

DEDICATION OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

ON LIBERTY ST., WARREN, PA., JULY 1860

as reported in the Warren Mail July 14, 1860

The dedication -- When Mr. Willoughby came here two or three years ago and commenced building a new Baptist Church, nearly everyone pronounced it a hopeless undertaking. The Society proper was small, rather poor, and at that time not very well united. He has, however, persevered under difficulties which would have discouraged a less energetic man and this week we have another neat and substantial Church edifice dedicated with solemn ceremonies to the service of Almighty God.

It is situated on Liberty Street and is really an ornament to the town. We think Mr. Willoughby and his society entitled to great credit in this matter and hope that our citizens will acknowledge it in a substantial manner. Some have already contributed. Others can do so now with the full assurance that it is no doubtful undertaking. We are not thoroughly booked up in the matter but we suppose that Mr. Willoughby has invested his own funds to a considerable extent to complete the house. This is certainly asking too much of a minister. If he spends his time and talents in our behalf, with a limited pecuniary reward, it is certainly enough. The faithful minister has trials and discouragements that we sinners know little about. To have a careless, scattering or nodding congregation or to be located in a community that goes to Church just as it happens -- because it is now and then easier to go than to stay home -- with less disposition to commend than to carp at the sermons they hear -- is quite as much as a minister ought to endure. He certainly should not be required to build churches with his own means and hands or to cloth and educate his family at a pinch as many do.

But we don't intend to preach a sermon on this subject, however much it is

needed. We design in all earnestness to commend this matter to the favorable attention of our citizens. Besides attention to the immediate calls of their own churches, they can nearly all contribute a little to this which may do much good. As citizens at least, we should encourage those who contribute to the improvement of our town, as the erection of this church manifestly does in a good degree.

The exercises at the dedication were very interesting indeed. Rev. F. Glanville of Frewsburg preached in the morning, Rev. H.H. Stockton of Panama, in the afternoon and the Rev. A. Wells of Jamestown, in the evening. The choir performed admirably. There was a very general attendance from abroad, and the arrangements were complete.