



## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Sarah Sahn, 2016

**Creator/Corporate name:** Savoy Methodist Church (Savoy, Ill.)

**Inclusive Dates:** 1860-1949

**Physical Description:** 1 box, (.5 linear feet).

**Provenance:**

The records of the Savoy Methodist Church were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives in June 1993.

**Access:**

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

**Historical Note:**

The Savoy Methodist Church traces its beginnings to 1860, when A. J. Jutkins gave the first Methodist sermon at the Illinois Central railway depot. Parishioners met informally at the depot, in a nearby grove, and in private homes until 1869, when a Sunday school was formed, with Merton Dunlap as its founding superintendent.

The Illinois Annual Conference, the state-level administrative arm of the Methodist Church, formally recognized Savoy as a regular meeting place. The first Board of Trustees was elected on Dec. 26, 1885, comprised of C.E. Percival (secretary), J. Hamil Dunlap (president), Daniel Burwash, D.H. Henshie, W.H. Wisegarver (treasurer), and Albert Dunlap.

In May 1886, the President of the Board, J.H. Dunlap, donated land for the construction of a church building. A tornado on September 16, 1886, "the big wind," according to the church records, destroyed the half-built church, causing \$500-\$700 worth of damage. A new building was completed quickly, and dedicated on January 9, 1887. A parsonage was added in 1891. Both burned down on February 10, 1895. A new church building was again constructed quickly, and dedicated on September 22, 1895. The new church was built on land E.S. Dunlap purchased and resold to the trustees for that purpose.

The Savoy Methodist Church, now the Savoy United Methodist Church (name changed in 1970), is currently [2017] located at 3002 W. Old Church Road in Champaign, Illinois.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The records of the Savoy Methodist Church include early handwritten accounts of the church's history by its pastors, which later became the basis for the church's official histories. The rest of the records include member rolls, marriages, baptisms, and member departures for other communities. Some financial records for the church are also present including documentation from the 1895 fire rebuilding costs.



## Savoy Methodist Church Records

COLLECTION 83

The records contain numerous references to members of the Dunlap family and their involvement in the church and larger community.

Versions of the historical narratives based on these records are reprinted in three publications at the Champaign County Historical Archives: *Savoy Methodist Church 1849-1959, 125th Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, October 22, 1995*, and *Short History of Savoy, IL*.

### Arrangement:

Each folder contains a photocopied church record book and related documents. Folders are arranged chronologically based on earliest date in the records it contains.

### Subjects Terms:

Baptismal records  
Church membership  
Churches—Savoy  
Marriage records  
Methodist Church—Savoy  
Old Church Rd (Champaign), West, 3002  
Registers of births, etc.  
Savoy (Ill.)--Church history

### Names:

Burwash, Daniel  
Dunlap, Albert  
Dunlap family  
Dunlap, J. Hamil  
Henshie, D.H.  
Jutkins, A.J.  
Percival, C.E.  
Savoy Methodist Church (Savoy, Ill.)  
Savoy United Methodist Church (Savoy, Ill.)  
Wisegarver, W.H.

### Container List:

#### Box 1

Folder 1: Savoy Methodist Church, 1860-1949

- Typed historical narrative of the church's founding through 1949. Handwritten note on the last page lists pastors through 1954.

Folder 2: Church Record, First Methodist Episcopal Church, 1860-1935

- Church record book includes handwritten historical narrative through 1931, possibly written by I.F. Jutkins in 1931 (see typewritten narrative in Folder 1)
- Membership records, 1878-1935
- Treasurer's report
- Miscellaneous loose papers found in the original record book.



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Folder 3: Historical Record of Savoy Methodist Church, 1869-1879

- Handwritten historical narratives written by pastors W.A. Wylder (1869-1875), J.B. Martin (1875-1876), and Joseph Long (1876-1877)
- Sunday School Class Records
- Membership records

Folder 4: Church Record of the Savoy Methodist Episcopal Church, 1873-1909

- Membership records, 1873- (begins at p. 24; missing pp. 32-37, 44-52, 72-75, 82-87, 90-91, 94-95, 98-99, 104-107, 114-119, 127-131, 142-147, 150-155, 166-171, 174-177, 206-257, 260-281)
- Hand drawn map of Savoy, undated
- Treasurer's report, 1923
- Certificate of Election of Trustees, 1886
- Record of costs and fundraising to rebuild after the church burned down on February 10, 1895

Folder 5: Savoy Methodist Episcopal Church, 1929-1939

- "Golden Anniversary Celebration" program, June 16, 1935
- Membership records, 1929-1939