

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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There are two colored churches in Delaware City. **Mt. Salem A. U. M. E.** was organized in 1868 and the present church was built in 1931. The cornerstone was laid on Feb. 21, 1932. The site for **St. Peter's M. E. Church** was bought from James B. Henry on June 11, 1872, the deed stating that the church had been built. It was rebuilt in 1922.

Bethel A. M. E. Church at Polktown. This congregation purchased a property from John T. Viney on Apr. 5, 1883. Polktown is situated south of Delaware City opposite the entrance to Fort Du Pont.

Port Penn Presbyterian Church was organized at a meeting held on Nov. 16, 1833. On Feb. 28, 1834, Mrs. Margaret Darrach donated to John M. Woods, John Cannon and John Price, trustees, a lot on the corner of Market and Stewart Sts., as a church site. A frame building was erected in 1834. After securing 12 perches more land from Mrs. Darrach on Mar. 17, 1856, the cornerstone of the present brick church was laid on Tues., Aug. 19, 1856. The first services in the new church were held on May 17, 1857. Upon her death, Mrs. Darrach devised to the church a house and additional land next to the church property.

More land was purchased on Apr. 25, 1871, from Edwin A. Smith. The church minute-book containing a record of every meeting was well cared for by the late Wm. McMullen, an elder of the church. When the new church was built, in 1856, the old church was sold to a colored congregation who moved it to a site two and one-quarter miles west of Port Penn.

Port Penn M. E. Church was the outgrowth of revival meetings held in the schoolhouse in the 1840's. A church was organized and a church site was purchased on the east side of Stewart St., from Joseph Cleaver, on Nov. 20, 1843. A frame building was erected. After major repairs a reopening service was held on Oct. 20, 1867, by the Revs. M. D. Kurtz and Elon J. Way, the pastor. In 1881, lack of interest caused the church to be closed but it was reopened in 1887.

The church was rebuilt in 1891. The corner-stone was laid on July 12, 1891, at 2:30 P. M. Those taking part included the Revs. Frederick McKinsey, J. S. Willis, Isaac Jewell and T. O. Ayers. The dedication service was held on Oct. 11, 1891, with the Rev. T. E. Terry in attendance. The church was extensively repaired in 1914. It ceased to function in 1920. It was sold to a colored congregation who have occupied it since that time.

St. Daniel's A. M. E. Church. This congregation purchased, on May 22, 1906, from Wm. Oakes, a property in Port Penn on the street leading to Delaware City, near Market St. When the M. E. Church became defunct in 1920, they secured possession of this church which they still occupy. The old church is now occupied as a dwelling.

Zion A. M. E. Church was located two and one-quarter miles west of Port Penn. The building is the old Port Penn Presbyterian Church which they bought in 1856. It was used until more recent times when the congregation merged with St. Daniel's Church in Port Penn. On Oct. 15, 1941, Geo. H. Johnson donated more land to the church. A cemetery surrounds the old church which is almost a complete wreck.

Asbury M. E. Church was located three and one-quarter miles south of St. Georges. This church was built about 1815. On Jan. 25, 1830, the property