

They refused to go. In 1841¹ a company of United States dragoons, about a hundred strong, passed through Jefferson county, camping over night on the lake near the mills, gathering up all the Indians they could find. I had never before seen such an organized army. They appeared very formidable. Their mission was accomplished and a large number of Indians were removed, although stragglers continued to return.

I cannot forbear to mention a class of noble men who followed the pioneers in their first settlement of Jefferson county. I have reference to the men known as Methodist circuit riders. Where they came from no one knew; but they were earnest men of God, determined to carry the gospel into the wilderness, and our log house was hardly ready for occupancy before one of them appeared at our door asking shelter and the privilege of holding services therein, which was granted. I remember one, Elder Hollister by name, who came there tired and hungry, and asked for something to eat. My mother had nothing in the house but enough buckwheat flour to make one batch of cakes, which was made for him and which he ate. I shall never cease to have respect for that class of men, and I shall always cherish their memory. The quarterly meetings were frequently held in our log house, and in due time a Methodist church society was organized,² and it was a long time before any other denomination put in an appearance. The Methodist minister of those early days went at his work in a direct, forcible way. He struck from the shoulder. He preached the gospel and that alone. There were no side issues. The Bible was his text-book, his guide and his friend.

¹ *Hist. Jefferson Co.*, p. 323.—ED.

² *Hist. Jefferson Co.* says that the society was organized in 1844, with Mrs. Ann Millard, Stephen Faville, Alpheus Faville, John Johnston, George Baker, Thomas Darcy and Oscar Bowman as the first communicants; but Colonel Keyes says that quarterly meetings were held as early as 1843, in his father's house, and that there was some sort of organization in that year. For several years the congregation met for prayer, in dwellings or the school-house. In 1854, they built their first church, at a cost of \$1,800. The Congregational church was not organized in Lake Mills until 1847, the Moravian until 1856 and the Baptist until 1869.—ED.