

# The Roll of Honor of Franklin Lakes Methodist Church

by Jack Goudsward

The "Roll of Honor" was born of the conflict of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was conceived after World War 1 to honor those who served and fell in the defense of their country. This is the story of the dedication of the Roll of Honor of the Franklin Lakes Methodist Church.

The roll is made of Parchment printed in color by Kievit Signs of Paterson, N.J. and large enough to hold fifty-four names. The roll was presented to the church by the Pulis family and was hung in the Church Hall. At the time of the dedication it held thirty-three names of men from Franklin Lakes. It would eventually hold the names of fifty-two men and one woman in service. They were listed in order of their call to service.

At 7:30 p.m. on Sunday Night April 4, 1943 the Dedication Ceremony was held. The Rev. Harry Goodrich, Pastor of the Methodist Church, conducted the service and welcomed the families of the men serving. The families of the men serving were given seats of honor. He also welcomed all the visiting families. Jacob Smith, organist, along with members of the Senior and Junior Choirs provided the music. The full service had a martial air and a patriotic keynote.

The guest speaker was Chaplain Olsen Harrison. Chaplain Harrison was a Methodist Chaplain assigned to the 502 Coast Artillery stationed in Fair Lawn, N.J. The Chaplain came from Kentucky and could speak Latin, Greek, Spanish and Hebrew. He held both A.B and B.D degrees. After his assignment with the 502 Coast Artillery was completed he went to Washington, DC. and became part of the 884<sup>th</sup> AAA Bt. Later he transferred to the 5<sup>th</sup> Army 71<sup>st</sup> Infantry at



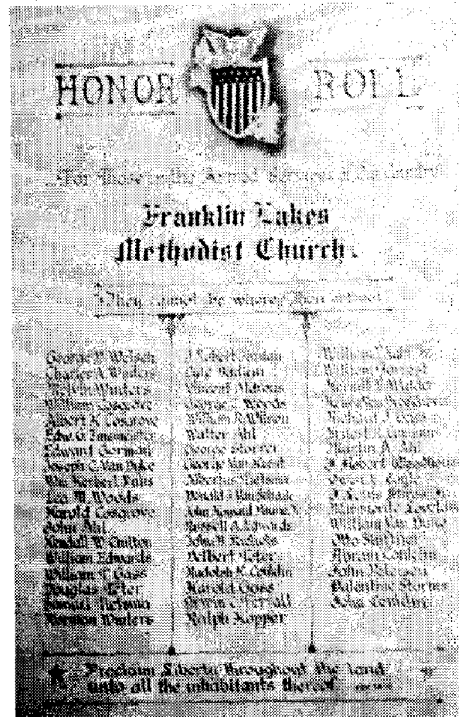
Lt. Harrison

Fort Benning Ga. He then was transferred to the 5<sup>th</sup> Army's 71<sup>st</sup> division of the XX Corp and was sent to Europe. There he crossed the Danube at Regensburg with the Army going into Austria. His Army career ended on 8-25-1946. After the war he returned to Kentucky.

The "Roll of Honor" also survived the war. Today it resides in the Archives of the Methodist Church. The members inscribed on the roll all returned to Franklin Lakes at the end of the war.

## REFERENCES

- Wyckoff News-April 1, 1943
- Paterson News-April 4, 1943
- Thomas Olsen Harrison-Military Record Card, World War II Chaplain Files, U.S. Army Chaplain Museum, Ft. Jackson, S.C.



## APPENDIX A: ROLL OF HONOR

From The FRANKLIN LAKES METHODIST CHURCH

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| GEORGE P. WELSCH     | ALBERTUS TIETSMA       |
| J. ROBERT JORDEN     | OWEN E. COYLE          |
| WILLIAM P. KALFF Jr. | LEA M. WOODS           |
| CHARLES A. WINTERS   | DONALD J. VAN SCHAIK   |
| LYLE BADKIN          | J. LOUIS STIRES Jr.    |
| WILLIAM FORREST      | HAROLD COSGROVE        |
| MELVIN WINTERS       | JOHN HOWARD PAYTTE Jr. |
| VINCENT ALDROSE      | MARGUERITE LOVELAND    |
| KERMIT E. ALDER      | JOHN AHL               |
| WILLIAM COSGROVE     | RUSSEL A. EDWARDS      |
| GEORGE C. WOODS      | WILLIAM VAN DYKE       |
| HENRY VAN BROOKHOVEN | KENDALL W. CHILTON     |
| ALBERT H. COSGROVE   | JOHN B. NICHOLS        |
| WILLIAM R. WILSON    | OTTO SHIFTER           |
| RICHARD J. GASS      | WILLIAM EDWARDS        |
| Edw. G. ZINSMEISTER  | DELBERT TETER          |
| WALTER AHL           | ABRAM CONKLIN          |
| ERNEST R. CUMMINS    | WILLIAM T. GASS        |
| EDWARD GORMAN        | RUDOLPH H. CONKLIN     |
| GEORGE STORRER       | JOHN PETERSON          |
| MARTIN A. AHL        | DOUGLAS TETER          |
| JOSEPH C. VAN DYKE   | HAROLD GOSS            |
| GEORGE VAN HEEST     | VALENTINE STORMS       |
| J. ROBERT WOODHOUSE  | NORMAN WINTERS         |
| Wm. HERBERT PULIS    | RALPH HOPPER           |