Genealogy

The Oak Ridge Church and Cemetery

*Nova May Mertens*

Around 1875, the inhabitants of Jackson Township, Brown County, Indiana, living about two miles north of Helmsburg felt the need for a house of worship. Consequently plans were made to build, and the two sons of Jacob Frownfelter assumed the leadership for the construction of the first log church. The next problem which confronted the group was an appropriate name. Several meetings were held for this purpose but without success. Finally when another meeting took place Jacob Frownfelter was determined to settle the question and at the proper moment rose to his feet and remarked, “This is an oak ridge from one end to the other [referring to the timber] so why not call it Oak Ridge Church?”

By 1900, the size of the congregation necessitated larger quarters. Therefore, a few rods south of the log church on land donated by William Snider a new white frame building was constructed which is still used as a community church.

Approximately one hundred graves may be found in the cemetery adjoining the church on the south. At first there were few burials due to the poor condition of the roads, but as the highways were improved more families placed their loved ones to rest in this cemetery, which includes a few Civil and World War veterans. Among the oldest graves are members of the Snider family who originally had been laid to rest in the Myers Cemetery, and one grave for a member of the Frownfelter family moved from the Kuhn or Fleener Cemetery.

Emaline, wife of William Snider, b. Nov. 9, 1843; d. Feb. 8, 1907.
James Edgar, son of William and Emaline Snider, d. March 31, 1872, at age of 3 mo.
Douglas Wade, b. 1860; d. 1941.
Mary Jane Wade, b. 1861, d. 1940.

* Mrs. Nova May Mertens is a resident of Indianapolis, Indiana.
Sadie Wade, b. 1869; d. March 17, 1950, age 81 yrs., 2 mo., 12 da.
Joseph M. Wade, b. 1832; d. 1906.
Phoebe A. Wade, b. 1833; d. 1923.
D. W. Miller, son of David and Sarah Miller, b. 1838; d. 1920; 55th
James Smith, b. July 1, 1830.
Lucy Hughes, b. Oct. 23, 1845.
Walter Hughes, b. 1881; d. 1924.
Sarah Kephart, b. 1850; d. 1936.
Laura Gahn, d. Dec. 11, 1867; d. May 9, 1945.
Margaret Snyder, b. 1858; d. 1908.
Lewis Prosser, b. 1866; d. 1941.
Ida Bell Prosser, b. 1878; d. 1949.
Katherine Murphy, b. 1839; d. 1925.
Jean E. Brown, b. 1930; d. 1932.
Mary A. Brown, b. 1928; d. 1932.
Ishmael L. Brown, b. 1913; d. 1938.
John Steele, b. 1836; d. 1915.
Rebecca Steele, b. 1853; d. June 12, 1935; 82 yrs., 2 mo., 6 da.
Perry Baker, b. 1855, d. 1933.
Mary Baker, b. 1853; d. 1931.
James Derringer, b. 1865; d. 1936.
Cordelia Derringer, b. 1870, d. 1920.
Freda May Neal, b. Sept. 3, 1923; d. June 18, 1925.
Alice Neal, b. 1880; d. 1947.
Mary S. Pitzer, b. 1867; d. 1945.
Henry D. Neidigh, b. 1862; d. 1945.
Florence J. Neidigh, b. 1869; d. 1934.
Lewis Kelso, b. 1880; d. 1934.
Infant Shillingford, d. March 31, 1914.
Chelsie L. Shillingford, b. Feb. 23, 1883; d. April 17, 1939.
Susie Ellen Bush, b. 1893; d. 1923.
Wm. J. Long, b. 1843; d. 1925.
Mary A. Long, b. 1843; d. 1917.


Ray Derringer, b 1896, d. 1928.

Ruth Derringer, b. 1893; d. 1929.

Charles M. Gill, b. 1871; d. 1949.

William G. Smith, b. 1860; d. 1929.

Clara G. Smith, b. 1859; d. 1929.

Martha J. Stephens, b. 1858; d. 1944.

Homer C. Stephens, b. 1860; d. 1927.

James Bailey, b. Aug. 8, 1860; d. 1948.

Mary J. Bailey, b. Sept. 27, 1864; d. May 12, 1941.


Sarah C Morrison, b. Nov. 13, 1855; d. May 13, 1929.

Leah Katherine Morrison, b. Feb. 27, 1906; d. Nov. 30, 1940.

Harry B. Cope, b. 1875; d. 1924.

Harold Cope, b. 1900; d. 1923.


Willard Long, b. 1861; d. 1941.

Marcena Long, b. 1865; d. 1938.

Jas. W. Steele, b. Jan. 8, 1941; d. Nov. 17, 1925; Co. I. 63 Ind. Inf.


Ruth Beaver, b. 1858; d. 1945.

Albert Long, b. 1858; d. 1932.

Esther L. Bond, b. 1924; d. 1982.

Lucille R. Raridon, b. 1900; d. 1946.


Marvin E. Tutterow, b. Aug. 5, 1925; d. Dec. 23, 1944; Died of wounds received in Belgium, and was buried in N. France.

Infant son of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Tutterow, d. Feb. 15, 1936.

Ralph Ramsey, b. 1905; d. 1947.

Owen Richardson, b. 1850; d. 1919.

Elmer Richardson, b. 1882; d. 1934.

David Frownfelter, b. April 29, 1846; d. May 6, 1933.


Frances Harding, d. Aug. 18, 1937.

Lewis J. Snider, b. 1872; d. 1948.

Warren Snider, b. 1900; d. 1942.


Josiebaughman, b. 1882; d. 1947.

Elizabeth A. Brown, d. May 28, 1948; 1 yr., 1 mo., 28 da.


James Lloyd Merriman, son of George and Rebecca Merriman, b. Feb. 4, 1908; died at age of 16 months.
Mary Smith, d. July 194—.
Jacob W. Frownfelter, b. 1848; d. 1920.
Annie M. Frownfelter, b. 1867; d. 1936.
Samuel Frownfelter, b. 1850; d. 1933.
Clarence C. Beeler, b. 1861; d. 1920.
Mary H. Beeler, b. 1882; d. 1927.
Sarah Ann (Clark) Turner, b. March 11, 1840; d. March 2, 1910.
Laura Ellen Turner, b. July 14, 1865; d. April 9, 1939.
Infant son of Frederick and Nova Mertens, b. Feb. 23, 1927; died at birth.
Rufus (Jack Turner, b. Feb. 23, 1889; d. Nov. 5, 1932; [Date of birth on stone is 1890, but is incorrect.]