

Cambria Baptist Church

by
Mrs. Effie Garton, 1955



(Photo by Ortha Green)

An organization meeting for the Baptist Church was held on June 8th, 1857 at the school house near Whipples Mill. Several delegates from Peoria Iowa Baptist Church helped organize. Rev. L.L. Greenlee was elected moderator and Marshall Nelson, as clerk. The Church became affiliated with the Eden Baptist Association in the year of 1857.

The first mention of building a meeting house was in December 1859, but a building site was not decided upon until February 4, 1865. The site selected was at the crossroads of old Cambria. There were eighteen members at that time. Meetings were held in a school house and homes until the church was completed.

A partial list of pastors follows;

Rev. L.L. Greenlee, 1st,-Rev. Ira Blakeley, 2nd,-John Morris Nelson was third pastor and F. Edwards stayed for seven years, 1878-1885. Then Rev. John Richards, Rev. George W. Smith, Rev. Long, Rev. John Nelson, Rev. E.B. Osborn, 1888,-David Newell, Orr Campbell two different years, George Roper, Rev. Burke, Reginald Courts, 1924-25, E. Lansing Holland 1931, Courts 1932-34, Francis Cook, 1942, Glenn Halls, Harold Thomas, 1950, Gale Dobbins, Charles Kirtley,

A. VanBenacheten, James Kirtley 1961-62.

The minutes for 1924-25 show Cambria as now belonging to the Southern Iowa Baptist Association, instead of the Eden Association, but as some minutes are not available cannot determine when the regrouping of the churches occurred. The church was moved to Cambria around 1880 after the village was located where it is today. The church is located on Main St. across the road just west of the Dr. Garton home.

REFERENCES: Minutes book-Cambria Baptist Church, State Historical Society.

Cambria Baptist.

To date by Ortha Green.

Gale Dobbins was Pastor 1953.

Rev. Charles Kirtley 1954.

Rev. A. Van Benschoten 1955 after the resignation of Kirtley.

Rev. James Kirtley 1960-61-62-63,

Daniel Bean, 1962-3-4-5-

Rev. Roy E. Jones. 1966-7-8-9-, 1970-71-72.

The Baptist Churches became united and is now known as Yoked Churches.