

THE CHURCHES OF DELAWARE

by

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

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Pencader Presbyterian Church at Glasgow was organized between 1707 and 1710. It was then known as "Welsh Tract Presbyterian Church." In 1719, they adopted the name "Pencader" which, in Welsh, means "chief chair." On Nov. 2, 1742, Margaret Williams conveyed to a board of trustees a plot of land upon which a meeting-house had been built. It was used as a hospital after the Battle of Cooch's Bridge. The church was incorporated on June 1, 1789. The present church was built in 1852. There is a large graveyard beside the church. Among the oldest tombstones are those of Benjamin Evans who died on May 7, 1721, Joseph Griffith and Margaret Griffith, both of whom died in 1746. The writer suspects that the first church was located on this knoll on the eastern side of the church land, close to these old graves.

Implanted in the church stone step is a bronze marker placed by the U. S. Geological Survey in 1904 which states that it is 69 feet above sea level.

Bethasady M. E. Church, colored, of Pencader Hundred, was formally organized, at the home of Robert Price, on Apr. 6, 1859. A church site consisting of 9 sq. perches was purchased from Causden Johnson, for \$5.00, on Apr. 30, 1859.

Ott's Chapel is located, at the base of Chestnut Hill, three and one-half miles n. w. of Glasgow. It was built by Elder Stephen Ott in 1871. Mr. Ott was a Methodist but at the end of the Civil War he became a member of the Christian Church. He conducted services in his home for years and then, with the help of some of his neighbors, he built the chapel. He conducted Sunday School and preaching services until his death on July 22, 1875. His wife, Jane, then continued the services until her death. The chapel has always been un-denominational and meetings are held regularly with different persons in charge. The property is in the hands of a board of trustees who maintain the chapel and the graveyard in excellent condition.

St. Thomas' A. M. P. Church is located one and one-half miles s. w. of Glasgow, close to the Maryland line, on the old Frenchtown and New Castle Pike. The church was incorporated on Jan. 30, 1857 and again on Apr. 17, 1890. On Oct. 27, 1897, they purchased an additional acre of land from John R. Hogg, et al. A new church was built and the first church is used as a social-hall.

State Road Chapel was built, in 1900, by the nearby residents, to be used for Sunday School services and as a community-center. A few years later, it was burned and rebuilt. It is owned by a self-perpetuating board of trustees and Sunday School is held regularly.

The Chapel at the State Hospital, Farnhurst. This chapel was dedicated on Sept. 28, 1939, during the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Hospital. The dedication services were conducted by the Hospital Chaplains, the Rev. Joseph H. Earp, Rabbi Henry Tavel and the Rev. Roderick Dwyer. The dedicatory sermon was preached by the Rt. Rev. Arthur R. McKinstry, D.D., Episcopal Bishop of Delaware. The principal address was delivered by Dr. Edward A. Strecker. A feature of the ceremonies was the playing of the light-color-organ by its inventor, Mrs. Mary H. Greenawalt. Large delegations of prominent citizens from all parts of the State, were present.

The Minquadale Baptist Mission was organized, in 1929, by the Rev. Erby Davis. For two years the meetings were held in Kilvington's store. Then the