

# TOWN OF PROVIDENCE CHURCHES

by

**Mary Packer, Providence Historian**

The first church of worship was a log building erected about 1793. It was rebuilt in 1807, and again in 1848. A new edifice was erected at Hagadorn Mills.

Earliest churches of Providence were the Baptist Church and Society of Friends. The exact date is unknown.

Baptist organized about 1790. Jonathan Finch heads the list as Elder and he served as its first pastor, ordained to the ministry of the young church. He had served as chaplain in the War of 1812.

Some years later, in 1841, a Methodist Protestant Church was established. Its affiliation was changed to Methodist Episcopal in 1871. The church had served over fifty years until 1895. It was torn down in 1900.

Barkersville Christian Church was organized in May 3, 1845, built on lands donated by the Barker and Carpenter families. At the time of the organization, there were eighteen members who came from the Mechanic Street church. The Barker and Carpenters along with others close by. It was remodeled in 1893 and a parsonage built later on. Ada Alderman ministered for over thirty years. After she left, others came to minister there. At present, we have Pastor Pat Atwell, who along with her husband, has done much for our community.

In 1983, Earl Keeler dug a cellar under the church. That space is now used for all activities. Now, Earl is working on the church shed, to be used as a committee room and Pastor's office.

Many children now attend the church and it's nice to see lights in the evening, with little ones playing out of doors.