

# THE CHURCHES OF DELAWARE

by

FRANK R. ZEBLEY

Author of "Along the Brandywine"



*A history, in brief, of the nearly 900 churches  
and former churches in Delaware as  
located by the Author.*

1947

**Lawsonia A. M. E. Zion Church** was located in Piney Neck. The church site was donated, on Feb. 10, 1896, by Thomas B. Riggan. It has since become defunct.

**Antioch A. M. E. Church** is located one-half mile north of Frankford. It was established in 1856 when the old church of the Antioch Methodist, white congregation, was purchased and occupied. They took title to the property on Aug. 4, 1857, upon payment of \$70.00. On Feb. 28, 1890, one acre of land, forming the present church site, was purchased from Millard F. Murray and a new church was built. The old church was sold and moved to a site on the Highway below Frankford where it is now used as a dwelling. There is a large campmeeting ground beside the church where enthusiastic annual meetings are held. Electric lighting has replaced the old fire-stands. On Sun. morning, Aug. 15, 1943, fire of undetermined origin broke out in one of the cottages. Whipped by a high wind, the fire spread to other cottages and to the church. In spite of the efforts of six fire companies, the church and ten cottages were completely destroyed.

A new building was erected and was occupied in the early summer of 1946. The corner-stone was laid on July 26, 1946 by the Rev. G. M. Purnell, the pastor. The church was dedicated in the fall of 1946.

**Frankford Presbyterian Church** was organized in 1875, when meetings were held in the schoolhouse. Land on Reed St. was purchased on Mar. 18, 1880, from John T. Reed. The church was built in 1880. It was arranged to hold the dedication services on Oct. 30, 1881. The church was incorporated on Sept. 11, 1894. Land on Thatcher St. was purchased on Mar. 23, 1904, from Mary A. Long.

**Frankford Methodist Church (M.E.)** was originally located in a woods about one-quarter mile n. e. of the John M. Clayton School on land now owned by Everett Long.

This site was purchased on Apr. 10, 1819, from Joshua Robinson at a cost of \$14.37½. The trustees were Arthur Williams, David Hazzard, Stephen Ellis, John Hazzard and Percy Pool. The lot measured 78 sq. poles and was part of a large tract known as "Security." The trustees agreed to erect an M. E. church immediately which they did. This church was known as "Old Zion" and as "Antioch." The church was incorporated as "Antioch" on Mar. 4, 1820. The road upon which the church faced took the name of Antioch Road.

When it was decided to build a new church in Frankford, the old church property was sold to a negro congregation who took the name "Antioch A. M. E. Church."

The church site, in Frankford, was purchased on Nov. 20, 1852, from Jonathan Carey. The corner-stone of the new church was laid on Aug. 28, 1853. When the new church was completed, it was named the "Frankford M. E. Church." In 1880, extensive repairs were made and the spire was added. Additional land was purchased on June 27, 1881, from Jos. S. Carey. Repairs were made in 1901, and, in 1916, an ell containing a Sunday School room was added. There is a graveyard beside the church. The earliest legible tombstone inscription is dated 1868.

The Church of God at Frankford was organized in May, 1940 and they meet in Odd Fellows' Hall.

**Grace P. E. Chapel**, at Baltimore Mills, was located three-quarters of a mile north of Omar close to Lamb's Woods. This chapel was built to take the

Whereby David Millard, J. Murray et al. The Trustees of -  
Antient A. M. E. Church, of Dogolen Hundred.

This Indenture made this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July A.D. 1870. Between  
Millard J. Murray and Annie M. Murray et al. Lewis E. Murray and  
Roberta Murray parties of the first part, and Charles H. McCray  
Charles E. Dingle James Cannon and Joshua Cannon of Dogolen  
Hundred, and Samuel Garrison of Baltimore Hundred as Trustees in  
trust of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States  
Parties of the second part all of the County of Sussex State of Delaware,  
Witnesseth that the said Millard J. Murray and wife Annie Murray  
Lewis E. Murray parties of the first part in consideration of the sum of forty dol-  
lars to them in hand paid the receipt whereof hereunto appended have  
legally sold, sold and conveyed to the said James E. Dingle Joshua Cannon  
Charles E. Dingle their right title and interest in and to a certain lot or parcel of  
land situate in the County and State aforesaid and described as follows to-wit:  
Beginning at a stone settled on in the South edge of the County  
line leading from Springton to Dogolen and at corner for lands of  
John W. Wall and running West one half for the same South eighty  
eight and one half degrees West thence north to a post the one  
and one half miles North then Dogolen west ten poles to a post thence  
North eighty eight and one half degrees East Sixteen poles to the  
South edge of the aforesaid County line and with the same South three  
degrees East ten poles thence to the place of beginning containing  
seven Acres together with all and singular the right premises and  
appurtenances thereto belonging to the said Charles H. McCray Charles E.  
Dingle James Cannon Joshua Cannon and Samuel Garrison as  
Trustees in trust and their Successors and Successors in office for the use  
and benefit of the Members of the African M. E. Church in the United States  
and to be controlled by the rules of the discipline of said Church established  
by the General Conference and the said Parties of the first part of Dogolen Hundred  
Sussex County and State of Delaware do hereby Covenant and agree with the  
said Trustees in trust and their Successors and Successors in office to warrant  
and forever defend the title and possession of the above described lot of  
land together with all the appurtenances thereto belonging against the  
claims of the Parties of the first part their heirs executors and against  
the claims of all persons whomsoever in testimony whereof we here  
have set our hands and seals

Sealed and Delivered  
in the presence of  
Samuel H. Layton  
State of Delaware  
County of Sussex ss.

Millard J. Murray Seal  
Annie M. Murray Seal  
Lewis E. Murray Seal  
Roberta Murray Seal

Filed for Record  
May 11 1895  
May 4 1895  
May 8 1895  
Sussex Co  
1895

Be it Remembered that on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of  
July A.D. 1870. personally appeared before me  
J. Henry Dobbins and for the County of Sussex the  
within named Millard J. Murray Lewis E. Murray  
Lewis E. Murray and acknowledged the foregoing  
bond of conveyance to their act and deed for the purpose and consid-  
eration thereunto set forth. And the said Annie M. Murray and  
Roberta Murray wife of the said Millard J. Murray & Lewis E. Murray