

BRUSH VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH.

Mr. Hugh Evans, it is believed, was the first Baptist plant which took root and flourished in Brush Valley. After him came a family by the name of Stevens. Branches of both of these families still remain in the valley, and maintain the principles which they received from the fathers.

As far back as 1824 (possibly earlier) pioneer preachers from Beulah and Ebensburg, in Cambria county, made occasional visits to the valley, and preached in the house or barn of Hugh Evans, or under the shade trees, as circumstances required. Among these pioneers, the following named ministers are still remembered with grateful affection, viz: Revs. Thomas Williams, Benjamin Davis, John Thomas, Thomas E. Thomas, and Festus Tibbot. All these, except Benjamin Davis, are gone to their rest.

The Brush Valley church was not organized until the year 1839. Occasional preaching, however, continued from the first to be enjoyed by the people. In September of the year last named, Rev. Samuel Conrad and John P. Rockafellow were called for consultation, and, after seeking divine counsel and guidance, concluded to organize the little company into a regular church. Its constituents numbered sixteen members. Since its organization it has baptized into its fellowship 139 converts. Its present membership is 42. The church has suffered much of late by the removal and death of its most substantial supporters.

The ministers named below have served the church, either as pastors or temporary supplies, viz: Revs. Samuel Conrad, Aaron Neff, Thomas Wilson, Samuel C. Morris, John W. Evans, Joseph R. Morris, Franklin Hollen, A. Shadrach, W. P. England, C. H. Prescott, G. W. Baker and A. B. Runyan. At present the church is without a pastor.