

## HISTORY OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION OF SUSQUEHANNA, BANKS TOWNSHIP.

Susquehanna church is situated on the public road, about half way between Smithport and the Susquehanna river.

In the year 1842, William Martin and his seven sons emigrated from the county Down, Ireland. In the following year Alexander Kirk, David Ratliff and Francis Urey also Emigrated from the same place. These with James Salsgiver were organized in a congregation in connection with the Presbyterian Chyrch, old school, in the year 1844. Alexander Kirk, William Martin and James Salsgiver were chosen as elders, and ordained to this office. Rev. David Mills was their first pastor, who had charge of the congregation seven years. In consequence of the Presbyterian Church using hymns of human composition in the worship of God, and the congregation believing that the inspired Psalms of the Bible alone should be used, in the year 1854 it united with the Associate Presbyterian Church.

In 1855 Rev. James Purdy was installed their pastor in the barn of James Martin, and demitted the charge in 1860. This congregation became United Presbyterian at the time of the union of the Associate and Associate Reformed churches, May 28, 1858, which now constitute the United Presbyterian Church.

In 1863 James Martin and James Urey were chosen and ordained elders, and are now discharging the duties of his office. The congregation erected their church edifice in 1869. The present pastor, Rev. James Given, took charge of the congregation April 11, 1876, and was installed pastor October 16, 1976, and it is in a prosperous condition, its members numbering forty-five.