

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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ing lot on the other side of the church and had the building moved over the required distance. The parsonage lot was purchased from Irma J. Harrington on June 1, 1939. The church was incorporated on Sept. 16, 1939.

Harrington Seventh Day Adventist Church. This congregation was formed by the union of the Whitleysburg and Farmington congregations. The church site, on Clark St., was purchased on Sept. 10, 1943. The brick church was built in 1944. It was dedicated on Sat., May 6, 1944, by Elder G. H. Robbins.

Metropolitan M. E. Church, colored. This church was organized in 1873. A board of trustees, headed by James Friend, was elected. They purchased a church site, consisting of 16½ sq. perches, from Henry C. Wolcott on May 17, 1873, and a church was built. Land on West St. was purchased on July 14, 1893, from Mr. Wolcott and the present church was then built. It was dedicated on Oct. 8, 1893. The church was rebuilt in 1920.

St. Paul's A. M. E. Church was organized in 1894. The church site on New St. was purchased on Mar. 12, 1894, from Henry C. Wolcott. The church was completed in 1895. On May 16, 1922, additional land was purchased from Annie M. Wolcott and the church was rebuilt.

In the early 1940's there was a small church on East St. known as the Macedonia Baptist Church. It ceased to function after a year of service.

White's Methodist Church (M. E.). In the home of Judge Thomas White, in Mispillion Hundred, was held the first Annual Conference of the M. E. Church in America. At that time they had not entirely separated from the Church of England and it was decided at this Conference not to separate. Mr. Asbury was very much opposed to separation. The Second Conference was held here on April 16, 1781.

These Conferences must have been local affairs as the Methodist Episcopal Church in America was not organized until 1784. This took place at the so-called Christmas Conference held in Baltimore on Dec. 25, 1784.

The Methodists had been subjected to many outrages and were held in utter contempt by the members of the other denominations. In April, 1778, Judge White, who was Judge of the Common Pleas Court in Kent County, was arrested and placed in jail on charges arising from the fact that he was a Methodist. He was confined for five weeks and then acquitted. It was in Judge White's home that Mr. Asbury took refuge on Mar. 25, 1778, when the authorities sought to arrest him on similar charges.

To understand the charges against Judge White and Bishop Asbury one must remember that during those troublous Revolutionary days, the Patriots considered anyone who had any favorable English connections to be a Tory and therefore an enemy. The Methodist Church was considered a part of the Church of England from which they had not yet withdrawn. The Patriots presumed that these church leaders favored the British side of the quarrel and for that reason accused them of treason. As accusation that was hardly justified and never proven.

Mr. Asbury remained in seclusion at Judge White's for two years. He was able to conduct, clandestinely, some of his many duties.

Incidentally, even today, the Judge White home would make an ideal hideout. Although the house can be seen from the road, one of several long lanes must be traversed to reach it. Built of brick and frame with high ceilings