

FOREWARD

After the poem which was composed by Rev. W. R. Thompson, D.D., was read at the Centennial, there were many requests made for copies of it, and some also wanted the history printed. These requests occasioned this book. There has been no time or effort to attempt a literary production but only the merest compilation of the facts wanted, in the briefest form. The data was difficult to collect and the picture of the first pastor is lacking. On account of the influenza, some group pictures of the departments of the present congregation were not available.

The dates and facts for the most part were ascertained by examining Presbyterial Records that run back into the 18th century, the Indiana county history and tradition. The records of Bethel were burned about twenty years ago so that outside sources had to be consulted for all dates and the early facts. All dates given as definite can be accepted as authoritative, but those given as approximate have only tradition as a source and are more liable to be erroneous.

It is hoped that as corrections are noted in this work, that the same will be forwarded to the Session or some member of the Church, that in case there be demand for another edition, the corrections may be made. This edition will be quite limited but it is expected that another will be printed within the next decade.

I wish to express my gratitude to Mr. Hugh Mack for his assistance in regard to the early history, and to Rev. John McNaughter, D.D., for his aid in locating the early records and to the others who help procure pictures or information.

W. B. McCrory

Clyde, Penna.,
December 12th, 1918.