

Van Wert (County), Venedocia

SALEM
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Venedocia, Ohio

1848

1948

Centenary History

of

The Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio

September 3, 4 and 5, 1948

**GERALD R. JOHNSON
MINISTER AND MODERATOR**



"THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION IS JESUS CHRIST HER LORD"

Foreword

The compiling of this brief record of one hundred years in the life of a church and a community has been a memorable experience. Such a voyage into the past has been more than a recording of mere historical facts. It has been a discovery of the hopes, the ideals, and the vision of men and women who were motivated by a mighty faith in the love and providence of God. It was this faith which made for their intrepidity in the face of hardship, and gave them the valor and resoluteness to dare and to dream. The establishment of this community and its churches was a venture of pure faith by a courageous people, who, like Abraham, sojourned in the land of promise, and "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

The aim of the Centennial Committee throughout this record has been to point out the milestones along the journey of a century. Every available source and record has been carefully examined and faithfully preserved. Yet, in the brief compass of this work, there are doubtless many fascinating and interesting details omitted. If such has been the case, the committee can only plead lack of sufficient information as an excuse. The committee is deeply grateful to all who have so willingly put at its disposal letters, pictures, records, and other important data. Without such gracious co-operation this project would have been impossible of fulfillment.

This book is presented with a sincere humility at the remembrance of the deep obligation we must have to those noble souls who have gone before. If those who read this record are struck with this same sense of humility and obligation to God and their fellow-man, then this little book will have served its purpose well.

To those who have completed their earthly pilgrimage in the last one hundred years, and have climbed the delectable mountains, we say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." To those of us who have not yet attained, and who continue on the journey, we say, "Let us 'press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.'" Unto Him who is the Author and Finisher of our faith, and in whose sight a thousand years are but as yesterday when it is past, we humbly pray:

"Our God, our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Be Thou our Guard while life shall last,
And our eternal Home."

The Founding of the Community and the Church

The following recollections and history of the Venedocia community and church was translated from "Y Cyfaill", 1094, by Mr. Richard Jervis. It is not known who wrote the original article, although the initials of the author appear as J. T. W.

The first detachment that came here was comprised of three families; William Bebb of Rhiwgriafol, Darowen, N. Wales; Thomas Morris of Dolygweiddil, Trefeglwys, N. Wales; and the writer, R. Jervis, of Llanbrynmair, N. Wales; and their families.

We left Wales, the dear old land of our fathers, early in the month of May, 1847; and after a happy voyage of six weeks and three days (there were sixty Welsh people on the ship) we landed safely in the port of New York; and from there, after traveling westward for two weeks, we reached Cincinnati, and Paddy's Run, Ohio, where we stayed until the following spring.

In October, 1847, Mr. Bebb and his cousin, William Bebb, who was Governor of Ohio at the time, went on a journey through parts of Illinois and Wisconsin in search of a place to settle. They bought two or three sections of land from the Government, for a dollar and a quarter an acre, close to Rockland, Illinois, thinking at the time to begin a Welsh Settlement there. But for some reason they gave up that idea and took a second journey through Allen and Van Wert Counties, Ohio; and they bought land in York Township, Van Wert County, Ohio.

In April, 1848, we started out and travelled northward one hundred and fifty miles in a slow boat on the Miami Canal, which runs from Cincinnati to Toledo, Ohio, in search of our new home, which was already purchased. We reached Section Ten, eight miles from our settlement. As Bebb and Morris and their families had started out from Hamilton, and my family from Cincinnati, they reached the settlement some days before us. The two families that preceded us were anxiously waiting for us. They had prepared some kind of a log cabin, which was erected in the woods, with about a quarter of an acre of clearing around it, and that is where the town of Venedocia stands today. It was the beginning of the broad and prosperous settlement of Venedocia, April, 1848.

I can well remember the first night in our new home. After we had somewhat arranged the little things we had, before we went to rest for the night, we closed the clapboard door, put some muslin on the glassless window, and held a family prayer to ask Providence to watch over us and our only child, who was sleeping quietly. We were ready to go to rest when we heard something scratching at the door, and making the most terrible noise. After a while it shifted toward the clay chimney at the north end of the cabin, and scratched and made the most awful cries I ever heard. I took hold of my gun and after waiting quietly for a moment. I gathered enough courage to go out; my wife was carrying the candle. We opened the door, and going out slowly and cautiously, we saw two beasts. I fired at them; one of them fell, but the other escaped. We learned afterwards they were only two porcupines.

As Mr. Bebb was not to have possession of his holding until the month of September following, they spent the summer months with Mr. Morris and his family. There was three-quarters of a mile between us and them, but there was a path that was kept red between us. At that time the land was thick with trees, and it was wet and uninhabited. No doubt it had been the hunting ground of the Indians, and the habitation of owls, wolves, and ravenous beasts throughout the centuries. The Indians had departed for some years before we arrived, but rapacious beasts were still here, such as panthers, wolves, and wild-cats.

In regard to travelling conveniences, there was no railroad within one hundred miles of us. The only means of transporting goods to the communities was by the slow boat; and when the canal would freeze at the beginning of winter, everything had to be at a stand-still until the ice would melt again. There was a good flour mill in Section Ten, which is Delphos today, and there were two stores and a Post Office there. When we wanted to send a letter, or to make some small errands, we had to go to Section Ten. When we had some butter and eggs to sell, we often took them there in a basket. It was about nine miles away, through thick forests, and along wet, winding paths. After we arrived there, we were given five or six cents a pound for the butter, and five cents a dozen for the eggs in trade. To have any money was out of the question. When we went to the mill, we would start about noontime in order to reach there by night-fall. We would tie the horses to the wagon, and we ourselves would stay in the mill loft until next morning. The flour would be ready by the time it would be light enough for us to return home, so we could see our way through the woods. We always remembered to carry an axe along with us, in case we would want to open a new track so as to escape some of the swamps. Sometimes we ventured too much; the horses could not go on, and we had to empty the wagon.

This state and some bordering states are comprised of wide open spaces, and it was difficult at that time to understand in which direction the water ran, as the land seemed so level before it was cleared; but after that was done it appeared so much different. It is said that this settlement is the best agricultural land in Northwest Ohio. As we were in a new country, we met with much disadvantage and disease.

It would be appropriate at this point to say something about our determined and courageous wives who had been so faithful, and a crown to us in every movement. Mrs. Bebb was born in the Fanner, near Dolgelly, Merionethshire, N. W.; and the wife of this writer, a daughter of John Bebb, Canoly Wern, Llanbrynmair; and Mrs. Morris, the daughter of the respected deacon, Mr. Morris Jones, of Cumbiga, Trefeglwys.

With regard to the religious cause, we went along in the following manner until we secured a settled minister. Sunday morning at ten we held a prayer meeting, or more appropriately, a preaching meeting. After one of us had opened the meeting with a hymn, had read a part of Scripture, and had prayed, Mr. Bebb and Mr. Morris would read a sermon, and then close the meeting with a hymn and prayer. Mr. Bebb had a volume of sermons by Rev. Charles of Carmarthen, and he read from this. Mr. Morris would read a sermon from a volume that was published in Liverpool. So we were privileged with a good sermon every Sunday.

At two o'clock we had Sunday School, which was carried on in the same manner as it was carried on by the Rev. T. Charles of Bala, who established the first Sunday School in Wales, and under whose direction Mr. Bebb, in his younger days, had been organizing Sunday Schools; so therefore he well understood his work.

At six o'clock we had prayer meeting, when one would open and another close the service, with myself very often somewhere in the middle.

Wednesday, at two o'clock, we had a church society meeting. Mr. Bebb would begin with a Scripture reading and a prayer. Mr. Morris would listen to the children saying their scripture verses. Then Mr. Bebb would rise and with his remarks would open the 'seiat'. I well remember his saying that there are three special purposes for holding a society meeting. First, to give an

expression of our religious experience and to tell what God has done for our souls; second, to take notice of the outward circumstances of the church; third, that it was essential for the success of the religious cause to keep church discipline in the forefront and that the neglect this would be like an opening in the wall for the enemy to come in like a river. Then Mr. Morris would say a few encouraging words, exhorting us not to be disheartened if not blessed with the means of grace as we wished; and he reminded us of Jesus Christ's promise, "I will not leave you comfortless, I will come unto you." And with many other remarks, these two dear and faithful deacons heartened us to carry on, trusting in the Lord that He would surely prosper us physically and spiritually if we would only remain faithful to His work and cause. And after a few words by myself, Mr. Morris would close the meeting very effectually with a prayer.

The first Welsh church meeting was held in Van Wert County, April, 1848. We lived here about five years without a regular minister. There were many ministers who visited us during this period. The first was the Rev. Michael Jones of Bala. He preached on a Sunday night in the month of June, 1848, and this was the first Welsh sermon in Van Wert County. The Rev. David Jones (Congregational) of Gomer, visited us in the summer and the autumn following. The Rev. Howell Powell was here in April, 1849, and he stayed with us for a week or nine days, on his way to the Calvinistic-Methodist Gymanfa in Newark, Ohio. He preached, held 'seiat', and performed the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. He baptized Margaret Ann, the daughter of this writer, the first Welsh child that was born in the settlement. This was the time that we, as a church, sent a request with Rev. Howell Powell to be accepted into union with the Gymanfa, which was to be held in Newark, Ohio. Our request was granted. The following twelve people comprised the first membership of Salem Church:

Mr. and Mrs. William Bebb and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jervis, Mr. and Mrs. David Owens, Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Jones, and Mr. David M. Jones.

About the end of March in the same year, D. M. Jones came here and settled among us. He was a religious young man, faithful and useful. He afterwards married Laura, the eldest daughter of Mr. Bebb. It was the first marriage in Venedocia.

There came in the next two years David Owens, Edward Jones, Robert Richards, David Hughes, Rowland Evans, Richard Evans, D. J. Jones, D. Davis, John Richards, John M. Jones, J. J. Jones, and their families. They were all church members, which was a great encouragement to us. We were quite happy and brotherly, and peace and quiet prevailed among us.

In October, 1849, the Rev. Robert Williams, and several others from Jackson, Ohio, visited with us. Mr. Williams was here about a week, and we had a feast under his ministry. As the boat was late in reaching Spencerville Saturday night, he and others had to walk eight miles through the woods Sunday morning. He preached at two o'clock, from the words in Acts 10:33, "Now, therefore, we are all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God." He was in our sight like Peter in the house of Cornelius.

In the year 1850, several ministers visited us; the Rev. W. Parry of Granville, Ohio, and the venerable James Davies, Gomer, Ohio. He preached quite often to us during his stay in Gomer, with zeal and enthusiasm, as was his custom.

During this year we began to talk about building a church, and the work was completed at the end of the year 1851. It was a frame building, measuring 20 by 30 feet. We paid for it without a cent of help from anybody. On the day of its opening the Reverends Robert Williams and Evan S. Jones of Jackson, Ohio, preached.

A short time before we built the new church, we had a preaching appointment with the Rev. Hugh Edward Rees of Cincinnati, who intended to stay for a short while in our midst. By the time he arrived here he was very ill, and he died within a few days. The Reverends James Davies of Gomer, and Edward Hughes (a young man from Cincinnati, who had started to preach) officiated at the house, and the body was taken to Cincinnati for burial.

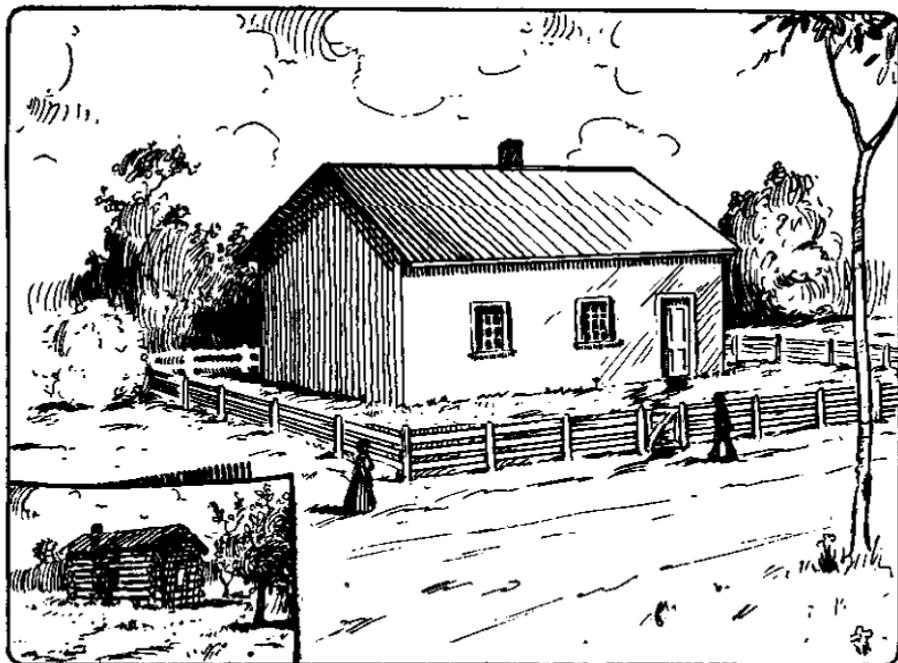
In 1852 we had a preaching meeting. There were three noted characters taking part in it: the Rev. David Williams, Pittsburgh; the Rev. James Davies, Gomer, Ohio; and the Rev. Samuel Roberts, Llanbrynmair, N. W. The three old veterans were at their best in preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ to us.

In 1853, at last we succeeded in having the Rev. Hugh Pugh, a native of Merionethshire, N. W., settled among us. He was a worthy minister of the New Testament and a strong man in the Scriptures. He labored here for many years, faithful, industrious, and acceptable, for a very little recompense because of the straitened circumstances of many of us.

Some years after Mr. Pugh came here, the Rev. H. P. Howell visited us. At that time he was at Paddy's Run, a young man beginning to preach. When he arrived here, Mr. Pugh's daughter had died, and he himself was very sick. This was the first time for Rev. H. P. Howell to officiate at a funeral. While praying for the sorrowing family, he asked most earnestly if, in accordance with the will of God, Mr. Pugh's life might be spared for fifteen years, for the sake of the religious cause in the neighborhood, and for the sake of his family. Strange to say, he died fifteen years from that time.

Space will not allow us to make particular note of the friends that came here from the year 1850 and 1852, such as Richard Evans; D. J. Jones; D. Davies, the blacksmith; John Richard; John M. Jones; J. J. Jones, and their families, all of whom were an ornament to the settlement.

The Churches of the Venedocia Community



The first church was built in 1853. It was a frame building, measuring 20 by 30 feet. The cost was \$300.00. It was located across the street from the present church. The carpenter was Mr. Edward J. Jones, assisted by Mr. D. M. Jones. On the day of its opening the Rev. Robert Williams and the Rev. Evan S. Jones of Jackson presided.



The second church was built in 1866, under the pastorate of the Rev. J. P. Morgan. It was built where our present church now stands. The contractor was Mr. William E. Jones, and the cost was \$3,500.00 This church is at present the Cambrian Hall. It was purchased in 1897 by the Venedocia Male Chorus for one hundred dollars, and moved to its present location.

The two ministers who served at the opening were the Rev. Thomas Levi, a well known minister of Wales, and the Rev. Howell Powell of Paddy's Run.



In 1897 the Rev. Edward Roberts and the congregation felt that the community was worthy of a more modern church.

When the proposition was placed before the congregation, \$5000.00 was pledged. This showed the desire of the congregation to provide a better house in which to worship. Two weeks later, at another meeting, \$5000.00 was again pledged, making a total of \$10,000.00. No definite amount was assigned to individual members, but each gave of his own free will. An additional \$4000.00 was given on the day of dedication.

The following were selected as the building committee: Rev. Edward Roberts, president; Mr. Thomas A. Alban, vice president; Mr. John C. George, secretary; Mr. Maurice B. Jones, treasurer, and the Messrs. William E. Jones, Edward R. Hughes, John S. Breese, William J. Bebb, John W. Jones, David T. Jones, John H. Reese, Richard M. Evans, David B. Jones, J. Pryse Morgan, William C. Morgan, Richard O. Evans, and Dr. David Davis.

The committee met on August 23, 1897, and decided to have an architect. On November 18, 1897 the committee accepted the plans of Wing and Mahurin of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Bids were received from six different firms but the committee accepted J. S. Zook of Van Wert, Ohio, as contractor, at the price of \$11,149.57. He was the lowest bidder and \$5000.00 under the highest bidder. This church required wider space than the former church, so an extra strip of land, twenty-seven feet wide, was purchased from Mr. D. W. Evans.

Mr. Zook completed the church in the time given, and proved himself a Christian and a competent contractor.

The dedication of the new church took place on October 15-16, 1898. Ministers taking part on the first night were the Reverends Edward Roberts, J. P. Morgan, and Daniel Evans Jones of Venedocia; H. W. Griffith of Cincinnati, Ohio; William W. Reese; R. H. Evans of Cambria, Wisconsin; Dr. David Davis of Oshkosh, Wisconsin; and Dr. William James of Manchester, England.

The windows of the church were given as memorials. The front window to the east was given in memory of the first three Welsh families.

The Elders of Salem Church

William Bebb
Thomas Morris
Jeremiah Parry
Evan Thomas
William G. Bebb
David M. Jones
Abraham Jones
Rowland J. Whittington
Thomas A. Alban
David W. Evans
Morgan H. Morgan
John T. Thomas
Thomas J. Morris
Richard Jervis
J. Pryse Morgan
John D. Jones
Abraham B. Jones
John C. George
Richard S. Breese
Maurice B. Jones
David O. Davies
Charles H. Foster
Henry Uhl
Edward W. Williams
David J. Morris
Lloyd Rees
John L. Jenkins
Stanley Roberts
Thomas Jones
Bowen Evans
Howell A. Jones
Robert F. Evans
John Mills Richards
Roland Evans
John E. Morgan
Maurice N. George
J. Layton Jenkins

The Ministers of Salem Church

1854-1865

The Rev. Hugh Pugh came as the first minister. He served very faithfully for eleven years. He went from here to Sugar Creek, Putnam County, Ohio. He died there on August 12, 1878. (No picture is available of the Rev. Hugh Pugh. Those who remember him say that he never had his picture taken.)

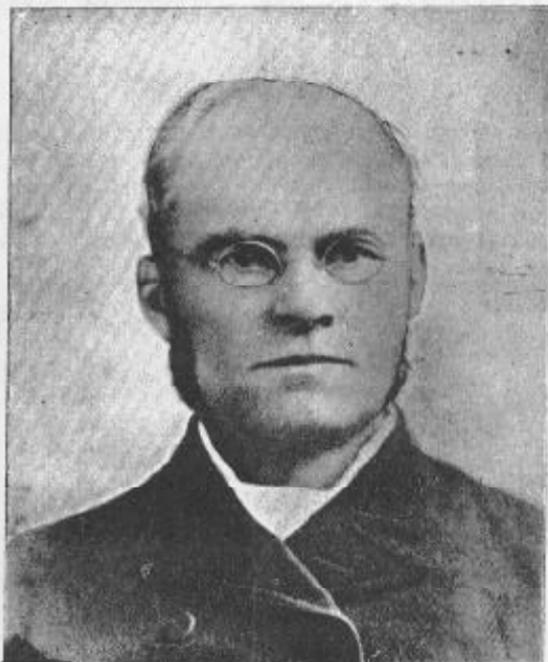
1865-1882

Rev. J. P. Morgan of Jackson County came to minister, and served here for seventeen years. He died because of ill health. The church at this time owed a great deal of gratitude to the Rev. Hugh Pugh and the Rev. J. P. Morgan, its first pastors.



1885-1886

The Rev. Hugh Davis came from Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania. He remained here just one year, and then returned to his former church.



1886-1889

The Rev. Vaughn Griffith came in the fall of 1886, and remained until 1889. He went from here to Lime Springs, Iowa.



1890-1895

The Rev. Thomas Roberts came in the spring of 1890. He remained here until the spring of 1895 when he returned to England.

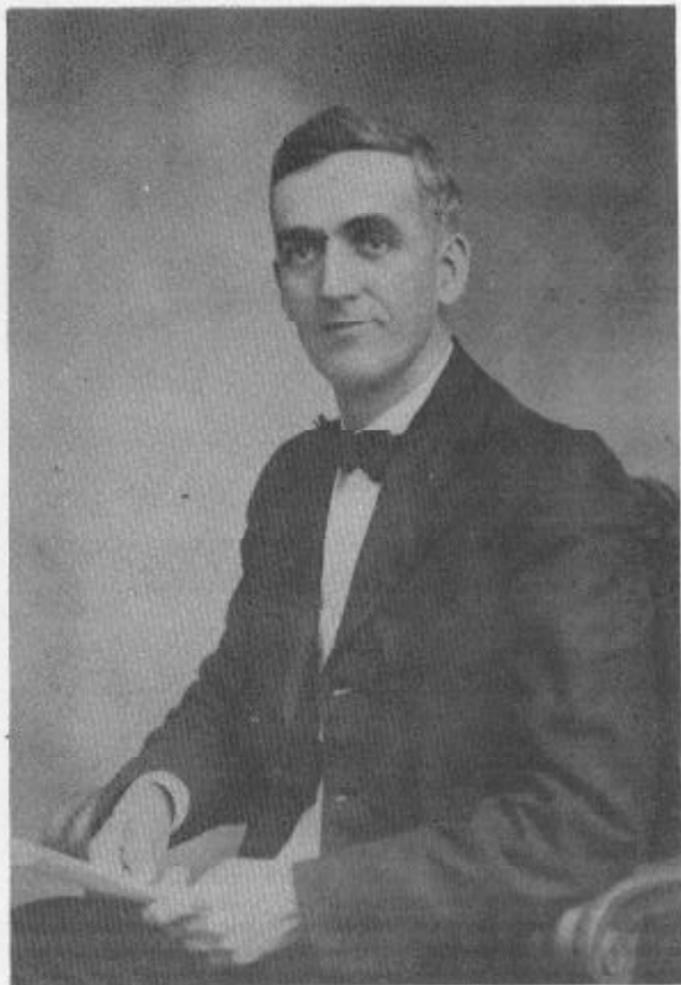
In 1890, twenty members withdrew to form the Bethel Church a settlement northwest of Venedocia. The same pastor served both Horeb and Bethel.



EDWARD ROBERTS

He was born in Llidiardan, North Wales, May 19, 1858. He studied at Princeton Theological Seminary from 1882 to 1884. He was ordained by the Welsh Presbytery, Synod of New York and Vermont, on June 5, 1884. He served as pastor of the Welsh Church at Middle Granville and Granville, New York, from 1884 to 1895, and as pastor of the Salem and Zion Presbyterian Churches of Venedocia, Ohio, from 1895 to 1913. From 1913 to 1929 he was Secretary of the Board of Missions of the Welsh Presbyterian Church. He retired in 1929. He died in Madison, Wisconsin, November 21, 1935 and he is buried in the Venedocia Cemetery.

“ . . . and their works do follow them.”
Revelation 14:13



RICHARD J. WILLIAMS

He was born in Deiniolen, North Wales, June 13, 1881. He was graduated from Hamilton College in 1909, and in 1917 he received his M. A. degree from the same school. On June 14, 1948, Hamilton College awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. He served as pastor of the Jerusalem and Bethesda Churches, Wales, Wisconsin, from 1909 to 1914. In September, 1914, he became pastor of the Salem and Zion Churches of Venedocia. In July, 1922, he became pastor of the Ebenezer Welsh Presbyterian Church, Scranton, Pennsylvania. He serves this church at the present time.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
—John 3:16



WILLIAM JONES

He was born in Wales, Great Britain, July 3, 1871. He attended Trefecca College, and in 1900 he was ordained. He served his first pastorate in the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church in Caerphilly. His next pastorate was in Rhymney. In February, 1911, he and his family left the British Isles and came to the United States. He served as pastor of the church in Midland, South Dakota, from 1911 to 1912; Lime Springs, Iowa, from 1912 to 1913; Crawfordsville, Iowa, from 1913 to 1918; and Garden Grove, Iowa, from 1918 to 1922. He became pastor of the Salem and Zion Presbyterian Churches of Venedocia in 1923, and he served here until his retirement in 1931. He left retirement in 1935 to become pastor of the Eighth Avenue Presbyterian Church, Denver, Colorado, where he served until his death on May 23, 1940.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from
whence cometh my help." Psalm 121:1



WILLIAM T. JONES

He was born in Wales, Great Britain, and came to the United States in 1926, at the age of 18. He received his B. A. degree from Carroll Collège, Waukesha, Wisconsin, in 1933; he received his B. D. degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1936. During the time he was in seminary, he did post-graduate work at the University of Chicago. During his last year in seminary, from June, 1935, to June, 1936, he supplied the pulpits of the Salem and Zion Presbyterian Churches of Venedocia. He was installed as pastor in June, 1936. He served Salem and Zion Churches until October, 1942, at which time he became pastor of the Emerald Avenue Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Illinois.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31

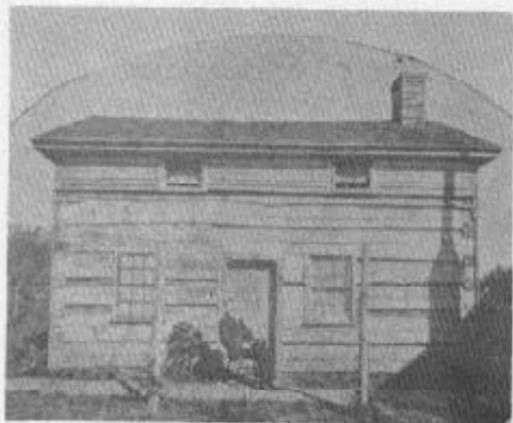


GERALD R. JOHNSON

He was born in Escanaba, Michigan. He attended Alma College, Alma, Michigan, and The College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio, from which he received his B. A. degree in 1940. He received his TH. B. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, which he attended from 1940 to 1943. In June, 1943, he became pastor of the Salem and Zion Presbyterian Churches, Venedocia, Ohio.

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 3:14

The Zion Church



Log Cabin of Abraham Jones



The First Church



ZION CHURCH TODAY

The arrival in this section of Van Wert County, in the spring of 1850, of four Welsh families from Cincinnati, Ohio, marked the beginning of the Zion community. This group, consisting of Abraham Jones, Hugh F. Jones, Thomas Hughes, and Griffith Goodwin, with their families, was supplemented during the next few years by the coming of several other families from Cincinnati, Jackson, and Newark, Ohio, as well as from Wales, Great Britain.

Records indicate that as early as 1854 religious services were regularly held at Abraham Jones' log house, Sunday School at first, and later, preaching services as well were held there. Upon the completion of the first church building in 1863, a "Union" Church was organized, consisting of both Congregational and Calvinistic Methodist elements, and named The Zion Church. In time, however, the Church became definitely affiliated with the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist denomination, and remained so until this body merged, in the year 1920, with the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

From its beginning, Zion Church has been a joint pastorate with the Salem Church of Venedocia. Following are the ministers that have served as pastors: the Reverends Hugh Pugh, John P. Morgan, Hugh Davies, R. Vaughn Griffith, Thomas Roberts, Edward Roberts, R. J. Williams, William Jones, W. T. Jones, and the present pastor, Gerald R. Johnson.

The present church edifice was built in 1902, during the pastorate of the Rev. Edward Roberts, and was dedicated October 11-12 of that year. It remains a monument to the consecration of the God-fearing and church-loving families of Zion of forty years ago, as well as to the faithfulness and devotion of its members since that day.

Throughout the years, Zion has been blessed with an unusually fine leadership. Its eldership has included the names of Abraham Jones, John Breese, Thomas Hughes, John George, D. J. Jones, John D. Breese, David E. Davies, G. H. Jones, Richard Davies, and Walter D. Lewis. E. Minor Davies, D. J. Breese, D. Edwin Jones, and Alonzo Rhoades comprise the session at present. Elders, trustees, choristers, and organists have given generously of time and talent. Hosts of others, equally devoted, have rendered faithful service. The recording angel alone knows the measure of all this steadfast allegiance and devotion to Christ and His church at Zion.

(The above article was written by the Rev. W. T. Jones at the time of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Zion Church.)

The Venedocia Presbyterian Church



J. J. Edwards



Daniel Evans Jones



William Surdival

Prior to 1885 there had been no religious services held in the English language in Venedocia. At this time, however, a number of English-speaking families had located in the village. There was Mr. Henry Dorman, employed by Williams Brothers, who operated a general store; Mr. Marcus Allison, a section foreman on the railroad; Mr. Henry Mash, a carpenter; Mr. David Knox, a carpenter; Mr. James Davis, the village blacksmith; and Mr. James Reed, a manufacturer of axe handles. These men, with their English-speaking families, and some others, felt the need of some kind of religious services.

A Sunday School was organized, and it met in a small brick school house which stood near the present parking lot across from the Salem Church. Mr. Henry Mash was chosen superintendent. This Sunday School met regularly for some months until several members, with their families, moved from the village. The Sunday School was then abandoned.

No other English religious services were held in Venedocia until 1895. In the early months of that year, through the efforts of Mr. J. J. Edwards, another English Sunday School was organized, with Mr. Edwards as superintendent. This school held its meetings in the old Cambrian Hall, which was located on the second floor of the Williams Brothers' store. This Sunday School was well attended, and the enrollment was relatively large.

Mr. J. J. Edwards was not an ordained minister at that time, but at the insistence of some of the older members of the Sunday School he consented to give Bible talks at the close of the Sunday School session. This procedure made many of the members of the Sunday School feel the need of an organized church.

In the closing months of 1895 the Venedocia Presbyterian Church was organized, with the Rev. D. Evans Jones as pastor. Three elders were elected; they were: Messrs. J. C. Morris, E. S. Foster, and T. S. Morgan. The newly-organized church had thirteen members: Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Foster, and their children, Lizzie, Daisy, Charles, and Homer; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Morris; Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Morgan; Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Edwards; and Mr. John Rees (Cleveland). John Rees was the first treasurer, and T. S. Morgan was the first clerk of session.

The church did not have its own chorister, and so John Foster came and led the singing. The organists were: Mrs. Kate Uhl Davies, Mrs. Pearl Foster Olafson, Mrs. Bertha Evans Uhl, Mrs. Hattie Blosser Wise, and Miss Elizabeth Uhl.

When the church was first organized, services were held on the second floor of the school house, which stood near the present Venedocia Recreation Field. The first church building was erected in 1896, and in 1911 the church was redecorated.

In the year 1911 Messrs. Henry Uhl, C. H. Foster, and D. C. Morris were elected elders. In 1913 the Rev. Daniel Evans Jones resigned as pastor, and moved to Cambria, Wisconsin.

In March, 1914, the Rev. William Surdival became the pastor of the church. On February 11, 1916, fire broke out, and the church was burned to the ground. The church was never rebuilt. For a while services were held in the hall above the store, and in the Salem Church on Sunday afternoons. In 1918 the members of the Venedocia Presbyterian Church united with the Salem Church.

The Horeb Church



THE FIRST CHURCH



THE SECOND CHURCH



Isaac Edwards

Jewett Davies

D. M. Jones

Trevor Williams

A Sunday School and a Prayer Meeting were organized in the Horeb Community on June 24, 1864. The first Sunday School was held in the Daniel Jones' home, which was located where the Horeb Cemetery is now located. In May, 1865, it was decided that the present house was too small. Daniel Jones donated one acre of ground on which was erected a log church, 20 by 28 feet.

The Rev. J. P. Morgan, pastor of the Salem Church, would come occasionally to preach and conduct services on Sunday evenings.

In 1873 a new frame church was erected. This church measured 30 by 40 feet, and it cost \$1,800.00.

The membership was in the Salem Church until June 15, 1881, when the Horeb Church was declared by presbytery to be an independent organization, with M. H. Morgan as elder. The church membership at this time was fifty-three.

The first pastor was the Rev. Isaac Edwards, who served from June 11, 1862, to April 13, 1867. He was followed by the Rev. D. Jewett Davies, who served from December 23, 1867, to December 20, 1891.

May 1, 1893, the Rev. Isaac Edwards returned to Horeb Church as pastor, and served until his death on June 3, 1898.

The Rev. David M. Jones was then called, and served from November 24, 1898, to January, 1907. During his pastorate a new brick church was erected; this church was dedicated in June, 1905.

The Rev. Daniel Evans Jones had charge of the church for one year, beginning April 15, 1907. He preached on Sunday afternoons.

Then the Rev. W. Trevor Williams was called. He began his pastorate June 20, 1909, and served until September, 1918.

In 1920 the Horeb Church united with the Salem Church.

Three missionaries went out from the Horeb Church. Mr. and Mrs. Rees F. Edwards went to China; and Miss Alice Jones went to India. From the membership of the church there came also three ministers: The Rev. D. Luther Edwards, the Rev. Joseph Richards, and the Rev. John Lloyd.

Music In The Church

TRANSLATED FROM THE FIRST CHURCH REPORT OF 1896

After the death of Thomas Morris and William Bebb, the responsibility of leading the singing fell to William G. Bebb. The following persons also assumed an interest in and helped with the singing: John Hughes, Evan B. Evans, Rowland Whittington and Rhys Price; but the one that did most for the singing in Salem Church was John D. Richards. He led the singing for over a quarter of a century. Because of failing health in his later years, he was not able to continue as previously, and last October he resigned. The responsibility then fell upon Robert R. Thomas, who was assisted by William C. Morgan and Richard S. Breese. The church on many occasions expressed its appreciation for the labors of Mr. Richards, and at his resignation, presented him with a gift.

ORGANISTS OF THE PRESENT CHURCH

Margaret (Breese) Jenkins	1898—1902
Alice (Jones) Morgan	1902—1906
Eunice (Evans) Foster	1906—1919 1924—1936
Frances (Uhl) Breese	1920—1924 1936—
Mrs. Breese is organist at the present time.	

SONG LEADERS

Robert R. Thomas	1896—1911
James H. Jones	1911—1914
Thomas P. Roberts	1914—1918
J. Alford Breese	1914—1931
Thomas Jones	1924—
John E. Morgan	1936—
Carl Morgan	1942—

Excerpts From Annual Report

APRIL 1, 1947 TO MARCH 31, 1948

Our church is fifth in size in the Presbytery of Lima.

326 members are now on the active roll.

20 new members were received into the church this year.

41 children were enrolled in Daily Vacation Bible School.

9 Young People attended Lima Presbytery Junior-High Camp at Celina, Ohio.

7 Young People attended the Senior-High Conference at Bluffton, Ohio.

7 marriages were solemnized by the minister.

6 funerals were conducted by the minister.

10 infants and 4 adults were baptized.

138 services (Morning, Evening, and Mid-week) were held.

The Restoration Fund quota of \$3,184.00 has been paid in full.

\$11,500 has been pledged for a Church Improvement Program.

The Church Directory

Gerald R. Johnson, Minister

THE SESSION

David O. Davies
Roland Evans
Charles Foster
John E. Morgan

John Mills Richards
Lloyd Rees
Stanley Roberts
Henry Uhl

J. Layton Jenkins, Clerk
Gerald R. Johnson, Moderator

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Delbert Dolbey
Edward M. Jones
Elliott Jones
Glenn H. Morgan

John J. Morris
John Pugh
Howard Richards
Joseph Williams

Vaughn Morgan, Chairman

Organist Mrs. J. Alford Breese
Choristers John E. Morgan and Carl Morgan
Church Treasurer Henry Uhl
Financial Secretary Henry Morris
Sunday School Superintendent Vaughn Morgan
Women's Association President Mrs. Stanley Roberts
Westminster Fellowship President Miss Idora Jones
Men's Brotherhood President Edwin Swygart
Music Committee Chairman Mrs. D. Harries Evans
Church Custodians Mr. and Mrs. John Coil

THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Gerald R. Johnson, Chairman
J. Alford Breese, Music
Miss Idora Jones, Historical Display
Mrs. Thomas R. Morris, Hospitality
Vaughn Morgan, Treasurer

Henry Morris, Secretary
Mrs. Rufus Morris, History
John Mills Richards, Speakers

The Centennial Program

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

8:00 P. M.

"Remembrances of a Century"

Opening Address, Introductions, and Reminiscences

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

10:00 A. M.

Welsh Service

led by

The Rev. Richard J. Williams and the Rev. William T. Jones

2:30 P. M.

Memorial Service

at the

Veterans' Memorial Park

Sermon by

The Rev. Maurice E. Jones

8:00 P. M.

Musical Program

in charge of

J. Alford Breese

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

10:00 A. M.

Morning Worship

sermons by

The Rev. Richard J. Williams and the Rev. William T. Jones

3:00 P. M.

Vesper Service

sermon by

The Rev. Edward Howell Roberts

8:00 P. M.

Gymanfa Ganu

conducted by

Mr. T. Herbert Davies

THE CENTENNIAL SPEAKERS

The Rev. R. J. Williams, D. D., is a former pastor of the Salem Church, and is now pastor of the Ebenezer Welsh Presbyterian Church, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The Rev. William T. Jones is a former pastor of the Salem Church, and is now pastor of the Emerald Avenue Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Illinois.

The Rev. Maurice E. Jones is a son of the Rev. Daniel Evans Jones, who was the first pastor of the Venedocia Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Maurice E. Jones is now the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Baraboo, Wisconsin.

The Rev. Edward Howell Roberts, D. D., is a son of the Rev. Edward Roberts, who was a former pastor of the Salem Church. Dr. Roberts is now Professor of Homiletics and Dean of Men at the Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey.

Mr. T. Herbert Davies is Director of Music in the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio. He is the conductor of several choruses in Ohio, and he has served as a Gymanfa Ganu conductor throughout the United States.

The Veterans' Memorial



An Altar of Peace

IN MEMORY OF AND IN TRIBUTE TO
THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMUNITY
WHO SO NOBLY SERVED OUR NATION
IN HER SEVERAL WARS

Those Who Served In Our Nation's Wars

WAR OF 1812

*Malachi Berry

CIVIL WAR

*William W. Baldrige

*John Baxter

*John Berry

*Daniel J. Davis

*Evan T. Davis

*Sophia Davis

*Hugh E. Evans

*John W. Hughes

*Meredith Humphreys

*Daniel J. Jones

*Edward T. Jones

*John E. Jones

*John Jervis Jones

*John L. Jones

*Jonathan Jones

*Thomas Lewis

*Richard Lloyd

*John H. Morgan

*Owen Morris

*Hugh Parry

*Moses J. Parry

*Robert Parry

*Thomas Reese

*Hugh T. Thomas

*Lewis Thomas

*Thomas Thompson

*Evan E. Williams

*William E. Williams

L. Maldwyn Jones

*Lewis S. Jones

M. Palmer Jones

Robert Jones

*Russell G. Jones

Walter D. Lewis

John C. Lloyd

Earl Monroe

D. Orus Morgan

Lawrence Morgan

*Leonard Morgan

Thomas A. Morgan

J. Rees Morris

*Robert Morris

T. Gleason Morris

J. Alwin Owens

Leonard Owens

T. Minor Owens

L. Maldwyn Price

*Thomas E. Price

Robert Pritchard

Roxy P. Rauch

Lloyd Rees

Robert H. Ringwald

Thomas P. Roberts

*Gregg Smith

Albert Uhl

D. Willard Williams

Edward W. Williams

Gomer J. Williams

Joseph R. Williams

WORLD WAR II

David Allen

C. Robert Ashton

Richard Bassett

Thomas Bassett

Edwin Bolton

Paul Bolton

Donald Boroff

Richard Breese

Robert Breese

John L. Burnett, Jr.

Karl F. Burnett

Lester Burnett

Warren H. Burnett

William W. Burnett

Carl B. Coil

John J. Coil

Richard L. Coil

Robert C. Crowe

Wallace I. Davis

Garland Davis

Walter Davis

W. Harold Davis

W. Alfred Davis

D. Elgar Evans

Roland Everett Evans

*James David Evans

John Evans

R. Marvin Evans

Robert C. Evans

Thomas L. Evans

W. Wendell Evans

Marvin Fisher

Daniel Foster

Edwin Harbert

Edward Hundley

Vernon Hundley

David Vaughn Jones

David H. Jones

Harold Jones

Thomas M. Jones

D. Roger Jones

W. Everett Jones

D. William Jones

William E. Jones

Lee Lare

Carl A. Lewis

Otis Linniger

J. Russell Lloyd

Bernard McMasters

Paul V. Metzner

Charles Miller

Carl Millisor

Paul M. Missler

Thomas Monroe

Dwight O. Morgan

Glenn H. Morgan

Glenn R. Morgan

Thomas A. Morgan

William G. Morgan

David W. Morris

Herbert R. Morris

John J. Morris

Lloyd E. Morris

David W. Owens

Charles W. Price

Melvin S. Price

Clarence Rees

John M. Rhoades

John W. Rhoades

Donald G. Richards

Monford Richards

Harold Strickler

Wallace Scheidt

Ralph Taylor

Elsie M. Thomas

Raymond Uhl

Paul Yoh

Robert Zirkle

*Deceased

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

*Evan R. Daniel

*Howard Jones

*Gomer Richards

WORLD WAR I

Evan T. Bennett

J. Ambrose Breese

Lester Burnett

John H. Davis

William Clifford Davies

Arthur O. Davis

John D. Davis

T. Clarence Evans

John H. Griffith

E. Howard Hughes

Abner Jones

Edward O. Jones

Emyln O. Jones

Evan E. Jones

Henry Jones

D. Luther Jones

An Appreciation

The Historical Committee wishes to express its gratitude to each one who assisted in any way in the compiling of this record. Particularly do we express our thanks and appreciation to our minister, the Rev. Gerald R. Johnson, for his suggestions and untiring efforts in the compiling of this record of one hundred years of our community, and fifty years of the Salem Presbyterian Church.

THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE