

# 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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Homecoming which is held at Ocean View on a Wednesday in August. One of the features of the reunion is a Sunday afternoon service at Blackwater Church. The collections which are taken at that service, insofar as they exceed the fee paid to the minister, are placed in a special fund to be used for the purpose of constructing a brick wall around the graveyard. Begun in 1939, the wall in front of the church and a portion of one side wall have been completed. The tombstones in the graveyard date back to 1850.

There is an annual service held by the people interested in Blackwater Church. It is held in the fall on a date set by the session of Frankford Presbyterian Church.

More land was donated to the church on Nov. 19, 1931, by Ebe T. Murray.

**St. George's Methodist Church (M.E.)** at Clarksville. The first church was built on a road, now abandoned, about one mile north of the present church. When it was decided to build a new church on the present site, the old church, built of hand-hewn timbers, was torn down and used in building a barn on the farm of Wm. Steele. The old church benches were used in the new church for several years. When the new church was built, most of the bodies were removed from the old to the new graveyard. Today, surrounded by trees, only two inscribed tombstones can be found. They mark the graves of John E. Lathbury who died on Oct. 21, 1881 and Mary A. Lathbury, who died on Aug. 15, 1876.

Trustees were elected on Jan. 10, 1879. The present church site was purchased on Feb. 18, 1880, from John Steele. The church was built and it was dedicated in the spring of 1880. The parsonage site at Clayton and Waples Sts., in Dagsboro, was purchased on Feb. 3, 1914, from Virginia M. McCabe. The present church was rebuilt in 1928 and greatly improved in 1937. The large graveyard is located on both sides of the road. The oldest tombstone the writer could find is dated 1853.

**Wesley M. E. Church**, colored, is located on the edge of Clarksville. The church site was purchased on Dec. 18, 1873, from Miers B. Steel. More land was secured on Dec. 1, 1926, from Quimby Walker and on Apr. 6, 1938, from John G. Walter. A camp-ground is maintained with services late in July. This was the last camp in Delaware to use the old wooden fire-stands for lighting purposes. They were replaced with electricity in 1943.

**Millville M. P. Church.** This church was incorporated on Aug. 10, 1897. The corner-stone was laid on Sept. 21, 1897. It was dedicated on Feb. 13, 1898. There were three services which were conducted by the Revs. F. T. Little, J. L. Straughn and J. McLean Brown. The church ceased to function in 1910. It is now used as a social-hall by the M. E. Church, having been purchased by the Gleaner's Club on Oct. 29, 1938.

**The Church of Christ, Disciples**, of Millville. This congregation was incorporated on Mar. 27, 1922. They purchased the old M. P. Church on Apr. 26, 1922. The church became defunct and sold the property on Oct. 29, 1938.

**Millville Methodist Church (M.E.)** was built in 1907. The old Dist. No. 180 school lot was purchased on Aug. 3, 1907. The Gleaner's Club purchased the old M. P. Church on Oct. 29, 1938 and it is used as a social-hall.

**Ocean View Presbyterian Church** was founded, in 1856, by a group of members from Blackwater Church. The use of an acre and one-half of land was given by John Hall. The corner-stone was laid on July 5, 1856, and the church