

**From:** "Ruth M. Brandon" <aremb@mac.com>  
**Subject:** **Ralph A. Brandon in Hamersville**  
**Date:** 30 September 2006 20:42:56 GMT+00:00  
**To:** Paul Brandon <nodnarb@sover.net>, Ann Brandon <ambrandon2@verizon.net>, Sam Minter <abulsme@abulsme.com>



Hi - I preach in Hamersville tomorrow - their Homecoming Sunday. So I have gone through the entire apple crate of material Paul brought me a couple years ago. A lot of it is 1932-41 materials like I save also - resources for Christmas, Mother's Day and other special occasions but I attach the note I have written to remind Hamersville folk who he was, I have a clipping of his ordination in Versailles on June 19, 1927 as well as the clipping cited about his Hamersville time. There is Covington material also and Waterford Maine material. And there are the receipts and correspondence of mother's after his death getting his scholarship debts cancelled and paying funeral expenses etc and lots of other receipts from that time.

And there is a charming hand written account of his having his tonsils out in a home surgery at the home of DP Hurlburt with mother at his side attending. And a composition by Uncle Phil about the three brothers, their aspirations, moves far from home and back done in 1936 before Uncle Ed had married. I may photocopy some of these things and send them along. but this is it for today - now I need to write a sermon and decide on a mission moment story - it is already 4:30 p.m. Saturday!

Hope all is well.

Love from here.

P.S> Have failed to find the document to attach so am cutting and pasting here:

Hamersville Homecoming Oct 1, 2006

I do greet you in the name of the other churches of SONKA and thank you for your participation through the years together with the wider church - together we share Christ's ministry.

However, especially Honored - father a pastor in the larger parish of which this church was a part - 1930s

Apple crate - he clearly worked a lot with camping and youth and drama and song - found a lot of 1930s resources for recreation and parties - things like a Golden Rule Halloween Party -

Letter Addressed to Rev. Ralph A. Brandon, Hamersville, Ohio from the Danforth Foundation - dated March 20, 1939. It apparently accompanied a free copy of the book, "I Dare You" addressed to youth and for use right here. The letter reads, "After your youth Sunday in your church, Mr. Danforth would appreciate a copy of your program and local clippings. It is very much the Danforth Foundation's desire to recognize talent for leadership in youth wherever it may appear and to stimulate youth to purposeful living. To cooperate with your Four-fold youth Program, this Foundation invites you to recommend a high school boy or a high school girl (or both if especially outstanding) attending your church regularly, who, in your judgment has demonstrated distinct qualities of leadership..."

I also found a report my father gave to the Ohio Conference of Congregational Christian Churches in 1941 when he chaired something called the Rural Church Commission. By then he had left you for Covington but clearly his report has Hamersville and Higginsport and many other rural places in mind. I quote briefly and want you to know that I agree with him about the importance of rural ministry. He said:

"Recognizing that there is no single method which will fit all situations...we re-emphasize the need..

to work with these churches, study their problems, and guide them to better programs of service. We suggest that pastors of the larger village churches look around them and see if there isn't a crossroads church which can be given a lift by a preaching service[on Sunday afternoon or evening]. Such an expression of interest might prove the most profitable missionary work your church ever did..Beware of trying to get the little church to close up and come in with the village church,,,they must be given the Christian message out where they are...we recommend that each Association have a committee to aid the small churches...etc...In order that the life stream of our Christian faith may be kept flowing in the town and country churches of Ohio and from them into the life of our cities, we urge the careful consideration of these recommendations..Do not let our Rural churches become like think emaciated cows, lowing at the barnyard gate. Feed them and they will become contented producers of a nourishing Christian faith that will vitalize and save the Church and civilization."

When my father was here, you in Bible Chapel were not alone receiving his services. I read from a December 17, 1938 clipping: Ministering to the spiritual needs of one church is quite a job for any clergyman today. But having six congregations all widely separated, is a real task. That's the unique position in which the Rev. Ralph A. Brandon, pastor of Hamersville Bible Chapel finds himself. The local church belongs to the Christian Fellowship Parish, including churches in Brown and Clermont counties...located in Hamersville, Higginsport, Mt. Holly, Port Isabel and Clermontville on Route 52. Today Bantam Presbyterian Church joined the fellowship...There are nearly 800 families in the entire parish and for several years another minister assisted with the work. Four months ago, the Rev. Theron Zimmerman resigned, leaving the Rev. mr. Brandon in charge. Another minister is being sought.

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