

Peoria Or Bentonville Baptist

by
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In the early 1800 period a group of citizens of Benton township held a meeting in the town park and decided to build a church house. George Peck donated the land just north of town in Sec. 15,69,22.

Church was held in the school house prior to the organizing of a denomination. The members of the church were Baptists although there were a lot of Methodists who took a leading part in the spiritual life of the church, from the founding of the town in 1853 to 1882.

Among the first preachers were Uncle "Dad" Winters, as he was familiarly called, Wm. Beard and Wm. Barnett.

The following names of early day citizens of Peoria are associated with the village - David and Cornelius Niday, George Peck, James Peck, Joseph Zimmerman

and wife, Then there was the Kimberlains, Baty, Barnett, Greenlee and others.

About the year of 1880 the old church house was rebuilt and in 1925 the building was sold and it was moved to the county seat town of Corydon and became the Pentecostal Church.

These notes were published in the Times Republican 1947-1955.

State Statistics, - In 1855 there were 37 members and in 1874, Peoria was the largest church in the Eden Ass'n, with 102 members. They entertained the Eden Association in 1860 and 1872. Wm. Barnett was the pastor until 1880.