

## EAST MAHONING BAPTIST CHURCH.

In the summer of 1850, Rev. Samuel Furman, then pastor of the Two Lick and Pine Flats churches, visited, by request, the neighborhood of the Butterbaugh's, and preached a sermon on the old log schoolhouse near John O'Harrow's. The service resulted in the awakening of O'Harrow and wife and John Spricher and wife. At the next meeting these four converts were baptized.

In the autumn of 1851, Mr. Furman, assisted by Rev. Thos. Wilson, held a protracted meeting in the neighborhood, with good results. Ten persons professed conversion, and were baptized. During this meeting the East Mahoning church was organized. Its constituents were David Butterbaugh and Frederick Butterbaugh, with their wives, dismissed from the Two Lick church; J. O'Harrow and J. Spricher, with their wives, and Margaret Langham, dismissed from the Shiloh church; James Davis and wife, dismissed from the Livermore church, together with ten baptized at the time – twenty-one in all.

From this time forward, Mr. Furman preached statedly for the new church, every fourth week, occupying for two years the log schoolhouse. In 1853, the church built a plain and commodious frame meeting-house, burdened now with no debt, in which the still worship.

For ten successive years the church held a yearly meeting of some days' continuance, which were greatly blessed, the least number of hopeful conversions at any one meeting being ten, and the greatest twenty-one.

In 1863, Mr. Furman resigned his pastorate, having served the church faithfully for the space of ten years. He was succeeded by Rev. Franklin Hollen, who served the church for but one year, at which time the former pastor was recalled and ministered to the church for six years more, from April, 1864, to March, 1870, at which time he again resigned, and, with his family, removed to Tennessee. In the summer of 1870, Rev. J. E. Dean served the church for three months, and in the fall of this year, Rev. T. C. Gepford was called to the pastorate, and filled the office until July, 1874, when he was dismissed. A third call was now extended to Rev. Furman, the old pastor. This he accepted, and in the spring of 1875, moved from Tennessee to the parsonage of the East Mahoning Church, and remains to this date, April 21, 1879, serving the church with fidelity and acceptance.

*Brief Summary:* – East Mahoning Baptist church was organized in 1851, with 21 constituent members. The whole number added to the church since, by baptism and otherwise (as by letter and experience), is 530. In 1878, 23 of its members were, by their request, dismissed, for the purpose of organizing a Baptist church at Fairview, and 30 others, in the same year, applied for and received letters, to organize the First Baptist Church of Cookport.

Removed from the church, from 1851 to 1879, by letter, exclusion, and death, 375. The present membership is 123.