

THE MOUNT PLEASANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF COVODE.

Forty-one years ago, this section of Indiana county was sparsely settled. Where Covode and Marchand now stand, was then in its original state, and there was no church in the township. In 1840, the Round Top (German Reformed) church was erected, and in the following year the Evangel Association log church was built. In a few years later, a Union church was partly erected in Covode, but was never finished. Except to make this point of occasional preaching, it never accomplished much.

As early as 1840, the rev. John Carothers, then pastor at Gilgal and Perry churches, preached four sermons each year at the log school house, near this place. This, in connection with occasional discourses in the previous summer, by Rev. Mr. Knott, a licentiate of the presbytery, were the origin of Mount Pleasant Congregation. In 1854, twenty-eight members from Gilgal, and two from Perry, having to travel from five to eight miles to their respective churches, asked presbytery for an organization at this place. The request was granted, and the organization was completed in the same year. Of then thirty members, only four are at present on our roll, viz: John Gourley, Mrs. Nancy Crawford, William G. Lewis and Margaret his wife.

In 1854, even before the organization was granted, preparations were commenced for the building of a church. This was completed at a cost of fifteen hundred dollars, exclusive of gratuitous labor by members. On the 8th of September, 1855, a frame edifice was dedicated, free of debt, save a not of fifty dollars, which was soon paid, without the congregation's knowing when or by whom.

Rev. John Carothers was the first pastor and continued in charge till 1867. From 1869 to 1872 Rev. C. Moore served in pastoral relation. In 1877 the present minister, Rev. W. F. Gibson assumed the care of the congregation. In the absence of settled pastors, the church was attended by supplies. The first elders were William Black, of Gilgal; John Gourley, of Perry; William G. Lewis and John L. McComb. The two latter were elected at the organization.

A comfortable parsonage has been erected by the congregation, and during the past season the church has been repaired and refurnished.

Although Rockridge church, of Richmond, was chiefly formed from Mount Pleasant, yet the latter is enjoying a degree of prosperity little dreamed of in its earlier career.