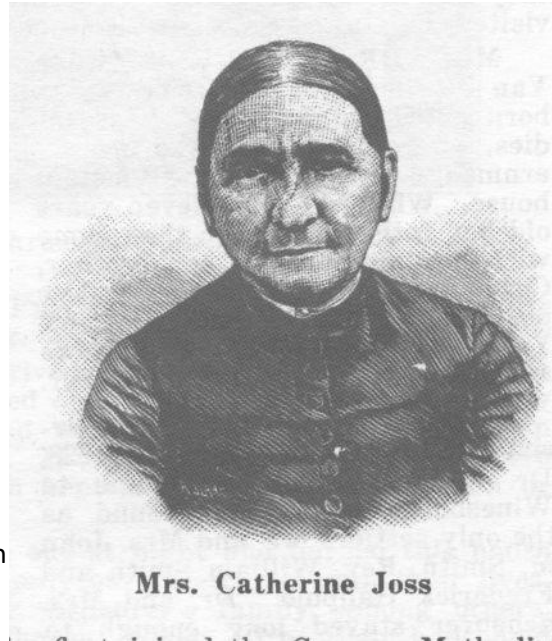


MRS CATHERINE JOSS (1820-1907)

Oldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Smith, came with them as a nine-year-old girl to Winesburg in May' 1829, a trip which she well remembered. To her we are all indebted for many interesting incidents connected with those early years at Winesburg which she relates in her "Autobiography," which is a book which everyone who was ever connected with Winesburg should read. It is highly interesting and profitable, and at times thrilling reading. It contains the experiences of tribulation, suffering and fire through which she walked her hatred of the curse of strong drink and her bitter experiences because of it; her optimistic spirit through it all; her patience and heroic self-sacrifice for her own family; her home and faith; her contempt for a religion which flirted or compromised with drink; her struggle and longing for years for a real religion brings deliverance, forgiveness, peace and joy and the witness of God's Spirit to this blessed fact: and how she finally, after much tribulation, found Christ as her satisfying portion, her "All and in all"; how and why she first joined the German Methodist church and then the English Methodist church and later the Salvation Army; her experiences of persecution, referred to elsewhere in this booklet of the writer.



If you have not read her book you have missed a great blessing. Mrs. Joss was a remarkable woman with an extraordinary experience, a deep devotion to and an unflinching faith in her Lord. Measured in terms of Christ and His love, her name is written high in Heaven. She belongs to that army described by John the Revelator in his vision of Heaven (Rev. 7:13-14). "What are these which are arrayed in white robes and whence came they? And I said until him, Sir, thou knowest.

And he said unto me, 'These are they that have come up out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.' "

From the time of her marriage in 1839, Mrs. Joss and her family lived in various cities and towns in several different states, but at different times came back to Winesburg-particularly at the time of the death of her father in 1872, and before her mother passed away in 1889-in each instance residing at Winesburg for a more or less extended time. During these times she was one of the moving spirits and active workers, first in the German Methodist, then in the English Methodist church.

She died in 1907 and was buried at New Philadelphia, Ohio.