

Old Shiloh September 1, 1905

Old Shiloh is one of the famous Churches of Indiana. It was the first Methodist Church in Hendricks County and the third of any denomination in the County.

The original Shiloh Church was a log structure built in 1822.

The membership of that Church was not large because of the few people living in the district.

In 1850 a frame building 48×34 with a 16 ft. ceiling was erected in place of the old log structure.

In this building the people for miles around assembled every Sunday to worship God or to listen to words of comfort pronounced by their pastor over the remains of their friends and neighbors.

Morgan L. Smith father of Charles W. Smith and Alpha Smith, who then lived on a farm near and was a prominent member of the Church, got out the timber and superintended the building of this Church. The father of John L. Marzee assisted in building the Church.

Among the early pioneers who assisted

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At the quarterly Conference held at Shiloh in March of 1902 The presiding elder E. A. Schell and H. C. Kelly the minister then in charge, met the board of trustees consisting of Barney Gossett, George Kladden, John H. Carter, Charles Miller, Alpha Smith another trustee not being present and decided to build a new church.

The minister and trustees at the meeting started the new church cause, with a vim and in such a spirit as to stir the entire church and neighborhood into great activity.

To their financial call every body, both members and friends of the church responded joyously and gave liberally.

Mr. Gossett and Mr. A. F. Smith taking the lead in giving. So liberal were the donations that in a short time enough money was provided to erect the present church a beautiful Postein brick structure and nicely furnished.

Mr. Joseph Bailey presented the bell which each Sunday morning calls together from fifty to seventy-five persons old and young to study Gods word under the directions of Rev. F. Clark, pastor and Mrs. Belle Carter Sunday School Superintendent.

The Church now has a membership of seventy persons and is in a very prosperous condition.

Let from the reading of this short history of the church one might infer that the ladies and children of the church were disinterested in the cause, well, that they were far from being so.

The very first money raised for the purpose was provided by means of a Possum-roast, a novel entertainment given by the ladies and children and many entertainments and festivals and socials were given to aid the men in providing the sum necessary for building.

Mr. Tutby of New Richmond was contractor for building and the Bragg brothers did the masonry.

The old building was torn away in May and the new church dedicated on-

Rev. E. A. Schell preached the dedication sermon and dedicated the church and Rev. Smith preached the sermon at night the same day.

Rev. D. J. Reader a former pastor and Rev. H. C. Riley the pastor in charge were also present at the services.

in the construction of this church were Uncle Billy Gladden, Isaac Harden, William Briggs, Stephen Briggs, Daniel and Joseph Fancetto, James Walker, Isaac H. Pearson, Captain Scott Miller, John Gladden, D. M. Clark, Alfred Clark and John B. Carter, all of whom became faithful members of the church.

The first minister to hold services in the frame structure was Rev. Mr. Harding who noted for his powerful sermons.

Others of the early ministers were Rev. J. H. Clearwater. In 1853 Harrison Burgess conducted a revival at Shiloh and gained many converts and from that time the church has been in a flourishing condition.

D. M. Clark was the only member who joined at the meeting that lived to see the frame structure torn away, but he died ^{before} after the new building was completed.

Aunt Lydia McCalumet one of the charter members of Shiloh - lived until the present building was erected. She lived to see her ninety-fifth birthday.

Hesekiah Smith was another of the pioneer preachers here.

This frame building served as a place for worship until the spring of 1902.