

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF INDIANA

Indiana county was judicially organized in December, 1806, but there was no stated preaching in the county seat at that time. There appears to have been occasional preaching from 1800 to 1806, by several ministers of the Presbytery at Redstone. The people assembled in the woods according to the custom of the times, and the hardy missionary spoke to them from a rough platform erected for that purpose under the open canopy of heaven.

The early records afford but little information respecting this church, but it was organized in 1807, by the Rev. J. W. Henderson. It consisted at first of only a few members. After the organization, Mr. Henderson, preached as stated supply one-third of his time for one year. During 1808, the revs. George Hill Samuel Proter, Thomas Davis, William Speer, and others preached as occasional supplies.

The first settled pastor was the Rev. James Galbraith. He was installed pastor over the united congregation of Harmony and Gilgal, in 1808. He was called to Indiana, for one half of his time, and installed pastor in 1809. Mr. Galbraith resigned the pastorate charge and removed to Huntingdon county. He died at Ligonier in 1857.

The next pastor was the Rev. John Reed. He came a licentiate from Washington county, and was engaged in October, 1817, to preach to the congregations of Indiana and Gilgal, as stated supply. In October, 1818, he was ordained and installed pastor of these congregations, by the Presbytery of Redstone. In 1839, he resigned the charge of Gilgal, and devoted the whole of his time to this society till his death, on the 27th of September 1840.

Mr. Reed was succeeded by the Rev. Lewis W. Williams. He came as licentiate in 1840, soon after Mr. Reed's death, and in May, 1841, he was ordained and installed pastor, by the Presbytery of Blairsville. Mr. Williams resigned in the spring of 1844. He died at Landisburg, Pa., in 1858.

The next pastor was the Rev. Anderson B. Quay,* who was ordained and installed in May, 1844. Mr. Quay resided in 1850, and died at Rochester, Pa., in 1857. Mr. Quay was succeeded by Rev. A. McElwain, on the 7th of September, 1852. The latter's successor was Rev. David Hall, D. D., in May 1874. He was ordained and installed on the 30th of June 1874.

Dr. Hall, was born in Armstrong county, on the 13th of December, 1828, and was the son of David and Margaret Hall *nee* Hindman. The former was a son of David Hall, an officer in the war of 1812, and on some expeditions west, located lands in what are now Portage and Summitt counties, in the Western Reserve, Ohio, whither most of the family subsequently removed, leaving the father of our subject on the old homestead, where the latter was born.

He attended a academy at Kittanning under the direction of Rev. Dr. Joseph Painter, and Jefferson College, Cannonsburg, Washington county, graduating from the latter in the class of 1850. He took a theological course in the Western Theological Seminary in Allegheny county, graduating in 1854, and a post-graduate course in Princeton Theological Seminary in 1854-5. He was principal of the Witherspoon Institute, a Presbyterian academy in Butler, in 1850-'51; was elected a professor of the Latin language and literature in Jefferson College in 1857, and served as a member of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at New Orleans in 1858.

He was licensed by the Presbytery of Allegheny, June 20, 1854, and was co-pastor with Rev. Dr. James Hoge, of the First Presbyterian Church, of Columbus, Ohio, in 1855-'56. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Allegheny, November 5, 1856; was pastor of the church of Union and Bradley's Bend, Armstrong county, from 1856 to 1867; First Presbyterian Church, Mansfield, Ohio, 1867 to 1874; and removed to Indiana as above stated in May, 1874.

He was married, in 1856, to Miss Elixabeth Walker, of Butler, Pa. Their Children are: Elizabeth P., Harry W., Laura B., Mary C. and Carrie R.

At the organization of the church, James McClain, John Ross, John Wilson, and Joseph Moorhead, were ordained and installed ruling elders. In 1810, James McKnight, from 1818 to 1840, John Douglass, William Lucas, James Todd, Jacob Beelor, Robert A. Hamilton, James Hamilton, Clemence McGeary, and Robert Walker, in 1840; Thomas Laughlin, John P. Lloyd and Woodruff Douglas, and in 1851 Joseph Thompson, James McLain, Thomas Moorhead, and John Sutton, were ordained and installed ruling elders.

The present ruling elders are: Judge Joseph Thompson, A. W. Wilson, W. B. Marshall, James McClain, James Moorhead, Alexander Fair, James M. Sutton, Thomas Sutton and Coulter Wiggins.

* Father of Hon. Matthew S. Quay.

At the organization, religious services were generally held in the county jail, but from the erection of the court house in 1809, it was occupied as a place of public worship by all denominations having preaching in Indiana, till 1826-'7, when church houses were erected. In fair weather, and especially on sacramental occasions, up to this time, the congregation worshiped at the "Tent," in the grove. In 1827 the old brick house which gave place to the present commodious building, was erected.

A paper published in Indiana, Saturday, October 30th, 1858 gives the following notice of the dedication of the latter building:

"The new Presbyterian Church of Indiana having been completed was occupied on Sabbath last, and dedicated to the service of Almighty God. The building is of brick, and built in accordance with the Doric order. Its length is eighty feet, and its breadth fifty-six feet. The basement story is eleven feet in the clear, and divided into a Sabbath school room, a room devoted to social and prayer meetings and a large hall from which there is an entrance into the upper chamber. The story in the upper room is twenty-five feet high, handsomely furnished. The pulpit is plain and neat, and the gallery at the opposite end of the room is built in a new style, and the most appropriate for the purpose intended that we have ever seen anywhere. There are one hundred and eighteen pews on the main floor and nine in the gallery, which will seat comfortably six hundred and twenty-five people. The trustees, who had the whole management of the erection of the building, have performed their duty in the most satisfactory manner, and deserve the thanks of this whole community for the construction of a building that is an ornament to our town. The members of the congregation, and many others, who have contributed so liberally to aid in its erection, have manifested an interest on the cause of religion that speaks well for the community in which we live.

On Sabbath morning at the hour of Eleven o'clock, the house was filled to its utmost capacity, when the choir rose and sang with great beauty an anthem entitled '*He hath not dealt so with any people.*' The pastor, the Rev. A. McElwain, then read a note from J. W. Moorhead, in which he stated that Mr. William S. Baird, of Philadelphia, had presented the congregation a handsome copy of the Bible, and that a young lady of the church had accompanied it with a 'book mark,' on which was worked the motto, 'Caste thy anchor in Heaven.' " The pastor then read a historical sermon, the substance of which has been before given. The following ministers were present on this occasion: Rev. M. W. Jacobs, D. D., David McKinney, D. D., Dr. Kirkpatrick, Samuel McClung, James Montgomery, _____ Hamilton, John Stark, and James A. Ewing.

It is not known how many members there were at the organization of the church. During Mr. Galbraith's ministry the number did not exceed eighty or ninety. At Mr. Reed's death there were only one hundred and fifty-three communicants at Indiana. During the pastorate of Mr. Williams, the highest number reported is one hundred and fifty-three. During the ministry of Mr. Quay, the membership has increased to one hundred and ninety. When Mr. McElwain was installed there were reported one hundred and fifty-nine communicants, and at the time of the dedication there were about three hundred. The membership as printed in the annual tables of 1879 was five hundred and five.

The contributions of the congregation for society and the general religious, benevolent and educational works of the church at large for 1879 were nearly forty-seven hundred dollars.