

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
EARLY HISTORY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN INDIANA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649555635

Contributions to the Early History of the Presbyterian Church in Indiana by Hanford A. Edson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HANFORD A. EDSON

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
EARLY HISTORY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN INDIANA**

CONTRIBUTIONS
TO
THE EARLY HISTORY
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN INDIANA

*TOGETHER WITH BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES
OF THE PIONEER MINISTERS*

NEW YORK
BY
HANFORD A. EDSON
LIBRARY

CINCINNATI, INDIANAPOLIS, AND CHICAGO
WINONA PUBLISHING COMPANY
1898

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
747584
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
R 1917 L

COPYRIGHT, 1898,
By HANFORD A. EDSON

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

PREFATORY NOTE.

THESE pages seek to preserve materials which would soon have been beyond reach—diaries, letters, the reminiscences of pioneers. It will be a satisfaction if any one is prompted to put other such materials into a safe place.

Several years since I had occasion to make inquiries about the ministers who laid the foundations of our Indiana church. The study took me into an unknown land. I was surprised at every step. Courage, self-sacrifice, piety, were to be expected; but I found besides a beautiful social life, uncommon learning, undoubted genius for affairs, and gifts of utterance in every way memorable.

Such fathers leave for their children the best of all legacies. If in any degree I may have helped to perpetuate their memory and light up their example, I shall rejoice.

Indianapolis, May 1, 1898.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

BEGINNINGS AND SPREAD OF PRESBYTERIANISM IN AMERICA.

- Genius of the Reformed Churches—Wide Extension of Presbyterianism—Earliest History of the Church in America—Presbyterians in New England, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Virginia—Francis Makemie, Old Hanover, and William Robinson—Samuel Davies—David Rice—Transylvania Presbytery 9

CHAPTER II.

THE SETTLEMENT OF INDIANA.

- Discovery of the Great West—Spanish and French Explorers—La Salle and the Mississippi Valley—First White Man on Indiana Soil—Vincennes the Earliest Settlement—French succeeded by English Dominion—Northwestern Territory—Indiana Territory—Character of Early Settlers—A Large Presbyterian Element 20

CHAPTER III.

THE FIRST MISSIONARIES. 1800-1806.

- Volunteers from Kentucky—Samuel Rannels—Samuel B. Robertson—James McGready—James Kemper—Thomas Cleland—Organization of First Church—Samuel Thornton Scott the First Settled Minister 30

CHAPTER IV.

HINDRANCES AND DISORDERS INCIDENT TO WAR. 1807-1814.

- Palmyra Church—James H. Dickey—Lawrenceburgh—Samuel Baldrige—Charlestown—Joseph B. Lapsley—Matthew G. Wallace—Tour of Samuel J. Mills—William Robinson at Madison 45

CHAPTER V.

- THE WAR OVER AND THE WORK ADVANCED. 1815.
 More Missionaries—John McElroy Dickey—His Great Use-
 fulness—Close of the Territorial Period 61

CHAPTER VI.

AID FROM NEW ENGLAND. 1816, 1817.

- McGready, Cleland, and Lapsley Again—Samuel Shannon—
 First New England Missionaries—Nathan B. Derrow—
 Clement Hickman—William Dickey—Daniel C. Banks—
 John Todd at Charlestown—James Balch 81

CHAPTER VII.

A NOTABLE QUARTET. 1818.

- William W. Martin at Livonia—Isaac Reed—Orin Fowler
 from the Connecticut Missionary Society—Ravaud K.
 Rodgers Commissioned by the General Assembly—
 Charles Stebbins Robinson on His Way to Missouri . . . 101

CHAPTER VIII.

BETTER ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION. 1819-1821.

- Lack of Settled Pastors—David Monfort—Thomas C. Searle
 —His Brilliant Promise and Early Death 131

CHAPTER IX.

INDIANAPOLIS. 1821.

- Seat of Government Transferred from Corydon—First Settle-
 ment and First Settlers at the New Capital—Coc, Blake,
 Scudder, Ray—First Presbyterian Sermon—Ludwell G.
 Gaines—Church Organization Effected—David Choate
 Proctor 138

CHAPTER X.

EXTENSION TOWARD THE NORTH. 1822.

- Fort Wayne—John Ross—His Unique History—Ezra H. Day
 at New Albany—William Goodell—Charles C. Beatty . . . 148

CHAPTER XI.

THE SHADOW OF SLAVERY. 1823.

Joseph Trimble—The Madison Flock again without a Pastor
—John Finley Crowe at Hanover—The Slavery Conflict . 156

CHAPTER XII.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERY. 1823, 1824.

Salem Presbytery Organized—Its Original Members—First
Records—Tilly H. Brown the First Licentiate—John T.
Hamilton 162

CHAPTER XIII.

HELP FROM PRINCETON. 1824.

Samuel Taylor Commissioned by General Assembly—George
Bush at Indianapolis—Baynard R. Hall in the State Semi-
nary at Bloomington—Alexander Williamson 169

CHAPTER XIV.

TWO FELLOW-TRAVELERS. 1824.

John Young's Brief Career—James Harvey Johnston 192

CHAPTER XV.

A PERIOD OF INCREASED MISSIONARY ZEAL. 1825.

Missions at Andover Seminary—Union of Missionary So-
cieties—A. H. M. S.—Lucius Alden—Lewis McLeod—
James Stewart—Samuel Gregg—William Nesbit—Stephen
Bliss across the Wabash—Samuel G. Lowry in Decatur
County 206

CHAPTER XVI.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SYNOD OF INDIANA. 1826.

Condition of Indiana—Truman Perrin—James Crawford—
Samuel E. Blackburn—James Duncan—Isaac A. Ogden—
Joseph Robinson—Synod Organized—First Records—
Calvin Butler—Leander Cobb—William Lowry—William
Henderson—James Thomson 214