

REV. DANIEL W. SWIGART, the faithful pastor of the Indiana Baptist church, has served efficiently for twenty years in the ministry, and during that time has had charge of nine churches in his different fields of labor. He was born three miles west of Kittanning, Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, June 28, 1838, and is a son of John and Sarah Bowser Swigart. His paternal grandfather was of German extraction and a native of eastern Pennsylvania. He afterwards became a well-to-do farmer of Bedford county, in which he died. His son, John Swigart (father), removed in 1812 to near Kittanning, where he followed his trade of stone mason and brick-layer and helped to build the Eagle hotel and other of the first brick houses at Kittanning. He afterwards engaged in farming. He was a member of the Dunkard church and a life-long democrat, having voted the Democratic ticket for fifty-four years. He died in 1878, aged seventy-six years. He married Sarah Bowser, who was born in 1800 and died in 1877. She was also a member of the Dunkard church and sleeps beside her husband in a cemetery five miles northwest of Kittanning.

Daniel W. Swigart received his education in the common schools of Armstrong county and Reidsburg academy of Clarion county, Pa., from which institution he was graduated in 1872. Subsequent to his graduation and also after his ordination, he took a three years' course in theology with a well qualified private tutor, the venerable Rev. William Shadrach, D.D., who made his home with him for three years. In 1870 he was ordained pastor of the Mt. Pleasant Baptist church in Clarion county, Pa., of which he had been a licentiate for one year previous to his ordination. He remained as pastor of that church for seven years, also had charge of the Strattonville church and organized, in 1876, the Clarion church, of which he was pastor for two years. In 1879 he went to Greenville, Mercer county, this State, where he assumed charge of the West Salem church, which he served acceptably for two years. At the end of that time he removed to Saltsburg, Indiana county, and serves Saltsburg, Loyalhanna and Kelley's station Baptist churches for four years. In 1885 he came to Indiana, where he became pastor of the Indiana church and retained charge of Loyalhanna and Kelley's station churches until 1886, when he assumed charge of the Blairsville church, which he had organized in that year (1886). During 1887 and 1888 he was assisted in his ministerial labors by Rev. Wm. Shadrach, D.D. By this valuable assistance they conjointly gave one-half time to the three churches: Indiana, Blairsville and Saltsburg. Under his pastoral care the membership of the Indiana church has increased to one hundred and thirty-five, and Blairsville, with only twelve members in 1886, now numbers fifty-five.

On July 4, 1861, he enlisted in Co. D, 62d regiment Pa. Vols., was successively promoted to corporal, sergeant and first sergeant, participated in twenty battles and skirmishes and was honorably discharged July 13th, 1864. he is a member and chaplain of both Indiana Post, No. 28, G.A.R., and encampment No. 11, U.V.L.

In 1860 he married Margaret J. Starr, who was a daughter of Jacob Starr, of Armstrong county, and died in 1868, leaving five children: Ella J., John J., Emma M., Frank H. and Maggie I. On April 7, 1870, Rev. Swigart united in marriage with Emily Stoughton, daughter of Rev. Samuel Stoughton, of Butler county, this State. To this second union have been born five children: Eva M., Samuel S., Elvira, Emerson O., and an unnamed son which died in infancy.

He is an earnest, able and fearless minister in denouncing what is wrong both in public and private life, and in his circular-letter, written for the Indiana Baptist

Association, in 1889, on the church and her relation to the world he eloquently summed up his views on that subject in the following beautiful peroration:

“We must have more of the Christ-like spirit in our homes, and true friendship in the common walks of life. As the church continues to rise upon the plain of spiritual development, and moral purity, in the same ration the world will become Christianized and the sanctified knowledge of God will run to and fro and cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.”