

EVERETT W. CULP

Everett Culp did not actually grow up in Gillam township, but his roots are here, and the local residents must have been proud to place his name on their list of honored ministers.

Born on a Gillam township farm, he was son of Jerry Cecil and Myra Logan Culp. His earliest memories are of being lifted to see his father in a casket, and of being in a cemetery, hanging on to his mother's long black dress, and his mother was crying. This when he was but twenty months of age. He was born Feb. 24, 1906.

The mother and her-three sons probably lived with her parents, Larkin and Ellen Mason Logan, until she was married to Clarence M. Sands, of Tefft. The family then moved to a farm near Rensselaer for a time, from there to a farm near Lansing, Michigan.

"I remember visiting the Gillam community one Christmas time. Uncle Ed Rockwell had a sled with long wooden runners and straw or hay in the bottom. They heated soapstones and placed in the bottom, and we visited some relatives in the moonlight. My brother Harry and Cyril Rockwell took shotguns along, hoping to shoot some rabbits but I don't think they got any.

"In August 1922, Grandpa and Grandma Logan had their Golden Wedding and we were present; A picture was taken in front of the Gillam church. I have one somewhere.

"Sands died in 1918 and mother married Lorenzo Draper in 1919. We had moved into Lansing when I was twelve and I rode a bicycle out eight miles to work on a farm for a couple of summers, until I was old enough to work in the factories.

"I graduated from Lansing High in June 1924, working on a dairy farm, in the school cafeteria and working with the athletic teams after school.

"In Sept. of 1924 I was offered an opportunity to enter Taylor university at Upland, with the promise of a job to help pay my way. I graduated in 1930.

"I suppose you wonder what this had to do with Gillam, but it did. At the first year in college, I made complete consecration to the Lord. However, my Pastor said he had a copy of a decision I had signed in response to a call when I was younger. But the college experience was in a commitment for cleansing and empowerment by the Holy Spirit.

"In 1926 I decided to organize a male quartet, and I had one going by the Fall of 1928. Somehow we were invited to spend Thanksgiving recess holding services in the Gillam church. We drove up in Chester's old Maxwell touring car. Sometimes we used my Model T, as it didn't burn as much oil as his Maxwell. It was quite cold, and plenty of snow as I recall, however we had a great time. There were several converts, some making good to this day and we hope to meet some in heaven that may have made an initial start in that direction in that meeting.

"That was the beginning of several meetings with that group .... Chester Smith being one of the group.....we now serve as members of the Faith Mission of Haiti ....

"I remember the family prayers at Grandfather Logans and the Rockwells and since we kept close ties ....I am sure I have been in their prayers many times. And I may owe the people of Gillam, which later joined with Independence, more than I had realized.

"On graduating from Taylor University, I was called to join the Baltimore Conference and got a student appointment to Westminster Seminary, now Wesley, in Washington. Last year I retired after 46 years and went out to serve at the Ager Road United Methodist Church,

West Hyattsville, Maryland, a church with more than 1100 members. I serve as an assistant.

"We are involved in missionary work, having made several trips to India and Singapore, Central America and the West India islands.

"We have one daughter, Miriam, married to a Navy Chaplain, they have three children. My wife was Ellen Smith from Manton, Michigan. We were married after she graduated from Taylor University in 1931, July 6th--She is an accomplished pianist and singer. we went out to sing the gospel on our first date and have been singing together ever since.

"We now live in a double mobile home in a park west of Washington, D.C. and I commute to the church six days a week.

"This may give you some idea about why the people of the Gillam-Independence community listed my name as in full time service for our Lord."

-â\200\224-Everett Wayne Culp  
June 5, 1978