

Belongs to Harmony Church

# Harmony Baptist Church

1853 - 1978



*125 Years Revisited*



My Country Church

"Give me a church in the country,  
The little wayside shrine,  
Close beside the roadway,  
In the soft sunshine.

It seems that it is easier  
To come to such a fount,  
To seek the spirit's solace  
The weary sought on the Mount.

When I sing with the congregation,  
Or pray on bended knee,  
Or bow to the Benediction  
God seems nearer to me."

-- Millie Kroll.

## BEGINNINGS

The grass grew tall as a man on the rolling hills. Trees grew along the banks of the creeks and river. Macoupin County was one of the beautiful areas of Illinois. Game of all kind was abundant which made a fine hunting region. This portion of the country was part of that territory known in the early days as the "Black Hawk Hunting Ground."

As far as can be found the first white man to explore this territory were the Rangers of 1812. About 350 mounted men came in from the Edwardsville region to drive the hostile Indians from the area northward as far as and beyond Fort Peoria. Thus they helped protect the frightened and feeble settlements from the merciless Indian tomahawk.

One of the bold rangers of the war of 1812 was a Daniel Deadrich. He was the father of Mrs. Elizabeth Armour- one of the original members of the organized Harmony Baptist Church. of 1853.

It was 1815 when the first pioneer, David Coop, came into this territory. With his family of four sons he erected his roof-tree home on the banks of a small stream which to this day carries his name - "Coops Creek". He stayed about ten years ,but when cholera took four of his family members he moved on toward Kansas.

In 1818, three years after Mr. Coop settled here, Illinois was admitted to the Union as a state, with population of 40,000. At that time there were within the limits of Macoupin County region only ten families of about forty souls. In 1829 Macoupin was organized. Within the next half century after the birth of Macoupin County many wonderful changes took place. It was 1852 when the country really became alive; for in this year was com -



pleted the Chicago and Alton Rail Road from Alton to Springfield. Immigration came in like the tides of the ocean. Instead of log cabins, many spacious and comfortable homes were being built; now gas-jet and steady light of kerosene replaced the dim flickering candle flame. New binders were aiding the farmer in quicker and better harvest than had been possible with the crude sickles. Instead of fording creeks there were bridges and roads were much improved.

Still more important, to us, was the year 1853. For it was in the spring of this year that a few men were burdened to unite as a body of like believers and a short time later to build a house in which to worship. Their prayerful decisions and their efforts that year to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit have had a great impact and influence on each of us at Harmony Church. It is a shame that much of this past history and heritage has been lost, misplaced, erased and even unwritten. So this 125 years later perhaps it is worthwhile to revisit our church family for a little while.

Just this little research has been exciting, intriguing, and fascinating. These names have "come-alive" - no more are they just shadowy, faceless forms. Almost like Ezekiel's dry bones-there is a rattling and a coming together. These past months old records, minute books, records, histories etc. have been prayerfully scanned and searched sometimes until the wee hours of the morning. Hopefully, you too, may find a little joy in and an appreciation of these "our Harmony ancestors" in the following notes.

" ... for what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away." - James 4: 14



ORGANIZATION

From the minute book of Harmony Baptist Church, dated March 26, 1853

This is to certify that we were called on as a Presbytery by the brethern in Wagoners Prairie, Macoupin County, Illinois to constitute them into a body as a Church. Therefore met at the Hopewell School house on the 26th day of March, 1853 and after obtaining satisfaction for this church constituted the undersigned names as a leglized organized Church of Christ, called the Harmony United Baptist Church of Christ.

signed (Jacob V. Rhoades  
(  
(Samuel Haycraft

MEMBERS NAMES

Samuel V. Rhoades	Frances Rhoades
John Haycraft	Hannah Haycraft
W.L. Cawood	Margaret Haycraft
Charles Rhoades	Elizabeth Michthew
Wyan Rhoades	Elizabeth Armour
William C. Rhoades	Eliza Armour
Josiah Armour	Mary Rhoades
James Parker	W.E. Rhoades
W.V. Tunnell	Hetty Cawood
James Armour	Sarah Cawood
John M. Haycraft	Tuzah Tunnell

The a ove names are those that came into the constitution. The church house was built in 1858. It was moved and remodled in 1883. It was moved near and just east of the Armour School house in Chesterfield township because that was the center of those families supporting the church at that time.

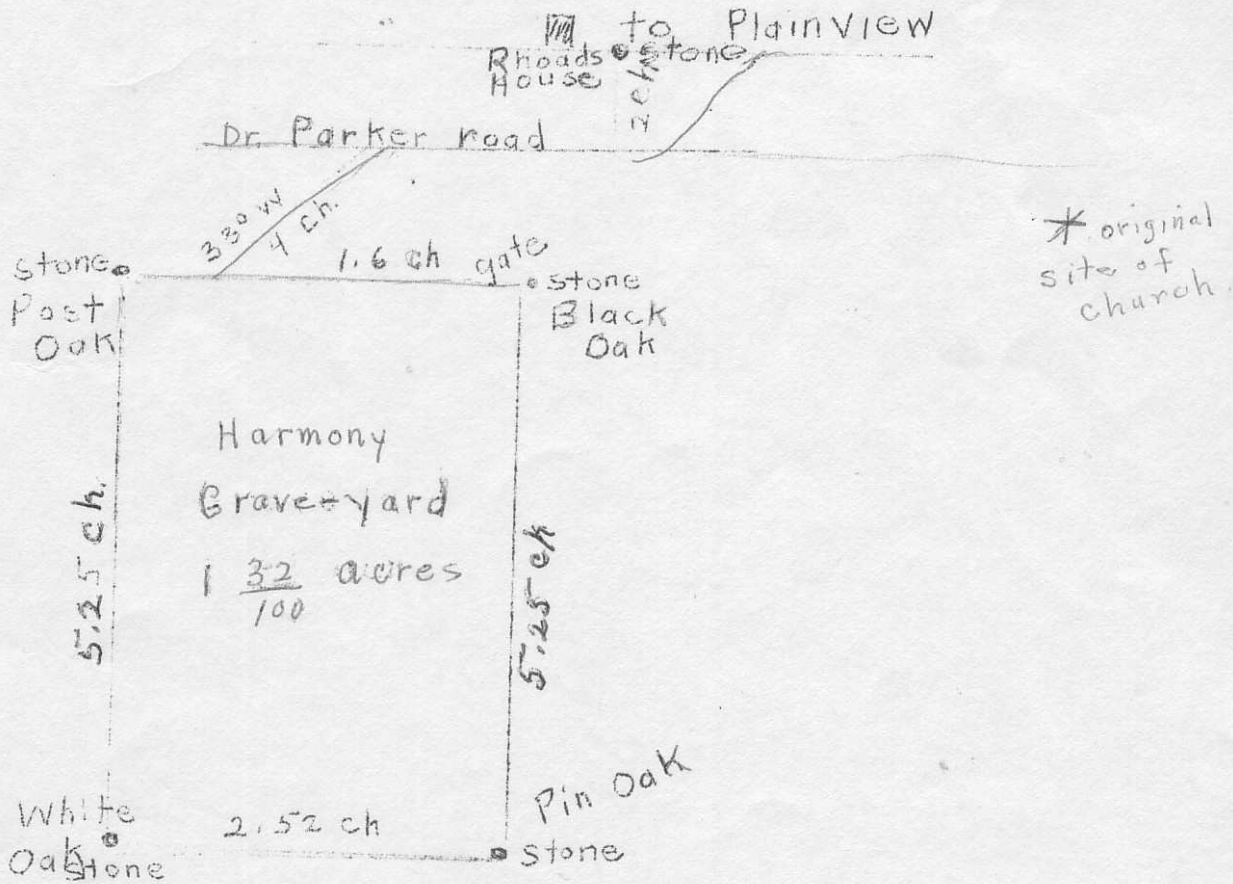


Graveyard

Beginning at a stone at the South end of Private Road to the Graveyard S 33° west of 16 rods distant from a stone near the East end of the so called Don Parker road for the graveyard. A stone 3.55 chains west and 8 rods south of stone at the N.E. corner of the west half of the N.W. quarter of Sec. No. 6 T. 8 Range 8 - then west 92 links to the stone witnessed by a Post Oak of 10 in. diam. bear S. 20° E. 51½ links distant. Then South 21 rods to a stone then West 10 rods and 2 links to a stone witness by a Pin Oak 1½ in. in diam., bear N. 18° W. 31 links then North 21 rods to a stone witnessed by a Black Oak 10 in. diam. bear S. 71½° W. 39 links distant, then west 6 rods and 10 links to the place of beginning containing 1 32/100 acres.

Filed for record 23 day of Nov. 1949 at 1:30 AM recorded in Book Plat F page 23.

Philip Brown - Recorder





ARTICLES OF FAITH FOR HARMONY UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH  
March 26, 1853

1. We believe in one only true and living God, and that in the God head or divine essence are Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are one.
2. We believe the scriptures are the revealed word of God and is the only rule of faith and practice.
3. That all men by the fall of Adam are fallen and depraved creatures and can not reinstate themselves in the favor of God by any ability of their own.
4. We believe that Christ by the grace of God tasted death for every man, and that he made salvation possible for all men by repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.
5. That salvation is by the life, death, resurrection and intercession of Jesus Christ.
6. That the saints will perservere through grace to glory.
7. That baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the gospel to be practiced in Christ's Church until His second coming.
8. That baptism by immersion is the only apostolic mode of baptism and none but those baptized by immersion on profession of their faith in Christ have a right to the Lord's Supper.
9. We believe that there will be a general resurrection both of the just and of the unjust, and that the joys of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.
10. We believe that man is indoued with an immaterial undying spirit which will exist in a disembodied state either of conscious suffering or happiness from death until the resurrection.
11. We believe that disembodied spirits are secure from the disturbing elements of this world and are not permitted to return to the earth to communicate with the living, but that they await the resurreçtion morn in expectation of their final reward.

RULES OF DECORUM FOR HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH

1. Resolved that the church meet on the fourth Saturday of each month and that opened at two o'clock and that it be the duty of each member to fill their seat on day of business.
2. Resolved that the church have a moderator whose duty it shall be to keep good order, state and explain questions and put to vote any question after giving reasonable time for discussion, but vote in no case except the Church be equally divided in which case he may have a casting vote.
3. Resolved that the Church have a clerk whose duty it shall be to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the day in a book provided by the church, the same to be signed by clerk and moderator.
4. Resolved that after the church is opened and visiting brethern invited to a seat, that a door be opened for the reception of members.
5. Resolved that the church work by majority in all cases except that of receiving members which shall be unanimous.
6. Resolved that if any member be aggrieved with another, that it be his duty to go to the offender alone, in the spirit of meekness and tell him his fault, and if he gain him the matter dies there, but if he will not hear thee, take one or two members with thee, and if he will not hear them tell it to the church, and if he neglect to hear the church, let him be to thee as an heathen man and a Publican.
7. Resolved that no case of the above kind be taken up in the church until it comes in gospel order as recorded in the eighteenth of Matthews gospel.
8. Resolved that a motion made and seconded shall be attended to, except when withdrawn by him who made it.
9. Resolved that a motion made and not seconded shall fall.
10. Resolved that no person be allowed to talk or interrupt any one while speaking, except he be out of order.
11. Resolved that no one be allowed to strike at the feelings of another while speaking, as such conduct is contrary to the spirit of the gospel.



## HISTORY OF HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH

The following was compiled by Harry M. Brown July 1955 from the minute book of Harmony Baptist Church dated March 26, 1853.

On March 26, 1853 the church people of Wagoners Prairie and east of it to the black top road, met at the Hopewell school house and organized a Church. They called it the Harmony Baptist Church of Christ. There were twenty-two members that signed the constitution at that time. They were Rhoades, Haycrafts, Armours, Cawoods, Tunnells, and Parkers. Friday night, February 24, 1854 the Church held a special meeting to consider building a church house. Then they voted on what kind of material they would use. They decided on a frame building 26 by 36 feet with an eleven foot ceiling, which is what they built. Then they appointed five trustees as a building committee. They were C.L. Tunnell, W.C. Rhoades, James Wood, Charles Rhoades, and Joseph Armour. Saturday afternoon, February 25, 1854 at 2 o'clock which was their regular meeting time, they made a motion that the building committee circulate a subscription for funds to build with. This seemed a slow job. They had their business meetings on Saturday afternoons at 2 o'clock once a month before church meeting on Sunday. They did this for fifty years. Then they had to elect a treasurer. This fell on Charles Rhoades. Next they must have a place to build. Two men had places. One place got five votes and the other got eleven. So it was built across the road southeast of Samuel Drew's house which was Charles Rhoades at that time. It stood there thirty years before it was moved.

The records show that in September 1856 the membership was 114. In 1858 it was 147 and in 1859 it was still 147. This is the largest membership I can find.

In the early years the church territory was quiet large. It ~~west~~<sup>east</sup> east past the black top road and Plainview, west about half way to Medora to the William Cook's place, north to Macoupin Creek, south past Coops Creek and the Reno neighborhood. Later years the Church lost several members to Liberty and Plainview after they organized. Some also went to Medora and other places.

On April 1883 they moved the building to the present site. The men chosen to get the job done were Gideon Forwood, Marcellus Brown, William H. Haycraft, Josiah



Armour and John R. Chandler. They did a lot of work on it after moving, which it probably needed after being moved two miles. They raised the ceiling three feet, put in larger windows, another door, a new floor and of course it had to be plastered again. It cost \$555.00 which took two years to get fully paid. A board platform in front of the house and a board walk south to the road was built at that time. Here the man of the family drove the spring wagon or big farm wagon, or cart along side to let out or pick up the family and the faithful pastor. All this was dedicated December 27, 1883. On January 1885 they got a deed from the Charles Rhoades heirs and Mrs. Rhoades for the cemetery which also belonged to the Church. They also paid at this time to have the cemetery and the church yard fenced. On March 26, 1892 the Church voted to organize a sabbath school the next evening. They probably did though nothing in the records show any more about it, until 1900. In 1898 they did more work on the building - putting in new windows with frosted glass, did away with the two wood stoves and chimneys at the sides of the house. In the middle of the building they put a flue and a large coal stove. This cost about \$94.00. In 1902 the old platform and board walks were taken away, as was an old wood shed back of the building. A cement platform and a little coal house were built. One of the little flues that use to be on the sides of the house was struck by lightning once and started a fire, but the neighbors rushed over there and put it out. There has been repair work done several times in latter years including the new flue on the outside, the little basement and a new furnace in 1948. Also some new plastering and painting at the same time.

The first pastors were Elders, Samuel V. Rhoades and Samuel Haycraft. At one time they were to serve turn about. They are believed to be farmers living in the neighborhood. Nothing was said about any pay.

Thanks to the pioneers of 100 years ago for leaving us a church!

In June of 1978 the following notes were added by Brother Earl Shelton.

In the past fifty years many things have happened at Harmony Church. In the early thirties during the great depression, money was as scarce as hen's teeth. At one time a member suggested that every family give a hen, and another time to take Sunday's eggs to help meet the expenses of the church. During these years the church went from once a month preaching to twice a month, and finally to every Sunday. Also daily Vacation Bible School became a yearly feature.

The membership grew considerably in the forties. To Rev. Leo Ramey much credit must be given for this growth as he baptized twenty-three persons one Sunday afternoon. He was a fellow who said, "Come on, let's go!", and led the way to get things done. The Sunday School attendance was around seventy at this time.

In the sixties, many repairs were made and a mobile home was purchased and moved to the church grounds for the pastors use. In 1976 the church sign on the lawn had begun to decay, so a lighted steel sign ~~was~~ set in brick replaced the old that carries the time of services and a thought for the day.

In this year of 1978 it is most appropriate that we pause and give thanks for those pastors and members who have labored so faithfully over the years to preserve and promote the work at Harmony Church and that it may continue to serve the spiritual needs of those who live roundabout.



## The Church

The Church has won  
Unnumbered souls;  
Helped them on  
to Spiritual goals;  
Proved a haven  
From worldly cares,  
A quiet place  
For voicing prayers;  
Provided friendships;  
Made them fast  
With love that's strong  
Enough to last;  
Stood up while other  
Bodies fell,  
Which proves it's man's  
Life-giving well.

Lucille Clark

Members 1853-1978

These are the names of all the members that could be found. Many were too dim to be read. Pages 11 and 12 are missing from the 1853-4 minute book. Many of these names are probably misspelled. Of course many of these people are deceased, moved their membership, etc. February 5, 1854, these came by experience and by letter in a protracted meeting lasting 15 days.

Thomas Greenwood	James Wood	Mary Goff
Mary E. Armour	John Armour	William Deadrick
James Greenwood	Dan Deadrick	Lucy Haycraft
William Tunnell	David Deadrick	Harry Howerton
L. B. Tunnell	Martha King	Lievena Parker
Emiline Rhoades	J. M. Armour	C. W. Wilt
Jacob Rhoades	Hannah Greenwood	Anna Wilt
Hardin Rhoades	Elizabeth Wood	Joseph Greenwood
Arch M. Brown	Catherine Armour	Joseph Fumy
Hannah Haycraft	Caroline Baird	Mary Tunnell
Carolina McDonald	M. Plowman	Louisa Ruyle
Elezabeth Armour	Traneir Rhoads	Miram Wagoner
Jane Deadrick	Jacob Vancil	Eliza Pruett
Elizabeth Deadrick	Lydia Parker	D. L. Tunnell
Abiza Beard	Elvira Will	Isabell Gray
William Beard	Charles Plowman	Hannah Peay
Eliza Parker	John Bober	Martha Armour
Jackson Deadrick	Margaret King	William Chapman
Wandell Jefferfs	Laura Rhoads	Detspan Parker
Thomas Campbell	Sgrus Plowman	Susan Parker
O. Rhoads	Martha Plowman	John Parker
S. T. Tabs	Mary Renells	Issac Haycraft
John Beaberb	James L. Parker	Sariah Haycraft
A. T. Capraed	G. T. Tolly	Abigal Tolly
Sariah Mill	W. C. Greer	Thomas Reno
Harriet Anthine	Franklin Walker	Leroy Wagoner
Eliza Foster	James Brown	Leutice Reno
W. M. Montgomery	Martha Brown	Sarah Clark
Silas Reno	Charles Chance	Nancy Barnett
Seniann Reno	Elizabeth Chance	Marindia Swarferd

The Church on Sept. 1, 1856 had 114 members. On Sept. 28, 1858 there were 147 members and in 1859 there were 147 members.

M. C. Rhoads	Lewis Rhoads	Wyatt Parker
America Rhoads	Blance Hanthous	Margaret Greenwood
Susan Sweepferd	Thomas Withrew	Emily Rhoads
Catherine Chapman	Thomas F. Woods	Joseph Will
Nancy Swift	P. D. Rhoads	Jane Will
Deborah Campbell	Mame Gray	S. V. Rhoads
Elizabeth Sunderland	Ferando Coven	M. C. Tunnell
Catherine Roberts	W. Roberts	Harriet Gray
Elizabeth Jenkins	Lavendine Rhoads	Martha Chance
Jackson Waldeeds	Sariah Rhoads	Issac Freek
Martha Sinclair	Rachel Gillispie	Robert Hart
Andrew Plowman	John Gillispie	Allen Drvis
Matthew Rhoads	Mary Greenwood	Herman Wilson
Geo. McMegalla	John Palisanded	Albert Winn
Margrietta Tunnell	Hulah Calbed	Rachel Rhoads
Martha Watkins	Anna Bethel	Teitrgis Brown
Enos Watkins	John Tunnell	Elizabeth Reno



Joseph Witt  
Edward Brewer  
Nancy Witt  
Harriett Gillispie  
Harriet Surls  
Alan Surls  
Leebe Graham  
Mary Johnson  
Will Derman  
Sarah Derman  
Jane Derman  
Isabella Derman  
Elizabeth Brean  
Joseph Rhoads  
J. M. Jenkins  
Sinthia Haycraft  
Halipai Armour  
Belinda Crain  
Terrey Crain  
William Deadrick  
Jane Deadrick  
Joseph Conel  
Richard Rise  
Delila Rise  
Joseph Waldridge  
John Clenber  
Arnarelar Rhoads  
Hetp Rhoads  
G. W. Claywood  
Elizabeth Forwood  
Martha Rhoads  
W. T. Mitchell  
Almaranda Reed  
John Vandike  
Marcise Deadrick  
John Van Meter  
David Deadrick  
O. Williams  
W. H. Deadrick  
Sarius Graves  
Digis Gilispie  
Ed Hunter  
Albert Waldred  
Catherine Stanton  
Martha Hightem  
F. J. Deadrick  
Phela Haycraft  
Larry Leoriz  
B. F. Bladhburger  
Teifsie Gentry  
S. A. Haguall  
J. M. Armour  
Mary Eaby  
John Armour  
P. R. Chandler  
Polly Relatin  
William Relatin  
Sariah Haycraft  
Mary E. Haycraft

Martha King  
Adam Keller  
Henry James  
Melvin Rhoads  
Emilie Armour  
Dale McGotha  
Benjamin Acsech  
Deliah Fader  
Teresa Coonrod  
A. Williams  
Isabel Johnson  
Joseph Coleman  
Debra Coleman  
Conctre Woldridge  
Elizabeth Woldridge  
John R. Griggs  
Isabell Leader  
Cmaline Parker  
Marsus Brown  
Jane Claywood  
Patsalana Main  
John Claywood  
Lisa Hayferd  
Will Coonrod  
Samuel Reno  
John Allen  
Ellen Heichow  
Mary Rhoads  
Christina Graber  
Amanda Rhoads  
Oliver Wait  
Henry Rhoads  
James Bartlett  
Margaret McDonald  
Elizabeth Kercher  
Beth Dawson  
Margaret Rhoads  
Charles Cabert  
James Stanton  
M. B. Forwood  
T. A. Haycraft  
Elizabeth Pruitt  
M. C. Rice  
Wm. Rheady  
Benjamin Rheady  
Addis Mitchell  
T. J. Brown  
James Armour  
Mark Cabert  
Emma Rhoads  
Joseph Hightchow  
G. W. Rhoads  
F. N. Senta  
J. D. Mitchell  
Nan Nichels  
George Stanton  
Elizabeth Chandler  
Ida Chandler  
S. K. Rhoads

Leta Haycraft  
Josh Jones  
Mary Jones  
B. C. Rhoads  
Amanda Rhoads  
Henry Dell  
Elizabeth Chism  
William Hapler  
Elson Kapler  
James Walter  
William Coonrod  
Henry James  
Henry Good  
John Parker  
Ema Deadrick  
Elen King  
R. H. Main  
Caroline Rhoads  
A. M. Haycraft  
Nancy Coozred  
Gabriel Chism  
Charles Walker  
Norsis Hart  
M. Tease  
David Martin  
Eliza Armour  
Zept Jolly  
Will Geags  
John Chism  
Fanny Elson  
Amanda Crane  
G. W. Denison  
Hoseph Rhoads  
Elizabeth Rhoads  
Jane Sharp  
Gerry Gillispie  
Martha Davis  
C. W. Jolly  
B. C. Armour  
F. E. Jolly  
Sam Hendress  
B. F. Grasey  
Anna Armour  
Polly Tunnell  
M. H. Haycraft  
Harriet Brown  
G. A. Brown  
Frances Brown  
Willis Rhoads  
W. T. Mitchell  
P. S. Sawies  
Teresa Mitchell  
Jacob Rhoads  
J. D. Crane  
Corrie Reed  
Mary Gilispie  
Emma Deadrick  
Anna Forwood  
Sarah Calvert

Minnie Grasy  
 Marian Edson  
 Jacob Rhoads  
 John Mitchell  
 Benjamin Haycraft  
 Warren Leegmay  
 Albert Stuteville  
 Elvera Perry  
 George Forwood  
 Melvin Gillispie  
 Gidion Forwood  
 Heneritta Gillworth  
 Wesley Gillworth  
 Bard Rhoads  
 John Coonroad  
 Mary Gilispie  
 Anna Forwood  
 Adelia Haycraft  
 Emma Sanders  
 Amanda Rhoads  
 Wm. Dermon  
 Virginia Dermon  
 Isabella Dermon  
 Jane Dermon  
 Sariah Dermon  
 Nancy Dermon  
 Anna Haycraft  
 Marsie Richey  
 Josephine Rhoads  
 Thomas Spartes  
 Oliver Crawford

Leroy Richey  
 Olley Deadrick  
 Norma Armour  
 Carol Rhoads  
 T. S. Greenwood  
 James Dretz  
 Hulbert Haycraft  
 Hardin Armour  
 Thomas Sparks  
 Martha Blockburger  
 Ellen Chandler  
 Emma Chandler  
 John Chandler  
 Sarah Chandler  
 W. Nicols  
 Ida Chandler  
 Leander Richey  
 Minnie Gracy  
 Marcel Brown  
 Elenor Kapler  
 John Stutevill  
 Elizabeth Blasingan  
 Allan Searbs  
 Marvel Richey  
 J. W. Stephenson  
 Martha Wagoner  
 Clara A. Gray  
 Edward Gray  
 Howard Gray  
 Ezra Cox

Emma Stanton  
 Elizabeth Blasing  
 E. Brown  
 Sarah Peng  
 Grant Wilson  
 Samuel Cook  
 Charles Mitchell  
 Carrie Gracy  
 Howard Gracy  
 Clara Chism  
 Russel Brown  
 Myrtle Armour  
 ---- Rise  
 ---- Rise  
 James Duly  
 Grant Rhoads  
 Nannie Armour  
 S. R. Rhoads  
 Ruben Nauce  
 Eliza Chism  
 Warren Leening  
 Sarah Perry  
 Elvira Perry  
 Marvel Richey  
 Dora Perry  
 Susan Mitchell  
 Albert Mason  
 Dera Perry  
 Otis Armour  
 Anna Cox

Membership in July 1900 was 54, and in special meetings in 1901 and 1902 these names were added.

Leita Storey *Challacumbe 1901*  
 Maud Brown *1905*  
 Nettie Duty  
 Burr Chism  
 Hurley Brag  
 William Dunham  
 Franklin Brown  
 Agnes Rhoads

William Cox  
 Robert Brown  
 Lucy Haycraft  
 William Rhoads  
 Jesse Wyet  
 Frank Edison  
 Phoebe J. Brown  
 Samuel Brown

William Wilson  
 Jennie Brown  
 Maud Spence  
 Claude Spence  
 George Brown  
 Cory Stanton  
 Richard Storey  
 Blancy Storey

In 1907 John W. Rhoads baptized 22 and in Aug. 1908 there were 90 members but 32 were non-residents.

Mamie Weiss *nestle 1907*  
 Rance Weiss  
 Harry Brown *1907*  
 Ina Brown *Fenton 1907*  
 John M. Brown  
 Waller Brown  
 Stella Brown  
 Charley Wheeler  
 Alea Stenteville  
 Mabel Stenteville

Dolly Martin *1907*  
 Della M. Duty  
 French Forwood  
 Edith Forwood  
 Viola Burger  
 Glattis Rhoads  
 Cilie Rhoads  
 George A. Smith  
 Gertrude Stenteville  
 J. A. Stenteville

Maggie Forwood  
 Annie Brown *Bunt 1902*  
 Rollen Brown *1907*  
 Roy Stone  
 Walter Stone  
 Ellen Rhoads  
 Maria Storey  
 Arty Stringer  
 John Stenteville

Pages 11 and 12 are missing from the original Church Book minutes. These names were added in 1914 through 1919 --



Viola Brown  
Jolla Syneder  
Viola Syneder  
William Brown  
Harley Brown  
Lillian Forwood  
Phoebe Rhoads *Bounds 1914*

Chas. Ruyle  
S. E. Pointer  
B. L. Combs  
Orville Brown  
E. O. Forwood  
Ethel Brown

Vida Greenwalt  
George Rhoads  
Maria Paynter  
Dewey Paynter  
Angy Coombes  
Margaret Rhoads *Brown 1914*

In 1922 --

Leo Fenton  
Addie Fenton  
Virgil Brown  
Everett Brown  
---- Dickerman

Raymond Paynter  
Cecil Brown  
Clara Brown  
G. A. Brown

Dyron Fenton  
Vera Brown  
Edna Brown  
Tony Dickerman

Other names added since 1922 to Harmony's membership follow, and I'm sure some names have been left out, but not intentionally.

Fred N. Cox 1929  
Ethel Cox 1929  
Paul Cox 1929  
Earl Shelton 1929  
Vernon Doughty 1934  
Faye Doughty 1934  
Donavee Conyers 1934  
Vella Wood *Randolph 1934*  
Joseph Howerton 1934  
Myrtle Howerton 1934  
Lucille Morrison  
Hattie Hamer  
Robert Hamer  
Warren Hamer  
Roland Hamer  
Shirley Ballard 1937  
Nettie Rhoads 1940  
Robert Decker  
Edith Decker  
Arthur Edsall  
Mary Edsall  
Lillian Wood 1940  
Ruth Wright  
Orland Fulks  
William Shelton 1948  
Charles Dunt 1948  
Ruth Dossett 1951  
Patty Dossett *Long 1956*  
Mac Richardson 1951  
John Edwards 1951  
Helen Edwards 1951  
Calvin Edwards 1951  
Lewis Richardson  
Eugene McKee  
Lara McKee 1952  
C. W. Spurgeon 1952  
Lucille Spurgeon 1952  
Vida Greenwalt  
Betty Rhoads  
Sharon Randolph *Custer 1956*  
Virginia Randolph *Burchart 1956*  
Arlene Spurgeon  
Bernard Spurgeon  
Ethel Shelton 1955

Elvin Ballard 1935  
Edwin Ballard 1935  
Gilbert Cox 1935  
Dale Gray 1935  
Joe Fulks  
Inez Fulks  
Onis Fulks  
George Ballard  
Tena Brown  
Carl Morrison  
Dorothy Doughty  
Pauline Dunt 1941  
Chester Dunt 1941  
Kenneth Hart 1941  
Laverne Fenton 1941  
William Jaynes 1941  
Clarabelle Wright 1941  
Fred Pitman 1941  
Stella Morgan 1941  
Mary Fisk 1941  
Lyle Fisk 1941  
Dale Hart  
Margot Holloway  
Joyce Holloway  
Helen Randolph 1948  
Harry Loy 1951  
Mary Edsall  
Paul Edwards 1951  
Chester Randolph 1951  
Irene Randolph 1951  
Betty Rhoads  
Marylin Rhoads *Rodgers*  
Eugene Kaufman  
Delores Kaufman  
Carol Cox *April 1956*  
Peggy Edwards *Shelton 1956*  
Albert Richardson 1957  
James Richardson 1957  
Karen Maberry 1957  
John Bounds 1957  
Helen Fenton 1957  
Frieda Wallis 1959  
Dorothy Lovell 1959  
Walter Wood, Jr. 1959

Chas. Marietta  
Duelah Bounds  
Vernon Bounds  
~~Gilbert Cox~~  
Marie Newby  
Roy Newby 1935  
Dolly Martin  
Chas. Marietta  
Agnes Rhoads  
Reba Brown  
Esther Metcalfe  
Earl Newby 1935  
Everett Newby  
Joseph Howerton 1934  
Myrtle Howerton 1934  
Walter O. Wood 1935  
Ada Wood *Main 1936*  
Nancy Wood 1936  
Stella Dunt *Wood 1936*  
Pearl Cottingham *Cox 1940*  
Louise Randolph *Cox 1936*  
Esther Rhoads  
Joan Shelton *Loy 1948*  
Glenna Bunt *Draft 1948*  
Mary Metcalfe 1948  
Carl Damn 1951  
Vesta Damn 1951  
John Damn 1951  
Marion Damn 1951  
David Damn 1951  
Gertrude Richardson  
Charlie Wright 1956  
Charles Atterberry 1961  
Margaret Atterberry 1961  
James Duncan 1961  
Patricia Atterberry 1961  
James Duncan  
Gene Randolph 1961  
Vicki Cox 1961  
Fred Cox 1961  
Billy J. Rodgers 1961  
Glenn Rodgers 1961  
Donna Rodgers 1961  
Deborah Rogers 1961

**James Fenton 1968**

Mina Cox Baker  
 Paulette Cox  
 James Guess  
 Donald Dossett  
 J. E. Walkington 1961  
 Nellie Walkington 1961  
 Eldred Guess 1961  
 Janet Cox 1961  
 Wayne Richardson 1961  
 Terry Richardson 1961  
 Harry Davis 1963  
 Edna Davis 1963  
 Richard Shelton 1963  
 Marie Taylor 1966  
 Herschel Taylor 1966  
 Iona Rigdon  
 Joe McGill  
 Terry Bridgewater 1966  
 James Mathias 1966  
 Duane Loy 1968  
 Paul Wollenweber 1969  
 Minerva Peyton 1971  
 Robert Peyton 1971  
 Marcella Paul 1971  
 Donna Cedor 1974  
 Marvin Meffert 1975  
 Lloyd Meffert 1975  
 Lindell Loy 1976  
 Donald Bierbaum 1970

J. O. Spurgeon  
 Jackie Spurgeon  
 Nell Spurgeon  
 Carol Ann Spurgeon 1956  
 Emma Randolph 1958  
 Marie Turner  
 Susan Bunt *Main* 1957  
 Frank Chism 1957  
 Rose Maness 1961  
 Frank Maness 1961  
 Paul Randolph 1962  
 Sandra Randolph *Vineyard* 1966  
 \*Carl N. Beard 1964  
 Virginia Beard 1964  
 \*Martin Jenkins 1965  
 Sharon Taylor *Scott* 1966  
 Wayne Taylor 1966  
 Harold Davis 1966  
 Dale Shelton 1966  
 Charles Cox 1966  
 Dennis Calven 1968  
 Lonny Cloud 1969  
 Debbie Cloud 1969  
 \*Fred Berghoff 1971  
 Velma Dams 1973  
 Bonnie Shelton 1974  
 Gay Meffert 1975  
 \*Delbert Halleman 1975  
 Bruce Meffert 1977

Mary G Chapman  
 Elsie Zarges  
 Ralph Keene 1959  
 Norma Keene 1959  
 \*Ralph Duncan 1960  
 Dorothy Duncan 1960  
 Sue Duncan 1960  
 Chester Keene 1960  
 William Keene 1960  
 Eva Bounds 1962  
 Gloria Whitten  
 Kenneth Cunningham  
 Keith Mutzbauer 1963  
 Carolyn Jenkins 1965  
 \*William Taylor 1966  
 Virginia Mathis  
 Idella Bridgewater 1966  
 Burdell Lansdon 1966  
 Kenneth Loy 1966  
 Cindy Bridgewater *Wagon* 1967  
 Deborah Scott 1968  
 \*Jon L. Garner 1970  
 Carla Garner 1970  
 Elanie Berghoff 1971  
 \*David Cedor 1974  
 Beverly Fenton 1975  
 Rolland Meffert 1975  
 Emmer Halleman 1975  
 \*Lee Rule 1978

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain." - John 15: 16

**\* Pastors**



The following are excerpts taken at random from the books of the clerks.

- Fourth Saturday, Jan. 27, 1855

That we take up an evil report against the beloved Brethren \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ appointed to see them and report at next meeting.

- Fourth Saturday - Feb. 27, 1855

The committee reported and gave satisfaction. The four members were acquitted, but Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ is to be excluded from the Church for dancing. The case of Sister \_\_\_\_\_ and Brother \_\_\_\_\_ be carried over to next meeting.

- Sat. April 28, 1855

The case of Brother \_\_\_\_\_ was brought up and he was excluded from Church for neglecting to come and give satisfactory report on charges against him.

- Sat. July 28, 1855

Sister \_\_\_\_\_ excluded for dancing and neglecting to come to the church for a hearing.

- Sat. May 7, 1856

There is a case against Brother \_\_\_\_\_ for not paying his subscription and using rough language at the last church meeting. Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ to see him and request him to attend next meeting to answer charge.

- Sat. June 28, 1856

Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ came and paid subscription but refused to give satisfactory report to fellowship with church.

- Sat. Feb. 28, 1857

Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledged he swore and would do it again under same circumstances, so he was excluded.

-Sat. Nov. 28, 1857

Trustees of church are to see the delinquent subscribers to the Church House, to see that they pay their subscription by next meeting or they will be dealt with by the church, or as many as are counted able to pay the money.

- Sat. Dec. 26, 1857

Committee to visit Brethren who are absenting themselves from meetings -- request they come as often as once every three months.

- Sat. Feb. 27, 1858

See Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ and Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ for quarrelling and fighting and request they come to next meeting to answer charges.

- Sat. March 27, 1858

Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ came to answer charges. He gave some a bad time and was excluded.

- Sat. June 23, 1858

Meeting ran over time -- lasted until eleven o'clock.

- Sat. Sept. 25, 1858

Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ cited to appear because of excessive use of liquors and drunkenness and for swearing.

Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ excluded for leaving this country and not paying his debts when we believe he was able.

- Sat. June 25, 1859

Difficulty between Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ and his wife. Committee to see them.

- Sat. Aug. 27, 1859

Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ being present rose and stated that he and his wife had become reconciled to live together, so case was dismissed.

- Sat. Dec. 27, 1859

Two Sisters were excluded for using profane language.

So on through the 1860's members were excluded from the church for betting, adultery, swearing, owing a brother a debt, dancing, playing cards, having a ball, unchristian acts and gambling.

From 1861 the minutes took on a different tone --

- Sat. Sept. 24, 1865

Elected Bro. Tribur for pastor. J.D. Rhoads and Chas. Rhoads were appointed to buy a stove.



- Sat. Dec. 23, 1865

Chose Bro. Culp as pastor.

- May 26, 1866

Church agreed to fence the church lot and House. J. Armour, W.C. Gray, S.D. Rhoads, and Chas. Rhoads to do the work.

- March 25, 1867

J. T. Jolly appointed sexton. His pay to be \$12.00 for his services.

- Oct. 26, 1867

Contract to paint the Church House was let to Charles Rhoads for \$60.00.

- Nov. 23, 1867

Sixteen were dropped from the fellowship of the Church for non-attendance and two for bad conduct.

- April 25, 1868

J. D. Rhoads licensed to preach.

- May 23, 1868

Bro. J.T. Jolly to serve as sexton. Church agreed to furnish wood and pay him \$20.00.

-- Nov. 7, 1874

Report of committee on church land from Mr. Drew was received and the committee discharged.

- Jan. 25, 1879

The money on hand to be used to buy things to clean the Church House and a committee to buy the same. Church pledged to pay for same.

-- March 26, 1881

Changed time of Saturday morning meeting to 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

- Jan. 28, 1882

Chose Elder J. C. Jenkins to serve as pastor.

- Oct. 30, 1882

Church to take up collection to aid in paying the pastor.

- Jan. 6, 1883

Voted to pay pastor \$95.00 for the year. A vote was taken whether to move the Church House down North West to be near the Union School House on B. C. Armour land. It was decided to move the House. A committee was appointed to look about the lot and to solicit aid of brethren to help with paying expenses.

- Feb. 27, 1883

Moved to adopt same proper name after church is moved, as it had before -- Harmony United Baptist Church. Moved that the House be built in Township nine, east of the school house on B. C. Armour land in Chesterfield Township District 5. The House to be moved in next April and pay for the same next August.

- March 25, 1883

Plans to the moving of the old House with changes -- Two loors in the end in place of one in the place of the two windows. Raise the ceiling two feet higher than now is, and arch the same. Put in a new flue. Build two more flues on either side of the House on the outside of the wall. Build belfry on top of the House. Build a foundation and a platform in the front and west of the House and on out to the road. The Church gave the committee authority to borrow money to rebuild the House.

- Dec. 26, 1883

That a dedication take place tomorrow and a protracted meeting be held Jan. 19, 1884. J. C. Jenkins re-elected pastor for the coming year.

± Jan. 1885

Moved that the Trustees prepare a deed for Sister W. E. Rhoads for the Graveyard on her land. The committee reported that they had borrowed \$25 to pay the debts of the Church and had paid off W. A. Fisher the \$10 for lumber. The balance of money on hand they used to fence the church lot.

- Feb. 26, 1885

Called for a Sabbath School for Sunday March 1 for 9 o'clock. C. W. Jolly chosen for superintendent. 11 o'clock preaching services and again at 7 o'clock.



- March 28, 1885

Committee to have survey of graveyard and church site. Reported they had secured both lands as asked and it had cost \$7.00. March 29th services were at 11 o'clock. Afterwards all reported to the waters edge where Elder W.M. Rhoads was buried baptism, also Brother Warren Toma and Elondas Bramnd. At 5 o'clock in the evening the church partook of the Lord's Supper.

- Oct. 23, 1886

Report of Treasurer up to date as follows -- Received from all services \$137.60. Paid to W.M. Rhoads \$137.60. There would be due W.M. Rhoads, if he preaches one more time \$12.40. There is due him on the year previous to this last year \$16.25. Received from all sources to pay sexton for the present year ending Sept. 25 - \$4.25. Leaving balance due \$12.00. Voted to endeavor to pay the pastor by our next meeting. Voted to pay the sexton the balance due by our next meeting.

- Dec. 19, 1886

Bro. B. F. Grasey said if the church would furnish the wood and oil, he would keep the House for one year and there would be no expense.

- Feb. 26, 1887

Baptized 14 candidates who were converted in a series of meetings between Jan. 25, 1886 and Feb. 10, 1887.

- July 28, 1888

Trustees to repair the House and put a floor under the bell in the belfry.

- Oct. 27, 1888

Lerondas Brown to keep the House for four months at the rate of \$7.00 a month except the time of protracted meetings then it would be more.

- Nov. 25, 1888

Voted to change church meetings from fourth Saturday to the first Saturday of each month. Resolved that the Church punish any one who disturbs in or about the Church House.

- March 2, 1889

Reported \$2.40 raised for Home Missions. Church voted to give \$5.00 to Home

## Missions.

- Oct. 26, 1889

Voted to meet at early lamp lighting time.

- Jan. 25, 1890

Trustees reported work on flues finished and balance of \$4.00 paid. Also bought broom for church for 30¢. Resolve that Church raise the \$5.00 promised the Home Missions.

- Oct. 25, 1890

M. Brown asked for the use of the Church House this Thursday for an open lodge meeting - Request granted.

- Nov. 22, 1890

Chimney repaired at cost of \$1.75.

- May 24, 1891

This is the first time that any of the Sisters have been called on for prayer before continuing with business.

- March 26, 1892

Voted to meet tomorrow at 7:30 to organize a Sabbath School.

- April 23, 1892

Subject of a basket meeting came up. Bro. James Duty objected to a basket meeting.

- Sept. 24, 1892

Sister Lavina Brown and Sister Rachel Gillispie will each take a month to act as sexton.

- Nov. 26, 1892

Appointed a committee of the church as a whole to see the Erring brethren and labor with them to try and get them to come and make satisfaction to live for the glory of God.

- Jan. 26, 1893

Sister Maycraft said she would be sexton for 4 months, but Brother Josiah said he would do it in her place.



Aug. 6, 1898 -- Sisters Emma Armour and Lavena Brown to raise funds to paper House. Brothers James and Lon Brown to raise funds to repair and paint House.

Jan. 26, 1901 -- Trustees reported graveyard had been cleaned and same paid for. \$1.40 paid out for meat for a church dinner.

May 25, 1901 -- Bought 12 new song books, two with notes in them. Balance due on books 95¢. First entry found referring to pastor as Reverend, others were Elders or Brother.

Oct. 4, 1902 -- Committee reported they had bought carpet and put same down. They had 55 cents left so they spent that for lamp chimneys and wicks.

Jan. 31, 1903 -- Committee to see about buying an organ, and to solicit funds for same.

Apr. 26, 1903 -- Committee now has 40 subscribers to pay on organ.

Aug., 1911 -- Rev. S. T. Rhoads elected pastor for one year.

Aug., 1912 -- Rev. S. T. Rhoads re-elected for a year.

March, 1914 -- Rev. J. A. Duty elected pastor.

Oct., 1914 -- Rev. John Rhoads elected as pastor to preach once a month till August.

Apr. 16, 1916 -- Plans made for an Easter supper to raise funds to paint the Church.

Aug. 13, 1916 -- John Rhoads - pastor; E. O. Forward - clerk and treasurer; E. O. Forward - moderator. Sunday School -- E. O. Forward - Superintendent; Ethal Rose - Assistant; Phoebe Bounds - Secretary; Viola Synder - Assistant Secretary; Fred Brown - Bible Teacher; Lillie Forward - Young People's Teacher; Ina Brown - Junior Teacher; Ina Brown - Organist.

Nov. 18, 1917 -- Voted to get new song books.

Aug. 8, 1918 -- Willis Rhoads elected treasurer for church and graveyard.

Oct. 18, 1919 -- Church collection \$10.00 - Proceeds from pie supper \$32.75; coal bill - \$6.00; cash on hand \$37.03.

Nov. 16, 1919 -- Cleared from oyster supper \$16.25.

Feb. 1, 1920 -- Chas. Challacombe sale - dinner served by church - cleared \$31.65. Total in treasury \$49.32.

July 18, 1920 -- Ice cream supper cleared \$13.46.

Aug. 1, 1920 -- Bro. Ashurst re-elected pastor.

Aug. 10, 1920 -- S.S. picnic held at Bro. Fred's pasture. A splendid day was reported by all present. A big dinner was served and proceeds turned over to the Church - Total taken in \$228.54 - Expenses \$126.86, cleared \$101.68!

Dec. 4, 1920 -- Voted to increase pastor's pay from \$12.50 to \$15.00.

Sept. 27, 1921 -- Voted to put Ill. Baptist paper in homes of church members.

May 1, 1921 -- Action taken to unite with Macoupin Association.

Dec. 4, 1921 -- Committee to see about painting and plastering church.

Dec. 18, 1921 -- Meeting held in school house as church was being cleaned.

Committee to see about carpet for church. Used 11,500 shingles of 15,000 - \$6.00 per 1000. Remainder sold to Will Brown for \$21.00. Carpet from Sears Roebuck \$33.25.

Feb. 5, 1922 -- To meet and finish hitch-racks. Revivals by Rev. Shields.

Aug. 26, 1922 -- Voted to have preaching once a month or twice a month - 9 for twice, 3 for once.

Oct. 5, 1922 -- Voted to pay J. Paul Rhoads \$7.50 per trip for the four trips he came to preach.

Nov. 5, 1922 -- Elected E. A. Dawly as pastor.

Jan. 4, 1923 -- Coal bill \$6.50; stove pipe \$1.50. Voted for F. A. Brown to bring 10 bushel coal for the church.

July 3, 1924 -- Voted that Church look after absent or non-resident members and try to place them with other churches.

April 2, 1925 -- Bro. Herman Rhoads called to preach twice a month.

July 2, 1925 -- Voted to purchase a lamp suitable for stand and organ.

Aug. 2, 1925 -- Bro. Herman Rhoads ordained at Plainview Baptist Church.

Sept. 14, 1934 -- Church members pledged \$7.25 monthly. Bro. Warford called to preach another year at \$10.00 per month.



Oct. 19, 1935 -- Discussed ways to pay pastor for holding revivals. Bro. Doughty suggested each family giving one chicken.

July 18, 1936 -- Church Clerk - Margaret Brown; Treasurer - Ethel Cox; Pianist - Vera Shelton; Moderator - Earl Shelton; S.S. Supt. - Vernon Doughty; Assistant - George Rhoads; S.S. Treasurer - Vera Shelton; S.S. Secretary - Ada Wood; S.S. Pianist - Mary Metcalfe; Janitor - Onis Fulks.

Dec. 17, 1937 -- Bro. Ramey to come once a month for \$8.00 a month.

Aug. 4, 1940 -- Committee to buy stove.

Aug., 1941 -- Church repaired. Bro. Leo Ramey to preach 1st. and 3rd. Sunday. To pay him \$12.50 a month.

July, 1942 -- Bro. Leo Ramey called at \$15.00 per month.

May 9, 1943 -- Called Bro. Warford for remaining of Associational year at \$10.00 a trip.

Many other gifts and blessings have come our way. Some for our comfort - some to glorify God.

1953 - an electric clock for the auditorium

1955 - an addition to the building on the east - giving spread out room and a little more separation of classes.

1956 - there was a new floor put in the auditorium.

The next year the church building was covered; papered inside, the floors varnished - new windows and doors were added. A vestibule was built on, new screens purchased and even venetian blinds for the windows. In June 1957 new furniture was purchased. The next year new carpet was put down, and because we had so much to be glad and sing about new song books for the Sunday School and Church were obtained. Storage cabinets were added and then in 1962 a 20 by 44 foot addition was added, giving six more class rooms, a baptistry and two rest rooms. The baptistry was first used when Mr. & Mrs. Harry Davis and Richard Shelton joined the Church.

A church sign was made and placed on the lawn. This humble wooden messenger was replaced by a more sophisticated brick structure in 1976.

A trailer home was moved onto the grounds and furnished for the pastor's use.

Then came a new electric organ, new chairs, new flags, a communion service with

individual glasses, new drapes, an air-conditioner to keep us cool and attentive.

A public address system was given in 1976 in honor of a couple's 40th wedding anniversary.

Sixty new hymnals were purchased - The old ones kept to be used in our monthly visit to a Nursing Home.



## LISTENING in on REMINISCENCES

There were about three families who use to keep the preacher from Saturday night until Monday morning. Then some of the men folks would take him to town in the buggy or wagon to catch a train.

Oh yes, we went to church in the farm wagon lots of times. Sometimes we put straw in the wagon bed, especially in cold weather.

I remember when Brother Dickerman was baptized. He had a long beard and the boys were all concerned whether the preacher would get it all under the water.

Do you remember that preacher who chewed tobacco?  
Yes, and he never missed the crack in the floor when he spit!

We had a blind preacher one time. His name was Steve Rhoads.

When I was small I remember Aunt T. Chism and Grandmother Brown shouting in church.

What do you mean by shouting ?

During the preaching they went to other members shaking hands and saying ' Praise the Lord ! ' or ' Halleluiah ! ' and other praises to God. People don't get filled with the Holy Spirit like that anymore or at least they don't show it that way.

When we went to church on Sunday we never knew how many would be coming home with us for dinner. It didn't seem to bother Mother. She just went out and caught another chicken or two.

That church picnic we had at Brother Fred Brown's place was really a big event. Besides all the food there were all kinds of races and games. We talked about it a long time afterwards.

We use to have all kinds of dinners and suppers to raise money to pay our bills or raise ~~it~~ enough for the things we needed. Like ice-cream suppers, general dinners, dinners at sales, pie-suppers and just all kinds of things. It was a lot of hard work. I am glad that we don't do that now. We seem to get along just as well and even have more than we did then.

I was on a committee one time to raise money to roof the church. We went calling and people gave what they could. Some gave fifty cents, some a dollar and one or two might give as much as five. Those were hard times but we all worked together.

That old pot-bellied stove no one will ever forget it if they ever came to church on cold days and tried to keep warm by it. It stood in the middle of the room and everybody crowded around it as close as they could to keep warm.

One time they moved it back in the south west corner and put a jacket around it. Wasn't long until it was back in the middle of the room.

The driveway used to come in on both the east and west side

of the building and went all the way around it. The hitch-racks were on the east, north and west.

No, there weren't any on the west side.

Oh, yes, there was for I remember one time when George was playing on them and fell off and his teeth cut through his tongue.

Those Christmas trees! We always had one and it stood in the east corner. They were always tall enough to touch the ceiling.

Mrs. Wright knew how to witness. She didn't go to pay a social call. She went to her neighbors and if they were hanging up clothes she helped them. If they were cleaning out the cupboards she helped them and witnessed to them while they worked. She just met them on their level and that proved very effective.

Grandfather Brown always wore big felt boots. When he knelt to pray he would rock back and forth. He prayed a long time, sometimes for ten minutes.

When we had revivals there would be preaching in the afternoons and again at night. School would be dismissed in the afternoon so we could go.

We use to take turns cleaning the church. But that got to be the same way as keeping or feeding the preacher and his family, it was just two or three that would do it, and it was always the same two or three for everything.

One time the members were cleaning and painting the outside of the church. There were several working there together and Walter said he thought that was real harmony. Until the last few years not much was hired done. The men did most of the labor. One hot day a couple of the men were working very hard and the minister came out and told them that he would go pray for them. We all need to be prayed for but sometimes our prayers need a little manual lift.

The trees? I don't know how old they are or who put them out. They were there and even more of them when I was a little girl in school.

*Mrs. Leita Challacombe - in a Jerseyville Nursing Home - is our oldest living member, Mrs. Lura Fenton and Mrs. Margaret Brown are members of longest active standing at this date.*

*Mr. Vernon Daugherty is the oldest member in age (87)*



" And I will walk among you, and will be your God  
and you shall be my people." - Leviticus 26 : 12

Like Alex Haley, Harmony Baptist Church also has "roots". Many are those who have passed over the threshold of its doors. Hopefully, all came for a common purpose, for it becomes a bond of togetherness. In this togetherness grows a work and life-style of similarity for all church members - a goal of devotion to Christ and His gospel.

These pages contain a combination of thoughts, consciously borrowed from many sources, and I give credit to and am grateful for all the helps and suggestions.

As the years come and go surely sweet benedictions and whispered prayers will continue to move in and out of the corners and crevices of the "House", like shuttles weaving it all together into a tapestry. Fragments of meditation, song, scripture and prayer will fuse mystically together in what is truly the heart beat of Harmony Baptist Church.

-- Lillian A. Wood  
August 20, 1978

History of Macoupin County  
The Old Minute Book of Harmony Baptist Church  
Clerk's Books of meetings  
Building Our America -- Moore, Painter -- Charles Scribner  
History of Our Country -- Eibling, Harlow -- Laidlaw Brothers  
United States History - Ruth Graves, Wm Hamm -- D.C. Heath