

Byers, who is the present postmaster. The town has now one store, a post-office, a blacksmith-shop, the Malott Park station of the Wabash and Pacific Railway, one church (Methodist Episcopal), and about fifty inhabitants.

Churches of the Township.—The Washington Presbyterian Church edifice was built about the year 1838 by subscription, on the farm of Joseph Culbertson, now the land of William Culbertson. It was a small frame building, and was used as a church about ten or twelve years. The building soon afterwards became dilapidated and was torn down. It stood about one half-mile north of where Malott Park now is.

The number of members at organization was about twenty-five, among whom were the following: Hiram Bacon, Mary Alice Bacon, Joseph Culbertson, John Nesbit, Elizabeth Culbertson, Mary Nesbit, Paulina McClung, old Mrs. McClung, John Johnson, Cynthia McClung, Samuel McClung, Nancy Nesbit, Margaret Nesbit, James Brown and wife, James Gray, and Sallie Gray. John Nesbit, Joseph Culbertson, and Hiram Bacon were the first trustees.

The first preacher was John Moreland, who remained with them four years. The next was William Sickles; he remained with them four or five years. After which there was no regular preaching, and when services were held there it was by transient ministers. After the place was abandoned the class went to Broad Ripple and united with the Union Church.

The Ebenezer Lutheran Church. In the year 1823 a small number of persons residing in Maryland conceived the idea of forming a colony and taking their departure for Indiana, hoping thereby to better their condition. They were all Lutherans, and all related, and Abraham Reck was their pastor. They organized a colony composed of the following persons and their families: Conrad Ringer, David Ringer, Jacob Ringer, Daniel Smay, Daniel Sharts, John Brown, Peter Brown, Solomon Easterday, Daniel Bower, and Jacob Ringer, Sr.

Their pastor then said to them, "You are like lambs going among wolves; I will go with and take care of you." The colonists, determined to brave the

dangers and undergo the hardships incident to a new country, started in the year 1823 for their destination. They came in wagons as far as the Ohio River, where they built a flat-boat, and on it came to New Harmony, Ind., where they resided one year, and then came to this county and settled in the same neighborhood, most of them in Washington, and the remainder in Lawrence township. For several years after their arrival here they held religious services at "old man" Reck's barn, and afterwards at the residences of the new colonists,—Rev. A. Reck officiating.

On Aug. 6, 1836, a church organization was formed under the leadership of Abraham Reck, with the following members: George P. Brown, Jacob Ringer, Sr., Daniel S. May, Sr., Folsom Swarm, Jacob Ringer, Jr., Conrad Ringer, Daniel Sharts, Peter Brown, David Ringer, Daniel Bower, King English, John Brown, George Brown, Aaron Sour, Palser Sour, William Clow, and Solomon Easterday.

The first account we have of the election of officers is that it was held on May 20, 1839, when David S. May, Sr., was elected elder, and Peter Brown, Jr., deacon, of the church.

The congregation built a hewed-log church near the northeast corner of the present cemetery grounds, situate about one half-mile east of where the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific Railroad crosses Fall Creek, in Washington township. The congregation held services in the log church until 1853, when they built a frame church on the site of the old log house, and soon afterwards dedicated it. The dedicatory sermon was delivered by Rev. D. Altman, and a debt of one hundred and seventy-five dollars was removed. From the organization, in 1836, until 1868 the following were the pastors for the number of years noted, viz.: A. Reck, 4 years; A. A. Trimper, 3 years; Jacob Shearer, 2 years; Abraham H. Myers, 5 years; A. F. Hill, 1 year; George A. Exline, 5½ years; A. J. Cramer, 5 years; Jacob Keller, 5 years.

The church was without a pastor in 1852. During Rev. Cramer's charge sixty names were added to the church-roll. Under the charge of Rev. George A. Exline the church experienced four revivals and began an era of great prosperity.

In the year 1868, during the pastorate of Rev. Jacob Keller, a disagreement or difficulty arose among the members, which finally resulted in a separation and the formation of two distinct churches. With some difficulty a committee of two from each faction was appointed to fix upon terms of settlement. The following were appointed, viz.: John Mowry and John Negley, in behalf of the upper, and Samuel Harper and David W. Brown in behalf of the lower, settlement. On the 26th day of February, 1868, the committee met and agreed upon the following terms of settlement: The party represented by Messrs. Harper and Brown to retain the Ebenezer Church building, and pay the party represented by Messrs. Mowry and Negley the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars, in two equal installments, the first due in two months, and the second due on Dec. 25, 1868. Messrs. Harper and Brown were to give their notes for said amounts. The article of agreement signed and sealed by all the members of the committee on the 26th of February, 1868, and attested by John C. Hoss, their secretary, concludes as follows:

"And the party represented by Samuel Harper and David W. Brown do hereby surrender to the party represented by John Mowry and John Negley all their interest in the privilege of Ebenezer Church. The committee also agree that the ground on which the church now stands and adjoining graveyard shall be held and controlled jointly by the two parties."

This action of the committee was duly ratified by the members of the congregation, and a separation ensued. Those that remained and worshiped in the old church were offered letters, but a slight misunderstanding occurred and they refused the proffer.

The Lower Ebenezer Lutheran Church was organized with sixty members in 1868, after the division in the Ebenezer Church. The congregation continued to worship in the old frame building until 1872, when the present two-story brick edifice was completed, when they occupied it and sold the old building to George W. House, who subsequently sold it to the Northwood Methodist Episcopal Church. The Ebenezer Church recently acquired it again and made it a parsonage. It stands about forty rods west of the church building.

The following pastors have been with the congregation since 1868, the number of years noted, viz.: Obadiah Brown, 7 years; David Hamma, 1½ years; Henry Keller, 4 years. The last named is the present pastor. The present membership is seventy-five.

The new brick church was dedicated to the service of God during the pastoral charge of Rev. Obadiah Brown; the Rev. Richards preached the dedicatory sermon.

The first elders after the separation were Samuel Harper and John A. Sargent; and the first deacons were Luther Johnson and Robert C. Heizer. The present elders are Luther Johnson and Luther Easterday, and the present deacons are Samuel Harper, Silas Johnson, and Franklin Bower. Sabbath-school is held in the church every Sunday in the year. The present superintendent is John P. Goode. The average attendance the year round is about fifty-five.

This church is situated in a wealthy neighborhood. Its members are zealous in the cause of religion, and consequently take an interest in all church matters, hence the church organization is exceedingly prosperous.

The Pleasant View Lutheran Church was organized on the 26th of February, 1844, with seven members, viz.: Jacob Schearer (pastor), Peter Hessong, George Bomgardner, David Hessong, Barbara Bomgardner, Catharine Hessong, and Rebecca Hessong. Their meetings for worship were held at the house of Peter Hessong. In 1854 a meeting-house was erected at Old Augusta, which was removed to Pleasant View and there rebuilt in 1863.

The first pastor of the church was Jacob Schearer, who was succeeded (in the order named) by A. H. Myers, J. Giger, George A. Exline, A. J. Cramer, W. G. Trester, Jacob Keller, John Boon, William H. Keeler, and the Rev. O. Brown, who is the present pastor. The church has now forty members, and a Sabbath-school attended by fifty scholars, under the superintendence of J. J. Hessong.

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Allisonville dates back to about the year 1827, when services were held by a preacher named Ray at the house of Mrs. Kimberlin, where and at other dwellings in the