

Data Collected in 1903 by ?

2/8/56

I think this is written by  
Anna Snyder (ancestral Branch)

The First Baptist Church of  
Warren, Pennsylvania had its birth  
Friday, May 2nd, 1834, as by the follow-  
ing record we learn that: "By the  
request of a number of Baptist Brothers  
and Sisters who had previously united  
in conference, a Council convened at the  
Court House in Warren, on Friday  
the 2nd day of May, 1834, to take  
into consideration the propriety of  
giving the brothers and sisters  
composing said conference fellowship  
as a sister church.

Brethren were present from  
Pine Grove, Ashville and Carroll,  
namely:- Pine Grove, - Thomas Foster,  
William Heaton, Silas Ruland, Sen  
Hitchcock, Hazel Tupper, Jacob Allen  
James Love. From Ashville:-  
Elder Isaac Fuller, James W<sup>c</sup> Colburn,  
From Carroll:- Elder Adrian Frot,  
Levant Rathburn. Elder Martin Colman  
being present as a missionary

from the New York State Convention, was invited to a seat. These being accepted by the conference as their Council, the Council then proceeded to the examination of their articles of faith and practice, and of their circumstances. After which it was unanimously voted, "that it is for the honor and glory of God, to erect the standard of the Cross in this place, where the ordinances of Christ's House may be administered as they were delivered to the saints, and that we give fellowship to the Brethren and Sisters whose names are here inserted as a regular church of our Lord Jesus Christ:

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Pond Curtis       | Polly Doty      |
| Chas W. Shaw      | Maria Shaw      |
| Urs. Morse        | Polly Waters    |
| Urs. Gildersleeve | Elizabeth Morse |
| Eliza Doty        | Polly Strong    |
| Parmelia Curtis   | Luise Wheeler   |
| Hannah Giv        | Mary Comstock   |
|                   | Emma Comstock   |

after which the following exercises were attended to: Elder Fuller gave the right hand of fellowship, Elder Foot addressed

the church and congregation, Elder Gildersleeve made the concluding prayer, Isaac Fuller acted as Moderator, and James M<sup>c</sup>Collum as Clerk.

Signed James M<sup>c</sup>Collum.

May 3. The first covenant meeting was held. During the first eight years the church had no regular pastor. The following were among those who preached: J. S. King, Wm. Gildersleeve, F. Wilson and Elisha Gill. November 1, 1842 Rev. Alfred Handy was called as the first pastor.

March 6, 1841 the church adopted the articles of faith and practice held by the First Baptist Church of Jamestown, N. Y. and on Oct. 1, 1842 they adopted a new covenant.

The first death was that of Polly Doty Nov. 14, 1842.

During nearly thirty years of the church's existence the members worshipped in the Court House and Academy.

While Rev. B. C. Willoughby was pastor, he discovered the present church building standing unoccupied in Kantone, N. Y. Largely through his influence it was bought

taken down, and by teams brought piece by piece to Warren. In due time about 1858 it was erected where it now stands. The audience room has several times been repaired and improved to meet the demands of the congregation and taste of the people.

In 1877 Dr. E. F. Crane was called to the pastorate and important repairs made to the Church Building and the membership largely increased. Many present will remember the whole-hearted, energetic and faithful old man who some years ago closed his labors on earth forever at Franklin.

In 1888 while Rev. W. J. Conlston was pastor an effort was made to raise the necessary fund to erect in the rear the necessary room to carry on efficient Church and Bible School work, but the project was not fully carried out and the improvements fully completed until February 24, 1890 when under the pastorate of Rev. W. C. <sup>King</sup> King dedicatory services were held, Dr. P. D. Hensen of Chicago being present to assist.

The Church has been served by twelve deacons - six of whom are dead.

Deacon Norman Snyder filled the office for 27 years until his death in 1876.

Deacon A. Gerould officiated for 36 years from 1866 to the time of his death in 1902.

The present board is composed of the following: W. Luce, S. G. Waid, A. J. Hazette, G. W. Thompson, H. E. Davis and W. D. Donham.

The church members still living whose names have been longest on the Church roll are Mrs. F. S. Alden who united in 1857 by letter of dismission from the First Baptist Church of Panama, N. Y. and Mrs. A. Gerould who presented her letter from the First Baptist Church of Erie in 1860.

The comparison of membership by decades is as follows

1870 -	30
1880 -	80
1890 -	190
1900 -	

The present membership is 260.

A number of young men have been ordained by Council of ordination held in the Church among whom were John Peterson the first pastor of the 1st Swedish Baptist Church. to whose fellowship 34 members

were dismissed on March 3, 1892 for its formation - also B. J. Yates who served as the 1st pastor of the Baptist Mission at Kingua - (Continued)

Rev. James Rea who came direct from Rochester Theological Seminary was also ordained in the church and installed as pastor in 1881.

Miss Maggie Yull and Miss Carrie Coates who were formerly members of this church, are now laboring in missionary fields, Miss Yull as city missionary in Chicago, and Miss Coates as medical missionary in Kellore, India.

Eighteen pastors, including the present incumbent, have served the church. The present pastorate has extended over a period twice as long as any of those preceding.

Recently repairs amounting to \$4000 have been made. These improvements include a ventilating system, the remodeling and frescoing of the auditorium, electric lighting, a new

1895  
1896  
1900  
Dr. Gray

heating plant, roofing and painting.  
The Church is thus furnished  
with a comfortable, convenient  
commodious and ornate building  
for worship and work.

The Church is making  
constant and substantial  
growth and may well regard  
her future as more promising  
than at any previous time in her  
history.