

THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN PUNXSUTAWNEY.

On the 30th of October, 1840, the society was organized at this place, and the history of the regular Baptist church commenced. Revs. Thomas E. Thomas and Benoni Allen had been conducting a revival, and under its ministrations an association was formed, the influence of which has never ceased. The following joined by letter: Isaac London, Hiram London, Lemuel Carey, Hannah Carey, John R. Reed, Margaret Reed, James Armstrong, Mary Armstrong, Esther McMillen, Eliza Cochran, Sarah Gilhausen and Elizabeth McCracken.

The Revs. Thomas and Allen were invited to preach until the 1st of April, 1841, each to officiate as pastor one-fourth of his time, and William Campbell was elected clerk. On the 1st of November, 1840, Stephen London and James McConaughy were admitted by baptism.

November 2d of the same year was memorized by the addition of William Davis, William Campbell, Ephraim Bair, Jacob Bair, Samuel Gilhausen, John Hunt and Prudence Stewart, also by a profession of faith signified by baptism. The third day of the same month, James H. Bell, Ann Bell, William Torrance, Lemuel Carey, jr., Mary Davis, Jane hunt, Elizabeth McDermort, and Jane Major were baptized.

Rev Thomas continued with the society till October, 1841, and was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Wilson, who was followed by Rev. Samuel Miles, who was called on the 10th of January, 1847. Revs. John J. Shorthill, F. C. Gessford, Howell Jeffries, and the present incumbent, D. W. C. Hervey, comprise the remaining pastors.

The edifice now occupied by them was erected in 1858, the previous meetings being held in the village schoolhouse.

The number of Baptist communicants in the county is about 700. There are churches at Punxsutawney, Beech Woods, Reynoldsville, Brookville and Corsica.