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THE BOYNTON CHURCH

The Boynton Church building was dedicated as a Methodist Episcopal Church in May, 1871. A journeyman blacksmith, who came here from Pennsylvania, at the age of 36, sold the land to the church. He was Samuel Rolls, who with his wife, Sarah, lived a mile away from the site. Rolls was the Boynton smith, and a good one. He won first place in a horse-shoeing contest at the Logan County Fair in 1859.

At Boynton there was a combination store and post office,

the blacksmith shop, Town Hall, Boynton Center schoolhouse, and the church. Joe Short was the last owner of the store, he sold the building to Otto Kirchert about 1902, and he converted it into a home.

At the dedication of the church, enough money was raised to pay for it. John Betzelberger Sr. told that he rode on horseback to the dedication services and that the audience was too large for the building.

Names familiar to many are listed all through the records as

official board members, class leaders etc.: Mowry, Woolf, Buzeley, Donley, Morehead, Crawford, Watkins, Shipton, Talor, Coddington, Smiley, Curtis, Green, Ross, Steiger, Frazier, Scarborough, Fleming, Betzelberger, Rosenthal, Wertsch, Herhamer, Short and Kauzmaul.

The records show one wedding, William J. Morehead and Clara May Coddington, Sept. 23, 1886, with C.Y. Hicox officiating. There is also a record of one double wedding, that of Richard Diekhoff and Cora Alice Boudeman, and Park Boudeman and Amanda Diekhoff, on Oct. 26, 1911, at the Boudeman residence. Two more weddings took place after the church became known as the Boynton Community Church. They were Marjorie Betzelberger and Emil Auerbach, Aug. 20, 1938 with Rev. Richard Arthur officiating; and Alice Anderson and Gilferd Baker, June 12, 1949, with Rev. John Webb officiating.

Many years ago a storm tore the steeple from the church building, after which a belfry was erected, on Dec. 29, 1947.

The church discontinued its affiliation with the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1921. Following this, Sunday School was continued with preaching service part time, Mrs. Lou Ross, and George and Minnie Betzelberger serving as superintendents. For almost 40 years Mrs. Minnie Betzelberger served as superintendent and teacher, and worked diligently to keep the Sunday School open so that the young people of the community could have a Christian education in an interdenominational church.

Following are the names of families who helped keep the Boynton Community Church open: Short, Herhamer, Appenzeller, Ross, Barbee, Curry, Kaufman, Seaton, McHenry, Leach, Meyers, Elkins, Merser, Neblock, Smith, Mammen, Betzelberger, Bishop, Anderson, Boudeman, Walker, Timm, Nutty, Jeckel, Naffziger, Brennemann, Hatton, Reese, Plank, Watkins, Nannen, Baker, Robison, Zimmer, and Emmons.

In 1935, there were 35 members baptized in the Mackinaw River by Rev. Crabtree, and three members were sprinkled at the church.

Boynton's Ladies Aid Society was organized Oct. 29, 1950, with Mrs. Lila Jeckel as president; Mrs. Margaret Herhamer, vice-president; and Mrs. Lottie Anderson, secretary-treasurer. This group was very successful in fixing up the church building. The two coal stoves were replaced with oil heater, and other improvements included a new hardwood floor, tile ceiling, new chimney, and the interior painted.

For many years the Sunday School Choir was enjoyed. The choir members have fond memories of practices and parties, with Ruth Robison Kinsinger, as director, and Alice Anderson Baker, at the piano.

The 75th anniversary was observed in 1946, with Rev. Orval Seitz giving the morning sermon, with a program in the afternoon. A basket dinner was served at noon. Due to lack of interest, the Sunday School closed Jan. 1, 1962. The church building was torn down in 1968.