we beg to extend our prayerful good wishes for present and future usefulness in God's Kingdom and temporal blessings for health and happiness.

(signed) JOE DITMAN,
with Family Uniting.