

## MANOR CONGREGATION OF GERMAN BAPTISTS.

[From Sketch by Joseph Halsopple.]

This congregation embraces all members with an area bounded by the "Purchase Line." West by Mahoning road and the road from Indiana to Blacklick, south by Blacklick creek, and eastward extends into Cambria county, without any definite line. The first meetings were conducted by elders Samuel Lidy, of Cambria county, and George Rairich, of Armstrong county. Elder Lidy had been elected to the ministry in 1825, and preached in Somerset county, and moved to this county about 1840; like most ministers of the brethren, labored on his farm during the week and visited his brethren, preaching for them, on Sundays, until his death in April, 1873. Among the pioneer members of this congregation were Mrs. Mary and Catharine Fyock, *nee* Hoffman.

The organization of the society was effected in 1843, at the house of John Soyster; the record of constituency now lost, but Elder Lidy was commissioned Bishop and Adam Helman and David Brown elected deacons, probably at the same time, for Mr. Helman was chosen for the ministry but two years later. John Soyster, a minister also, moved here from the east. Levi Fry was elected to the ministry in 1847, David Ober 1855, Samuel Brallier 1858, Joseph Halsopple 1866, Daniel Brallier 1868. Calae Secrist 1873.

The present ministerial record is, Bishop, David Ober, advanced to this office on September 3d, 1871; Levi Fry, Joseph Halsopple. Daniel Brailler and Jacob W. Smouse, the last named moving here in 1879. The board of deacons consists of Emanuel Brallier, Jacob Fyock, George Wise, S. S. Cresswell, H. F. Burkebile, Isaac Secrist, Levi Good, Levi R. Brallier and Daniel H. Ruffner.

The membership in 1878 was near 180, but is reduced by removal to about 160, and the Sunday schools have an aggregate attendance of 150.

The first meeting of the congregation were in the houses of David brown, Adam Gier and John Blickenderfer in Cherry Hill township, but since they have erected a house of worship at Manor, near Greenville, one at Purchase Line, Green township, one at Belsana, Cambria county, and have one in course of construction at Crooked creek, Payne township, and also some stations where services are held in school houses. These buildings are not large, but comfortable, erected at a cost of about seven hundred dollars each, and were built in the order named in the years 1856, 1870 and 1875. Bishop Lidy lived to see two of these completed. The tribute paid by one who knew his worth is couched in the words "he was a good citizen, firm friend and devoted christian.