

Abraham Schneck was born on February 22, 1843, in the Canton of Bern, Switzerland. He studied for the ministry at the Mission House of the Reformed Church, near Cheboygan, Wisconsin, completing his studies in 1870. His first charge was at Reiley Creek, near Bluffton, Ohio, where he remained for about three years. From there he went as a missionary to Columbus, Nebraska, where he served also for a period of three years. His next congregation was at Newton, Iowa, his pastorate there covering six years. He spent the next eight years ministering to a church in Louisville, Kentucky. From there he went to New Knoxville, Ohio, where he preached for three years and from there to Detroit. His activities in the latter city are recited at some length in the history of the Reformed Bethany Church, the antecedent of the present Bethany Evangelical Church.

It was the Reverend Mr. Schneck who held devotional services in a vacant store at or near the corner of Jefferson and Sheridan Avenues about 1888 which developed into the small congregation domiciled in the little frame church which stood on the east side of Shipherd Street, just in line with St. Paul Avenue. As Mr. Schneck was educated and ordained in the Reformed Synod of the Northwest (Reformirte Kirche des Nordwestens) the newly formed church constituted a part of that denomination.

After organizing this church he remained with it until 1902 when he left to minister to a congregation at Belvedere, Tennessee. Although he actively conducted the duties of his office at this place for but one year, he continued to live there with his family for two years longer, returning, at the

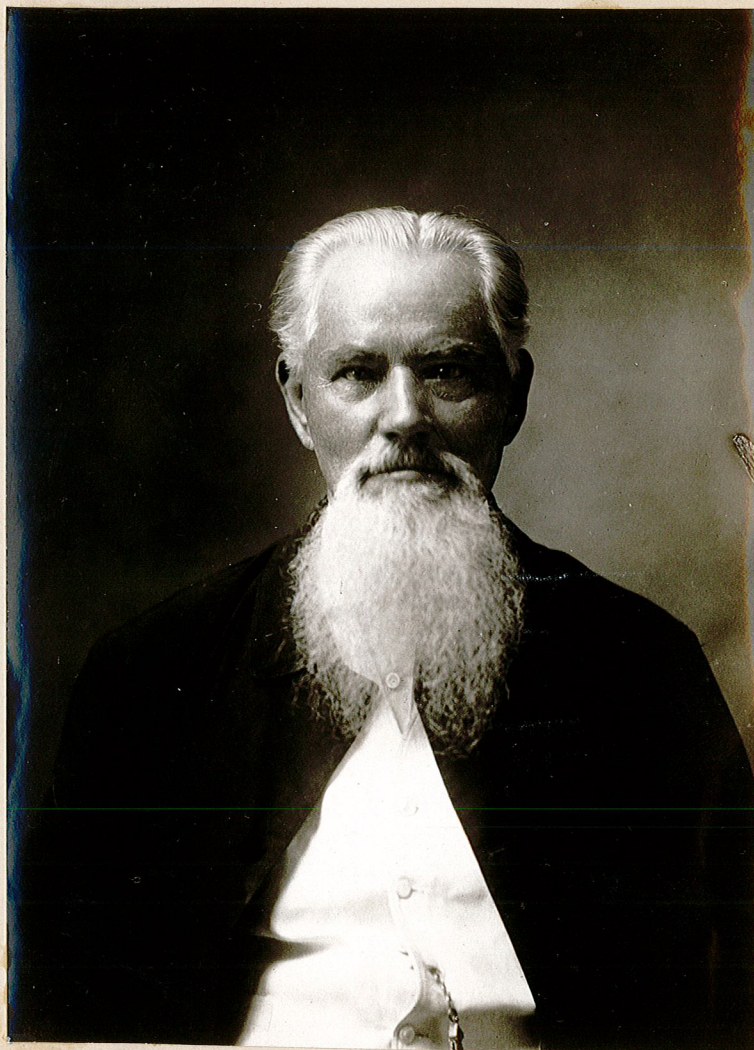


end of that time to Detroit in April, 1905, succeeding the Reverend Mr. J. G. Steinert. After a three years' residence here as pastor, he returned to his former congregation at Newton, Iowa, where he conducted the duties of his office for six years.

The fact that he was called to serve and did serve two widely separated congregations a second time gives silent but eloquent testimony to the esteem in which his congregations must have held him. Those still living in Detroit and who knew him during his ministry here, speak highly of him both as a man and as a minister.

He died in Newton, Iowa, on November 19, 1913, at the age of nearly seventyone years. His body was buried at Newton at which place two of his children also are at rest.





Mr. Abraham Schneck.  
1843 - 1913.