

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT NINEVEH, EAST WHEATFIELD
TOWNSHIP.

The Methodists had a congregation at this place as early as 1836. They held their meetings in the brick house, the residence of John M. Barber, up to 1840. This is the oldest house of the kind in this section of the county, and was built by Isaac Rodgers in the year 1816. A subscription paper was gotten up by John Barber and Daniel Pershing, dated September 28, 1840, asking the people to contribute to it for the purpose of building a Methodist church on the farm of John M. Barber. This paper was numerously signed, each one having the privilege to pay his subscription in labor or material for building purposes. Two hundred and fifty dollars was raised in this way towards the building. The house was let during the summer of 1840, to James Ebbs, a contractor and builder, and was completed during the fall of the same year. The edifice was a one-story building with the ceiling arched, at the highest point about twenty feet from the floor, and twenty-eight to thirty-five feet, and having a capacity to seat comfortably about two hundred and fifty persons. This church was dedicated by the Rev. Williams, and very popular Methodist minister, assisted, as I have been told the a colored minister. The membership numbered then about twenty persons.

The Methodists continued to worship in this house until the fall of 1871. During the early part of the summer of 1871, the trustees resolved to make an effort to build a new building, and subscription papers for this purpose were put into the hands of the pastor, Rev. J. N. Pershing, and John R. Grow, now in Paris, Mo. They succeeded in getting about two thousand dollars subscribed, when the building was let to John Dodson and Frank Herlinger, contractors and builders, at fourteen hundred dollars. The building was completed during the fall of 1871 and dedicated by the Rev. I. C. Pershing, of the Pittsburgh Female College, on the first Sabbath of November, 1871. There was a sufficient amount subscribed on the day of dedication to free the church from all encumbrance. The entire cost reached a few dollars over nineteen hundred. The size of the building (frame) is 32x44, and is sixteen feet high on the inside, having stained glass in the windows and two doors. The membership at the time the new church was built numbered twelve persons. The present membership is over one hundred.