

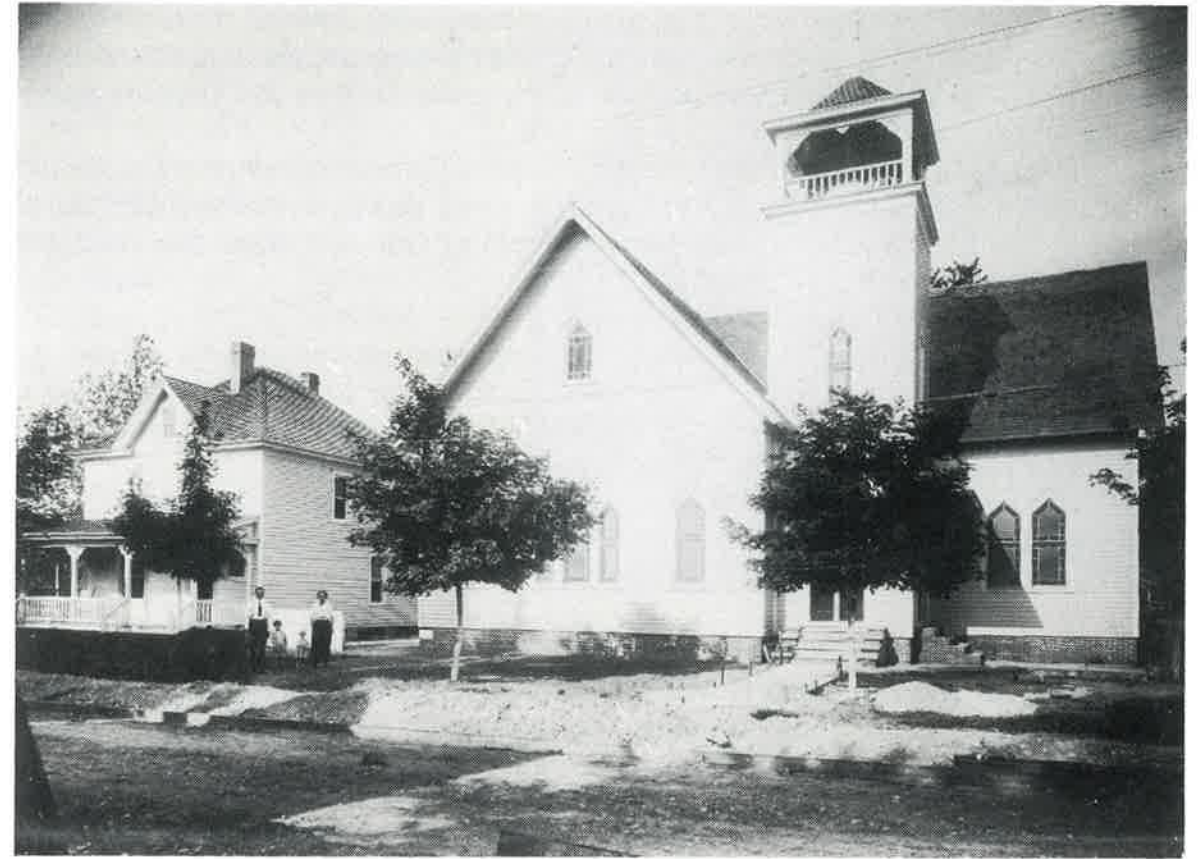


A
HISTORY
OF
BLADES UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

"Along the Beaten Path"

Written and Compiled by
Elizabeth Phillips Ruff

1993



Old Parsonage and Blades M.E. Church in the year 1922. Shown in the picture is the Reverend R. Ward Mills, his wife Clara, and children Ruth and Morrison. Also noted in the picture is the oyster shell road. Photo courtesy of Alan and Pearl Chipman.

Blades Methodist Church (M.E.) was originally called "Bladesville M.E. Church". The first church, a frame building about 24' by 36', was built in 1870 and was located on Concord Road (presently East High Street, Rt. 20). The land was donated on October 7, 1871, by James M. Blades. It was also called "Cannon's Chapel". They were incorporated on July 16, 1877. Cannon's Chapel, located just outside of Blades, was organized and built under the leadership of Greensbury Cannon in the year 1870, who previously held class meetings at his home. The Reverend Alfred A. Fisher was the first pastor.

The old chapel badly needed repairs, and most of its members living in Blades, voted to move the organization into town. The old grave yard still remains and the oldest tomb stone is that of John E. Taylor, b. 1843, d. 1883.

On November 15, 1887, under the leadership of Rev. William Benson Gregg (b. 1825, d. 1893), the following Trustees, Kendal T. Morgan, David H. Prettyman, Goldsby W. Hastings, George H. Larmore, Robert James, Elias E. Griffith, Andrew Jackson, Richard Smith and George Larimore, purchased a lot on Main Street (presently South Market Street) from Leonard J. and Louis M. Blades, heirs of James M. Blades. (Refer to the copy of Deed for other information).

The cornerstone for the new church was laid on December 7, 1887, the church was a two story frame building measuring 30' by 42'. It was dedicated on January 13, 1889, and named "Gregg" in honor of the pastor, the Rev. William Benson Gregg. Those taking part in the services included the Revs. Cornelius W. Prettyman, W. James Duhadaway, J.H. Howard and William E. England.

While reminiscing, Mrs. Lida Chipman told the story of Rev. W.B. Gregg on his way to church while riding his horse. The horse stumbled and he fell off and lost his false teeth and his wig as told to Elizabeth R. Ruff in 1960.

She also recalled about the steamboat that was a sidewheeler, named "Citizen" from Baltimore, that came up the Nanticoke River and often took the Blades church people and others to Deals Island for camp meetings. They also traveled by boat to as far away as New York for shopping and as a means of travel.

The church was supplied with preachers from the Philadelphia and Wilmington Conference at times being a part of the Lewisville (Bethel) Charge, and at times being connected with St. Johns M.E. Church of Seaford and possibly along with Bethel Church at Oak Grove, on the Dorset district and Baltimore circuit.

In 1908, the Conference appointed Blades a station.

In 1909, The Reverend Melvin E. Wheatley was appointed pastor and he served three years. During that time, Epworth Church in the Sycamore District, near Laurel was added to the Blades Charge. Under the Reverend Wheatley's guidance, the first parsonage was built on a lot adjoining the church. This parsonage served several ministers who followed.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

On January 12, 1918, The Reverend R. Ward Mills was appointed pastor of the church. During the time that Reverend Mills served as pastor, there was a need for a larger church. In November 1921, the Board of Trustees named a committee of four and the pastor.

They were invested with authority to buy material and hire the carpenter, W.B. Venables, to do the work of building the church. They added Sunday School rooms on the south side of the church and an addition to the church. The front of the church was moved out toward Market Street about 15 feet, which until 1922-1923 was an oyster shell road. The building committee was composed of the following: Reverend Mills, J.E. Lloyd, secretary; Luther F. Clifton, treasurer; Albert H. Riggan, S. Jennings Moore.

W.B. Venables, trustee, also built many other churches. Among those were Gethsemane M.P. Church located at Reliance. Perhaps the bricks for the foundation of the church came from the brickyard of W.O. Johnson on Concord Road, who was also a trustee. The church was constructed out of yellow pine, inside the church, wainscot was built on the side of the wall about three foot up. (Wainscot, in British usage - a fine grade of oak, imported for woodwork, a wooden lining of the interior wall, usually paneled lower 3 or 4 feet of an interior wall.) The rest of the walls and ceiling were constructed of tinware, circa 1800's. The outside of the church was covered with weatherboard and wooden shingle roof. The windows of the church were dedicated as representing: C.D. Chipman and family, No. 21 Jr. O.U.A.M., No. 1 P.O.S. of A., L.H. Moore and wife, H.B. James and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Boswell and son, W.J. Hill and wife, S.J. and Hattie Moore, H.C. Riggan and wife, In Memory of W.B. Venables and wife, Rev. R. W. Mills, Cross and Crown Class, Sewing Circle, Epworth League, Ladies Aid, C.R. Cannon and wife, and Lee Lloyd and wife.

Blades was noted for many fine craftsmen. Among those were: Walter Culver, W.B. Venables, Charles Achy and George Elwood Larimore, carpenters; Vernon Stanton, Martin McCue and Martin Brown, masons; Arthur Hatfield, painter; and James Moore, well driver.

The church bell was made by the McShane Bell Foundry, Henry McShane and Co., Baltimore, Maryland, Trademark 1888. The bronze bell with a steel clapper weighs about 1000 pounds. The inscription on one side of the bell reads: Gregg M.E. Church William Benson Gregg, Pastor November 1, 1888. Information about the bell was provided by Jerry Smith, President of Trustees 1992 and Alan Chipman. When a person was laid out in the church after the funeral, the bell was tolled one time for every year that they lived. The bell was also used to alert the town for fires, drownings, emergencies, town meetings and church functions.

Until the 19th century there were no Sunday Schools in America.

In 1918, The Epworth League was formed.

In 1920, Asbury M.E. Church (built in 1857) located on the Laurel-Georgetown Highway, Rt. 9, was added to the Blades Charge.

The Lord did not call us to judge one another. He called us to love one another.

Unknown

Gregg M.E. Church was again incorporated on January 26, 1921, and the cornerstone laid on January 1, 1922.

The Certificate of Incorporation
Greggs M.E. Church

To the recorder of deed of the State of Delaware and the County of Sussex, We the undersigned trustees of Gregg's Methodist Episcopal Church do hereby certify that "Gregg's Methodist Episcopal Church" is the name of a certain religious society or congregation, of more than fifteen members, worshipping at Blades, Sussex County, State of Delaware, and that we (S.J. Moore, L.H. Clifton, W.B. Venables, J.E. Lloyd, A.M. Morgan, G.F. Truitt, R.A. Riggan, C.D. Chipman, W.O. Johnson) are the duly elected trustees of said Greggs Methodist Episcopal Church, by a plurality of votes of the members present at a public meeting of the congregation held at their usual place of worship this (twenty-sixth day of January Nineteen hundred and twenty-one) of which public meeting ten days notice had been given by advertisement at the front door of said usual place of worship. We provide further, that



said society shall be subject to the provisions of the discipline as authorized by the general conference of said church, and the annual conference within whose bounds the said church is located. Witness our hands and seal this January 1921. Received for Record February 1st A.D. 1921, David H. Reed of E. Recorder.

Blades United Methodist
Church as it stands
today, 1992.

Photo taken by Dale Massey



Interior Blades Methodist Church, Blades, Delaware.

The building, dedicated June 18, 1922, is the result of much sacrifice on the part of the loyal members of the Church. The name "Blades M.E. Church" was adopted. Bishop John W. Hamilton was in charge of the service and was assisted by District Superintendent William R. Mowbray.

On January 8, 1924, the last dollar was paid and the note burned by W.B. Venables, the oldest member of Board of Trustees. One of best years in history of the church both numerically and financially followed.

The name "Blades Methodist Church" was adopted in 1940.

The cross on the steeple was added to the church while Reverend Daniel T. Pritchard served as pastor. The cross faces the home of Elizabeth P. Ruff who requested that it be built.

The name was again changed to "Blades United Methodist Church" in the year 1972. The W.S.C.S. held their regular monthly meeting, January 31, the meeting being conducted by newly elected president, Elizabeth P. Ruff. The W.S.C.S. changed their name and will now be known as United Methodist Women. Reverend Roland Tice served as pastor during that year.

The names of the church were listed as the following: Cannon's Chapel in Bladesville on Concord Road (now known as East High Street) 1870-1888. The name again changed in 1889, when the Reverend William Benson Gregg had a new church built on the present location, the name Gregg M.E. Church was adopted.

In the year 1922, the name was changed again to Blades M.E. Church. Once again the name of the church was changed to Blades Methodist Church in the year 1940, that name stayed until the year 1972 when it was again changed to what the church is now called, Blades United Methodist Church.

Once you get a drink of Blades water, you will come back for more.

Old Town Saying

Research records show that the following pastors were appointed to the Lewisville Circuit, Salisbury District, formerly Somerset District:

	Lewisville, now Bethel Circuit	
Rev. Alfred A. Fisher	1871-1874	Cannon Chapel
Rev. George W. Wilcox	1875-1876	Bladesville
Rev. Robert Roe	1877-1878	Bladesville
Rev. William M. Green	1879-1880	Bladesville
Rev. William L.P. Bowen	1881-1883	Bladesville
Rev. Alfred T. Melvin	1884-1886	Bladesville
Rev. William Benson Gregg	1887-1890	Bladesville
Rev. Edward Davis	1891-1893	Bladesville

Records taken from the Conference Journal listed as being with the Seaford Circuit:

Rev. William E. England	1893	Bladesville
Rev. Cornelius W. Prettyman	1894-1895	Bladesville
Rev. P.K. Stevenson	1896-1898	Bladesville
Blades		
Rev. Robert K. Stephenson	1899-1900	Blades
Rev. William L. White	1901-1903	Blades
Rev. William A. Wise	1904-1906	Blades
Rev. William O. Hurst	1907-1908	Blades

Blades Circuit created in the year 1909, Epworth M.E. Church joined the charge that year, the following served at that time:

Rev. Melvin E. Wheatley	1909-1911	Blades
	b 1884, d 1975	
Rev. John Alfred Hudson	1912	Blades
Rev. Disston W. Jacobs	1913-1914	Blades
Rev. John Thomas Price	1915-1916	Blades
Rev. Alfred C. Smith	1917	Blades
Rev. R. Ward Mills	1918-1926	Blades

Blades has long needed a new church building in which to house their growing congregation. They have constructed a neat and attractive two-room church on the site of the old one, using a part of the frame of the former building. It is heated by pipeless heater; lighted by electricity; has metal walls and ceiling; seated with modern hardwood pews; has stained glass windows and is in every way up to date. This house would have been dedicated this year had it not been for the delay in some of the final furnishings. It will meet the needs of this community for years to come. Rev. R. Ward Mills, the pastor, has been the active spirit in this enterprise and but for his tact, wise leadership and undaunted courage it could hardly have come to such satisfactory completion. The good people of this place have given and given until they feel it keenly, but they have proceeded on the principle that nothing is too good or too much for the Lord's cause and they rejoice in it. The cost of the building is about, \$7000.00, of which \$3,500. have been paid.

1922

Asbury Church joined the Blades Circuit in the year 1920 during the time that Reverend R. Ward Mills served as pastor.

Rev. Charles W. Spry	1927-1928	Blades
Rev. John W. Sutton	1929-1930	Blades
Rev. Edwin B. Taylor	1931	Blades
Rev. James O'Neil	1932-1933	Blades
Rev. Frank McCorkle	1934-1935	Blades
Rev. Oren T. Baynard	1936-1937	Blades
Rev. William H. Kohl	1938-1939	Blades
Rev. Charles Butler	1940-1944	Blades
Rev. David Campbell	1944-1954	Blades
Rev. Jacob C. Hanby	1954-1955	Blades
Rev. George Godfrey	1955-1958	Blades
Rev. William "Obie" Hudson	1958-1960	Blades
Rev. Daniel T. Pritchard	1960-1962	Blades
Rev. Lloyd R. Foard	1962-1969	Blades
Rev. James F. Langrall	1969-1972	Blades
Rev. Roland Tice	1972-1974	Blades
Rev. Claude C. Brown	1974-1975	Blades
Rev. Glenn C. Lyburn	1975-1980	Blades
Rev. Laura A. Martin	1981-1983	Blades
Rev. Charles Chester Huffman	1983	Blades



Market Street Bridge, Seaford, Del.

The Ladies of the First Church were organized in 1899, listed as the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). Lida Venables Chipman, served as president. The ladies wore white ribbon and bows and protested against drinking, swearing, tobacco, trafficking of women against "Social Purity".

In the year 1909, Ladies' Aid was formed and O'Neida Hall, served as first president, with the Reverend Melvin Wheatley pastor.

In the years 1940-1944, the Women's Society of Christian Service (W.S.C.S.) had as its first president, Katie Butler and her husband Reverend Charles Butler as pastor.

The Ladies' Aid Society purchased a lot on W. 4th St., on August 22, 1928, from the Allen Pkg. Co. A large Social-Hall was built on this site. Mary Phillips, Hattie Morgan, Clara Hatfield, Laura Johnson, Bertha Venables were Trustees of the Ladies' Aid.

Harriet Taylor was the first chairman of the Count-On-Me Circle and Elizabeth P. Ruff served as the last chairman.

It has become a tradition of the Methodist Women of Blades U.M. Church to meet in a body to pay tribute in prayer for the deceased members on Palm Sunday each year.

One of the church windows showed the name No. 21 Jr. O.U.A.M. that stood for the Lodge Order of Union American Mechanics, that met over Caleb Cannon's store at the corner of South Market and 2nd Street. Clarence D. Chipman, who was the storekeeper, was Alan W. Chipman's father. The Mechanics Lodge were the owners of the cemetery that is located on Market Street.

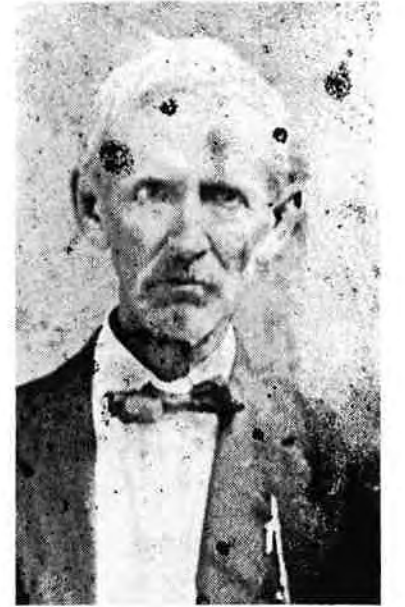
1932 PLAN HOMECOMING AT GREGG M. E.

Special to The Evening Journal.
BLADES, Nov. 18.—The Rev. James O'Neil of this place has arranged for the observance of the 45th anniversary of Gregg M. E. Church in the form of a Home Coming from November 21 to 25 inclusive.
Monday night Nov. 21, the Rev. John T. Price of Still Pond will be the speaker with Miss Lina McCauley as soloist. Tuesday evening, Nov. 22, the Rev. Melvin Wheatley, of Middletown, Del., will be the speaker, with Mrs. Ruth Ryan as soloist. Wednesday, November 23, the Rev. R. W. Mills, of Oriole, Md, will be the speaker with Mrs. Anna Atkinson as the soloist. Thursday evening, November 24 the Rev. G. W. Hastings of Blades, will be the speaker with Mrs. Lina McCauley and C. C. Clifton as the singers. Friday evening, November 25, the Rev. Charles W. Spry, of Clayton, Del., will be the speaker with the Rev. James O'Neil as the soloist.

William Benjamin Venables was a skilled carpenter and builder by trade. He married Rebecca Ann Hastings. They had four children, Lida Venables Chipman, twins Rose Venables Achy and Mable Venables Tull, and Henry Benjamin Venables. In 1887, he was chosen to build the church on the land given by the heirs of James M. Blades. He not only was a carpenter by trade who built many churches, (Blades M.E. Church, Gethsemane at Reliance and a colored church on the Pea Liquor farms to mention a few) – he also cut out houses which he put on boats and shipped down the Nanticoke River to Cambridge, Md. He then went there to put them together. He built many buildings such as carriage barns, horse barns, stables, out houses, stores and schools to name a few. He was also the oldest trustee of the church and lived to burn the mortgage.

His son, Henry Benjamin Venables was also a carpenter. Henry's son and grandson of W.B. Venables (builder of the church) and namesake, William Benjamin (Benny) Venables is still living at age of 84 (1993). Like his grandfather, he is also a carpenter and contractor-builder. He is the founder of W.B. Venables and Sons Inc., of Laurel, Del., one of the largest contractors on the Eastern Shore going from bay to bay.

Benny and his wife, Grace E. Joseph Venables, have five children. There are three sons, William B. Jr., Robert L. (state Senator), and Bruce W. Venables. Due to age and poor health, Mr. Benny's three sons take care of the business. Benny also has two daughters, Betty V. Lecates and Barbara V. Phillips of Laurel. They are all great-grandchildren of the Blades church builder.



William Benjamin Venables
Builder of Blades M.E. Church



William (Benny) Venables, Grandson. In photographs Ben and his late wife.



Sen. Bob Venables
Great-Grandson



Alan Wise Chipman, left, retired Blades merchant and storekeeper, is a grandson of W.B. Venables. His son, Robert Chipman, right, is a great-grandson. Alan will be 86 years old in June of 1993. He was the only son of Lida Venables Chipman, daughter of W.B. Venables.



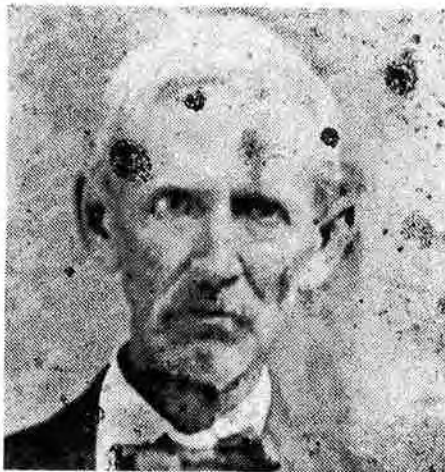
Alan Wise Chipman (grandson) and wife Pearl Gordy Chipman.



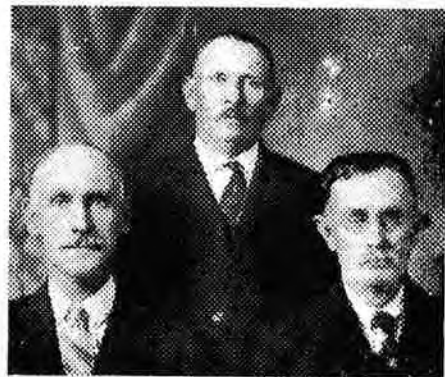
Count-On-Me Circle of Blades Church, bottom row l-r: Irene Sullivan, Lina Rolph, Annabelle Davis Smith, Midge Knowles Lankford. 2nd row: Mrs. Florence Johnson, Counselor, Pearl Hurley, Harriett Taylor, Doris Walker Morgan, Mrs. Myrtle Croft, Counselor. 3rd row: Luzetta English Lloyd Jester White, Alice Jackson Smith, Virginia Johnson Henry, Margaret Lane Hastings, Catherine Bowden Smith, Hester Joseph, Bessie Knowles. 4th row: Goldie Matthews, Rachel Hudson, Helen Collins Stafford, Erma Marine Sammonds Betty Dickerson Passwaters. Photo taken in the 1940's.



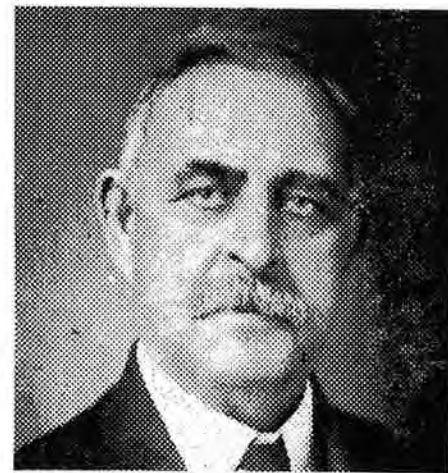
Trustees 1-19-1921 - back row l-r: W.O. Johnson, Milan Riggin, Harvey L. Truitt, Vernon Stanton, James P. Hastings. Front row l-r: S.J. Moore, C.D. Chipman, Rev. R.W. Mills, pastor, A.H. Riggin.



W.B. Venables



L-R: James E. Lloyd, Andrew J. Morgan, George W. Venables.



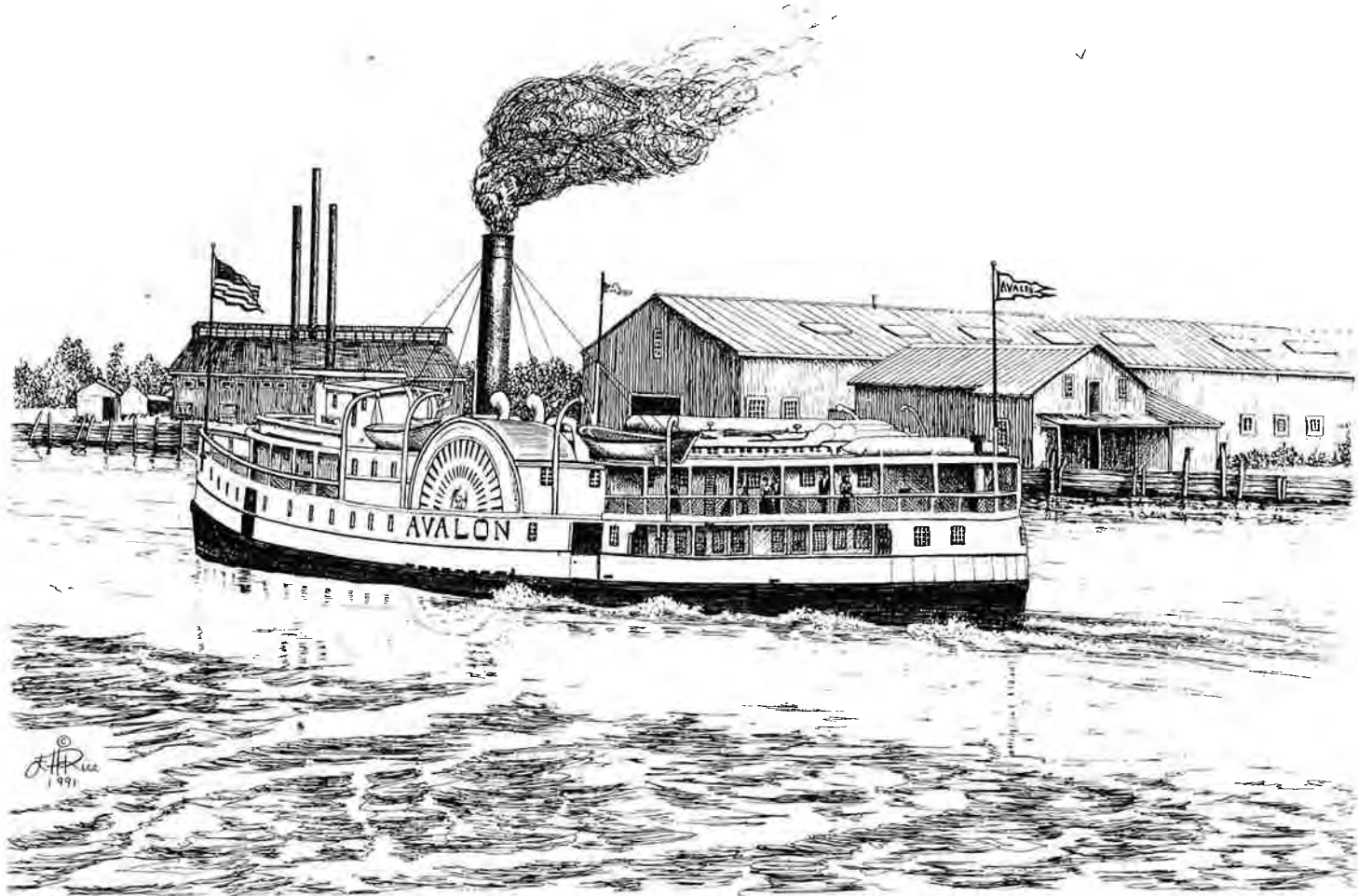
Luther H. Clifton



Top row l-r: Lucy Smarte, Oneda Hall, Mrs. Croft, Lida Chipman, Minnie Riggin, Rev. Butler, Irene Walker, Lina McCauley, Clarence Clifton, Elta Wells, Jessie Wells, Ben Hall, Alan Chipman. Second row l-r: Susie Clifton, Ella Holt, Nellie Walker, Mary Phillips, Anna Atkinson, Martha Prettyman, Bobby Chipman, Pearl Chipman, Albert Riggin. Bottom row l-r: Rose Achy, Eloise Walker, Sidney Walker.

Before even boundaries were clearly marked or the counties had been set apart, Somerset County went from Bay to Bay and extended up the Peninsula as far as the Nanticoke River. Thus it embraced all of the present county, a portion of Sussex County, Delaware, all of Wicomico and Worcester counties.

The church was used for a school and meeting house or town hall for the town folks to hold meetings and to congregate to make decisions of the town.



Steamboating on the Nanticoke
 "The Avalon" - Flagship of the Fleet - Plying the Rivers of Delmarva until 1920

A majestic steamboat preparing to dock in Seaford serves as a reminder of the important role the Nanticoke River played in the development of the city. If the two bridges in Sharptown and Vienna are constructed at the proposed heights, one can be sure they would never see a boat such as this on the Nanticoke in Delaware.

Artwork courtesy of Ellen H. Rice

Blades people attended camp meetings at Deal Island where Rev. Goldsbury W. Hastings (formerly of Blades) was Pastor.

They went on a "sidewheeler" boat from Blades Wharf.

Rec'd in 73 6/29/97
Deed

DEED

Edward J. Blades
Et al.

to

Masters of
W.E. Church

Received for Record.
March 15th A. D. 18*88*

For J. P. Morris RECORDER.

Fee for Recording, &c., \$ *no charge*

PARCHMENT PAPER DEED. MANUFACTURED BY
 C. F. THOMAS & CO., 421 Market and 420 Shipley Sts.,

209 f
 150.

Recorded in the Office for the Recording of Deeds, &c., at *Seaford*
 in and for the said County of *Sussex* in Deed Record *Vol. 104*
 Page *161* &c., the *15th* day of *March*, A. D., 18*88*.

WITNESS my Hand and Seal of said office.
J. P. Morris Recorder.

State of *Delaware*, } ss.
Sussex County }

State of Delaware, } ss.
~~New Castle~~ County, }
Sussex County, }
 Be it Remembered, that on this *Eighth* day of *December*
 in the year of our LORD one thousand eight hundred and *Eighty Eight*, personally came before me, *M. W. Allen*
 Notary Public for the State of Delaware, *Chas. W. Dawson and Sarah A. his*
wife and Lewis A. Butte and Dymphna his wife

and they acknowledged this Indenture to be their Deed, and the said *Sarah A. Dawson and Dymphna Butte* being at the same time privately examined apart from their husbands, by me a Notary Public, that they executed the said Indenture *voluntarily* without compulsion of Wrath of the *husbands* }
 GIVEN under my Hand and Seal of Office, the day and year aforesaid, at *Wilmington*, Delaware.
See first

M. W. Allen Notary Public.

Together with all and singular the said described Lot improvements, ways, woods, water, water-courses, rights, liberties, privileges, hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining, and the reversions and remainders, rents, issues, and profits thereof, and all the estate, right, title, interest, property, claim and demand, whatsoever of them the said parties, 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 Lot of ground hereditaments, and premises hereby granted, or mentioned, or intended so to be, with the appurtenances, unto the said parties of the second part their Successors Heirs and Assigns, to and for the only proper use and behoof of the said parties of the second part their Successors Heirs and Assigns forever.

And the said part of the first part for themselves their Heirs, Executors and Administrators DO by these presents, covenant, grant and agree to and with the said parties of the second part their Successors Heirs and Assigns that they the said parties, of the first part their Heirs 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 parties of the second part their Successors Heirs and Assigns against them the said parties of the first part their Heirs and against all and every other Person or Persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any other part thereof through or under them shall and will by these presents WARRANT and forever DEFEND.

In Witness Whereof, the said part of the first part has hereunto set their Hand and Seals Dated the day and year first above written.

SEALED AND DELIVERED
IN THE PRESENCE OF

C. O. Pratt
O. W. Brady
M. W. Allen
W. N. Brown

Louis M. Blades Seal
Mary J. Blades Seal
L. Blades Seal
Mary A. Blades Seal
Sarah A. Dawson Seal
W. Dawson Seal
Sophia Ruttle Seal
L. A. Ruttle Seal

State of Illinois }
Cook County } ss.

Be it Remembered, That on this Tenth day of

November in the year of our LORD one thousand eight hundred and eighty seven Louis M. Blades and Mary J. Blades his wife and Leonard J. Blades and Mary A. Blades his wife

parties to this Indenture, known to me personally to be such, and they each of them acknowledged this Indenture to be their Deed. And the said Mary J. Blades and Mary A. Blades being at the same time privately examined by me apart from their husbands acknowledged that they executed the said Indenture willingly, without compulsion or threats, or fear of their husbands' displeasure.

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal of office, the day and year aforesaid.

Oscar M. Brady
Notary Public

OFFICE, PAPER AND PENS,
MANUFACTURED BY
C. F. THOMAS & CO., WASHINGTON, D.C.

This Indenture, MADE THE Fifteenth

day of November in the year of our LORD one thousand eight hundred and eighty seven BETWEEN Leonard J. Blades and Mary A. his wife and Louis M. Blades and Leonard J. his wife of the city of Chicago and State of Illinois, Charles H. Dawson and Sarah A. his wife and Louis M. Ruttle and Sophonia his wife of the town of Seaford, County of Sussex and State of Delaware, parties of the first part and Rudal B. Morgan, David H. Rittenberg, Goldsborough, Heusing Co. H. Lammie, Robert James Egan, E. Griffith, Andrew Jackson, Richard Smith, George Lammie, Moses of the City of 710 E. Church St. of the State of Delaware parties of the second part Witnesseth, That the said part of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of

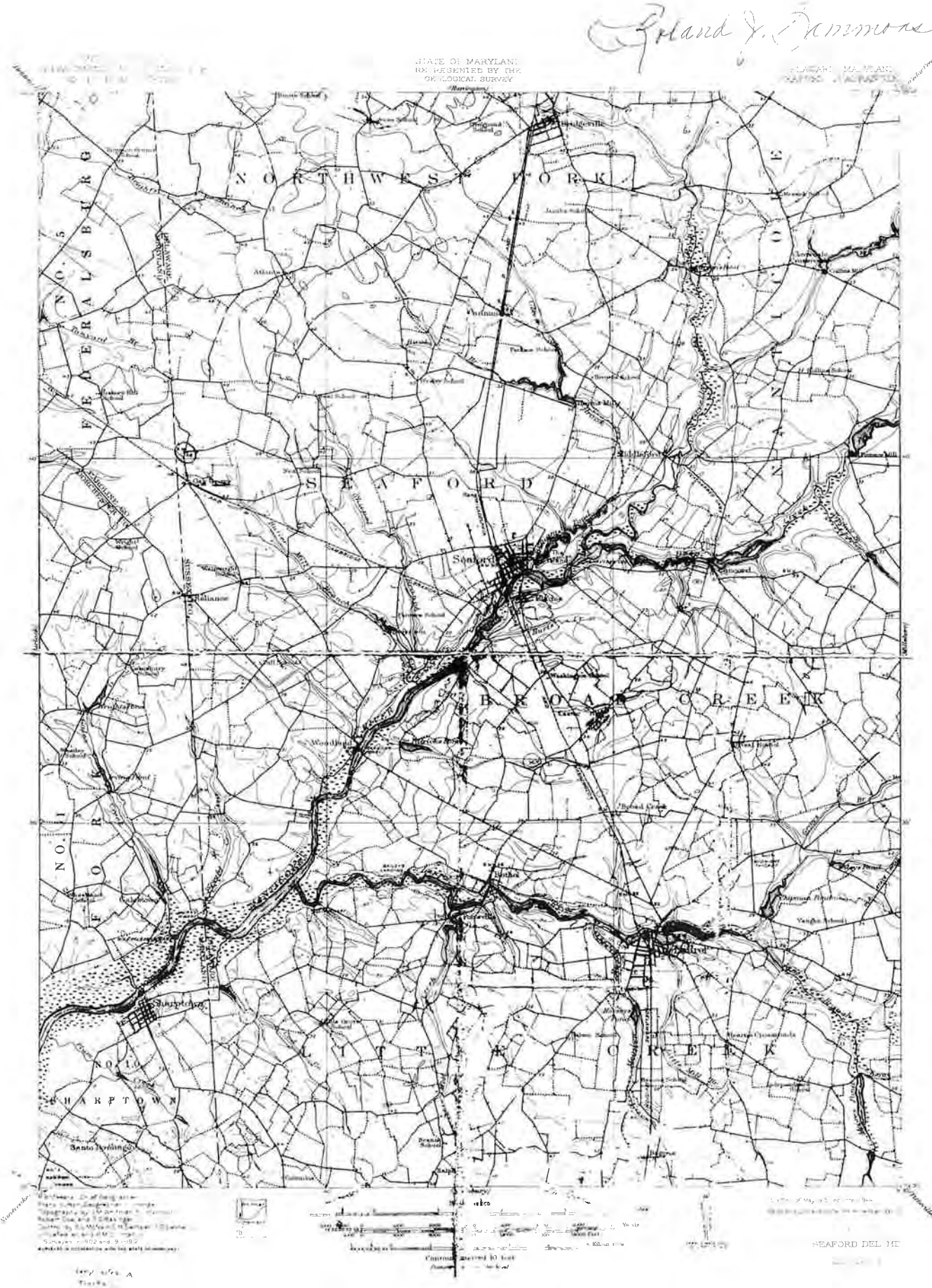
One Hundred and Seventy-five Dollars

current lawful money of the United States of America, unto them well and truly paid by the said parties of the second part, at and before the Sealing and Delivery of these Presents, the Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged has granted, bargained, sold, aliened, enfeoffed; released, conveyed and confirmed and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff, release, convey and confirm unto the said parties of the second part their Successors Heirs and Assigns.

WITNESSETH

That certain lot, tract, or piece of land, lying and being in the village of Bladsworth, Sussex County and State of Delaware, described and bounded as follows, viz. Beginning on the road leading from Seaford to Laurel, one hundred and twenty feet, and on the North side of Short Street One hundred and twenty feet, the back line adjoining lands of Cyrus Kottin and the same length as the front line and the North line adjoining Hannah Patson's lot and the same length as the side line, making a square lot of One hundred and twenty feet square. The said lot situated as it is on land demised on Plat of the village of the said Bladsworth. The said lot is devised to the said Trustees for the purpose of erecting thereon a suitable building for a church, and in trust that the said premises shall be used, kept, and maintained, as a place of Divine worship for the use of the Ministers and Membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America; subject to the discipline, usage, and Ministerial appointments of said Church as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and the annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situated. And if the said premises be sold, the proceeds of the same shall be disposed of in accordance with the discipline of the said Methodist Episcopal Church.

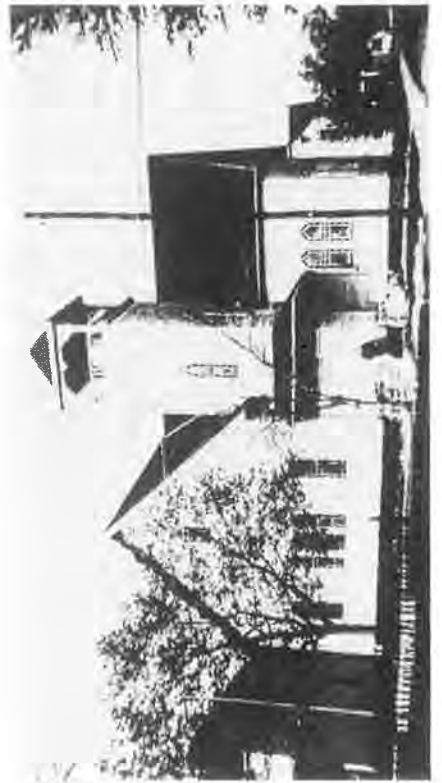
The above described lot of land being a part of the lands which James M. Blades, deceased, had of the town of Seaford, County of Sussex and State of Delaware aforesaid, which possessed, and descended to the said parties of the first part as Heirs and Heirs of the said deceased.



Map of Old Schools



Parsonage - South Market Street



Blades Methodist Church

Seaford Del.
Sept 30th 1892

Dear Bro Hallman:

I am sending you herein pictures as promised Monday. One of the parsonage and one of the Church and they ought to make quite a record as there is a "historic" character standing in front of each of them. I am also sending you a history of Blades Church as compiled by Rev. R. Ward Mills in his day but I hope they all fill the place.

Best wishes,
Sincerely yours
C. P. Butler

50th Anniversary

And

Home Coming

Blades [Gregg] M. E. Church

Blades, Delaware

December 5-12, 1937

You Are Invited To Attend These Services

Sunday, December 5

Dr. B. C. Warren, 11:00 A. M.
Dr. J. J. Bunting, 7:30 P. M.

Monday, December 6

Rev. A. Lee Grey, Missionary from India

Tuesday, December 7

Rev. D. W. Jacobs

Wednesday, December 8

To be announced

Thursday, December 9

Rev. M. E. Wheatley

Friday, December 10

Rev. H. V. Branford

Sunday, December 12

Rev. W. A. Wise, 11:00 A. M.
Rev. E. C. Hallman, D. D., 7:30 P. M.

Services thru the week at 7:30 P. M. Extra singing and music at each service. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." May we count on your cooperation to make this week one of spiritual helpfulness to all?

O. T. BAYNARD, Minister

Blades United Methodist Church 100th Anniversary Service December 6, 1987



*The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation by water and the word;
From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.*
..... Samuel S. Wesley

Some of the old sayings:

What goes around, comes around. Helene Hatfield Truitt

When I think I am, I ain't.

Let the tail go with the hide. Pearl Gordy Chipman

No Cross ... No Crown.

What goes up must come down. Sanaria Hammond

Come with a hoot or come with a call –
Come with a good will or not at all.

Get an education! Nobody can take it from you.



Pictured is the old Regulator clock. At one time it hung in the church. On the back of the clock was written: Presented to Bladesville Gregg M.E. Church, January 9th, 1887, by W.H. Griffith, J.H. Wainright, J.H. Handy, J.H. Morgan and P.J. Williams.

Reference material was taken from the following:

Davis, Nobel, Kinder Journals

The Churches of Delaware by Frank Zebley

The Garden of Methodism by E.C. Hallman

Methodist Conference Journals 1891 loaned by Rev. James F. Langrall

Alan Wise Chipman and wife, Pearl Gordy Chipman, contributed many articles, pictures, and other memorabilia. Alan Wise Chipman is the oldest living member of the church, and was named after one of the former preachers, the Rev. William A. Wise. His grandfather, William Benjamin Venables, was the builder of the church and his mother, Lida Venables Chipman, was the first president of the W.C.T.U.

Original Deed of church that was found in the old clock that hung in the church

Recorder of Deeds - Georgetown, Delaware

Delaware, American Guide Series, Hastings House Publisher

Map of Old Schools in Sussex County provided by Roland J. Sammons

Etta Mae Richardson researched old deeds

Rivers of the Eastern Shore by Hulbert Footner

The Garden of American Methodism by William Williams

The Delmarva Peninsula 1769-1820 by William H. Williams

Dover, The First Two Hundred Fifty Years 1717-1967 edited by Dr. Emil G. Sammak and Don O. Winslow

Brief History of Gospel Tents by Rev. Andrew Manship

Thirteen Years in the Itinerancy with Observations on the Old World by Rev. Andrew Manship

The Archelog and History Bethel, Delaware 1887-1967 Vol. XXI No. I (formerly Lewisville) by Henry H. Hutchinson

The Three Journals of Francis Asbury

The First State - Illustrated History of Delaware by Wm. Henry Williams

Old maps of the Eastern Shore from the collection of George Ruff, Sr.

Historic Landmarks of Delaware and Eastern Shore by Betty Harrington MacDonald

Francis Asbury's America - An Album of Early American Methodism compiled and edited by Terry D. Bilhartz

Delaware and the Eastern Shore by Edward Noble Vallandigham

Story of Methodism by Luccock and Hutchinson

The Delaware Citizen by Liberman and Rosbrow

Recollections of Past History by Sanaria Hammond

Several surrounding churches contributed information

Rev. James. F. Langrall, Rev. Earl Baker, Rev. Thompson, Rev. McWilliams, Rev. Glenn Lyburn

Dale Massey, photographer and darkroom technician from the local newspaper, and Ron MacArthur, editor of the Milford Chronicle

Wright Robinson, Seaford Leader

Several other sources of information, too numerous to mention

Thanks to Chesapeake Publishing

This information was researched and compiled by Elizabeth Phillips Ruff. The material was written and computerized by David L. Ruff, son and Nancy Elizabeth Ruff, granddaughter. Jennifer Leigh Ruff, granddaughter, also helped in many ways.

I have done considerable research work to procure the history of this church from the point in time from 1870 to the present day, and I feel confident the history is as accurate as could be procured. I have used records of the most authentic nature, and for the latter years, compared memories with life-long residents and its church members.

Due to poor recordkeeping throughout the years, other valuable and pertinent information was unavailable at this time.

Whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.

Mark 4:22

To God be the Glory.



