

THE CHURCHES OF DELAWARE

by

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*A history, in brief, of the nearly 900 churches
and former churches in Delaware as
located by the Author.*

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Roby Methodist Church (M.P.), at Leipsic, was organized on June 3, 1865. The church site was purchased, on Dec. 4, 1865, from Samuel J. Burton, et al. The church was completed and was dedicated on Jan. 28, 1866, by the Rev. D. F. Ewell, the pastor. After being improved the church was reopened on Sun., Nov. 8, 1891. The services were conducted by the Revs. T. J. Smith, H. W. D. Johnson, J. M. Yingling and John A. Wright, the pastor. After major renovations a reopening service was held on Sun., Sept. 26, 1926. It was conducted by the Rev. E. C. Makosky, D.D., the newly elected President of the Maryland M. P. Conference. There is a graveyard beside the church, the graves dating back to 1867.

Immanuel P. E. Church in Leipsic. Services were started in Leipsic in October, 1867, by the Rev. Joshua Morsell of St. Peter's Church, in Smyrna, who preached on alternate Sundays. On May 10, 1869, the church was organized and the name "Immanuel" was adopted. Andrew Spear was elected Senior Warden and G. W. Spicer was elected Junior Warden. Bishop Alfred Lee confirmed a class on Sat., May 29, 1869. No church was ever built.

Leipsic Methodist Church (M.E.), located at the western edge of the town, is believed to have been built in 1837. This church was used until 1892. The old building was sold and is in use today as a storage building only a short distance away. The old graveyard is still there although neglected. The oldest tombstone being dated 1800, indicates that the little graveyard was there at the beginning of the century whether or not the church had been built at that time.

On the tombstone of John S. Paris who died in 1856, at the age of 18 years, is the following inscription:

"Passerby as you are now so once was I
As I am now so you must be
Prepare for death and follow me."

A number of years ago a rather sacrilegious wag from Smyrna created a scandal by adding in blue pencil the following:

"To follow you I am not content
For I don't know which way you went."

Land on the corner of 2nd and Walnut Sts. was purchased on June 10, 1886, from Jos. E. Palmer. On Jan. 29, 1891, Wilson L. Cannon donated additional land for a new church at the present site. The present building was completed and was dedicated on Sun., May 29, 1892. Among those taking part in the services were the Revs. J. D. C. Hanna, T. E. Terry and S. R. Maxwell. The Norma Glee Club furnished the music. In 1919, a number of improvements were made to the building.

Muddy Branch M. E. Church, located two miles south of Leipsic, was established in 1800. In 1837, the church was abandoned, the members attending the Leipsic church. The old graveyard with a number of fine tombstones can still be seen although the trees and brambles are gradually taking possession of the plot.

Grime's Chapel, colored, is located on a dirt road two miles s. w. of Leipsic. On Apr. 2, 1858, the church site of one acre was donated by F. B. Harper. The church has been closed since 1925.

Gum Swamp Church, colored, is located one mile north of Little Creek. It has been closed for a number of years.