

Church of God Historian

Historical Society of the Church of God (Anderson IN) Vol 5 No 1 Fall 2004



AN AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENT

The Gospel Trumpet Company moved from Moundsville, WV in the late summer of 1906. Here is what A.L. Byers had to say:

"By the 1st of February, 1906, a force of workers was in Anderson to begin the erection of the new Trumpet Home and to receive the goods as they were shipped from Moundsville. Twenty-six car-loads were shipped, and on the 19th of September, 1906, the remainder of the Trumpet family left Moundsville in two special

cars, arriving at Anderson the next day" (*The Gospel Trumpet Publishing Work De-scribed and Illustrated*, Anderson IN 1907, p.32).

When Bro. Byers wrote these words in 1907, the Company was then located in a large rented building on the southeast corner of East Ninth Street and Central Avenue in downtown Anderson, "directly opposite the city offices, and one block from the courthouse square," according to Byers.

What is quite amazing is the building work accomplished by the advance party of February, 1906. In about nine months they had built a large barn and storage facility and a very large and attractive Family Home in which nearly two hundred people could be comfortably housed.

E.E. Byrum, President of the Company, had bought a large plot of virgin land in the Park Place area east of the White River. It was close to the city, but not in it—an important consideration for the communal way of life of the Trumpet Family. Also important were the large deposits of sand and gravel readily accessible there.

Frank Shope was the architect for the Home (as well as the Old People's Home and the new Gospel Trumpet building, which was completed in late 1910, several months before the lease expired on the rented building downtown). Shope's original blueprints (and they are blue) are preserved in Church of God Archives at Anderson University. The builder for these buildings was Robert Byrum, brother of E.E. and Noah, and father of R.R. Byrum.

But none of this could have been accomplished without the dedicated assistance of scores of volunteers. Harold L. Phillips, in *Miracle of Survival*, writes about this.

"... the spring and summer of 1906 was a time of pressured activity to get a new Trumpet Home constructed to house the rapidly-growing Trumpet Family in its new location. Volunteers came from far and wide to donate time and skill and backbreaking manual labor in that construction work. . . . Among those who came to Anderson even before the big move were J.E. Campbell of Ontario, Canada, later to become prominent in the publishing work, and Joseph Schlabach, a carpenter who remained with the Company for many decades..." (p.105).

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*Newsletter of the Historical Society of
the Church of God (Anderson)*

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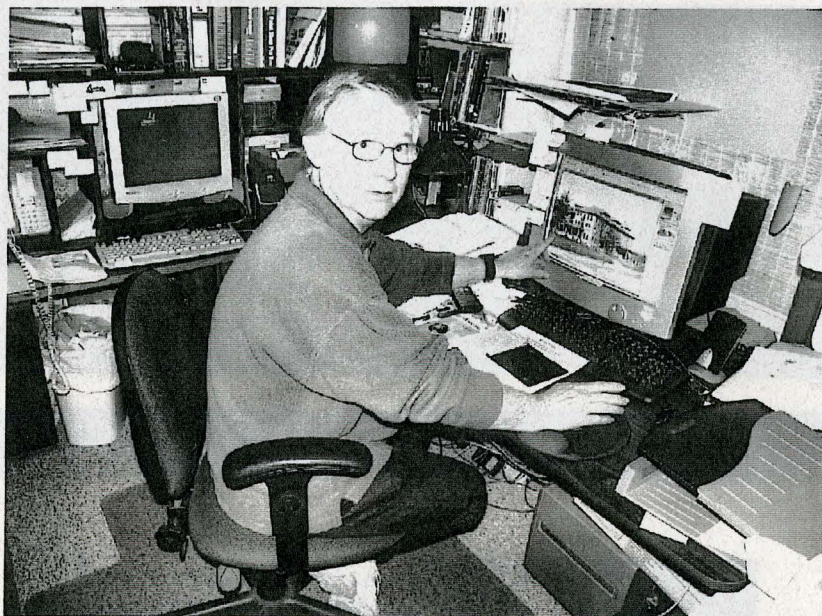
Church of God Historian is managed by the
Executive Committee of the Society: Merle
Strege, President; Dale Stultz, Vice-
President; Douglas Welch, Acting
Secretary-Treasurer.

The Historical Society . . .

The Historical Society of the Church of God (Anderson) exists: to encourage within the Church of God (Anderson) interest in Church of God history; to help facilitate the collection and preservation of Church of God books, historical documents (letters, diaries, journals, minutes, reports) and photographs; to assist members whenever and where ever possible with historical research and writing; and to provide for those concerned with Church of God history and heritage association with others of like mind.

Membership is open to all who are vitally interested in what the Society desires to accomplish. Membership dues are \$15 per year (\$10 for students). The Society's "year" runs from one Annual Meeting to the next (held at the Annual Convention of the Church of God in North America in Anderson, Indiana in the month of June). Checks should be mailed to:

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A PRESENT-DAY VOLUNTEER

Dale Stultz, retired high school art teacher and builder and owner of a Christian retreat center near Anderson is shown here working on one of the many historical photographs he has digitally remastered for Church of God Archives. Bro. Dale is also a very active member of the Historical Society of the Church of God (Anderson). He is constantly searching for historical information and materials relating to our early history.

For the past few years, Dale has worked very closely with Douglas Welch in Church of God Archives. He has a great fascination with old photos and spends many, many hours at his computer remastering them. He does all of this at his own expense as his gift to the church that has nurtured him in the faith. Without such committed volunteers—not unlike those who built buildings, ran presses, and published literature—we would be infinitely poorer as a community of faith.

In the pages that follow we are featuring some of the photos that Bro. Dale has produced from what are often very poor old copies from Church of God Archives. The few we use here are part of a group

relating to the first few years in Anderson.

Volunteers (other than the Trumpet Family members, who, while not paid cash wages for their labor, were provided with shelter, food, clothing, and a few other personal necessities—which most certainly involved no small amount of money) invested an enormous amount of time and energy in the early construction work. Without them the publishing work would have been seriously crippled.

The Historical Society of the Church of God (Anderson) is a voluntary society. Without volunteers like Bro. Dale (and we are blessed with a number of them) we would be infinitely poorer.

NOTICE

For health reasons, Douglas Welch has retired from Church of God Archives. Trish Janutolo, Reference Librarian at Anderson University's Nicholson Library, is now directing the work of the Archives. Her work phone number is 765-641-4275 And her email address is tbj@anderson.edu.



A number of years ago, before we moved to Moundsville, it was vividly impressed upon our minds that a more central location should be had for the publishing work. Anderson, Ind., was mentioned as being about the proper locality, but the way was not open at that time to make such a move, but an extraordinary opportunity did open before us at Moundsville, W. Va. After much prayer and consultation with the brethren, a decision was made to move to that place, where we remained a little more than eight years where the Lord prepared the work and enabled us to send out a greatly increased amount of literature to both home and foreign lands.

A year ago last June we were at a point in the progress of the work where preparations had to be made at once for the increase and enlargement of the publishing work. Our office was a brick building, three stories and a basement, and we were preparing to erect a larger building four stories, also a large wareroom for shipping and storage.

The Lord soon made known to us that the time was at hand to seek out our permanent location before erecting any more permanent buildings. It was but a short time until we were led to go to Anderson and make the necessary investigation. Other places were visited, but we were all convinced that the Lord was

THE REMOVAL OF THE OFFICE

Editorial, *Gospel Trumpet*, September 27, 1906

First Edition Published in Anderson, Indiana

directing us here as the place for the publishing business in the future. The officers of the company came here the latter part of August and found a suitable building near the court-house, in the business part of the city, which has four times the capacity of the office building we then occupied. In Park Place, on the east side of Columbus Ave., [later Union Avenue and now College Drive] was found a tract of land consisting of over forty acres with a beautiful grove suitable for a campground, also a fine location for the Trumpet Home. At the back part of this tract of land, there are a few acres of good gravel and sand available for building purposes. A place was found which seemed to be a chosen place by the direction of the Lord, for the Trumpet Home.

On the first of February, 1906, fourteen brethren from Moundsville came to Anderson and began work on the Trumpet Home, which consists of one hundred and fourteen rooms aside from a basement under the entire structure. The number of workmen has since increased by others coming from Moundsville, and some from other places from various States and Canada. The Home is built of cement blocks and is now being plastered and will probably be completed before December.

The Trumpet Family here consisting of over eighty persons have most of them been living in some of the rooms of the office building. Recently the "Home Hotel," near the office, was rented in order to receive and care for some of the family from Mounds-

ville upon our arrival.

For many weeks we had been busily engaged boxing and shipping such things as could be spared and permit us to continue the business. One of the large presses was shipped in advance in order to have it ready to do the printing during the time of the final move. The book bindery machinery and outfit was also shipped with many other things until twelve carloads of freight had been sent. It was finally decided that the remainder of the family of workers arrange to depart from Moundsville on the evening of September 19th, and arrive at Anderson the next day between twelve and one o'clock.

Now came a busy time indeed. The regular office work in the various departments must not be neglected, and there were sixteen carloads of freight to be loaded within a few days' time. From early morning to late at night all worked with willing hearts. As the last cars were being loaded, all the furniture in the Home and Office was removed, also all the partitions between the rooms in the Office, leaving but few conveniences for housekeeping and office work.

As we arrived at Anderson, the Trumpet family at that place, and brethren from elsewhere, were at the train to meet us. With many greetings and praises to God for his goodness, the entire family were once more together. The family now consists of over one hundred and sixty persons. It is the largest in number it has ever been.

— Enoch E. Byrum

[Shortened for publication here]

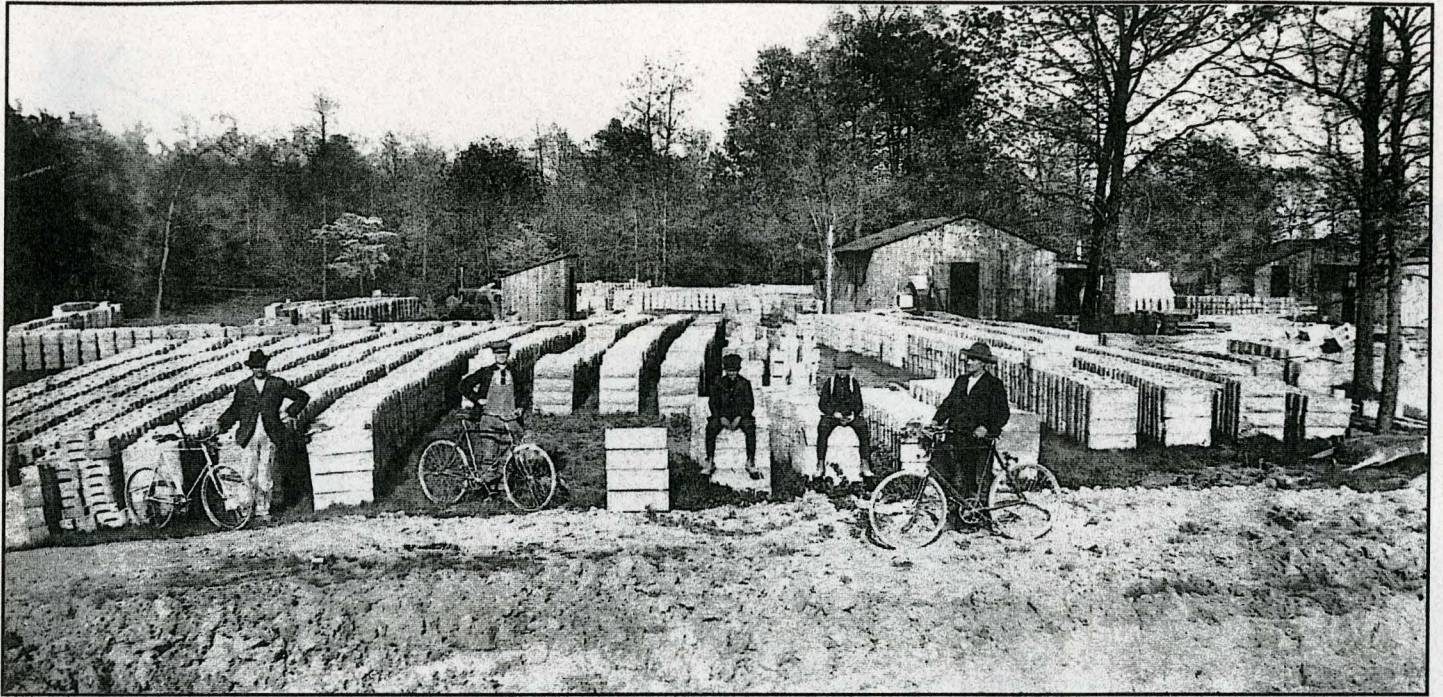
CONSTRUCTION PHOTO ALBUM: 1906 - 1909



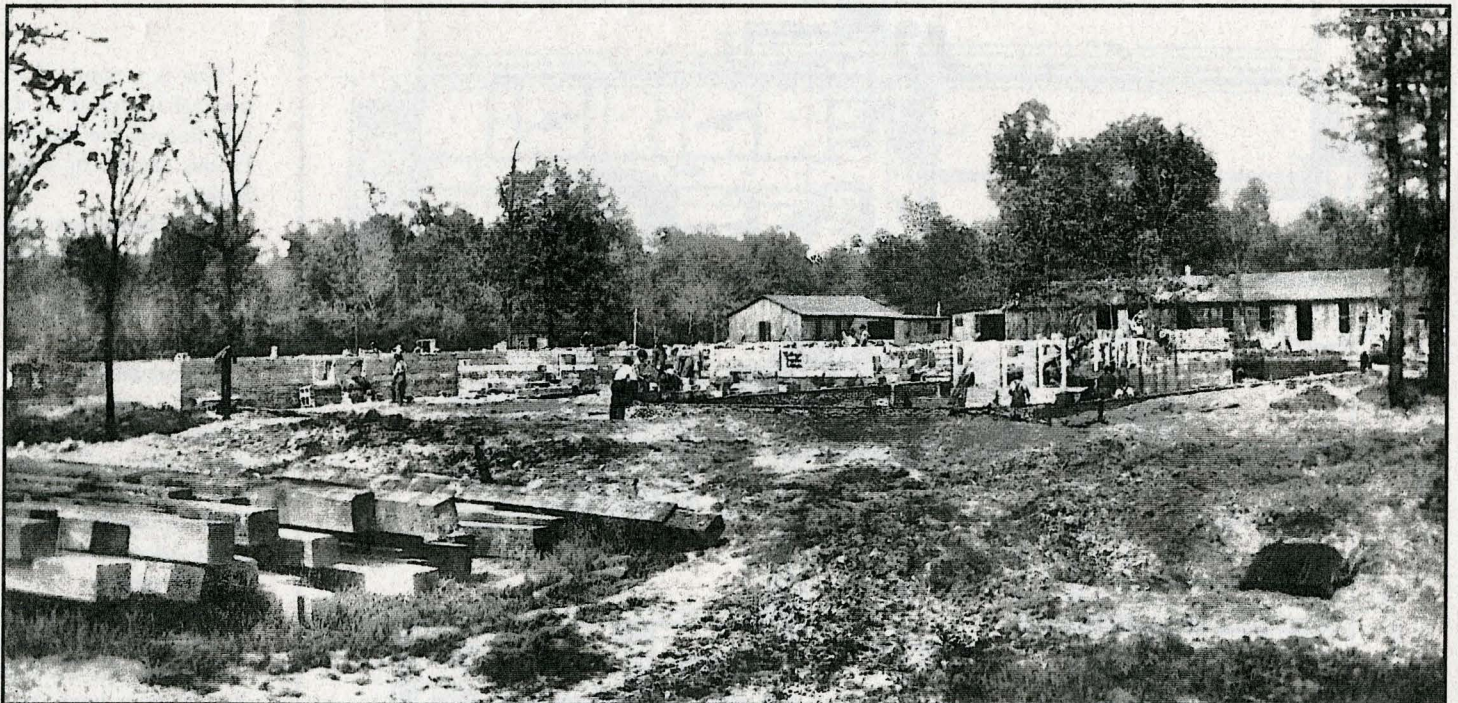
This is an enlargement of the photo on the front page. Here construction gets underway. The date is early February, 1906. This is an interesting photo for several reasons, but primarily because it shows Enoch Byrum's house in the background. It has been assumed that his house was the first building erected on the property by the builders, but it seems it was part of the land purchase.



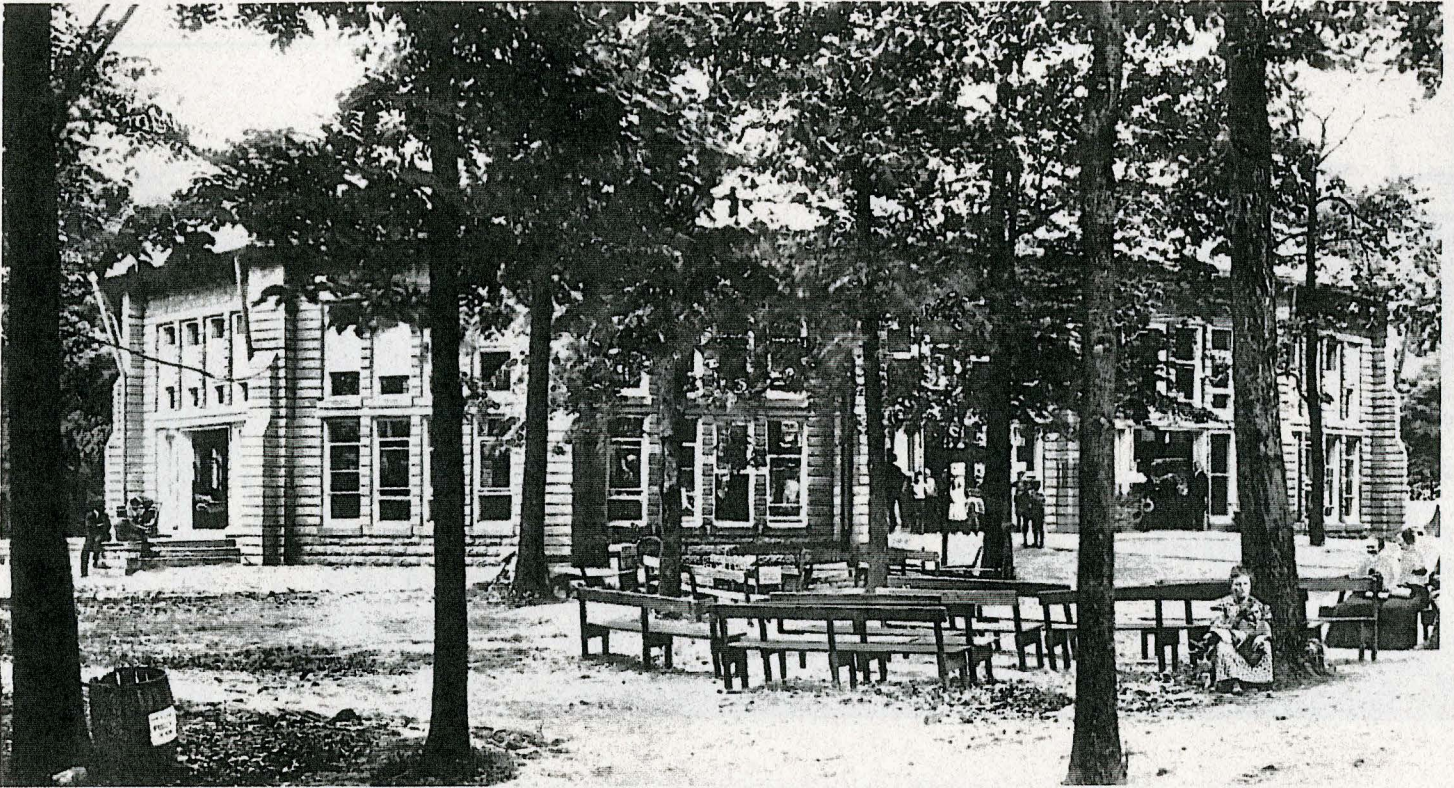
Building begins. The buildings shown here were storage buildings for equipment and supplies. These were the first buildings built—plus the barn further east. This site was behind the Trumpet Home, which became the Old Main of Anderson College.



After the storage buildings and barn were erected, the next order of business was the manufacture of concrete building blocks. The property had sufficient available deposits of sand and gravel for this undertaking. A block maker was purchased for this purpose (seen standing near the large storage shed), but all of the concrete had to be mixed manually—a heavy and labor intensive undertaking. All of this labor was volunteer labor.



This photo shows the construction of the foundation for the Trumpet Home. This is probably in the Spring of 1906. The building was large, containing 114 rooms spread over four floors (including the basement). It was completed and ready for occupancy early in December, 1906. It must have required many volunteer laborers and dawn to dusk work to accomplish this. The *Gospel Trumpet* of this period contains many News Notes concerning the produce and foodstuffs that were sent in from every direction by churches and individuals to supply meals for such a large crew of volunteer workers and family members during these months.



Above is the first camp meeting auditorium built in Anderson. The first camp meeting was held in tents in 1907. The second was in this auditorium in 1908. A large wooden auditorium was built in 1918 and the first auditorium became part of Anderson Bible Training School. Below, part of a volunteer work crew tearing down the Moundville Home. The materials, doors and windows, and other parts of the building were shipped to Anderson for use in the buildings being constructed there.

