

METHODIST CHURCHES OF DELAWARE

Methodist Churches of Delaware

A Brief Presentation
Of
Each Known Methodist Church
In
Delaware

With
Accounts
And
Pictures
of
Most Churches

Created for the Edward H. Nabb Research Center
For Delmarva History and Culture,
Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland,
To complement the
“Churches of DelMarVa,”
And the
“Inventory of the Church Archives of Delaware,”
Which are on File

Reverend Charles E. Covington, Sr.

December 2016

Zion Methodist Episcopal Church



1936 - Zebley Collection



2013 - Covington Collection

Zebley Zion Methodist Episcopal Church (M. E.) is located two and one-half miles east of Milton on the road to Broadkill Beach. Old Zion Church was built in 1818, on 3,600 square feet of land donated on March 11, 1818, by Aletta Clark, to a board of trustees. It was located a short distance east of the present church and on the opposite side of the road. The church was enlarged in 1843. There was no graveyard at that time as all burials were made in family plots located on the farms. The present church was built in 1873 and an attractive graveyard was laid out. This acre of land was donated by Hevaloe Morris on April 19, 1873. The church was dedicated on January 25, 1874 and it was incorporated on June 7, 1874. The old church was destroyed by fire on Wednesday, April 25, 1877. On October 9, 1899, the Rev. E. C. Atkins donated 84 perches of land to the church.

A corner-stone, bearing the dates 18'18 and 1874, was laid in August, 1938. The only repairs to the building were made in 1941, when a new roof was installed and the church was painted inside and out. A service of dedication was held on May 11, 1941.

On the afternoon of October 10, 1943, the church was destroyed by fire. The congregation immediately cleared up the site and started an intensive campaign to raise funds to build a new church. A brick church was completed and the opening service was held on Sunday afternoon, October 7, 1945, with the Rev. Dr. T. C. Mulligan, District Superintendent, as the speaker. A series of evening services were held during the following two weeks. The church is most attractive and well furnished. The rose window in the sanctuary is in honor of the Rev. F. H. Truitt, the pastor. There are eight stained-glass memorial windows.

The church was dedicated on Sunday afternoon, November 18, 1945. Bishop Charles W. Flint was in charge of the service. He was assisted by the Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Mulligan, District Superintendent, and the Rev. Mr. Truitt, the pastor. In the graveyard, the oldest tombstone is over the grave of P. Manuel Russell who died on September 18, 1812. This, as well as several others, is a reinternment from a family plot near Drawbridge.

To the right of the church entrance is a monument erected to the memory of Helmanius Frederic Wiltbank. It is inscribed as follows: "Emigrated from Sweden in a Dutch ship which was wrecked in the mouth of the Delaware Bay. He was saved by swimming and landed on Cape Henlopen about 1650, died 1695, leaving three sons, Cornelius, John and Abraham." Mr. Wiltbank lived near Lewes and was a very large landowner. He took a prominent part in civic affairs as have many of his numerous descendants. He was originally buried on his home farm but his body was moved to Zion graveyard shortly after the new church was built in 1874. Also buried in this plot is David W. Wiltbank, a veteran of the war of 1812, who died on May 16, 1865.

Scharf Zion Methodist Episcopal Church east of Milton at DE 1

On March 11, 1818, Aletta Clark granted to Bevans Morris, Sr., Samuel Cade, John T. Cornell, Jonathan Hevaloe and Thomas Draper, trustees, a lot of land in Broadkiln Hundred containing three

thousand six hundred square feet. A one-story frame building, eighteen by twenty feet, known as the Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, was erected the same year. Services were held in this structure until 1848, when it was enlarged so as to accommodate the growing congregation. In 1873 it was found necessary to erect a new building. An adjoining lot of land containing one acre was conveyed by Hevaloe Morris to the trustees, who at that time were J. T. Conwell, Robert Morris, John Morris, Sylvester H. Rust, Hevaloe Morris, Daniel R. Burton and James C. Robbins. The new one-story edifice, 35 by 50 feet, was completed and dedicated January 25, 1874. The church has a present membership of forty. It has been connected with the Lewistown, Milton and Nassau Circuits. A flourishing Sunday-school connected with the church is under the superintendence of John M. Robbins. [Page 1260]

Hallman Zion Methodist Episcopal Church near Draw Bridge in Cedar Creek Hundred is recorded under the heading Slaughter Neck Zion Meeting-House.

[See: Hickman Methodist Episcopal Church, Cedar Creek, Argo's Corner]

[See: Slaughter Neck Zion Meeting-House /Methodist Episcopal Church, Argo's Corner]

WPA-240 Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, 1818-- , 3 miles Southeast of Milton.

Organized and first building erected in 1818. It was a frame structure which was enlarged in 1843 and used until present building was dedicated in 1874. Incorporated, June 27, 1874. Present building was remodeled in 1910 and in 1929. It is a one story frame structure with a bell. The first settled clergyman was Rev. C. W. Pegg.

Zion Methodist Episcopal Church



2014 - Covington Collection

Zebley Zion Methodist Episcopal Church (M. E.) is at Roxana. The first church was built in 1839 and was named "Sound Methodist Episcopal Church." It was known to many persons as "Centerville Church," that being the name of Roxana until 1872. The present site, measuring 40 square poles was secured on May 21, 1855 from Nathaniel Evans. At that time the trustees of Sound Church were Isaac C. West, William R. Tibbs, Zadoch P. Collier, and N. W. Evans.

A second church was built and it was dedicated on May 2, 1858, by the Revs. Robert. L. Dashiell and Alfred A. Cookman. The present church was built in 1874. The corner-stone was laid on Tuesday, April 21, 1874, by the Revs. T. O. Ayers and J. A. Arters, the pastor. It was arranged to dedicate the church on July 26, 1874, with the Revs. J. B. Mann and William F. Talbot in charge. The name "Zion" was chosen to distinguish it from Union Sound Church east of Williamsville. The church was rebuilt in 1921. The schoolhouse, a short distance south of the church was purchased from the State Board of Education on November 22, 1935. It was rebuilt for use as a church-house and was opened on July 1, 1939. Additional land for the cemetery was purchased on April 8, 1942, from Wilner S. Evans.

Hallman Zion Methodist Episcopal Chapel in Roxana

[See: Roxana Methodist Episcopal Church, Roxana]