

COOKPORT BAPTIST CHURCH.

In 1868-8, a number of Baptists residing in Cookport and vicinity, some of whom being members of the Pine Flat Church, and others of the East Mahoning Church, deemed it very desirable to have a place of worship in the village. They accordingly set about the matter in good earnest, and succeeded. Rev. W. P. England, pastor of the Pine Flat Church, rendered them good service by preaching for them a part of his time. Several persons professed conversion and were baptized.

In 1870, be advise of Council, they were organized as a branch of the East Mahoning Church, with thirty-two members. For about three months in this year, Rev. J. E. Dean served the church and the branch as pastor.

In 1871, Rev. T. C. Gessford was called to the pastorate of the mother church, and ministered to it and the branch till July, 1874, when his ministry came to a sudden close.

In 1875, the old pastor of the East Mahoning Church, Rev. S. Furman, was recalled, and 1876-7, preached alternately at the church and at the branch.

In April, 1878, by advise of Council, called for consultation, the branch was organized as an independent body, under the name of the First Baptist Church of Cookport, Rev. Furman serving both churches jointly.