THE CHURCHES OF DELAWARE

by

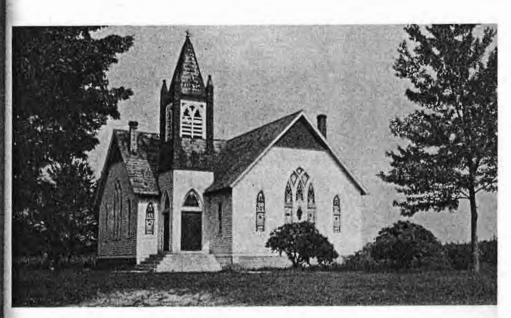
FRANK R. ZEBLEY

Author of "Along the Brandywine"

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

1947



BETHANY METHODIST CHURCH, LOWE'S CROSSROADS (Page 347)



ST. JOHN'S P. E. CHURCH, LITTLE HILL (Page 347)

WESTERN SUSSEX COUNTY

Providence Methodist Church (M.P.) is located at Piney Grove, four and one-quarter miles s. w. of Georgetown, on the road to Shortly. The church was erected in 1886. The one-acre church site was donated on July 17, 1886, by Harrison Rogers. Charles H. Elliott donated one acre of land on Sept. 24, 1924. There is a small graveyard.

Bethany Methodist Church (M.E.) is located at Lowe's Crossroads. In 1913, a group from Jones' Church decided to build this church believing the location to be more convenient for the congregation. The church was incorporated on Mar. 5, 1914, at which time the site was donated by Sara C. Collins. The dedication service was held on June 14, 1914. It is famous throughout Sussex County for the bounteous church suppers held in the social-hall beside the church.

Bethesda Methodist Church (M.E.) is located seven miles s. e. of Laurel, near Pepper Box. The first meetings in this section were held by the Methodists at the home of Philip West in 1816. A small frame church was built in 1823. They were incorporated on Jan. 21, 1826. On Feb. 2, 1826, Geo. H. Vinson conveyed to a board of trustees, two rods and twelve sq. perches of land upon which the church stood. It was described as being near Thompson's Branch. This branch rises near Pepper Box and empties into Trap Pond.

This church was used until 1879 when the present church was built. It was remodeled in 1897. In lettering the corner-stone the stone-cutter reversed the numeral 9, creating a curious effect. There is a graveyard beside the church, the tombstones dating back to Nov. 10, 1879.

St. John's P. E. Church, located at Little Hill, formerly Greenville, was a mission of old Christ Church, east of Laurel. The church was incorporated on Jan. 7, 1808. It was a going organization in 1809 and sent lay delegates to the Diocesan Convention that year. A church was built in 1811. This church was founded by the Rev. Hamilton Bell, who died in 1811. The building was still uncompleted in 1836. There were no pews and no windows although the building was equipped with shutters. The church became defunct in 1841.

Bishop Alfred Lee visited the church in July, 1842 and, at his request, the building was repaired. The remodeled church was consecrated, on Nov. 3, 1843, by Bishop Lee. Regular services were abandoned in 1876. In 1888, the church was rebuilt and it was consecrated, by Bishop Coleman, on Nov. 14, 1889. Four acres of land were donated on Jan. 16, 1899, by A. L. Ellis. In 1907-08, a Bishop's chair, in memory of Bishop Coleman, was installed by the congregation. By 1914, only occasional services were being held. Repairs to the building were made in 1920 and 1936. At the present time annual services, only, are held on the Sunday nearest June 24. In 1870, services were conducted at Elliott's School and in 1900 services were held at Morris' School and Ricard's School.

Just across the road from the church there is a low granite monument with a sloping top upon which is the following inscription: "Ebenezer Hearne son of Thos. and Sally b 1717 d 1785 his wife Priscilla Fooks d 1796 they are buried $2\frac{1}{2}$ mi. s. east." Ebenezer Hearne was the grandson of William Hearne, a London merchant. He settled on a farm near Delmar where he died in 1691. In 1895, the late Wm. T. Hearne of Independence, Mo. published a history of the Hearne family and waged a campaign for funds to erect this monument and another near Delmar in memory of the pioneer, Wm. Hearne. Ebenezer and his wife were buried on a farm two and one-half miles s. e. of Little Hill

Garden * Methodism

By

E. C. HALLMAN

President of the Peninsula Conference Historical Society President of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Association of Historical Societies Vice President of the American Methodist Historical Society Author of a Brief History of the Wilmington Conference, Methodism in Delaware, Privateer, Pirates and the Peninsula, The Web of Life, Etc.

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ALL ADDARES OF LANDERS ADDARDS

"He that writes Or makes a feast, more certainly invites His judges than his friends; there's not a guest But will find something wanting or ill-drest." SIR R. HOWARD.

Published at the request of the PENINSULA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Sussex County, Delaware (continued)

non, J. Rust Cannon and William Davis, trustees. A later deed calls the church Bochim. This first chapel was erected with the dual idea of being both school and church. St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church, located in Seaford, is a child of this organization. The old building was eventually purchased by the Seaford Methodist Protestant Church and moved into town and served them for a home for several years. This was in 1862.

Beaver Dam Methodist Protestant Church, Broad Kiln Hundred, was organized in 1844 and the church was built in the same year. The land upon which the church was erected was given by Barkley Wilson. They have huilt two other churches since then, namely, in 1885 at a cost of \$1,200, and in 1928, they moved the Conway church building and added a Sunday School building at a cost of \$8,174. In 1901, the name was changed to Harbeson Methodist Protestant Church. So far as the records reveal the only improvement for the buildings was in 1923 at which time they spent \$1,800.

Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church (Sailors' Bethel), is located in the town of Bethel, formally called Lewistown, in the Broad Creek Hundred. This is a child of Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church which was located about a mile northeast of the town. Rev. A. T. Melvin led the enterprise of erecting Sailor's Bethel. It was erected in 1855. At a cost of \$4,125, they built their second church in 1884. Extensive improvements are underway at this particular time, the estimated cost of which is \$3,500.

Bethel Methodist Protestant Church in the village of Bethel was huilt in 1858, and improved in 1906. Its local name being St. John's. Unable to continue as an organization, they sold it a few years ago, to Sailor's Bethel and is now used as a Social Hall.

Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church, Gumborough Hundred, was first built in 1841. It was rebuilt twice, once in 1873 and again in 1893.

Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church, See Lewes.

Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church iu Seaford Hundred, Northwest Fork, was organized by Bishop Francis Asbury in 1778. It is the famous White Brown Chapel that was the mission station for Methodism for many miles around. The pioneer Methodist preachers made it famous. It is the second earliest Methodiat society within the County, the other being the Lewes congregation. For many years the church went by the name of Brown's Chapel. Bishop Asbury planned the chapel, solicited funds for its erection, and was always interested in its success. The first building was erected in 1781, but was not completed until 1806, when a series of crop failures necurred. Bishop Asbury advised them to migrate to Ohio. White Brown, a nephew of Judge Edward White after whom he was named, was among those that moved to Ohio and he became an outstanding fignre in Methodism in that state. A new church was erected in 1894. Every five years the Kinder-Noble family reunion is held in this church. Tbomas Kinder, a former trustee, when he died, endowed the church, and left large bequests to other churches and the Conference Claimants Funds.

Bethel Church located in the town of Ocean View, formerly worshipped with the Roxana Congregation. The roads being long and sandy, the Ocean View Methodists decided they needed a church of their own and built such in 1885, at a cost of \$4,100. The second church built by this society was in 1899 at a cost of \$3,000. They improved the church in 1922 and built the addition to the church which is used as a Sunday School building and a community house combined, in 1926. They have raised money for a pipe organ but up to now it has not been installed.

Bethany Methodist Episcopal Church at Lowe's Cross Roads, Little Creek Hundred, is the society that moved from Old Jones's Methodist Church. When Bethany was built in 1917, Jones's Church ceased to function, except for their annual anniversary service.

DELAWARE CHURCH ARCHIVES

Highfield, 100 Champlain Ave. Sunday School, 1907--, 6 vols.; in possession of Harry G. Terrell, 303 N. duPont Road. Records of incorporation and deeds: New Castle Co. Recorder's office, <u>Deeds</u> <u>Record</u>; vol.R21, p.46; vol.D22, p.89; vol.K26, p.417; vol.F27,p.404; vol.Z32, p.260; vol.Y33, p.144; vol.N40, pp.52 and 55.

338. McCABE MEMORIAL METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1908--, Baynard Blvd. and 22nd St., Wilmington.

Organized 1908 in home of Mrs. Lydia W. Slocomb, 1600 Washington St., by former members of Washington Heights Methodist Episcopal Church (entry 333). Incorporated March 20, 1908. Services held in a tent at 18th and Monroe Sts. until August. The tent being destroyed by a windstorm, a rented house at 227 Concord Ave. was occupied until December, when a chapel was opened on the present site. In 1913, during the erection of the present building, services were held in Public School No.30, until September and then at 505 W. 21st. until the Sunday School section of the church was opened in January 1914. Dedication services were conducted by Bishop Cranston. Completed church dedicated in May 1924. Stone structure, English Gothic style, with tower. Stained glass memorial windows, and memorial pulpit and settled in Boston Chapel. First settled castor, Rev. William C. Poole, 1908-11. See: Rev. Frank C. MacSorley, historical sketch (Wilmington , Charles H. Gray, 1913); articles in Wilmington newspapers: Evening Journal, March 22, 1923, May 15, 1924; Dec. 24, 1927; Every Journal, May 17, 1930; leaflets printed occasionally by church.

Minutes, 1908--, 3 vols.; Register, 1908--, 1 vol.; Financial, 1908--, 1 vol.; Sunday School, 1908--, 1 vol.; Ladies' Aid Society, 1908--, 1 vol.; Junior Epworth League, 1908--, 1 vol.; Youth Conference, 1908--, 1 vol.; in church safe. Records of incorporation and deeds: New Castle Co. Recorder's office, <u>Deeds</u> <u>Record</u>; vol.T21, p.273; vol.Z21, p.59; vol.N22, p.327; vol.F22, p.491; vol.W25, pp.534 and 537; vol.V30, p.69; vol.K34, p.173; vol.T35, p.590; vol.037, p.336.

339. MILLCREST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1909--, Millcrest Ave. and Marsh Rd., Millcrest.

Organized 1909. First services, 1908-14, in frame structure on present site, Present building dedicated 1914. It is a one story stone structure with a square tower. First settled clergyman, Rev. Charles D. Sharpless, 1909-12.

Sunday School, 1909-+, 2 vols.; in possession of Helen Gregg, 6 Beverly Pl., Millcrest. Other records destroyed by fire in May, 1937. Records of incorporation and deeds: New Castle Co. Recorder's office, <u>Deeds Record</u>; vol.P22, p.524; vol.K23, p.272; vol.W24, p.276.

340. BETHANY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1913--, Lewes Crossroads, near Laurel.

DELAWARE CHURCH ARCHIVES

Organized 1913. Building dedicated in 1914. It is a frame building with a cornerstone, steeple, and bell. First settled clergyman, Rev. Mr. Pogle, 1913-15; educated at Wesleyan Collegiate Institute, Dover.

Minutes, 1913--, 1 vol.; Financial, 1913--, 1 vol.; in possession of W. Truitt, R.F.D., Millsboro. Register, 1914--, 1 vol.; in possession of pastor, Rev. Arthur G. Thomas, Whitesville. Sunday School, 1914--, 1 vol.; kept in church. Records of incorporation and deed: Sussex Co. Recorder's office, <u>Deeds Record</u>; vol.DEM191, pp.98 and 99.

341. RIDDLE MEMORIAL DEACONESS BONE, 1913--, 307 West St., Wilminton.

Organized 1913. Managed by a board of trustees and controlle by the Women's Home Missionary Society of Wilmington Annual Conference (entry 199). The deaconesses residing at the home conduct daily classes of scholars from the neighborhood. Visiting clergyman hold vesper services every Sunday evening and baptismal services once a month for children. A house mother supervises the home and its social functions. The building, a four story brick structure, was formerly a dwelling and the interior has been altered to confirm with the needs of the organization. First president, Mrs. C. Wesley Weldin.

Minutes, 1913--, 4 vols.; Baptismal Records, 1913--, card index Financial, 1913--, complete set of accounting books; in possession of secretary, Mrs. Charles W. Staats, 2306 Baynard Blvd. Yearly reports sent to Women's Missionary Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 420 Plum St., Cincinnati (see forthecoming <u>Inventory of the Church Archives of Ohio</u>). Records of incorporation and deed: New Castle Co. Recorder's office, <u>Certificate of</u> <u>Incorporation</u>; vol.Z4, p.38; vol.Z5, p.78; <u>Deeds Record</u>; vol.L24, p.113.

342. BRACK-EX METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1914--, 14 Bracken Ave., Brack-Ex.

Organized and incorporated July 31, 1914 as St. Jones Methodist Episcopal Church. Present name adopted November 16, 1914. The church is an outgrowth of a Sunday School organized at Roselle in 1913 and continued until the present settled clergyman, Rev.Penrose R. Talley, 1915-16.

Minutes, 1915--, 1 vol.; in possession of Joseph Williams, 124 Central Ave. Register, 1915--, 1 vol.; in possession of pastor, Rev. Reuben H. Adams, 10 Bracken Ave. Financial, 1915--, in possession of Warren A. Manuel, 2900 Cherry St., Roselle. Sunday School, 1915--, 1 vol.; in possession of Leonard E. Barnes, 5 N. Clifton Ave. Records of incorporation and deeds: New Castle Co. Recorder's office, <u>Deeds Record</u>; vol. D25, p.497; vol.R25, p.280; vol.N25, p.420; vol.R30, p.189.

343. HOLLY OAK METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1916--, Philadelphia

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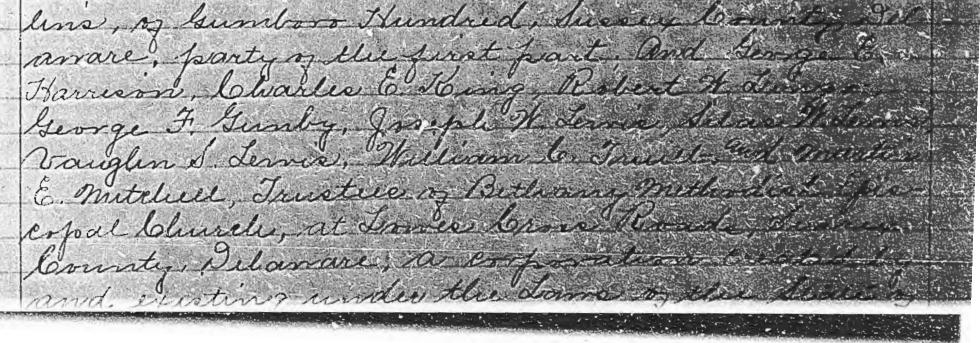
bwarle J. Maria George J. Lemby (eral) Joseph W. Lewis (real) Selas W. Lerris (seal) (Vauglins Lernes) [acal Welliam C. Truitt Fread. martin E. mitchell Treal) 1 Harvey F. Walge, Recorder. Deed; Sava lo, Collins to Trustees of Bithuny Mithodict Episcopal Church at Lower brock thrades. This Indenture, made The Fistle day of march, in the year of our Lord one thrusand me lundred and Fourteen, Between Sava le, lost lins, of Sumboro Hundred, Sussey County, Selaware, party of the first part. and George En Harrison, Charles 6. Hing, Wobert H. Lings, George F. Lunby, Joseph W. Lerris, Selas H. Lerris Vauglin S. Lerris, William C. Truill- and martin E. Mutchell, Trustere of Bethany methodist the copal blurch, at Tower brown Roade, Sugar County, Delanare; a corporation bratedby and existing under the Lans of the State of Delamare. Mitnessette, That the hard party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Pollar (\$1.00) current lange money of the limited States of annex her well and truly paid by the and for ies of the second part, at and he Sealing and Delivery of the Card of Receipt where of it had y are and the

100 wath granted, bargained, sold, aliened, enjegged confirmed and by these release, conveyed and Presents dothe grant, bargan, sell, alen, enjerge release, convey and confirm unto the said parties of the second part their successors and alegena, are That certain lot, face and parcel of land, sit-Hundred, water lying and being in Sumboro Querey County, Delaware, in the velage of Lowes broce brade, fronting on the public road leading from said louve to douboro, Be ginning at a starte in the middle of raid road, a corner for these and other hande of me. Sava b. leselins; thence in an easterly direction, 255 feet to another post, a corner for these and stlier lande of this grantor; there in a northerly direction, 131 geet to another post, a corner for these and other bande of this granter, thence in ra mesterly direction, and for allel with the first line, 195 feet to a stare in the midde of the agoresaid road, a corner for the and sther lande of this granter; thence with said road home to the place o, beginning, the contents what they may. Sogether with all and singular the buildings, improvemente, woode, maye, maters, mater - courses, rigerte, liberties, privileges, hereditaments and appurtenance whatsoever thereunto belonging or m, any were rappertaining and the reversions and remain and projets thereog and all ders, rients, resues the estate, right, title, interest, property, claims whatesever of her the raid party and demand, of the first part in law, equity or otherwise how soever, of mound to the same and every parit and. parcel thereog. To have ran the said lands, tenements, hereditaments and ennes hereby granted tended or to be, with the apportentances unto the said parties of the second part their Hence and assigns, to and for the only proper use and behoof of the said parties of the second part their successors and designs forever. and the said party of the first part for hersely, her There, Executors and administratore, No by these presente, covenant grant and agree tored with cassore and Assigns that she the said party of the first part her Here all and singular the hereditaments and premises herein above describ-

ed and quanted or mentioned or intended anto be math the appurtenances unto the said parties of the secand part this successore and daugne against here the said party of the first part her Here and against all and every selier Person or Persons who mes ever lawfully claiming or to claim elie same ad many selver part thereoz by, through or under her, deal and will by these presents Marrant and forever Degend In Witness Muerenz, the said party of ile first part waite hereunto set her Hand and seal Dated the day and year first above written. Sealed and Delivered. in the presence of Saval le brelins J. G. andrewe End) Levin J. Tray State of Selaware Steir Remembered, That and this Survey County Sythe, day of march in the year James S. A our dord one throwsand mine hundred undrems Motary Bud Townteen, forrowdely Came begine lie Sumboro. Del ap- me. the subscriber, a matary Cublic for formed apr. 29. mg the State of Delanare, Sara & Collins; For years fourty to this Indenture, thornon to me County persondely to be such and acompledged this Indenture to be her Deed. Given under my Hand and Seal of squee, the day and year agorecaid James & andreme Received for Record, motary Public, protong Public, p Harvey F. Holze, Recordent. Deed; William A. Oll et wy to Edmind lo. Itale This Indentive, made The 26th day of march, in the year of our Lord one three and nie hundred and Fourteen, Between Helling H. Out, and Bersie m. Out- live wege, of Terrer, Sursey, County, Delaware, parties of del first part. and Edmond b. Hall of Broaddelow Home -dud, Sursex County. Delaware, fast of the second part. Witnessetle, about the said parts of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Fourteen Hundred Doctors the set current lawful money of the Cinited States america, unto theme, well and truly period by the said party of the second fart of and before the dealing and Selivery

and year agreeaid Mapoleon B. Register notary Public . / Received for Record, march 20 - Q. D. 1914. Harvey F. Wolze, Recorder. Certificate & Incorporation of The Bethany Methodist Epicepal Church at Lowes bross Roade Sussey County. Allassate Laertigieate of election of Trustees. To the Recorder of Seede in and for Sussey County, Delamare: This is to certify that pursuant to a notice given at their usual place of worship, in the bullage of Lowce bross Woode, Survey County, Dela mare, more than ten days previous thereto a public meeting was held by the religious society ou congregation, composed of members of Bethan methodist Episcopal Church, at Lowes bross Woade Survey County, Delaware, which said congregation consiste of more than figteen persons, for the purpose of constituting said religious society an congregation, a corporation according to the act of the General accomply of the State of Delamare in such case made and provided; that at said meeting the name adopted for said mation max Betliany methodist Episcopal Munde & dismes laross Woade, Sussex County, Adamase, that also at said meeting, while march and the ste day a march a D. 1914, the said engregation, did, in accordance with the subse and regulations and in the

manner prescribed in the Discpline of the down ination, with which this excit, is contracted, to -wet, methodist Episcopal Churcher duly check the following persons as Trustees, by plusing the botes of members present at said met the George & Harrison Charlie & Jaing Rabert Hang Seorge & Gunby, Joseph & Lervis siles the find vauglin S. Lervis, Hilliam & Truill and marting mitel ell. In Testimony, we, the Trustees dected as agoresaid, have herewrite set our hande and erale this Junday of marele, a. D. 1914. Signed and Sealed in the Presence of George E. Harrison Levin J. Gray Charles & Roing Howard C. Jaylor Robert N. Linge Charlie F. Ward George J. Lundy Joseph W. Lerris Silas W. Levis 2 (baughnes dennes 17. 13 William C. Trutt martin E. mitchell and part for Received for Record march & 8 th a. D. 1914. Harvey F. Walge Recorder . Deed; Sava le, leslins to Trustees of Bethuny Mitlandiet Episcopal Church at anves lorse Wrader This Indenture, made The Figtherday of march, in the year of our doord one through mue lundred and Fourteen, Between dame and



12 - APRIL 17, 1996 - Sussex Countian, Georgetown, Del.

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Bethany Church erects historical marker ...

The congregation of Bethany U.M. Church and their minister, Rev. Tina Whaley, were proud to dedicate a State of Delaware Historical Marker (shown at right) commemorating the heritage of the church during its worship service this past Sunday.

The church, located at Lowe's Croseroads, Rt. 24 west of Millsboro, was built in 1914.

The congregation is appreciative to Rep. Charlie West and Russell McCabe from the State Historical Office, for making the event possible.

Carolyn M. O'Neal photos





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