

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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all over the place. There is one group of graves surrounded by a brick wall that was originally three or four feet high but which has crumbled down so that one can now step over it. In this plot is the grave of Simon Kollock, Esquire. Mr. Kollock was buried in 1817 at the age of eighty years. It is very evident that Mr. Kollock was a man of consequence as his tombstone states that he was an elder of the church for forty years which is mute evidence that the church was built before 1777. His tombstone also states that he served his State in its Judicial, Legislative and Military Departments. Referring to the State Archives, we find that he was the Speaker of the Delaware House of Representatives in 1782 and that he was Lieut. Col. of the 6th Regiment of the Delaware Militia which was a part of the Revolutionary Army.

It is a pity that someone does not take enough interest to keep these graves and their surroundings in good shape as it would cost but little. It seems a shame that the grave of a former Speaker of the House and Revolutionary Officer should be enveloped in a deep forest, unknown and unseen except by an occasional gunner.

The First Seventh Day Adventist Church, colored, of Millsboro, is located four and one-half miles east and north of Millsboro. Seven acres of land were purchased on Feb. 12, 1924, from Able Ableman. The church was incorporated on Sept. 19, 1925. Additional land was purchased from Burton C. Street on June 10, 1927. The church was built in 1933, previous to which time meetings had been held in private homes. There is a graveyard beside the church.

Zoar Methodist Church (M.E.) is located at Zoar, four miles north of Millsboro. Tradition says that it was founded in the late 1700's and that a log church was built. Both Bishop Coke and Bishop Asbury are believed to have preached in this church.

On Apr. 22, 1802, Robert Lacey donated one and one-quarter acres of land on the east side of the road from his house. The church trustees were Wm. B. Ennis, Isaac Atkins, John Morris, Levin Records, Thos. Grice, Bagwell Baker, Jos. Morris, Wm. Harris and Wm. Lacey. A cypress-shingle church was built. The church was incorporated on Nov. 5, 1810.

Another church of similar construction was started in 1894. The cornerstone was laid on Dec. 2, 1894, by the Revs. G. L. Hardesty and C. A. Grise. This building was burned in 1910. The present building, of cement blocks, was started immediately with the Rev. James L. Derrickson, the pastor, doing most of the carpenter work. This building was dedicated on Feb. 19, 1911. In 1805, when camp-meetings were being established, one was built in the grove beside the church. The camp was closed in 1919, yet two of the frame cottages are still standing.

There was a small burying-ground to the rear of the church in early days but all evidence of it has been gone for more than fifty years.

St. John's Methodist Church (M.E.) is located four and one-half miles east of Georgetown. Meetings were first held in private homes and later in the Springfield schoolhouse near Springfield Crossroads. They were incorporated on July 3, 1852, as the "Trustees of Johnson's Society." They were also known as "St. John's M. E. Chapel." The one-acre church site was purchased on July 27, 1852, from James E. Blizzard. The church was built in 1853. Land was donated on Dec. 19, 1874, by Peter Rust and more land was purchased on Aug. 12, 1894, from Chas. H. Joseph. The church was rebuilt in 1907. An attractive graveyard is laid out beside the church, the tombstones dating back to 1857.