

THE OLD WASHINGTON CHURCH, RAYNE TOWNSHIP.

This church was erected on a lot donated by Wm. A. Patterson and Elizabeth Depseter is wife, and then situated in Washington township. The building commenced on the 6th of February, 1828, and was under the supervision of James McGlaughlin (Church of England), Adam Stumpf (Dutch Reformed), and John bell (Presbyterian), who were selected as trustees by Mr. Patterson.

The house was a log building thirty feet square, the walls of which stand firm to this day, and was built by the inhabitants of the neighborhood without regard to denomination.

At different times preachers of the several persuasions would occupy the building, and the people would come many miles to attend the services, the nearest church being Gilgal, a distant of seven miles.

The first minister to officiate in this church was the Rev. N. G. Sharretts of the Indiana Luthern society, who conducted a service on the 18th of June, 1828. Rev. David Barclay, Presbyterian, of Punxsutawney, preached here Sunday, July 6th, of the same year. Rev. David Blair, still living, now of the U. P. Church, often preached here in the same year and the following year. Also we find Rev. Summerville, Methodist; John Thomas, Baptist; and Althouse, Dutch Reformed, holding services in the same or the subsequent year.

On the 15th of August, 1829, Rev. Sharretts was engaged to preach every four weeks for one year. On the 13th of November, 1833, Rev. John Kirkpatrick, Presbyterian, was installed by Revs. Reed and Lewis. He held the first communion on the 17th of November, 1833, and continued pastor of the congregation till they erected the new church about a quarter of a mile from the old building.

There are about thirty persons buried in the cemetery connected with the house. A lot was also given for "Seminary and other school purposes." For some years there has been no preaching in this old church, yet the memories of the old settlers are green with precious remembrances of the happy hours passed therein.