

CONVERSATION WITH MONROE HAWLEY  
November 90

Monroe talked about the Fairgrove Church, south of Akron, which was organized in 1872. He has some old ledger books of that church. The grandfather of Viola Colston of Rochester was the preacher, S. J. Smith, and she has some information regarding this work. The church discontinued in 1885 and later resumed in 1887.

He noted that Ed Broaddus had seen some statistics which had appeared in the American Christian Review giving statistical results in Michigan after the division occurred.

C. B. Clifton was the state missionary in the 1930s and he had a circuit wherein he visited small and weak churches. There was a committee of three persons, H. H. Hawley, Brother Webb, and Brother Briggs of Akron, and they oversaw his activities. He published a periodical, THE VISITOR, to help bind these churches together. Monroe has most of the copies of these which he got from his father or other relatives.

H. H. Hawley, Monroe's uncle, had gone to the Nashville Bible School then returned to Michigan where he worked as a teacher and principal in public schools while he worked for and preached for churches. He left a ledger which recounted much of his activities for a period of time.

*also at Bible School*

Monroe was aware of the early reference to Michigan churches in B. W. Stone's CHRISTIAN MESSENGER and felt these were "Christian Connection" churches. This was the name given to the unity of the three sectional churches: from the O'Kelly movement in Virginia, the New England churches and those of the Stone efforts. Monroe said the best summary of some of these early days was found in the RESTORATION QUARTERLY my brother Roberts called "Like Fire in Dry Stubble." This was in the early days of that journal.

He also commended the recent work off College Press by Dean Mills, UNION ON THE KING'S HIGHWAY. He indicated it was a complete analysis of the union of the Stone-Campbell forces. It tells what happened when some churches united, some didn't and a factor in the latter was on the purpose of baptism.

*Lewis and H.H. Hawley were brothers.*

Monroe told of Edwin Broaddus finding a book in the Great Lakes library with Lewis Hawley's name in it so he sent it to Monroe. A Sam Keiffer had donated the book and it told of the marriage of Lewis Hawley, Monroe's uncle, which he performed. Somehow this subject brought up a statement which Monroe had heard from his parents that Hamilton was a Scottish church and Fairview was English.

(Having explained to him that I was collecting information hoping to write on the history of the church in Michigan, he said he would consider donating some of the above materials to Michigan Christian College - I told him I had some of their material - so I could have access to it. I noted that the college plans to build a new library some day and have a special room for Michigan church history.)