

## PREFACE

This is a brief history of the Westminster Presbyterian Congregation of Mifflintown which was organized into a new church by a Committee of Huntingdon Presbytery in June 1875. Westminster Church is now 125 years old, but historically almost 250 years.

“The early settlers were strong in faith of their ancestors in Scotland. Although without stated ministry for some years, yet they recognized the grand truth of the gospel concerning the spiritual priesthood of all true believers, and that each disciple of Christ is a priest unto God to offer worship both for himself and for others; and so they assembled publicly for worship, and offered their spiritual sacrifices according to their ability.”<sup>2</sup>

“Early churches were frequently located near springs making it possible for members who came long distances on horseback to remain for a midday meal and second service of worship. The bubbling spring provided water for the people and their horses.”

“They built ramparts around their meeting houses for protection from the Indians. They went to their meeting houses fully armed and while the people worshipped there were sentinels appointed from their number who kept watch behind the rampart.”

“The meeting houses had no stove or other source of heat in cold weather. Some churches had small *retiring houses* with a fireplace for the elderly, sick, or mothers with small children. The minister would go there before and after services.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>*From the Historic Sermon by Rev. Sherrard in 1875*

<sup>3</sup>*From the History of Donegal*