THE CHURCHES OF DELAWARE

by

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

1947

On Sept. 20, 1806, Allen and James Steel deeded an acre and two rods of land to the church subject to a ground rent of six cents to be paid annually on March 25, if demanded. The deed contained a reversion clause with any land used for the graveyard excepted. The church was burned on Sun., Mar. 14, 1858, just as the congregation was assembling for morning services. A new church was built immediately and was dedicated on Mar. 19, 1859.

Additional land was purchased from Thomas Steel on Sept. 12, 1859 and on Dec. 10, 1875. Major improvements were made in 1905. The large graveyard dates back to the first church. The tomb of the Rev. George Gillespie is located where the pulpit of the old log church stood. The inscription states that "he was ordained in Glasgo in 1712, ordained here in 1713 and died on Jan. 2, 1760." The oldest legible tombstone that the writer could find is that of Androw Wallace who died on Mar. 3, 1751.

Welsh Tract Primitive Baptist Church is located, two and one-quarter miles south of Newark, at the foot of Iron Hill. The first church was built, in 1703, by a group of Baptists who had settled on a grant of land known as Welsh Tract. The present church was built in 1746 on a lot of six acres, four of which had been donated by James James. The church was incorporated on Feb. 9, 1788.

The gable-stone dated 1746 is, so far as the writer can determine, the oldest gable-stone or corner-stone on any church in Delaware. It was the mother church from which sprang the churches at Wilmington, Kenton, Cow March and Mispillion. Patches in the side brick walls show where a cannon-ball from the battle of Cooch's Bridge passed through the church taking an angular course with a heavy descending angle.

Additional land adjoining the church property was purchased from Alexander Coulter on Apr. 23, 1853 and from Levi G. Cooch on Sept. 3, 1863. There is a large and well-kept graveyard. The oldest tombstone that the writer could find is dated 1707. It bears an inscription in a combination of Welsh and Latin. Translated it reads:—

"Riceus Rychiough, born at Danwenog county Cardiganshire and buried here in the year of our Lord 1707. Aged 87."

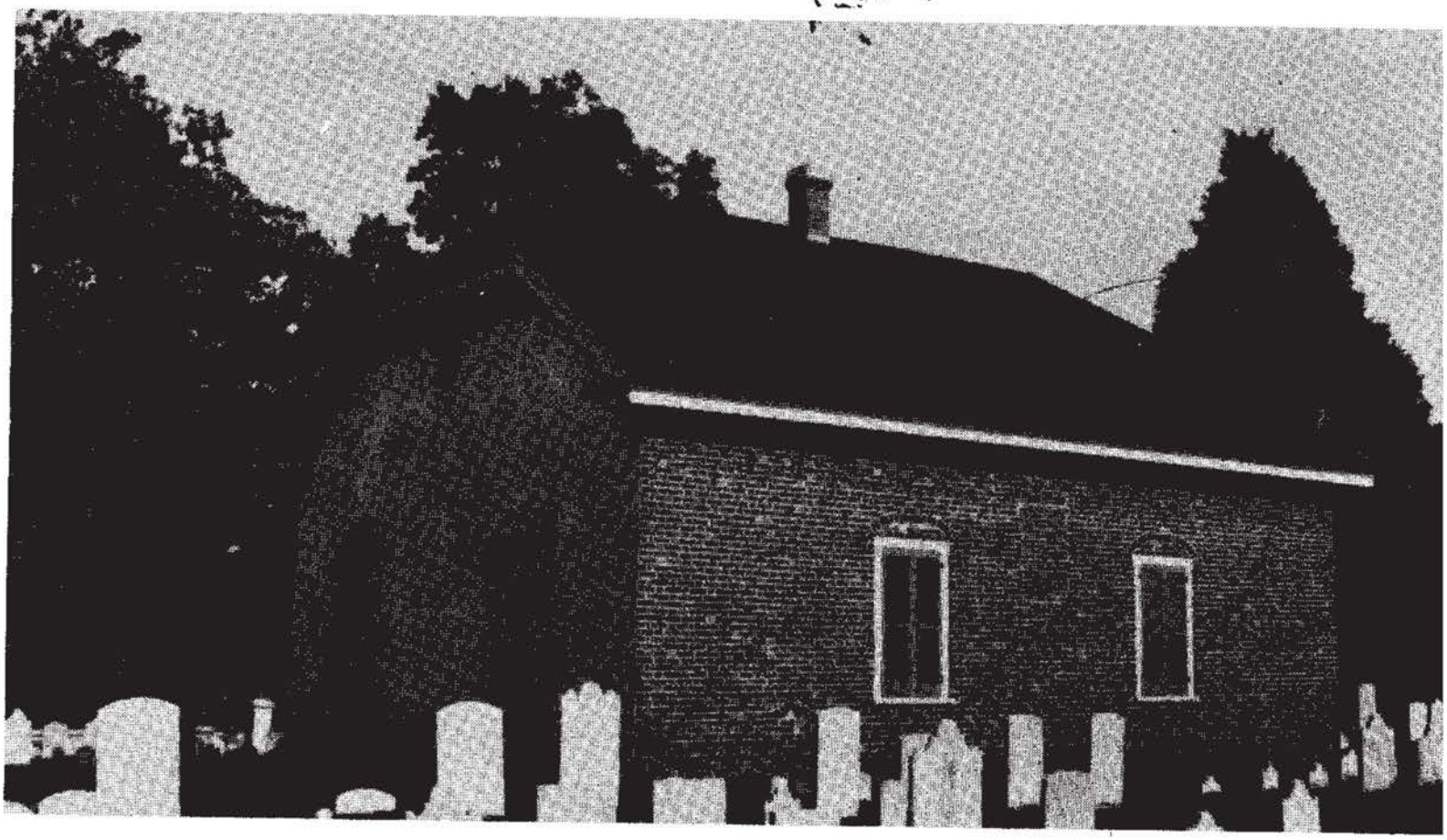
As this tombstone does not have a more definite date it ranks as the third oldest legible tombstone in Delaware. Nearby is a field-stone inscribed, Elis Price, 1712. Services are now held monthly with an annual home-coming in the fall.

The 200th Anniversary was celebrated on Oct. 17, 18 and 19, 1903. The exercises were conducted by Elders J. G. Eubanks and N. W. Meredith.

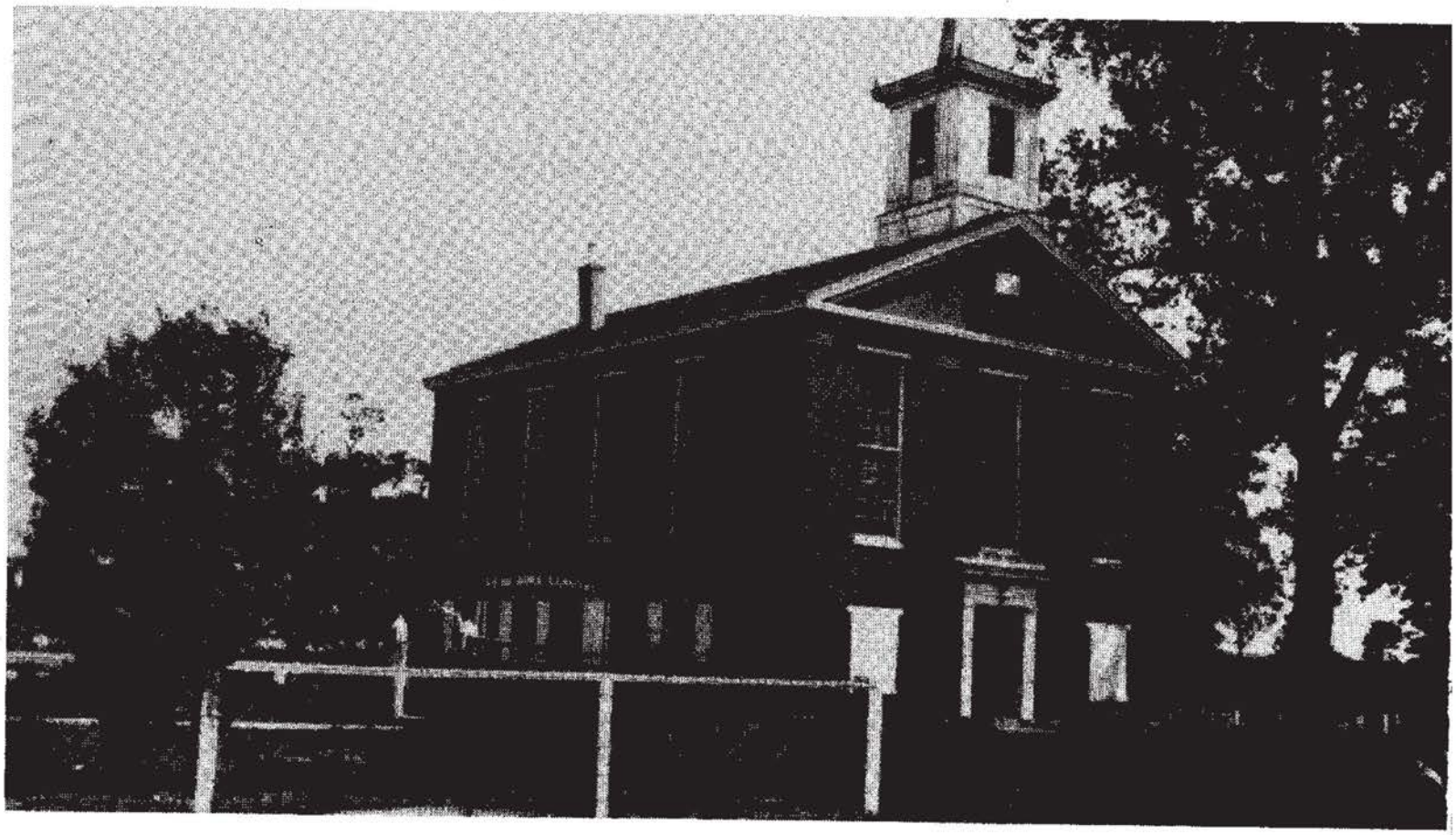
The African Union Church of Iron Hill was incorporated on Sept. 20, 1867.

St. Daniel's A. M. E. Church is located, one and one-half miles s. w. of Newark, at the base of Iron Hill. The first church was built in 1838 and the present church was built in 1927.

The First Methodist Church at Glasgow was built, of brick, in 1832 and dedicated in 1833, by the Rev. Matthew Sorin. A new church, of sandstone, was built in 1857. It was dedicated by the Rev. Mr. Hickman. The present frame church was dedicated on Oct. 5, 1884, by the Rev. Andrew Manship assisted by the Rev. W. L. S. Murray.



WELSH TRACT BAPTIST CHURCH, COOCH'S BRIDGE
(Page 158)



PENCADER PRES. CHURCH, GLASGOW
(Page 160)