

education. Out of those meeting grew the Grand Prairie Seminary & Commercial College. On July 18, 1863 it was incorporated as an educational institution. It began as an interdenominational boarding school for high school & college students, and had its first classes that October.

PASTOR at ONARGA & GRAND PRAIRIE SEMINARY

The school first met in the local Methodist where Gray was pastor. He soon became the school's first principal, and his wife a teacher in Latin & Greek. A student could attend the school at a cost of from \$2.00 to \$12.00 a term. That first year there was only one teacher, but by the following year the student body had increased to 136, the faculty was up to eight, and they now had a new building.

While at Onarga one of the most mysterious items of Gray's life surfaced. The annual Conference of 1865 met at Onarga during September. At the time the Conference was only ten years old. A two line entry in the Minutes stated that Gray was convicted of "unChristian conduct" and reprimanded by the Bishop and suspended for one year. No further reason or details were given, but at the end of the Minutes there was a note saying that the papers relating to the charges against Gray were never delivered to the secretary. There was no other reference to this matter in any other source known to this writer.

Speculation as to the probable cause of the reprimand is difficult at this late date. It was during the height of the Civil War and feelings in Illinois were highly charged on both sides. The Union Club had been formed in the summer of 1862 in Pekin, Illinois to secure allegiance to the unity of the states. Gray later became a member of the Chicago chapter of the Union League Club. During the 1880's he was active in the work for the welfare of the colored people of the South, so that he could have made unseemly remarks about slavery or the war, though the northern stance of the Methodist Church makes that seem unlikely. The article in the US Biographical Dictionary on Gray makes the chances of a moral "slip" just as unbelievable. There it is recorded that "even at the age of forty-one he (Gray) testifies to never having learned the name of a card, used an oath, tasted liquor (except as medicine), tasted tobacco, or smoked a cigar..." So, unless additional information turns up it will remain a mystery.

GRAY at QUINCY COLLEGE

QUINCY

In the western Illinois town of Quincy the Methodists started a school in 1853 which they called the "English & German Seminary", though it was popularly called the "Methodist College". Quincy was settled in 1822 and named after the current President of the United States: John Quincy Adams. It is the seat of Adams County. During the mid-1880's it was for some twenty years the second largest city in Illinois, but it declined in importance with the increase of steamboat travel on the Mississippi River. The school in Quincy is presently called the "Chaddock Boys School", but though the years it has had a number of names, depending on who is financing it. In 1866 Gray came to the school as a professor in Mathematics. On the Mississippi River the town was just 120 miles southeast of Pekin on the Illinois River, where just four years before the Union League Club of America was formed. The club came into being as a result of the unrest & distrust of the Civil War feelings, and was meant to be an organized way of pledging one's allegiance to the Union. Sentiment & support for the movement and the organization spread throughout the country, and in 1880 the Union League Club of Chicago was formed. Later, when he moved to Chicago, Gray would become a member and celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary at the Club.

Unfortunately, there is no information available either about his arrival at the school or his qualifications as a teacher, but this step was to become the second in