

Rev. Benjamin Franklin Doughty, Chaplin, Co. F & S, 8 MS Cavalry, US

- 1824 November 11: Born in Schodack Center, Rensselaer County, New York.
- 1849 August 8: Married Cordelia Grant, daughter of Rev. Loring Grant.
- 1855 June 29: The New York State Census enumerated in Steuben County, NY showed Benjamin lived with his wife and two children. His occupation was listed as Clergyman.
- 1860 July 14: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in St. Joseph County, MI showed Benjamin lived with his wife and three children. His occupation was listed as Clergyman.
- 1861 August 24: Enlisted into the 11th MI Cavalry, Co. S as a Major in White Pigeon, MI.
September:
- Besides those regular Regiments there are four Independent Regiments formed--two of Cavalry, and two of Infantry, as follows:

THE STOCKTON REGIMENT.—Col., T. B. W. Stockton; Lieut. Col., J. V. Reuble; Major, N. E. Welch. This Regiment started from Detroit on Monday last, and are now en route for the seat of war.

THE MAY REGIMENT.—Col., — May, White Pigeon; Lieut. Col., W. L. Stoughton, Sturgis; Major, B. F. Doughty, Sturgis. This Regiment is encamped at White Pigeon, and is nearly full. It will soon be ready for service.
- 1862 October 13: Due to sickness, Doughty was transferred to the 8th MI Cav and he served as Chaplain.
- 1863 November 3: While he was in the army, Doughty's eight-year-old daughter, Jane, died.

¹ The American Citizen, Jackson, MI, Thurs, 19 Sep 1861, pg. 2 (accessed genealogybank.com)

- 1864 November 30: Doughty was present during the Battle of Franklin. Six Division, 1st Brigade under Thomas J. Harrison.
- 1863 November 3: Benjamin's daughter Jane died at the age of eight.
- 1865 April 29: Mustered out of the Cavalry-Resigned & Discharged Disability
- 1870 July 14: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in St. Joseph County, MI showed Benjamin lived with his wife and three children. His occupation was listed as Preacher. His father in law, Loring Grant lived with the family. He was also a Preacher.
- September 13: Loring Grant, Benjamin's father in law, died at his residence.

—Rev. Loring Grant died at the residence of his son-in-law, Rev. B. F. Doughty, in Pentwater, on the 13th of September, aged 82 years.

- 1871 *“Rev. B.F. Doughty, Presiding Elder of the Pentwater District, reported...”*

Rev. B. F. Doughty, Presiding Elder of the Pentwater District, reported a year of hard labor and some progress. A church, 35 by 53, is nearly completed at Ludington. At Hart and Whitehall the cause is seriously suffering for want of houses of worship, and at the latter place outside help is imperatively demanded. At Sauble River a parsonage is nearly completed, and at one other point in the district the same fact is true.

- 1874 District church reports noted “There has been considerable sickness among the ministers, and three of them—B.F. Spencer, B.F. Doughty, and J.S. Valentine—are incapacitated for work by reason of failing health.”⁴

- 1876 November: Doughty's son Charles was killed in a train accident.

² St. Joseph Saturday Herald, 09 Oct 1870, Sun, pg. 1

³ Detroit Tribune, Detroit, MI, Thurs, 21 Sep, 1871, pg. 5 (accessed genealogybank.com)

⁴ Detroit Tribune, Detroit, MI, Fri, 11 Sep 1874, pg. 1 (accessed genealogybank.com)

Charles Doughty, a brakeman on the Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad, was killed a few miles north of Fort Wayne Saturday morning by falling under a train.

Charles Doughty was killed Friday night at Swan's Station, Ind., on the G. R. & I. R. R. He was a brakeman, and the son of Rev. B. F. Doughty, of Sturgis.

1878 January 15: Benjamin was listed as an officer in the Royal Arch Masons.

THE GRAND CHAPTER
Of Royal Arch Masons will meet in annual session at Masonic Hall at high twelve today. The following are the officers of that body:

- G. H. P.—O. L. Spaulding, St. Johns.
- D. G. H. P.—Chas. J. Kruger, Grand Rapids.
- G. K.—David C. Spaulding, Lyons.
- G. Scribe—S. H. Norton, Pontiac.
- G. Secretary—W. P. Innes, Grand Rapids.
- G. Treasurer—Rufus W. Land n, Niles.
- G. Chaplain—Rev. Wm. Stowe, Grand Haven.
- G. C. of H.—Chas. H. Axtell, Ionia.
- G. P. S.—David Bovee, Coldwater.
- G. R. A. C.—C. W. Strait, Jackson.
- G. Lecturer—Rev B. F. Doughty, Sturgis.
- G. M. Third Veil—R. H. Morrison, Sturgis.

1879 June 8: Benjamin died of chronic diarrhea in Sturgis, Michigan. He was buried in Oak Lawn Cemetery in St. Joseph County, Michigan.

⁵ The Bedford Star, Bedford, IN, Sat, 18 Nov 1876, pg. 1 (accessed newspapers.com)

⁶ Jackson Daily Citizen, Jackson, MI, Tue, 14 Nov 1876, pg. 2 (accessed genealogybank.com)

⁷ Detroit Free Press, Detroit, MI, Tue, 15 Jan 1878, pg. 1 (accessed newspapers.com)



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MEMOIR OF BENJAMIN F. DOUGHTY.

Rev. Benjamin F. Doughty was born in Schoduck, N. Y., Nov. 11, 1824, and died in Sturgis, Mich., June 8, 1879.

He was the subject of deep religious convictions in his boyhood,

but neglected his soul's salvation until he was about fifteen years of age, when he sought and found the Saviour, and rejoiced in the evidence of forgiveness. He soon after united with the M. E. church, and ever after maintained an earnest zeal in the cause of Christ.

In 1844 he was licensed to preach at Centerville, and for three years rendered valuable service to the church as a local preacher, while he sought that mental discipline which so eminently fitted him for success in the Christian ministry.

He was admitted on trial in the Michigan Conference in 1847, and appointed to Edwardsburg Circuit; he was then appointed in succession to Allegan, Berrien, St. Joseph, Ganges, Breedsville, and Flat Rock. In all these large and difficult charges he was in labors more abundant, and was crowned with a good degree of success. But his health so far failed that he was obliged to superannuate, and remained in this relation for two years, preaching most of the time, however, as a supply.

At the division of the Conference in 1855, he fell into the Detroit Conference, but soon transferred to the Michigan, and served Centerville, White Pigeon, Constantine, and Sturgis.

⁸ Photo taken by Megan Gorsuch (accessed on findagrave.com)

When the rebellion broke out in 1861, Brother Doughty was among the first to place his life in peril to save his country. He went as a major of the Eleventh Mich. Infantry, and served in that capacity for one year, when impaired health compelled him to resign. He soon reëntered the service as chaplain of the Eighth Cavalry, in which relation he served to the end of the war, contracting the chronic diarrhea which finally terminated his life.

On his return from the war he was appointed to Niles, where he remained two years, witnessing the conversion of many souls. In 1867 he was appointed to Pentwater District, a new and hard field. Although in feeble health, he here toiled arduously for four years, discharging the duties and meeting the responsibilities of the presiding eldership with honor to himself and great usefulness to the church. His subsequent fields of labor were Charlotte, Prairieville, and Holland. His health having become greatly enfeebled, in 1873 he asked a superannuated relation, and settled in Sturgis, where he remained until called to his better home in the bright and beautiful world of light and life.

He was married Aug. 8, 1849, to Miss Cordelia Grant, daughter of Rev. Loring Grant of the Genesee Conference, who, with two daughters, survives him. One lovely little daughter died while he was in the army. While this death was to him a great affliction, the severest trial of his life occurred in November, 1876, when his only son, twenty-three years of age, was killed on the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad. At the time of the accident Brother Doughty was in a distant part of the state, reaching home just in time for the burial. When he stood by the casket and looked upon

the mangled remains of his cherished and noble boy, his whole frame trembling with emotion, and the bitter tears of grief coursing down his face, for some moments he seemed to be in a great mental struggle. But through grace he gained the victory, and exclaimed, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." A few days before his death he said to the writer of this memoir, "The Saviour has always been very precious to me, but since Charlie's death I have enjoyed such a richness, such a fullness, and such a depth of the love of God as I never enjoyed before."

The last four months of his life were months of intense suffering, but grace sustained him, and not a murmur escaped his lips. For forty-eight hours before his death, with the exception of brief intervals, he was unconscious; but in all his conscious moments his faith was firm and his hope abiding. At length the moment of release arrived, and he died as none but the Christian can die.

He was a man of true and genuine piety, an able, practical, and impressive preacher, an ardent Methodist in principle and practice, a true friend, and a most estimable and worthy man. As a minister he rendered valuable service to the cause of Christ. Of the twenty-three years of his active ministry, the most of them were spent in pioneer work—laying the foundations upon which others have builded. May God help us to follow him as he followed Christ.

J. BOYNTON.

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⁹ Methodist Episcopal Church. Michigan Conference. Annual Minutes of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. [MI: The Conference], pg. 43-45 (accessed hathitrust.org)

