

**A
BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE**

**EPISCOPAL
CHURCH WOMEN**

OF THE

DIOCESE

OF

SOUTH DAKOTA

10/10

IN 1872, ON ALL SAINT'S DAY, THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS CREATED THE MISSIONARY JURISDICTION OF NIOBRARA, APPOINTING WILLIAM HOBART HARE, THEN SECRETARY AND GENERAL AGENT OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS OF NEW YORK, AS BISHOP TO THE AREA. THIS NEW MISSIONARY DISTRICT TOOK ITS NAME FROM THE RIVER RUNNING ALONG THE NEBRASKA-DAKOTA BORDER, EXTENDING CHIEFLY WEST OF THE MISSOURI RIVER TO THE WYOMING TERRITORY AND NORTHWARD APPROXIMATELY TO THE PRESENT BORDER BETWEEN THE DAKOTAS.

PREVIOUSLY THE AREA HAD BEEN UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE RT. REV. ROBERT H. CLARKSON D.D, BISHOP OF NEBRASKA, WITH HEADQUARTERS AT OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

ON THE SANTEE, YANKTON AND PONCA RESERVATIONS SMALL MISSIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED AND A FEW MONTHS PREVIOUS TO BISHOP HARE'S CONSECRATION, THREE YOUNG BERKELEY DIVINITY SCHOOL DEACONS HAD MADE CONTACT WITH THE INDIANS OF THE LOWER BRULE, THE CROW CREEK AND THE CHEYENNE RIVER RESERVES.

BISHOP HARE WAS CONSECRATED AT ST. LUKE'S CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA ON JANUARY 9, 1873 AT THE AGE OF 34 THE 100TH BISHOP IN THE AMERICAN EPISCOPATE.

HE ARRIVED AT YANKTON, WHICH WAS TO BE HIS HEADQUARTERS UNTIL 1885 IN THE MIDST OF A BLIZZARD, SO SEVERE THAT EVEN CUSTER'S CAVALRY, USUALLY DARING TO FACE ANY FOE, ENCAMPED JUST OUTSIDE OF YANKTON, FLED IN DISORDER BEFORE ITS FURY, ABANDONING HORSES AND CAMP EQUIPMENT.

IN 1873, IN ALL OF BISHOP HARE'S WIDE MISSIONARY JURISDICTION, THERE WERE ONLY FIVE WHITE CLERGYMEN, FIVE WOMEN WORKERS, AND THREE INDIAN HELPERS. FIVE CHURCHES AND TWO MISSIONARY DWELLINGS COMPRISED THE CHURCH PROPERTIES.

THERE WERE ONLY A FEW WHITE SETTLERS IN THE AREA BUT BY 1883 THESE PIONEER COMMUNITIES HAD GROWN TO CONSIDERABLE SIZE SO THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS ENLARGED BISHOP HARE'S JURISDICTION TO INCLUDE BOTH WHITE AND INDIAN WORK IN THE ENTIRE STATE EAST OF THE MISSOURI RIVER AND CHANGED THE NAME FROM NIOBRARA TO THE MISSIONARY DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

BY 1884 THERE WERE FIVE NATIVE CLERGY, FIVE NATIVE CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY, TWELVE NATIVE CATECHISTS

AND TWELVE WOMEN HELPERS IN ADDITION TO THE WHITEPRIESTS ALREADY IN THE TERRITORY. A WELL ADJUSTED SYSTEM WAS LAID OUT BY BISHOP HARE WITH RESPONSIBILITIES ASSIGNED THROUGHOUT THE JURISDICTION TO WHITE AND NATIVE CLERGY, CATECHISTS AND HELPERS.

SIoux FALLS OFFERED BISHOP HARE \$10,000 IN CASH AND LAND PROVIDED THE BISHOP COULD RAISE AN EQUAL SUM IN THE EAST TO ESTABLISH AN EPISCOPAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN SIoux FALLS. IN SEPTEMBER 1884 THE CORNERSTONE WAS LAID AND IN SEPTEMBER 1885 ITS DOORS OPENED--ALL SAINT'S SCHOOL.

SIoux FALLS BECAME THE BISHOP'S EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE AT THE SCHOOL. MISS HELEN S. PEABODY BECAME THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL AND HER SISTER, MISS MARY B. PEABODY, HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY.

BISHOP HARE DEPENDED GREATLY ON WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS IN THE EAST, FORMED LARGELY FOR THE SUPPORT OF BISHOP HARE'S WORK WITH THE INDIANS, SUCH AS "INDIAN HOPE OF PHILADELPHIA", "THE DAKOTA LEAGUE OF MASSACHUSETTS" AND THE "NIOBRARA LEAGUE OF NEW YORK". FINALLY HELP CAME FROM MANY BRANCHES OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY IN THE EAST TO WHICH THESE SPECIAL GROUPS ALLIED THEMSELVES. THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY TO THE BOARD OF MISSIONS HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN ORGANIZED TO GIVE AID TO THE MISSIONARIES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

BISHOP HARE IN HIS LETTERS MADE MANY EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION TO THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH BOTH FOR AID RECEIVED FROM THE EAST AND FOR THE PARTICIPATION PARTICULARLY OF THE NIOBRARA WOMEN IN THE WORK OF THE CHURCH.

IN 1876 HE WROTE, "THE DAKOTA WOMEN IN PARTICULAR ARE ADVANCING EVERY YEAR IN HOUSEKEEPING AND EVERY GOOD WOMANLY QUALITY. THIS IS OWING LARGELY TO THEIR MEETING EVERY WEEK IN 'THE WOMEN'S MEETING' WHERE 70 OR 80 OF THEM COME TO SING; TO EXHORT EACH OTHER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND TO LEARN TO SEW, KNIT, MAKE GARMENTS, BAKE BREAD AND ACQUIRE ALL OF THE OTHER ARTS OF A CIVILIZED LIFE.

THE FIRST CONVOCATION OF THE NIOBRARA DEANERY WAS HELD AT SANTEE MISSION AUGUST 1, 1873 WITH CLERGY AND INDIAN DELEGATES BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL THE 11TH CONVOCA-

TION THAT A SIMPLE CONSTITUTION WAS DRAWN UP. WOMEN WERE NOT EXCLUDED BUT AT THIS TIME THEY WERE NEVER AMONG THE ELECTED OR APPOINTED DELEGATES, NOR WERE THEY EVER OFFICERS OF THE DEANERIES.

IT ISN'T UNTIL THE REPORT OF 1884 THAT SPECIFIC MENTION IS MADE OF THE WOMEN AT THE NIORARA CONVOCATION. WE FIND THE WORDS, "AT FOUR P.M. A SERVICE FOR WOMEN ONLY WAS HELD IN HARRISON HALL, WHERE THE WOMEN WERE ADDRESSED BY MRS. A.T. TWING OF NEW YORK." BUT IN THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE EASTERN DEANERY OF THAT SAME YEAR NO MENTION IS MADE OF A WOMAN'S MEETING. NOT UNTIL 1887 IS THERE RECORD OF THE BISHOP ATTENDING A MEETING OF WOMEN IN THE "HOSPITAL" AND IN 1888 IN THE EASTERN DEANERY MEETING, "THE BISHOP WITHDREW AT THIS JUNCTURE TO ORGANIZE A MEETING OF THE "WOMEN'S AUXILIARY".

IT IS IN THIS MEETING THAT BISHOP HARE ADDRESSED THE WOMEN IN THIS MANNER:

"I WOULD PAY TRIBUTE OF GRATEFUL LOVE TO THE WORK DONE FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST BY THE WOMEN OF SOUTH DAKOTA. I FEEL THAT THE WORK WOULD GAIN IN STRENGTH AND EFFICIENCY IF THE WOMEN'S GUILDS WERE KNIT TOGETHER AND KNEW MORE THAN THEY DO NOW OF EACH OTHERS WORK AND OF EACH OTHER. IT IS WITH THIS END IN VIEW THAT I HAVE INVITED THE WOMEN TO SEND DELEGATES ON THIS OCCASION. I THINK THAT IT IS ALSO DESIRABLE THAT THE WORK OF THE WOMEN OF SOUTH DAKOTA SHOULD BE IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE WORK OF THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH IN GENERAL, WHICH IS ORGANIZED UNDER THE NAME OF THE 'WOMEN'S AUXILIARY' "

"THIS ORGANIZATION GAINS IN STRENGTH EACH YEAR AND IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING IF OUR WOMEN'S WORK COULD SHARE IN ITS MOMENTUM. A BEGINNING HAS BEEN MADE IN THIS DIRECTION WHICH I EARNESTLY HOPE WILL GO ON AND BE EXTENDED. MRS. FRED GARDINER HAS BEEN APPOINTED SECRETARY OF THE EASTERN DEANERY (WHITE FIELD) AND MISS AMELIA IVES SECRETARY OF THE NIORARA (INDIAN FIELD)". OF THE NIORARA WOMEN BISHOP HARE STATED:

"THE INDIAN WOMEN HAVE BEEN MORE THAN READY TO FALL IN LINE WITH THIS IMPORTANT AUXILIARY TO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH. THERE IS HARDLY A STATION WHERE THERE IS NOT A WOMAN'S GUILD AND HARDLY A GUILD WHICH IS NOT IN

UNION WITH THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY. THESE GUILDS IN SOME CASES SEEM TO SPRING UP ALMOST SPONTANEOUSLY. OFTEN THE FIRST NOTICE WE HAVE OF THE DESIRE FOR THE CHURCH IN A WILD CAMP IS THE EXISTENCE OF A LITTLE BAND OF WOMEN WHO HAVE FORMED THEMSELVES, AFTER THE MANNER OF THEIR SISTERS IN SOME OTHER CAMP, IN A GUILD, AND BEGUN TO SAVE "MITES" OR MAKE INDIAN CURIOS IN ORDER TO SECURE A CHAPEL."

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S WORK WAS PRINTED IN THE JOURNAL OF 1890 FOR THE FIRST TIME UPON REQUEST BY RESOLUTION OF THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING IN 1889 TO THE CONVOCATION. FROM THIS REPORT MRS. ED TRIMBLE ACTING AS SECRETARY OF THE WHITE FIELD REPORTED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM TEN PARISHES AND MISSIONS. THESE CONTRIBUTIONS WERE DESIGNATED FOR THE CHURCH BUILDING FUNDS, PARISH USE, MISSIONARY GIFTS, LENTEN OFFERINGS AND A NUMBER OF OTHER WORTHY CAUSES.

IN 1891 THE BLACK HILLS DEANERY WAS CREATED AND ADDED TO THE BISHOP'S JURISDICTION. IT INCLUDED MUCH OF SOUTH DAKOTA WEST OF THE 102ND DEGREE OF LONGITUDE NOT INCLUDED IN THE NIOBRARA DEANERY. THE EASTERN DEANERY INCLUDED THE REMAINDER OF SOUTH DAKOTA NOT IN THE NIOBRARA FIELD. FOR A TIME EACH DEANERY MET SEPARATELY IN CONVOCATION EACH YEAR, THEN ALL THREE MET JOINTLY IN CONVOCATION THE THIRD YEAR TO ELECT DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

IN 1892 MISS AMELIA IVES, GENERAL SECRETARY FOR THE WOMEN'S WORK IN THE NIOBRARA DEANERY REPORTED FOR 50 BRANCHES OF THAT DEANERY WITH AGGREGATE CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$2,237.38.

IN THE EASTERN DEANERY EPISCOPIANS WERE BUT A FRACTION OF THE CHURCH-GOING POPULATION IN THE SMALL TOWNS AND HAD SCARCELY GOTTEN BEYOND THE STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE. SOME DID NOT EVEN HAVE A CHURCH BUILDING. BISHOP HARE WAS AWARE OF THE STRUGGLE OF THE WOMEN PARTICULARLY, IN KEEPING THE SMALL CHURCH GROUPS IN EXISTENCE.

IN HIS 1892 REPORT, BISHOP HARE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION OF THE TASK THESE WOMEN FACED ADDING, "IT WOULD BE CHEERING IF WE HAD A FULL RECORD OF IT, BUT THOUGH MRS. JAMES TRIMBLE, HAS BY MY APPOINTMENT, ACTED

AS GENERAL SECRETARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF GATHERING STATISTICS, FROM THE WHITE FIELD, SHE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO SECURE INFORMATION,--ONLY ELEVEN OF OUR WOMEN'S SOCIETIES HAVE REPORTED TO HER. THESE REPORTS SHOW A TOTAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$2,870.34 FROM 16 GUILDS."

IN 1895 MRS. JAMES TRIMBLE WAS COMPELLED BY CONTINUAL ILL HEALTH TO RESIGN HER PLACE AS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF THE EASTERN DEANERY AND MISS MARY PEABODY WAS APPOINTED TO THAT POSITION. AT THE SAME TIME MRS. J. B. DICKSON WAS APPOINTED AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF THE NIobrARA DEANERY BECAUSE OF THE PROLONGED ABSENCES OF MISS AMELIA IVES FROM THE JURISDICTION.

MANY OF MISS PEABODY'S REPORTS REFLECT HER DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE EFFORTS OF THE WOMEN IN THE WHITE FIELD. IN 1896 SHE REPORTED "MITE BOX" OFFERINGS OF ONLY \$120.12 FROM SEVENTEEN GUILDS; A \$25.00 PLEDGE TO THE TRIENNIAL MEETING FELL SHORT BY \$9.65; AND REPORTS WERE RECEIVED FROM ONLY NINE OF THE THIRTY ORGANIZED GUILDS. IN CONTRAST MRS. J. B. DICKSON'S NIobrARA DEANERY REPORT INDICATED REPORTS FROM ALL GUILDS WITH OFFERINGS OF \$2,758.11.

IN 1897 BISHOP HARE COMMENTED IN HIS ANNUAL CONVO-CATION ADDRESS: "THE INDIAN WOMEN TAKE UP THE WORK OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY WITH ZEAL. THE CHIEF OBSTACLE TO THE EXTENSION OF THE WORK AMONG THE WHITES IS A STRANGE IGNORANCE OF ITS CHARACTER, MADE PERMANENT BY AN EQUALLY STRANGE SATISFACTION WITH THAT IGNORANCE; BUT MISS PEABODY'S REPORT INDICATES THAT THE FEW OF THE WOMEN'S SOCIETIES FROM WHOM SHE RECEIVED REPORTS REPLIED TO HER APPEALS SO CORDIALLY AND GRACEFULLY THAT ONE CAN OVERLOOK, FOR A TIME AT LEAST, THE APATHY OF THE REST."

BUT BY 1901 THE WOMEN'S OFFERING PRESENTED AT THE TRIENNIAL OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY IN SAN FRANCISCO LACKED ONLY \$5.87 OF THE \$700.00 PLEDGED.

IN 1906 THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS MET IN SPECIAL SESSION TO ELECT THE REV. FREDERICK FOOT JOHNSON AS AN ASSISTANT TO BISHOP HARE AND IN THAT SAME YEAR THE BLACK HILLS AND EASTERN DEANERIES WERE UNITED WITH MISS MARY PEABODY SERVING AS SECRETARY FOR BOTH.

THE FOLLOWING YEAR (1907) BISHOP HARE APPOINTED

MISS MARY PEABODY THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF SOUTH DAKOTA TO WHOM THE SECRETARIES OF THE EASTERN AND BLACK HILLS DEANERY WERE TO REPORT. MISS PEABODY WORKED HARD TO PRESENT TO THE WOMEN OF EVERY CHURCH THE FUNCTION OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY:

1. TO PRAY FOR MISSIONS.
2. TO LEARN ABOUT MISSIONS AND SPREAD INFORMATION.
3. TO WORK FOR MISSIONS BY SETTING ASIDE A DEFINITE PERCENTAGE OF ALL CHURCH INCOME FOR MISSION WORK.

MISS PEABODY MET MANY DISAPPOINTMENTS IN HER FIRST YEAR AS PRESIDENT. THE UNITED OFFERING (WHICH LATER BECAME THE U T O) OF THAT YEAR TOTALED ONLY \$418.88 AND MISS PEABODY, BEING AWARE THAT FEW OF THE WOMEN'S GROUPS CUSTOMARILY HAD DEVOTIONAL SERVICES, OBSERVED THAT "IT IS MOST FREQUENTLY FROM THESE GROUPS THAT LITTLE PROGRESS IS MADE."

BISHOP WILLIAM HOBART HARE DIED OCTOBER 23, 1909, AND WAS BURIED IN THE QUIET BEAUTY OF THE CATHEDRAL CLOSE IN SIOUX FALLS. HE HAD LIVED IN SOUTH DAKOTA FOR 36 YEARS AND HERE HE HAD ASKED TO BE INTERRED. FROM HIS SICK BED IN ATLANTIC CITY HE HAD DICTATED HIS LAST CALL FOR A MEETING OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF SOUTH DAKOTA, HELD IN SIOUX FALLS DURING THE MISSOURI COUNCIL.

MISS MARY PEABODY WENT AS THE FIRST DELEGATE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA TO THE TRIENNIAL MEETING OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY IN CINCINNATI. IT WAS AT THIS GENERAL CONVENTION THAT THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS ON OCTOBER 11, 1910 ELECTED SUFFRAGAN BISHOP FREDERICK JOHNSON TO THE OFFICE OF BISHOP OF THE MISSIONARY DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA, BUT HE REMAINED AS DIOCESAN BISHOP ONLY UNTIL OCTOBER 11, 1911; HAVING BEEN ELECTED BISHOP COADJUTOR OF MISSOURI WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT. UNDER SPECIAL COMMISSION OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP DANIEL S. TUTTLE, BISHOP JOHNSON CONTINUED TO SUPERVISE SOUTH DAKOTA UNTIL JANUARY OF 1912.

FOR NEARLY NINE MONTHS, THEREAFTER, THE PRESIDING BISHOP WAS ACTING BISHOP FOR SOUTH DAKOTA UNTIL THE RT. REV. GEORGE BILLER JR., WAS ELECTED BISHOP OF SOUTH DAKOTA BY THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS AND PRESIDED AT HIS FIRST SOUTH DAKOTA CONVOCATION IN SEPTEMBER 1912 IN SIOUX FALLS.

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY AT THIS SESSION OFFERED A RESOLUTION PLEDGING "COOPERATION WITH BISHOP BILLER IN HIS WORK AND TO SUPPORT HIM WITH SYMPATHY AND PRAYER AND ASSISTANCE". IT WAS AT THIS CONVOCATION THAT WOMEN'S NAMES WERE BEGINNING TO BE LISTED AMONG THE DELEGATES TO THE CONVOCATION AND A COMMITTEE ON CANONS WAS APPOINTED TO DRAFT CANONS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA WHICH, WHEN APPROVED BY THE GENERAL CONVENTION, PROVIDED FOR AN ANNUAL CONVOCATION INSTEAD OF ONE EVERY THREE YEARS, THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE MEETING TO BE DESIGNATED BY THE PREVIOUS CONVOCATION, THE WOMEN'S MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE SAME TIME.

ON JUNE 23, 1913 AT THE CONVOCATION IN MITCHELL, THE WOMEN PASSED A MOTION THAT ALL THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS IN THE STATE FEDERATE INTO ONE BODY AND A COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED TO DRAW UP A CONSTITUTION. THIS WAS ADOPTED WITH THE OBJECT OF "UNITING THE CHURCH WOMEN OF THE MISSIONARY DISTRICT IN THEIR WORK FOR THE CHURCH, TO BRING ABOUT A MORE COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND OF THE PECULIAR PROBLEMS OF THE MISSIONARY DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA, AND TO PROMOTE COOPERATION THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT IN ALL GOOD WORKS." THE NAME ADOPTED FOR THE ORGANIZATION WAS "WOMEN WORKERS OF THE MISSIONARY DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA."

MISS PEABODY CONTINUED AS PRESIDENT OF THE "WOMEN WORKERS OF SOUTH DAKOTA" WITH THE CHAIRMEN OF THE THREE DEANERIES ACTING AS VICE-PRESIDENTS. A JUNIOR AUXILIARY WAS FORMED WITH MRS. PAUL ROBERTS OF BROOKINGS AS SECRETARY OF THE EASTERN DEANERY, MRS. H.W. FULWEILER OF RAPID CITY AS SECRETARY OF THE BLACK HILLS DEANERY, AND MRS. PAUL BARBOUR, SECRETARY OF THE NIOBRARA DEANERY.

IN 1915 BY PETITION OF THE WOMEN AT CONVOCATION, THE WOMEN WERE GRANTED PERMISSION TO SERVE AS DELEGATES TO SYNOD MEETINGS, AND AT THE SIXTH PROVINCE SYNOD MEETING AT THE TRIENNIAL IN NEW YORK, MISS PEABODY WAS APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF A COMMITTEE TO DRAW UP A CONSTITUTION FOR THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE SIXTH PROVINCE.

MISS HELEN PEABODY, AFTER THIRTY YEARS AS PRINCIPAL OF ALL SAINT'S SCHOOL IN SOUTH DAKOTA, WAS GRANTED AN HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LETTERS BY THE BOARD

REGENTS OF EDUCATION OF SOUTH DAKOTA. THE 1915 CONVOCATION BROUGHT IN A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND CONGRATULATIONS TO HER.

ON OCTOBER 22, 1916 AFTER A LITTLE MORE THAN THREE YEARS IN THE EPISCOPATE, GEORGE BILLER JR., THIRD BISHOP OF SOUTH DAKOTA, AT THE AGE OF LESS THAN 42 YEARS, DIED. BEFORE CONSECRATION HE HAD SERVED AS DEAN OF CALVARY CATHEDRAL AT THE REQUEST OF BISHOP HARE, THE FIRST TO BE SO HONORED IN SOUTH DAKOTA. PRESIDING BISHOP TUTTLE AGAIN BECAME TEMPORARILY THE ACTING BISHOP OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

BISHOP BILLER'S UNTIMELY DEATH WAS FELT DEEPLY BY THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, PARTICULARLY SINCE PREVIOUS CONVOCATIONS HAD PETITIONED AND BEEN DENIED A SUFFRAGAN BISHOP BY THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS. THE WOMEN, FEELING THAT OVERWORK HAD HASTENED BISHOP BILLER'S DEATH, AT THEIR 1916 MEETING, DECIDED THAT THE MISSIONARY SALARY FUND, THAT HAD BEEN ONE OF THEIR EARLIEST PROJECTS, BE DESIGNATED IN THE FUTURE AS THE "BISHOP BILLER FUND." THIS WOULD MAKE IT AN ANNUAL MEMORIAL TO HIM, "NOT OF WOOD, STONE OR BRASS, BUT A LIVING, WORKING MEMORIAL IN THE PERSON OF MISSIONARIES TO OUR STATE". FOR THE YEAR ENDING AT THE 1916 CONVOCATION THE RECEIPTS FOR THIS FUND AMOUNTED TO \$1400.00

THE RT. REV. HUGH L. BURLESON BECAME BISHOP OF SOUTH DAKOTA AND MISS MARY PEABODY CONTINUED ON AS PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S WORKERS OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

IN HER REPORT OF 1917 MISS PEABODY OUTLINED THE FOUR PERENNIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WOMEN WORKERS OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

1. THE BISHOP BILLER MEMORIAL SALARY FUND
2. THE UNITED OFFERING (LATER CALLED UTO)
3. THE PREPARATION OF MISSIONARY BOXES
4. SUPPLYING OF TEMPORARY AND SPECIAL NEEDS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE DISTRICT AND OF THE WORLD.

OCTOBER 17, 1917 THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS ELECTED AS SUFFRAGAN BISHOP OF SOUTH DAKOTA, THE RT. REV. WILLIAM PROCTOR REMINGTON WHO CAME TO SOUTH DAKOTA AFTER FINISHING HIS TOUR OF DUTY IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY, AND MADE HIS HEADQUARTERS AT RAPID CITY.

1918 WAS MISS MARY PEABODY'S LAST YEAR AS PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN WORKERS OF SOUTH DAKOTA. SHE HAD SERVED AS THE BISHOP'S SECRETARY SINCE 1885, AS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WOMEN OF THE EASTERN DEANERY FROM 1895 TO 1907 AND AS PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN WORKERS (WOMAN'S AUXILIARY) FROM 1907 TO 1918. THESE 33 YEARS OF DEVOTED SERVICE WAS NOT THE END OF MARY PEABODY'S WORK IN SOUTH DAKOTA, LATER SHE SERVED AS NIOBRARA DEANERY CHAIRMAN IN 1924 AND 1925.

MRS. WILLIAM P. REMINGTON, THE SUFFRAGAN BISHOP'S WIFE, BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN WORKERS AND CONDUCTED THE 1919 MEETING. IN 1921 MRS. BURLESON, EXPLAINED IN DETAIL THE "CHURCH SERVICE LEAGUE" WHICH WAS ENDORSED BY BISHOP BURLESON AND WAS COMPOSED OF THESE BRANCHES: WOMAN'S AUXILIARY, ST. BARNABAS GUILD FOR NURSES, GIRL'S FRIENDLY SOCIETY, CHURCH MISSION HELP, CHURCH PATRIOTIC SERVICE AND CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB.

THE WOMEN VOTED TO ACCEPT THE WORK LAID DOWN BY THE "CHURCH SERVICE LEAGUE" AND FROM 1921 TO 1937 THE NAME OF THE "WOMEN WORKERS" WAS CHANGED TO "THE CHURCH SERVICE LEAGUE". IN HER ADDRESS TO THE WOMEN IN THE MAY 1922 CONVOCATION AT MITCHELL, MRS. REMINGTON SUGGESTED THAT A CHURCH PERIODICAL SECRETARY BE ELECTED TO SUPPLY READING MATERIAL, MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS AND BOOKS TO THE CLERGY AND THEIR FAMILIES. AT THAT TIME, THE OFFICIAL BOARD OF THE "CHURCH SERVICE LEAGUE" INCLUDED BESIDES THE PRESIDENT, A SECRETARY-TREASURER, SECRETARY OF THE MISSIONARY BOX WORK, TREASURER OF THE BISHOP BILLER MEMORIAL FUND, TREASURER OF THE UNITED THANK OFFERING, PRESIDENT OF THE JUNIOR AUXILIARIES, AND FOUR VICE-PRESIDENTS, EACH REPRESENTING ONE OF THE FIVE DEANERIES INTO WHICH THE MISSIONARY DISTRICT HAD BEEN DIVIDED: THE SOUTHERN, SOUTHWESTERN, NORTHERN, CENTRAL AND BLACK HILLS. THE OFFICE OF CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE JOURNAL UNTIL 1925 THOUGH IT HAD BEEN FUNCTIONING BEFORE THAT TIME.

MRS. DORA CLAIRE VANNIX HAD BEEN ACTING AS SECRETARY TO THE ISOLATED SINCE 1919, SENDING OUT LETTERS, PAPERS, LEAFLETS, CALENDARS, BLUE BOXES, POSTCARDS, BOOKS ON CONFIRMATION, ETC., TO THE ISOLATED PEOPLE IN THE MISSIONARY DISTRICT BUT HER NAME IS NOT LISTED AMONG

THE BOARD MEMBERS UNTIL 1926, THE SAME YEAR THAT A DIRECTOR OF CHURCH SCHOOL SERVICE AND A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SECRETARY WERE ALSO ADDED.

IN 1923 THE SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORTED RECEIVING 56 REPORTS FROM THE 58 GUILDS IN THE STATE AND THAT THE WOMEN WERE BECOMING MORE RESPONSIVE IN EVERY WAY EACH YEAR. OVER \$25,000.00 HAD BEEN RAISED BY THE WOMEN FOR LOCAL AND MISSIONARY WORK, \$2,139.15 GOING TO THE BISHOP BILLER MEMORIAL FUND.

IN 1923 THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS SENT SUFFRAGAN BISHOP REMINGTON TO BE THE BISHOP OF EASTERN OREGON. WITHIN 24 HOURS OF HIS LEAVING THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS ELECTED WITHOUT DISSIDENTING VOTE THE REV. W. BLAIR ROBERTS, AS SUFFRAGAN BISHOP OF SOUTH DAKOTA. BISHOP ROBERTS HAD SPENT 14 YEARS AS A PRIEST ON THE ROSEBUD WITH HIS HOME AT DALLAS.

MRS. ROBERTS (META) BECAME THE PRESIDENT OF THE "CHURCH SERVICE LEAGUE" (W.A.) THAT SAME YEAR. THE 1927 REPORT INDICATES ANOTHER CHANGE IN THE DEANERIES: THE WHITE FIELD NOW INCLUDED SIX DEANERIES: BLACK HILLS, CENTRAL, EASTERN, NORTHERN, ROSEBUD AND SOUTHERN EACH WITH A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BOARD AND WITH TWO REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE NIOBRARA DEANERY, BRINGING THE TOTAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP TO 18.

IN 1928 THE NAME SUPPLY SECRETARY WAS GIVEN TO THE MISSIONARY BOX WORK, AND THE OFFICE OF JUNIOR AUXILIARY PRESIDENT, AND DIRECTOR OF CHURCH SCHOOL SERVICE WERE DROPPED FROM THE BOARD. BISHOP BURLESON'S WIFE DIED THAT SAME YEAR AND AT CONVOCATION THE WOMEN DREW UP A RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY TO BE SENT TO THE BISHOP.

IN 1929 AT THE GENERAL CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON, MRS. META ROBERTS WAS ELECTED A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY AND WAS AGAIN MADE CHAIRMAN OF THE CORPORATE GIFT FOR THE SIXTH PROVINCE.

AT THE 1932 MEETING OF THE CHURCHWOMEN AT CONVOCATION MRS. ROBERTS MADE A PLEA FOR MORE ALTAR GUILDS. THIS IS THE FIRST MENTION IN THE JOURNAL OF THE WORK OF THE ALTAR GUILDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA AND UP TO THIS TIME MUCH OF THE WORK SUPPLYING THE SMALL NIOBRARA CHAPELS WITH LINENS AND SUPPLIES HAD BEEN DONE PERSONALLY UNDER

THE DIRECTION OF MRS. ROBERTS.

AT THE MAY CONVOCATION AT CHRIST CHURCH LEAD, BISHOP WILLIAM BLAIR ROBERTS, AFTER ALMOST NINE YEARS AS SUFFRAGAN BISHOP, ADDRESSED THE PEOPLE AS THEIR NEW DIOCESAN BISHOP. AT THE PREVIOUS GENERAL CONVENTION, BISHOP BURLESON HAD RESPONDED TO AN URGENT CALL OF THE GENERAL CHURCH AND ACCEPTED ELECTION AS ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDING BISHOP AND FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL. HE RESIGNED AS BISHOP OF SOUTH DAKOTA, CLOSING ALMOST 15 YEARS AS THE HEAD OF THE DISTRICT.

BETTY ASHLEY WAS APPOINTED NIOBRARA DEANERY CHAIRMAN BY BISHOP BURLESON AT THE REQUEST OF THE W.A. PRESIDENT, MRS. ROBERTS. SHE REPORTED THAT THE NIOBRARA WOMEN'S OFFERING THAT YEAR WAS OVER \$4,000.00. THE GUILDS IN THE WHITE FIELD NUMBERED 58 THAT YEAR.

IN 1933 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS THE ANNUAL CONVOCATION WAS HELD IN THE FALL. BISHOP BURLESON PASSED AWAY AND THE UNITED THANK OFFERING FROM THE WOMEN WAS PRESENTED AS A MEMORIAL TO HIM AT THE NEXT GENERAL CONVENTION.

IN 1937 THE NAME "CHURCH SERVICE LEAGUE" WAS DROPPED AND THE "WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF THE MISSIONARY DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA" BECAME THE OFFICIAL TITLE FOR THE EPISCOPAL WOMEN OF THE DISTRICT. A NEW CONSTITUTION WAS DRAWN UP AND APPROVED BY THE BISHOP, WHICH BROUGHT A NUMBER OF CHANGES TO LINE UP THE GUILDS WITH THE NATIONAL PROGRAM.

IN 1938 MRS. META ROBERTS ANNOUNCED HER RETIREMENT HAVING SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY FOR 16 YEARS. SHE WAS, BY UNANIMOUS APPROVAL, MADE HONORARY PRESIDENT. GUILD DUES WERE RAISED FROM \$1.50 TO \$2.00, THE ADDITIONAL 50 CENTS TO BE SET ASIDE IN A SAVINGS ACCOUNT FOR A GENERAL CONVENTION DELEGATE'S EXPENSE FUND.

SUCCEEDING PRESIDENTS AND THE YEARS THEY SERVED WERE:

MRS. H.W. FULWEILER, YANKTON	1938-1944
MRS. CHARLES DANFORTH, YANKTON	1944-1950
MRS. W.Y. WHITEHEAD, MITCHELL	1950-1953
MRS. STANDISH MOUNTASH, ABERDEEN	1953-1954*
MRS. ROSS KLEINHEINZ, SIOUX FALLS	1954*
MRS. EDWARD LUNDQUIST, SIOUX FALLS	1954-1959**

MRS. M. D. MORRIS, HURON & SIOUX FALLS	1959-1964
MRS. HOLLY HERMAN, GREGORY	1964-1967
MRS. NORMAN GROSS, YANKTON	1967-1972
MRS. R. E. FURDIS, RAPID CITY	1972-1976

*MOVED OUT OF DISTRICT BEFORE TERM ENDED

**RESIGNED BEFORE TERM ENDED

IN 1938 BISHOP ROBERTS APPOINTED MRS. MYRON L. WILSON OF RAPID CITY AS THE FIRST DIRECTRESS OF THE DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD, IN WHICH CAPACITY SHE SERVED UNTIL 1953 WHEN SHE WAS ELECTED ALTAR GUILD DIRECTRESS OF THE SIXTH PROVINCE. MRS. RAY P. HOWARD OF SIOUX FALLS WAS APPOINTED BY THE BISHOP TO REPLACE HER AND MRS. HOWARD SERVED UNTIL 1971. MRS. MARION MORRIS OF SIOUX FALLS WAS APPOINTED TO SUCCEED HER AND IS PRESENTLY SERVING AS DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD DIRECTRESS. THE SOUTH DAKOTA DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD IS AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ALTAR GUILDS. IN 1946 THE DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD BEGAN MAKING CHURCH KALENDARS AVAILABLE AT A MINIMAL COST TO EVERY CHURCH MEMBER IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

IN 1940 THE WOMEN PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT TO THE CANONS OF THE DISTRICT TO PERMIT WOMEN TO HAVE REPRESENTATION ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT AND AS MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES. THIS WAS APPROVED AND WOMEN HAVE SINCE SERVED.

1945 SAW THE CLOSE OF WORLD WAR 2 AND THE ELECTION OF THE REV. CONRAD H. GESNER AS BISHOP COADJUTOR BY THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS. HE WAS NO STRANGER TO SOUTH DAKOTA, HAVING SERVED AT SIOUX FALLS 1927-29 AND AT PIERRE 1929-1933.

IN 1950 THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY WAS AMENDED TO MAKE SEPARATE OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER, CLARIFYING THE DUTIES OF EACH OFFICE. IN 1959, BY AMENDMENT, THE NAME OF "WOMAN'S AUXILIARY" WAS CHANGED TO "EPISCOPAL WOMEN OF SOUTH DAKOTA" TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUEST OF THE NATIONAL CHURCH'S NEWLY CREATED "GENERAL DIVISION OF WOMEN'S WORK OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL". IN 1966 THE BY-LAWS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT THE WORD "CHURCH" BE INSERTED

IN THE TITLE MAKING THE NAME "THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN OF SOUTH DAKOTA." (E.C.W.) IN 1970 ANOTHER BY-LAW CHANGE WAS VOTED UPON FAVORABLY, CHANGING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS FROM THREE TO TWO YEARS.

DURING THE YEARS TWO HANDBOOKS OF PROCEDURE HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR THE GUILDS, ONE ISSUED IN 1951 BY MRS. STANDISH MCINTOSH AND HER COMMITTEE AND ONE IN 1966 EDITED BY MRS. MARION MORRIS. A THIRD IS IN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING BY MRS. LAUREL IVERSON.

IN 1964 BY VOTE OF THE WOMEN THE BISHOP'S SUSTAINING FUND WAS TO BE PAID DIRECTLY INTO THE EPISCOPATE BUDGET FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE BISHOP AND WOULD NO LONGER BE USED TO PAY PART OF THE QUOTAS OF THE INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES. THIS FUND HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN CALLED THE BISHOP BILLER FUND, THE NAME HAVING BEEN CHANGED TO THE BISHOP'S SUSTAINING FUND IN 1956.

BISHOP ROBERTS RETIRED IN 1953 AFTER SERVING THE DISTRICT AS DIOCESAN FOR 21 YEARS AND BISHOP CONRAD H. GESNER, AFTER SERVING NINE YEARS AS BISHOP COADJUTOR, WAS INSTALLED AS BISHOP OF SOUTH DAKOTA ON JANUARY 6, 1954.

IN 1966 LYMAN C. OLGILBY WAS ELECTED BY THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS TO BE BISHOP COADJUTOR OF SOUTH DAKOTA, SERVING UNTIL 1970 WHEN A SPECIAL CONVOCATION FOR THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP OF SOUTH DAKOTA WAS CALLED TO MEET AT PIERRE, BISHOP GESNER HAVING ALREADY ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT AS DIOCESAN. THE VERY REV. WALTER HEATH JONES DEAN OF CALVARY CATHEDRAL AT SIOUX FALLS WAS ELECTED BISHOP OF SOUTH DAKOTA. PREVIOUS BISHOPS HAD BEEN ELECTED BY THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS BUT THE GENERAL CONVENTION NOW GRANTED THAT PRIVILEGE TO SOUTH DAKOTA AS IT WAS NOW A DIOCESE. IN 1971 THE REV. HAROLD S. JONES WAS ELECTED SUFFRAGAN BISHOP OF SOUTH DAKOTA, THE FIRST INDIAN TO BE ELECTED BISHOP IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH. HE RETIRED FOR REASONS OF HEALTH AT THE END OF 1975.

THROUGHOUT THE YEARS THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN HAVE VOLUNTARILY SUPPORTED MANY PROJECTS BOTH AT THE NATIONAL AND STATE LEVELS IN ADDITION TO CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BISHOP'S SUSTAINING FUND, THE BUDGET FUND, THE U.T.O., AND THE C.P.C. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO LIST ALL OF THESE BUT A FEW OF THEM ARE:

THE CONFERENCE CENTER
 ST. MARY'S SCHOOL
 BISHOP HARE MISSION HOME
 ST. ELIZABETH HOME
 EPISCOPAL ENDOWMENT FUND
 SUPPORT OF THE DEAF WORK
 GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY
 CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
 SUPPORT FOR CHURCH ARMY WORK
 SCHOLARSHIPS AND CAMPERSHIPS
 THUNDERHEAD EPISCOPAL CAMP
 PRESIDING BISHOP'S FUND FOR WORLD RELIEF
 COLLEGE WORK
 SUPPLY WORK IN THE PHILLIPINES AND AFRICA
 HOLY FAMILY AND HOLY FELLOWSHIP HOMES
 BISHOP'S DISCRETIONARY FUND
 ST. FRANCIS BOYS HOME
 YOUTH CAMP
 LAUBACH LITERACY WORKSHOP

MANY BOARD MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND QUIET DAYS HAVE BEEN HELD AT THE CONFERENCE CENTER WHERE MRS. ROBERT BEST SERVED AS CONFERENCE CENTER CHAIRMAN FOR MANY YEARS.

THE APPOINTIVE OFFICES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WOMEN WERE CHANGED AT INTERVALS TO MEET THE NEED OF THE TIMES AS CHANGES WERE MADE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, BUT EVERY WOMAN WHO HAS SERVED ON THE BOARD IN WHATEVER CAPACITY HAS GIVEN OF HER BEST TO SUPPORT THE AIMS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

ELECTIVE OFFICERS (1976) ARE: PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, UNITED THANK OFFERING CUSTODIAN, CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB CUSTODIAN, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CHAIRMAN AND CHRISTIAN SOCIAL RELATIONS CHAIRMAN.

IN ADDITION, APPOINTIVE OFFICERS ARE: SUPPLY AND M.R.I., DEVOTIONS, ECUMENICAL RELATIONS, CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES, THE EIGHT DEANERY CHAIRMEN AND TWO APPOINTMENTS MADE BY THE BISHOP, DIOCESAN ALTAR GUILD DIRECTRESS AND CONFERENCE CENTER CHAIRMAN.

HAZEL M. MORRIS (MRS. M.D.)

THIS BOOKLET WAS COMPILED FROM INFORMATION FOUND IN THE SOUTH DAKOTA JOURNALS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND FROM "THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF BISHOP HOBART HARE" BY HOWE.

HAZEL M. MORRIS (MRS. M.D.)
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

AUGUST 1976