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

Bibliography

Richard B. Cook, Early and Later Delaware Baptists (Philadelphia, American Baptist Publishing Society, 1880, 156 pp.)

Henry Clay Vedder, "Early Days in Pennsylvania and Delaware" in History of the Baptists in the Middle States (Philadelphia, American Baptist Publishing Society, 1898, pp. 56-85).

American Baptist Yearbook (Philadelphia, American Baptist Publishing Society, 1923).

Rev. Morgan Edwards, "History of the Baptists in Delaware" in Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, vol. 9, Nos. 1 and 2, (Philadelphia, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1885). Manuscript written in the 1790's is in possession of the American Baptist Historical Society, Philadelphia.

Primitive Baptist Church

There is no formal national organization of this denomination. Organizations other than those of individual churches are contrary to their religious beliefs. However for convenience of intercommunication Mr. William H. Crouse, Stateboro, Ga. serves as correspondent.

See: sketch of Old School yearly meeting in Wilmington Morning News, Oct. 18, 1926.

15. WELSH TRACT PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1701 --, Welsh Tract Road, Newark

Organized 1701 by thirteen families in Pembroke and Caermarthen counties in Wales, who planned to settle in this country. Minister and congregation arrived together in Philadelphia September 8, 1701 settling first at Pennypack in Pennsylvania. In the Spring of 1703 they took up land in Delaware and built a log church on Iron Hill, the present site. Included among the first members of the organization formed in Wales were Rev. Elisha Thomas, who became pastor upon the death of the Rev. Griffith and the Rev. Enoch Morgan, successor to the Rev. Thomas upon his death in 1730. This church became the mother church of the Duck Creek Church (entry 16), and Bethel Church (entry 18), besides the London Tract Church in Pennsylvania (see forthcoming Inventory of the Church Archives of Pennsylvania). In November 1736 forty-eight members left to settle on the Pedee River in South Carolina were they organized the Welsh Neck Baptist Church (see forthcoming Inventory of the Church Archives of South Carolina), which in turn became the mother church of many others in that section. The original log church was burned by the Indians about 1745 and was replaced the following year by the present church building. One story plain brick structure. Original entrance was bricked up and a new door made in opposite end of building when location of road was changed. Building contains original pews and floor. Conrnerstone inscription has become illegible but date 1746 can be deciphered on stone thought to be original cornerstone. Building in good condition but bears scars of the battle of Cooch's Bridge.

Served in the Revolutionary War by supplying iron ore mined from part of the Welsh Tract lying about three miles southwest of the church. Burying ground is surrounded by a low stone wall, outside of which colored members were buried. Services are held monthly, there having been no break in the continuity of services since the founding of the church. A roadside marker erected by the Historic Markers Commission of Delaware stands about a quarter of a mile northeast of the church at the junction of the Newark and Middletown Road and Baptist Church Road. First settled clergyman, Rev. Thomas Griffith, 1701-25. See: "Records of the Welsh Tract Baptist Meeting, Pencader Hundred, New Castle County, Del., 1701-1828) in Historical Society of Delaware Papers, No. 42 (Wilmington, Historical Society of Delaware, 1904, 2 vols., 88 pp. And 149 pp.); 200th Anniversary containing history of Griffith family (1901, privately printed, 2 vols.); William Reynolds, "Welsh Tract Baptist Meeting, Old Iron Hill Meeting House" in Harkness Magazine, vol. 1, pp. 170-174 (Philadelphia, March, 1873); "Welsh Tract Baptist Meeting History" in Pennsylvania Magazine (Philadelphia, 1885); articles in Wilmington newspapers; Morning News, Oct. 19, 1925; Sunday Star, Jan. 8, 1928, April 22, 1934, and Jan. 12, 1936; Every Evening, Aug. 18, 1932.

Minutes, 1701-1828, 1 vol.; 1828-1930, 6 vols.; 1930 --, 1 vol.; Register (baptisms, members, deaths), 1701-1828, 1 vol.; 1828-1930, 6 vols.; 1930 --, 1 vol.; Fianancial (1701-1905) in Minutes), 1905- --, 1 vol.; in possessin of John B. Miller, 20 W. Delaware Ave., Newark. All records prior to 1732 are in Welsh. Are in good condition considering their age. Records of incorporation and deeds: New Castle Co. Recorder's office, Deeds Record; vol. H2, pg. 72; vol. N6, pg. 40; vol. V7, pg. 318; vol. V11, pg. 31; vol. X11, pg. 224; vol. A21, pg. 353.

16. BRYNZION PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1733 --, ¾ mile NE of Kenton.

Organized about 1733 as a branch of Welsh Tract Church (entry 15). It was often referred to as the Old Duck Creek Church. Services were held in private homes and occasionally in a small frame church, which had been built by the Independents and called Brynzion, meaning Mount Zion. In 1747 land on which to build a church was deeded to the trustees of the Baptist society, but this church was never built. In 1771 the Independents' church, having become dilapidated and abandoned by them, was replaced by the Baptist society with a brick structure. In 1781 they became an independent body, separate from the mother church. Church building was reconstructed in 1871. It is a one story brick structure. Colonial style. First settled clergyman, Griffith Jones, 1749-54.

Minutes (including Financial), 1908 --, 1 vol.; Register, 1908 --, 1 vol. In possession of pastor, Benjamin E. Cubbage, Wyoming. List of members in 1781 at times of separation form Welsh Tract Church and some old death recores taken from tombstones 1790-1837, in Scharf, History of Delaware, vol. 2. Record of incorporation; Kent Co. Recorder's office, Deeds Record; vol. 22, pg. 47.

17. SOUNDS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1779 - ?, (Defunct), Sounds.

Organized August 12, 1779 as a result of revival meetings which had been held at intervals since the previous year. Leaders of this movement were Revs. Elijah Baker and Philip Hughes through whose efforts twenty-one churches were established in Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. No church building was ever erected, meetings being held in the homes of John Tull and Thomas Wildgoose (or Wilegoos).