THE CHURCHES OF DELAWARE

BR555 D424 In 1940, the construction of a new church was started, one mile west of Harmon's School. The corner-stone was laid on Sept. 13, 1942. The church was completed and the opening service was held on Apr. 18, 1943.

The old church was sold to Wm. D. Burton who moved it away to convert it into a dwelling. The large well-kept graveyard was then enclosed with a

cement-block wall.

In September, 1945, Mr. Burton moved the old church to the Rehoboth Road between Westcoat's Corner and Midway, to be converted into a dwelling.

Bethel Methodist Church (M.E.) of Dagsboro was built and dedicated in 1882. It was located beside the present site of Christ Methodist Church, the land having been donated on Aug. 30, 1881 by William Bright of Wilmington who owned large tracts of land at Dagsboro. The church was incorporated on Dec. 17, 1894. In 1906, the congregation decided to erect a new church and selected the site where Bethel Church now stands. They were again incorporated on June 17, 1906 and purchased land at Clayton and Hazzard Sts. on Oct. 2, 1906 from John A. Lingo. Part of the congregation wanted to retain the old site so they withdrew and joined Vine's Neck M. P. Church. It was then decided to move Vine's Neck Church to the site presented by Mr. Bright. This was done and the two churches stood side-by-side during the building of the new Bethel Church. There was considerable friction between the two congregations during this time. When the new Bethel Church was completed the old church was sold, moved away and converted into a livery stable and an ice manufacturing plant. These were later burned down. The new Bethel Church was dedicated on Sun., Nov. 3, 1906. It was rebuilt in 1925.

Christ Methodist Church (M.P.) of Dagsboro was organized in 1890. The first church was built in Vine's Neck about one and one-half miles outside of Dagsboro and called "Vine's Neck M. P. Church." They were incorporated on Nov. 1, 1898. In 1906, the building was moved to its present location in Dagsboro. It was rebuilt, in 1907, and named "Dagsboro M. P. Church." The site was donated on Feb. 6, 1907, by Geo. W. Bright of Wilmington. The name "Christ" was adopted in 1940.

The Church of the Nazarene, at Dagsboro, was organized on July 30, 1939 at a tent-meeting in charge of the Rev. W. T. Archer. He was assisted by Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Conaway, evangelists. The church was built and it was dedicated on Nov. 26, 1939. The service was in charge of the Rev. Dr. D. E. Higgs, Dist. Supt. He was assisted by the Revs. V. A. Miller, L. W. Savage, Maude A. Stuneck and W. T. Archer, the pastor.

Prince George's P. E. Chapel, at Dagsboro. There is a tradition that this chapel was established in 1706, when a log chapel was built, and that this was replaced with a frame building in 1738. The chapel was named in honor of the infant Prince George of England who was born in 1738 and who later became King George the Third.

The Church of England was established in the province of Maryland by an Act passed by the Assembly on June 2, 1692. This Act provided for the method of organization, for the support of the establishment and for the erec-

tion of churches as well as chapels-of-ease in the respective parishes.

Previous to the settlement of the boundary dispute between Delaware and Maryland, in 1767, a large section of southeastern Delaware was claimed as a part of Maryland and hence in Worcester Parish. On July 8, 1755, the Maryland Assembly passed an Act empowering the vestry of Worcester Parish to

purchase two acres of land on the east side of Pepper's Branch near the main road and to erect a chapel thereon. The vestry had agreed, on June 9, 1755, to erect a chapel here and on July 19, 1755, they purchased two acres of land, at Blackfoot Town—now Dagsboro—from Walter Evans.

On Aug. 12, 1755, James Johnson agreed to build the chapel for 39,200 pounds of tobacco. On Dec. 2, 1755, Captain Derrickson was directed to buy plank to finish the chapel. On Dec. 6, 1756, there was an agreement with Daniel Hull to lay gallery floors, build wainscoating, two pairs of stairs, a pew for strangers and a table, for 20 pounds. On Apr. 14, 1757, the vestry assigned the pews and on June 30, 1757, the chapel was completed and was accepted by the vestry.

The church lot is mentioned in a deed from Walter Evans to John Dag-

worthy, executed in October, 1763.

About 1780, the chapel was enlarged when a transcept and small sanctuary were built on the west end. General John Dagworthy was instrumental in having this work done. The General and his wife were later buried beneath the transcept. At a later date their bodies were reinterred in the graveyard. A communion plate inscribed "Prince George's Chapel, Worcester Parish" is said to have been presented to the chapel by Queen Anne of England.

The church was incorporated on June 26, 1790. It was a chapel-of-ease for St. Martin's Church below Selbyville and the records mention on July 9, 1791, that the two churches had the same rector. On July 22, 1791, the pay of the sexton was set at 7 shillings, 6 pence per year. By the year 1804, Prince George's was on a circuit with St. Paul's Church of Georgetown and Christ Church of Broad Creek. On Mar. 15, 1806, John S. Waples was engaged to make repairs to the church on a day-work basis. This work was completed at a cost of \$370.48. A sale of pews to help finance the repairs was held on Aug. 23, 1806 at which time \$80.25 was realized with some pews remaining to be sold later.

The early church records contain a list of the baptisms and lists of the communicants starting on June 27, 1790.

By 1850, the chapel was quite dilapidated, the transcept being entirely rotted away. At this time services were discontinued. Beginning in 1865 services were conducted intermittently in the Dagsboro schoolhouse for six years or more.

On Nov. 12, 1893, Bishop Leighton Coleman conducted a reopening service. He was assisted by the Rev. L. W. Wells. The chapel had been renovated. At least a portion of the interior is still preserved in its original state, In 1901-02, the property was fenced in. Repairs were made in 1903. In 1912 and 1913 annual services were held by the Bishop. There were no services from 1916 to 1926.

The chapel was repaired in 1928, after which the building was consecrated on June 30, 1929, by Bishop Philip Cook. In the old section of the graveyard, the oldest tombstone is over the grave of Wm. Hill Wells, Esq., former U. S. Senator, who died on Mar. 12, 1829. The building and its surroundings are kept in beautiful condition. A low ornamental brick wall, facing the road, was built in 1940. Only annual services are now held in the fall at about harvest time.

In 1908, a monument in memory of Gen. Dagworthy, was erected in the traveyard by the State of Delaware. The presentation was made on May 30, 1908, by Chief Justice Charles B. Lore and it was received by Gov. Preston Lea. In spite of inclement weather large delegations from all parts of the State, were present.

DELAWARE CHURCH ARCHIVES

extends along the roads on the east and south sides of the churchyard. A cemetery covers the entire site, including additional land purchased in 1919 west of the original grant. The present church is a one story brick structure with a slave gallery. Colonial style. Walls of the building are covered with ivy brought from England and planted by Bishop George Washington Doane. The original pews are still in use. First settled clergyman Rev. Thomas Jenkins, 1708-09. See: Souvenir of the Bicentennial of St. Anne's Parish (Middletown, privately printed, 1905); article in Wilmington Sunday Star, June 5, 1938.

Minutes, (including financial). 1801-1908, 3 vols.; Register, 1801-96, 1 vol.; in vault of the Delaware Trust Company. Minutes, 1908--, 1 vol.; Financial, 1908--, 1 vol.; Register, 1896--, 5 vols.; Sunday School, 1908--, 1 vol.; miscellaneous material including sermon preached during the consecration of the church in 1846 by Bishop Alfred Lee; in possession of Rev. Percy Lowry Donaghay, B.D. E. Cochran St. Records 1872-82 incomplete, having been partially destroyed by fire. Records of incorporation: New Castle Co. Recorder's office, <u>Deeds Record</u>; vol. H3, p. 113; vol. I11 (?), p. 2.

534. ST. ANNE'S CHURCH, Green and Church Sts. The Parish Church, 1872--.

Organized 1872, at which time the congregation was attending Old St. Anne's Church, lying about three-quarters of a mile south of town. A lot was donated to the church by William Green and the cornerstone laid on Aug. 5th, 1871. The church was opened and consecrated on Apr. 4, 1872. It was destroyed by fire May 2, 1882. Relics from Old St. Anne's Church, with the exception of the communion table cover, were lost together with some of the records of the previous decade. The present building was erected at once and opened for services on Christmas Day, 1882. The following year a rectory was added. This church and Old St. Anne's constitute a single parish and are served by the same rector. The building is a one story stone structure with belfry and steeple, in Gothic style. Incorporated May 24, 1884, first settled clergyman, Rev. John C. McCabe, 1872-73.

Minutes, 1883-1926, 1 vol.; Financial, 1872--, 1 vol.; in vault of Delaware Trust Co. Minutes, 1926--, 1 vol.; in possession of J. G. Braydon, S. Broad St. Register, 1872--, 6 vols.; in possession of Rev. Percy Lowry Donaghay, E. Cochran St. Sunday School, 1872-1937, 1 vol.; each year; in church office. Sunday School, 1938--, 1 vol.; in possession of Mrs. J. W. Beaston, Crawford St. Records of incorporation and deeds: New Castle Co. Recorder's office, <u>Deeds Record</u>; vol. L9, pp. 38 and 40; vol. A13, p. 95; vol. W12, p. 119; vol. K28, p. 309; vol. T13, p. 216.

535. ST. MARY'S CHAPEL (MISSION OF St. Anne's), 1900-1937 (defunct), South St. Townsend.

Organized 1900 as a chapel for ease for St. Anne's Church. Building was consecrated in 1901. It is a one story frame structure with cornerstone. Was declared defunct and trustees authorized to sell the property in 1937.

Register (including all records), 1900-1928, 1 vol.; in possession of rector of St. Anne's Church, Rev. Percy Lowry Donaghay, E. Cochran St., Middletown. No separate records kept since 1928. Record of deed: New Castle Co. Recorder's office, <u>Deeds Record</u>, vol. F18, p. 577.

536. PRINCE GEORGE'S CHAPEL, 1706-1870, 1929--, 1/4 mile E. of Dagsboro.

Organized about 1706 as a charge of St. Martin's Parish in Snow Hill,

DELAWARE CHURCH ARCHIVES

Maryland, (See forthcoming Inventory of Church Archives of Maryland). The first church, a log building, was erected in 1706 and used until 1757 when the present building was dedicated. A small frame structure covered with clapboard shingles. Became a church independent of St. Martin's shortly after the Revolutionary War. The church became defunct about 1870. It was repaired and re-dedicated in 1929. Memorial services are held yearly. General John Dagsworthy, a Revolutionary general, is buried near the church.

No separate records are now kept. Register (including Minutes of Vestry meetings), June 26, 1790-1844, 1 vol.; in custody of Miss Lightner, secretary to the Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. John, Wilmington.

537. ST. PETER'S CHURCH, 1708, 2nd and Market Sts., Lewes.

Organized 1708 under the leadership of Rev. William Black who held services in Lewes and at various points in the surrounding country. Organization was informal and finding insufficient support he left in 1709, services then being held only occasionally until 1718 when Rev. George Ross visited Lewes. Through his influence the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts" sent Rev. William Beckett as a missionary. He arrived in Sept. 1721 and immediately began the construction of a small frame church in the center of town, in addition to two mission buildings in Cedar Creek and Indian River Hundreds, which were included in his parish. Although the building was used immediately, it was not completed until 1728. This building was located on a tract of 4 acre, set aside by the court in 1689 for "any public use that the court shall think proper", a part of which was surveyed in 1796 and deeded to the church on June 13, 1798 as "a gift for pious use" by the commissioners of property of Sussex County. The first church was used until 1808 when a frame building, 40 ft. SW of the original church replaced it. The present building was built in 1851and consecrated in 1858. Tower added and other improvements made in 1870. A one story brick structure. Wren-Gothic style. Memorial tablets to the memory of Ryves Holt, the First Chief Justice of Delaware, who is buried in the churchyard. A communion service, consisting of chalice, paten and flagon presented to the church on June 10, 1773, by John Penn, a grandson of William Penn. Prayer Book dates 1722. Church incorporated 1789. First settled clergyman, Rev. William Black, 1708-09. See: Rev. Dr. Charles Henry Black Turner, Historical Sketch, Some Records of Sussex Co. (Philadelphia, Allen, 1909, 287 pp.).

Minutes (including financial), 1731--, 4 vols.; Register, 1857--, 4 vols.; in possession of the rector, Rev. Nelson Waite Rightmyer, Lewes. Transcript of Minutes, 1708-97, Register, 1797-1906, in State Archives. Records of deed and incorporation: Sussex Co. Recorder's office, Certificates, vol. X22, p. 95, <u>Deeds Record</u>, vol. B2, p. 312; vol. O14, p. 58; vol. BBH107, p. 110; vol. CCX149, p. 68; vol. DFC207, p. 52; vol. DGW253, p. 542; vol. DIA283, p. 416; vol. DIN296, p. 212.

538. ST JAMES' CHURCH, 1716--, St. James Rd. and Capitol Trail, Stanton.

Organized 1716 as a mission of Immanuel Church, New Castle (entry 527). A building begun on the present site in that year was opened in 1717. It burned in 1820. Addition was built in 1896. It is a two story stone building of Colonial style. The church has a memorial window above the altar and a belfry and bell. This church, St. James; of Newport (entry

Tombstones of Sussex County Delaware

Volume One

Published by Downstate Delaware Genealogical Society

(DA-002 & HU-228) LEVIN STEEN FAMILY CEMETERY - cont.

The following stones were recorded by the Hudson Survey but are now missing or unreadable:

HITCHENS, Edward S., b. 01/20/1863, d. 01/13/1883.

STEEN, Levin, b. 11/28/1847, d. 04/01/1920.

STEEN, Otis, b. 12/18/1901, d. 03/16/1903.

STEEN, Sallie M., b. 04/11/1884, d. 09/08/1887.

(DA-003 & HU-231) FOOKS-SHORT FAMILY CEMETERY:

Located S.W. of Georgetown on N.E. side of Whaley's Corner Road (Rd. 329), 0.2 miles N.W. of East Trap Pond Road (Rd. 62). Recorded: March 30, 1992.

SHORT, Abron D., son of Daniel & Mary M.E, b. 08/19/1890, d. 06/21/1891.

SHORT, Cyrus O., son of Daniel E. & Mary M.E., age 1y. 7m.15d., d. 03/08/1881.

SHORT, Infant, of Daniel & Mary M.E., b. 12/26/1886, d. 03/07/1887.

SHORT, Mary M.E., wife of Daniel, b. 04/28/1854, d. 07/31/1890.

The following stones were recorded by the Hudson Survey but are now missing or unreadable:

FOOKS, Cyrus O., age 63yrs. d. 04/28/1880.

FOOKS, Priscilla N.C. daughter of Cyrus & Mary, age 9-4-29, b. 03/18/1853.

(DA-004 & HU-478) GREEN FAMILY CEMETERY:

Located West of Millsboro on the N.E. side of Godwin School Road (Rd. 410), 50 yards S.E. of Country Living Road (Rd. 433). Recorded: March 22, 1992.

GREEN, Mary K. aged 63y. 7m.23d.

GREEN, Theresa, aged 1y. 1m. 0d., d. 12/02/1863.

The following stones were recorded by the Hudson Survey but are now missing or unreadable:

GREEN, Jesse, aged 55yrs.

GEORGETOWN HUNDRED

(GN-001 & HU-240) HEBRON M. P. CHURCH CEMETERY:

Located West of Georgetown on the South side of Seashore Highway (DE Rt. 404), 1.5 miles West of the DuPont Boulevard (U.S. Rt. 113). Recorded: October 19, 1993.

BOTJER, Mildred J. ssw-Clarence E. Joines, b. 1908, d. 1970.

BRITTINGHAM, Beatrice Helen, b. 03/09/1935.

BRITTINGHAM, Dalton Vance Jr. b. 04/11/1959, d. 10/22/1959.

BRITTINGHAM, Dalton Vance, b. 11/19/1933, d. 03/18/1979.

CONAWAY, Elizabeth, wf. of Thomas, age 95 yrs. d. 04/26/1909.

(CC-15 & HU-176) WEBB CEMETERY:

Located S.W. of Ellendale at the Northerly corner of the intersection of South Union Church Road, (Rd.42 and Oakley Rd. (Rd. 610). Recorded: November 9, 1995.

PASSWATERS, Jeremiah M. ssw-Laura F. b. 1869, d. 1936.

PASSWATERS, John H. 34-9-11, b. 11/28/1871, d. 09/09/1906.

PASSWATERS, Laura F. ssw-Jeremiah M. b. 1888, d. 1910.

PASSWATERS, Sarah, b. 12/25/1844, d. 02/09/1914.

WEBB, Eunice C. wf. of George F. 44-4-19, b. 05/02/1858, d. 09/22/1899.

WEBB, Helen N. dau. of George F. & Mary V. b. 10/26/1912, d. 08/09/1913.

WEBB, Infant of Isaac F. & Mollie, b/05/17/1909, d. 05/19/1909.

WHARTON, Laura W. dau of Lizzie, b. 11/28/1878, d. 11/01/1884.

The following stones were recorded by the Hundson Survey but are now missing or unreadable:

PASSWATERS, Jennie, wf. of Thomas T. b. 01/17/1878, d. 08/02/1910. PASSWATERS, Oscar, Son of T. T. & J. b. 09/17/1909, d. 06/30/1910.

(CC-016 & HU-459) BENIAH SHARP FAMILY CEMETERY:

Located Southeast of Milford, approx 500 yards, N.W. of Sharps Road (Rd. 200) 0.6 miles N.E. of Coastal Highway (DE Rt.1). Recorded: January 6, 1998.

SHARP, William H. son of Rhoda K. Beniah, 25y, 6m.2d. b. 11/25/1845, d. 06/07/1871.

SHARP, Beniah, 25yrs. b. 1812, d. 02/10/1869.

SHARP, Rhoda, wf. Of Beniah, 48y.2m. d. 03/26/1858.

SHARP, R. P. b. 10/13/1878, d. 08/08/1964.

DAGSBORO HUNDRED

(DA-001 & HU-101) THOMPSON FAMILY CEMETERY:

Located S.E. of Millsboro approx. 150 feet from the S. E. side of Thorogood Road (Rd. 333), 0.4 miles N.E. of Dagsboro Road (Rd. 334). Recorded: April 4, 1992.

THOMPSON, Daniel B., 65, son of Isaac C. & Mary C., d. 09/28/1889.

THOMPSON, Emoline, wife of Isaac J. b. 09/20/1824, d. 11/23/1887.

THOMPSON, Isaac J., b. 09/10/1826, d. 07/05/1904.

(DA-002 & HU-228) LEVIN STEEN FAMILY CEMETERY:

Located West of Millsboro at the Western corner of the intersection of Hardscrabble Road (DE Rt. 20) and Homestead Rd. (Rd. 442). Recorded: March 30, 1992.

DAVIS, Ulisus Sharp, age 55, d. 04/15/1929.

STEEN, Eliza A., widow of Levin Steen, b. 11/13/1842, d. 03/09/1901.

STEEN, Sarah E., b. 07/28/1866, d. 10/02/1915.

THOMPSON, Benjamin F., b. 02/03/1886, d. 07/02/1916.

Mr Me Kim Dear Sir - I reeld a cord from you last night wanting some infermation about the church of went down there the next monday wafeles was gon I dident get to See him I expect to ben at work before this time but there is no one to tend to the busines. unles you come and See to it there will not be much done I could do the work now bine by I shal be a buile a and cant do it I have two or thre people that would give lumber if they will go on with the work



Milford Sussex

Dagsborough, May 1865. Rev & Dear Siv, From every thing I can see, there is a great desire in this neighborhood, to have the old Time George's church repaired, the difficulty of getting to places of worship felt by persons who have no chance of going to a distance too great to walk, is much talked of in this place & in the country adjoining, no Church, no sunday school for their children, consequently their sundays pass, almost unregarde, all this I am aware that you know already, I the only reason I now speak of it, is to beg you, if you think it proper to try & prevent an action

being taken in the approaching bon. vention, to declare the Parish de: - Junet, there is still one of the former Parish living, M. Forque, & Jam sure he I his family are anaious for the repairs to be made. M. Steele too in Baltimore Hundred, says, I am told, that he will subscribe something I use his influence to obtain other subscriptions in that neighbourhood & probably 100\$ might be procured there: at all events try I prevent any hostile action in the Convention; the Bishop is , you are aware, very unfriendly to the measure, I think he is convinced that it is impossible to revive an intent here, in favour of the Church. With kind wishes for yourself I Mit M. Kim, believe me to be, yours truly, To He Waples

Ed- Willis Human

The Evening Journal

FINALEDITION

WEATHER

"THE FIRST NEWSPAPER OF THE FIRST CITY OF THE FIRST STATE."

FORTY-SECOND YEAR. NO. 16

22 PAGES

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1929

PRICE TWO CENTS

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Wilmington, cial to the Evening Jour EORGETOWN, Del., Junce George's Chapel, on the George's Chapel, on the Protestant Episcopal the United States, will be tomorrow with rededicate in charge of the Diocese e. assisted by Rev. M. ntington, rector of St. Mark's clisboro, and St. George's forical church in India trict, more than 230 year in the services tomorrow will muunion at 11 o'clock sex County Layman's Lear ir families and friends in families and friends in families and friends in families and conduct the steed by the Rev. Mr. Huster in charge, and the Darbie, of Seaford. I cheon will be under the afternoon for the afternoon che will be under the afternoon of the American Reserve Officers' Aranner Colonel A F. Tranner and the Colonel A F. Tranner and A F. Tranner A F. Colonel A F. Tranner A F. Tranner A F. Colonel A F. Tranner A F. Tranner A F. Colonel A F. Tranner A F. Tranner A F. Colonel A F. Tranner A F. Tranner A F. Colonel A F. Tranner A F. Tr

Delaware, American I merican Legion Drum orps, under H. Eugene Wilmington.

The military group wil

procession at Dagsboro, of mile away from history from history from history feorge's Chapel. The asy ine up at the house on threet of Dagsboro which narker of the birthplace or Dayston, one of Delaware's one of Delaware's on the United States. Upon the church the bugle call sounded and ceremonies he laying of a wreath in this monument, located thurchyard. This will be by a patriotic service in a suditorium which has been the occasion. military group will from at Dagsboro, o le away from histo 's Chapel. The ass

ere given to the Chape oyal House of England f Prince George, afterwar in Third of England and in Chapel is named. The Chapel is named. The casures of the Delaware Dill be used at the services forning. The body of Geragworthy, who was one conge Washington's aides evolutionary War, is said tried beneath the

VOL. LXII. NO. 155.

Fair tonight and tomorrow; slightly warmer in interior tomorrow.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1929.—TWENTY-TWO PAGES.

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