

## SKETCH OF HOMER CITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Homer City congregation was formed by a transfer of Centre congregation under the care of the U. P. Presbytery of Conemaugh, by direction of said Presbytery, at a meeting held at Shelocta, June 17, 1873.

Centre congregation was organized September 20, 1856, by Rev. M. H. Wilson, and Elders George Lowman and Samuel Wilson, (in accordance with action of A. R. Presbytery of Blairsville.) The elders elected in the new organization were Arch'd S. Pattison and Wm. C. McCrea. The number of members forming the new organization was about forty. The first administration of the Lord's supper in the congregation, was by Rev. M. H. Wilson, August 24, 1856. Rev. J. C. Greer, was called to be their pastor in the spring of 1857, and was ordained and installed in June, 1857.

This relation continued till the war broke out, when Mr. Greer resigned and entered the army as a captain in the 206<sup>th</sup> Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers. A call was made out for the pastoral services of Rev. D. H. McClellan, which was accepted, and he was ordained and installed pastor, September 10, 1867. This pastorate continued for about five years, when at the request of Mr. McClellan, it was dissolved.

A petition was presented to Presbytery of Conemaugh, in the year 1867, asking of the organization of a Mission Station at Homer City, for various reasons given, the request was granted.

An effort was made to erect a house of worship in Homer City, and a proposition was made to the members of the Presbyterian body, that a Union Church should be built, each contributing half the cost and enjoying half the benefits. This was rejected.

The congregation determined to build for themselves. The building was completed and dedicated August 1, 1869. The entire cost of the building and lot was \$2,000. The whole amount was paid within a few months of the completion of the building. At a meeting of the congregation July 24, 1869, the following were elected trustees: for three years, Martin Kier; for two years, Robert Carson; for one year, Peter Kinter.

On account of the growth of the organization, and the increasing weakness of Centre, Presbytery resolved unanimously to transfer the organization from Centre to Homer City – the congregation to be called henceforth Homer City. Order granted at Shelveater, June 17, 1873.

A call was made out by the congregation at Union, with Crete congregation, for the pastoral services of Rev. H. R. Graham, and he was installed pastor, December 8, 1874.

The present officers, January 1, 1880, are:

*Pastor* – Rev. Henry Q. Graham.

*Session* – Robert Hammill, Martin Kier, Alexander L. Mitchell and John Devinney.

*Trustees* – Thompson C. McCrea, J. R. Warner, James Allison, Robert Carson, Wm. H. Douthett, Peter Kinter.

*Sabbath School Officers* – Superintendent, J. R. Warner; assistant Superintendent, Robert Carson.

*Teachers* – Mrs. M. J. Bouthett, R. Judson Warner, Mrs. Elizabeth Carson, Miss Belle Lytle, Mrs. A. J. Graham, Miss Maggie Mitchell, Wm. H. Douthett, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith.

The annual meeting of the congregation for the election of trustees, &c., is fixed by the charter on the first Monday of January.