

business of fair proportions and constituted a valuable auxiliary to his tavern.

Another of Mr. Jones's enterprises was the building of a store, which he kept during 1806 and 1807. Salt, which at that time cost \$4 per bushel, was the principal article of commerce. The salt was necessary for preserving the shad which the settlers took from the river, they being their only article of meat diet. The bears claimed and enforced the first right to all the hogs.

The goods were carted from Philadelphia by James Hadsall, a man now 93 years old.

CHURCHES.

BAPTISTS.

In 1793 the few Baptists of Exeter and Northumberland united to secure the services of a minister.

In February, 1794, John Jenkins, James Scovell, Thomas Jenkins, Benjamin Smith and Elisha Scovell, subscribed about \$65 toward building a church. Although they failed to erect the building the effort had its results, for the Baptists farther down the valley were made favorable to their schemes and a supply of preaching was secured for the settlement.

The first church regularly organized here was the Northumberland and Exeter Baptist church. This society first met in a barn belonging to Henry Jackson, as early as 1798. Among the early members were John Strong, David Adams, Henry Jackson, Stephen Hadsall, Richard Gardner and Jesse White. This church was supplied for half a century with preaching by heroic circuit riders. On the 8th of June, 1850, a division was effected in this society, a part taking the name of the Exeter Baptist Church of Christ. This church has usually had a pastor, but is at present supplied by Rev. A. D. Willifer, of Pittston. The trustees for 1880 were J. B. Jones (also clerk), George Miller and Aaron Brown. A prosperous Sunday-school is maintained in connection with this church.

MT. ZION M. E. CHURCH.

The Mt. Zion M. E. church was formed from parts of two societies or classes at Sutton's creek and the "Old Red School-house" district. Levi C. Lewis was the first class leader of the new society, and the first superintendent of the Sunday-school. They worshipped in the school-house at Mt. Zion until 1851, when their present church was built. On February 19th of that year, the trustees, Isaac Stephens, Evi Wilson and Robert S. Lewis, entered into a contract with Levi C. Lewis to build a church in "as good a style as the Truxville meeting-house." A site was given by Valentine De Witt. The building was finished Nov. 1st, 1851, at a cost of about \$1,000. The money was pledged by subscriptions and the contractor took the pledges for his pay. The house was dedicated in November by Rev. Mr. Shepard. Among the early preachers here are remembered Rev. O. F. Morse and Rev. Asa Brunson, who preached alternately once in two weeks. The society is now sup-

plied with preaching by Rev. F. A. King, of Carverton. It became connected with the Carverton circuit in 1858, when Rev. John Labar was pastor and George Holmes class leader, and the membership was 80. Mr. Labar preached two years; C. L. Reid, one; W. Munger, two; G. C. Smith, one; A. J. Van Clift, two; Joseph Madison, J. Austin, S. Elwell and F. A. King, three years each. The last named is the present pastor. The present superintendent of the Sunday-school is Vincent Lewis. It has 77 members. The trustees for 1880 were William Heisler, Smith Lewis, Joseph Whipp, Merritt Rozell, Evi D. Wilson, George B. Holmes, G. Ailesworth, and S. Kitchen.

DIAMOND HOLLOW M. E. CHURCH.

As early as 1800 the Methodist circuit rider found his way into Exeter. The circuit which included this appointment extended over a large territory, and included Dallas, Lehman, Mehoopany, Plymouth, Truxville, Nanticoke and Plains. Once in a month was as often as the preacher could be at this appointment.

Joseph Whitlock, an old settler, was the first class leader and the meetings were held at his house.

After the school-house was built at Diamond Hollow services were held in it, but the Protestant Methodists came then and the result was an amount of friction which led to the erection at last of an M. E. church in 1835. The present building was erected in 1870 under the direction of a building committee consisting of Andrew Montanye, Enoch Whitlock, and John Diamond. A Sunday-school is maintained here during the summer.

CEMETERIES.

The Mt. Zion cemetery was originally a private burying ground, but when the church was organized there it was enlarged and became the property of the society. The lot is handsomely fenced and well cared for.

The Harding cemetery is the oldest in the township and contains several handsome monuments. The first burial in it was that of Capt. Stephen Harding, August 4th, 1816. It was then a cultivated field on his farm, and the grave-digger cut the growing grain to make room for the grave. This grave was enclosed, with about one-quarter acre of land, and was used by the Harding family until the farm changed hands, when an acre was reserved for a neighborhood burying-place.

SCHOOLS.

The educational ideas of the primitive Yankee settlers were exceedingly vague. Schools had been maintained before the beginning of the present century in such of the communities as chose to raise by subscription the small amount necessary to pay the itinerant schoolmaster a few weeks during the winter for such services as he could render.

The Yankee schoolmasters of that day were a peculiar institution. It appears that the ranks of this army of literary tramps were swelled by many easy good fellows like Irving's Ichabod Crane, and the result, or possibly the cause, as a generation caring little for educational pursuits.