

To John and Marjorie Jewell.

Joseph S. Hinks

C H R I S T C H U R C H

1704
1791
1836
1941

MILFORD

DELAWARE

Historical Sketch

With explanatory and supplementary notes.

The Rectory,
Milford, Delaware
August, 1941

Joseph S. Hinks

"God's tabernacle on earth is the faithful."

S. Augustine.

"When I oversee the Church, Christ oversees me."

S. Polycarp.

"Like as a grain of mustard at first sight seems but a little thing, both common and despised, giving no savor, shedding no odour, indicating no sweetness; but as soon as it is bruised, straightway it sheds its odour, manifests its sharpness, exhales a condiment of fiery savor, and is inflamed with such burning heat that it seems a marvel how so much fire was shut up in such trifling grains: so also faith at first."

S. Gregory the Great.

"The heir must believe his title to an estate in reversion before he can hope for it; faith believes its title to glory, and then hope waits for it. Did not faith feed the lamp of hope with oil it would soon die."

S. Ambrose.

"Christians! They are full of God; His spiritual temples; full of Christ, full of holiness: adorned in all things with the commands of Christ; they love God supremely and alway."

S. Ignatius.

CHRONOLOGY.

- 1677 First Anglican Service in Delaware, Rev. John Yeo.
 - 1702 Founding of the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, by the Church of England.
 - 1703 Founding of the first Parish in Delaware by the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, Christ Church, Dover.
 - 1704 FOUNDING OF CHRIST CHURCH, MILFORD, DELAWARE. The second Parish established by the S. P. G. in Delaware.
 - 1786 The First Diocesan Convention. Christ Church, Dover.
 - 1791 Foundations laid for the present Christ Church.
 - 1793 Death of the Rev. Sydenham Thorne. February 13th.
 - 1836 Consecration of Christ Church. Sunday, January 26th.
 - 1841 Consecration of the Rev. Alfred Lee. First Bishop of the Diocese of Delaware. St. Paul's Church, New York City, October 12th.
 - 1884 Election of the Rt. Rev. Alfred Lee as Presiding Bishop of the Church.
 - 1874 St. Stephen's Church, Harrington, Founded.)By the Rev. John
 - 1876 St. John the Baptist Church,)Leighton McKim,
 - Milton, Re-established.)Rector, Christ
 - 1892 All Saints' Church, Rehoboth Beach, Founded.)Church
 - 1887 Death of Bishop Lee. April 12
 - 1888 Consecration of the Rev. Leighton Coleman. Second Bishop of Delaware.
 - 1890 Mission established in South Milford. By the Rev. J. Holwell Geare.
 - 1907 Death of Bishop Coleman.
 - 1908 Consecration of the Rev. Frederick J. Kinsman. Third Bishop of Delaware.
 - 1914 Organization of Woman's Auxiliary, Christ Church.
 - 1919 Resignation of the Rt. Rev. Bishop of Delaware.
 - 1920 Consecration of the Rev. Philip Cook, D. D. Fourth Bishop of Delaware.
 - 1938 Death of Bishop Cook.
 - 1939 Consecration of the Rev. Arthur R. McKinstry. Fifth Bishop of Delaware.
-
- 1863 Church renovated and enlarged. Chancel and Tower added to the building. Removal of galleries, etc.
 - 1863 Additional ground acquired for the Churchyard.
 - 1887 Church interior renovated. Memorials placed in Church; Altar, Sanctuary Lamps, Candle Holders, etc.
 - 188- Organ placed in the Church
 - 1926 Additional ground acquired for Churchyard. Also for a Rectory and Parish House.
 - 1914 Dedication of All Saints' Window. Also of Beswick memorial windows.
 - 1915 Church damaged by lightning. September. Repairs and improvements to Church.
 - 1926 Ordination of the Rev. Guy L. Hill to the Priesthood. This is the only record we have of an ordination in Christ Church.
 - 1937 Repairs to the Church.
 - 1938 Interior of Church renovated.
 - 1939 Organ repaired.
 - 1940 Memorials and gifts dedicated; Doors, Processional Cross and Alms Basin, etc.

Clergy of Christ Church.

1. Colonial Period. Missionaries of the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

- | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---------|---|---|
| 1. | Rev. Thomas Crawford, | 1704-09 | } | Under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London. |
| 2. | Rev. Jacop Henderson, | 1710-11 | | |
| 3. | Rev. George Fraser, | 1733-35 | | |
| 4. | Rev. Arthur Usher, | 1737-43 | | |
| 5. | Rev. Thomas Bluett, | 1745-49 | | |
| 6. | Rev. Hugh Neill, | 1750-56 | | |
| 7. | Rev. Charles Inglis, D.D. | 1759-63 | | |
| 8. | Rev. Samuel Magaw, | 1767-77 | | |
| 9. | Rev. Sydenham Thorne, | 1777-92 | | |

First resident priest.

11. Transition from the Church of England to the American Church.

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-------------|
| 9. | Rev. Sydenham Thorne, | See page 11 |
| 10. | Rev. William Price, | 1794-1800 |
| 11. | Rev. Henry Judah, | 1817 |
| 12. | Rev. Joseph Spencer, D.D. | 1818-23 |
| 13. | Rev. Daniel Highbee, | 1823-29 |
| 14. | Rev. Cory Chambers, | 1833-40 |

111. From the Consecration of the Church to today.

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 14. | Rev. Cory Chambers | See page 12 | |
| 15. | Rev. John Reynolds, | 1840-43 | |
| 16. | Rev. John Linn McKim, | 1844-63 | |
| 17. | Rev. John Leighton McKim | 1863-80 | |
| 18. | Rev. Charles Milnor, | 1881 | |
| 19. | Rev. Lewis Jackson, | 1881-85 | |
| 20. | Rev. James C. Kerr, | 1885-87 | |
| 21. | Rev. J. Holwell Geare, | 1889-91, 1892-93 | See Page 19 |
| 22. | Rev. J. Leighton McKim | 1894-1908 | |
| 23. | Rev. C.H.B. Turner, D.D. | 1910-1911 | Non-resident Rector |
| 24. | Rev. Ethelbert H.J. Andrews, | 1911-17 | |
| 25. | Rt. Rev. Frederick J. Kinsman, | 1917-18 | See Page 20 |
| 26. | Rev. Thomas Wingate, | 1918-22 | |
| 27. | Rev. Percy Deacon, | 1922-23 | Priest in Charge. |
| 28. | Rev. Alexander Patman, | 1923-34 | " " " |
| 29. | Rev. Guy L. Hill | 1925-28 | |
| 30. | Rev. Joseph S. Kinks, | 1928- | |

The above list is our official list of Clergymen who have been Missionaries or Rectors of the Parish, with those mentioned as Priests in Charge. Others, whose names we do not possess, have served, from time to time, as supplies for Sunday duties only.

The Rev. C. H. B. Turner, D.D. was elected Non Resident Rector November 1910 and resigned May 1911. See Page 19

Christ Church, Milford, Delaware, like all Anglican Churches in America of the 17th and 18th centuries, was founded by the Church of England, with the Bishop of London as the Ecclesiastical Authority. Like all other Parishes in the Delaware Colony it was established by the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the original missionary society of the Church of England. The only exception among the Delaware Parishes was Immanuel Church, New Castle.

All writers of Church and State histories attribute the founding of Christ Church to the Rev. Thomas Crawford, Missionary of the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel, of Dover, in the year 1704. Christ Church, Dover, was the first Parish established in Delaware by this Society, for the missionary work and development of Kent County, in the year 1703. As St. Peter's Church, Lewes was founded in 1705, by the same Society for Sussex County. Immanuel Church, New Castle was already an established Parish. With the advent of the S. P. G. missionaries in Delaware, New Castle became the center of their work and influence in New Castle County. With these three centers the Church instituted an expanding program. For shortly, Churches and Missions were begun (which have continued) in Milford, Middletown, Smyrna, Milton, Indian River, Cedar Creek and Stanton. Cedar Creek Parish is the only one that has not survived. All of the above mentioned Parishes and missions formed the nucleus of what later became the Diocese of Delaware.

In this sketch of Christ Church we will consider it, as it historically and naturally divides itself, in three parts.

- I. As a Colonial Parish. Founded 1704 (1704-1785)
- II. As one of the original Parishes of the American Church.
As one of the founding Parishes of the Diocese of Delaware.

The transition from the Church of England jurisdiction to the American Church.

The part that the State and Diocese of Delaware had in this transition.

The participation of the Rector of Christ Church in the first Conventions of the Church.
The transfer of the Church from Church Hill to Milford, 1836.
- III. The completion of the present Church building.
The consecration of the Church.

Resume of the past 105 years of parochial life and development.
The influence and contributions to community and Diocesan affairs.

Some supplementary notes, bearing on the history of Christ Church. Other explanatory comments that will help to picture the progress of a noble and holy inspiration and of sacrificial and enduring achievements.

Judge Richard Rodney, in writing of these Colonial Churches, said:

"There can be no Colonial history of the Church in Delaware for there was no Church as we generally understand the term. There was no cohesion,--no convention, no Bishop or other ecclesiastical authority. Thinly scattered through what is now the State of Delaware were a few struggling charges, each independent of the other, and all under the cure of a band of zealous missionaries furnished by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, which Society provided a greater part of the pitiably small stipends.

The ecclesiastical survey of Colonial conditions must, therefore, be either of the locations themselves where the seed was sown or consist of a consideration of those persons to whom was entrusted the arduous duty of laying the foundations in Delaware of the Church which was to come." (1)

The limitations expressed by Judge Rodney are those to be realized by anyone attempting a review of this period of our State and Church history. So if this sketch appears to be fragmentary and "dry" it is because we have tried to gather from many sources a picture that we trust will portray to some extent the scenes and personalities of the time.

In order to get a clearer view of the conditions and circumstances of Colonial Church life--and this applies to Delaware and therefore to our study of Milford and vicinity--Dean Hodges summarizes this period:

"The little minority of Churchmen were inevitably unpopular. Their neighbors had brought from England a strong resentment against the Church and State. They imparted to their children animosity--To their minds, the Church stood for the bigotry of bishops and the tyranny of kings. It represented a state of life from which they had escaped, and from which they hoped to be free.

"There being no bishop--ordination could only be had by going to London.--- During this period the ministry of the Church was chiefly replenished from the homes of planters, and not by the accession of men who were acquainted by experience with colonial life, but from England. There they were ordained and had commonly served an English parish before they presented themselves here. Even the good men coming thus into the back woods, found it difficult to understand their parishioners, and their parishioners found it equally difficult to understand them.

"In addition to the disability caused by the absence of bishops, the Church in most of the colonies had the further disadvantage of unpopularity. The general conditions in the 17th century England favored not an episcopal but a non-episcopal emigration. Most of the colonies were founded at a time when the Puritans were pursued by the Authorities.--Men of energy, and enterprise and conviction came over here to get away. In Massachusetts and Connecticut, the Congregationalists and the Presbyterians; in Rhode Island, the Baptists; in Pennsylvania, the Quakers; made up the great majority of the colonists. Churchmen, for whom England was a pleasant country and who had no strong reasons to be emigrants STAYED AT HOME. Except in Virginia and Maryland, they made up an inconsiderable portion of the population." (2)

"The Puritans settled New England. New York was settled by the Dutch. New Jersey by the Swedes. Maryland by the Roman Catholics. Virginia was the only colony in which we find the Church of England as the established Church. ... From Virginia we find the clergy coming to Delaware. First services .. in Delaware .. by the Rev. John Yeo, 1677." (3)

1. Christ Church. A Colonial Parish. 1704-1785.

The location of the first Church of the Parish is unknown, nor is the exact date known when this building was erected. Records do show, however, that a small wooden chapel was later built at a point known as "Church Hill" "at a place three miles west of Milford." (4) "A small frame structure, thirty six (36) feet long by thirty (30) feet wide." (5) This Church was familiarly known as the "Savannah Church." "Possibly because of the swamp nearby, or to distinguish it from the Three Runs Meeting House of the Presbyterians, situated two miles further down the creek." (4) This Church "was officially designated Christ Church, Mispillion." (5)

Surrounding this Church was a Churchyard.

Dimensions:

N. 83° E.	12.2 Ps.	
N. 70° W.	18 Ps.	
S. 83° W.	12.2 Ps.	
S. 70° S.	18 Ps.	
		1 A. 60 Ps.

The above plot represents one and 10/100 acres of land, situated now, 1878, on the public road leading from Milford to Harrington Station on the Delaware R. R. in Milford Hundred (formerly Mispillion Hundred) Kent County and State of Delaware whereon stood a house of worship known as "Savannah Church." Copies from a survey at that time of land of the the heirs of Daniel Polk, dead. Copied July 2, 1878 by Ch. Fleming, Milford, Delaware.

Copies from Mr. Fleming's papers by J. L. Mc Kim, 3/29/1897.

During this period Christ Church was served by the clergy of Christ Church, Dover, who resided at the Glebe; Rev. Messrs. Crawford, Henderson, Fraxer, Usher, Bluett, Inglis, and Magaw. See page 2 These clergymen were responsible for all the Church work in Kent County, which included the parishes of Dover, Mispillion and Smyrna. Their time and energies were concentrated entirely in Kent County.

It is most unfortunate that the Parish records for this period are not available. They have either been lost or destroyed. We suffer the great loss of all baptismal, confirmation and other important statistical information. Information that the clergy have been called upon again and again to supply for geneological and legal purposes. To their regret and to the disappointment of those seeking the information, we have to reply "we do not possess these records." The same reply must be made to all inquiries for information of parishioners previous to 1880.

If the list of the clergy is correct, and there are no omissions, we find that from the year 1704 to 1777 the Parish was without clerical services for thirty-three years. We cannot, however, verify this. If it is true, (the list of the clergy is the official one), then the Parish suffered greatly from the causes mentioned in this sketch--the loss of Episcopal oversight, the lack of priests to serve the Colonial parishes and other impediments of the early American Church.

At this point of our history we must take recognition of the Parish at Cedar Creek, St. Matthew's Church. A Church with a churchyard in Sussex County, about seven miles from Christ Church, Church Hill. St. Matthew's Church was founded by the S. P. G., as a Chapel of St. Peter's Church, Lewes, and served from St. Peter's Church.

Evidently the Mispillion River was not only the natural geographical and physical boundary between Kent and Sussex Counties, but the parochial boundary also. The dividing line. Churchmen south of the river affiliated themselves with St. Matthew's and those north with Christ Church.

The building of St. Matthew's was consistent with the policy of the S. P. G. and with the sense of responsibility of the missionaries in these two counties. But unfortunately the number of Church adherents was divided into two small groups, thus creating two small rural parishes. Later when Parson Thorne and others proposed to build the Church in Milford, in the center of this new and growing community, it was recognized that one of these rural parishes would disappear. This undoubtedly contributed to the resentment and opposition of Parson Thorne's suggestion, also to the long delay in completing the erection of the present Church. This opposition, we are told, was general and intense and included the parishioners of Christ Church.

The first mention of St. Matthew's Church was in "a letter of the Rev. George Ross of Lewes in 1717, that the Church was being erected, but not finished. The land still belongs to the Church, being conveyed by bond to the trustees. This tract of land was "surveyed" and divided off for two acres and five and half square perches of land, on the 10th day of April 1770, by Caleb Cirwithin, together with a church house thereon erected. In the old Churchyard, surrounded by cedars, stand tombstones erected to the memory of." (4) (This reference is to the first edifice.)

"Lewin Crapper---evidently a person of no small importance in community---builder and owner of what is now the Causey Mansion-- a magistrate in the days when only men of character could be appointed to this high office. He was also a member of the Cedar Creek Church and associated with Isaac Watson and Stephin Townsend in a conveyance bond given to the Corporation of St. Matthew's by David Thornton in 1768, the year in which the second Church of this name was built." (5)

How long St. Matthew's Church and Christ Church remained separate Parishes we are not prepared to say. But we do find that when the Vestry of Christ Church called the Rev. John Reynolds, 1840, as Rector of the Parish that he was called, by the Vestry of Christ Church, to serve St. Matthew's Church also. "The object of the meeting was to procure a rector to officiate in the Church and also in St. Matthew's Church at Cedar Creek. It was unanimously resolved to call the Rev. John Reynolds to the rectorship of said churches, which was accordingly done." October 14, 1839. (7)

The Rev. John Linn McKim, who succeeded the Rev. John Reynolds, "conducted services in St. Matthew's Church until 1854 and in 1858 the church building was sold, and 1864 was moved to Milford and used as a saw mill, and was destroyed by fire in 1871." (4)

The coming of the Rev. Sydenham Thorne marked the greatest change in the life and activities of the Parish. He was sent to Milford by the S. P. G. He was the first priest sent directly to Milford. Parson Thorne purchased a large farm and built what is known as the Thorne Mansion. He employed a number of farm workers and built and operated a mill, also a brick kiln. Judge Conrad describes him:

"Rev. Sydenham Thorne, (was) said by many to have been the most influential man in County of Kent. Thorne suggested (to Joseph Oliver) the donation of ground for an Episcopal Church and cemetery. Two lots were given and the foundation was laid in 1791. Thorne died February 13, 1793." (4) "The walls were raised and roofed in, but the building was not completed until 1835." (4)

So far we have presented the known meager facts of our Parish history for this Colonial period. The other facts are to be derived from other sources and concern principally the character and personality of Parson Thorne, and his activities.

Again we refer to Judge Rodney for the conditions that prevailed during and immediately after the Revolutionary War.

"But the hardships and privations of the body was as nothing to the sufferings of the mind. These mental sufferings were particularly acute as the Revolutionary decade advanced and the conflict between King and Church on the one hand and independence on the other brought the Clergy face to face with the possible abrogation of their ordination vows.

"There can be no doubt of the fact, with the exception of (Rev.) Mr. Ross at New Castle, the Clergy of the Church of England in Delaware, were in sympathy with the English cause. Nor is this difficult to understand. Bred in bone and nurtured in the flesh was the fixed and implacable view of the Supremacy of the King. This view was intensified by the Ordination vows and by the Canons and Liturgy of the Church, which required the offering of prayers for the King and the Royal Family.

"When the Declaration of Independence dissolved the political bands connecting the Colonies with the Mother Country, the adherents of Independence insisted, of course, that prayers for the King should cease. Here was the parting of the ways. Generally the Clergy of Philadelphia, like Ross, of New Castle, substituted prayers for Congress in lieu of those for Parliament but this was impossible for those in Delaware.

"Graphic descriptions remain of the travail of soul experienced by Reverend Philip Reading Of New Castle County, Reverend Sydenham Thorne of Kent and Rev. Samuel Tingley of Sussex-- but how differently they met their problems.

"The Rev. Philip Reading remained loyal to the King and refused to substitute the amended prayers, and "the Church was closed."

The Rev. Samuel Tingley of St. Peter's, Lewes made certain changes in the prayers and the Litany, remained loyal to the king, and kept his Church open.

"Reverend Sydenham Thorne of Kent County, while actuated largely by the same motives, arrived at an entirely different result. His Church too was closed. Mr. Thorne never expressed an intent to refrain from resisting the new Government, but on the contrary, expressly states that his zeal for the British Constitution and the peculiar obligations as a Clergyman of the Church of England urged him to oppose the measures of Congress, the Assembly and Committees as far as he consistently could. To such extent did he carry it that on four separate occasions he was brought before the Committee of Inspection and was subjected to much personal abuse. Thorne would make no changes, expressly affirming political sympathy with England; while Tingley did --" (1)

Judge Rodney makes this observation:

"If there had been proclaimed an ecclesiastical Declaration of Independence as well as the political one or if some power had been set up competent to make Liturgical changes, conditions might have been different, but it was most difficult to expect each individual missionary for himself alone to dissolve all ties from the sole sources of spiritual authority and material support existing in the Mother County." (1)

In order to get a clearer impression of the background of the spiritual and psychological reactions to this transition in our national life, therefore, in Delaware, let us refer to Bishop Coleman:

"The Revolution (War) was followed throughout the States, in all religious bodies, by a time of general apathy. Men were weary of the violence of the Great Awakening (Methodist Revival) and were so interested in the absorbing problems of political reconstruction that they had no time for religion. Faith was victoriously assailed by infidel arguments from France. Tom Paine was the most popular author of the day. No new churches were built, and those already built were empty. In 1796, the Methodists had for three years lost annually four thousand members. In 1798, the Presbyterian General Assembly remarked with dismay 'a visible and prevailing impiety and contempt for the laws and institutions of religion.' In Virginia, Chief Justice Marshall, a faithful Churchman, thought the Church too far gone to be revived. It was a time that tried men's minds and hearts; and the only wonder, perhaps, is that more injury was not done to the cause of religion and piety amid so much that was distracting and dangerous.

"There would have been more serious loss to the Church if it had not been for the humane and catholic policy of the S. P. G. in continuing their stipends to such missionaries as remained at their posts." (3)

Toward the close of the Colonial period and immediately before the Revolutionary War there developed a strong ethical movement in America, instituted and nourished by the followers of John Wesley. It was designated "The Great Awakening." Its influence was extended along the Atlantic coast. It was not an organized religious body as the Quakers, Presbyterians and others of the time, but a movement. Later it became a potent factor in the religious and moral structure of our early American life. This movement was lead by able and vigorous men and women, with strong evangelical and missionary enthusiasms. Inspired by such men as Wesley, Whitfield, Asbury and others. Men of force and eloquence. Under their inspiration and leadership the Movement spread in amazing and increasing strength throughout rural America.

As already mentioned there developed immediately after the war a general and intense reaction, feeling of prejudice and resentment against anything English. This feeling included the Church.

The "Great Awakening" was primarily an ethical and moral movement, which demanded of all those interested and wishing to participate in its benefits and growth what they called a "Personal Instantaneous Conversion."

Whether it was by accident or by deliberate intent that the inauguration of this Movement as a religious body was within the State of Delaware, within the limits of Christ Church Parish, (Barrett's Chapel, Frederica,) we are unable to say. But we do know that it was from this center that it spread into cities, towns, and rural communities, taking advantage of the emotional reactions and prejudices against Episcopal and English traditions and customs; spreading more and more its seeds of schism in the Episcopal Church. See pages 29-33 for notes on Coke Asbury, Wesley, etc.

It is a safe assumption and no exaggeration to say, that Christ Church was directly and greatly affected by this and the other reactions of the War, causing great distress among the faithful. Perhaps some of the parishioners were attracted to this new, and emotional, and what undoubtedly appeared to them as a more practical and personal presentation of the Gospel. We may also assume that this and the other causes mentioned did postpone the completion of the Church edifice and the transfer from Church Hill. They also contributed to the conditions and circumstances that Bishop Lee found on his first visit to Delaware. See page 17 .

II. Christ Church as one of the Original Parishes of the American Church.

Again we will have to refer to supplementary sources to ascertain the contribution made by this Parish toward the establishment of the Diocese of Delaware, and through the Rector, as a delegate to the first Convention of the National Church, in this critical and formative transition from the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Church of England to that of the American Church, and the important part that the Diocese of Delaware had in these early Conventions.

Our principal parochial participant was the Rev. Sydenham Thorne, who was at this time one of the foremost figures of the Diocese.

Bishop Kinsman in his annual address to the Diocesan Convention, 1914, in discussing the date of the first organization of the Diocese, said:

"A strong, if not irrefutable, presumption-- is established by the fact that Delaware representatives were received without question in all the early General Conventions of the Church.

"At a preliminary Convention held in New York on October 6th and 7th, 1784, the Delaware State was represented by the Rev. Sydenham Thorne of Milford, the Rev. Charles Wharton of New Castle, and Mr. Robert Clay of New Castle. Other members of this conference were two clergy from New England, six clergy and three laymen from New York, two clergy and two laymen from New Jersey, three clergy and four laymen from Pennsylvania and one clergyman from Maryland. The special object of this first conference was to arrange some sort of--organization of Churchmen as a preliminary to the holding of a General Convention in 1785." (6)

This Provisional Convention was followed by the First General Convention, in Philadelphia, September 27, 1785.

The representatives from Delaware were:

"The Rev. Sydenham Thorne, Milford; The Rev. Charles Wharton, New Castle; Mr. Robert Clay, New Castle; Mr. Nicholas Ridgely, Dover." (6)

The importance of this first Convention, at Philadelphia, is shown by the deliberations and actions of the delegates:

"It consisted largely of deputies from Virginia and Maryland; of the 16 clergymen 10, and from the 24 laymen, 14, were from these states. Nobody was present from New England. There were presented and adopted, to be approved at a subsequent Convention:

1. A Constitution. (See below)
2. Revision of the Prayer Book. The first Prayer Book of the American Church
3. A plan for obtaining, from the Church of England, the consecration of Bishops." (2)

The Convention held in Philadelphia was followed by the Second General Convention, an adjourned session being held in Wilmington, Delaware, October 10th and 11th, 1786.

We do not know whether Christ Church had any part in the Wilmington Convention. It is probable that the Rector, having been a member of the two previous Conventions and familiar with the plans and details of the organization, was a member.

We have spent considerable time upon this particular period. For it marked more than the end of a political era, it was the unfolding of a new social philosophy and social consciousness; of a new conception of democratic ideals and principles, both in the State and the Church. The American experiment in the democratic processes was stimulating and challenging other nations. These ideals and principles had to find their expression in and through new channels; through a re-constructed social and political structure. The dislocations; socially, economically and politically caused by the War were felt by all, and contributed much to the confusion and difficulties of the Church.

In the absence of Episcopal oversight, and the fact that the Church was largely a church of the minority, it is interesting to note how effectively the American Church contributed to this reconstruction and to the initiation of the new Nation. For we not only have to recall the names of such national leaders as Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Henry, Madison, Jay, Robert Morris and others who were Episcopalians, together with many others in the several States, who when the time came for the framing of the CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES MODELED IT AFTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

After the death of the Rev. Sydenham Thorne, in 1793, Christ Church was served by the Rev. William Price, 1794-1800, as the second Rector of the Parish. With his resignation there was a vacancy of seventeen years. Our records do not show what provision was made for the care of the Parish during these years. It is possible that the clergy of the Dover and Cedar Creek Churches conducted the services, or provided pastoral care for the sick, conducted burial services, etc.

In 1817, the Rev. Henry Judah was called as Rector. He was also elected the Principal of the Milford Academy. See note, page 27

This is the first reference we have of a priest of this Parish as the Principal of the Academy.

In 1818 the Rev. Joseph Spencer, D.D. succeeded the Rev. H. Judah. Dr. Spencer was also the Principal of the Academy. He served in this dual capacity until 1825.

Dr. Spencer was succeeded by the Rev. Daniel Higbee, 1825, who remained here until 1829.

Again there was another vacancy. Our records indicate that the Rev. Cory Chambers was the next Rector. He came from St. Luke's Church, Seaford, the first rector of this newly organized Parish. He came to Milford in 1833.

During these forty years, 1793-1833, we find that for twenty-one years the Church was either closed or that infrequent services were conducted. We cannot ascertain the cause of this. It may have been due to the lack of Episcopal oversight, or the decreased number of parishioners, or other causes. At any event, our records give the above information, and unless they are incomplete and omissions have been made in the list of clergy during this period, we must take recognition of these vacancies.

"In 1833 Rev. Cory Chambers became Rector; a man of much energy and ability, and a fit successor to Thorne of another generation. He succeeded in gathering the scattered members....." (5)

He "started building operations and completed the Church edifice.

A new roof was put on the building, galleries and pews received their first coat of paint, and the pulpit was adorned with hangings and upholstery of crimson silk, in the most approved style.

The roof was damaged by fire, before services were conducted in the Church. This was immediately repaired, and sufficient funds were collected to finish all necessary improvements and to have the Church consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk, January 26, 1836." (4)

1836. The Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Christ Church, Milford, Kent County, Delaware, hereby request the Right Reverend H. U. Onderdonk, acting as Assistant Bishop of this Diocese to consecrate and set apart the House of Worship lately renewed and completed in and for this said Parish; separating it henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary and common uses; dedicating it to the service of the Eternal God; for reading His Holy Word, for celebrating His Holy Sacraments; for offering to His Glorious Majesty the Sacrifices of prayer and thanksgiving; for blessing His people in His name, and for the performance of all other holy offices, through Jesus Christ our Blessed Lord and Savior, and according to the rites and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

Milford, 26th Jan. 1836.

Signed

Cory Chambers, Rector
John R. Potter)
John R. Draper) Wardens

Wm. Burton, Henry Hudson,
Chas. F. Fleming,
John M. Darby, Wm. F. Rivel, (7)

We do not have an account of this service or who preached the sermon, or other details. We do possess, however, the original Articles of Consecration, signed by Bishop Onderdonk. See page 22 for a copy of this important document.

With the opening of the new Church the pews were assigned to the Parishioners, upon payment of a pew rental.

The following is the list for the year 1837-38:

Pew # 1	20 Beniah Watson and son
2 John Stephenson	21 Henry Hudson
3 Potter Griffith and Elizabeth Jester	22 Ann T. Greer
4 Justice Lower	24 Elizabeth Williams
5 John M. Darby	25 Matthew D. Fountain and Mr. Jacobs
6 Dr. James P. Lofland	30 Henry Davis and Rhoda Hill
7 Thomas R. Hemmerslay	31 Daniel G. Godwin
8 Samuel Paine	32 Dr. Wm. Burton
12 Hon. Caleb S. Layton	33 Henry Taylor and Miss McNatt
13 Hon. Caleb S. Layton	34 Dr. John Owens
14 John R. Draper	
15 William F. Revill	
16 Manlove Carlisle	
17 John R. Potter	

There is also included in the Vestry records a complete list of the contributors to the fund to complete and furnish the Church, 1838.

The Church was typical of the period, it "was of two stories with side galleries on the north, west and south; the communion table at the east. The pulpit was surmounted, as usual in these days, by a sounding board." (5)

It was a square building, made of brick, without a belfry or tower and without a bell. For like all rural Churches, "the cross roads Church had no tower. With no need of a bell, since the parson's flock lived too far away to hear the brazen summons to prayer, there was no need of a belfry: none consequently of a tower to support the belfry." (8)

III. History of Christ Church, from the Consecration to the present

This third section of our sketch covers the past one hundred and five years of our parochial history. A history enriched by the associations, memories and heritage of those connected by family and other relationships with many of the Parishioners of today. Of those whose religious and spiritual lives have been associated with this portion of Christ Church influence and ministry of those whose entire religious culture and experiences were centered solely in this Parish. Many others too have found it their spiritual home, throughout those years.

Again, those of today who have come to learn and to love it have found a fuller and holier way of life and spiritual experience.

Here in this Church, here, where for generations holy men and women have worshipped--the House of God--to them--and to us--. This Church, filled with its holy memories, its sacred associations.

"has stood as a witness for the unseen and eternal, the symbol of things that give meaning to life.

Who can measure its ministry to the souls of men, 'where cross the ways of life', where a dream and a vision are needed to dignify business and barter of mankind."

This Church, its presence and its

"benediction, a token of the eternal life in time, bidding men to hope, and not to despair."

This Church with its cross mounted tower, a witness to all of an inward and spiritual power in and through Jesus Christ, is not only OUR heritage, but OUR opportunity to show forth OUR good works, and to glorify our Father, to OUR generation.

"The Church is nothing else than a house built of the souls of men." S. Chrysostom.

With the Church consecrated and the congregation re-assembled and the work re-organized, there was an increased consciousness of Parish responsibility, a new missionary enthusiasm, a program of Church extension and an increased sense of social responsibility.

Mention has already been made of the call of the Rev. John Reynolds, as Rector of Christ Church, 1840, and as Rector of St. Matthew's Church, Cedar Creek. He was also elected Principal of the Milford Academy. He served both Parishes and the Academy until 1843.

In anticipation of the coming of the Rev. John Reynolds, the Vestry on December 19th, 1839, passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, That it is expedient that this Church become incorporated, pursuant to the existing laws of this State, and for the completion of such object, C. L. Layton, Esq. was appointed to prepare the necessary writings.

Pursuant to a previous resolution of a meeting of the members of Christ Church, Milford, Delaware copies of the following written advertisements or notice to wit, one of the said notices at the gate of said Church, one at the house of H. Hudson in S. Milford, and another at the store of C. S. Watson and Co."

Were set up "in the public view at or near the place of meeting therein mentioned."

"The following is a copy of said notice, to wit; Notice is hereby given, that a meeting of the members and Society of Christ Church, Milford, Delaware will be held in said Church after the lecture on Thursday evening the 9th of January next. For the purpose of electing trustees and doing all other matters and things required by the law of this State for incorporating religious societies, preparatory to incorporating said Church."

John R. Draper, Secretary.

"And now, to wit, on Thursday evening, January the ninth A.D. 1840 at a meeting of the religious society or Congregation of Christians denominated 'Protestant Episcopalians' worshipping at 'Christ Church, Milford, Delaware' held in said Church pursuant to the above notice for the purpose mentioned in said notice.

On motion Beniah Watson, Esq. was called to the chair and John R. Draper was appointed Secretary.

On motion the notice of said meeting was then read by the Secretary.

On motion it was Resolved that there be seven trustees elected.

Resolved that a committee of three be appointed to nominate trustees for election. Thereupon the Hon. C. S. Layton, William Hill and John R. Draper were appointed said committee, who having retired a few minutes nominated the following persons, viz

Beniah Watson, Esq. Hon. C. S. Layton, Henry Hudson, William Hill, William Reville, Doctor William Burton, and John R. Draper, who were unanimously elected.

The trustees elected had assumed the name of (omitted)
Resolved, that the Secretary furnish a fair copy of these proceedings for the trustees." (Vestry minutes, January 1840.)

"The following is a list of persons and their families worshipping and belonging to Christ Church, Milford, Delaware:

viz	Rev. John Reynolds and family	Henry Hudson and family
	Mrs. Elizabeth Jester and family	Thomas R. Hammerslay and family
	Dr. William Burton and family	Henry Davis and family
	William C. Williams and family	John A. Adkins and family
	Mrs. Mary Mc Natt and family	Clement Messie and family
	Beniah Watson and family	John R. Draper and family
	William F. Reville and family	Manlove R. Carlisle and family
	Hon. Caleb S. Layton and family	Dr. John Owens and family
	Cap. Joseph Watson and family	Mary Truitt and family
	William Hill and family	James B. Jester and family
	Levin C. Fowler and family	Samuel Paine and family
	Col. Benjamin Potter and others	

Resolved that the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the chairman. Resolved that this meeting adjourns.

John R. Draper."

(Vestry minutes, Jan.9, 1840.)

In 1841 the Diocese of Delaware elected and consecrated its first Bishop. An event of the greatest importance. For heretofore the Diocese had been under the provisional jurisdiction of the Bishop of Pennsylvania, whose assistant visited the Parishes for Confirmation services, for Conventions and such other duties as circumstances demanded. The Diocese of Delaware, one of the original Diocese of the American Church, while without a Bishop, had its own constitutional and ecclesiastical status; its own standing committees, Diocesan conventions, parishes and missions, and other legal and ecclesiastical institutions of a Diocese. The parishes functioned as parishes, called their own clergy, erected Churches and were responsible for their parochial obligations.

"At the (Diocesan) Convention in the year 1841 at Georgetown, it was resolved to complete the separate organization of the Diocese by electing a Bishop. The Rev. Alfred Lee, then as before stated, the Rector of Calvary Church, Rockdale, (Pennsylvania) having been nominated, received the unanimous vote of both the clerical and lay deputies, the two orders voting separately." (9)

The Rev. John Reynolds was present at this Convention. Messrs. Caleb S. Layton and John R. Draper were the lay deputies from Christ Church. Messrs. Thomas Davis and Salathiel Baker represented St. Matthew's Church, Cedar Creek. All of the above names appear on the certificate of election. This certificate was signed by Rt. Rev. H. U. Onderdonk, President of the Convention
By the Clergy of
Immanuel Church, New Castle,
St. Anne's Church, Middletown,
Trinity Church, Wilmington
St. Andrew's Church, Wilmington,
Christ Church, Milford,
Christ Church, Laurel,
St. James Church, Stanton

By the Lay Deputies of

All the above named parishes. Also
St. Peter's Church, Lewes,
St. George's Church, Indian River
Grace Church, Brandywine,
St. Luke's Church, Seaford
Prince George Church, Dagsboro,
St. Peter's Church, Smyrna,
St. Paul's Church, Georgetown,
St. Matthew's Church, Cedar Creek. (9)

"The Rev. Alfred Lee was consecrated the first Bishop of Delaware, in St. Paul's Church, New York City, on the 12th of October, 1841, at the age of thirty four, under which a man rarely reaches the episcopate." (9)

"Before venturing to determine it, (election) it seemed incumbent on me to visit my brethren who had honored me with such a mark of their confidence, and acquaint myself with the condition and circumstances of the Church over which I was invited to preside. That I found most of the Churches in an exceedingly and depressed condition I need not inform you. I surely saw much to discourage in the field of labor proposed---in no other course did there appear, to the human eye, any prospect for the Church in the two lower counties but gradual decay and not very distant extinction. Had there been a single dissenting voice in my election I should have felt myself at liberty, although grateful for the preference manifested, to have declined the unexpected call. But the unanimity of the election invested it with a ten fold weight, and I shrank from the responsibility of declining a burden which the hand of Providence appeared to lay upon me."

From Bishop Lee's first Diocesan Convention address, 1842.
(9)

"It was indeed a feeble Diocese ever which the Bishop was called to preside. On his first visitation he found but four clergymen in the active work of the ministry, of whom one was below New Castle. The number of communicants in 1841 was 339.

At the Diocesan Convention of 1881, in an historical sermon reviewing his episcopate, then of forty years, Bishop Lee stated that there had been twenty-four churches built, of which all but one had been consecrated; he had confirmed 4327 persons and the baptisms reported (in the Diocese) were 10,082." (9)

The Rev. John Reynolds was succeeded by the Rev. John Linn Mc Kim, in 1844. The Rev. John Linn McKim remained as Rector for nineteen years, the longest rectorate of Christ Church. He was principal of the Milford Academy, 1844-45, and Rector also of St. Matthew's Church, Cedar Creek, until the Church was closed in 1854. We assume that it was under his leadership and wise direction that the two parishes were merged, and Christ Church became the sole Parish for this community and vicinity.

The Rev. John Linn McKim was succeeded by his son, the Rev. John Leighton McKim, in 1863, who was also elected Principal of the Milford Academy. He did not retain this position throughout his tenure as Rector of the Parish.

During the rectorate of the Rev. John Leighton McKim the Church was enlarged and renovated. The interior was changed to its Gothic type of architecture. The galleries were removed. The tower and chancel were added to the existing square building. New windows were installed. The bell (part of a set of chimes) was placed in the belfry. This work of renovation was done following the years of the Civil War, 1865-66 (tower built-1874-pyramidal tower roof-1894). Other evidences of his influence and abilities were the erection of the Church at Rehoboth Beach, Milton and Harrington. He not only built these Churches but served them as Priest in Charge, together with his duties as Rector of Christ Church.

We have been told that he frequently walked to Harrington for a service, or to Milton, after conducting services on a Sunday morning in Christ Church. Other material evidences of his interest and abilities were the consecration of these three churches, after the payment of all indebtedness incurred in building them, also the furnishing of them. Besides raising the necessary funds for the refurnishing of Christ Church, he also provided for the enlargement of the Churchyard.

The Rev. J. Leighton McKim left Christ Church in 1880 to assume the Principalship of St. Mary's School, Burlington, N.J. He returned to Christ Church in 1894 and remained as its Rector until 1908.

The Rev. John Linn McKim and his son, the Rev. J. Leighton McKim served the Parish for fifty years of the past 105.

It is interesting to note that the names of both of these priests appear in the lists of the clergy of St. Peter's Church, Lewes, St. Paul's Church, Georgetown, and St. George's Church, Indian River, in addition to those already mentioned. In some instances, their names appear twice and others three times. Both of them had important and conspicuous places in the affairs of the Diocese.

In the year 1881 the Rev. Lewis H. Jackson was called as Rector of the Parish, and he remained until 1885. The Rev. Thomas F. Milby spent the year 1886 as Rector of Christ Church.

The Rev. James C. Kerr became the Rector in 1887. His memory is still fresh to many in the Parish, who recall his many kindly ministrations and by those who still remember and profited by his priestly offices, his generosity and benevolences.

During his tenure the interior of the Church was re-decorated. Many memorials were placed in the Church. The Altar, memorial to Mrs. Sarah McKim, the seven Sanctuary Lamps, memorial to Joseph S. Truitt, the two Eucharistic Candle Holders, the two three-branch Candle Holders, and other gifts. He introduced the present vestments for the Communion services, and the use of other vestments not known to the Parishioners before. He left Christ Church to accept a commission in the U. S. Army.

The Rev. J. Holwell Geare succeeded the Rev. James C. Kerr, in 1887. The record of this clergyman includes many baptisms. Upon inquiry we have ascertained that he established a mission in S. Milford and built a small chapel in which a number of those baptisms took place. The chapel was destroyed in a storm. This work was not resumed.

He resigned in 1893 to accept the Rectorship of St. John's Church, New Brunswick, Canada, and returned to Christ Church, as Priest in Charge, the following year. But due to illness, he remained but a few months. See page

The Rev. John Leighton McKim returned to the Parish, as Rector in 1894. He remained until he retired from active duties, having served the Parish, in his two rectorates, thirty two years.

In 1910, the Rev. Charles H. B. Turner, D.D., Lewes, Archdeacon of Dover, was called as Non Resident Rector. (May 22) Dr. Turner did not continue long in this position. He resigned in September.

In September 1910 the Vestry called the Rev. Ethelbert H. J. Andrews. A review of the Parish under his leadership shows a decided change in the direction and administration of Parish affairs, and an advance in the parochial relationship of the Parish with Diocesan and National Church programs. At this time there were many changes in these programs; in the missionary and Church extension, the religious education, missions, financial and social service agencies of the Church. The Church Pension Fund was inaugurated. Under the leadership of the Rector and Vestry the Parish cooperated in these programs.

The Rev. E. H. J. Andrews was a priest of rare spirituality, a real leader. He is remembered by many of our Parishioners with deep affection. He exercised a profound influence upon the citizens of Milford. He was particularly interested in young people's activities and organizations. To indicate some of the changes in the Parish life and activities at this time, we will mention:

(taken from Vestry minutes)

The Forward Movement Plan. 1911
The Every Member Canvass instituted in the Parish. 1911
The first rectory purchased. (This was later sold.)

The 75th anniversary of the consecration of the Church was celebrated. At this service the offering was applied to the Parish House Fund. This is the first mention of a Parish House.

The installation and dedication of memorial windows, Lectern, Altar Vases, etc. Church repaired after being damaged by lightning. September 1915. Institution of the "Arts and Crafts Guild." Forerunner of our manual training classes in the public schools. (Vestry minutes)
The provision of a furnished room for this Arts and Crafts Guild, and its equipment.

The organization of the Woman's Auxiliary and mission study classes. 1914.

The Rt. Rev. Frederick J. Kinsman, Bishop of Delaware, was called as the Rector, November 1917, to succeed the Rev. E. H. J. Andrews. Like Dr. Turner Bp. Kinsman did not remain long as rector. No doubt due to the fact that as Bishop of the Diocese he felt that he should not assume the charge of a parish, and continue as such indefinitely. He resigned March 31, 1918.

The Rev. Thomas Wingate was elected Rector in 1918. He remained until October 1921. During his administration of Christ Church the Rev. Philip Cook, D. D. was elected Bishop of Delaware. At this Convention, Christ Church was represented by the Rector and Messrs. Robert Y. Watson and S. J. Abbott.

February 1922 the Rectory was sold.

The Rev. Percy Deacon was appointed Priest in Charge of the Parish in August 1922. He was succeeded in 1924 by the Rev. Alexander Patman, as Priest in Charge.

In August 1925, the Rev. Guy L. Hill was called to Christ Church. During his pastorate the Rectory and Parish House were built. His ordination to the Priesthood, in Christ Church, is the first record we have of such an ordination in the Parish. He resigned February 1928.

The Rev. Joseph S. Hinks, present Rector, came to the Parish October 1928. The record of the past thirteen years is known to all our Parishioners, the achievements of their faithful cooperation and devoted interest.

In the election of the Rev. Arthur R. McKinstry, D. D., as Bishop of Delaware, Christ Church was represented by the Rector and Messrs. Collins and Stanton.

So we conclude this sketch. Avoiding as much as possible any comparisons, definite conclusions and deductions. We have not attempted to be the historian, or the interpreter, but the recorder. For the appraisal of any history must of necessity include the consideration of these unknown spiritual factors and forces, the intangibles, which are difficult to measure and determine in terms of concrete and material things.

Our purpose in presenting this sketch was not to give an original and complete history of the Parish. For this is not possible. The records for such a study are not available. The Parish registers from 1704 to 1836 have either been lost or destroyed, also the registers from 1836 to 1880. The Vestry records from 1704 to 1836 have been lost. The records from 1880 to 1909 are also mislaid or destroyed. These are serious losses to the Parish and to historians. Particularly in estimating and evaluating the contribution and influence of the Parish during these years, and the serious loss in baptismal, confirmation, marriage and other records. So we have tried to indicate from other sources some of the religious, social and political conditions and circumstances that prevailed during these early and formative years of the Parish, and to show the part the Parish and the Episcopal Church exercised in the preparatory years of our State and Community.

We have felt for some time that this information, as given in this sketch, should be compiled. We are only too conscious of the omissions in it. Yet we trust that what we have written may prove helpful in formulating a complete record when later the lost or mislaid records have been recovered. As this sketch is primarily for the Parishioners of Christ Church much of it may prove to be very familiar, we trust however, that we have added some new and informative facts.

There are undoubtedly some old records, such as old books, baptismal, confirmation, and marriage certificates, Church papers, or Parish booklets, which antedate our present registers, that would help in establishing some of the historical facts of the Parish, or help in reconstructing some of the Parish registers. If such books were returned to us, or if you have such records, papers or certificates previous to 1880 and you are willing to loan them to us, we will have copies made of them and will return them to you.

We ask you to read this sketch remembering these intangible factors, invisible forces, which give substance to the faithfulness and loyalty to all those to whom Christ Church was and "is the witness for the unseen and eternal the symbol of things that give meaning to life."

So with humble apologies for this incomplete history and for an inadequate presentation of such a worthy and interesting subject we offer you the foregoing.

THE ARTICLES OF CONSECRATION OF CHRIST CHURCH

A declaration of the principles and purposes for which the Church was built and consecrated and for which it now exists and serves.

The Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen of Christ Church, Milford, Kent County, Delaware, having requested me to consecrate and set apart the House of Worship lately renewed and completed in and for the said Parish -

Be it known that on this twenty-sixth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, I have consecrated and set apart the said House of Worship, separating it henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary, and common uses; and dedicating it to the service of the Eternal God, for the reading of his holy word, for celebrating his holy sacraments, for offering to his glorious majesty the sacrifices of prayer and thanksgiving, for blessing his people in his name, and for the performance of all other holy offices, through Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Savior, and according to the rites and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, at Milford, this twenty-sixth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six and in the ninth year of my consecration.

H. U. ONDERDONK

Acting provision-
ally as Assistant
Bishop of the Epis-
copal Church in the
State of Delaware

*

Supplementary notes.

Known lists of Vestrymen

From 1836 to 1880:

John Potter
John R. Draper
Dr. Wm. Burton
Henry Hudson
Charles Felming
Beniah Watson
William Hill
John M. Darby
William F. Reville

Curtis S. Watson
Manlove Carlisle
James S. Jester
Hon. Caleb S. Layton
Bethuel Watson
Dr. Robert A. Clark
Thomas Carlisle
Samuel S. Jefferson
Gov. William Tharpe
Thomas Wallace
Dr. Mark Lofland
James R. Lofland
Daniel Currey
Dr. John R. Mitchell
William F. Causey
Dr. Nathan Pratt
Edward Henderson
D. M. M. Gregg
Samual M. Simpler
Joseph W. E. Wells
Gen. A. J. A. Torbert
Robert H. Gilman
Dr. Robert Y. Watson
Dr. J. N. Register

Vestry Minutes

From 1880 to 1909:
Records have been lost.

From 1909 to 1941:
Dr. Robert Y. Watson
Dr. J. Lynn Pratt
Isaac S. Truitt
J. Coleman Saltar
John C. Truitt
Daniel G. Collins

S. J. Abbott
C. H. Lefferts
William T. Watson, Jr.
H. R. Witt
Harry B. Thaw
Lewis H. Ross
M. H. Rose
James H. Stanton
William Johnson
William Holmes
H. O. Halbert
Herman D. Johnson
Remson C. Barnard
Robert Pierce
Howard S. Mason
Dr. Frank L. Grier
Herbert C. Jump, Sr.
Bankson T. Holcomb
William R. Weaver
Richard W. Bennett
Frank J. Elton, Sr.

Associate Vestry, 1941:
Dr. John B. Baker
Dr. S. M. D. Marshall
Harry H. Mulholland, Sr.
Robert L. Nelson, Jr.
Remson C. Barnard
Herman D. Johnson
Vestry Minutes

"Some of those who were wardens and vestrymen or pew holders of Christ Church in past years, especially as many of these families have had no mention in these chronicles, and in some cases the names themselves are no longer represented in the community.

William Sorden
Col. Peterkin
Judge Fisher
Dr. Adams
Walter Truitt
Gen. George Fisher
James Clayton
John Purnell
John Shaver

Charles D. Watson
Benjamin Potter
Edmund Potter
Dr. Wm. Wolfe
Joseph Oliver
John Masten
Dr. Sudler
Abraham Townsend
John Reville

Johnathan Walton
Dr. Brinckloe
Daniel Rogers
John Davis
Peter Caverly

Andrew Barrett
Jacob Biddle

Supplementary notes.

Daniel Rogers, mentioned in the foregoing list, as Speaker of the Senate, upon the death of Governor Bedford in 1797, "because by virtue of his office became acting Governor. He was born in Accomac County, Va., January 3, 1754.

He came to Delaware some time prior to 1778, settled in Cedar Creek Hundred and purchased from Lewin Crapper (mentioned in this sketch) a farm of some six hundred acres with the well known mansion which afterwards passed into the possession of Lowder Layton, and was subsequently purchased by Governor Causey. He died February 2, 1806, and was buried on the home farm." (10)

Dr. William Burton, Vestryman and Warden of Christ Church.
Dr. Burton "was born October 16, 1789, and died August 5, 1866. He was elected Governor (of Delaware) in 1858. The term of Governor Burton extended into the stirring times of the Civil War, and his personal and official influence was exerted at first for the maintenance of peace, but when it was evident that peace was impossible, the same influence and effort were directed to the preservation of the Union, while at the same time guarding, as far as possible, what he considered to be the rights and dignity of the State. He retired from the office in 1863 beloved by many and highly respected." (10)

Dr. Burton was buried in the family lot in the Churchyard.

William Tharpe, Vestryman of Christ Church, was "born November 27, 1803 and died January 1, 1865. He was the great grand son of John Tharpe of Sussex County, England, who settled in Kent County, Delaware, in its early history, and his was one of the eldest families of the county. William Tharpe had several children, who married and settled in the town of Milford and its vicinity, one of whom was Ruth, the mother of Ex-Governor William T. Watson.

When elected Governor he moved to Milford, at which place he lived the remainder of his life.

He was considered a strong man naturally, and was a very substantial citizen. He was prominent and popular in his community, highly respected by his people, and his life was useful and successful." (10)

Governor Tharpe was also buried in the Churchyard. His grave, like that of Governor Burton, is marked by a monument, bearing his inscription "Governor of Delaware."

William Tharpe Watson, Sr., Parishioner of Christ Church, "the son of Bethuel and Ruth Watson, and the grandson of Governor Tharpe. He was born in Milford, June 22, 1840. He was elected a member of the State Senate in 1892, and at the second session of his term he was made Speaker. During his Senatorial term he succeeded to the office of Governor by reason of the death of Governor Joshua Marvil in April, 1895.

In public life he sought to subserve and promote the public interest, and when he once agreed upon a rule of conduct or a settled policy he rarely departed therefrom. He was careful in his official appointments, strong in his convictions, firm in his opinions, and lacked not the courage to assert and maintain them." (10)

Judge George P. Fisher, Vestrymen of Christ Church, "Attorney General of the State of Delaware. Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia during the trying days of the (Civil) War. He presided in several famous trials, one of which was the case of the conspirators against the life of President Lincoln." (5)

General A.T.A. Torbert, Vestryman of Christ Church, "born 1833-- died 1880. Graduate of West Point Military Academy. Chief of Calvary under Sheridan in the Civil War. Minister to Salvador. Married Miss Mary Currey, daughter of Daniel Currey. Consul General to Havana. Consul General to Paris. Died August 29, 1880." (5)

Dr. Robert Y. Watson, Vestryman of Christ Church. Elected a vestryman in 1880 he served in this capacity, and as Senior Warden for many years, until his death in 1921. He represented the Parish at many of the Diocesan Conventions, including those that elected Bishops Kinsman and Cook.

Mr. John C. Truitt, Vestryman and Parish Secretary, has served the Parish continuously since his election in 19 . He has been Parish Treasurer, Junior Warden and Senior Warden.

Mr. Daniel G. Collins has also served the Parish in the capacity of Vestryman since his election in 19 . He is our Senior Warden. Mr. Collins has been Parish Treasurer for some years; 1911-1923, 1926-1927, 1930----

Mr. James Stanton, elected to the Vestry in 1919 is our Junior Warden. He was elected to this office in 1923.

Mr. Bankson T. Holcomb another member of our present Vestry is a member of the Executive Council of the Diocese. He was elected to this office in 1940.

Both Mr. Collins and Mr. Stanton were delegates to the Diocesan Convention that elected the Rev. Arthur R. McKinstry, D.D. as Bishop of Delaware, in 1938. They were also present at the services of the Bishop's consecration, in the Cathedral Church of St. John, Wilmington, February 1939.

Dr. Frank L. Grier, Vestryman of Christ Church, was a member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese, 1934-35.

Diocesan Conventions held in Christ Church:

1849.	Delegates from Christ Church:	Dr. Wm. Burton,	Dr. Robert A. Clarke.
1855.	" " " "	Dr. Wm. Burton,	Mr. Thomas A. Wallace.
1864	" " " "	Dr. Wm. Burton,	Hon. George P. Fisher
1873	" " " "	Mr. Manlove R. Carlisle,	Mr. Robert H. Gilman.
1912	" " " "	Dr. R. Y. Watson,	Mr. S. J. Abbott.
1927	" " " "	Not recorded.	
1934	" " " "	Mr. D. G. Collins, Mr. B.T. Holcomb.	

Some notes on the Clergy.

The Rev. Charles Inglis, D.D. (1759-63) became the Rector of Trinity Parish, N.Y.C. Later he was consecrated the first missionary bishop of the Church of England, 1787, for the Diocese of Nova Scotia.

The Rev. Samuel Magaw (1767-77) was elected provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

The Rev. Cory Chambers married Miss Sarah Virdon Lofland, sister of The Milford Bard, John Lofland.

The Rev. Samuel Giles and the Rev. Hugh Wilson, nephews of the Rev. Hugh Neill, (1750-56) who had been sent to England for ordination, were drowned on the return voyage, when "within sight of land."

From vestry minutes and registers:

"It is with very sincere regret that I have this month resigned the Rectorate of Christ Church, Milford, where for 15 months I have had a very happy life amongst faithful and willing Church people. We have built a mission room in S. Milford. The nursery I hope of a future Church generation and I trust my successors will carry on the more particularly missionary work of the Parish.

September 30, 1891.

J. Holwell Geare,
Rector elect of St. John,
New Brunswick, Canada. (11)

"The Vestry of Christ Church, Milford unanimously re-elected me, as their Priest in Charge, in May 1892--R. Y. Watson stated the purpose of the meeting and nominated the Right Reverend F. J. Kinsman, who was unanimously elected Rector of Christ Church." November 4, 1917 (7)

"The purpose of the meeting was to consider the resignation of F. J. Kinsman as Rector of Christ Church. The resignation was accepted." March 3, 1918. (7)

Clergy of the Parish associated with the Milford Academy. The Milford Academy was founded 1810.

Principals: Rev. Henry Judah, 1817.
Rev. Joseph Spencer, 1818-23
Rev. John Reynolds, 1840-43
Rev. John Linn McKim, 1844-) See Page 18
Rev. John Leighton McKim, 1863)

MEMORAILS IN CHRIST CHURCH

In Memoriam

Doner

1. Altar	Sarah Fisher Rodney McKim	Congregation and friends		
2. Sanctuary Lamps	Joseph S. Truitt	Parents. Mr.&Mrs. Isaac S. Truitt		
3. Altar Cross	William H. Thaw	Mrs. Elizabeth Thaw and family		
4. Chalice	Elizabeth W. Mitchel and Mary E. Torbert			
5. Emerald setting in Chalice		Mrs. J. Lynn Pratt		
6. Two Brass Altar Vases	Mary F. Lofland	Mrs. Helen L. Hopkins		
7. Lectern Lectern Bible Bible Markers	Clara Perpignon Hall	Louise Perpigon		
8. Brass Alms Basin			Andrew Jackson Grimes	Mrs. Harry H. Mulholland
9. Silk Alms Bags			John Brinckles Boswick	Annie Purnell Boswick
10. All Saints' Window	Annie Miller Rodney	Henry Rodney		
11. Prophet Window (Issiah)	William P. Boswick	Miss Annie P. Boswick and other members of the Boswick family		
12. Prophet Window (Daniel)	Robert John Boswick			
13. Window	John Ralph Draper			
14. Baptismal Shell	Mary E. Lofland	Mrs. Helen L. Hopkins		

	<u>In Memoriam</u>	<u>Doner</u>
15. Paschal Candle Holder	Sallie Ann Redifer	Mrs. Rebecca Nancy Sharpe
16. Vestibule Doors	Frank Harris Werley	
17. Font Cover	Mary Mason	Howard S. Mason
18. Lace Altar Frontal and Panel		Mrs. Mary Maurer

GIFTS - NOT MEMORIALS

1. Eucharistic Candle Holders	
2. Two Seven Branch Candle Holders	
3. Two Three Branch Candle Holders	Restored by Mrs. Harry Brak Eley
4. Two Credence Table Candle Holders	Restored by Church Club
5. Credence	Church Club
6. Tower Bell	Congregation
7. Bishop's Chair	Church School
8. White Bible Markers)	Mrs. Lee Hirsch
Green Bible Markers)	
9. White Dossal Curtain	Mrs. Harold K. Wakefield
10. Green Dossal Curtain	Mrs. Herman D. Johnson
11. Purple Dossal Curtain	Miss Annie P. Boswick
12. Processional Cross	Two Parishioners
13. Cross for Tabernacle	Mrs. Virginia B.C. Lloyd
14. Cross for Sacristy	Rev. Benjamin F. Thompson
15. Candle Torch	Miss Annie P. Boswick
16. Vestments for the clergy	Miss Annie P. Boswick
17. Altar Cloth	Mrs. Harry H. Mulholland
18. Literature Rack	Mrs. Harry H. Brakeley

BEQUESTS AND LEGACIES TO THE PARISH

1. By Mr. Henry Miller	To place a memorial in the Church to his wife, Mrs. Annie Rodney Miller
2. By Mrs. Mary E. Tobert	Endowment fund of the Parish
3. By Dr. Frank Layton Grier	For Parish purposes
4. By Mrs. Sallie Ann Redifer	Used to purchase a memorial to Mrs. Redifer, a Paschal Candle Holder

PARISH ENDOWMENT FUNDS

1. The Tobert Fund
2. The Annie Purnell Boswick Fund
3. The Churchyard Fund

Some explanatory notes.

- I. From reports of the S.P.G. (Acknowledgement is made to Parish booklet, 1914, by the Rev. E.H.J. Andrews)

"The Rev. Thomas Crawford, (1704-09) after two year's work in Kent County reported in 1706: At my first coming I found the people all stuffed with various opinions, but not one in the place that was so much a Churchman as to stand Godfather for a child; so that I was two months in the place before I baptised any, on that account---but now (I thank God) I have baptised a great number, they bring their children with sureties very properly, to the Church; and also people of age a great many of the greater part whereof were Quakers and Quaker children for by God's blessing upon my labors I have not only gained the heart of my hearers, but some that were my greatest enemies at first, and Quakers that were fully resolved against me are come over and have joined themselves to our Communion. I have baptised families of them together, so that I have daily additions to the congregations."

"The Rev. Charles Inglis, who was in charge from 1759 to 1765, became Rector of Trinity Church, New York, in 1777, where he remained till 1783. For political reasons he was compelled to resign, becoming a refugee in England. In 1787 he became the Bishop of Nova Scotia--England's first Colonial Bishop. During the period of his ministry in Kent County, the Rev. Mr. Inglis, wrote in 1763, that his mission was in a flourishing state, if building and repairing churches, if crowds attending the public worship of God and other religious ordinances, if some of other denominations joining---and a revival of spirit of piety in many can denominate it such"; though there were "still left Luke warmness, Ignorance and Vice enough to humble me sufficiently and exercise," if he had it, "an apostolic zeal."

The Rev. Hugh Neill, 1750-56, wrote "Such alas! are the misfortunes, and I may say persecutions, that attend the poor, distressed Church of England in America, that whilst the Dissenters can send an innumerable tribe of teachers of all sorts without any expenses, we must send three thousand miles across the Atlantic Ocean at the expense of all we are worth, sometimes and as much more as we have credit for, as well as the risque of our lives, before we can have an ordination -- this is a difficulty that has, and always will, prevent the growth of the Church in America. Few Englishmen that can live at home will undertake the Mission-- the great expenses and dangers of the Seas that the Americans must encounter with before they can obtain an ordination damps their spirit, and forces many of them (who have strong inclinations to the Church) to join the Dissenters, and become teachers among them-- thus when a vacancy happens among them, it can be filled in an instant, when a vacancy among us (it) is some considerable time before they (we) can have a minister. All this time the Dissenters making such havoc among the Church people, that when a Missionary comes to one of these destitute places, he has all his work to begin again and many years before he can collect the scattered sheep."

He continues, "The Dissenters very well know that the sending a Bishop to America would contribute more to the Encrease of the Church here than all the money that has been raised by the Venerable Society--Alas! we see and feel the power of our enemies and weakness of our friends and can only mourn in secret and pray for better times."

II. On the Great Awakening. Wesley, Asbury, Coke and the Methodist Movement.

Coke and Asbury who are credited with crystalizing this ethical movement into what later became the Methodist Church met at Barrett's Chapel. Out of this meeting, we are told, they planned its organization and methods. Thus the schism began and developed, much to the chagrin and indignation of both John and Charles Wesley. John Wesley wrote to Asbury:

"You and the doctor differ from me. I study to be little; you study to be great. I creep; you strut along. How can you, how dare you suffer yourself to be called a bishop? I shudder, I start at the very thought. Men may call me a knave, or a fool, a rascal, a scoundrel, and I am content; but they shall never by my consent call me a bishop. For my sake, for God's sake, for Christ's sake, put an end to this: -- Let the Methodists know their calling better." (12)

Bishop Coleman remarks:

"In the light of subsequent events, it is interesting and significant to observe how conscious of their irregularities and churchlessness the early Methodists were. Asbury was horrified to learn that, during his imprisonment in Delaware for political reasons, his coreligionists had been ordaining one another. He quickly traveled to Virginia and has such 'ordinations' declared invalid." The Bishop continues, "It is unquestionably sad to contemplate how much loss in every way has accrued from the separation which the Methodists finally consummated; but it is not altogether easy or safe at this distance to lay the blame upon the Churchmen of that day. So far as one can judge from the records of their sentiments and actions, they were disposed to be conciliatory in the maintenance of their convictions and principles. It was not always prudent for them to confide in the proposals made them by the leaders of the new Society, between whom there were at times a rivalry and jealousy which very much interfered with reaching a good understanding." (3)

"Asbury had gone to America in 1771, and had been appointed by Wesley Superintendent of all the itinerant preachers in America in 1772. Asbury throughout the (Revolutionary) War maintained an attitude of strict neutrality, but in war time the neutral is often regarded as a dishonest enemy without the courage of his convictions. In Asbury's case, the suspicion was intensified by his refusal to take the oath of allegiance on the ground that this oath involved an undertaking to fight against England if so required. His life was often in danger at the hands of patriotic mobs, and on one occasion a shot narrowly missed hitting him. But the charm of his personality and the saintliness of his character gradually overcame all opposition, and as a result of his untiring labours, American Methodism actually increased during the War.

The American Methodists---became insistent in their demands that their own preachers should assume the powers to administer the Sacraments. Asbury, however, persuaded them to take no overt action until they had an opportunity of consulting with Wesley. Wesley urged them to be patient and to avoid irregularity." (13)

Coke, a priest of the Church of England, commissioned by John Wesley as a 'Superintendent' assumed the title of Bishop. "Coke after arriving in America, ordained Asbury as a Deacon and Presbyter, and then an Assistant Superintendent, in other words as an assistant Bishop." (13)

Coke realizing the conditions that had developed; the extent of the schism, and his part in it: the lack of unity and of real authority in the new Society:

"had several interviews with Bishop White (Philadelphia), who was always very kind and conciliatory. He (Coke) corresponded also with Bishop Seabury. More than once he suggested to those two prelates that he and Mr. Asbury be consecrated by them as bishops of the Methodist Society within the Church." (3)

Copy of certificate given to the Rev. Thomas Coke by John Wesley:

"To all whom those presents shall come. John Wesley, late Fellow of Lincoln College, Presbyter of the Church of England, sendeth with greeting. Whereas many of the People in the Southern Provinces of North America who desire to continue under my care, and still adhere to the Doctrines and Discipline of the Church of England, are greatly distressed for want of ministers to administer the Sacrament of Baptism and the Lord's Supper according to the usage of the said Church.

And whereas there does not appear to be any way of supplying them with ministers. Know all men that I John Wesley think myself to be providentially called at this time to set apart some persons for the work of the ministry in America. And therefore under the Protection of Almighty God, and with a single eye to his glory, I have this day set part, as superintendent, by the imposition of my hands and prayer (being assisted by other ordained ministers).

Thomas Coke, Doctor of Civil Law, a Presbyter of the Church of England, a man whom I judge to be well qualified for the great work. And I do hereby recommend him to all whom it may concern as a fit person to preside over the Flock of Christ. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this second day September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty four." (13)

Signed, John Wesley

- - - - -

"If John Wesley had been content to wait but THREE SHORT MONTHS to send his "superintendent" his followers in America would have had in the above named Bishop Seabury, a true successor of the Apostles, a Bishop after Wesley's own heart, and one, too, who would have gladly (as he told Charles Wesley) have ordained all the lay preachers in America who were fit to receive Holy Orders." (12)

- - - - -

The imposition of hands of Wesley on Coke had been in secret, when the former was confined by age and feebleness to his bedroom. Now Asbury asked a similar favor of Coke, who proceeded to grant it, in conjunction with a German minister." (3)

- - - - -

"These are (John Wesley's) last words on this subject: 'I have never had any design of separating from the Church: I have no such design now; I do not believe the Methodists in general design it. I do, and I will do, all in my power to prevent such an event. -- I declare, once more, that I live and die a member of the Church of England, and that none who regard my judgement will ever separate from it.'" (13)

The Rev. John Wesley died March 2, 1791. His farewell message, which was to become a watchword, came clear and strong - - -

"The best of all is God is with us. Bless the Church and King, and grant me truth and peace through Jesus Christ our Lord. FAREWELL." (12)

In order to understand the social, industrial, economic and spiritual conditions that produced such a movement as inaugurated by the Wesleys; that justified their endeavors to give to the circumstances that prevailed in England a religious and moral revival; let us refer to a brief review of the 18th century England.

"The conditions of England during the opening decades of the 18th century-- the moral temperature was depressed. There were hardly any schools. Politics were corrupt. Literature was unclean. The prisons were full and unspeakably loathsome.

Labor was rewarded with starvation wages. Christian men carried on a trade in slaves. As for religion--it was at a low ebb. Puritanism had spent its force and no dynamic faith possessed the souls of men. Non-conformity worn out by its long struggle for existence had lost its virility. Inside the Churches fervour was frowned upon and the preaching was frigid, formal and argumentative.

Into such a world -- John Wesley came with cleansing fire and the religious Revival which they (John and Charles Wesley) initiated, perhaps more than any other factor saved the soul of England. The Country was hurrying on to one of the most critical periods in its history and the shadows of the approaching industrial revolution were already darkening the people's life. The Revival furnished the nation with a moral background and a religious faith which enabled it to meet the crisis without enduring the agencies that overtook France. More it raised the moral temperature of the nation that a whole range of reforms became possible. It gave the first impulse to our popular education; it hastened on sanitary reform, law reform, prison reforms, the care of the sick, and the abolition of slaves. As for the Churches, it pulled them out of stagnation; but it went beyond them - into the highways and hedges, the market places and villages, the prisons -- with a boundless enthusiasm and illimitable love of men. At the heart of it all was a hymn book. John Wesley had learned the value of the hymn as an aid to the devout life of the Meravians." (14)

The above outlines Wesley's movement in England which followed the Industrial Revolution, a period of great economic and social depression. It was also the beginning of a great material advance, due to the improvements created by the Industrial Revolution. Bishop Gore, in his book "Christ and Society" quotes Sheley's Expansion of England:

"taken together, the whole successful development which culminated at Utrecht (1713) secularized and materialized the English people, as nothing had ever done before. Never were sordid motives so supreme, never was religion and high influences so much discredited, as in the thirty years which followed." (15)

References:

1. The Diocese of Delaware - Rodney
2. Three Hundred Years of the Episcopal Church - Hodges
3. History of the American Church - Coleman
4. History of Delaware - Conrad
5. Historical Etchings of Milford and Vicinity - Hynson
6. Diocesan Journal, 1914 and others
7. Vestry Minutes - 1836-1880 and 1908-1941
8. Virginia Architecture - Breck
9. Alfred Lee - First Bishop of Delaware
10. Delaware Govenors - 1776-1898
11. Parish Register, 1880-1894 and 1894-1941
12. The Times and Teaching of John Wesley-Little
13. John Wesley. Arnold Lunn
14. Evaluation of the English Hymn. Gilman
15. Christ and Society. Bishop Charles Gore

Other references - not indexed:

History of Delaware - Scharf

Notes - The Rev. Joseph S. Hinks

5/5/61



1914

CHRIST CHURCH

Corner Church and Third Streets
Milford, Delaware

**MEMORIALS, GIFTS & OTHER LORE
1990**



1914

RECTOR AND SERVERS

Rev. E. H. J. Andrews, William Stockheimer, Lockwood Pratt,
Mifflin Woodall and Frank Holmes

**MEMORIALS, GIFTS & OTHER LORE
1990**

Compiled by Viola C. Pearce Willey 1990

PREFACE

It is important an account of the memorials, gifts and improvements be updated every several years and made available to parishioners while memories are still "fresh." I AM WELL AWARE MY WORK IS NOT ON A PROFESSIONAL LEVEL, but since an accounting has not been done since 1979 I have made a concentrated effort to give an accurate account for those who follow us. PLEASE NOTIFY ME OF ANY CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS. NOW IS THE TIME.

It would be sad for many of us if there were no histories or records. True, there are those who could care less (added years often change that) but every generation brings forth parishioners who do care and "want to know." Much in this material is not the type that would be put in the Book of Remembrance or would be used in a book. However, I hope it will pique your curiosity about things in the church and parish house.

We have a rich heritage to pass on to future Christ Church parishioners. A wealth of material was found in the McKim Library, we have three known histories - 1914 Andrews, 1941 Hinks, 1962 Hurley and I hope somehow I have contributed for a future history. Our church historian, Brooke Clendaniel, is genuinely interested in researching the McKim papers and old vestry reports and preserving for all time what should be preserved.

ABOUT THE PAGE NUMBERS - You will notice after page 39 the page numbers are in the left and right hand corners. The first part, copied from the Book of Remembrance, is done as it is for a quick reference if one wants to look up something in particular in the Book (and saved space). Of course, beginning with the 1980 material I have no way of knowing what will be on what page. Part E is a copy of Mr. Hinks' 1941 History. I did not want to disturb any of his work so the pages will start at number one again.

I have enjoyed getting this booklet together and compiling my many notes. I hope you will find the information interesting and that you will keep this booklet handy as a reference.

Viola Willey

1990

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TO MR. & MRS. S. M. D. MARSHALL - for the pictures on the cover page and inside cover page. These are from a little booklet "Directory & Historical Sketch, Christ Church, Milford, Delaware" by the Rev. Ethelbert H. J. Andrews, Christmas 1914. This was a gift from the Marshalls in 1982 and will be in our Church archives. As far as is known, this may be the one and only copy still around.

TO MISS ISABELLE HINKS - for sharing your father's history, the picture of the pipe organ and help with the typing

TO LIZ POPE AND JEAN PYNE - for all the help you have given me. Others were called, too, for confirmations but the two of you and Isabelle are the ones I have "bothered" the most.

TO THE REV. JOSEPH E. JAMES - for your approval and support

TO CATHERINE DOWNING HOLCOMBE - for giving my booklet a name

TO RONNIE GROFF - for your willingness to do the editing

TO MY FRIENDS - for letting me know of your interest in such a booklet. Several of you have said you can hardly wait! Your encouragement has meant so much to me and I so hope none of you will be disappointed.

TO RAY BRYAN - I thank you for the WHOLE CHURCH. Ray kindly consented to continue the script in the Book of Remembrance. Knowing there was someone willing to do this was a real incentive. I promised him we would be patient.

AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, MY HUSBAND, HORACE B. WILLEY - who has had to endure my obsession the past weeks with compiling my notes and contacting people for confirmations. Once I found someone willing to take on the tremendous, time-consuming task of hand-script to bring our Book of Remembrance to date it was difficult to put my mind anywhere else until my part was done. (From my booklet: pages 1 through 44 will be found copied in the Book of Remembrance.)

Viola Willey

November 1990

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE-----
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS-----

PART A

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE-----i
Preface 1972-----ii
Acknowledgements 1972-----iii
Table of Contents 1972-----iv
Christ Church Chronology 1704 - 1978-----1
1886 - Altar & Furnishings - 1979-----8
Priest's Private Communion Sets-----13
Candlesticks, Candelabras, Vases & Sanctuary Lamps-----14
Stained Glass Windows-----17
Other Memorials & Gifts 1874 - 1979 -----22
Acknowledgement ** BARBARA RICKER -----39
Memorial Fund 1972 - 1990 -----40

PART B

CHRIST CHURCH CHRONOLOGY - BEGINNING 1980 -----41
MEMORIALS & GIFTS - BEGINNING 1980 -----42
I LEST WE FORGET (The Old Pipe Organ --Picture)-----45
II LEST WE FORGET (Church)-----46
III LEST WE FORGET (Altar Guild)-----48
IV LEST WE FORGET (Mostly Parish House)-----50
 Sydenham Thorne, Clergyman and Founder-----52
 (Booklet still available-Milford Historical Society)
 Who Has the LONGEST CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP?-----53
 (Generation-to-Generation)
 About the Christ Churchwomen History & the Memorial
 Kneelers-----53
 It Has Always Been Church Street!-----53
PICTURES IN THE PARISH HOUSE & CHURCH (Donors)-----54
THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS-----57
 (Additional Information)

PART C

FROM THE 1974 BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE SUPPLEMENT (LEST WE FORGET!)
Stained Glass Tour of Delaware is Possible (from Hurley Scrapbook)----59
 (Trinity) Wilmington, Dover, Milton & Georgetown
Our Seven Hanging Lamps - A Sad Accident (from Hurley Scrapbook)-----60
Grave of Little Joseph Truitt-----61
 The Widow's Mite-----61
 The Man Who Named Our Church-----61
 About the Original Architect's Drawing-----61
 (1990) Who Among Us IS A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF JOSEPH OLIVER?-----61
 (1990) The 1704 Banner That Hangs In Our Church-----61
The Rev. Mr. Dyer and Loot (from Hurley Scrapbook)-----62
Milford Minister Cracks Safe - For Heaven's Sake

PART D

The Congregations of the Diocese of Delaware-----63
The Bishops of Delaware-----64

PART E

AND LAST BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST

CHRIST CHURCH HISTORICAL SKETCH 1941 (IN FULL)-----1
 By the Rev. Joseph S. Hinks-----36
Churchyard Burials-----36

Certificate of Incorporation
of
"Christ Church, Milford, Delaware."

Certificate of Incorporation of "Christ Church, Milford, Delaware", (a religious corporation duly created by and existing under the provisions of Chapter 89, volume 26 of the Laws of Delaware).

We, the Rector, Wardens and Vestry-men of "Christ Church, Milford, Delaware," do hereby certify,

First, - That after more than ten days notice to that effect, and by advertisement posted on the front door of their usual place of worship, in the town of Milford, Kent County, Delaware, a public meeting of the members of a religious society or congregation of Christians, belonging to the Protestant Episcopal Church, and consisting of fifteen or more persons, was duly held at such place of worship in the town of Milford, Kent County and State of Delaware aforesaid, on Monday the twenty-third day of February, A.D. 1914, at two-thirty o'clock P.M., for the purpose of incorporating said society or congregation, under the provisions of volume 26, Chapter 89, Laws of Delaware.

Second, - That at such meeting "Christ Church, Milford, Delaware", was adopted as the corporate name of said society or congregation.

Third, - That the following officers were duly

electd according to the rules of said society or congregation, at said meeting, viz.: R. Y. Watson, Senior warden; S. John Abbott, Junior warden, and Isaac S. Truitt, John C. Truitt, Daniel G. Collins and Howard R. Witt, vestrymen.

In witness whereof, we the Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen aforesaid, have hereunto set our hands and seals this Twenty-sixth day of February, A. D. 1914.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
in the Presence of.

Henrietta Lamar Andrews

S. John Abbott,

Secretary of the

Vestry Christ Church
Milford, Del.

Ethelbert H. J. Andrews (Seal)
Rector.

R. Y. Watson (Seal)
Senior warden.

S. John Abbott (Seal)
Junior warden.

Isaac S. Truitt (Seal)

John C. Truitt (Seal)

Daniel G. Collins (Seal)

Howard R. Witt (Seal)

Received for Record this 2nd day of March, A. D. 1914.

Amos P. Binsley, Recorder.

A true copy of the original.

Attest: - Amos P. Binsley, Recorder.

Deed.

William S. Smith, Sheriff,

-to-

Thomas Howard Barwick.

This Indenture, made this third day of March

Copies for reference only from the original
in the Custody of the Delaware Public
Archives, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware
19901. Permission for reproduction must
be obtained.

Volume _____ Page _____

PID P298
KC deed

J. Wilson Secy

Certificate of Incorporation of Christ's Church Milford Delaware

The undersigned The Rector, wardens and vestrymen of the Protestant- Episcopal Church at Milford Kent- County and State of Delaware, do hereby certify to the Recorder of Deeds in and for Kent- County aforesaid, that their name or style is Christ- Church of Milford Delaware. Given under our hands and seals this eighth day of April A D One Thousand eight hundred and seventy six

- L. Lighthow McKim Rector (Seal)
- M. R. Parlike S W (Seal)
- J. M. Simpler S W (Seal)
- L. R. Lofland vestryman (Seal)
- Nathan Pratt vestryman (Seal)
- J. G. Wells vestryman (Seal)

Received for Record April 10th 1876

A. Wilson
Recy

A true copy attes A. Wilson Recy

Copies for reference only from the original
in the Custody of the Delaware Public
Archives, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware
19901. Permission for reproduction must
be obtained.

Volume _____ Page _____

U5 p3
KC Deed

Deed: Christ Church of Milford Delaware, a corporation of the
 2,000 U. S. D. R. State of Delaware

Stamp cancelled:

Henry W. Harrington.

This Indenture, made the eighteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two:

Between Christ Church, Milford, Delaware (a religious Society of the Town of Milford, Kent County, Delaware, duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware) party of the first part, and Henry W. Harrington of Milford, Kent County, and State of Delaware, party of the second part.

Witnesseth: That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Two Thousand dollars (\$2,000) current lawful money of the United States of America, unto them well and truly paid by the said party of the second part, at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath granted, bargained, sold, aliened, enfeoffed, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents doth grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff, release, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns,

All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land, situated, lying, and being on the north side of First Street, in the Town of Milford, Kent County, and State of Delaware, adjoining lands formerly of Shadrach Welch deceased and now of his heirs, lands late of Joseph S. Smith, deceased and now or formerly of John W. Welch lands of the heirs of Jane H. Welch and lands of others, and said to contain seven thousand four hundred and forty-three square feet (7443) of land be the same more or less:

Being the same lands and premises that were conveyed to the Grantor by Deed of Dorothy V. Paige, Mrs Leonard Sheldon and Sarah P. Sheldon bearing date October 8th A.D. 1915 and duly recorded in the Office of Recorder of Deeds at Dover, Dela. in Deed Record X, Vol. 10, Page 151 a reference therunto being had a further description well more fully and at large appear:

Together with all and singular the buildings, easements, improvements, woods, ways, waters, watercourses, rights, liberties, privileges, hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever therunto belonging or in any way appertaining, and the reversions and remainders, rents, issues, and profits thereof and all the estate, right, title, interest, property, claim, and demand, whatsoever of it the said party of the first part in law, equity or otherwise, howsoever, of, in and to the same and every part and parcel thereof, to have and to hold the said land, tenements, hereditaments, and premises hereby granted or mentioned, or intended so to be, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, to and for the only proper use and behoof of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, forever:

And the said party of the first part for itself its heirs, Executors, and administrators, + Successors, both by these presents,

covenant, grant and agree to and with the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns that it the said party of the first part its heirs + Successors, all and singular the hereditaments and premises herein above described and granted, or mentioned or intended so to be with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns against itself the said party of the first part its heirs + Successors and against all and every other Person or Persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof through or by it shall and well by these presents warrant and forever defend.

In witness whereof the said parties of the first part has hereunto set its hand and corporate Seal dated the day and year first above written.

Sealed and delivered
in the Presence of:
William Holmes
Sect. of the Vestry.

Christ Church, Milford, Dela.
By John L. Smith Seal.
Pres. of the Vestry.

Christ Church Milford,
Delaware, State of
Delaware

State of Delaware
Surrex County ss.

H. Thompson Reed:
Notary Public.
Appointed February 12th 1921.
2 years, State of Delaware.

Be It remembered, that on this twentieth day of April, A.D. 1922, personally came before me, H. Thompson Reed, a Notary Public, in and for the State of Delaware, John L. Smith, President, of the Vestry Christ Church, Milford, Delaware, party to this Indenture, known to me per-

sonally to be such and acknowledged the said Indenture to be the act and deed of the said Christ Church; the seal thereto affixed is its common and corporate seal; that his name as President thereto appeared in his own proper hand writing, and that his act of acknowledging executing and delivery of said Indenture was duly authorized by the Vestry of said Christ Church.

Given under my hand and seal of office the day and year aforesaid:

H. Thompson Reed.
Notary Public.

Received for Record April 22nd A.D. 1922.
Chas. G. Loverdale, Recorder.

A true copy.

Attest: Chas. G. Loverdale, Recorder.

19901. Permission for reproduction must
be obtained.

Volume _____ Page _____

SP1
12/2/99
MCC

Deed, Rev. John Leighton McKim
To Christ Church of the town of Milford,

This Indenture, made the thirtieth day of April
in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred
and ten, 1910.

Between Rev. John Leighton McKim of the town
of Milford, Kent County and State of Delaware, party of
the first part, and Christ Church of the town of Milford,
Kent County and State of Delaware, a corporation created
by and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware,
party of the second part,

Witnesseth: That the said party of the first part for
and in consideration of the sum of one dollar lawful
money of the United States of America to him in hand
paid by the said party of the second part at and before
the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt
whereof is hereby acknowledged, He has granted, bargained
and sold, aliened, conveyed, released, conveyed and
confirmed, and by these presents does grant, bargain
and sell, aliened, convey, release, convey and confirm
unto the said party of the second part, and its successors
for the purpose of being used as a burial ground
in connection with said Christ Church, under
the rules and regulations of said Church now in
existence,

All that certain tract, piece or parcel of land situated,
lying and being in the town of Milford, Kent County
and State of Delaware, beginning at a point forty feet
south from Third Street in said town on the division
line dividing the tract hereby conveyed from other
lands of said Christ Church and running thence
in a southerly direction along a line between
this land and lands of said Church a distance
of sixty feet to a point in a line of the lands of
the said party of the first part; and thence running
in a westerly direction parallel with said Third
Street, along a line (where a fence is to be erected)
dividing this land hereby being conveyed from other
lands of the said party of the first part a distance of
sixty feet to a point in other lands of the said
party of the first part; thence running in a
northerly direction along a line dividing this
land from other lands of the party of the first
part a distance of sixty feet to a point fifty feet
from said Third Street; thence in an easterly
direction along a line dividing this land from
other lands of Christ Church to the place of
beginning and containing thirty six hundred square

part of land be the same more or less; This
 conveyance being made subject to the annual
 payment by the party of the second part and its
 successors of a ground rent amounting to the sum
 of Four Dollars per year,
 And all and singular the buildings, improvements,
 fixtures, ways, roads, waters, watercourses, easements,
 rights, liberties, privileges, hereditaments and appurtenances
 to the said certain lands and premises belonging
 or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion
 and reversions, remainders and remainders, rents,
 issues and profits thereof, and all the estate, right,
 title, interest, property, claim, demand and possibility
 whatsoever of them the said party of the first part
 at law or in equity, of, to, in, or out of the same and
 every part and parcel thereof, To Have and To Hold
 the lands and premises hereby bargained and
 sold, or intended to be, with the appurtenances, unto
 the said party of the second part and its successors
 To and for the only proper use, benefit and be-
 lieof of the said party of the second part and
 its successors, for the purpose of a burial ground
 as hereinbefore mentioned and set forth.

In Witness Whereof, the said party of the first
 part has hereunto set his hand and seal the day
 and year first herein written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
 in the presence of: *John Lighton McKim (Seal)*
 Thomas C. Trammell

Received, the day of the date of the within indenture,
 of the within named Grantee the within Consideration
 Attest: *Thomas C. Trammell*

John Lighton McKim

State of Delaware
 Kent County, ss.

Pomelus A. Hopkins
 Notary Public
 Afforded March 22, 1913
 For four years
 Delaware

Be it remembered, that
 on this thirteenth day of
 April in the year of our
 Lord one thousand nine
 hundred and fourteen
 personally came before me,
 the subscriber a Notary Public
 for the State of Delaware,

Rev. John Lighton McKim, party to this indenture,
 known to me personally to be such, and acknowledged
 this indenture to be his act and deed.

Given under my hand and seal of office the
 day and year aforesaid

Pomelus A. Hopkins
 Notary Public

G14 P19
KC Deed

Deed
 The Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church of
 the Diocese of Delaware
 To
 Christ Church, Milford, Delaware.

This Indenture, Made the Sixteenth day of July in the
 year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty six
 Between The Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal
 Church of the Diocese of Delaware, a religious corporation
 of the State of Delaware, Party of the First Part and
 Christ Church, Milford, Delaware, a religious corporation
 of the State of Delaware, Party of the Second Part.
 Witnesseth: That the said Party of the First
 Part for and in consideration of the sum of One
 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) lawful money of the
 United States of America to it in hand paid
 by the said Party of the Second Part before the
 sealing and delivery of these presents the
 receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged Hath
 granted, bargained and sold aliened, conveyed
 released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these
 presents Doth grant bargain and sell, alien,
 convey, release, convey and confirm unto the said
 Party of the Second Part its successors and assigns

All that certain tract, piece or parcel of
 land and premises situated on the corner of Church
 and Second streets in the town of Milford, Kent County
 and State of Delaware adjoining lands of Helen McKim
 and Marian R. McKim, lands of said Christ P.E. Church
 and lands of others, be the contents thereof what it
 may, The improvements thereon being a double
 frame dwelling house.

Said tract, piece or parcel of land being
 parcel No. 1, as described in the deed of Marian R. McKim
 single woman to the Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal
 Church of the Diocese of Delaware bearing date the
 twenty-fifth day of April, 1925, and of record in the
 Recorder of Deeds Office in and for Kent County and
 State of Delaware in Deed Record Book J, Volume 12, page
 269, etc., and as parcel No. 1 in deed of Marian R. McKim,
 Trustee for Helen McKim, bearing date the twenty-fifth
 day of April, 1925 and of record in the Recorder of Deeds
 Office aforesaid in Deed Record Book K, Volume 12,
 page 229, etc.,

And All And Singular the buildings,
 improvements, fixtures, ways, roads, waters, watercourses
 easements, rights, liberties, privileges, hereditaments and
 appurtenances to the said tract, piece or parcel of
 land belonging or in anywise appertaining;

And the reversions and reversions, remainders
 and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof;

And all the estate, right, title, interest, property, claim, demand and possibility whatsoever of the said Party of the First Part at law or in equity, if to in, or out of the same, and every part and parcel thereof. To Have and To Hold the land and premises hereby bargained and sold or intended to be, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the Second Part its successors and assigns To and for the only proper use, benefit and behoof of it the said Party of the Second Part, its successors and assigns forever.

In Witness Whereof the said The Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Delaware, a religious Corporation of the State of Delaware, has hereunto caused the hand of its President to be set and its common or corporate seal to be hereunto affixed the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of Frank R. Brown, Jr.

Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Delaware.

The Trustees of the Protestant and Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Delaware.

By Philip Cook

President

Attest: George Ledy Secretary State of Delaware New Castle SS

Frank R. Brown, Jr. Notary Public Appointed March 25, 1925 Term 2 years Delaware

Be It Remembered that on this sixteenth day of July A.D. 1926, personally came before me Frank R. Brown, Jr. a Notary Public for the State of Delaware Philip Cook President of The Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Delaware, a

Religious Corporation of the State of Delaware party to this Indenture known to me personally to be such and acknowledged this Indenture to be his act and deed and the act and deed of said corporation; that his signature hereto attached is in his own proper handwriting; that the seal hereunto affixed is the common or corporate seal of said corporation duly affixed by its authority; and that his act of executing signing, acknowledging, sealing and delivering said Indenture was duly authorized by a resolution of the Board of Trustees of said Corporation.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 16th day of July 1926.

Frank R. Brown, Jr. Notary Public

Received for Record July 27th A.D. 1926.

A true copy Edgar H. Atkinson, Records

attest: Edgar H. Atkinson, Records

112
1961
1962

known to me personally to be such, and veraciously warranted this Indenture to be their act and deed respectively; and that the said Elva L. Ramsdell being at the same time privately examined by me, apart from her husband, acknowledged that she executed the said Indenture willingly, without compulsion or threats, or fear of her husband's displeasure.

Given under my hand and seal of office the day and year aforesaid.

Daniel L. Shaw
Notary Public

Daniel L. Shaw
Notary Public
Delaware
appointed May 2,
1914 - for 4 years

Received for Record, this 12th day of November,
A.D. 1915.

Wm. R. Peters, Recorder.

A true copy,

Attest: Wm. R. Peters, Recorder.

Deed:

Dorothy V. Paige et al

to

Christ Church of Milford

X10 P151
LC Deed

\$1.50 U.S.I.R.
Stamps
cancelled.

This Indenture, made the eighth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifteen,

Between Dorothy V. Paige (single woman) of the town of Milford, Kent County and State of Delaware, John Leonard Sheldon and Sarah P. Sheldon, his wife, of West Sommersville, in the State of Massachusetts, all parties of the first part, and Christ Church, Milford, Delaware (a religious society of the Town of Milford, Kent County, Delaware, duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware) party of the second part:

PH0001279

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

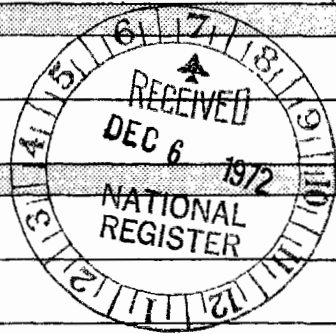
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 8 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Christ Church, Milford

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Christ Church, Mispillion



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Third and Church Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Milford

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: Kent CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
			<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Rector, Trustees, and Vestry of Christ Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Third and Church Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Milford STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Kent County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
The Green

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Christ Church today presents the appearance of a Gothic Revival structure. The original 1791 chapel has been expanded and remodelled, almost to the point of obscurity.

The basic plan of the building as originally built included a rectangular nave with side aisles, an east altar, and an entry located in the southwest corner of the church. To this basic block has been added a sacristy to the northeast, a chancel to the east, a square tower to the southeast, and an entry porch to the southwest. All of the windows have been replaced, and a large triple-lancet Gothic window has been added to the west wall.

On the interior the original woodwork has been replaced, including the flooring and structural members. The church was originally equipped with box pews and a gallery along the north, west, and south walls. The present interior features Gothic arch rafter supports and beaded tongue-and-groove wainscoting.

The exterior of Christ Church is faced with brick laid in English-garden-wall bond. On the north and south walls the lancet windows are set in pairs; a triple lancet window graces the east wall. Detailing includes sandal brick arches over the openings, and sandal belt courses set flush with the wall surface. A water table occurs only on the newer additions and across the east facade. Shallow buttresses occur on the tower and entry.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

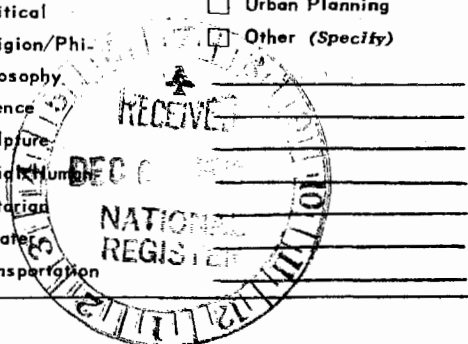
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1791 (begun) 1835 (finished)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social History | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the original Anglican parishes in Delaware, Christ Church Parish was established in 1704 by the missionaries of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. It was served by the Society until 1777. The first parish church was built between 1704 and 1720 on "Church Hill," about three miles west of present-day Milford. This frame church, called "Christ Church of Mispillion," was commonly known as "Savannah Church" because of a swamp near the site.

In 1787 Joseph Oliver laid out his farm into town lots, forming the nucleus of Milford. He set aside two lots, and aided The Reverend Syndenham Thorne in the erection of the present Christ Church. Parson Thorne donated the timbers, sawn in his own mill, and paid for the bricks from Oliver's brickyards to erect the "Christ Church in Milford." Begun in 1791, the church was yet unfinished in 1793 when Thorne died. In fact, the building was not fully completed until 1835, under the direction of The Reverend Corry Chambers; Christ Church was consecrated in 1836 by Bishop Henry U. Onderdonk.

Since its completion in 1835, Christ Church has undergone several alterations and additions. Between 1863 and 1894 various alterations were made under The Reverend J. Leighton McKim. Included among these were the removal of the gallery and box pews and the replacement of

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Federal Writers Project. Delaware: A Guide to the First State. New York: Hastings House, 1938. page 213.
 Hynson, George B. Historical Etchings of Milford and Vicinity. Milford, Delaware: Hynson and Mears, 1899. pp. 92-96.
 MacDonald, Betty Harrington. Historic Landmarks of Delaware and the Eastern Shore. Delaware Society Daughters of the American Colonists, 1963. p. 65.
 Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards and Co., 1888. pp. 1195-1197.
 Zebley, Frank R. The Churches of Delaware. Wilmington: by the author.

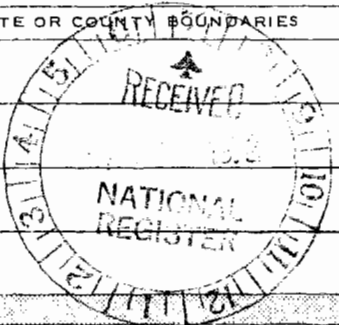
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA 1947. pp. 254-256.

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	38°	54'	55"	75°	25'	56"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mr. Vincent Rogers and Mr. Graydon Wood

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: 10/4/72

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs</u></p> <p>Date <u>Nov. 21, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert K. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>5/8/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>5 2 73</u></p>
---	--

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 8 1973

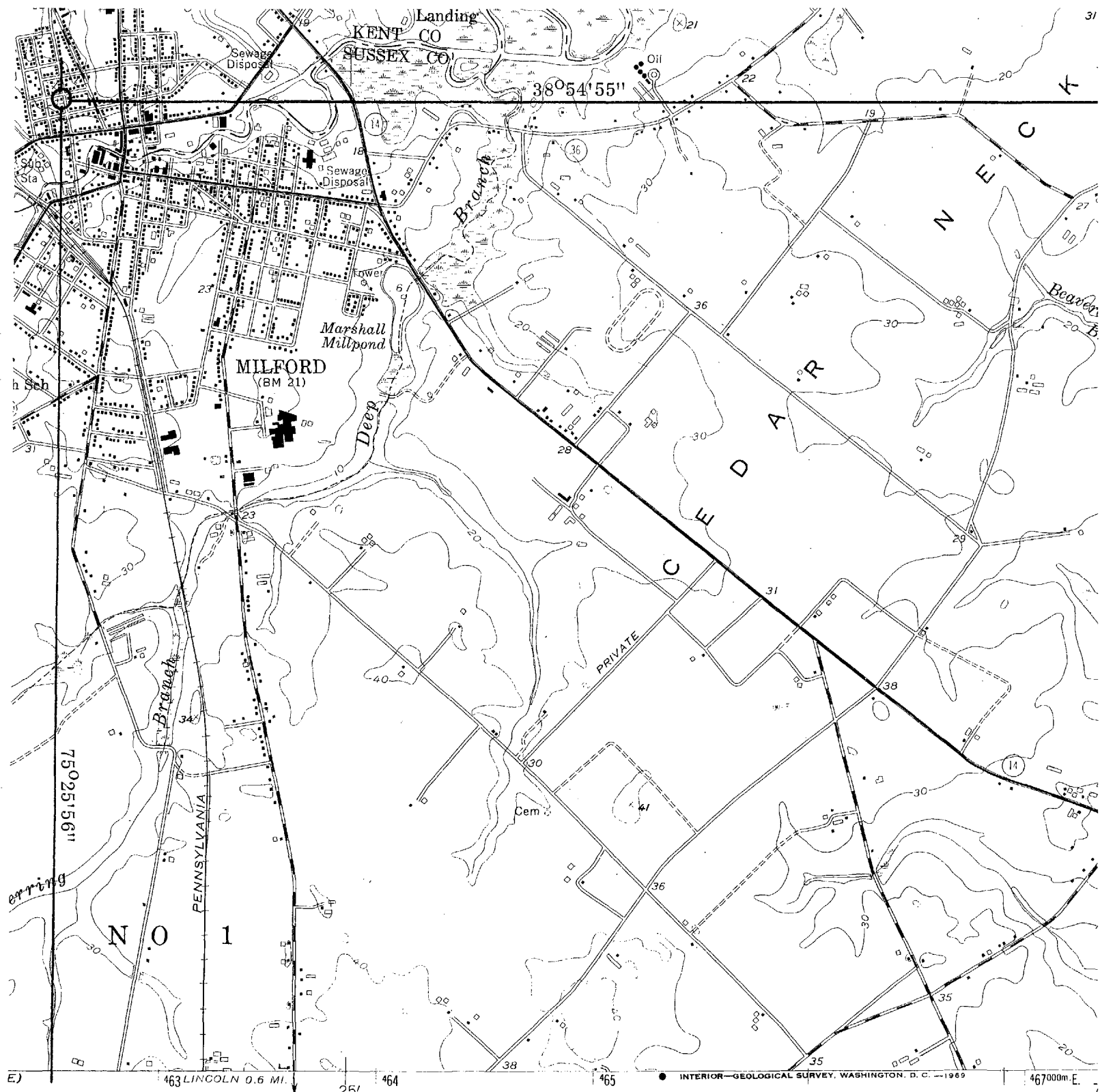
(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)---

the two rows of plain glazed windows with pairs of lancet windows. A chancel, sacristy, entry porch, and bell tower were also added.

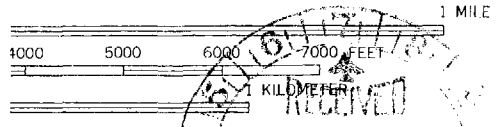
Christ Church is notable as the parish of several outstanding persons. It was sometimes served by The Reverend Charles Inglis, rector of Christ Church Dover from 1759 to 1765, who was consecrated Bishop of Nova Scotia in 1787, thus becoming England's first colonial bishop. The Reverend Syndenham Thorne, builder of the present church, was one of the few Anglican rectors to continue services during the Revolution by officiating at services only when the liturgy did not require state prayers. In addition to Joseph Oliver, the co-founder of Milford, the churchyard contains the graves of two governors of Delaware who were members of Christ Church parish: William Burton and William Tharp.



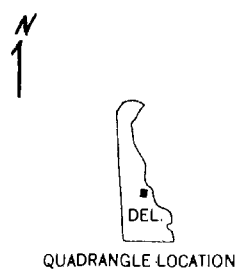


Christ Church

ROAD CLASSIFICATION



- Heavy-duty
- Medium-duty
- Light-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- U. S. Route
- State Route



MILFORD, DEL.
 NW/4 CEDAR CREEK 15' QUADRAN
 N 3852.5 — W 7522.5 / 7.5

P ACCURACY STANDARDS
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1954
 AMS 5961 IV NW—SERIES V8



NPS Number 5/8/73

Title: Christ Church

Loc. Kent, Del.

FENCE ON EAST SIDE

①

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Christ Church, fence on east side.
Graydon Wood, Aug. '72.



NPS Number 5/8/73

Title: Christ Church

Loc. Kent, Del.

view from southwest

②

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Christ Church,
Graydon Wood,

Jack	533-183	illus No.	5/4
Width	35%	Depth	28%
Focus	71	z	
Sq. Hr.		Line	[]
Comp.	[]	Stille	[]
Broad	[]		



SPS Number 5/8/73

Title: Christ Church

Loc. Kent, Del.

view from northeast

③

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Christ Church, view from the north-east.
Garden Wood, Aug. '72.

INVENTORY OF THE CHURCH
ARCHIVES OF DELAWARE

by the

HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY

PRELIMINARY DRAFT NOW BEING
CHECKED FOR FINAL ACCURACY

MARCH 1940

Binder #1

WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE PROJECTS

OLD POST OFFICE BLDG.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page
I. Religion in Delaware -----	3
II. Explanatory Notes -----	7
III. Wilmington Council of Churches -----	10
IV. Adventist, Seventh Day -----	11
V. American Rescue Workers -----	13
VI. Assemblies of God -----	14
VII. Baptist -----	16
Primitive	
Northern	
German	
Northern (Colored)	
Unaffiliated (Colored)	
VIII. Brethern (Dunkards) -----	33
Conservative	
Progressive	
IX. Catholic, Roman -----	34
Wilmington Diocese	
Ukranian Diocese	
X. Christian and Missionary Alliance -----	57
XI. Church of Christ, Scientist -----	58
XII. Church of God in Christ -----	59
XIII. Church of the Nazarene -----	60
XIV. Congregational and Christian -----	62
XV. Disciples of Christ -----	63
XVI. Eastern Orthodox -----	64
XVII. Friends -----	66
XVIII. Holiness -----	82
Pilgrim	
Unaffiliated	
XIX. Jewish -----	85
Orthodox	
Reformed	
Unaffiliated	
Conservative	
XX. Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) -----	90
XXI. Lutheran -----	91
Early churches	
Evangelica	
United	
XXII. Mennonite -----	99
Conservative	
Old Order Amish	
XXIII. Methodist Episcopal -----	102
Wilmington Conference	
Delaware Conference (Colored)	
African	
Union American (Colored)	
Reformed Union American (Colored)	
African, Zion	
Colored	

XXVI. INDEXES

Entries herein have been arranged alphabetically by names of the denominations to which they pertain and chronologically under each denomination.

The following indexes are arranged.

- i. Alphabetically by names of churches or other religious organizations.
- ii. Alphabetically by names of towns where located.
- iii. Chronologically by dates of organization.

Space requirements have necessitated abbreviating some demoninational names, these being as follows:

Adventist	Advent.
American Rescue Workers	Am.R.W.
Assemblies of God	Assem. Of G.
Christian and Missionary Alliance	Chr. & Miss. All.
Church of Christ, Scientist	Chr.Sci.
Chruch of God in Christ	Ch.ofG.inC.
Church of Nazarene	Ch. Of Naz.
Congregational and Christian	Cong.
Disciples of Christ	Disc.ofC.
Eastern Orthodox	E.Ortho.
Latter Day Saints, Church of Jesus Christ	Mormon
Methodist Episcopal	ME
African ME	AME
African ME Zion	AMEZ
Union American ME	UAME
Reformed Union American ME	RUAME
Colored ME	CME
Methodist Protestant	MP
African Union MP	AUMP
Wesleyan Methodist	Wes. M.
Pentecostal	Pentecos.
Presbyterian	Presby.
Protestant Episcopal	PE
Reformed Church in America	Ref.Ch.
Reformed Episcopal	Ref.Ep.
Salvation Army	Sal.Army
Spiritualist	Spirit.
Swedenborgian	Swedborg.
Unitarian	Unitar.
Undemoninational	Undemon.

i. Alphabetical Index by Church Names

*Names marked with an astrisk are obsolete, most of threse organizations having since incorporated under a new name. The latter name will, of course, be found in the heading of any such entry.

Name	Denomination	Location	Dates	Entry Nos.
------	--------------	----------	-------	------------

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page
XXIV. Methodist Protestant -----	169
African Union First Colored	
Maryland Conference	
XXV. Methodist, Wesleyan -----	182
XXVI. Pentecostal -----	183
Pentecostal Assemblies	
Mount Sinai Holy Church	
Unaffiliated	
XXVII. Presbyterian -----	186
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.	
United Presbyterian Church of N.A.	
Presbyterian Church of America	
Unaffiliated	
XXVIII. Protestant Episcopal -----	214
XXIX. Reformed Church in America -----	240
XXX. Reformed Episcopal -----	242
XXXI. Salvation Army -----	244
XXXII. Spiritualist -----	245
Christian	
National	
Universal Hagar	
XXXIII. Swedenborgian -----	247
XXXIV. Unitarian -----	248
XXXV. Volunteers of America -----	249
XXXVI. Undenominational and other demonimnations -----	250
XXXVII. Indexes -----	
i. Alphabetical	
ii. Geographical	
iii. Chronological	
Appendixes -----	
a. Obscure incorporation and deeds records	
b. Foreign Religious Corporations, incorporated in Delaware	

Minutes, (including financial), 1860-1910, 1 vol.; Register, 1860-1910, 1 vol.; Sunday School, 1860-1910, 3 vols.; in Farmers Bank vault. Minutes (including financial), 1910-- , 1 vol.; in possession of pastor, Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Thompson. Records of incorporation and deeds: Kent Co. Recorder's office, Deeds Record; vol. B2, p. 80; vol. X3, p. 39; vol. R4, p. 185; vol. K7, p. 68; vol. B10, p. 7; vol. C11, p. 349; vol. E14, p. 326.

529. ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL, 1891-- , Main St., Camden.

Organized as a mission of Christ Church, Dover, in 1891. Building dedicated 1891. It is a one story frame structure. This church has always been served by ministers of Christ Church.

Minutes, 1891-- , 2 vols.; Register, 1891-- , 3 vols.; Financial, 189100, 2 vols.; in possession of Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Thomson, Dover. Sunday School, 1906-- ,6 vols.; in possession of Mrs. John C. Griffith, Camden.

530. ST. MARTIN'S CHAPEL, 1908-- , ¼ mile N. of Hartly on Road to Kenton.

Organized 1908 as a mission of Christ Church, Dover. Services were held in a loft over the blacksmith shop at Corners until 1914 when the present building was dedicated. It is a wooden building, portable type, made in sections bolted together. This chapel has always been served by ministers of Christ Church, Dover. See: Rt. Rev. F. J. Kinsman, article in Diocese of Delaware, Journal of the 139th Annual Convention, 1914.

Minutes necessary entries, in Parish Registers of Christ Church, Dover and St. Peter's Smyrna Register, 1910-- , 1 vol.; Financial, 1910-- , 1 vol.; in possession of Rector of Christ Church, Rev. Benjamin F. Thompson. Record of Deed, Kent Co. Recorder's office, Deeds Record; vol. L10, p. 417; vol. L13, p. 82.

531. CHRIST CHURCH, 1704-- , Church and 3rd Sts., Milford.

Organized 1704. The first services of the Church of England in this locality were conducted by the Rev. Thomas Crawford, a missionary of the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts" and pastor of Christ Church, Dover (entry 528), in 1704. The congregation then worshipped at a place three miles west of Milford, though the exact location and description of the building are unknown. In 1745 a small frame chapel was built at Church Hill (now part of Milford). This building was known as Christ Church Mispillion, though it was popularly called "The Savannah Church". The erection of the present building was commenced in 1792, but due to numerous difficulties was not completed and consecrated until 1836. Remodeled and enlarged in 1860. A two story brick structure with tower and bell. Gothic style. First settled clergyman, Rev. Sydenham Thorne, 1773-1793. See: Directory and Historical Sketch (Milford, privately printed, 1914, 16 pp).

Minutes, 1835-- , 2 vols.; Register, 1880-- , 2 vols.; Sunday School, 1928-- , 1 vol.; in possession of Rev. Joseph Samuel Hinks. Financial, 1835-- , 4 vols.; in possession of D.G. Collins. Record of incorporation and deed: Kent Co. Recorder's office, Deeds Record; vol. U5, p. 3; vol. P10, p. 298; vol. X10, p. 151; vol. B12, p. 501; vol. Y12, p. 399; vol. G14, p. 19.

THE CHURCHES OF DELAWARE

by

FRANK R. ZEBLEY

Author of "Along the Brandywine"



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

1947

In 1882, Messrs. Isaac Truitt, Alex Pullen and Burr conducted experiments in conserving fruits in the building. The building was sold to St. Paul's M. E. Church, colored, on Sept. 14, 1889.

The construction work on the new church on Railroad Ave. was resumed in March, 1876. The church was completed and was dedicated on Mar. 3, 1877. The services were in charge of the Rev. Dr. R. L. Dashiell who preached both morning and evening. At this time the name "Avenue" was selected.

After extensive improvements, a rededication service was held on Dec. 22, 1889. The morning service was led by the Rev. Dr. George E. Reed, Pres. of Dickinson College. The Hon. W. F. Causey led the afternoon exercises and the Rev. T. E. Terry preached in the evening. A new organ was installed in March, 1901. Methodist Conferences have been held here a number of times.

The ground was broken for the present stone church on Feb. 12, 1939, by Governor Richard C. McMullen. The corner-stone was laid on Mar. 19, 1939. With the erection of the stone church, the spire on the former brick church, one of the most outstanding in Delaware, was removed, much to the chagrin of many residents of Milford. The church was incorporated as Avenue Methodist Church on Nov. 3, 1939. The new church was dedicated on Dec. 24, 1939, by Bishop Edwin H. Hughes, assisted by Dist. Supt. Dr. W. A. Hearn and the Rev. Frank Herson, the pastor. The organ, a gift of Mrs. George H. Hall in memory of her husband, was dedicated at the evening service by Dr. Hearn.

Included in the church establishment are the auditorium, Friendship Chapel, various Sunday School rooms, dining-room and kitchen. The memorial windows were reset in the new church. A window, executed by Tiffany, in memory of Wm. F. and Anna P. Causey, was presented by their daughter, Mrs. Wm. Aldrich. The brick church will be used as a social-hall and it is proposed to veneer it with stone to conform to the new church.

Christ P. E. Church at Milford. The first Episcopalian services in lower Kent County are believed to have been held west of Milford, in 1704, by the Rev. Thomas Crawford, a missionary of the Church of England. On Feb. 12, 1755, Joseph and Isaac Mason sold to a board of trustees for thirty shillings, an acre of land on the south side of Pemberton's Savannah. This land was located at Church Hill, three miles west of Milford, and was to be used as a site for a church of the Church of England. It was officially known as "Christ Church of Mispillion." The church was popularly known as "Savannah Church" because of the swamp or savannah beside the church. Two wings were added to the building in 1761.

In 1773, the Rev. Sydenham Thorne arrived and took up his residence near Church Hill. When Christ Church was built in Milford the little church at Church Hill was abandoned as was the little burial-ground beside the church. In this graveyard many of the early pioneers of that section were buried including Jehu Davis, a former Governor of Delaware. This graveyard suffered the fate of many such sacred spots when the interest in those buried there had disappeared. Today the bodies of these neglected dead lie beneath the concrete highway with nothing to mark the spot.

One of the few memorials and the last one to survive was over the grave of John S. Asparagus who was born in 1781 and who died in 1847. It consisted of a recumbent slab 4 ft. by 8 ft. and about 4 inches thick. It was first broken when an ox-team became unmanageable and trampled over the stone. Later, small boys would break off pieces to be used as bases in their ball games. Finally, only a small section remained and it was removed to a nearby woods.

In 1777, Parson Thorne, a wealthy man, purchased a farm on the outskirts of the present town of Milford. He erected an imposing brick home which is still standing on n. w. Front St. Joseph Oliver owned the adjoining farm to the east and at the suggestion of Parson Thorne, Mr. Oliver began selling lots for a town site. Nearly all of the deeds given by Mr. Oliver provided for a small consideration and an annual ground rent that had to be paid promptly on Jan. 1st of each year. He deeded, as a gift, two lots at Third and Church Sts., for the use of Christ Church. At a later date more land was purchased from the Oliver heirs and this land was subject to a ground rent of \$6.92. This was in effect until 1932, when the ground rent was extinguished by the purchase of a release from Mrs. Elizabeth M. L. Nutter the present owner of the Oliver ground rents.

The foundations of Christ Church were laid in 1791. It was built of brick burned closeby from clay dug on Mr. Oliver's land. The timbers were cut from trees on Parson Thorne's land and either hewn to size by hand or cut to size at his mill. Parson Thorne died on Feb. 13, 1793, at the age of 45 years and is buried in the family graveyard, surrounded by a stone wall, on the old Thorne property on n. w. Front St. The death of Parson Thorne caused the work of building the church to be stopped, with the building in condition to use but not fully completed. Mr. Oliver, a member of the vestry, was originally buried on his farm but was moved later to a spot close to the rear of the church. Over the grave is a well-preserved tombstone stating that Joseph Oliver died on Feb. 28, at twenty minutes of seven in the morning in the year of our Lord, 1807, aged about 80 years. The oldest tombstone that the writer could find is that of Wm. Sorden, who died on March 8, 1806.

The church was not completed, as originally designed, until 1835. This work was done by Sam. Draper and John Eubanks, carpenters of Milford. During the work a piece of lumber was placed against a stove pipe to dry. The board became ignited, and started a fire that jumped to the roof and did serious damage before it was subdued. The firemen responded with their hand-engine and a line was formed to pass leather buckets filled with water from the creek to supply the engine.

The consecration services were held on Jan. 26, 1836, with the Rt. Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk, in charge. The certificate of consecration sealed and signed by Bishop Onderdonk is framed and hangs in the vestibule of the church. The church had galleries on three sides and a high pulpit with a sounding board. The work on the building was completed in 1838. During 1861-64, the Rev. J. Leighton McKim made many improvements including enlarging the seating capacity. An organ was presented in 1868. A Bishop's chair was a gift from the children of the Sunday School. In 1873, a bell was purchased. An iron fence was presented by Manlove R. Carlisle, in 1881.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1882, shortly after the close of the services, fire was discovered, by the rector, in a basement partition. With the help of his brother, who was visiting him, the rector extinguished the blaze. In 1890, a mission chapel was built on Marshall St., above Front St., in South Milford. In the spring of 1892, the chapel was destroyed in a gale and it was not replaced. The church tower was completed in 1893. In 1894-95, electric lighting was installed. In 1907-08, windows in memory of John R. Draper and Mary E. Torbert were unveiled. In 1910-11, a house was rented for the use of the parish societies. In 1913-14, a window in memory of Mrs. Rodney, an eagle lectern in memory of Mrs. James M. Hall and altar vases in memory of Mrs. E. Lofland were installed.

In 1914, windows in memory of Mrs. Mary E. Lofland, Wm. and Robert

J. Beswick were unveiled. On Oct. 8, 1915, a house on n. w. Front St. was purchased for a rectory. On Mar. 25, 1916, Bishop Frederick J. Kinsman conducted a service of benediction in the rectory. In August, 1915, the church was damaged by lightning. In 1925, the land adjoining the church was purchased. The parish-house and rectory were built in 1926 and the former rectory was sold.

On May 23, 1923, and May 23, 1932, ground rents on the property, held by Mrs. Elizabeth M. L. Nutter were extinguished.

The Rev. J. Leighton McKim, for many years rector of Christ Church, purchased the "red house" on Second St. for his family. It became known as "the old rectory." Miss Marion McKim, a daughter of Dr. McKim, still occupies the house. It is one of Milford's early residences, having been built about 1813. Former Governors Wm. Tharp and Wm. Burton are buried in the graveyard.

The First Baptist Church of Milford. The first meeting of the Baptists, in Milford, was held in the Methodist Church on June 14, 1873. The church was formally organized in 1873 and was recognized on July 10, 1873. The present church was completed and the dedication services were held on Thanksgiving Day, 1875. The church received title to the site on Dec. 24, 1875, from E. Smith, from whom it had been purchased.

The parsonage lot on Pear St., now Washington St., was purchased from James H. Latchem on Dec. 15, 1934.

On Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, 1942, a service was held to which all of the Milford churches were invited. The interior of the church had been renovated during the previous three months and a rededication service was included in the Thanksgiving service.

After extensive alterations and renovations, the church was rededicated on Sun., Apr. 28, 1946.

The Church of God, at Milford, was organized in 1928 and met on the second floor of the William's Block. Later, they moved to a building at 2nd and Washington Sts., which they remodeled for church purposes. They were incorporated on Apr. 5, 1934. They took title to the church property from Eugene P. Smith on Apr. 23, 1934.

St. John's R. C. Church at Milford. The first Masses were celebrated, at Milford, in the Central Hotel in the 1890's through the courtesy of Frank H. Kramlich who conducted the hotel at that time. The first agitation toward the erection of a church was started in 1896. On Dec. 8, 1909, the present site containing 11,280 sq. ft. of land was purchased from the Grier's for \$350.00. The Rev. T. F. Waldron of Holy Cross Church in Dover worked and begged to secure funds to erect the present church. The contract to build was awarded on Feb. 21, 1910, to Joseph T. Rogers of Milford.

The dedication services were held on June 26, 1910. Father Waldron conducted a regular Mass at 7 o'clock. At 10:45 A. M. the service of dedication, by Bishop John J. Monaghan was started. A procession of priests was formed and circled the grounds as Bishop Monaghan, in the lead, blessed the ground and the four corners of the building while the dedicatory choral was being sung. They then proceeded into the sacristy. Bishop Monaghan conferred the Pontifical Blessing upon those present. The name "St. John's" was selected in honor of the Bishop. The dedicatory sermon was delivered by Vicar-General John A. Lyons. Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. James

*****AUTO***-DIGIT 199
 KAREN DONGVAN
 HALL OF RECORDS DELAWARE PUBLIC ARC
 121 DUKE OF YORK ST
 DOVER DE 19901-3638

Board of Ed vote on referendum

...rk
 ...eacon.com

Milford School District Board of Education will meet tonight on whether to authorize a \$17.3 million referendum to raise money for the construction of at least two new schools. The meeting will be held during the regular monthly meeting of the school board at 7 p.m. Dec. 18, at the Milford School, which serves as the district's boardroom. The board sent letters home with our students to let parents know about the meeting set for Monday. Milford School District Superintendent Dr. Robert ... when asked about the notification. The tentative date for the referendum has been set for 2007. There will be a proposed \$75 million major school construction and renovation plan. The board said the district will split the cost of the capital projects with the state at a 23 percent to 77 percent

Please see REFERENDUM on page 2A

Historical marker unveiled



Photo by Cliff Clark

DEDICATED: A historical marker was unveiled and blessed after a service at Christ Church Milford Sunday morning. The marker gives a detailed account of the church's construction history. Construction of the church started in 1791 and finished in 1836. It was remodeled and enlarged between 1863-1855. The bell tower was added in 1895. Interred in the churchyard are Joseph Oliver, the founder of Milford, and governors William Tharp and Dr. William Burton. The church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. At the ceremony was, from left, the Rev. Dr. James L. White, rector of Christ Church, the Rt. Rev. Wayne P. Wright, Bishop of Delaware, F. Brooke Clendaniel, historian and vestryman of Christ Church, state Senator F. Gary Simpson, who sponsored the funding of the marker and C. Russell McCabe, the director of the Delaware Public Archives.



Milford Chronicle/Cathianne Werner-Porterfield

C. Russell McCabe, director of the Delaware Public Archives, reads the marker to everyone gathered in the churchyard for the special dedication.



While officially visiting Christ Episcopal Church to oversee a confirmation service, the Right Rev. Wayne P. Wright, Bishop of Delaware, remarked on the significance of the occasion.



F. Brooke Clendaniel gives opening remarks at the unveiling of a new historical marker at Christ Episcopal Church.

Christ Episcopal marked for history

Historical sign unveiled after Sunday services

By Cathianne Werner-Porterfield
Milford Chronicle

MILFORD — C. Russell McCabe, director of the Delaware Public Archives, was surrounded by members of Milford's Christ Episcopal Church this sunny Sunday morning.

The congregation, joined by guests the Right Rev. Wayne P. Wright, Bishop of Delaware, and Sen. F. Gary Simpson, R-Milford, who sponsored funding for the marker, gathered in the churchyard anxiously awaiting the official presentation of a Delaware Historical Marker more than 300 years in the making.

"I was the instigator of this," said local historian and church member F. Brooke Clendaniel, noting he had been waiting a couple years for the special recognition.

"I thought the state didn't think we were important enough," he said. "But we are getting a marker today."

Mr. Wright, who was in Milford to officiate over confirmation held the same morning, commented on the marker and blessed the sign as a reminder that the church continues to write its history into its fourth century.

News editor
Cathianne Werner-Porterfield
can be reached at 422-1200
or cporterfield@newszap.com.

Marker text

Christ Church — Mispillion Milford
Christ Church Mispillion was the second parish in Delaware established by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The Rev. Thomas Crawford first held services of the Church of England in lower Kent County in 1704. The previous church was located at Church Hill about three miles west of Milford. The Rev. Sydenham Thorne, the first resident rector, was instrumental in the relocation of the church to the new town of Milford. Construction of the church in Milford was started in 1791, but was interrupted by Thorne's death in 1793. The Rev. Cory Chambers is credited with completing the structure, which was consecrated on January 26, 1836. The colonial-style church was remodeled and enlarged in the present Gothic-style between 1863 and 1865. The bell tower was added in 1895. Interred in the churchyard are Joseph Oliver, the founder of Milford, and two of Delaware's Governors: William Tharp and Dr. William Burton. Christ Episcopal Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.



Christ Episcopal Church Rector Rev. Dr. James L. Wright removes the veil from the church's new historical marker.

Your Community Directory is Just a Click

newszap.com
Community Links. Individual Voices.



For more information or pick-up, call
1-800-404-7088
or visit www.dswa.com

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY



Dr. Maxime Moise



DELMED HEALTH
is proud to announce the continuation of women's health in Milford

Dr. Maxime Moise
Dr. Susan Kelly
Dr. Christina Peyton

will be replacing
Dr. Lisa Torre and Dr. Ann

Community

E-subscribe

trict logos is on sale.
The basket is a great gift for a

Tell us what's happening!

Christ Episcopal marked for history

Historical sign unveiled after Sunday services

By Cathianne Werner-Porterfield
Milford Chronicle

MILFORD — C. Russell McCabe, director of the Delaware Public Archives, was surrounded by members of Milford's Christ Episcopal Church this sunny Sunday morning.

The congregation, joined by guests the Right Rev. Wayne P. Wright, Bishop of Delaware, and Sen. F. Gary Simpson, R-Milford, who sponsored funding for the marker, gathered in the churchyard anxiously awaiting the official presenta-



Milford Chronicle/Cathianne Werner-Porterfield

F. Brooke Clendaniel gives opening remarks at the unveiling of a new historical marker at Christ Episcopal Church.

tion of a Delaware Historical Marker more than 300 years in the making.

"I was the instigator of this," said local historian and church member F. Brooke Clendaniel,

noting he had been waiting a couple years for the special recognition.

"I thought the state didn't

See Church — Page 4



Milford Chronicle/Cathianne Werner-Porterfield

C. Russell McCabe, director of the Delaware Public Archives, reads the marker to everyone gathered in the churchyard for the special dedication.



Milford Chronicle/Cathianne Werner-Porterfield

Christ Episcopal Church Rector Rev. Dr. James L. White lifts the veil from the church's new historical marker.

Church

Continued From Page 1

think we were important enough," he said. "But we are getting a marker today."

Mr. Wright, who was in Milford to officiate over confirmation held

the same morning, commented on the marker and blessed the sign as a reminder that the church continues to write its history into its fourth century.

News editor Cathianne Werner-Porterfield can be reached at 422-1200 or cporterfield@newszap.com.



While officially visiting Christ Episcopal Church to oversee a confirmation service, the Right Rev. Wayne P. Wright, Bishop of Delaware, remarked on the significance of the occasion.

Christ Church — Mispillion Milford

Christ Church Mispillion was the second parish in Delaware established by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The Rev. Thomas Crawford first held services of the Church of England in lower Kent County in 1704. The previous church was located at Church Hill about three miles west of Milford. The Rev. Sydenham Thorne, the first resident rector, was instrumental in the relocation of the church to the new town of Milford. Construction of the church in Milford was started in 1791, but was interrupted by Thorne's death in 1793. The Rev. Cory Chambers is credited with completing the structure, which was consecrated on January 26, 1836. The colonial-style church was remodeled and enlarged in the present Gothic-style between 1863 and 1865. The bell tower was added in 1895. Interned in the churchyard are Joseph Oliver, the founder of Milford, and two of Delaware's Governors: William Tharp and Dr. William Burton. Christ Episcopal Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.