

In 1889, the year of the division in our denomination, we elected four bishops. Three of them – Milton Wright, Halleck Floyd, and Horace Barnaby – served together for the next 16 years. All three left office in 1905. And all three died in 1917.

Horace Barnaby, born in 1823, lived an interesting life and suffered a lot of hardships. Nothing was handed to him.

A year after Barnaby was born, his father went on a business trip and was never heard from again. His mother remarried several years later, after which Horace lived with an aunt for a while, and then with his grandparents from age ten on. Once a year, he would walk 18 miles to visit his mother.

Barnaby grew up knowing hard work. He was teaching school at age 17, and two years later, he bought from his uncle some frontier land near Hillsdale, Mich. He walked from New York to Michigan, hunted for food, and cleared the land for a home. During his lifetime, he would clear land for three different farms.

Barnaby continued teaching school, and married one of his students, Lydia. Then in 1850, at age 27, he decided to join the California Gold Rush. He sold the farm, found a place for his family to stay, and headed west with a friend.

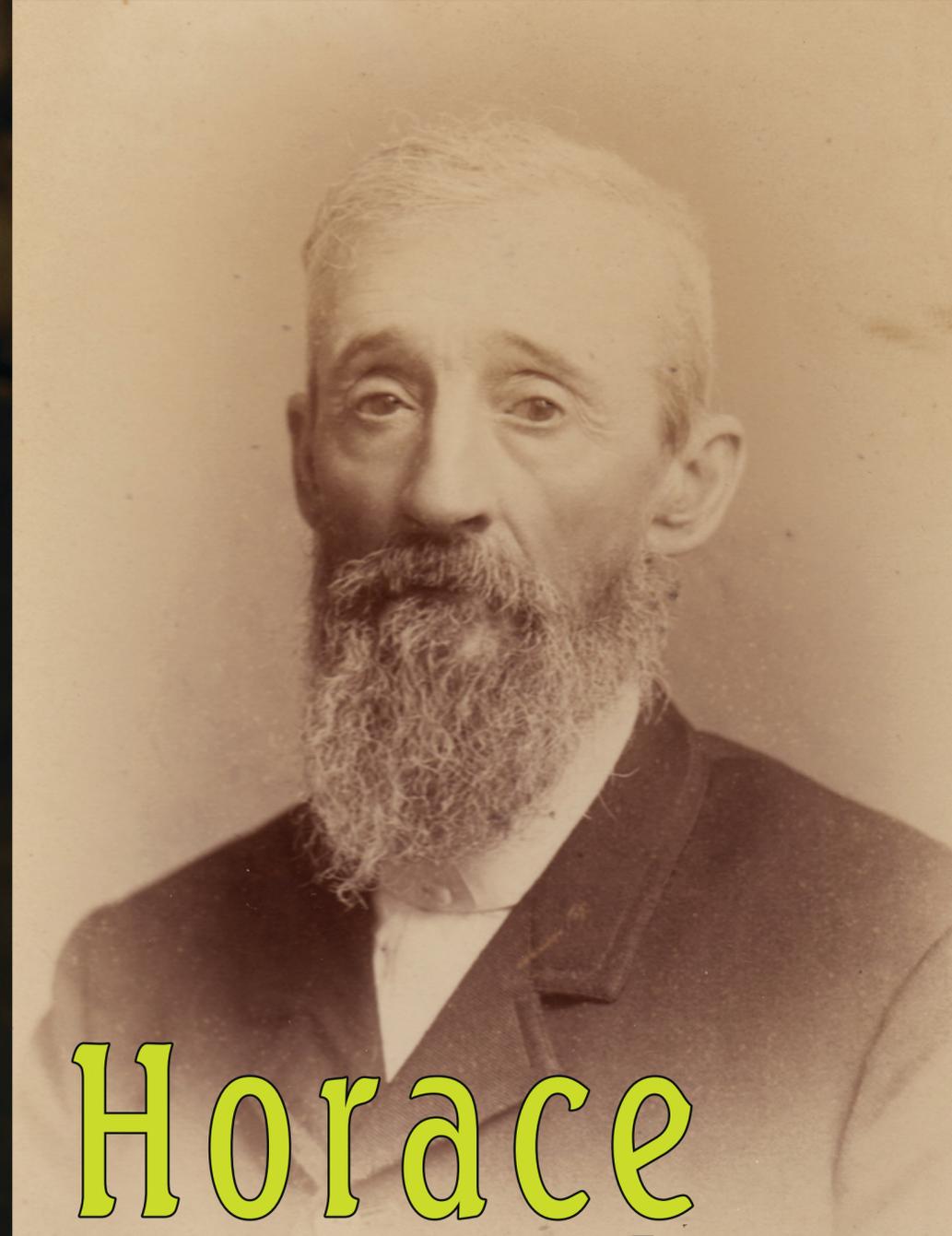
It took them four months to reach California; they braved Indians and scorching heat. But they did well. A year later, they returned to Michigan with \$4000 saved up. But as they slept aboard a steamship, all of their belongings were stolen. It was a wasted trip. Back to farming.

Barnaby was converted in 1852, and became a circuit-riding preacher in the Methodist Protestant church. He became United Brethren in 1858 and was ordained in 1863.

Lydia died in 1855, soon after an infant son died. He married Jane in 1856, but she died six years later. He then married Jane's sister, Susan...who died a year later in childbirth, followed soon thereafter by the infant.

With the Civil War at its height, Barnaby found homes for his two daughters, now ages 15 and 18, and tried to enlist. He was rejected three times, and never understood why, except maybe that he had a frail appearance. He went back to pastoring in Michigan Conference. In 1864, he married Sophia. This one lasted. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1914.

Barnaby was one of the men who guided and rebuilt the United Brethren Church after the split. We don't know much about his contributions, but since he was a bishop, we can assume he was involved in numerous decisions.



# Horace Barnaby

Bishop 1889-1905

Horace Jr. wrote that during the winter when his father was 83, he would go into the woods each morning with his axe, because "he felt better satisfied each day to be of some use in the world." That winter he chopped thirty cords of wood, and when spring came, he dug and tilled 220 yards of ditch.

Barnaby died on March 1, 1917, at age 94. He left behind some impressive kids. Alvin became an ordained UB minister and taught for a while at Huntington College (then called Central College). Horace became an attorney in Grand Rapids, and served in the state legislature for several terms. Milton attended Huntington College for three years, and worked in the Michigan state auditor's office. James managed the Barnaby farm. Daughter Addie graduated from Huntington College and taught school in Grand Rapids.