

INVENTORY OF THE CHURCH
ARCHIVES OF DELAWARE

by the

HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY

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WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

487. THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DOVER, 1714, (?)-----, Dover.

Probably the oldest Presbyterian congregation in Kent County (but see entry 484a). As early as 1711 "the greatest Presbyterians, 1, and beginning in 1714, 2, ministers from other nearby places were asked by "the Presbytery" to preach from time to time to the Presbyterians in Kent. It is recorded in August, 1717, that they had a meeting house. 3, It probably stood on the site marked "Meeting House Square" on the town plot of Dover made in 1718, 4, (now Governor's Avenue, where the old Presbyterian buildings are still standing), although one writer believes that this first church was farther down Jones Creek. 5, At any rate, there was a log church on the town site in 1790, when it was replaced by a brick structure. The latter was supplemented in 1880 by a chapel, also of brick, and both remained in use until 1924, when the present church on State Street was dedicated. The congregation was incorporated in 1787.

The first settled minister in Kent County, Rev. Archibald McCook (1727-1729), 6, no doubt was stationed in Dover.

See: Samuel Miller, The Life of Samuel miller, D.D., LL.D., Second Professor in the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church, at Princeton, New Jersey. Philadelphia, Claxton, Remsen and Haffelfinger, 1869 Vol. I, 381 pp.; Rev. John F. Stonecipher, History of the Presbyterian Church, of Dover, Delaware. A Sermon Preached on the re-opening of the Church, October 23, 1887, n.p.n.p.n.p. pamphlet, 9 pp.), also his MS. Memoranda for this history, in possession of Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia: Historical sketch in Presbyterian Banner, Nov. 9, 1887; historical sketch in Dover State News, April 20-24, 1924.

Minutes (including Financial), 1880--, 2 vols.; Register, 1880--, 3 vols.; Sunday School, 1880--, 3 vols.; in possession of pastor, rev. Dr. Elliot Field. Deed to present church property, 1923, in custody of Board of trustees. Records of incorporation and deeds: Kent Co. Recorder's office, Deeds Record; vol. Z1, p. 128; vol. B3, p. 474; vol. X3, p. 52; vol. D4, p. 105; vol. V4, p. 99; vol. S9, p. 317; vol. E12, p. 378; vol. F12, pp. 296 and 298; vol. W12, p. 400; vol. A13, p. 471; Del. Laws; vol. 9 chap. 367, sec. 1.

1. Perry, Historical Collections..., Vol. II, Pennsylvania, P. 64.
2. Records of Presbyterians Church, p. 35.
3. Perry, Historical Collections..., Vol. V, p. 35.
4. Scharf, II, p. 1034.
5. Stonecipher, History of the Presbyterian Church of Dover, p. 3.
6. Records of the Presbyterian Church, p. 119, 188.