

History of the West Bethesda Church by Reverend George M. Miller

(Note: Spelling is copied from the original document)
This church is located in Superior Township, Williams County, Ohio and is under the care of the Maumee Presbytery. It was organized January 31st A.D. 1848 by Rev. John M. Crabb. And named West Bethesda after Bethesda Church now in the Stubenvill Presbytery from which most of the original members came. The church was organized in Mr. James Martin's log cabin with 20 - 23 members.

Ministers

The first minister was Rev. John M. Crabb who ministered to the church as long as he was able. Rev. Crabb organised quite a number of churches in North Western Ohio. And died March 17th 1851 aged 55 years at his home 3/4 of a mile west of the church. And his remains lie in the graveyard.

He was succeeded for a short time by Rev. Luke Dorland, who afterwards spent 20 years as a teacher and preacher to the Freedmen in N.C. where he did a good work. He died Nov. 22, 1892, aged 82 3/4 years.

He was followed by Rev. James K. Akey who remained in charge for about 3 years. After which he went west. And died H.R. Feb. 17th A.D. 1886. Aged 66 years.

On July 21, 1863 the present incumbent George M. Miller a Licentiate of Zanesville Pres. took charge of the church and has remained ever since.

Houses of Worship

The first house was a substantial frame 34 x 28 feet built in 1848. And was the first O.S. Presbyterian house of worship in North Western Ohio north of the Maumee River.

The present house 60 x 37 feet with a spire was dedicated in 1871, but was used some time before.

Elders of the Church

William Martin; John W. Brannan; Gavin McHenry; Christopher Brannan; Eli Wisman, deceased; Francis L. Brannan, removed.

The present elders are: B. F. Cannan, James Copeland, John B. Grim, James Brannan, Samuel Cannan

Trustees

The present trustees are James Lestnet, Westley Shoup, John Mick, Henry Mick.

The whole number of members on the roll from the beginning has been 334. The present number is about 120. The great majority of whom are young people