Chapter VI

THE CHURCHES OF DAUPHIN COUNTY

1. A Preliminary Survey

The establishing of the United Brethren in Christ Church in Dauphin County was simultaneous with the movement in Lancaster County and followed the same general pattern. Dauphin County when erected in 1785 included all the present Lebanon County area. Lebanon County in turn became a distinct political unit in 1815. Newcomer's mention of place-names must therefore be studied carefully in order to determine whether the place named was in Dauphin County, as he states, or whether it was in Lebanon County as now constituted.

The movement centered in certain communities scattered through most of the county. These centers can be ascertained from Newcomer's mention of family and place-names. Preaching appointments made in localities where classes and churches later appear are as follows: in the Highspire-Oberlin region, at the homes of John Neidig, Jacob Roop, John Bodemar, and Henry Alleman; in Middle­town, at the home of Doctor Roemer, and Mr. Gross; at Spring Creek (Hershey), at the Landis and Huber residences; at or near Hummels­town, the house of John Adam Riegel and of Henry Smith; at or near Harrisburg, the homes of John George Pfrimmer, Mr. Rettig, Mr. Guth, and Christian Haag; in Powell's Valley at the Greben home; in a church in Armstrong's Valley; and in Lykens Valley on the Viskeniskey's (Wiconisco) Creek. In addition, he lists a consider­able number of others adjacent to the above centers or scattered along the routes of travel between them.

Foremost among the men who played important roles in the evangelical movement were John Neidig, John George Pfrimmer, and John Hershey, all of whom were members of the 1791 conference which met at John Spangler's in York County. John Adam Riegel after moving to Hummelstown in 1805 made some contributions to the work in that community. David Gingrich Sr., licensed sometime prior to 1812 visited the appointments in the lower end of the county. Jacob Roop of Highspire began his ministry in 1820 and for a period of sixty years had great influence. Jacob Erb whose home was across the Susquehanna from upper Harrisburg made a very definite contribution to the rising churches east of the river. The work of Henry Herr, a very active layman, whose residence was within the city limits of Harrisburg must also be con­sidered.

In the sketches of local churches of upper Dauphin, the reader will come across mention being made of Methodist churches. This shows
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a parallel and somewhat related Methodist movement in the area. The recital of a few items of their work serves as a background for the better understanding of the facts there set forth. In 1802 Jacob Gruber was appointed to Dauphin Circuit of the Methodist Church by the Philadelphia Conference. The next year Gruber and Henry Boehm traveled the Dauphin Circuit. Boehm writes: "The Circuit was very large and the people were mostly Germans. We had thirty appointments and at twenty of them we preached German." As a result of the work of these men and their successors a log church was erected in Halifax by the Methodists in 1806.

In 1807 Henry Boehm and William Hunter were appointed to work between the Susquehanna and the Delaware. Boehm tells the following story:

In 1790 my old school teacher left Lancaster, and I did not know where he had gone. One Sabbath in July of this year (1807) while preaching in a barn in Lykens Valley I saw an intelligent-looking man viewing me intently through his spectacles. I wondered who he was, and where I had seen him. Behold it was my old schoolmaster that I had not seen since I was his pupil eighteen years before. He was a Lutheran—he became a minister and was pastor of a church west of the Susquehanna.

2. The Circuits of Dauphin County

Increase of the number of preaching appointments and a more intensive ministerial service called for a division of the original Lancaster County area. So far as can be ascertained from conference proceedings, this division was made officially in the year 1831. It was named Halifax Circuit after the village on the right bank of the Susquehanna which, when laid out took the name of a fort located about a mile to the north, was built to protect settlers of the region during the French and Indian War.

A close study of assignments of ministers by annual conference between 1810 and 1830, and of the geographical setting, leads to the conclusion that the upper region of Dauphin County was served by itinerants appointed to circuits named for points west of the Susquehanna. Annual conference of the year 1810 directed George Brown to serve a circuit in Pfautz's Valley.

From 1816 to 1826 Juniata Circuit appears regularly on the list of conference appointments. In 1828 Susquehanna Circuit is on the list. Because of the distance by which upper Dauphin County was removed from the heart of Lancaster Circuit, and because of its proximity to the German settlements directly across the river, it was natural that upper Dauphin be served by itinerants appointed to the above mentioned circuits rather than by those appointed to Lancaster Circuit.

At that time there was a ferry across the Susquehanna about four miles above Halifax. Joseph Lytle moved from Marietta to the re-
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gion in 1773 and shortly thereafter began operating a ferry. It became, under its several subsequent owners, the most important crossing between Harris' Ferry and Sunbury. It is quite evident that Newcomer and other itinerants of his day used the ferry to meet their appointments lying east and west of the river near this point.

In 1833 the name of Halifax Circuit was changed to Dauphin Circuit. It remained so in name and boundary for a period of ten years. The first of a long series of divisions was made in 1843. In that year Peter's Mountain was fixed as the dividing line and the appointments and classes north of that line constituted a circuit which received the older name, Halifax; while those south of that line continued under the name, Dauphin Circuit.

Some idea of the extent of Halifax Circuit, as well as other interesting items, are gleaned from an article written by the Rev. John A. Sand who was appointed to it in 1843. The article appeared in the Religious Telescope under date of October 11, 1843, and is as follows:

We have just closed our campmeeting on the Halifax Circuit, the results of which I now send for publication. The meeting commenced on Friday, August 25. The brethren pitched their tents early in the day, numbering about thirty-two. The Lord presided over our campmeeting, and we had a good soul refreshing time on Sunday morning in our Lovefeast. The Lord was with us in infinite mercy, sinners felt the convicting power, and mourners flocked to the bench to be prayed for. To the best of my knowledge we had about thirty-five hopeful conversions, and twenty-two gave us their names as church members, and we hope their hearts to God. Eighteen persons were baptized, seventeen by immersion and one kneeling in the stream. When I came to my circuit from conference, I had twelve regular appointments, but since that time the circuit has enlarged considerably, and now I have a multiplicity of invitations from adjacent parts of different people to preach at their home.

Reference to the statistical report for the year 1848-49 will show the strength of the denomination in Dauphin County at that time. There were three charges: Dauphin Circuit with fourteen classes and 357 members, Halifax Circuit with ten classes and 279 members, and Highspire Station composed of four classes and eighty-nine members, or a combined membership of 715 enrolled in twenty-eight classes.

To trace in every detail the subsequent divisions of the Dauphin area and the constant shifting of boundaries would be a very complicated process and would make too long a story. In its stead there follows a listing of all circuits; first, according to chronological order to show when created and how long continued; and second, in alphabetical order with ministerial appointees. Attachment of local churches to circuits is indicated under local church sketches.
Chronological Order of Circuits


Alphabetical Order of Circuits with Ministerial Appointments:


Dauphin Circuit (1), 1833-57: Jacob Roop, John C. Smith, 1833-34; Jacob Snyder, 1834-35; Daniel Funkhouser, 1835-37; Jacob Erb, 1837-38; Enoch Hoffman, 1838-39; Jacob Roop, 1839-40; Jacob S. Kessler, 1840-41; Adam Noon, Henry Esensy, 1841-42; John Adam Sand, Simon Noll, 1842-43; Henry Staub, Simon Noll, 1843-44; Samuel Enterline, John C. Smith, 1844-45; Samuel Enterline, Frederick Gilbert, 1845-46; Jacob Sholler, John Moyer, 1846-47; David Gingrich Jr., George Smith, 1847-48; David Gingrich Jr., Henry Staub, 1848-49; Henry Staub, Solomon von Nieda, 1849-50; David Hoffman, George Gilbert, 1850-51; David Hoffman, Samuel Seiders, 1851-52; Christian Peffley, Jacob Brewer, 1852-53; John Q. Adams, 1853-55; Jacob Roop, 1855-56; D. M. Kauffman, 1856-57.

Dauphin Circuit (2), 1858-64; Simon Noll, 1858-60; Wesley Dietrich, 1860-62; John H. Lowery, 1862-64.


Derry Church (Hershey) Circuit, 1901-04: H. L. Eichinger, 1901-02; I. Moyer Hershey, 1902-03; H. M. Klinger, 1903-04.


Elizabethville Circuit, (See Elizabethville Church).

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W. D. Krick, M. G. Sponsler, 1923-24; M. G. Sponsler, 1924-28; R. H. Arndt, 1928-29; T. J. Leibold, 1929-30; G. W. Hess, 1930-34.


Fishing Creek Circuit, 1885-88: John Binkley, 1885-88.

Grantville Circuit (1), 1873-Feb. 1889: J. B. Jones, 1873-74; Samuel Phreaner, 1874-75; J. D. Killian, 1875-77; James G. Fritz, 1877-79; J. R. Meredith, 1879-81; J. B. Daugherty, 1881-84; Jacob Runk, 1884-85; Uriah Gamble, 1885-88; M. B. Spayd, 1888-Feb. 1889.


Harrisburg Circuit (1), 1864-68: David Moyer, 1864-67; J. G. Clair, 1867-68.


Harrisburg Circuit (3), 1877-98: John Garman, M. P. Sanders, 1877-78; M. P. Sanders, 1878-79; Thomas Garland, 1879-81; G. A. Loose, 1881-83; C. W. Hutzler, 1883-86; E. L. Hughes, 1885-87; M. J. Mumma, 1887-88.


Hummelstown Circuit (1), 1853-57: Jacob Brewer, Andrew Steigerwalt, 1853-54; Christian Kauffman, Jacob Roop, 1854-55; Christian Kauffman, Wesley Dietrich, 1855-56; Henry Loose, J. B. Daugherty, 1856-57.


Hummelstown Circuit (3), 1869-71: Israel Carpenter.

Hummelstown Circuit (4), 1872-83: (See Hummelstown Church).

Hummelstown-Highspire Circuit, 1871-72; David O'Farrel.


Lykens Valley Circuit (2), 1923-26: C. S. Miller.

Powell's Valley Circuit, 1919-34: H. C. Mathias, 1919-25; Byron W. Sheetz, 1925-28; M. G. Sponsler, 1928-34.


Swatara Circuit (1), 1875-77: John H. Lowery, 1875-77; Amos Graul, 1877-79.


Union Deposit Circuit (1), 1866-93: Simon Zimmerman, 1866-67; John Moyer, 1867-68; Henry Schropp, J. W. Boughter, 1868-69; Simon Noll, 1869-71; Andrew Steigerwalt, 1871-72; John Binkley, 1872-74; John Binkley, George Stoll, 1874-75; Lewis Pleisher, 1875-76; S. M. Hummel, 1876-77; H. H. Gelbach, 1877-78; J. B. Daugherty, 1878-79; D. S. Longenecker, 1879-82; Simon Noll, 1882-84; P. L. Hains, 1884-87; H. W. Zimmerman, 1887-89; P. A. Bowman, 1889-91; H. M. Miller, 1891-93.
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Williams Valley Circuit, 1873-84: S. V. Mohn, 1873-74; Amos Graul, 1874-76; J. P. Miller, 1876-77; James Shoop, 1877-78; Jacob Runk, 1878-81; Amos Lehman, 1881-82; Gottlieb Myer, 1882-84.

3. The Churches of Dauphin County

Berriesburg Church, Mifflin Township

The Rev. S. V. Mohn while traveling Lykens Valley Circuit in 1872-73 began holding services in a hall in Berriesburg. Mr. William Sweitzer, a member of the class, purchased the hall in 1892, for use of the congregation. Brother Sweitzer, David Deibler, and William Forney were elected trustees. After purchase, the lower floor of the building was transformed into a sanctuary for Divine worship.

In 1931 the room was completely renovated and new oak pews and other furnishings were installed. The cost amounting to $2,300 was paid in full by the time reopening services were held. The Rev. A. G. Nye, a former pastor, preached on that occasion, December 13, 1931, at the morning hour of worship. Visiting ministers

Berrysburg Church

Forney's Church

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brought greetings at the afternoon service, and Bishop G. D. Batdorf preached at the evening service. The pastor, R. G. Becktel was in charge of the day's service.

The church has been attached to the following charges: Lykens Valley Circuit, 1873-1926; Elizabethville Church, 1926-29; Tremont Church, 1929-32; Elizabethville Church, 1932-39; Williamstown Church, 1939-42; and Elizabethville Church, 1942-46.

Trustees for the property are: John Neiman, Norman Miller, Mrs. Carroll Kebach, Robert Miller, and LeRoy Baker. John Deibler is superintendent of the Sunday school. The Rev. Henry A. Buffington, born June 20, 1863 at Pillow, joined this conference in 1885, and served several charges in it until he transferred to Allegheny Conference in 1899. For a number of years past he has been living in retirement in Berrysburg.

Chambers' Hill Church, Swatara Township

In the Colonial period there was a ferry across the Susquehanna River in the vicinity of lower Steelton which was named after its owner, a man by the name of Chambers. In due course of time a route of travel was opened which ran from this ferry in a northeasterly direction, passing through Oberlin, then following the crest of elevated land and connecting with the Paxtang Road on so-called Hummelstown Hill. As late as the year 1872 when the Chambers' Hill Church was erected this road was still known as the Chambers' Ferry Road, the church being erected on the north side of it, two miles west from the juncture of two roads above mentioned.

The house of worship erected in 1872 was a joint project of three denominations. Michael Page sold one acre of ground for the sum of $200 to David Rupp, trustee for the Lutherans, Solomon L. Swartz, trustee for the United Brethren, and Samuel Page, trustee for the River Brethren. By two separate instruments, the trustees drew up agreements concerning the use and upkeep of the house of worship. Though the legal status has never been altered, the practice has changed considerably. The United Brethren alone for a number of years have had use of the building for regular congregational worship. The Sunday school continues to function as a union school and it provides the finances for maintenance of the property.

In 1891 the first building was utterly destroyed by a cyclone. A second building of brick was erected during the ministry of the Rev. E. A. G. Bossler, pastor of the Oberlin charge of which Chambers' Hill congregation was a part at the time. It was dedicated by the Rev. M. B. Spayd on September 4, 1892. This building was much improved in 1930 at a cost of $1,550, improvements consisting of the placing of a metal ceiling, new floors and pews, and repainting of the exterior and the interior. In 1938 the chancel was carpeted and an additional building purchased for Sunday school and social purposes.
George Balsbaugh, Samuel Eshenauer, John Straub, Christian F. Rupp, and Millard O'Neal have been associate or acting superintendents of the Sunday school for the United Brethren. Class leaders who have served this class have been Samuel Rupp, Henry Schroy, Samuel Eshenauer, and Christian F. Rupp. The trustee board at this present consists of Joseph Strite, Harvey Page, Harry Ricker, Martin Page, Roy Witmer, and Christian F. Rupp, all of whom are United Brethren; and Aaron Eichner who is a member of the Reformed Church.

Christian F. Rupp represented the charge at a number of sessions of annual conference. His son, J. Paul Rupp, one of the judges of the Dauphin County courts, united with this church in his youth. S. Edwin Rupp, member of this conference from 1900 to 1926, was licensed by vote of this class.

The Chambers' Hill Class has been affiliated with the following circuits: Highspire, 1872-73; Hummelstown, 1873-75; Highspire, 1875-1888; Oberlin, 1888-93; East Harrisburg, 1893-99; Harrisburg, 1899-1910; Hummelstown Circuit, 1929-1946. From 1910 to 1929 it was connected with Ebenezer Church to form the Chambers' Hill and Ebenezer charge, and the following brethren were its ministers: W. C. Shoop, 1910-1911; C. A. Lynch, 1911-1912; Harry E. Ulrich, 1912-1913; C. L. Earley, 1913-1914; M. A. Wagner, 1914-1917; C. L. Earley, 1917-1919; Roy Spangler, 1919-1921; James Bingham, 1921-1922; and O. G. Romig, 1922-1929.

**Colonial Park Church**

The Colonial Park Church was built by the Conference Missionary and Church Extension Society at the corner of Jonestown Road and Madison Street (Forty-first Street, Harrisburg extended), without either a church or Sunday school organization, at the cost of $40,000. The conference of 1922 adopted a resolution, presented by said society, to purchase the lot at the above site for the price of $3,500. Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent, laid the cornerstone June 29, 1924, and dedicated the beautiful brick edifice January 14, 1925.

The Rev. F. C. Aungst who was appointed to the Linglestown-Colonial Park charge in the fall of 1924, enrolled thirty-seven persons as Sunday school members on the Sabbath following dedication. Then followed six weeks of effort to secure a church membership. In that period ending with March 1, twenty persons were received into membership by letter of transfer and fifteen on profession of faith, who constituted the Charter Membership. The names of this class were: Rev. and Mrs. F. C. Aungst; Mr. and Mrs. James Atticks; Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Page and daughter 175
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Colonial Park Church

Gladys; Mrs. Agnes Shultz; Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Shott and daughter Mary; Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Swartz; and Mrs. Irene Buck Wenrich.

Inasmuch as the establishing of this church is a conference mission project, certain members of the above Society have remained as members of the local trustee board. Congregational members of the trustee board have been: Frank R. Shott, John W. Dymond, A. L. Behney, J. A. Coffman, J. B. Brinton, D. C. Lynch, H. A. Early Sr., Levi S. Plouse, R. A. Arnold Sr., and Claude S. Houck. Brothers Shott, Behney, Hoerner, and Plouse have in the order named served as superintendents of the Sunday school. Howard E. Bertsfield is the present incumbent; and the departmental heads are: for the adults, A. A. Burrell; for the young people, Mrs. Wilbur Beam, and for the children, Mrs. H. E. Bertsfield; H. F. Egenreider is the treasurer.

In the conference year 1927-28, a Women's Missionary Society was organized with a membership of twenty-two, Mrs. George W. Johns is now its president, and Mrs. Harry A. Early is treasurer. An Otterbein Guild was organized in 1932. Its president is Betty Early, and Jane Rode is treasurer. Rowe W. Bickel is the president of the Otterbein Brotherhood which was organized in 1944. A Senior Christian Endeavor Society has been operating since the first year
of church organization, and since then a Junior Society also was organized.

This new congregation is very active and is making steady advances. A day of ingathering annually observed brings in ever increasing amounts of cash which is being applied on reduction of original debt and current renovations and equipment—the amount for the twentieth anniversary year was $6,005.12. A fund of $8,000 is in hand for a proposed parsonage. The church membership has risen from thirty-five to 307, and the Sunday school enrollment from thirty-seven to 457. Thus the vision and faith of the conference superintendent and his co-planners have been translated into tangible and living form. Anniversary occasions have an air of praise and victory. Three music organizations: Church Choir, Girls' Chorus and Men's Chorus, add greatly to the spirit of worship. Much of their contribution is due to the faithful service of Mrs. C. I. Zimmer­man, conductor; and Mrs. Joseph Dailey, organist.

Under the ministry of the Rev. Clarence E. Ulrich, pastor since 1940, signal success has been achieved and forward looking measures have been initiated. The complete list of ministers is as follows: F. C. Aungst, 1924-26; A. G. Nye, 1926-28; William O. Rhoad, 1928-30; William J. Book, (supply), and R. L. Shay, 1930-31; R. L. Shay, 1931-40; and C. E. Ulrich, 1940-46.

**Ebenezer Church, Halifax Township**

The church is in the northwestern end of Halifax Township about a mile north of the Halifax-Millersburg road, along a road which branches off northward at a point about midway between these two towns. A class of members known as the "Gilbert's Class" held services in the Gilbert's Schoolhouse before the erection of a house of worship. A frame church building was erected in the year 1874, and dedicated in November of the same year. Casper Heckert, Aaron Zimmerman, and Isaac Chubb, trustees, bought a plot of ground forty by one hundred and ninety-eight feet; for the sum of $50. These men together with W. M. Heckert, W. F. Freeland, and Charles Chubb were active in the early work of the congregation.

During the summer of 1943 the church was repainted. The work at Ebenezer has been greatly revived, as is evidenced by the organization of young people's work, and other spiritual movements. The care of the property is entrusted to the following trustees: Mrs. Blanche Hoffman, Mrs. H. M. Bower, Robert Hoffman, John W. Lebo, and LeRoy Shepley. The last named is superintendent of the Sunday school.

The church has been attached to the following circuits: Jacksonville, 1874-75; Halifax Station, 1875-1877; Jacksonville, 1877-82; Halifax Station, 1882-1915; Jacksonville Circuit, 1915-1919; Enders, 1919-1934; and Enders and Powells Valley, 1934-46.

**Ebenezer Church, Lower Swatara Township**

The evangelical influence of the Oberlin and the Highspire congregations issued in the organization of "Balsbaugh's Class" some-
time prior to 1846. John Balsbaugh, its leader, lived a half mile west of the Ebenezer Church which stands about two miles north of Highspire along the Middletown-Oberlin road. In 1851 it was known as “Eshenauer’s Class.” George Eshenauer, whose farm was a half mile beyond Balsbaugh’s toward Oberlin was its leader. Peter Corl, a local preacher, Samuel Ulrich, and John Balsbaugh were also leaders, and Christopher Shenk and R. H. Riter were class stewards. Solomon L. Swartz, upon his conversion in the year 1861 joined the class, was elected its leader, and served in that capacity for a period of thirty years.

After having held services in members’ homes for more than twenty years these lay leaders built a house of worship, probably in the year 1865. The deed of transfer for the property dated January 26, 1866, clearly shows that “Ebenezer Church” had already been erected. Elijah Balsbaugh and wife Anna were the grantors and Solomon L. Swartz, Samuel Ulrich, and John Balsbaugh, trustees for the United Brethren in Christ, were the grantees. In 1873 a half acre of ground some rods north of the church lot was bought for a burial ground. Brothers Swartz and Ulrich, and Elijah Balsbaugh were trustees for the congregation at that time.

There is no particular reason for singling out the Ebenezer Church to recite an incident pertaining to the moral status of an official member. A certain official member of this congregation held a tavern license. At a quarterly conference held at one of the churches of the circuit the presiding elder made a motion that the minister of the charge exhort the member “with regard to his tavern license, according to the rules laid down in Discipline.” This brother was an influential citizen of Lower Swatara Township. Five years prior to the lodging of this complaint against him in the quarterly meeting, he was one of four men to use their influence in having the township adopt the Free Public School System, and at the same time also he made a generous contribution toward the erection of the church in Highspire. Whether the action of the quarterly was carried out subsequent records fail to disclose but from his later relation to the work we infer that he complied with the exhortation. Every quarterly conference record book we have yet examined reveals a wide variety of numerous complaints dealt with. Most of them had to do with failure on the part of elders to hold class meetings regularly, of stewards in failing to collect their quarterage, and of local preachers in their failure to attend meetings, or in not preaching as often as they should. There are many instances of personal grievances among non-official members.

The building when erected was a frame structure built along simple lines without tower or bell. These were added in the year 1882 at a cost of something over $400. In 1899 improvements costing about $300 were made. In the year 1908 the family of the deceased Solomon L. Swartz had the church beautifully frescoed and had painted on the walls two life-size pictures of Christ.

Brother Swartz was an elder in the conference, though never
serving as an itinerant. He received annual conference license in the year 1871 and was ordained an elder eight years later. After having resided near the Ebenezer Church for sixty-four years, he with his family moved to Middletown. Soon after moving there he was elected a class leader for the church at Middletown and in this office he served faithfully and earnestly until he was called to his heavenly home, October 6, 1907, at the age of eighty years and nineteen days.

John Balsbaugh, the first class leader, and his wife Mary Shoop had three sons who took an active part in the work at Ebenezer; their names being Elijah, Solomon, and Henry. Elijah, followed by Solomon, both served in the capacity of class leader and Sunday school superintendent. A son of Henry, Frank by name, who is still active in the work of the congregation, has been class leader and superintendent for many years. John Walters and Christian Swartz also held these offices. The present superintendent is Norman Shope, and he together with Edgar Lindemuth, Frank Balsbaugh, and Clair Shope constitute the trustee board.

Ebenezer Church has been attached to the following circuits and charges: Highspire, 1846-61; Lancaster, 1861-63; Highspire, 1863-69; Hummelstown, 1869-71; Highspire, 1871-88; Oberlin, 1888-93; East Harrisburg, 1893-99; Harrisburg, 1899-1910; Chamber Hill and Ebenezer, 1910-29; and Hummelstown Circuit, 1929-46.

Elizabethtown, Trinity Church

The circuit riders who travelled the Halifax and Dauphin circuits in going up the valley of Wiconisco Creek did such effective work that as early as 1834 United Brethren had some share in building a church, known as "Motters," located one mile east of Elizabethtown. The Methodists and United Brethren cooperated in erecting this church. Henry Kuntzelman Sr., who preached in the German language for the Methodists sold a tract of ninety-two and a half square perches of land, fronting on the North side of the road leading from Millersburg to Lykens to John Motter Jr., Isaac Motter, and Henry Kuntzelman Jr., "Trustees legally elected and appointed by the Methodisten and United Brethren in Christ congregations in Union, for the love and affection they (Henry Kuntzelman and wife, Mary, sic) have and bear to the said congregations and the further consideration of one dollar." The deed of transfer is dated October 20, 1834.

The United Brethren separately bought a small plot of ground, 46x60 feet, adjoining the original Motter's Church lot on its west, from Henry Motter and wife Mary in 1863. The deed of transfer cites that said lot adjoins on its east property of the Methodists and the United Brethren in Christ. Trustees named in the deed are: Josiah Buffington, Augustus Bauder, Thomas Motter, Nicholas Motter, and Washington Motter. On this lot the United Brethren built a frame church. The preachers who served the congregations worshiping in these two buildings, successively, were those ap-
pointed to the following circuits: Dauphin, 1834-43; Halifax, 1843-54; Lykens Valley, 1854-73; Williams Valley, 1873-74; Lykens Valley, 1874-93; and Elizabethville charge; 1893...

The annual conference took a series of actions regarding the Motter's Church property. In 1916 it elected H. G. Foster, D. J. Riegle, and E. O. Hoffman to dispose of the property. The next year the Conference Missionary and Church Extension Society took over as custodians. The church was sold in 1919 for the sum of $250, excluding the bell and the stoves, and in 1920 it was ordered that all money accruing from sale of property be turned over to the trustees of the Elizabethville Church for upkeep of the cemetery adjoining the former Motter's Church lot.

This early work at Motter's Church and other United Brethren churches of the rural communities of the Lykens Valley were the contributory sources for the beginning of the work in the town of Elizabethville, which was in about the year 1873. That section of the town in which our present property is located was formerly known as “Cross Roads,” and then later as “Washington Square.” The Methodists erected a house of worship in Washington Square in the year 1871. The church and lot were sold to John D. Snyder and wife in May 1879 and they in turn sold the property, in December of the same year to John Forney, Michael R. Keiper, and E. W. Jury, trustees for the United Brethren in Christ, for the sum of $300. This church building stood on the south side of the main east and west street. It has since been reconstructed and is at present used as a store.

After ten year's use of the former Methodist house, a lot approximately 50x190 feet in size located a short distance to the east of the former church and on the north side of Main Street, was purchased at a cost of $500 for the erection of a new structure. Trustees making the purchase were: Michael R. Keiper, Lewis H. Zeigler, Isaiah T. Buffington, Charles W. Enders, and Aaron Shoop. The new, two-story frame building, costing $12,000 was ready for use by the fall of 1889 and the annual session of the East German Conference, October 16-20 was held in it. Dedicationary services were held on the
Sabbath of the conference meeting. The following account of the event appears in the annual minutes:

"Early on Sunday morning the people of Elizabethville and surrounding country commenced to assemble in the newly-built, beautiful and commodious church of the United Brethren in Christ at Elizabethville, until every available space was taken, to hear our venerable bishop. At the appointed hour Bishop Weaver preached one of his inimitable sermons on the words, 'Simon, lovest thou me.' On Sunday evening, President C. J. Kephart, of Lebanon Valley College, preached an excellent sermon, after which Bishop Weaver dedicated the temple with appropriate ceremonies, the balance of the debt having been assumed by the trustees."

For a period of fifty-one years this building served the needs of the congregation without alterations. In 1940, however, it was so improved and enlarged as to give it the appearance of a new structure. The exterior walls were veneered with red brick. An addition of 25x52 feet with a new tower at the angle of the old and new construction, was built. This provided for Primary Department rooms, kitchen, and rest rooms. New windows and a new roof were constructed. The interior of the sanctuary was also completely renovated, new installments consisting of carpet, pews, lights and a pipe organ, were made. The Rev. H. S. Kiefer, pastor, led the congregation of 200 souls in this victorious enterprise which cost $20,355.68. The church trustees, i.e., Charles F. Daniels, Carson C. Enders, George F. Buffington, Fred C. Keiffer, William A. Bauder, and two other laymen; Ray K. Buffington and John F. Wise, constituted the building committee.

Reopening services on Sunday, November 24, 1940, were in charge of pastor Kiefer, Dr. S. C. Enck was the guest preacher at the morning service and Dr. C. A. Lynch the guest preacher at the evening service. Local and other visiting ministers brought greetings at an afternoon service, and former pastors spoke at evening meetings during the week following. The final service of the reopening period was held on Sunday, December 1, with a sermon by Dr. H. E. Miller of Lebanon Salem Church.

Two dwellings, both located on East Main Street have been used as parsonages. The first bought in 1925 was sold the next year and the present manse located next to the church on its east was purchased for the sum of $7,750.

Trinity Church has been attached to the following circuits: Williams Valley, 1873-74; Lykens Valley, 1874-93; and Lykens Valley, 1905-19. During the years when Elizabethville charge is listed as an appointment, the following ministers have served: J. M. Walters, 1893-94; S. B. Wengert, 1894-97; Ira E. Albert, 1897-98; H. E. Miller, 1899-1900; D. E. Long, 1900-1901; J. G. Smoker, 1901-02; J. G. Smoker, James Shoop, A. E. Shroyer, 1902-03; P. A. Bowman, 1903-05; P. M. Holdeman, 1919-22; S. T. Dundore, 1922-25; Ira A. Funk, 1925-30; J. M. Walters, 1930-37; J. O. Jones, 1937-38; and H. S. Kiefer, 1938-46.
Michael R. Keiper, whose name appears among the trustees of Trinity Church, and wife Sarah Sheesley, were the parents of the Rev. John A. Keiper, and of Mrs. Dr. H. E. Miller. John A. Keiper was converted at a campmeeting held at Bickel's Grove while kneeling between his father and mother. Soon thereafter he joined the Elizabethville Church. He was graduated from Ursinus College and received a diploma of graduation from Ursinus Theological Seminary in the year 1884. He received quarterly conference license in 1885, annual license in 1888, and was ordained in 1891. In the annual conference organization he served on a number of important committees, and represented the East German conference as a delegate to the General Conference of the year 1901 held at Frederick, Maryland. Having given nearly forty-six years to the active ministry, he passed from this life April 19, 1933.

Enders, Salem Church

About a mile North of the town of Halifax, Armstrong Creek empties into the Susquehanna River. Its upper branches drain the hilly farming country of Jackson Township, in which three United Brethren Churches are located: Fisherville, St. Paul's and Salem. The oldest of these churches is located in a village variously known as Jacksonville or Enders. The latter name is after a well-known and numerous family of that community. The progenitor of the family, Philip Enders, was born in the Province of Nassau, Germany, July 22, 1740. A grandson, George Enders, laid out the village of Jacksonville in the year 1825, on a part of a large tract of land which was in the possession of the above named Philip.

At a quarterly conference held by Casper Light, presiding elder of the district, October 21, 1844, at the Zion's or Stone Church, "It was resolved that a church house be built in the neighborhood of John and George Enders, Armstrong Valley, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, whereupon George Enders, John Bowman, and Philip Enders were elected trustees." This information was taken from an old record in custody of the present pastor. Following the above resolution is a list of the subscribers with amounts subscribed for the project. Records fail to show when the church building was completed.

The first building served the congregation until the year 1873 when a new building replaced the old. The trustees at the time of erection of the second building were: George Enders, president; George W. Enders, secretary; and Joseph Bowman, treasurer. Rev. W. Dickson Mower was pastor.

The Rev. George W. Enders, whose name appears as trustee served in other capacities in the local church—among these, as Sunday school superintendent for a period of twenty-five years. He was also an elder in the annual conference, having received quarterly license in 1876, annual license in 1881, and elders' orders in 1887. When the Rev. H. G. Clair resigned the pastorate of the circuit in the spring of the year 1893, the Rev. Enders with the Rev. George Shindler served until the close of the year.
Those now in charge of the property as trustees are: Victor Frantz, H. C. Kitzmiller, Edward Sheetz, Garland Hoover, and Harry Shoop. John Rettinger and Elmer Engle have recently filled the office of Sunday school superintendent.

In 1879 a circuit parsonage was erected in Enders. Pastors serving the circuit of which Salem's Church has been a part have continuously used it since then. The earliest parsonage for the former Halifax Circuit was located in Matamoras. A lot for that parsonage was bought March 31, 1860, by Henry Rouch, John Wolbert, and John Etter, trustees.

Salem Church was served by pastors appointed to the following circuits: Halifax, 1844-73; Jacksonville, 1873-1919; Enders, 1919-34; and Enders and Powell's Valley, 1934-46.

Fishburn's Church. Derry Township

The Fishburn's class erected its first house of worship in the year 1846. Prior to that time its members worshiped in homes and probably in the old Fishburn's schoolhouse which stood near the present church lot. Jonas Miller (1783-1864) whose name appears on deeds for both the Hershey and the Fishburn church lots lived in a large brick house located at the intersection of routes 322 and 340 immediately south of Hershey, said house was erected by Jonas Miller and wife Mary in the year 1812. It was the type of dwelling much
sought out as places for worship before our people began to erect "Meeting Houses".

Near the Fishburn's church stands another spacious farmhouse—this was erected of native limestone in the year 1790 by Philip Fishburn (1754-1851) and wife Mary, whose two sons, Benjamin and Peter had a large share in the promotion of the class and church bearing their family name. Benjamin Fishburn and wife Sophia Snavely sold twenty-five square perches out of this farm, December 28, 1846 for the price of $25 to Frederick Blessing, Charles Dasher, and Jonas Miller, trustees for the United Brethren in Christ. According to the language of the deed, the church building had already been erected.

George Balsbaugh, Benjamin Fishburn, Peter Fishburn, and Samuel Longenecker succeeded the first trustees in the period from 1850 to 1866. These men also served in other official capacities in the local church. Samuel Duey, Charles Dasher, Henry Sanders, Adam Landis, J. Zoll, and Frank Balsbaugh also were active as local officers. Brothers Longenecker and Duey were at times also connected with the work of another class which had a parallel history with that of Fishburn's from 1853 to 1885. It was made up of persons who resided in the region several miles southwardly from Fishburn's Church. This class had a variety of names—Sand Hill, Keller's, Snavely's, Longenecker's, Conewago, Hoffman's, and Shenk's. Those active in its work in addition to Longenecker and Duey were: John Ebersole, Henry Shenk, Peter Sheetz, John Hoffman, Isaac Hoffman, Noah Raub, and Elias Ebersole. The class was finally absorbed by the one at Fishburn's.

Some of the movement which resulted in the organization of a new denomination—the United Christian Church, sometimes styled
"The Hoffmanites"—centered in the Fishburn Church. The congregation, however, weathered the storm without being disrupted. Not only was the organization maintained but within less than twenty years had gained such strength that a larger building became necessary. The class built its second house of worship in the year 1886. Then after the passing of nearly another forty years, plans were made to erect the third edifice.

A brick structure well adapted for worship and Sunday school work was erected during the ministry of the Rev. J. R. MacDonald who had a ten-year pastorate with these people. Dr. A. S. Lehman officiated at cornerstone-laying ceremonies, June 28, 1925. The services of dedication were held April 25 to May 1, 1926, Bishop Wm. M. Bell preaching at the morning hour of worship, April 25, and performing dedicatory rites at the afternoon service. Dr. S. C. Enck preached in the evening. The Revs. S. G. Kauffman, O. G. Romig, Joseph Daugherty, G. W. Hallman, and A. G. Nye preached on the week-nights, and Revs. H. S. Kiefer, I. Moyer Hershey and C. A. Snively preached at Sabbath services May 1. The cost of the project $22,906.89 was entirely paid by the close of the Reverend MacDonald’s administration in the fall of 1927. The church membership at that time numbered 103 and the Sunday school enrollment was 162. The trustees who supervised the work were Albert B. Shenk, David Lerch, John O'Neal, Harry Brandt, and A. K. Winters.

The Fishburn's congregation bought a house and lot at 302 Elm Avenue, Hershey, on October 18, 1945, for use as a pastor's residence at a cost of $12,000 of which amount $5,000 has been paid during the conference year 1945-46. The Rev. Wm. G. Grosz family is the first pastor's family of this charge to enjoy the privilege of living in church-owned property. It is a very lovely home on one of Hershey's finest thoroughfares. The congregation appropriately observed the centennial anniversary of the erection of its first building on April 28, 1946. The following brethren constitute the board of trustees: Chester Burkholder, John K. Curry, Ira Shenk, Clinton Espenshade, David Lerch, Harry Winters, and Jackson Forrester.

Fishburn's Church gave from among its ranks four very successful ministers to East Pennsylvania Annual Conference, i.e. David S. Longenecker, Peter A. Balsbaugh, I. Moyer Hershey, and Charles A. Snively. Each of these brethren taught public school before taking up the profession of the ministry. Brief biographies of three of them follow, that of Doctor Hershey appears in another chapter.

David S. Longenecker, whose one brother, Samuel, was an active lay member of this church, and whose other brother, Isaac S., banker at Mt. Joy, and a familiar figure in the church there in his day, was the son of Abraham Longenecker and wife Anna Shenk of Conewago Township. East German Annual Conference granted him license in the year 1879. One year later he was appointed to Union Deposit Circuit, which charge he served three years. During the first year of his ministry he organized a class of members in the city
HISTORY OF EAST PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

of Harrisburg and led the congregation in building its first house of worship known as Otterbein Church. The Reverend Longenecker was ordained an elder in 1881 and he continued in the active ministry until his death in 1917, having served eight appointments throughout his ministerial career. He was recording secretary of East German Conference from 1880 to 1898. The said conference elected him one of its ministerial delegates to the General Conference of the year 1901.

During a revival held at Fishburn's Church by the Rev. W. W. Fridinger, Peter H. Balsbaugh was converted and soon thereafter accepted the call to the Holy Ministry. His first appointment was Catawissa Circuit. He received annual license in 1903 and elder's orders in 1906. Following a five-year term on his first charge he subsequently served Sixth Street, Harrisburg eight years, and Columbia Salome, four years. Near the close of his third year, at Schuylkill Haven, a sudden illness brought to an end his earthly labors at the age of fifty-four years, seven months and fifteen days.

Charles A. Snively was converted in the Fishburn's Church at the age of nine years. By vote of this class he received quarterly conference license in 1902, was admitted to annual conference in 1903, and was ordained in 1910. He filled conference appointments over the years 1903-1944. It was under his leadership that Harrisburg Otterbein Church was relocated. Final payments were made on the new Sanctuary of St. Mark's Church, Mt. Joy, and on the Sunday school building of St. John's Church, Paradise, while he was pastor of these charges. While serving the latter charge, after a year of physical suffering, he died July 31, 1944 on his sixty-fifth birthday.

Ministers appointed to the following circuits for the years indicated were the pastors at Fishburn's: Dauphin, 1846-53; Hummels-town, 1853-67; Highspire, 1867-69; Union Deposit, 1869-75; Swatara, 1875-79; Conewago, 1879-80; Union Deposit, 1880-83; Swatara, 1883-85; Fishburn's, 1885-1901; Derry Church (Hershey), 1901-04; and Union Deposit, 1904-46.

Fisherville, Grace Church

Grace United Brethren Church in the village of Fisherville was first the property of the Methodist denomination which erected it in the year 1859. It was sold by the trustees of the M. E. Church to the United Evangelicals in 1891, who in turn sold it to the United Brethren by deed dated, June 3, 1903 for the sum of $275. The quarterly conference elected for its first trustee board: Aaron File, Jacob Gipple, George Shoop, James Motter, Valentine Harper, Daniel Shoop, and George W. Enders.

The information concerning the founding of a class is somewhat indefinite. A recommendation was made by the boundary committee at the conference session of 1880, "That an appointment be taken up at Fisherville and added to Halifax Mission." Whether this action was carried out, conference records do not show. There
The churches of Dauphin County probably was a class in the village before the purchase of the building.

Persons who in these later years directed the Sunday school are Theodore Biever, Mrs. Lottie Heckert, and Ira Heckert. The trustee board consists of Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Lyter, Amos Hetrick, Mrs. Harry Gouder, and Mrs. Ira Miller.

The class was attached to the Halifax Church and remained with it until 1919. From 1919 to 1934, it was with the Enders Circuit, and from 1934 to the present with the Enders-Powell’s Valley Circuit.

Forney’s Emanuel Church, Upper Paxton Township

About midway between Millersburg and Elizabethville near the Wiconisco Creek stands a white frame church known as Rife’s or Forney’s. John Forney and wife Susanna in the year 1858 sold one-fourth acre of ground to Jacob Emerich, John Lenker, and Jonas Jury, trustees of the “Society of the United Brethren in Christ,” for the consideration of $20. A church building was erected on this plot in the same year. Soon after organization of the class, John Forney replaced Emerich as trustee, and Samuel E. Gilbert was added to the board.

A new church was erected in the year 1901, during the ministry of the Rev. M. H. Jones. While the building was in process of erection, services were held in Bonewitz’s barn. The trustees who had charge of the church property at the time were: George Noll, Daniel Forney, Ulrich Lenker, Samuel Gilbert, and Robert Lenker. The house of worship was dedicated early in the fall of 1901. Most of its cost, which was $2,400, was secured before dedication and the remainder on the day of dedication.

Extensive improvements were made to the structure in 1935. These consisted of metal ceiling, new carpet, repainting and re-decorating, and installation of electric lights. Pastor J. M. Walters was in charge of reopening services held June 9, 1935. Cost of these improvements was $650, which amount was secured in cash with an overplus sufficient for a new heating plant.

Forney’s Church has been attached to the following circuits: Lykens Valley, 1858-73; Williams Valley, 1873-74; Lykens Valley, 1874-1922; under Millersburg and Elizabethville quarterly conferences, 1922-23; Lykens Valley, 1923-26; under Millersburg and Elizabethville, 1926-29; Tremont, 1929-32; Enders, 1933-34; under Elizabethville, 1934-37; Williamstown, 1937-42; and Elizabethville, 1942-46.

Geyer’s Church, Londonderry Township

As early as 1846 there was a class of members attached to Highspire Circuit known as Detweiler’s. Its place of meeting was Detweiler’s Schoolhouse—a stone structure standing about a mile and a half in a northwesterly direction from the village of Swatara Hill. David Detweiler, John Gingrich, Christian Gingrich, and Jacob Like
were its leaders and stewards. The Detweiler family lived on a farm about midway between the schoolhouse and the Swatara Creek. The Gingrich families lived southwest of “Swatara Hill” in the vicinity of Geyer’s Church.

When the class erected a house of worship, the site selected was in the neighborhood of the Gingrich farms where the majority of the members of the class resided. The time when the church was built, and those who had part in it, is ascertained by an action of the quarterly conference, held December 23, 1848 for the Highspire Circuit at Neidig’s Meetinghouse. Christian Gingrich, David Detweiler, and Jacob Like were by said action elected “Trustees for the meetinghouse which they are now building at John Gingrich’s.” In 1856 Christian Garber and Eli Ruth replaced brothers Gingrich and Detweiler on the trustee board.

The appointment was attached to Lancaster Circuit in the year 1861. A roll of members recorded in a church book of that circuit for the year 1861-62 consists of the following names: Christian and Catherine Garber and Christian Garber Jr.; Christian, Polly, Joseph, Leah and Sister Gingrich; Felix, Nancy and Anna Henry; Salinda Hoffman; Samuel, Margaret and Christian Kinsey; Barbara Like; Christian, Elizabeth, and Susanna Manning; David and Sarah Moore; Elizabeth McGarvey; Elizabeth McNeal; William, Elizabeth and Catherine Peters; May Reed; Eli, Catherine, Henry, Elizabeth, and Barbara Ruth; Jacob and Anna Shoemaker; Abraham Snyder, Anna Westhaver; and Elizabeth Zeller. Eli Ruth was class leader.

Jacob Geyer, one of the sons of the Rev. George Geyer of Mt. Joy Township, Lancaster County, settled on a farm near the church site. He sold a tract of 110 square perches to Samuel Kinsey, Abraham Geyer, and John M. Gingrich, “Trustees for the United Brethren in Christ worshipping in the said church, erected on the grounds hereby conveyed, known as Cemetery Church for the consideration of $85.00.” The deed of sale, dated April 1, 1869, like in many other instances, shows that title to the property was obtained after occupation of the ground. In this instance the matter was delayed twenty years. This deed adds one more name: i.e., Cemetery Church, to those by which the church has been known—its other names during the course of the years have been: Gingrich’s, Geyer’s and Hillsdale.

The church building which has served the congregation for nearly a century has been kept in good repair. In 1920 extensive repairs were made, costing $2000. It was much improved in 1930 by laying a hardwood floor; constructing a metal ceiling; placing new pews, new lights, new window shades; and repainting. The cost was $1,705.

Church trustees for the year 1945-46 are: Irvin Shope, John S. Alwine, William Krepps, Joseph B. Landis, Elmer E. Epler; and Eli M. Kinsey, member emeritus. Additional names on the Official Board Roll are: William Rider, Edwin F. Ebersole, Morris F. Eber-
sole, Claude E. Espenshade, Mrs. Russel Harold, Mrs. Hiram Brandt, Grace Zeager, Hazel Espenshade, Edith Harbold, and Edgar E. Calhoun. Samuel Kinsey and wife Margaret May Kinsey were staunch supporters of the work of the congregation. Eli M. Kinsey, a son of this couple, has had more than sixty years of service as class leader and Sunday school superintendent.

The church has been attached to the following Circuits: Highspire, 1846-58; Hummelstown, 1858-59; Highspire, 1859-61; Lancaster, 1861-63; Highspire, 1863-69; Union Deposit, 1869-75; Swatara, 1875-79; Conewago, 1879-82; Swatara, 1882-85; Fishburn's, 1885-1901; and Hillsdale, 1901-1946.

Grantville, St. John's Church

"Mechanicsville," the former name for the town of Grantville, was also the name of the class organized there about the year 1848. The work had its beginning through the influences which went out from Shirk's Church, which lies one and one-half miles east of Grantville. Members of the Sherk family were instrumental in founding the new class at Mechanicsville. It was at a campmeeting held August 9, 1849 on the land of Michael Sherk that a trustee board was elected to build a meetinghouse. It was customary to hold the summer session of quarterly conference of circuits in connection with campmeeting services. So it happened in this case that the quarterly was "held at the house of Amos Sherk in Mechanicsville on the 3rd day of campmeeting."

The persons constituting this trustee board were: John Henry, John Walmer, and Henry B. Sherk; and as assistants, Michael Sherk and William Runkle. Michael Sherk donated a lot of fifty-seven and one-half square perches upon which a frame church was built in 1850. Successors of the first board up to the year 1880 were: John F. Stoner, George Bomgardner, George Eshenour, Daniel Kuntz, Moses Biely, Jacob S. Sherk, Benjamin Hess, and John Bomgardner. Laymen, other than trustees, who had official responsibilities during the same period were: Samuel Ellenberger, Amos Sherk, Joseph Klein, George Wolf, Jacob Wolf, Jacob Biely, Cornelius Grumbeln, and George Runkle.
A second church building, also a frame structure, was erected in 1882-93, at a cost of $7,700. The sanctuary room was forty by sixty-four feet, and the Sunday school room, thirty-three by thirty-six feet. Only a few years after its completion a severe storm twisted the structure. Though repaired to some extent at the time, it remained something of a menace to safety until 1921. It was then practically rebuilt and newly furnished at a cost of $6,500. Reopening services were held, June 18, 1922, in charge of the pastor, Paul E. Fridinger; Dr. S. C. Enck, and the Rev. M. H. Jones, preaching morning and evening, respectively. John Cassel, president of the trustee board, supervised the work of reconstruction, his associates on said board being, John G. Bomgardner, M. B. Farling, Harry W. Hetrich, and Robert Hoover.

Among the men who have been superintendents of the Sunday school are the following: Cyrus Beily, D. Allen Boyer, John H. Kuntz, John W. Seaman, Cyrus Bomgardner, and George D. Miller. Officers of the Women's Missionary Society include the following: Mrs. Charles E. Parmer, Mrs. Oliver Miller, and Mrs. Allen Speck. A list of official personnel from 1880 forward, not previously mentioned includes: Reuben D. Wagner, Henry N. Hummer, Benjamin F. Shertzer, David Allen Boyer, Jacob M. Clemence, Ellsworth A. Lerch, Cyrus Clemence, Frank W. Blatt, Wesley B. Shertzer, William I. Hess, Francis Deaven, Mervin L. Etnoyer, Charles M. Miller, and Thomas J. Yorty.

The Grantville Church provided a parsonage for its minister by the purchase of a residence located at the eastern limits of the town on the south side of Grantville's main street. The purchase was made in 1938, and it was dedicated in the same year on April 10 by Dr. S. C. Enck. Its cost was $4,500.

The ministers who served the Grantville Church are listed under the following circuits and charges: Dauphin, 1848-53; Hummelstown, 1853-57; Dauphin-Hummelstown, 1857-58; Hummelstown, 1858-66; Harrisburg, 1866-68; Union Deposit, 1868-69; Harrisburg, 1869-73; Grantville, 1873-89; Union Deposit, 1889-93; and Grantville, 1893-46.

**Halifax, Otterbein Church**

In the introductory paragraphs to this chapter we stated Newcomer's activity in this area and the results of a campmeeting held near Halifax in 1843. A class was organized about the year 1840. Campmeetings in this area, as in others, continued to win converts who, when returning to their home localities, united with the nearest class. In 1867 such a meeting was held in George Baker's woods about three miles southeast of Halifax. As a result a new class of twelve members was organized whose place of worship was the Methodist Church of Halifax.

After the passing of two years, a trustee board consisting of George W. Etter, Jacob Knouff, and Joshua Ditty, was elected with instruction to purchase a lot and to erect a house of worship to be
known as the Otterbein Church of the United Brethren in Christ. A lot—present church site—was purchased for the sum of $210, and a frame church was erected thereon. There was much timber nearby and some of the lumber used in the structure was donated. Farmers brought stone from Peter’s Mountain by wagons for the foundation. George W. Etter, builder, erected the building costing $2,569.57. Cost of lot, painting, and furnishing increased the amount to $4,018.94. The dedicatory service was to be held in the fall of 1869 but owing to inclement weather this service was postponed. The building was dedicated to the worship of the Triune God by Bishop Jonathan Weaver, February 27, 1870, the Rev. Amos F. Yeager, pastor of Halifax Circuit being in charge of the ceremonies.

A parsonage was erected at 233 Armstrong Street in the year 1901, C. Koppenheffer, C. R. Shope, and W. B. Nace, being trustees in charge. The house has been considerably improved in recent years. The church building has likewise been improved. An addition was constructed in 1911 costing $2,000. A belfry was built in 1931. The church was enlarged in 1935 by adding space for three class rooms and a library; the entire building was redecorated; and a new heating plant was installed, at a total cost of five thousand dollars. Dr. S. C. Enck officiated at consecration services held July 14, 1935. In 1940 a new carpet, costing $1,200 was laid, and the woodwork refinished. The Rev. C. A. Funk, pastor 1912-15, preached the sermon at the service of reopening, June 30. In 1932 a lot adjoining the church property was bought for the sum of $300 for parking.

Ministers preaching in the area in which the class of Halifax was located were those who served Dauphin Circuit, 1840-43; and Halifax Circuit, 1843-72. Since the latter year, the following ministers served the Halifax Church: John W. Geiger, 1872-73; W. Dickson Mower, 1873-74; A. V. H. Gosweiler, 1874-75; E. L. Hughes, 1875-78; J. S. Riddle, 1878-79; W. Dickson Mower, 1879-81; E. P. Funk, David Strickler, 1881-82; H. H. Mower, Jeremiah VonNieda, 1882-83; Jeremiah VonNieda, 1883-84; G. W. Lightner, 1884-87; M. P. Sanders, 1887-89; Horace G. Clair, 1889-91; M. B. Spayd, 1891-93; Thomas Garland, 1893-95; G. F. Bierner, 1895-98; G. W. M. Rigor, I. M. Hershey, 1898-99; I. M. Hershey, 1899-1900; William Beach, 1900-01;
HARRISBURG CHURCHES, Introductory

Harrisburg, named after its founder, John Harris, was destined to become the capital city of the great Keystone State and one of the strongholds of United Brethrenism. For a brief time, beginning with the year 1786, it was called Louisbourgh. Inasmuch as the county of which this town became the county-seat was called Dauphin, after the Dauphin of France, Chief Justice Thomas McKean with other judges of the Supreme Court of the State conceived the idea that the town should be called Louisbourgh after Louis XVI.

The community known as Harris' Ferry had a slow growth for some decades. By 1787 one hundred and forty-three names were included in the Louisbourgh assessment list, showing a population of about six hundred persons. In 1791 the town was incorporated a Borough and named Harrisburg. The number of taxables had grown to two hundred and twenty and the census of 1791 listed 900 inhabitants.

The first church house in Harrisburg was a log building erected on the corner of Third Street and Cherry Alley through general subscriptions taken up in 1787. The name of Johannes Herse (John Hershey) appears among the subscribers as one of the most generous contributors. Though acknowledged to be the property of those who professed the doctrines of Ulrich Zwingli and Martin Luther, the original subscription papers recited that the edifice was "for the use of the subscribers," and for many years clergymen of different denominations worshiped in it. Among the trustees of the property was a man by the name of George Rettig. By the first record of an election held in 1790 by the Lutheran and Reformed parties, George Rettig is shown to be a trustee for the Lutherans. The second house of worship built was the Market Square Presbyterian Church. It was opened for worship in February 1808. William Glass was the builder.

The foregoing items are recited in order to show relative significance to the early work of the United Brethren within Harrisburg. The following information from Newcomer's Journal tells a partial story of the contacts and services of our pioneers in the city. In 1798 and 1799, respectively, Geeting and Newcomer together came to Harrisburg, and on each visit Geeting preached in the log church and Newcomer lodged with Brother Rettig; in 1800 Newcomer and Martin Boehm preached at John George Pfrimmer's house; in 1801 Geeting, Newcomer, and John Hershey preached in Harrisburg; in 1802 Boehm preached in Harrisburg; in 1808 Geeting and Newcomer
lodged at the home of Mr. Glass and Geeting preached; and in 1819 Newcomer preached in Harrisburg.

Under date of January 25, 1824, Newcomer writes as follows: "I visited a criminal in prison who is under sentence of death; I conversed and prayed with him: Oh Lord! grant unto this poor sinner genuine repentance." Concerning his return to prison next day, he states: "I returned to Harrisburg, visited the criminal again; he appears a little more affected; and requested me to visit him again." The last item from Newcomer relating to Harrisburg is dated February 10, 1829. It is: "Came through Harrisburg, visited Winebrenner and Riley and lodged with Jacob Rupp."

Among the recruits of pioneer missionary efforts in and about Harrisburg was Henry Herr. By some strange coincidence he became the owner of a large parcel of ground (eighty-one and one-half acres) which earlier was the property of the Rev. John Hershey. Henry Herr, born February 2, 1798, married Fannie Shopp, a member of the Shiremanstown Shopp family. The house which this couple built in 1843 stands on the corner of Verbeke and North Fourteenth streets, being numbered 1330 Verbeke Street.

The annual conference session of the year 1832 was held at the Herr residence, which likely stood on the site of the newer house. Mr. Herr was a man of considerable wealth; was the holder of Bank Stock, Harrisburg Cotton Company Stock, and Harrisburg Bridge Company Stock; and was the owner of a number of lots and houses. Herr Street was named after him. He was a trustee for the first church held by the United Brethren in the city, was class leader and class steward at the Raysor's Church, and had other interests in
local church matters. Annual conference of the year 1842 elected him general Book Agent for the English press, a place he filled for a number of years following. The 1842 session also elected him treasurer of the Home Missionary Society of the original conference. Death closed his very useful career June 9, 1853. His widow lived until 1882. This couple with some of their kin are interred in the Harrisburg Cemetery which was laid out on Mr. Herr’s farm. At the time of the father’s death the family lived on the corner of North and High Streets.

The Second Street Church

The first church building owned by the United Brethren was just within the old borough limits on lot No. 318 as by the town plan. That part of said lot on which the church was erected fronted fifty-four and one-half feet on the east side of Second Street, extending from South Street to Barberry Alley, and having a depth of forty-five feet on said alley. This lot, with a brick church erected thereon in 1820, was purchased from the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, May 31, 1839, for the sum of $1,200. A rather interesting incident connected with this building is given by Egle. A few years subsequent to the erection of this building some unknown person or persons entered it at night and with an auger, bored holes in the sills of the church. These they filled with powder, which they ignited by slow matches, and the explosion which resulted shattered the pulpit. The Governor of the State and the town Council each offered a reward of one hundred dollars, but the perpetrators of the deed were never discovered. The outrage excited such sympathy that by means of liberal donations of money which flowed in, the congregation was not only enabled to construct a new pulpit, but also to pay an onerous debt on the church edifice itself.

This act reflects an attitude of certain of the populace at the time, not only toward the Methodists, but also toward certain other Christian bodies, including the United Brethren.

When the church property was bought, Henry Herr, Frederick May, and James Gallagher were trustees for the United Brethren. Frederick May was ordained an elder in 1838. Upon division of the conference area in 1846, he retained membership in the West Pennsylvania Conference. James Gallagher was a member of the trustee board of the Methodist Church when the church lot was bought by them. He was ordained in the United Brethren Church in 1839, retaining that relationship for a period of four years.

The congregation had a short-lived existence—five years at the longest. From its beginning, it was attached to Dauphin Circuit. Annual conference made but two pastoral appointments to this charge. John L. Baker, a member of Allegheny Conference was appointed in 1842. An appropriation of $100 was made in 1843 and Enoch Hoffman was appointed. Our records do not show what be-
came of the congregation; the property was sold by the sheriff, January 18, 1844 to Henry Herr for the sum of $800. It was subsequently held by the Sons of Temperance, and still later was used as a Synagogue. The building now on the site—Nos. 321-325 North Second Street, is the property of certain public-minded citizens who purchased it for the use of the United Welfare organization.

The Front Street Church

Those persons interested in the advancement of the denomination and in the salvation of souls were not long without a church home. In 1850 David O'Farrel, who came to the conference from Virginia in 1844, was appointed to Harrisburg Mission to gather the scattered sheep in Harrisburg in a new venture. Shortly after the opening of the Reverend O'Farrel's second year, a trustee board consisting of William Putt Jr., George W. Shaefler, and Jacob Shaffner, bought from Levi Wolfersberger on May 28, 1851, a lot with a church building thereon, for the sum of $1,000. The lot—No. 52 in the town plan—was the second lot south of Locust Street fronting on Front Street. The church was built by the Baptists and dedicated by them, August 18, 1851. It was a brick structure forty by fifty feet, with a school room in the basement. The cost of lot and erection of building amounted to $6,700. This property was in the hands of the sheriff when Mr. Wolfersberger bought it in 1850. So the United Brethren were not the only folk who were faced by church debt and the sheriff.

The Reverend O'Farrel remained pastor for a third year, at the end of which the membership numbered one hundred. Pastors following him were: Jacob S. Kessler, 1853-54; J. L. Homes, 1854-55; J. L. Holmes followed by Kessler, 1855-56; David Strickler, 1856-57; J. P. Bishop, supply 1857-58; and Israel Carpenter, 1858-59. The church had a struggling existence, now decreasing in membership and still remaining in debt. When Henry Herr in March 1853, shortly before his demise, made his last will and testament he ordered that:

In case the trustees of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ of Harrisburg, i.e. Jacob Shaffner, William Putt, and Solomon Hiney or their successors should at any time previous to the first of April 1855 make it appear that all but one hundred dollars be paid on said church, then my executor is hereby directed to pay said amount of my estate to get said Church free of debt.

Annual conference came to its aid by making missionary appropriations and in appointing a financial agent to collect funds from outside sources for its support. The church was attached to Highspire Circuit in 1859 and to Dauphin Circuit in 1861. Jacob Snyder, Samuel Nissley, and Christian Shiffler were class officers when at the second quarterly held on the circuit June 8, 1861 it was reported that the work was so disorganized and so weakened that the church
house had been sold by the sheriff. This quarterly ordered that the appointment be dropped.

In spite of this situation the church fathers did not give up. In 1863 Pennsylvania Conference by consent of East Pennsylvania took over Harrisburg Mission and attached it to Shopp's Station. Daniel Eberly and T. A. Bushong were the ministers. In 1864 our conference made an appropriation of $350 and appointed H. B. Winton. He, however, did not serve. Henry Schropp took over and at the close of the year reported a membership of thirty-one. In 1865 this appointment was made a supply but no pastoral assignment was made. It is not known where the members worshipped after their house was sold in 1861.

Thus the attempts to found a permanent work in Harrisburg ended in seeming failure. It was not long, however, until a renewed effort was made. With that the tide turned from failure to success. As the city grew the United Brethren Church grew with it, so that in the year of our Lord 1946 there are within the city limits and its suburbs nine strong churches with a combined membership of 5,290.

Harrisburg First Church

The annual conference was determined to establish, permanently, denominational work in the capitol city. The session of 1866 passed the following resolution:

Whereas, We regard the united co-operation of our membership in Harrisburg as altogether necessary to our success in establishing a society in said city; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the duty of this Conference to appoint an earnest, working man, to Harrisburg Mission Station, give him a liberal appropriation and instruct him to use his influence in connection with the P.E. of the Harrisburg District to secure a good central lot of ground and have erected thereon such a house of worship as the means will justify.

To make good its resolve, the conference appointed in that year, Wm. S. H. Keys, who had a very successful four-year pastorate on the New Holland Circuit, having come to us from the Allegheny Conference. It further supported the project by making a missionary appropriation of $750. By the end of the first year the Rev. Keys had gathered a congregation of sixty-five members. His ministry in Harrisburg was well received, and the conference took note of it in stating:

In view of the fact that Rev. W. S. H. Keys has already secured a considerable amount of subscriptions towards the erection of a house of worship in the city of Harrisburg, Pa., and has furthermore obtained from leading men of the State and the nation, testimonials and recommendations, in regard to himself and his work in Harrisburg, of a highly commend-
tory manner, thereby opening to him the way for obtaining donations from capitalists throughout the country, it was:

Resolved, That Brother Keys be continued Missionary Agent to collect funds during the year, for the erection of a house of worship in Harrisburg.

Though he was in that year appointed pastor to Columbia, he was at the same time continued in charge of the Harrisburg Mission. Ex-bishop Jacob Erb served the Mission two years, 1868-1870, virtually without salary, while he retained his residence at Shiremans-town. While its pastor, he purchased for the sum of $1,400, a lot on Boas Street, where the present church is located. On October 20, 1869 he deeded it to the trustees of the church, who were: Leander Lehman, S. K. Deitrich, Henry Burn, Daniel Wise, and William Trummer. The Rev. G. W. Miles Rigor, another capable leader served the church two years. During the first year he received two hundred and seven persons into church membership, bringing the total net membership to two hundred and fifty-five. He also reported a Sabbath School membership of one hundred and ninety-three pupils and twenty-eight teachers. During the four years of its existence the Mission had developed into one of the strongest churches in the conference.

The church trustees: Leander Lehman, J. X. Quigley, P. E. Deitrick, John W. Hoover, W. H. H. Gontz, A. J. Walmer and Samuel Lane, sent a memorial to the annual conference session of the year 1880, therein reviewing the work of the congregation, its strategic location in a rapidly growing railroad center; and made a plea for the conference and the denomination in general to come to their aid in providing, “... a better, more commodious and inviting house of worship.” This memorial was placed into the hands of a committee for study. The committee reported approval of the project of erecting a memorial Church, such as would be a credit to the denomination; the appointing of and cooperating with a collector of funds; and recommended the enterprise to churches of the conference and the state.

Execution of the project succeeded admirably. The new “Memorial Church” was completed in time to entertain the first joint session of the Pennsylvania and East Pennsylvania Conferences, February 22, 1882. The Rev. Ezekial Light, presiding elder of the district paid tribute in glowing terms for the work accomplished, in the following words:

Harrisburg Memorial unquestionably bears off the palm in church enterprise. It challenges our admiration in the successful completion of its new and beautiful church. Its financial ability considered, I venture to say that for liberality, energy and thorough enlistment of all its members, from the oldest to the youngest, in the prosecution of the work now so grandly, symmetrically, beautifully and substantially complete before our eyes, this congregation is without a peer in all the churches of the United Brethren in Christ.
Harrisburg First Church
The Sabbath Day evening service of the conference session was set aside for a dedicatory service. Bishops John Dickson and John Jacob Glossbrenner conducted the service. The Rev. Isaiah Baltzell was pastor from the time when the project was launched, and until completed. His thorough and experienced leadership had much to do with its success. He reported to the session of conference a church membership of two hundred and eighty-one, and a Sabbath School enrollment of three hundred and forty-eight. Henry Burn was the lay representative to this conference.

During the pastorate of the Rev. S. D. Faust there were notable advances. A very convenient and commodious parsonage was bought, No. 258 Herr Street, at a cost of $3,500 in the year 1889. The trustees who made the transaction were: Charles B. Rettew, DeWitt A. Fry and W. C. Deitrick. During the course of the next two years the interior of the church was thoroughly renovated and highly improved, and a steeple erected, at an approximate cost of $4,500.

After another decade passed, the church was again redecorated. A new pipe organ was also installed. This was in 1901, Rev. A. A. Long being the pastor. During the term of the Rev. I. E. Runk, very extensive repairs were made costing $9,500. During the Rev. G. W. Hallman's second pastorate the congregation observed the fiftieth anniversary of the erection of its second house of worship. Bishop G. D. Batdorf, a former pastor, preached at the opening service of the anniversary series. Renovations and improvements costing $1,600 were made while the Rev. Thomas May was pastor. After the work was completed, reopening services were held December 10, 1939.

Harrisburg First Church had a number of capable lay leaders. Among them was C. B. Rettew, lay representative to annual conference for many years, who for a period printed the conference proceedings at his own expense. Walter Deitrich was for many years lay delegate to annual sessions. More recently, Charles L. Bitzer has represented the local church in that capacity. In the local congregation he is a member of the board of trustees and general Sunday School superintendent. He is a trustee of Lebanon Valley College, presently serving as its vice-president. Mrs. DeWitt A. Fry has been very active in local and conference missionary organizations over many years. Alonzo G. Lehman served as secretary of the Sunday School for sixty consecutive years. In 1936 a testimonial dinner was held in recognition of this long and faithful service. Mr. Harry E. Paisley, president of the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School Association was speaker for the occasion.

When the church was organized it was called Boas Street Church. In 1882 when the new church was erected it was named Memorial Church. By recommendation of the boundary committee in 1909, annual conference voted it the name, First Church.

This congregation opened a new mission in the year 1873. Adam K. Fahnestock and wife Elizabeth sold a plot of ground for the
nominal sum of one dollar to the trustees of Boas Street Church, who were: Leander Lehman, William M. Kline, J. MacAlvaine, Edward Stoever, and J. S. Mickle. The lot had a frontage on Herr Street of sixty feet, between Eleven and Eleven-and-a-half Streets, and extended about eighty feet in depth toward Boas Street. The deed of sale is dated June 28, 1873. A building was erected in the same year. It bore the name, Plymouth Chapel. Annual conference officially recognized the mission and left it to the pastoral and congregational care of its organizers. The Chapel was used for mission and Sunday School work until about the year 1890. Successors of the above trustees, in 1894 sold the property to the trustees of Asbury M. E. Church for the sum of $750.


**Harrisburg Otterbein Church**

East German Conference at its 1872 session ordered that a mission be opened in the city of Harrisburg, and appointed the Rev. Job Light. It was left open to be supplied at the 1873 session. In 1875, Harrisburg Mission was attached to Union Deposit Circuit. There are no records available to show what progress was made.


The Rev. D. S. Longenecker then minister of Union Deposit Circuit of the East German Conference, which extended to Harrisburg, was invited to preach for this group. He accepted the invitation and in May 1879 set up a church organization. A Sunday School of fifty-eight members was organized. Services were held and activities carried forward in the Zwingli German Reformed Church,
THE CHURCHES OF DAUPHIN COUNTY

located on North Street and Church Alley, while they were without a house of worship of their own.

The trustees elected at the time of organization were: Emory A. Fisher, Henry C. Shaffner, Lewis B. Raber, Robert Bleyer, and George L. Sellers. They purchased a plot of ground fronting fifty-five feet on Reily Street, between Margaret Street and Kepner Alley, and extending along said alley to a depth of seventy-eight feet. Plans were formulated to erect a house of worship, forty by sixty-four feet, one story high. Excavation was begun in November 1879, and the completed structure costing $4,430.70 was dedicated June 20, 1880. The Rev. Amos Graul, by appointment of the East German Conference began his pastorate several months previously.

At the end of his first year, the second of the church’s history, pastor Graul reported having received 112 members into church fellowship, bringing the net total to 157, and having a Sunday School of 306 pupils and twenty teachers and officers. Before the conference year closed additional ground next to the original lot had been purchased for the sum of $125.

The Rev. Graul was appointed to Otterbein Church for a second time at the spring session of East German Conference. The said session by resolution requested the Bishop to change the time of holding sessions from spring to fall. The Bishop complied with this request. Consequently East German Conference held two sessions in the year 1881, and Rev. Graul’s second term ended October 5, 1881. Between the two sessions, the General Conference of the year 1881 met. It ordered that Pennsylvania and East Pennsylvania Conferences unite. In Chapter I of this volume it is shown how that action was carried out. So far as Otterbein Church is concerned, East German conference did not appoint a minister to it in the fall of 1881 although it appears Graul served until February of 1882. Somehow in the shuffle of change of conference boundaries Otterbein Church was taken away from East German Conference. The said conference received a petition from Otterbein Church lodging a complaint against this action, but nothing could be done about it. From 1882 to 1885 the joint sessions of the two above named conferences made the ministerial appointments. General Conference of 1885 placed Otterbein Church to Pennsylvania Conference, with which it remained until 1901.

Work continued at Otterbein Church as auspiciously as it had begun. Plans adopted in 1883 to enlarge the building by adding fifteen feet to its length; and by adding a second story, as was the original intention, were carried out. The work as proposed was completed in 1885. In September 1889 plans were adopted to build a parsonage on the lot purchased in 1880. The house was attached to the church building.

An organ was installed during the Rev. Hutchinson’s ministry. While the Rev. B. F. Daugherty was pastor the front of the structure was changed, the sanctuary was refrescoed and carpeted, and im-
In the revival of the winter of 1900, one hundred and twenty persons were converted. These series of meetings were conducted by the pastor, the Rev. C. A. Burtner. It was thought that the nervous strain brought on by the revival was indirectly the cause of his death. During his successor’s term, that of the Rev. E. S. Bowman, special missionary support was given to the work of the Rev. N. H. Huffman, pastor of the congregation at Coto Laurel, Puerto Rico. In 1903 steps were taken to open a new mission. The Sixth Street Church was the result of this endeavor.

In 1904, during Easter Week, the congregation celebrated its Silver Anniversary. In preparation for the proper churchly atmosphere of this event, extensive improvements and some alterations were made. The church was reopened for services, Sunday March 27, 1904, with Bishop E. B. Kephart as the guest speaker. Sixteen years passed and the sanctuary was again redecorated, and a pipe organ was installed, totalling an expenditure of $5,680.66.

A long forward look toward relocating on a new site was taken in 1907, when ground was bought on the corner of Third and Maclay Streets. This ground was later sold but the matter of relocation remained a live issue. In anticipation of such a movement the residence at No. 220 Harris Street was bought to be used as a parsonage. Its cost was $8,000. Dr. Enck dedicated the house March 2, 1924, with simple but impressive ceremonies.

The vision to erect a new house of worship began to take definite form by the purchase of property located on North Third Street, having a frontage of eighty-four feet, and extending in depth along Peffer Street 204 feet. This action was taken by unanimous approval at a congregational meeting held June 26, 1927. Ground-breaking services were held September 25, 1928, with the following of the clergy taking part: J. A. Lyter, D. E. Young, E. E. Saul, C. H. Hendrickson, and the pastor C. A. Snavely; and A. S. Lehman who gave the principal address. Present also were three charter members and one who joined the church soon after organization: they were J. A. Runkle, Mary Shaffner, Mrs. Runkle, and J. Frank Shumberger; George W. Crumleigh, a veteran in local church work was in charge of the ceremonies. The cornerstone laying took place on March 25, 1928, Dr. S. C. Enck, officiating.

The property of the new site was in possession of Dr. J. H. Kreider. He accepted in exchange of properties, the Harris Street parsonage at a value of nine thousand dollars, and was paid the difference amounting to eighteen thousand dollars. The three story dwelling on the new property was put into use as a parsonage.

Plans called for the erection of the Sunday School unit only. It was however, so laid out and of such size and proportions that it
has served the congregation admirably for worship, education, and social purposes to the present. Its walls are of stone taken from the quarries at Perdix. Beautiful art windows, memorials to the living and the dead, enhance the beauty of its interior.

The lay members who carried the responsibility of its erection consisted of the trustee board members, John Runkle, George Crumleigh, Alfred Hoerner, Christian Houseman, J. Frank Slike, C. E. Shaffner, and Hartman Holly; and two additional brethren, John Brownawell and J. B. Fortenbaugh. The cost of the building and furnishings, which included an Estey Pipe Organ with chimes was $155,000.

A series of dedicatory services began with the Sunday School session of January 27, 1929. Dr. W. R. Funk, publishing agent,
Dayton, Ohio, was the special guest speaker for the day. He dedicated the house to the worship of Almighty God at the evening service. Five former pastors preached on successive evenings of the week following. Dr. S. C. Enck brought the message on Sabbath morning of the second week, and pastors of our Harrisburg churches were the preachers for evening services of the second week.

The Rev. C. R. Beittel came to the congregation as its pastor in October 1928. The first assembly at the new building was held October 7, 1928, the second Sunday of Rev. Beittel's pastorate. In the brief time intervening between his coming and the dedication he worked enthusiastically to see that every thing was in readiness for that great and long looked-for event. He has now completed eighteen years of service to this church—years of effort to meet pressing financial problems, and of further spiritual increases and development of congregational life.

Numerous lay people whose lives and services have helped to make Otterbein Church what it is today have already been named. There are a host of others who through the years made vital contributions to the work. Those of recent years who have served through major local church offices are: Mrs. C. R. Beittel, Mrs. Verna Banks, Mrs. Elizabeth Dowhower, Mrs. Christian Houseman, Mrs. Roy Hartman, Mrs. Charles Miller, Mary Ward, Atelia Richwine, Florence Billow, Isabella Unger, Annie Colestock, Edith Houseman, Lile Fisher, Richard L. Smith, S. H. Machamer, Charles H. Bernhardt, John Vanhorn, Russell Hawel, and Amon Hitz. Dale R. Beittel, son of the pastor, and Clair M. Hitz have been granted quarterly conference license by recommendation of this congregation. William C. Swartz is lay delegate to annual conference.

The list of pastors of the congregation is as follows: D. S. Longenecker, 1879-80; Amos Graul, 1880-82; A. H. Rice, 1882-86; C. T. Stearn, 1886-89; J. R. Hutchinson, 1889-91; W. H. Washinger, 1891-94; B. F. Daugherty, 1894-97; C. A. Burtner, 1897-1900; E. S. Bowman, 1900-08; E. O. Burtner, 1908-09; M. L. Weekley, 1909-11; S. E. Rupp, 1911-23; C. A. Snively, 1923-28; and C. R. Beittel, 1928-46.

Harrisburg Derry Street Church

As that area of East Harrisburg, commonly known as Allison's Hill, developed, United Brethren families moved there. The first attempt to locate a church within this area was made in 1871. A new mission called "Thirteenth Street Mission" was ordered to be established by annual conference of that year. A plot of ground, fifty by one-hundred feet was sold to Henry Reist, Noah A. Walmer, Adam Miller, Abraham Bongardner, and Robinson Hughes, trustees of the United Brethren in Christ Church in Harrisburg for the sum of $800. The ground consisting of lots Nos. 75 and 76 was located on Regina Street between Fourteenth and Fifteenth Streets according to East Harrisburg Book Plan A-28; but as described in the deed,
THE CHURCHES OF DAUPHIN COUNTY

the plot ran along the east side of Chayne Street and touched Regina Street only on its northwest corner.

The conference minutes of 1872 list this appointment as “Calvary Church.” Hiram Neaffer served the church 1871-73, and at the end of his second year reports a membership of sixty-five. The ministers who followed Neaffer were: John R. Reitzel, 1873-74; W. Dickson Mower, 1874-76; and Israel Groff, 1876-77. From 1871 to 1877 annual conference put $555 into this mission project. In 1877 the church was attached to Harrisburg Circuit; in 1878 to Boas Street Church; and from 1879 to 1882 to Harrisburg Circuit. It is not mentioned in boundary committee reports after 1882.

A second effort to provide a house of worship in this section of the city resulted in the founding of Derry Street Church. It was a joint effort on the part of annual conference leaders and certain laymen of the Penbrook Church. The presiding elder in his report to the annual session of 1889 recommended as follows:

That section of Harrisburg, commonly called Allison Hill should have immediate attention by the Conference. We must occupy it now or it will be too late. Every year we hesitate we will live to regret. The Conference, at this session, ought to provide for that ground at once; not by resolution only, but by the appointment of a good man and provision for his support—a man full of the spirit of self-sacrifice. With such a man, and such members as now live in that territory, success will be only a question of time.

The Conference Church Extension Society acted favorably to the recommendation and made an appropriation of three hundred dollars.

In the reports of the said Society and of the Boundary Committee, the new mission is called “Brookwood.” The only connection of the past and the present relating to this name is Brookwood Street, which runs eastwardly, beginning at the Old Catholic Cemetery.

Though no pastor was appointed to the mission in 1889, nevertheless a class of about thirty members was formed, a Sunday School was organized, and a trustee board elected. The board consisted of B. H. Engle, David Whitmoyer, Joseph Hays, Dr. J. Warren Rupp, and W. H. Bolton. The organization meeting was held at the home of Joseph Hays, South Sixteenth and Hunter streets, May 2, 1889. The Rev. H. B. Dohner, presiding elder, presided, and the Rev. M. J. Mumma, pastor of East Harrisburg Circuit also was present. Mr. Engle, who was superintendent of the Sunday School at Penbrook, conducted a school in the afternoon in homes or on lawns of members of the Brookwood Class, friends from Penbrook occasionally meeting with them.

Annual Conference session of October 1889 attached Brookwood to East Harrisburg Circuit, M. J. Mumma continuing as pastor. At the first quarterly held, it was proposed that W. H. Washinger,
then a student at Lebanon Valley College—later a bishop of the denomination—be engaged as pastor for the mission. This action was accordingly carried out. Early in the conference year, at a meeting held at the residence of Isaac Sheetz, No. 31 South Thirteenth Street, a decision was reached to buy a plot of ground and to erect a chapel. On April 1, 1890, trustees: Daniel Runkle, B. H. Engle, Joseph Hayes, Isaac Sheetz, and David Whitmeyer, bought ground, costing $2,000 fronting fifty-four feet on Derry Street and extending north on Fifteenth Street one-hundred feet. The cornerstone for the chapel was laid May 25, 1890, and the edifice, costing $6,800 was dedicated October 5th of the same year by Dr. B. F. Booth of the General Mission Board.

The Rev. D. D. Lowery was appointed pastor at the conference session of 1890. The same session constituted the mission a charge, named it Derry Street Mission, and appropriated three-hundred dollars. During his ministry of three years the spiritual progress made is indicated by the addition of 215 new members and by an increase of Sunday School enrollment to 386 pupils and twenty-four officers and teachers. Material advances likewise continued. A three-story brick parsonage was erected in 1890 on a lot purchased from B. F. Engle, fronting thirty-four feet on Derry Street adjacent to the original property. Its erection was made possible largely through the generous gifts of Mr. and Mrs. Engle. An annex built at the east side, and a vestibule constructed at the southwest corner of the chapel, added greatly to its size and convenience. Reopening services were held, September 25, 1892.

Among the laymen who contributed to the achievements of the early years of the mission’s history, in addition to those named as trustees, were: William Lessig, Charles Sheetz, Samuel Albright, Henry Arnold, John A. Major, Norman Manley, Amos C. Mumma, William Geise, Ira Nislely, J. A. Kefner, Joseph Rudy, M. M. Cassel, A. D. Coldran, William and Martin Beck, William Porr, B. Saltzman, E. Gensler, Adam Fleck, W. A. Lightner, George Gilbert, and Morris Strohm.

By 1905 a new and larger church house became a dire necessity. In that year the pastor reported to annual conference a church membership of 501 and a Sunday School enrollment of 671. The last services held in the chapel were those of April 29, 1906. The cornerstone for the present edifice was laid September 16, 1906. The new building was nearing completion when on the afternoon of May 21, 1907, it was partially destroyed by fire. The estimated loss was $15,000. At a meeting of the congregation that evening it was resolved to go forward according to plans originally proposed. The first service was held in the Sunday School room October 13, 1907, and the new house of worship was dedicated July 12, 1908 by Bishop Job S. Mills. The cost of building and furnishings, including fire loss, amounted to $91,399.12.

Three additional properties adjacent to ground previously held were secured, respectively, in 1904, 1911, and 1918. The dwelling
(No. 1508 Derry Street) was for a time used for Sunday School work. Later a chapel was erected to house the Primary Department. It was dedicated February 27, 1916. Improvements were made to the rear of the main structure in 1918. In 1922, $7,000 were spent on improvements both to the exterior and interior. The sanctuary was reopened by special services, January 7, 1923, Dr. W. R. Funk, of Dayton, Ohio, being the guest preacher. The basement was completely renovated in 1935 by arranging an assembly room and nine compartments, providing for modern needs of the Junior Depart-

Harrisburg Derry Street Church

ment. The Sunday School rooms on the main and second floors, and the sanctuary room, were renovated; new furnishings were installed; and the pipe organ was rebuilt, in 1939, at a total cost of $17,505.95.

These latter improvements were made in preparation for the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary. The special services began May 14, 1939, Bishop G. D. Batdorf being the speaker at the morning service, and Dr. S. C. Enck at the evening service. At evening services during the week following, the guest speakers were Rev.
William Webb, Jr. and Doctors J. E. Hartzler, Harry Ulrich, and H. E. Schaeffer. On Sunday May 21, Dr. Thomas B. Lyter, Dr. Joseph A. Lyter, and Dr. C. A. Lynch brought greetings and preached. Mr. Edward S. Nissley, one of the outstanding leaders of the congregation prepared an historical sketch containing detailed information on all phases of fifty years of congregational life and achievements.

The large annual Easter offering is one of the distinctive features of the Derry Street congregation. By this means, chiefly, property costs have been met. The offerings for the years 1903 to 1939 total $187,305.77. The largest amount gathered in any single year (1921) was $10,500. Total amount raised from all sources for all purposes for the fifty-year period was $723,074.34. The church is at this writing free of debt.

The congregation has supported special projects beyond its own immediate needs. It had a share in establishing State Street Church and Twenty-Ninth Street Church. Proper statements concerning the part it played will be given under each. Regular and special appeals for support of the institutions and general needs of the denomination have been generously met. The following in order named, all serving in the West African Mission Field, received the support of the congregation: Miss Etta Odle, the Rev. Lloyd Bowman and wife, the Rev. Walter Schutz and wife.


The Rev. Joseph A. Lyter, eminently successful pastor at Derry Street for twenty-five years, began his pastorate in 1899. A fuller account of his work will appear in another chapter, but it should be stated here that much of the growth and achievement of this great church were under his ministry. During his administration, Ira D. Lowery, Harry E. Ulrich, and Thomas B. Lyter, son of the pastor, entered the gospel ministry. Under the Reverend Harry W. Zechman, present pastor, the congregation is going forward in ever-increasing strength and service.

The complete list of pastors is as follows: W. H. Washinger, 1889-
Harrisburg, Sixth Street Church

Having become firmly established in the heart of the city and in East Harrisburg, those interested in the expansion of the United Brethren Church next looked to West Harrisburg as a likely field for a new enterprise. The Conference Church Extension Society in its report to the 1892 annual session expressed itself as being favorable to purchase of a plot of ground on North Sixth Street that had recently been purchased by Messrs. Schleichter and Baldwin, and by them offered for a church site. At the next yearly session, the presiding elder, reported that the conference was in possession of a valuable plot of ground and suggested that a Sunday School be established soon and later a church organization. No immediate action issued from this suggestion.

The next step was taken by the officials of the Otterbein Church. A special meeting of the official board held in April 1903 considered the possibility of launching a new mission in the west end of Harrisburg. This interest bore fruit in 1906, when in May of that year Isaiah T. Enders, Edward S. Troup, Diller S. Sollenberger, W. Howard Wagner, Robert A. Enders, George L. Sellers, Amos Funk, and Alexander McAlicher, met at the home of Mr. McAlicher, 1925 Fifth Street, to consider organizing a Sunday School. At this meeting plans were formulated to hold the first session of the School July 1, 1906, and each man present gave five dollars as a nucleus to finance the project. In the intervening time two rooms on the second floor of the Susquehanna School, Fifth and Seneca streets were rented. In preparation for the opening session each of the above named planning committee worked zealously to provide the necessary equipment, and Mr. Funk was specifically charged with the responsibility of publicity.

Sixty-seven persons met on the Sunday appointed, “favored with some of the hottest July weather we ever had.” Officers selected at this session were: Robert A. Enders, superintendent; Edward S. Troup, assistant superintendent; W. Howard Wagner, treasurer; Diller S. Sollenberger, chorister; Robert McNally, secretary, and Mrs. Naomi Reed, pianist. The school grew rapidly and three additional rooms were rented. The Rev. G. D. Batdorf, pastor of First Church, presided at the organization meeting.

Dr. D. D. Lowery, presiding elder, met with this group of Sunday School leaders and pupils on February 11, 1907. A church organization was effected by electing as trustees: Robert A. Enders, president; Diller S. Sollenberger, vice president; W. Howard Wagner, secretary, and Isaiah T. Enders, treasurer; as church treasurer, Alexander McAlicher; and as class leader, Amos Funk. Dr. Lowery appointed the Rev. P. A. Bowman, a retired elder of the conference to take charge of the work. The new congregation consisted of forty
charter members, most of whom transferred from Otterbein Church. The Rev. Bowman at once began evangelistic services at which between twenty-five and thirty persons were converted. His report to annual conference, meeting October 2-7, shows that fifty-three members had been received by letter of transfer—including the charter members; thirty-one on profession of faith; that the Sunday School had an enrollment of 224 pupils and twenty officers and teachers; and that he had organized a Women's Missionary Society and a Senior and a Junior Christian Endeavor Society.

In April 1907 the trustee board completed negotiations to purchase property fronting on Sixth Street 216 feet, and extending to a depth of 115 feet along Seneca Street. The Conference Church Extension Society made an appropriation of $4,000; the church loaned $4,000 and raised in cash $640 to pay for the lot and to launch a building program. Ground was broken in October for the erection of a chapel. The cornerstone was laid December 15, 1907 by the Rev. Bowman, and the chapel was dedicated May 31, 1908 by Dr. Lowery. The building cost $21,021.

The cornerstone of the present sanctuary was laid June 16, 1912, and the completed edifice costing $28,000 was dedicated by Dr. C. J. Kephart, March 16, 1913. The Reverends R. R. Rhoads, I. H. Albright, N. L. Linebaugh, H. M. Miller, and D. D. Lowery preached at evening services during the week following. The spacious stone structure
THE CHURCHES OF DAUPHIN COUNTY

fronts on North Sixth Street. The remaining mortgage of $4,800 having been cancelled, appropriate ceremonies were held on Easter Day 1924.

A red brick parsonage, one of the finest in the conference, was dedicated by Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent, on February 12, 1928. It stands at No. 2337 North Sixth Street on a lot next south of the church. Its cost was $15,000. The building committee in charge consisted of C. G. Johnson, H. H. Baish, E. W. Shenk, G. M. Spangler, R. A. Enders, H. J. Shenk, W. Howard Wagner, and B. B. Drum. Other trustees at the time were H. S. Byers, L. G. Smith, J. A. Good, Harry Parthemore, S. K. Bell and M. G. Sollenberger. At the evening service on the day of parsonage dedication a new Midmer-Losh pipe organ was also dedicated. Messrs. J. A. Good, F. J. Goodyear, Jr., W. F. Strong; and pastor, the Rev. D. E. Young, participated. Mrs. Laura Kuhnle directed the choir, and Robert Drum presided at the organ.

The interior of the church building was redecorated throughout, and new lights and new carpet placed at a cost of $4,000. Reopening services were held October 27, 1935, Dr. Enck preaching the sermon.

Dr. D. E. Young had just completed the sixteenth year of his pastorate at Sixth Street Church when elected to the office of conference superintendent in 1942. His last annual report showed a church membership of 798.

The congregation reminds its newer membership of the progress of earlier years by observing anniversary occasions. On the twenty-fifth occasion the following charter members were present: Robert A. Enders, Mr. and Mrs. W. Howard Wagner, Mrs. Cora Free, Mrs. Mary K. Schaeffer, Mrs. Norman Dunkle, Mrs. Cora McCurdy, Ross McAlicher, Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Drum, Amos Funk, and Mrs. Anna Sellers. These together with those whose names before mentioned in this sketch have been among the many faithful souls who have carried forward the work at Sixth Street. Many have had a distinguished record. Among such are: Amos Funk, class leader from the time the class was organized; W. Howard Wagner, treasurer of the Sunday School for seventeen years, and builder of the chapel, the main church, and parsonage; Robert A. Enders, superintendent of the Sunday School, and church trustee for many years; and Prof. H. H. Baish, whose manifold duties as a churchman are recited in another place in this volume.


The ministerial appointments and terms of service follow: P. A.
HISTORY OF EAST PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE


Harrisburg State Street Church

Members of the United Brethren Church living in the vicinity of State and Eighteenth streets met in the summer of 1901 to consider the possibility of opening a new work in that area. They made known their intention to the officials of the Derry Street Church. Dr. J. A. Lyter, pastor of the said church, appointed Daniel Runkle, H. A. Sherk, and George Gilbert to make a survey of the field. The committee of three rented a vacant store room located on the southwest corner of State and Lynn Streets for Sunday School purposes. The first session of the School was held November 10, 1901. Sixty persons were present and William Beck was elected superintendent. Because of the rapid growth of the School a vacant room in the public school building was secured for additional accommodations.

During March 1902 evangelistic services, resulting in twenty-five conversions, were conducted by William Beck and H. H. Hoffer. Dr. Lyter organized a class of forty charter members April 13, 1902. Soon thereafter at a quarterly held at Derry Street, William Ulrich, H. H. Beck, David Laudermilich, H. A. Sherk, and J. E. Gipple, were elected a board of trustees—subsequently, C. B. Rettew and John E. Knupp were added to the board. This board purchased the ground on which the present church building is located—northeast corner of Eighteenth and State streets—for the sum of $1,700.

Annual conference of 1902 recognized the new class and named the Rev. I. N. Seldomridge as its pastor. Architectural plans having been adopted, ground-breaking services for erection of a Sunday School Chapel were held April 30, 1903. At the cornerstone laying in July, Dr. S. D. Faust, Dayton, Ohio, preached the sermon. The chapel, costing $12,000 including furnishings, was dedicated January 17, 1904 by Dr. W. R. Funk, publishing agent, Dayton, Ohio. Five years later, two galleries were constructed at an expenditure of $1,750.

A lot next to the church on Eighteenth Street was bought April 1, 1910 and a brick parsonage was erected thereon. On May 10, the mortgage covering the remaining debt on the church was burned at appropriate ceremonies. From 1902 to 1910 the church received conference missionary appropriations. In 1910 it became self-supporting. Its church membership had reached 286 in number and its Sunday School enrollment was 658, with an average attendance for the year of 305. In 1913 the basement of the chapel was equipped for Sunday School work at a cost of $15,000.

The chapel, even with its increased facilities, was no longer adequate to house the growing congregation. Consequently plans were formulated to build a sanctuary room. Ground breaking services for the proposed building of stone, 62 by 74 feet, were held August 1, 1922. Cornerstone-laying ceremonies were held October 15, Bishop
Wm. M. Bell being the main speaker. While unit number two of the church plant was under construction, extensive repairs were made to the original unit. The total cost of construction and furnishings amounted to $110,000. Dr. W. R. Funk dedicated the new edifice January 6, 1924.

The congregation celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1927 with an elaborate program. The church membership had increased to 587 persons. During the twenty-five years of its history, 1,161 people had been received into church fellowship and $183,000 had been raised for all purposes.

After the passing of fourteen years, since erection of the new church building, extensive renovations were made to it. The entire ceiling was covered with acusticon material, the large art windows and frames repaired; flood lights to illuminate same were installed; and the walls were redecorated. The cost—$3,100—was provided for by the time of reopening services. The following presentations were made: a baptismal font by the William P. Edmondson family; an illuminated cross by Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Buck; and an altar kneeling pad by S. D. Unger and family. This work was in charge of a committee consisting of the pastor, Dr. A. K. Wier, S. D. Unger, William P. Edmondson, A. M. Buck, George Black, F. E. Stengle,
Harry Warner and C. E. Procasco. Special reopening services were held on two Sabbaths, September 18 and 25, 1938, when Bishop G. D. Batdorf, and Drs. S. C. Enck, H. F. Rhoad, and C. A. Lynch preached. During the week between the Sabbaths, the Revs. W. C. Blatt, C. E. Procasco, O. L. Mease, and E. A. G. Bossler brought messages at evening meetings.

In the early morning of January 3, 1942 a disastrous fire broke out in the Sunday School rooms. Fifteen fire companies were called out to fight the blaze which for a time threatened to consume both units of the building. Only the heroism and sacrifice of these guardians of property saved it from that fate. The insurable loss was $17,335. The pastor and congregation set themselves immediately to the task of reconstruction and refurnishing. The amount expended was $26,500. Reopening services were held June 28, 1942, Drs. Enck and Lynch were the speakers for the day. A net indebtedness of $1,530 remained after the conclusion of the day’s exercises.

Dr. A. K. Wier, pastor of this congregation, 1932-43, began his active ministry in 1899 with the St. John’s congregation, Paradise, Lancaster County, and subsequently served eight churches of this conference until retirement in 1943. He brought many members into the Christian fold, and led the Hershey congregation in erecting a new house of worship. He was graduated from Lebanon Valley College in 1900, from Bonebrake Seminary in 1906, and had conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity by his Alma Mater in 1924. Since retirement he served St. Paul’s Church, West Lebanon, from April 1944 to October 1945.

The congregation had just about recovered from its shock and loss when the angry, hungry flames of fire a second time burned out part of its house of worship. This happened on the morning of August 21, 1945. While that of the first visitation was thought to have been caused by defective wiring, the second was determined to have been the work of a pyromaniac. The damage this time was far greater as shown by the payment of $60,819.48 on the part of the Insurance Company, and an additional assumed loss of $7,449 on the part of the church.

Less courageous and faithful souls might have despaired because of such a catastrophe, but not the people of State Street Church. In spite of advanced costs of materials and labor, and difficulties in obtaining each, they tackled the job of reconstruction. They were not satisfied by merely reconditioning the house as of previous standards, but went far beyond that, in every phase of: structural appearance and strength, in worship appointments, and in facilities for present day procedure in Christian Education and social activities. The amount of money expended on the total project was $111,897.62, not including cost of pews, (the work of installation not being completed at the time of closing this record).

The board of trustees: A. M. Buck, George W. Black, S. D. Unger, Faber E. Stengle, C. Harold Wherly, Leon W. Shultz, and Charles
Z. Lingle, were the committee charged with the responsibility of the supervision of reconstruction. The numerous memorials and gifts presented show the deep interest individuals and groups had in their house of worship. Dr. Cawley H. Stine came to the congregation as pastor in October 1943. He had the united support of his people in this, the second crisis hour of a sad experience. His firm determination and boundless energy were the necessary qualities of leadership to carry his people through the crisis to victory.

Five brethren who later were ordained elders in the conference received quarterly conference license by recommendation of this congregation, i.e., Clyde A. Lynch, Charles E. Procaso, William C. Blatt, William O. Rhoad, and Thomas Guinivan.

The Rev. Hiram F. Rhoad, D. D., Ph.D., was pastor of the State Street Church while the sanctuary was built. He has been an active pastor since 1900, serving on eight conference charges. He was graduated from Lebanon Valley College in 1903, and his Alma Mater honored him with the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1928. Dr. Rhoad has represented his annual conference at five sessions of the General Conference, 1929 to 1945 inclusive, and the uniting session of 1946. He serves on numerous committees and boards under the annual conference. For some years past he has annually delivered Bible lectures at the Lykens Valley Campmeeting.


Harrisburg Twenty-Ninth Street Church

The founding of the Twenty-Ninth Street Church was definitely the project of the pastor and congregation of Derry Street Church. In the summer of 1921 Dr. Lyter submitted to the Conference Missionary and Church Extension Society a proposition for launching a new church enterprise. The proposal included purchase of ground, erection of building, and providing financial support until the new work be self supporting. The plan was unanimously approved by said Society and referred to Dr. Lyter and his people to develop details.

Plans being completed, congregational approval was voted December 14, 1921. On March 3, 1922 a plot of ground fronting on Derry Street, and extending in depth of 100 feet between Twenty-Eight and Twenty-Ninth Streets was bought for the sum of $8,000. The cornerstone for the proposed brick structure, forty by sixty feet, was laid August 26, 1923 by Dr. Lyter. Mr. H. A. Sherk was the builder. The Rev. Parke B. Kurtz was appointed pastor in October 1923. Under guidance of the mother church, he gave himself to contacting residents of the community in solicitation for a Church and Sunday School constituency. On March 3, 1924 a brick house—No. 3005 Derry Street—was bought for use as a parsonage at the cost of $8,000. The house was dedicated by Dr. S. C. Enck, March 2, 1924.
HISTORY OF EAST PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

On February 10, 1924 Dr. J. A. Lyter had the satisfying experience of dedicating the house of worship he had in prospect three years before. On the Sunday following dedication a class of sixty-nine charter members was organized, and one week later a Sunday School of eighty-one. At the close of the conference year the church membership numbered 100 and the Sunday School enrollment stood at 204.

Responsibility of local control was gradually shifted to those who formed the new organization. The privilege to organize an official board was granted as of October 1, 1929 and of holding its own quarterly conference as of October 1, 1934. The Rev. Kurtz remained as pastor until the annual conference of 1929. The Rev. D. E. Long served the congregation 1929-32; and the Rev. J. R. MacDonald, 1932-37. In the fall of 1937, the Rev. G. Edgar Hertzler was appointed and he has continued to the present.

Harrisburg Twenty-ninth Street Church

In April 1940 a church renovation program, including the re-decorating of the interior and recarpeting of the sanctuary and the Young People's department rooms, was begun. Bishop G. D. Batdorf preached the sermon at reopening services held June 29, 1940.
At a special ceremony conducted at the morning session of annual conference, September 19, 1943, with Dr. D. E. Young, conference superintendent, the Revs. H. W. Zechman, C. Edgar Hertzler, Dr. E. O. Burtner, Messrs. C. E. Finkenbinder, J. E. Gipple, and George D. Benedum participating, there was formal transfer of Twenty-Ninth Street Church to the custody of annual conference. A statement of finances presented showed that the mother church had, at the time of dedication, an investment of $50,550 in buildings and equipment.

The total cost of buildings plus interest on loans and maintenance charges amounting to $95,607.24 was met by February 1946. Of this amount the mother church paid $45,172.72. Twenty-Ninth Street Church gathered $50,432.52 through annual offerings over the years 1924-46. February 10th and 17th were set aside to celebrate the twenty-second anniversary and mortgage-burning ceremonies. The Rev. H. W. Zechman, preached on the evening of the 10th; Bishop J. Balmer Showers and conference superintendent Dr. D. E. Young were the guest preachers on the 24th.

The Rev. G. Edgar Hertzler, pastor since 1937, was in charge of these services. During his ministry more than half of the funds for property costs were raised, and the church membership grew from 241 to 363.

This young and thriving congregation has given three spiritual sons to the Gospel ministry; Clarence E. Ulrich, Paul Rickabaugh, and Clyde Rickabaugh. The Rev. E. O. Burtner, D.D., holds membership here since retirement in 1935. He gave forty years of ordained service to the church, serving one charge beyond and nine charges within our conference. Wherever he has labored the people have been blessed by his example of godly living and his words of counsel and sound teaching. Albert N. Ulrich, father of the Rev. Clarence E. is a lay minister. He has served this church as its only class leader through its entire history.

The general superintendents of the Sunday School have been, John K. Class, Harold L. Beckley, Albert R. Peregoy, Guy R. Shoemaker, George S. Achorn. Miss B. Elizabeth Ulrich is the present incumbent. Mr. A. E. Hershey has been the church’s financial secretary since its founding. J. E. Gipple and C. E. Finkenbinder of the fostering church, Robert J. Cole, George D. Benedum, and A. E. Hershey of the local church were trustees up to the time of transfer. Albert R. Peregoy, David E. Lutz, Albert N. Ulrich, Clarence B. Kline, and George S. Achorn together with brothers Cole, Benedum, and Hershey have served since the time of transfer.

In addition to laymen above named, the following names appear on the Official Directory for the year 1945-46; Paul Shank, Mr. and Mrs. Milton H. Neidlinger, Forest Ensinger, Charles Redstone, Miley T. Sheaffer Sr., Russel Stare, J. Calvin Smith, Mrs. Edwin Nye, Mrs. G. Edgar Hertzler, Mrs. Ruhl Fleagle, Mrs. John Baumpgardner, Mrs. A. E. Hershey, Mrs. Theodore Schott, Mildred E.
Crouse, Jean Redstone, Diane Rudolph, Evelyn King, Elizabeth Cook, and Romaine Attick.

Christian Education and Missionary interests are effectively promoted through their several channeling organizations. The pastor's wife is recording secretary of the Conference Branch Women's Missionary Association.

Hershey First Church

The name “Hershey” has been carried to every civilized country on the globe through the distribution of products manufactured by the Hershey Chocolate Corporation of Hershey, Pennsylvania. In the earliest years of the congregation's history the name of their small red brick house of worship was known as “Spring Creek Meetinghouse.” Then followed a period when it was “Derry Church,” and finally in 1913 by authorization of annual conference, it was styled, “Hershey, First Church.” In course of time it happened that a United Brethren Church adopted the name of the town made world-famous by the ingenuity and industry of one man—Mr. M. S. Hershey.

From 1799 to 1818, Christian Newcomer preached occasionally at the Landis and Huber homesteads on Spring Creek. Under date of May 24, 1799, he writes: “This morning at 8 o'clock I preached at Drakel's; rode to Spring Creek and preached to an attentive congregation at the house of a Mr. Landis, where I lodged for the night.” John Landis (1753-1829), grandson of Felix Landis I was at one time owner of the land upon which the “Spring Creek Meetinghouse” was built. Felix Landis II came from the Isaac Long neighborhood at Landis Valley in Lancaster County and settled finally in Derry Township, Dauphin County. The heirs of John Landis on March 29, 1831 released on a tract of land to Henry Landis, who, in turn with his wife Elizabeth Longenecker Landis, transferred, June 23, 1854, twenty-eight square perches for the sum of $17.50 to “John Hershey, Martin Nissley, and Jonas Miller, Trustees of the Congregation of United Brethren worshipping at their meeting-house in said Derry Township at Spring Creek.”

The above recital shows that the church lot adjoined this newer purchase, that a church building had been erected sometime prior to 1854, and that said building was the recognized property of the United Brethren. The small red brick church 30x40 feet, no doubt, had been erected by a predominantly Mennonite constituency. After the passing of a quarter of a century following Newcomer's last recorded visit, the Rev. Simon Noll, when Junior preacher of the Dauphin Circuit, held a meeting in this church which resulted in sixty conversions. From that year (1843) onward the permanency of the United Brethren work at the Spring Creek Meetinghouse was assured.

There are in existence authentic quarterly conference proceedings covering the years 1849-1866. These show that John Hershey, Martin L. Nissley, and Jonas Miller were trustees during the entire period. 

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of this record. Brothers Nissley and Miller together with Thomas Elliott, Cornelius Kulms, Emanuel Dillman, and Samuel Sherk were class leaders; and Henry Doutrich, Henry Weiser, John Weltmer, A. Landis, Henry Zentmyer, and John Longenecker were stewards, during the same period. Jonas Miller here mentioned is the same who also was trustee at Fishburn's.

To the north of Hershey, beyond the ridge upon which the Hershey Hotel now stands, there was another United Brethren class. It met in the homes of its members. This class went by four different names, at least; Gordon's, Gravel Hill, Owl Hill, and Smith's. William Gordon, William Stroh, Christian Smith, Peter Gipe, William Howard, Henry Horst, J. Landis, and J. Stroh were its officers. The quarterly of October 7, 1865 took action relating to this class as follows: "Resolved that Gravel Hill Class and appointment be disorganized and the members be transferred to Springcreek."

The original church building was remodeled in 1880. At that time the question of legal title to the meeting-house property was raised. The issue was settled by action of the Dauphin County Court which ruled that the United Brethren were entitled to the property. An annex was added in 1912-13 at a cost of $3,000 and the house of worship rededicated by the Rev. R. R. Rhoads on February 2, 1913. An eight-roomed frame parsonage was erected in 1904 on ground adjoining the church lot on the south.

So rapid was the industrial and residential growth of the town of Hershey that it might be called a "Miracle Town." From 1903, the time of the beginning of Mr. Hershey's projects, until 1913, the area along the Harrisburg-Reading Road (Chocolate Avenue) and southward showed much greater expansion than the area of old Derry. Due to the trend of this expansion and to the inadequacy of the church plant, the officials of the church decided to buy a site in the newer development. Having purchased some ground in 1911 and later believing it to be unsuitable, a final selection was made in 1920 of a plot in the southeast corner of Chocolate Avenue and Prince Street. By 1927, the ground costing $7,500 had been paid, and $26,000 was on hand for a new structure.

Ground-breaking services were held July 24, 1927. The cornerstone was laid April 8, 1928, by Dr. S. C. Enck assisted by the Reverends A. G. Nye and O. G. Romig. Due to the illness of the pastor, the Rev. A. K. Wier, Dr. R. R. Butterwick was in charge of the ceremonies. The present beautiful and imposing stone structure costing $75,000 was dedicated by Bishop Wm. M. Bell, November 28, 1928. The bishop preached at the morning service on that day and conducted consecration rites at the afternoon service. Dr. S. C. Enck preached the evening sermon. Special services were held on evenings of the following week when former pastors: A. G. Nye, O. G. Romig, R. R. Butterwick, and pastors of other Hershey churches spoke. The concluding service of the dedicatory series was held Sunday December 2, with Dr. I. Moyer Hershey, also a former pastor, bringing the messages.
The committee in charge of the building enterprise was the trustee board which consisted of John R. Zoll, Harry J. Imboden, Raymond G. Hinkle, Edwin M. Hershey, John A. Balsbaugh, Harry S. Christ, and John H. Moyer. Dr. A. K. Wier, pastor of this congregation from 1926 to 1932, was ex-officio member of the committee. He gave wise and faithful leadership during this period of transition which has meant so much for the advancement of the Hershey Church.

Lay men and women who composed the official family, in addition to the trustees, at the time of dedication were Mrs. Raymond G. Hinkle, Mrs. A. F. Sholly, Miss Florence Walmer, Miss Mary Handshue, Miss Ida Bolan, Miss Esther Walmer, Miss Elizabeth Habecker, Miss Mabel Lingle, Miss Marie Mays, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe C. Stover, Cyrus L. Garman, Landis Garman, Earl Walmer, Jerome Krall, Harry W. Knoll, Frank Carpenter, Irwin L. Aungst, Mark Swartz, Roy E. Sternberger, David Sattazahn, D. Frank Garman, and Charles Copp.

A three manual Midmer-Losh organ was dedicated November 20, 1932. The cost of the organ was $3,500 and cost of installation of the organ and of hearing aids was $1,060. In 1935 a new parsonage and the basement floor of a new Christian Education building were constructed, and a new heating system was installed. These expenditures amounted to $24,800. These projects were made possible because of the very generous gift of Mr. M. S. Hershey who at this time gave each of the Hershey Churches a gift of $20,000. The new structures were dedicated September 15 by Dr. S. C. Enck. The
THE CHURCHES OF DAUPHIN COUNTY

architectural plan of church and parsonage and their location in relation to each other is hard to be excelled. Considered from every standpoint, it is an ideal arrangement.

These later physical assets were added during the ministry of the Rev. Thomas J. Barnhart who began his pastorate in October 1932. The advantages of a fine physical plant and the great influx of new citizens created a situation favorable to spiritual progress. The pastor's zeal for the winning of souls, his ceaseless pastoral visitation, and his fidelity to the Word of God resulted in an increase in church membership from 362 to 696. A serious heart ailment made it necessary at times to ease up on his strenuous labors. Soon after leading his congregation in the observance of the centennial anniversary of the founding of the congregation, in the fall of 1943, he had to cease from active duty. His physical condition did not warrant reappointment in 1944. His very promising career came to an end through death, October 26, 1944.

The special anniversary exercises were held over the period, November 28 to December 5, 1943. Bishop G. D. Baddorf, Dr. D. E. Young, conference superintendent, Dr. A. K. Wier, and Reverends N. L. Linebaugh and A. G. Nye were those of the clergy who shared in the services. Among the lay people who had come into official relation to the work since 1928, were: Mr. and Mrs. Clarence J. Speicher, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond F. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. John Habecker, Charles W. Brinser, Daniel E. Lewis, Mrs. William Runkle, Mrs. Edmund Madcliff, Mrs. Harold Black, and Miss E. Helena Allison.

The Rev. Thomas S. May who was appointed to Hershey Church in 1944 has received ninety-four new members during the two years of his pastorate with this church.

Ministers who served the Derry Church, later the Hershey Church, were those appointed to the following circuits: Dauphin, 1843-53; Hummelstown, 1853-57; Dauphin-Hummelstown, 1857-58; Hummelstown, 1858-67; Union Deposit, 1867-93; Grantville, 1893-1901; Derry Church, 1901-04. Since 1904 the ministers of this congregation have been: Z. A. Weidler, 1904-06; Esdras Ludwig, 1906-08; O. G. Romig, 1908-11; E. A. Sharp, 1911-12; N. L. Linebaugh, 1912-16; R. R. Butterwick, 1916-21; W. E. Daugherty, 1921-23; A. G. Nye, 1923-26; A. K. Wier, 1926-32; T. J. Barnhart, 1932-43; T. J. Barnhart, A. G. Nye, 1943-44; and T. S. May, 1944-46.

Highspire Church

The labors and influence of the Rev. John Neidig laid the foundation for two church organizations removed from each other by less than three miles, one at Oberlin and the other at Highspire. Though the congregation at Oberlin was the first to erect a church house, the formative period at Highspire was contemporary with that at Oberlin. John Neidig's farm of two hundred, thirty-seven and one-half acres was about a half mile from the present limits of Highspire, in a northwesterly direction. Abraham Neidig, father of John, came
from Cumru Township, Berks County in about the year 1770 and settled on a farm which he bought in 1774. After the son John came into possession of the homestead he opened the dwelling for public worship. Christian Newcomer's frequent visits to the Neidig residence are indicated in Chapter III. A “Great Meeting” was held on these premises in May, 1812, Christian Newcomer and Jacob Baulus, both of Maryland, being present. It may be that the first contacts of Newcomer and Neidig were through the kinships of the wife of Christian Newcomer who was Elizabeth Bear and the wife of John Neidig who was Mary Bear. From this home, like as from a central orb, there radiated the warm and life-bearing rays of the Gospel.

One of the choice spiritual sons of Neidig was Jacob Roop, a neighbor's son. It was through Jacob Roop, minister of the conference from 1820 to 1875, and that of his neighbors that a church building was erected in the year 1842. An abstract of the instrument, dated July 26, 1843, by which the congregation received title to a church lot and burial ground follows:

Jacob Roop of Lower Swatara Township, (Preacher of the Gospel), and Margaret his wife to Samuel Neidig, Jacob Nissley, and Conrad Alleman, trustees of the United Brethren in Christ of Highspire and vicinity, for consideration of $46.00 . . . Those two certain lots within the farm of Jacob Roop . . . The first being a parallelogram, fronting 50 feet on Seneca Street or turnpike in Highspire, and extending in depth 67 feet, bounding on one side the said turnpike, and the said Roop's land on the other, and having thereon a brick building dedicated to the worship of Almighty God . . . The other part thereof is a perfect square, to be set aside for the sole purpose of a burial ground, fronting on the western side of the Poorhouse Road 80 feet, and extending a depth of 80 feet, with the said Roop's lands on the other sides.

The church site was the same as that of the present church; the burial ground, now much enlarged and used as a general cemetery, lies about one-half mile north of the church. Mr. Roop's farm of one hundred and twenty-one acres therefore extended from Highspire's main east and west street to, and beyond, the present Highspire cemetery, the Roop family residence and other farm buildings being about a city-block's length south of the cemetery. In this connection it may be said that the John Neidig and Jacob Roop families and other departed members of the Highspire congregation are buried there.

For some time prior to erection of the church, services were held in a little frame school building located near the present site of the Pennsylvania railway station. Highspire was then a village of thirty-eight freeholders. The church was dedicated in December of the year 1842. This attractive two-story brick structure “was at the time one of the finest and most complete church buildings in the denomination.”
A quarterly conference held at Highspire, February 5, 1848, for the circuit, consisting of Highspire, Oberlin, Balsbaugh's and Detweiler's, instructed the preacher, Daniel Funkhouser, to record the names of the members "From the time that the meeting house was built, and from this forward such as are regular members." On this record are the following: John Q. Adams, Conrad and Elizabeth Alleman, Elizabeth Baker, Henry and Annie Blyer, Elizabeth Ebersole, Fannie Diehl, George Garman, Christian and Mary Good, John and Nancy Good, Elizabeth Grunden, Levander Hatfield, John, Sarah and Catherine Hocker, Thomas and Peggy Hemperly, Susan
Lehman, Charlotte and Catharine Musser, Elizabeth McCroskey, Sarah Parson, John and Mary Parthemore, Samuel and Magdalene Poorman, John, Samuel, Elizabeth and Solomon Neidig, John and Bridget O'Brien, Abraham and Mary Reiter, Jacob Roop Jr., Jacob and Lydia Roop, Christian and Barbara Roop, Henry and Sarah Sanders, Elizabeth Stoner, Henry Wagner, Elizabeth White, Henry, Barbara and Valentine Zimmerman.

Trustees elected over the years 1843-56 were, Samuel Neidig, Jacob Nissley, Conrad Alleman, Jacob Roop Jr., Michael Frantz, John Hocker, and Henry Zimmerman; class leaders for the same period were, Jacob Nissley, Conrad Alleman, Henry Zimmerman, Samuel Neidig, Daniel Runkle, and Jacob Roop Sr.; and class stewards, Hilarius Bodmer, Jacob Roop Jr., John Hocker, Henry Blyer, Levander Hatfield, and Joseph Hains.

Extensive improvements and alterations were made to the church building during the summer of 1879. The work was completed at a cost of $1,161.89. The building was reopened for divine services October 26 by Bishop J. J. Glossbrenner, assisted by ex-Bishop Erb and Prof. I. L. Kephart.

A new brick church having an auditorium 45x60 feet and a Sunday School room 35x50 feet, was erected in 1896. For this larger building two additional purchases of land were necessary. The Rev. J. R. Meredith, pastor, and all members of the official board constituted the Building Committee. The corner stone was laid July 11, and the completed building was dedicated December 6. Dr. C. J. Kephart, president of Lebanon Valley College officiated at both ceremonies. Cost of the new building, exclusive of value of time and materials donated amounted to, approximately, $10,000. Improvements made in 1906 cost $4,200. The cornerstone for a new Sunday School building 50x70 feet, was laid by Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent, July 18, 1926. It was consecrated by Bishop W. M. Bell at the morning service of June 12, 1927, and in the evening Dr. Enck dedicated the new two manual Moller pipe organ which had been recently installed. Total expenditures on the property amounted to $68,000.

In 1880 J. Warren Ropp, M.D., formerly of Highspire, then of Harrisburg donated a lot on the southeast corner of Market and Canal Streets for a parsonage site. Solomon L. Swartz, Henry J. Roop, and Cornelius Shoop were trustees at the time. Brothers Swartz and Roop were the building committee at whose direction a nine-roomed brick house, costing $2,700 was erected in 1882.

Sunday School work at Highspire began at an early date. While the congregation was yet worshipping in the old school house it participated in a union school, having Conrad Alleman as its first superintendent. A distinctively denominational school was conducted from the time of occupation of the first church building. In 1881 the school was graded. The complete list of superintendents is as follows: Conrad Alleman, John Q. Adams, John Hocker, Samuel Poorman, Jacob W. Roop, Cornelius Stewart, Henry J. Roop.

The dates of organization of other departments of church life are: Women’s Missionary Society, 1885; Gleaner’s Band, 1886; Ladies’ Aid Society, 1888; Sr. Christian Endeavor, 1890; Jr. Christian Endeavor, 1899; and Young Ladies’ Mission Band, 1898. The board of trustees now consists of C. M. Leiter, R. V. Parthemore, Ira W. Hoover, J. O. S. Poorman, P. H. Mozer, Paul Zeller, C. W. Sauder, Charles Yeager, and Samuel Wetzel.

Ministerial members of annual conference since the time of “Father Roop,” who were products of this congregation are: John Quincy Adams, Peter A. Bowman, Horace G. Clair, Hervin U. Roop, Raymond S. Heberlig, and Harry C. Mathias. Mrs. Mathias was granted a deaconess license. Henry J. Roop was one of a number of strong and aggressive laymen. He held many responsible positions in the local church and in the annual conference. The conference body elected him one of its lay delegates to General Conference sessions of the years, 1905, 1909, 1913, and 1917. He was born in 1845 and died in 1930.

The Rev. A. L. Shannon went to his eternal crowning while serving the congregation. Soon after his appointment for a third year, after a faithful evangelistic effort, he fell victim of the dreaded disease of pneumonia, which developed into typhoid fever, and terminated his promising career at the age of thirty-six years, seven months, and twenty-four days. He previously served charges at Pequea, Philadelphia, Ephrata, and Mountville.

John Neidig, Jacob Roop, and other ministers not necessarily appointed by annual conference, preached at Highspire during the early years. In exactly what year the class was first served by ministers so appointed cannot be determined. Highspire was within the bounds of the Lancaster Circuit until 1831; and within the bounds of Dauphin Circuit from 1831 to 1845. The Highspire Church was a part of Highspire Circuit, 1845-71; Highspire-Hummelstown Circuit, 1871-72; and Highspire Circuit, 1872-88. Since 1888 when Highspire Church alone constituted a charge the following ministers have served it: E. L. Hughes, 1888-Feb. 1889; J. Francis Smith, Feb. 1889-Oct. 1889; J. B. Funk, M. B. Spayd, 1889-90; M. B. Spayd, 1890-91; A. A. Long, 1891-93; J. R. Meredith, 1893-98; A. L. Shannon, 1898-1900; A. L. Shannon, S. F. Daugherty, 1900-01; S. F. Daugherty, 1901-03; A. E. Shroyer, 1903-09; H. F. Rhoad, 1909-17; M. H. Wert, 1917-20; M. V. Fridinger, 1920-25; S. L. Rhoads, 1925-29; James Bingham, E. E. Saul, 1929-30; W. E. Deibler, 1930-43; C. A. Funk, 1943-46.

Hummelstown Church

The beginning of United Brethren work in and about Hummelstown dates back to the time of the origin of the denomination. Christian Newcomer came to this community at least a dozen times over the period of years 1797 to 1824. John Adam Riegel, his wife,
and nine children came from the vicinity of Ephrata in the year 1807 and settled on a mill property at the Swatara, now the property of the Hummelstown Water Company. The Riegel house was a center of influence as long as its master lived. Newcomer held a meeting in it by candle light on the evening of August 24, 1808 and lodged there for the night. On May 4th of the year following, Newcomer with other brethren, held a second meeting there.

Two Sacramental Meetings, October 10-11, 1801 and October 31-November 1, 1819 were held at Daniel Fleisher's in close proximity to Hummelstown. On September 3-5, 1824 a similar meeting was held at Henry Smith's on the Swatara. Of the meeting held on Sunday the 5th, Newcomer writes: "I spoke this forenoon from Matthew 15:22, 23; we had a blessed time, seventeen persons were baptized by immersion; many were enabled to rejoice and praise God."

The United Brethren jointly with the German Baptist Brethren and the River Brethren erected a small brick house of worship on the site of the present church in the year 1843, the United Brethren holding a one-fourth interest. Christian Landis Jr. and wife Elizabeth Hamaker sold the church lot to Christian Landis Sr., Christian Brubaker, and John Balsbaugh, trustees representing the denominations mentioned before, for the sum of $20.

In the year 1857 the Union Meeting House was replaced by a two-story brick church, built and used by the same three denominations. The German Baptists sold their one-fourth interest in the year 1869 to Samuel Walmer, Christian L. Hershey, and Reuben K. Henry, trustees for the United Brethren for the sum of $225. The River Brethren continued in possession of their one-fourth share until July 26, 1886 when they sold it for the price of $300 to George H. Grove, Jeremiah Balsbaugh and Christian Hershey, trustees for the United Brethren.

The trustees named in these three instruments were among the laymen active in the congregation's work and welfare. From 1849 to 1865, other brethren serving as trustees were Henry Hershey, John Wolhever, Conrad Smith, Christian Landis Jr., George Landis, Simon Fleisher, and D. S. Early. For the same period we find the names of these men together with those of Samuel Seltzer, Samuel Bear, Philip Sheetz, B. Thompson, Jeremiah P. Smith, S. Cronier, and J. Maring, on quarterly conference records, as representing the Hummelstown Church.

When a new circuit, including the area between Highspire on the south and Dauphin Circuit on the north, was created in 1853, it was named Hummelstown Circuit after the strongest class of the new circuit. It was a large circuit consisting of twelve appointments; Hummelstown, Hoernerstown, Union Deposit, Fishburn's, Sand Hill (Snavely's), Runkle's, Owl Hill, Spring Creek (Derry), Shirk's, Grantville, Linglestown, and Brown's Schoolhouse. Hummelstown, except for one year (1866-67), had some churches attached to it to form a charge until 1883. The Rev. I. L. Kephart was its minister.
that year and at the close of the year he reported a membership of seventy-six, a Sunday School enrollment of fifty-one pupils and ten teachers.

The parsonage was built in 1877 during the pastorate of the Rev. C. S. Meily. In 1897 the church trustees, Jeremiah Balsbaugh, Christian Hershey, and Christian Balsbaugh, purchased what was known as “the Old School House Property,” for the sum of $350. This
purchase made possible moving the parsonage to its present site thus providing space for a larger church building. Lay members of the official board 1898-99 were: Christian Balsbaugh, A. H. Reider, W. H. Ulrich, Bessie Landis, John H. Remsberg, Philip Alwein, Milton Hoerner, Mrs. George Grove, Jeremiah Balsbaugh, M. F. Nissley, Emma Landis, and Mrs. Jeremiah Balsbaugh.

Under the ministry of the Rev. A. A. Long sentiment for erection of a new edifice began to crystalize. Revival efforts from time to time issued in large increases in church membership. On Easter Sunday 1908 Dr. Long received eighty-two members. In 1910 a committee, consisting of W. H. Ulrich, George P. Hoffer, H. E. Schriver, B. H. Engle, H. M. Horst, W. A. Umberger, and Russel Stoner, was appointed to canvass the congregation for pledges to a building fund. The committee reported having received $8,000 in cash and pledges; pledges to be paid by October 1, 1910. Pastor Long closed his ministry that fall, having been appointed to Altoona First Church. The Rev. A. S. Lehman came upon the scene as Dr. Long’s successor. He gave himself whole-heartedly to his new field and launched the building enterprise.

The cornerstone was laid May 28, 1911, pastor Lehman, Dr. J. A. Lyter, and other ministers participated in the services. The months following witnessed the erection of the beautiful Church and Sunday School Building, designed after the English decorative style of architecture, built of local limestone and trimmed with Indiana limestone. The total cost of building and equipment was $35,000. Dr. W. R. Funk of Dayton, Ohio, dedicated the house of worship February 25, 1912. A great concourse of lay people and many ministers gathered for the services of the day. Within six years all pledges were paid—the mortgage was burned at a special service held September 28, 1918. Dr. Lehman continued as pastor until the fall of 1925.

A pipe organ installed at a cost of $4,364 was dedicated January 27, 1924. Other new installations, improvements, and construction of new rooms in the basement, over the years 1925-39, cost in excess of $12,000. The Rev. D. LeRoy Fegley now in his twenty-first year at Hummelstown began publishing a church paper, The Herald, in 1930 as a quarterly publication, and since 1933, a monthly publication. A new organization known as the Young People’s Prayer Meeting had its origin in 1932 under the direction of the pastor’s wife. The group has maintained an average weekly attendance of forty young people who range in age from six to twenty years.

Organized missionary work by the women of the congregation began in 1877. Support of a living-link missionary was undertaken in 1916 when Dr. Zenora Griggs was supported by voluntary contributions. Mrs. J. Hal Smith was selected as a missionary representative in 1919, and so continued until 1932. More recently, Mrs. Nelle M. Engle has been receiving support in Home Mission projects and the Rev. Wm. B. Claye in foreign work. The girls have had a large share in missionary enterprises since 1891.
Christian Endeavor work is well organized and functions in an effective manner. The Dorcas Society has been of unusual assistance to parish work within its field since 1884.

Lay people serving in official capacities for the year 1945-46 are: David E. Shope, H. K. Miller, Ray A. Landis, Ray E. Gruber, William Holler, Clarence Stauffer, Harry Cooper, Harold Stopfel, Raymond Hoerner, Chester Shuey, Joseph Detweiler, Charles Hoffer, Frank LeVan, Ross Long, Earl Killinger, Ralph Keller, George Hoerner, John Hall, Ethel Stauffer, Margaret Schriver, Annie Burkholder, Alice Solada, Elizabeth Ream, Mrs. William Gohring, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Witmer, Mr. and Mrs. Ray A. Curry, Mr. and Mrs. Morris M. Engle, Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Hummel, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hebel, Mrs. Daniel Baker, Mrs. Walter Otto, Mrs. John Adams, and Mrs. Mary Burrell.

Members of the congregation who were voted recommendation for quarterly license are: Jeremiah P. Smith, J. Maring, J. Paul Hummel, and Robert J. Miller.

Ministers who served the Hummelstown congregation from 1843 to 1872 are listed under the following circuits as given at the beginning of this chapter: Dauphin Circuit, 1843-53; Hummelstown Circuit, 1853-57; Dauphin-Hummelstown Circuit, 1857-58; Hummelstown Circuit, 1858-66; Highspire Circuit, 1867-69; Hummelstown Circuit, 1869-71, Hummelstown-Highspire Circuit, 1871-72. During the above period there was one year, 1866-67, when Hummelstown Church alone constituted a charge. I. L. Kephart was the minister. Since 1872, the following have been appointed: John F. Smith, 1872-74, Jacob P. Smith, 1874-75; C. Seitzer Melly, 1875-78; G. A. Loose, 1878-79; G. A. Loose, E. Light, 1879-80; E. Light, 1880-81; Thomas Garland, 1881-83; J. D. Killian, 1883-87; Z. A. Weidler, 1887-Feb. 1889; P. A. Bowman, Feb. 1889-Oct. 1889; J. M. Shelly, Oct. 1889-1890; M. J. Mumma, 1890-93; L. R. Cramer, 1893-96; J. A. Lyter, 1896-99; E. O. Burtner, 1899-1906; A. A. Long, 1906-10; A. S. Lehman, 1910-25; G. W. Hallman, 1925-29; Joseph Daugherty, 1929-32; and D. LeRoy Fegley, 1932-46.

Jacob's Church, Wayne Township

About three miles eastward from Matamoras, the second United Brethren congregation in the Powell's Valley was established. A plot of ground, sixty feet front and one hundred and thirty-two feet deep, fronting on a connecting road of the two valley roads, was purchased from Hiram Lenker and John File on May 31, 1861, for the sum of ten dollars. George Sheesley, Peter Hoy, and Jacob Lebo were trustees at the time. A frame church building was erected in the year 1863.

The building has been improved from time to time. The presiding elder for the district at the conference session of the year 1874 reported a general remodeling. In 1931 an electric light system was installed. Joseph A. Chubb, a member of the congregation made a donation of the same at a cost of $900. More recently additional
improvements were made, and a new piano bought, all at a cost of $700.

The church has the largest membership of any on the eight-point circuit. At the close of the conference year 1942-43, the church membership was 107 and the Sunday School enrollment 148.

Before the church building was erected the class met in private homes and in the district school building which then stood next to the lot where the church now stands. Trustees now serving are: Harry H. Lebo, L. T. Lebo, William Sweigard Sr., and Frank Leitzel. Marlin Sweigard, William Sweigard Jr., and Frank Leitzel are among those who in recent years have served as superintendents of the Sunday School.

The church has been attached to the following circuits: Halifax, 1861-73; Jacksonville, 1873-1919; Powell's Valley, 1919-1934; and Enders and Powell's Valley, 1934-46.

**Killinger's Church.** Upper Paxtang Township

This church building stands north of the Millersburg-Berryburg Road three miles out of the first mentioned town. It was erected by the Jacob's Congregation of the German Reformed Church in the year 1844. It bore the name Jacob's Church as late as the year 1919, but was changed to "Killinger's" to distinguish it from the Jacob's Church in Powell's Valley. Benjamin Riegle, William Wert, and William Lenker, trustees, were named grantees when the United Brethren bought the property in the year 1866.

At the beginning of the present century, Joseph Henninger, Jeremiah Lebo, Charles Shoop, William A. Wert, and Jonas Jury were its trustees. The last named was for many years the Sunday School superintendent; Roy Leitzel being the present incumbent. The trustee board of the present is Nevin Henninger, Mrs. John Matter, Charles Leitzel, Harry Chubb, and Roy Leitzel.

During the summer of 1937 considerable improvements were made to the building, and the grounds were beautified. The interior was redecorated and painted, new carpet was laid, and new light fixtures were installed. Bishop G. D. Batdorf preached the sermon on the occasion of the reopening at the morning service, July 18, 1937; Dr. S. C. Enck preached in the afternoon; and Dr. C. A. Lynch preached in the evening. Former pastors participated in special services during the week following.

The Rev. Mark H. Wert was converted at Lykens Camp Meeting at the age of twelve and united with Jacob's Church. He was granted annual conference license in 1906 and was ordained to the Holy Ministry in 1910. He was graduated from Lebanon Valley College and from Bonebrake Theological Seminary. He served very acceptably the following charges in East Pennsylvania Conference: Landingville Circuit, Shamokin Circuit, Intercourse Circuit, Pleasant Hill Circuit, Sunbury Church, Manheim Church, Highspire Church, Philadelphia First Church, Lebanon Trinity Church, and
Palmyra Second Church. After six days of suffering caused by an automobile accident, he died, November 25, 1942, at the age of fifty-eight years, eight months and twenty-four days.

From 1866 to 1904, this congregation formed a part of Lykens Valley Circuit. From 1904 to 1919, it was attached to Millersburg. Its connections since 1919 have been as follows: Lykens Valley Circuit, 1919-22; Under Millersburg Quarterly Conference, 1922-23; Lykens Valley Circuit, 1923-26; Under Millersburg, 1926-29; Tremont Circuit, 1929-32; and since 1932 served by pastors at Millersburg.

Linglestown Church

The United Brethren Church of Lingelstown stands a half block north of the town’s Market Square. The first house of worship was erected in 1843. Peter Bonawitz and wife Barbara sold a small lot on the corner of Mountain Street and Blackberry Alley to the trustees, who were: Christian Reist, Frederick Shaffner, and Samuel Nissley. John Moyer, earlier owner of this lot, who came from the vicinity of Mt. Joy, Lancaster County, is reported to have been one of the founders of the church. Peter Bonawitz was a member of annual conference from 1841 to 1849. He died in 1852.

Other laymen of this congregation who held the office of church trustee over the years 1849-1877 were: John Shope, Thomas Runkle, Moses Sherk, Peter K. Levan, Henry Good, John B. Lenker, William H. Cassel, S. A. Miller, Simon Mower, Daniel Smith, and Christian Seibert. Among those laymen who served as class leaders and class stewards were: Samuel Nissley, Jonas Feaser, William Gross, Henry Sheppler, John Hoffnagle, William Fisher, John Shope, Joseph Klein, John Bright, Gideon Bomgardner, Cyrus Sherk, Rudolph Baker, Abrahm Welpner, and Uriah Feaser. Simon S. Mower, Samuel T. Mower, and Zephaniah Mower were licensed by this class, and all were members of annual conference. Jacob Lingle and Joseph Bolton held local license.

There were three other classes, i.e.; Walter's, Levan's, and Good's, reporting to quarterly conference sessions. As was the case in many other congregations, more than one class existed at the same time, and such classes often took the name of the leader—when the leader was changed, the name of the class was changed. For the Walter's class, Isaac Walters, P. Smith, Michael Smith, and William Smeltzer were officials; for the Levan's class, Daniel Bolton, and George Look; those whose names appear under the Good’s class are at one time or another mentioned as being of the Linglestown class.

The building erected in 1843 was a frame structure about thirty by forty feet in size. The securing of a bell was quite a problem for this congregation. The first effort to this end was made in 1866. Then in 1869 quarterly conference again took up this matter. It ordered that a bell be purchased and at the same meeting authorized repairs be made to the church building. Both orders were carried out in 1870. The east gable was extended, forming a porch-like
effect. Round pillars were placed at the corners of the new addition, the center was enclosed and upon this as a base the bell tower was built, and the bell, purchased by public subscription was placed therein. "It was pulled into place by Peter K. Levan's faithful horse 'Mike.'" 12 This building was renovated in 1881, and again in 1889.

In 1896 a new frame church was erected on the site of the old. The new church was destroyed by fire in 1903. The congregation immediately gave itself to the task of rebuilding. The work being completed, the house of worship was dedicated in the fall of the year 1904. Its cost was about $2,500. During the pastorate of the Rev. Russel L. Shay a basement was excavated to provide rooms for Sunday School work and social purposes. The Rev. Dr. H. E. Miller dedicated the rooms April 25, 1937. Cost of improvements plus the installation of a new heating system was $3,348. Further improvements were made and new equipment was purchased in 1939-40.

The Linglestown congregation fittingly celebrated its centennial in June, 1943. On the sabbath of the sixth day of the month, Dr. D. E. Young, conference superintendent, preached the sermon. On the
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following Sabbath, Dr. S. C. Enck preached at the morning service, and Dr. C. A. Lynch at an afternoon service. The Rev. C. E. Ulrich, pastor, was in charge. Lay leaders at the time of this anniversary, as shown by a roll of official members were: D. Luther Black, P. R. McNeal, Daniel F. Carl, Jonas L. Cassel, Halley Chubb, Dr. E. Victor Light, Yeatts Whitcomb, Mrs. P. R. McNeal, Mrs. Jonas Cassel, Miss Mary Hinkle, Emory E. Buchanan, Carlton L. Gardner, Mrs. John D. Cassel, Mrs. C. L. Gardner, Mrs. Laura Buchanan, Mrs. Charles Hunsicker, Miss Geraldine Brannon, Miss Betty Zaring, Walter C. Carl, H. Clayton Gosnell, Mrs. Elaine Zimmerman Moyer, and Miss Sara Buchanan. The Rev. F. B. Chubb holds a local license to preach.

Ministers who served the Linglestown Church are those appointed to the following circuits, of which the church has been a part: Dauphin, 1843-54; Hummelstown, 1854-55; Dauphin-Hummelstown, 1857-58; Dauphin, 1858-64; Harrisburg, 1864-68; Union Deposit, 1868-73; Linglestown, 1873-77; Grantville, 1877-82; Harrisburg, 1882-88; East Harrisburg, 1888-99; Harrisburg, 1899-1910. Since 1910, its ministers have been: Charles G. White, 1910-12; C. A. Lynch, 1912-18; L. D. Gottschall, 1918-23; R. S. Arndt, 1923-24; A. G. Nye, 1924-26; William O. Road, 1926-30; William J. Book, R. L. Shay, 1930-31; R. L. Shay, 1931-40; and C. E. Ulrich, 1940-46.

Lykens Otterbein Church

In 1864 the United Brethren of Lykens erected a house of worship which, with numerous improvements and enlargements has served the congregation eighty-two years. Through local-church and cooperative evangelistic efforts the work has gone forward in growth and effectiveness. During 1908 a tent meeting was held in the park at Lykens' west end, the Rev. David Livering being the evangelist. In 1914 the church shared in the Nicholson-Hemminger meetings held in a large wooden tabernacle erected in North Lykens for this specific purpose. On May 24, 1914 there stood before the church's altar 100 persons to be received to church membership. In 1927 churches of Lykens and Wiconisco united in a meeting held in the baseball park in West Wiconisco when the Rev. O. E. Williams and party conducted the services. The Rev. C. R. Longenecker, H. C. Hartranft, E. J. Pace, and G. E. Vinaroff, at different periods, headed special evangelistic efforts held in the church.

The frame building erected in 1864 was remodeled as a "Centenary" project in 1874, and then called "Bethel United Brethren Church." By official action the name was changed to "Otterbein United Brethren Church" in 1915. When erected, the building was a plain structure 30x50 feet. Its dimensions have been increased by an addition to the rear of 40x44 feet, and by erecting towers at the front. Interior arrangements have been changed several times, and the seating increased by erection of galleries. Remodeling, new con-
The congregation observed its seventy-fifth anniversary in a series of services over the period, May 21 to 28, 1939. Prior to the celebration new furnishings costing $1,714.72 were installed. A forty-five page souvenir booklet containing the program of exercises, and complete information of the church’s progress and its organizations and personnel, was printed. Those among the clergy who had important assignments on the program were Bishops G. D. Batdorf and V. O. Weidler, and the Revs. D. LeRoy Fegley, Z. A. Weidler, E. O. Burtner, J. T. Spangler, S. L. Rhoads, and Paul E. Fridinger; and among the laity were, Mrs. Fred Thompson of Nelsonville, Ohio, a former local C. E. President; C. E. Travitz, C. E. Rettinger, William E. Boden, and Charles Horley, former Sunday School superintendents; and Park H. Fegley, present superintendent.

The Rev. C. E. Ulrich, pastor, 1935-40, gave excellent leadership in planning and carrying out the projects and program of the anniversary occasion. He set up a large organization which functioned effectively. The Rev. William H. Snyder, local member since 1884, has served the congregation faithfully in many official capacities. He was an ordained elder but ministered to only one charge by conference appointment. He submitted much of the material for the historical booklet.

A house for the pastor was purchased for the sum of $2,500 in 1910. It was completely renovated in 1921, at a cost of $5,414.90, and dedicated by Dr. S. C. Enck, November 6.

The first session of the Sunday School was held May 21, 1865 with an attendance of ten teachers and fifty-five pupils. The following have been general superintendents: David Rudisill, W. L. Bogar, F. M. Ely, Issac Lehman, Daniel Hawk, A. C. Lehman, William Daniels, C. E. Rettinger, W. C. Shoop, William H. Romberg, Charles Horley, Ed. O. Hoffman, C. E. Travitz, William E. Boden, and Park H. Fegley. Mrs. Celesta Coppenhaver has been in charge of the Cradle Roll Department since 1914. Miss Florence Fegley has directed the work of the Children’s Division since 1931. Other organizations of the church had their origin as follows: Woman’s Missionary Association, 1888; Young People’s Christian Union, 1891; Junior C. E., 1906; Ladies Aid, 1904; Otterbein Guild, 1911; and Intermediate C. E. Society, 1917.

These departments of church work have enlisted a host of zealous workers. Of those who have given maximum years of service are the following: Jacob B. Lehman, Rev. William H. Snyder, Park H. Fegley, A. C. Lehman, William H. Romberger, F. M. Ely, Daniel Rettinger, C. E. Rettinger, O. C. Matter, Rosa Moyer, G. W. Heartter, Mrs. Mildred Woodside Fegley, Mrs. Mabel Dresel, Mrs. Julia Wehry, Mrs. Ben Feree, and Mrs. Jacob Clay. The trustee board is currently composed of H. G. Deibler, C. E. Travitz, William E. Boden, Forrest Cook, Roy Walter, R. A. Rowe, C. E. Sitlinger, and John Lupold.
Lykens church has an enviable record in the matter of those who entered special fields of service. James M. Lesher and wife went to the African Mission Field in 1883, William Lamey, William H. Snyder, W. C. Shoop, D. LeRoy Pegley, and Mrs. R. S. Heberlig having received quarterly conference license by vote of this class, later were ordained to eldership by annual conference. Frances M. Ely, John Renshaw, Russel Rhoads, Albert L. Sitlinger, Robert E. Dresel, and Fred L. Hartman were also voted their first license by this class; and Mildred I. Matter was licensed as a deaconess. Daughters of the congregation who married ministers are: Malinda Pegley, wife of the Rev. DeWitt P. Zuse; Mildred Woodside, wife of the Rev. D. LeRoy Pegley; and Helen Heartter, wife of Rev. T. J. Patterson.

The ministry of music has been a specialty of this church. It had its inception in 1874, by special group singing, when a church organ was first introduced. Other music groups and organizations followed, in order: German Choir, Male Quartette, Band, Orchestra, and Ladies’ Quartette. Each of these groups received merited recognition for outstanding ability, and each gave time and talent not only to the local church but also to outside interests. The regular church choir, since 1914 has been under the direction of H. G. Deibler whose genial personality and capable leadership is deeply appreciated.

Lykens Church has been attached to the following circuits: Lykens, 1864-72; Valley View, 1872-73; Williams Valley, 1873-1884. In 1884, it was constituted a station, with Williamstown attached, and so remained until 1890 when Lykens by itself constituted a charge. Ministers serving the church since 1884 have been: J. H. VonNieda, 1884-87; S. S. Daugherty, 1887-90; L. W. Craumer, 1890-91; J. A. Keiper, 1891-93; M. H. Jones, 1893-94; Amos Graul, 1894-95; A. H. Souillard, 1895-1901; Z. A. Weidler, 1901-03; G. W. Shires, 1903-04; Thomas Garland, 1904-05; G. B. Renshaw, 1905-09; E. O. Burtner, 1909-10; H. S. Kiefer, 1910-15; J. T. Spangler, 1915-16; J. R. MacDonald, 1916-17; S. L. Rhoads, 1917-20; C. E. Boughter, 1920-22; C. E. Boughter, R. S. Heberlig, 1922-23; R. S. Heberlig, 1923-28; N. L. Fake, 1928-30; P. E. Fridinger, 1930-35; C. E. Ulrich, 1935-40; R. S. Heberlig, 1940-43; C. P. Waltz, 1943-44; and S. H. Stoner, 1944-46.

**Manada Hill Church.** West Hanover Township

Some years prior to the erection of the church building a union Sunday School was conducted in Kramer’s Mill which stands south of the Harrisburg-Jonestown Road, near where the said road crosses the Manada Creek. A small group of those persons who were active in the promotion of the Sunday School were organized as a United Brethren class by the Rev. H. S. Kiefer in the year 1904. In 1905 the class was taken up as an appointment on Grantville Circuit.

In 1909 the decision was reached to build a house of worship. The site chosen was a triangular piece of land about a third of a mile west of the old mill, at a point where the Linglestown Road
branches off the Jonestown Road. On the north side of the First Mountain, in Fishing Creek Valley, stood a building known as Pleasant Grove Union Chapel which was held under the trusteeship of Wenrich's Reformed Church. This building was purchased, dismantled, and the materials brought to the proposed site. These materials together with some new lumber brought from Hummels-town were put into the structure of the Manada Hill Church. Certain of the members gave hours of strenuous labor to accomplish this task. The cost in money was approximately $1,000. Dr. D. D. Lowery, conference superintendent, dedicated the house to Divine worship, July 4, 1909.

The union Sunday School which had its beginning in the old mill met in the church building after its completion and continued as a union school until 1932, when it became a strictly United Brethren organization. It has an enrollment of ninety and an average attendance of forty-eight. Though the church membership has never been large, the evangelistic ministry has been fruitful. The present members number sixty-six.

Improvements were made to the building during 1931 and 1934. A basement was constructed and furnished for social purposes, a new furnace was installed, and a vestibule constructed, electric lights were placed, and the interior of the church redecorated.

Since 1906 the church has been affiliated with the following circuits: Union Circuit, 1906-10; Chamber Hill-Ebenezer charge, 1910-18; Linglestown Quarterly Conference, 1919-21; Linglestown-Colonial Park charge, 1920-31; Grantville, 1931-32; Linglestown, 1932-33; with Grantville, 1933-46. In 1918 it was a student charge served by E. M. Rhoad; and from 1921 to 1928 a supply charge, with the following ministers serving; C. L. Early, 1921-23; R. L. Shay, 1923-24; W. O. Rhoad, 1922-23; M. M. Lewis, 1925-26; F. B. Chubb, 1926-28.

Middletown Church

Middletown, so called from being located midway between Lancaster and Carlisle, is said to be the oldest town in Dauphin County. Christian Newcomer and other pioneers in the United Brethren movement came through the town over the old Paxton Road on their travels from John Neidig's to Lancaster. The first visit to Middletown by Newcomer was in the year 1800. Adam Geeting was his traveling companion. Of this visit, under date of October 7, he writes: "Today we preached at Middletown; brother Geeting preached from the words, 'Give account of thy stewardship, for thou canst no longer be steward.' We lodged for the night at Reider's." On the following day, services were continued, a great many people had collected. Newcomer and Joseph Hoffman had a meeting of some consequence on May 3, 1809. Having come to Middletown on the preceding afternoon they lodged at night with Dr. Roemer. Of the events of the 3rd he writes:
This forenoon I preached here from I Chr. 9:10. Brother Hoffman preached in the afternoon; a vast multitude of people had collected, several persons were convicted of their lost situation, and cried for mercy; others were astonished and fled, as they supposed for safety. I lodged at the time of Joseph Hershey, near Middletown.

The influence of Newcomer's ministry as carried forward by John Neidig and Jacob Roop in time gave rise to a group of followers who resided in Middletown. The earliest of these groups of which we have knowledge formed a class which met at the house of John Shoop on the southwest corner of Spruce, (then Duck Street) and East Water Streets. This class was represented by John Shoop, class leader, at a quarterly conference held at the Highspire Church March 15, 1851.

Martin Nissley Sr., and Felix Nissley of Lower Swatara Township and John Gingrich of Londonderry Township were elected trustees by a quarterly held on the same circuit August 6, 1851, for a church to be erected in the Borough of Middletown. On December 19 of the same year they secured a small lot forty by forty-three feet fronting on Spruce Street from John and Anna Maria Shoop. A frame church building thirty by forty feet was built in 1852. Its cost was $725. A membership of six persons was reported in that year. Felix Nissley was class leader and David Clauser, class steward. David Strickler was elected trustee in 1853. David Peters replaced Mr. Strickler the following year, when at the same quarterly John Roop was elected. In 1867 David Peters, Valentine Balsbaugh, and John Snyder were trustees. The Rev. Solomon L. Swartz, Joseph Weirich, Henry S. Roop, and David A. Detweiler constituted the trustee board in 1872.

The congregation worshipping in the little frame church grew and it became necessary to provide a larger building. In 1867 there was available a brick church building sixty by sixty feet in size, located on the northwest corner of Spruce and East Water Streets, which had been erected in the year 1838 by a group who had withdrawn from St. Peter's Lutheran Church. It had the name “Christ Church.” Those who held this property in the year 1867 sold it to the United Brethren congregation for the sum of $1,200. The building was thoroughly renovated and then was rededicated. The little frame church was subsequently sold to the Reformed Mennonites. An additional strip of land, sixty by 130 feet was bought in 1872. This church was remodeled in 1883 on its interior and during the following year repairs were made to its exterior.

In 1892 the former “Christ Church” building was razed and a new two-story brick edifice, forty-five by seventy-five feet was erected on the site at a cost of $14,000. It was equipped with a steam heating system and electric lighting and had stained-glass windows, parquet chairs, and a large tower with bell. This new structure was dedicated by Bishop Nicholas Castle, assisted by Dr. I. L. Kephart, and the pastor, John G. Smoker.
Extensive improvements were made to the church building in 1908 at a cost of $2,298.50. Services of rededication were held April 26 by Dr. D. D. Lowery, conference superintendent, assisted by pastor U. S. G. Renn. Among those active in accomplishing this work were Charles Orth, the Rev. Joseph Weirich, C. A. Parthemore, Daniel B. Kieffer; and Mrs. Annie Nissley, a daughter of the Rev. Solomon L. Swartz, whose generous gift made the work possible. On May 17, 1914 a two manual Moller Pipe Organ was installed at a cost of $2,500 of which amount the Carnegie Foundation contributed $1,000. It was dedicated by Dr. G. D. Gossard, president of Lebanon Valley College. The next year the basement was renovated and a new heating system was installed at a cost of $2,500. The Sunday School rooms were again remodeled in 1920. The Sanctuary was redecorated in 1926 at a cost of $1,362.

The Middletown Church organized a Sunday School May 17, 1857. For the immediate past three decades the School has assumed and paid in full the conference benevolent assessments. The School was graded according to accepted standard and appropriate literature provided in 1908. The Women's Missionary Society was organized May 12, 1887, with the following elected as officers: Mrs. Z. C. Mower, Mrs. Lizzie Stauffer, Mrs. Jennie Detweiler, Mrs. Annie Fetrow, and Mrs. Martha Alexander. A Young People's Christian Union was organized in 1890. At present there are three societies of Christian Endeavor.

Their parsonage lot located at number 317 Spruce Street adjoins the church lots on the north. The house was erected in 1892 at a cost of $1,292.19. It has been remodeled and repaired from time to time and meets standard requirements for present-day domestic needs.

Under the guidance of the Rev. Harvey K. Geyer, D.D., who has been pastor of this congregation since 1925, the youth of the Church and community have had the advantages of special religious instruction. A community Daily Vacation Bible School was opened in 1927. In 1933 with the cooperation of another church school, courses of instruction were offered at an hour not interfering with public school time. Since 1938 courses are conducted on pupils' released time from public school. A Kindergarten group under strict control of the local church meets regularly on Monday evenings. All of these efforts of Christian Education are well organized and carried on by competent teachers.

Dr. Geyer also has carried the responsibility of serving as Dean of the Leadership Training School, conducted by the Conference Board of Christian Education, as a part of the Summer Assembly program at Mt. Gretna, of which Board he has been vice president since 1933. While serving in this official capacity much of detailed supervision of the Summer Assembly has fallen to his lot. During his years of faithful ministerial service 608 members have been received upon Profession of Faith and ninety-three by Letter of
Transfer, and a church building fund approaching $20,000 in amount has been gathered.

Laymen who represented the congregation at annual conference sessions during the past twenty-five years are: M. H. Bachman, George C. Bowman, D. B. Kieffer, A. R. Geyer, H. R. Detweiler, Christian S. Erb, Lester W. Martin, Ralph W. Stickell, and Charles B. Krall. George Laudermilch, David W. Gingrich, Christian S. Erb, Charles N. Jackson, Roy E. Howell, Ralph W. Stickell, and Dr. E. F. B. Shope constitute the trustee board. These brethren serving in the several other important official positions are worthy successors of those who began the work at Middletown, and of those who served officially during the last quarter of the past century. To this list of lay workers should be added the names of Mrs. A. R. Geyer, Mrs. Eva S. Gruber, Mrs. D. D. Treichler, Mrs. J. R. Brinser, Mrs. Grace Bauder Nagle, Miss Mary E. Geyer, H. R. Bauder, Miles Shoop, E. E. Robinson, and A. Lagoza, who have made valuable contributions in terms of personal service through a wide variety of organization channels. D. B. Kieffer had the distinction of heading the Sunday School for twenty-eight years. M. H. Bachman, after giving the earlier years of his life to the work of the Annville Church, in 1918 moved to Middletown and from that time forward proved to be a valuable asset to this congregation. It was he who urged that a fund for a new church building be started. He was elected delegate to General Conference for the sessions of 1929, 1933 and 1945.
Since his retirement in 1921, the Rev. E. A. G. Bossler has been located in Middletown and has given time and talent to the spiritual work of the parish by assisting in a number of ways, particularly as class leader. He is a former pastor of this congregation, and his other appointments were: Oberlin Charge, Lancaster Covenant, Steelton, and Harrisburg State Street Churches. The Reverend Bossler was first licensed in 1886, was granted annual conference license in 1888, and was ordained in 1890.

The Middletown Church was attached to the following Circuits: Highspire, 1851-71; Hummelstown, 1871-72; Highspire, 1872-74; from 1874 to 1878, Middletown Station; and Swatara Circuit, 1878-79. Ministers who served the Middletown Church from 1874 onward are: Henry C. Phillips, 1874-76; J. R. Reitzel, Israel Groff, 1876-77; A. P. Stauffer, S. L. Swartz, 1877-78; Amos Graul, 1878-79; J. M. Lesher, 1879-81; H. W. Zimmerman, 1881-82; J. G. Fritz, 1882-83; A. H. Kauffman, 1883-85; Theodore Wagner, 1885-86; Z. C. Mower, 1886-89; Thomas Garland, 1889-90; J. G. Smoker, 1890-96; Esdras Ludwig, 1896-1904; D. S. Eshelman, 1904-07; U. S. G. Renn, 1907-12; I. H. Albright, 1912-18; E. A. G. Bossler, 1918-21; C. A. Funk, 1921-25; and H. K. Geyer, 1925-46.

Millersburg Hebron Church

Daniel and John Miller, at whose homes Newcomer lodged when in Millersburg, had come from Lancaster County in the year 1790. Daniel Miller laid out his land in town lots in 1807. He taught school in a log cabin, "then considered quite a pretentious structure, large and strongly put together, and well provided with loop-holes—a kind of fort to which the settlers might fly for safety in case of attack from Indians." It may be that Christian Newcomer held service in this structure.

Although our denomination became active in upper Dauphin County at an early date, many years passed before it established a permanent work in Millersburg. The first effort was made in 1871. Conference leaders were hopeful that a congregation might be established. In 1871 and in 1872, Millersburg Station appears on boundary committee reports. In both years the appointment was left to be supplied but no appointments were made. In 1873 conference made an appropriation of $200 and appointed the Rev. C. S. Meily. At the close of the year he reported a class of twenty-eight members. He was reappointed the following year and an appropriation of $150 was made. In 1875 the class was attached to Halifax Circuit; in 1878, it and the surrounding country was recognized a charge and T. P. Orner was assigned to it; in 1879, the Rev. H. S. Rice served from June to October, and he reported nine members at the close of the year. In that year, the presiding elder reports: "That some steps had been taken towards building a church but the prospects are not very encouraging." From 1880 onward to 1896 efforts were continued but with little progress.

The Rev. D. E. Long, while pastor of Lykens Circuit gave some attention to opening a preaching appointment in Millersburg. He
held services in the Moore Street Evangelical Church, and there on April 17, 1904 organized a class of twenty members whose names are: Lizzie Bowers, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Forney, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hoy, Alice Koppenhaver, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lebo, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Lehman, Sevilla Schaeffer, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Shatto, Nora Snyder, Etta Speece, John Travitz, Susan Weaver, W. E. Wert, Lizzie and Jennie Wert. By October forty additional members were received.

The progress and importance of the work prompted annual conference authorities to constitute Millersburg Mission Station with the Killinger's Church attached in the fall of 1904, and the Rev. Long was appointed. The trustees, S. E. Lehman, J. M. Chubb, J. D. Lebo, John L. Forney, and William Wert, purchased a piece of ground on the corner of North and Market Streets, then known as the Campbell property. In March 1905 the building of a house of worship was begun. By December the structure was completed and then dedicated by Bishop Job. S. Mills. Its cost was $7,000. At the close of the conference year 1904-05, the Rev. Long reported a membership of ninety-three.

During the pastorate of the Rev. A. L. Haeseler, a double dwelling was built on North Street, close to the church property. It served as a pastor's house and as a home for the sexton. The parsonage was enlarged and remodeled during the building project of the year 1933.

In looking forward to a building-expansion program, a building fund was established during the pastorate of the Rev. O. L. Mease. His successor, the Rev. M. V. Fridinger, saw the total for this purpose reach $33,000 by the time his term of service closed in the fall of 1933. Quarterly conference, in 1935, voted to launch a building program. Two lots, costing $2,850, adjoining the church property were purchased. A building committee, consisting of the pastor, S. T. Dundore, Prof. E. B. Long, and the church trustees, John L. Forney, J. M. Novinger, J. W. Brightbill, Henry Shoop, Ed. H. Chubb, Homer A. Klinger, and C. A. Heimbaugh was appointed. Ground breaking services were held Easter Sunday, the cornerstone was laid July 14, and the completed building was dedicated by Bishop G. D. Batdorf, December 1, 1935.

The new building 40x95 feet, three stories high, with wings at each end 22x24 feet, is attached to the rear of the original chapel. This new structure is admirably adapted for a modern program of Christian Education. Each age group has its own worship assembly room and related sound-proof class rooms. The ground floor plan is well suited for social and dramatic purposes. Cost of remodeling the original sanctuary and the parsonage, and the new construction was slightly more than $52,000.

Final payment of the indebtedness was made September 1, 1943. Special services marking this splendid achievement were held on the nineteenth of September. Dr. D. E. Young, conference superintendent, conducted mortgage-burning ceremonies and preached at the morning service, and Dr. O. L. Mease, under whose pastorate
Millersburg Church

the building fund had been established, preached in the evening. The Rev. S. T. Dundore who had previously served Elizabethville Church, 1922-25, and the Mountville Church, Lancaster County, 1925-33, came to Millersburg Church in the fall of 1933, and gave inspiring direction to the building enterprise. Since 1926 he has annually conducted Camp Fire services at the Mt. Gretna Summer Assembly, and since 1929 has been director of Young People's Work under the Conference Board of Christian Education.

Local preachers of the Millersburg Church were, S. K. Deibler and Henry Shoop. Edgar D. Wert was voted quarterly license. Prominent in the several official capacities over the years of the church’s history have been: John Dressler, William Lebo, George E. Novinger, Emory Shoop, church trustees, not previously mentioned; S. K. Deibler and Aaron Kuntzleman, class leaders; S. E. Lehman, Julius Bair, Ed. H. Chubb, Charles Welker, John M. Novinger, Charles Hoffman, and William Hoy, general Sunday School superintendents; E. B. Long, Mrs. Basil March, and Mrs. E. B. Long, departmental superintendents; Mrs. Edwin Long, Mrs. Calvin Erb, Mrs. Earl Brightbill, and Mrs. John Dressler, presidents of the Women’s Missionary Association; and Mrs. Aaron Kuntzleman and Mrs. William Speece, presidents of the Ladies’ Aid.

The pastor’s of the church have been; D. E. Long, 1903-06; C. A. Snavely, 1906-08; C. A. Mutch, 1909-11; A. L. Haeseler, 1911-17; G. W. Hallman, 1917-18; O. L. Mease, 1918-23; M. V. Fradinger, 1928-33; and S. T. Dundore, 1933-46.
Oberlin, Neidig Memorial Church

“Neidig’s Meetinghouse,” named for the Reverend John Neidig, was built in about the year 1793. It was the first church building erected east of the Susquehanna River by the followers of Otterbein and Boehm. Dr. Drury writes of this building as follows:

The Oberlin Church house, near Harrisburg, has more than a passing interest. As far as can now be ascertained, the Oberlin, or Neidig Church was the second to be built by the United Brethren, the Geeting church at Antietam, built before 1774, being the first. But of the Antietam church we know very little. No deed was ever given for this property.

There was in existence a manuscript written in German which contained a list of subscriptions, an accounting of the costs of materials, and a record of donation of labor and materials pertaining to the erection of the meetinghouse. The introductory statement in this manuscript is as follows: “We the United Brethren, do hereby promise to pay the respective sums of money placed opposite our names for the purpose of paying the meeting-house we have lately constructed.” The names on the list are: John Neidig, Felix Landis, John Light, Jacob Kerr, Philip Brown, Henry Stoner, John Stubitz, Jacob Good, Ludwig Degan, Christian Eby, Henry Stence, John Snavely, Philip Stence, Peter Pancake, Frederick Pancake, Jacob Shultz, Conrad Long, widow Winagle, widow Witmer, and widow Strayer. The individual amounts subscribed appear, amounting in the total to seventy-three pounds, seventeen shillings, and six pence. In a second list, under each name, are the items of credits for cash contributions and donations of labor and material, which amount to seventy pounds, nine shillings, and eight pence.

According to the deed for the church lot, dated August 4, 1803, “John Roop and wife, Mary, sold one-half acre of ground to the Reverend John Neydick, Felix Landis, and John Light, Trustees of the German Society, or Congregation of People residing in Swatara Township,” for the price of five shillings. John Roop had settled on a tract of land of one-hundred and fifty acres, for which a warrant had been issued to Alexander Stevens in 1737. But Mr. Stevens had never received a patent for the same. A patent was finally granted to Mr. Roop April 24, 1821. Inasmuch as Mr. Roop was not in actual possession of the church lot when he sold it, and probably also because the name of the grantee was not given fully in the deed, he signed a statement of release under date of April 3, 1822, in which the grantee is designated; “The German Society of the United Brethren,” and which release is appended to the deed. The lot formed the southeast corner of Mr. Roop’s farm, or what would now be, the northeast corner of Main and High Streets, in Oberlin, the site of the present church building.

The building constructed of limestone, was about thirty by forty feet, with a sharply-sloped combed roof. The interior presented a plain appearance with no pulpit but a large table at one end of the
room. Around it on three sides sat the leaders in singing, who were all male persons, and on the fourth side sat der Prediger, (the preacher). In later years a desk was used instead of the table. This desk is still in possession of the church and is serving as a lecturn in the lecture room. “Needless to say there is not money enough anywhere to buy it,” writes the pastor of the present, the Rev. J. R. MacDonald. The seats for the congregation were rudely constructed benches without backs. A large old-fashioned fireplace found its position in one corner of the room.

By the list of subscribers to the church building project as given above, we have before us the earliest membership roll of any local congregation in the conference. The subsequent available data on the Neidig’s church is for the period 1846-56—the quarterly conference proceedings for the Highspire Circuit. Trustees for that period are: Jacob Snavely, Christian Good (fuller), John and Samuel Neidig (sons of the Rev. John), Abraham Martin, Michael Frantz, Jacob Bender, Christian Good (farmer), and Henry Zimmerman. With one or two exceptions these brethren during the same period were class leaders and/or class stewards. Samuel Neidig, Michael Frantz, and Henry Zimmerman were trustees at Highspire also, thus showing the close fellowship of the two congregations. Levi Wolfersberger and Henry Miller were additional leaders; Jonas Baker and J. Light additional stewards.

The old meetinghouse served the congregation fifty-seven years or until 1850, when a second church was erected on the site of the first. This was a frame structure, considerably larger than the first. The conference appointment at Oberlin during the time of the second church was known as “Churchville,” taking its name from the town, which, as one historian writes, was so named because the place has “two large and well-supported churches, the Lutheran and the United Brethren.”

In 1887 the third building, costing $4,000 was erected. It was dedicated January 26, 1888, as the “Neidig Memorial United Brethren Church.” There were morning, afternoon, and evening services, in which the Rev. G. W. Miles Rigor, presiding elder; and the Reverends M. J. Mumma, P. A. Bowman, and the pastor E. L. Hughes, took part. The trustees were C. B. Shope, John Livingstone, and A. H. Shope. The house of worship was a two-story structure—the first floor designed for Sunday School use and the second floor for a sanctuary.

During the pastorate of the Rev. E. A. G. Bossler a parsonage was built in the year 1891. The presiding elder currently wrote concerning it, “It is a frame dwelling, substantial, convenient, good water supply, a large lot, thus making it a very desirable home for the pastor and his family, and for his successors.” The large lot here referred to shows that the brethren at Oberlin wisely held on to the half acre of ground donated by John Roop. Part of this ground was used as a burial lot. Later the bodies of the dead were disinterred and buried in the northwest corner of the Oberlin Cemetery.
The church was enlarged in 1908 by addition of a structure, sixteen by six feet. Improvements to church and parsonage, and new installations made at the same time cost $5,830.86. Further improvements made to the two buildings in 1913 cost $1,849.14. An Estey Pipe Organ was installed and small annex built to house the same, in 1920. The amount of expenditure was $7,297.60. The appearance and facilities of the church were brought to modern standards in 1943, at a cost of $9,978.60. During the five years of pastor J. R. MacDonald's administration $37,858.97 were raised for all purposes.
At his direction the improvements of 1943 were made, and the congregation subsequently thereto celebrated its Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary. A week of special services were held, May 23-30. Bishop G. D. Batdorf, dedicated the gifts and memorials on May the thirtieth. Recognition was given to those who made possible 150 years of continued church history, in a profusely-illustrated and informative book of sixty-eight pages.

The Sunday School was organized prior to 1846. The first organizing of a Women's Missionary Society was in 1889, the second in 1895, and the third in 1902—this latter continues to the present. Mrs. Emma Aungst is president and Miss Bertha Eby, treasurer. An Otterbein Guild was organized, first in 1904; and second in 1937, with Mrs. Winifred Shambaugh as president. Officers of the Ladies' Aid are, Mrs. John Peck, Mrs. Miriam Hacker, and Mrs. O. C. Bishop. At the time of the 1943 celebration the following persons had fifty or more years of church membership: Mrs. Aaron Lyter, J. E. Berkleheimer, Agnes Peck, Bertha Eby, Bertie Morgan, Harry Aungst, Wm. H. Look, Maggie Hagar, Blanche Horner, Ida Eby Mower, Mrs. Joseph Wolfe, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Adam Aungst.

George F. Stengel, lay delegate to annual conference for some years, and to the General Conference of 1917, was a staunch supporter of the work locally for many years. William H. Horner, another influential layman, has to his credit thirty-eight years as Sunday School Superintendent, twenty-three years as trustee, and eighteen years as delegate to annual conference. He has served on various committees of annual conference and is a member of the Mt. Gretna Campmeeting Association Board.

The roll of ministers serving this congregation naturally has on it the names of John Neidig and Jacob Roop. At what date those ministers appointed to Lancaster Circuit began serving Oberlin can not now be ascertained. The Lancaster Circuit included the area from 1800 to 1831. From 1831 onward the church was affiliated with the following circuits: Halifax, 1831-33; Dauphin Circuit, 1833-45; Highspire Circuit, 1845-69; Hummelstown Circuit, 1869-73; With Steelton, 1873-74; Highspire Circuit, 1874-88. Since 1888 the following have been appointed to Oberlin charge: J. B. Daugherty, 1888-90; E. A. G. Bossler, 1890-93; U. S. G. Renn, 1893-96; J. Francis Smith, 1896-99; M. A. Salt, 1899-1901; J. A. Keiper, 1901-10; C. E. Boughter, 1910-15; H. S. Kiefer, 1915-21; Clarence Mease, 1921-23; I. N. Seldomridge, 1923-29; R. S. Heberlig, 1929-37; and J. R. MacDonald, 1937-46.

Penbrook Grace Church

The congregation worshipping in the handsome stone edifice standing on the corner of Twenty-eight and Walnut Streets in Penbrook, had its origin in what was known as Raysor's Church. The facts concerning the earlier building and congregation are therefore stated in this connection.

The Raysor's Church building stood at the western tip of a tri-
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angular church lot, about a mile east of the Jonestown Road passing through Penbrook. It is a matter of record that there was a Raysor's class, meeting in the home of the Rev. John Raysor, founder of the congregation, as early as 1849, and according to tradition as early as 1838. The Raysor, Good, Hoffnagle, Brightbill, Wenrich, and Sheesley families formed the nucleus of this class. The Rev. John Raysor, son of Johannes and Elizabeth Rosser (the German spelling of the name), was born January 1, 1789. He was admitted to annual conference in 1838, and always held the relation of a local minister. Some months after his death, which occurred August 31, 1850, in a brief obituary appearing in the Religious Telescope, the following comment was made: "He was a zealous and consistent preacher, anxious for the prosperity of Zion."

Two years after the Rev. Raysor's death the class erected a church house. At a quarterly meeting on the Dauphin Circuit, October 16, 1852, "Permission was asked to build a meeting house at or in the neighborhood of Razor's Class, which on motion was agreed to. On motion, Abraham Razor, Daniel Shell, and Jonas Shessley were elected as trustees to build said meeting house. "By deed issued June 30, 1853, Jonathan Shessley and Wife Catharine (daughter of John Raysor), for the consideration of one dollar, granted to Abraham Raysor (brother of Rev. John), Jacob Snively, and Daniel Shell, trustees for the congregation, a lot of ninety square perches. Though the building has since been removed, the site is well known by the cemetery located on part of it.

Henry Herr, an early promoter of United Brethrenism in and about Harrisburg, was a member at Raysor's. In 1849 he was leader of the class, and from 1849 to 1852 was its steward. Jonathan (otherwise, Jonas) Sheesley, Joseph Saul, Jacob Snively, John Raysor Jr., William Hoffnagle, David Smith, John W. Brightbill, J. Nissley, John J. Wenrich, Elias Shope, Samuel and David Whitmoyer are mentioned as officers of the quarterly, serving in the capacity of class leader and stewards, in the period from 1849 to 1872. Franklin Miller was Sunday School superintendent 1870-72, and he was followed by Isaac Holtzman. Abraham Shessley, a local minister of this congregation was a contemporary of the Rev. Raysor. He was born in 1787; was converted in 1826, and first licensed in 1831. His quarterly conference license was renewed from year to year until the year of his death, 1872.

Ministers who preached at Raysor's Church by conference appointment were those appointed to the following circuits: Dauphin, 1838-57; Dauphin-Hummelstown, 1857-58; Dauphin, 1858-64; Harrisburg, 1864-68; Union Deposit, 1868-69; Harrisburg 1869-73; Linglestown, 1873-77; Harrisburg, 1877-83; and East Harrisburg, 1888-92.

Harrisburg's ever increasing population pushed eastwardly, so that by 1875 the area east of Canby Street was laid out in building lots, and became known as "East Harrisburg," or sometimes also called "Grantville." It was the same that is now called Penbrook. By 1881 certain members of the Raysor's Church believed they
could do a greater service and have a more favorable location if the congregation moved to this new development. A trustee board, consisting of John Major, Benjamin H. Engle, Enoch Runkle, David Whitmoyer, and Isaac Holtzman was elected. A lot on the Jones-town Road near East Twenty-eighth Street was purchased for $100 and a frame church building erected thereon. The house of worship was dedicated February 19, 1882 by Bishops J. J. Glossbrenner and John Dickson, assisted by presiding elder Ezekiel Light and the pastor G. A. Loose.

It soon became evident that, while the leaders of this new congregation were confident of success in beginning a work in Penbrook, they were much too conservative in their estimate of that success. The first building proved to be too inadequate—after passing of but eight years they bought additional ground adjoining the original
purchase and set themselves to the task of erecting a new frame building. This was practically a two-story structure, 48x70 feet, costing $5,500. All indebtedness having been provided, it was dedicated December 14, 1890 by Bishop John Dickson, with H. B. Dohner, presiding elder, and pastor M. A. Salt assisting.

Part of the membership at Rayson's Church continued to worship in their old building after the new in Penbrook had been built. The two congregations were attached to the same circuit from 1881 to 1892. It was the Harrisburg Circuit from 1881 to 1888, and the ministers serving it were: G. A. Loose, 1881-83; C. W. Hutzler, 1883-86; E. L. Hughes, 1886-87; and M. J. Mumma, 1887-88. From 1888 to 1892 it was East Harrisburg Circuit, the ministers appointed were: M. J. Mumma, 1888-89; M. A. Salt, 1889-1892. Under the Rev. G. F. Bierman, 1892-93, the Rayson's membership came into the organization at Penbrook.

In 1920, under the pastorate of the Rev. H. M. Miller, plans were formulated for the erection of a modern house of worship. New property was secured on the southeast corner of Twenty-eighth and Walnut Streets. After careful architectural and financial planning, ground breaking exercises were held on May 14, 1922. The cornerstone was laid with appropriate exercises, May 23, by Dr. J. A. Lyter, assisted by the pastor, Dr. Schaeffer, Mr. I. B. Swartz, chairman of the building committee, and Thomas Stephenson, contractor. After building operations were well under way, work was held up for two months due to financial difficulties on the part of the contracting firm. Mr. Harry A. Sherk, member of the Derry Street Church, a builder and contractor of wide experience, was engaged to complete the work. The temple of worship was dedicated on September 9, 1923. Dr. Enck preached in the morning of that day, and Dr. W. R. Funk of Dayton, Ohio, dedicated the sanctuary at the afternoon service and preached in the evening.

It is an imposing structure with walls of Vermont Grey Ashler Marble. Its graceful tall tower speaks of that strength and beauty which becomes the house of prayer. Its interior construction and furnishings, and its art windows match the elegance of its exterior. Its spacious sanctuary is flanked on the right by a general assembly room; and individual class rooms on two floors for Sunday School work. The basement floor is fitted out for departmental school work and social activities.

The building committee consisted of the pastor, Dr. Schaeffer, I. B. Swartz, chairman, O. E. Good, secretary, Joseph E. Shenk, treasurer, Levi Basehore, J. L. Booser, Samuel G. Snoddy, B. F. Knupp, C. H. Lyter, and George M. Aungst. Cost of the building including contents was $133,276.52.

The first parsonage for this parish was built in 1904 at a cost of $2,500 on the site formerly occupied by the first frame church building. The present manse, a brick semi-bungalow building, on the corner of Thirtieth and Herr Streets was built at a cost of
$15,424.16, including the cost of ground. It was dedicated by Dr. S. C. Enck, October 23, 1928.

Sunday School superintendents of Grace Church from the time of its organization have been, Benjamin H. Engle, Amos E. Enders, Harry A. Sherk, George B. Hacker, Dr. E. L. Shope, and O. E. Good, the present incumbent. From the Centennial Souvenir Book published in 1944, we gather the names of the following official personnel—official board officers: Dr. H. E. Schaeffer, Harry W. Hagy, Arthur E. Aungst, Horace G. Erb; church trustee board, Oscar E. Good, H. C. Garber, John H. Shenk, John Crum, Arthur Aungst, Levi Basehore, Brook A. Pletz, R. D. Hospers, George P. Shaeffer; parsonage board, John W. Lear, Herbert Lambert, R. R. Shaffner, Edward Pletz, Frank Witmer, George Yetter, Clarence V. Zeiders; class leaders, John W. Lear, Joseph A. Cooper; congregational representatives, R. M. Hoover, J. S. Zimmerman, James D. Wallace; Sunday School, general officers, Oscar E. Good, Brooke A. Peltz, C. E. Meckley, Clyde Weiser; and directors, Lester Holtzman, Mrs. Mary Hoerner; Women's Missionary Society, Mrs. Dewitt Zimmerman, Mrs. Myrna Shaffner; Otterbein Guild, Miss Jean Heinly, Miss Margaret Shaffner; Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. J. A. Wilson, Mrs. William Houck; Intermediate C. E., Mrs. Dewitt Zimmerman; Jr. C. E., Miss Elizabeth A. Bowman; directors of music, Mrs. Sara L. Aungst, and Mrs. H. E. Schaeffer.

The minister of this congregation since 1921 is the Rev. Harry E. Schaeffer. During his ministry the present church and parsonage have been built, and the membership increased from 452 to 759. Before coming to Penbrook he served Lebanon Circuit 1912-15, and Avon Church 1915-21. Dr. Schaeffer is an alumnus of Lebanon Valley College, having received the A.B. degree in 1917, the A.M. degree in 1921, the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1929; and has been a trustee of the college since 1925. He was admitted to annual conference in 1913, and was ordained in 1918. He is a member of numerous boards and committees in the annual conference organization; and of committees of General Conference, to which body he was a delegate five consecutive sessions, 1929-1945, and of the uniting session of 1946.

The list of ministers serving Penbrook since 1893 is as follows: H. T. Denlinger, 1893-98; Z. A. Weidler, 1898-1900; Thomas Garland, 1900-02; M. H. Jones, 1902-07; H. M. Miller, 1907-21; and H. E. Schaeffer, 1921-46.

Riegle's Church, Mifflin Township

This church carries the name of the Riegle family which was quite prominent in this part of Dauphin County. Benjamin Riegle and wife, Catharine Deibler Riegle, in the year 1844 sold sixty square perches of land to a trustee board consisting of John Werner, John Yeager Sr., and William Motter, for the erection of a house of worship.

Benjamin Riegle, son of George, and grandson of John Riegle and
wife Elizabeth Zeller Riegle, was a prosperous farmer of upper Dauphin County. The grandparents were of the Riegle and Zeller families who came under the influence of Otterbein's preaching in the valley of the Tulpehocken. Benjamin was born in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County, March 24, 1805. Due to hard work and good management he gained considerable material means. He was a stockholder in Harrisburg banks, and was one of the organizers of a bank in Millersburg and also one in Lykens. The Church was not the least of his interests. He was a life-long member of Riegle's Church, which he supported generously. He was a member of the first trustee board of Jacob's (Killinger's) Church, a trustee at Riegle's, and lay delegate representing Lykens Valley Circuit at annual conference sessions. He lived to the great age of ninety-seven years, eleven months, and twenty days.

The first church in which the congregation worshipped was erected in 1844. It was of brick construction, and located on an elevation of ground north of the Millersburg-Berrysburg Road, a little more than five miles out of Millersburg. The second church, also of brick, was erected on the site of the first in 1909-10, at a cost of $5,400.

The Riegle, Hoy, Landis, Lehman, Deibler, and Lenker families were of those who had a large share in the work of this congregation. Trustees now serving are: Lemuel Dressler, Frank Erdman, William Wert, Arnold, and Irvin Deibler—the last named is also the Sunday School superintendent.

Samuel Lehman and wife, Catherine, nee Diebler, were of the early members. William H. Lehman, their son, also a member at Riegle's received annual Conference license in 1899. His ministry was limited to occasional service to the churches of Lykens Valley. He was active as Sunday School superintendent, class leader and trustee until he moved to Millersburg, where he died in the eighty-
fifth year of his age in 1936. The Reverend Arthur S. Lehman, son of William H. was converted in 1892 in Riegle's Church. He taught school five terms in the upper end of the County. This class voted him quarterly conference license. He was granted annual license in 1901, and was ordained in 1910. In preparation for the ministry he attended Lebanon Valley College and Bonebrake Theological Seminary. Lebanon Valley conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1920. While in the eleventh year of his pastorate at Derry Street Church, Harrisburg, he died, December 21, 1936. Charges of the conference previously held by him were: East Harrisburg Circuit, 1901-03; Manheim and Ruhl's, 1903-07; and Hummelstown Church, 1910-25. The Rev. Walter E. Diebler also received quarterly conference license upon recommendation of this class.

The church has been attached to the following charges: Halifax Circuit, 1844-54; Lykens Circuit, 1854-1922; Millersburg Quarterly Conference, 1922-23; Lykens Circuit, 1923-26; Millersburg Quarterly Conference, 1926-29; Tremont charge, 1929-32; and Millersburg, 1932-46.

**Rockville Church**

The Rockville class was organized during the conference year 1868-69. In that year the Reverends Henry Schropp and J. W. Boughter were traveling the Union Deposit Circuit and extended their labors to Rockville. At the conference of 1869 Harrisburg Circuit was reorganized and the Rockville class was attached to it. Due to the large number of appointments of the circuit, the first quarterly held directed that Simon S. Mower serve the classes at Rockville and Fishing Creek. The Rev. Mower received annual license at the 1869 session. He resided at Linglestown, and being without an appointment, was available to assist the pastor on the charge. Simon Eisenhour and David Runkle were the first official members of the class.

Rockville was constituted a Station in 1872, and the Rev. Mower was regularly appointed. His annual report to conference session of 1873 shows there were nineteen members at the beginning of the conference year and that they had a gain of five. During his year a frame church building, approximately thirty by sixty feet, was erected on ground donated by David Runkle and wife Julia.

When the building was erected its location was central for its constituency, but as time went on increase in population was greater a mile or so to the south. Furthermore, the building was hemmed in by the Pennsylvania Canal on the west and the Northern Central Railroad on the east. By 1926 the matter of relocating became a live issue. The congregation keenly sensed the need for it and the Conference Missionary and Church Extension Society favored steps to accomplish the same. A building fund was established, and ground on the northwest corner of Sixth Street and Linglestown Road was purchased.
After half the amount required for the proposed project had been provided, plans submitted by Mr. Harry A. Sherk, contractor, were approved, and ground was broken for the erection of a new church. These exercises were held, June 1, 1930, at which time Dr. D. E. Young and the Rev. C. R. Beittel made addresses. The cornerstone was laid August 3, by Dr. S. C. Enck. Dedicatory services for the completed structure were held December 21, 1930. Bishop G. D. Batdorf preached at the morning service and dedicated the house of worship. Visiting pastors brought greetings at the afternoon service. Dr. Enck preached at the evening service; and presented the financial needs at all of the day’s services, with the result that $6,287.68 were raised in cash and subscriptions. Friends of the congregation generously supported the financial effort. At the time of dedication the church membership numbered ninety-seven. The building constructed of Watsontown red brick has a fine appearance, and its interior is properly laid out for modern educational work and public worship. Its cost with furnishings was $26,000.

The Rev. Walter G. Bowers, a local minister, has served the congregation by conference appointment since 1926. A new Moller pipe organ costing $3,000 was installed in 1942, and was dedicated by Dr. S. C. Enck, May 10. Dr. D. E. Young conducted mortgage-burning ceremonies in 1944. It was under the Rev. Bowers that the project of relocating was begun and completed, and the church and grounds and all recent installations paid. He reported a membership of 170 at the close of 1946.

Trustees for the property of the Rockville congregation during its earlier years were: David Runkle, John Garverich, David Blosser, John H. Myers, Samuel Lontz, John B. Blosser, Anson Stein, and Lloyd Wagner. Trustees during Rev. Bowers' ministry have been: A. B. Martin, David Stine, Mildred Wagner, William H. Beers, S. D. Fox, I. C. Shambaugh, John Shatto, and A. Meade Juillard. A partial list of Sunday School superintendents is as follows: George Walker, George Carr, Elias Mease, Samuel Lontz, George W. Bowers, Grant Garverich, A. B. Martin, Lloyd Wagner, John B. Blosser, Irvin W. Barner, Frank Schrauder, and William H. Beers. Mrs. Ellen Hoover, Hazel Zeigler, and Marian Fox head the ladies' organizations. S. D. Fox has been church treasurer for many years.

Since 1873, the Rockville Church has been attached to the following circuits: Linglestown, 1873-77; Harrisburg, 1877-93; East Harrisburg, 1893-98; Harrisburg, 1899-1912; and to Linglestown Charge, 1912-24. Since constituted a charge in 1924, the following ministers have served: E. E. Saul, 1924-25; C. L. Early, 1925-26; and Walter G. Bowers, 1926-46.

Royalton Emanuel Church

John Mathias is generally recognized as the founder of the United Brethren in Christ Church at Royalton. This Christian man and a few other like-minded persons met at his home which was in the same block in which the Church now stands. This group consisted of John, Susan, and Priscilla Mathias; John and Fannie Chrissemer;
and Jeremiah and Carolyn Cryder. The Rev. S. M. Hummel who resided at Hummelstown being without a regular charge, rendered a spiritual ministry to these people in 1873. The Rev. H. C. Phillips organized a class February 22, 1874. It was attached to Middletown Charge in 1874 and served by Rev. Phillips two years.

This small congregation was minded to build a house of worship. John Mathias and wife Susan donated a lot extending thirty-four feet on Wyoming Street, and forty-five feet along Penn Street. A small frame chapel twenty by forty feet, known as “Centennial Chapel of the United Brethren in Christ,” was erected on said lot, and dedicated free of debt in the year 1875. The board of trustees consisted of John Mathias of Royalton, and Benjamin S. Peters and John H. Baker of Middletown. The chapel was renovated in 1884 and four years later it was enlarged by the addition of twenty feet.

In the first deed for the lot, dated December 5, 1874, Susan Mathias is the sole grantee. A nominal charge of one dollar is stipulated as the purchase price. There is on record a second deed, dated April 2, 1893, the grantees being Susan and John Mathias, and the sale price is $1,400. The trustees therein named are: Samuel H. Ney, William L. Stotz, Daniel Ney, John G. Kinsey, Henry L. Granger, Jacob S. Updegraff, and John N. Rife.

In this same year the present brick church was erected on the site of the old at a cost of $5,850. It was dedicated by Bishop E. B. Kephart February 18, 1894. The financial burden proved to be too great for the congregation. The presiding elder in his report to annual conference in the fall of that year reported the financial situation to be very precarious. The church had to be sold in 1896, but in 1897, Dr. Lowery reported that through, “The indefatigable efforts of the pastor, H. D. Lehman, the church has again been secured to us.” Evidently pastor Lehman had assumed the obligation, inasmuch as the proceedings of 1899 state the following: “The late H. Dickson Lehman has in his last will and testament bequeathed to this conference the church property at Royalton which was purchased by him.” Such was the manner in which one church of this conference was saved to the conference and the denomination, i.e., by the effort and self-sacrifice of its pastor.

He merits a brief statement of his career. The Rev. Harry Dickson Lehman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leander Lehman, was born at West Fairview, Pa., March 11, 1863, and died at Royalton, July 11, 1899, at the age of thirty-six years and four months. He was converted in his tender years in Harrisburg First Church. After having completed a course in Union Biblical (Bonebrake) Seminary in 1886 at the age of twenty-three years, he was assigned to Philadelphia Mt. Pisgah (First) Church, where he remained two years. Then followed his first pastorate at Royalton, 1888-1892. From 1892 to 1895 he served Reading Otterbein Church. In 1895, at the earnest request of the people at Royalton, he was returned to their church. Evidences of failing health first appeared during his last year at Reading, and his affliction increased so that he could not take up his
appointment at Royalton in 1895. But being reappointed in 1896, he served the congregation until the time of his death. He literally wore himself out for the Master’s cause.

The church which was brought through its trials and reverses by the Rev. Lehman has since prospered and triumphed. The building was completely renovated in 1919. Improvements on the exterior consisted of laying concrete pavement and steps, erecting of pillar lights, and lowering of steeple; on the interior, walls and ceiling were refrescoed, and new carpet, new lights, and new pews were installed. The trustees overseeing the work were: W. H. Wolfe, A. K. Conrad, Edwin Treichler, George Wolfe, C. R. Landis, J. H. Flowers, and J. G. Updegraff. Dr. S. C. Enck preached morning and evening at re-opening services on September 14, 1919. Two years later, a new parsonage, modern in every respect, was built costing $8,100. It also was dedicated by Dr. Enck, the event taking place September 4, 1921. The Rev. C. R. Beittel led the congregation in both these enterprises.

A second general renovation was made in 1938 at a cost of $1,452.56. Under the ministry of the present pastor, the Rev. Harry C. Mark, further improvements have been made to church and parsonage, and a garage of cement blocks has been built. A Hammond electric organ, new pulpit, new altar table, and collection plates were dedicated by Dr. H. E. Miller, March 22, 1942.

The various names, Centennial Chapel, South Middletown, East Middletown, and Furnace Hill, which are all found in boundary committee reports complicates matters in trying to ascertain the church’s attachments to charges. To the best of our knowledge it was attached to Middletown, 1874-1878; Swatara Circuit, 1878-79; and Middletown, 1879-88. Since 1888 the pastors at Royalton Church have been: H. D. Lehman, 1888-92; J. Francis Smith, 1892-94; P. A. Bowman, 1894-95; H. D. Lehman, J. W. Boughter, 1895-96; H. D. Lehman, 1896-98; H. D. Lehman, J. K. Henry, 1898-99; G. W. M. Rigor, 1899-1901; C. S. Miller, 1901-08; Z. A. Weidler, 1908-11; J. Francis Smith, 1908-13; H. A. Smith, 1913-15; William Beach, 1915-18; C. R. Beittel, 1918-22; Paul Fridinger, 1922-25; S. G. Haas, 1925-26;
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E. M. Strickler, 1926-28; R. E. Morgan, 1928-30; G. W. Hendrickson, 1930-34; J. Howard Burtner, 1934-38; J. C. Deitzler, 1938-39; and Harry C. Mark, 1939-46.

Shope's Church, Derry Township

There was a class of worshippers known as "Round Top Class" which met in the homes of its members who resided in the vicinity of the present Shope's Church. It is first mentioned as an appointment on the old Hummelstown Circuit in the year 1857. Quite appropriately, "Round Top" correctly describes a conical-shaped, wooded hilltop which stands like a sentinel over the hilly region to the north of the Elizabethtown-Middletown Road within a few miles of the latter town. Henry Shope (1821-1901) the leading spirit of the organization, together with Joseph and George Weirich, J. Brady, John McGarvey, J. Martin, H. Musser, Peter Gipe, Henry Gipe, and M. Miller were among the laymen who served the class as leaders and stewards.

Brother Shope received quarterly conference license on April 10th, 1858, which license was renewed from time to time over a long period. The certificate issued to him on that date, signed by A. Steigerwalt, presiding elder, was handed to the writer a few years ago by a descendent. Joseph Weirich mentioned above was also granted license by recommendation of the Round Top class. In the year 1873 he became a member of annual conference, and in 1876 he was ordained. He served as an active itinerant until the year 1881.

In the year 1863, the matter of erecting a house of worship was considered and a committee consisting of J. Martin, Henry Shope, and John McGarvey was appointed with that end in view. It was not, however, until the year 1874 that a small frame church was erected. It was sometimes referred to as "Centenary Chapel," inasmuch as it was erected in the centennial year of Otterbein's going to Baltimore—a year generally observed as a centennial throughout the denomination. Henry Shope and wife Magdalena sold one-half acre of ground for the consideration of $50 to the trustees acting for the congregation who were: Jacob Geyer, Rev. Solomon L. Hummel, and Martin Ulrich. The class remained attached to Hummelstown Circuit until 1866, then in that year was attached to Union Circuit.

The congregation now numbers sixty-five members and the Sunday School has an enrollment of 111 pupils. The trustee board is composed of Mrs. Mae Heisey, Ray Winters, William Hocker, Joseph Bauder, and Harry Duncan.

In 1875, Shope's Church was attached to Swatara Circuit, 1879 to Middletown Circuit, 1880 to Conewago, 1882 to Swatara, 1885 to Fishburn's, in 1901 to Hillsdale, in 1917 to Stoverdale, and in 1921 to Hummelstown.

Steelton Centenary Church

In the year 1866 when the town of Baldwin (now Steelton) was laid out there were but six families residing within the area. The
following year Joseph C. Mumma moved to Baldwin and finding that a few United Brethren families had located there “he saw a door of usefulness opened and at once resolved to enter in and occupy for the Lord in establishing a United Brethren Church.” These families invited the Rev. Jeremiah P. Smith, minister of the Highspire Circuit, to visit them. A class was organized and Mr. Mumma was elected their leader. During the winter of 1867-68 a revival was held and at the first meeting four persons presented themselves at an altar of prayer. The revival continued for about six weeks and thirty souls professed to have found peace in Christ, most of whom united with the class.

The quarterly conference of Highspire Circuit elected Samuel Reitzel, Henry Harpel, and Joseph C. Mumma as trustees and authorized them to provide a place of worship. They did by purchasing an old schoolhouse in 1868 for the sum of $200. They also leased, for a term of five years, the ground on which the schoolhouse stood. The building was remodeled and served the congregation until expiration of the lease. By the year 1873 the need for a larger building was pressing. A new trustee board composed of Cornelius B. Shope of Oberlin, David R. Hoffman and Abram Hursh of Baldwin, acting for the congregation, bought lots Nos. 97 and 98, fronting fifty feet on Second Street and extending in depth 125 feet to Raspberry Alley, for the sum of $400. The church erected on these lots was dedicated by Bishop Jonathan Weaver June 29, 1874. Assisting in the services were the presiding elder, G. W. Miles Rigor, Ex-Bishop Jacob Erb, the Rev. Joseph C. Mumma, and the pastor, E. F. Light. A report to quarterly conference, dated January 11, 1875 shows the church and lot to have cost $3,073.71, of which amount $1,732.22 remained unpaid.

Two days before dedication, pastor Light resigned. He came from some western conference to apply for work in East Pennsylvania at the session held in March, 1874. On coming to the field he found a small membership—twenty-eight in number—and the financial prospect not very encouraging. His family never came east. After a brief pastorate of less than four months he returned to the West. John H. Graybill, a student in theology, was appointed and served until September. The Rev. Lewis Peters succeeded him, and reported at the end of the conference year a membership of sixty-one.

The name adopted for the Baldwin Church was “Centenary”; due to the denomination-wide celebration of the One-hundredth Anniversary of Otterbein’s going to the Baltimore Church. In 1880 the town and some settlements in close proximity to it were incorporated as the “Borough of Steelton.” Joseph C. Mumma, who as a layman was the leading spirit in establishing the class, was licensed by annual conference in 1869, and was ordained an elder in 1872. He was pastor of the congregation he founded, three years (1880-83). His previous pastorates were: Mt. Joy Circuit, Columbia Salome, Mountville Circuit, Schuylkill Haven Church, and New.
Holland Church. In 1883 he was appointed to Baltimore George Street Church, from which he resigned before completing the year. In 1884 his membership ceased, having withdrawn irregularly.

Within fifteen years after completion of the first house of worship it became advisable to build a larger one. To do so, a larger piece
of ground was purchased, fronting seventy-five feet on South Second Street, opposite the old location, for a sum of $2,000. Early in 1888 ground was broken for the new building. The old building was sold to the German Lutheran congregation, which took possession October 1, 1888. On the first Sunday of October of the same year, the basement, or lecture room of the new building, was formally opened and dedicated by the Rev. Isaiah Baltzell, presiding elder. The second floor, or Sanctuary Room, was dedicated by Bishop John Dickson October 19, 1890, assisted by H. B. Dohner, presiding elder, and the pastor, E. L. Hughes. While in the course of construction, a year previous the presiding elder wrote of this project: "It will be decidedly the best house of worship in the conference. The brethren there have undertaken a gigantic work." The cost of the structure in its entirety was approximately $13,000.

Improvements and enlargements made to this building and costs have been as follows: in 1902 improvements and installation of a pipe organ, $8,500; in 1916 improvements and additional space, $12,000; in 1924, expenditures on remodeling parsonage, laying hard wood floors in the church, and redecorating $14,000; improvements to parsonage and church in 1936, $3,628; and in 1942 installation of a new Moller pipe organ, and a stoker $8,632.29.

A house to be used as a parsonage was bought in 1883 at a cost of $1,800. The trustees at that time were: G. R. Hutchinson, A. Y. Kneisley, E. J. Grundun, Adam Beinhauer, J. L. Dickinson, David Young, George W. Parks, T. J. Reed, and J. N. Martin. It served as a parsonage until 1915 when the house at number 232 South Second Street was secured for that purpose.

Dates of organization of the several departments of the church are as follows: Ladies' Mite Society (Ladies' Aid), April 12, 1875; Olive Branch Society, July 9, 1876; Gleaner's Band (Young People's Missionary Society), 1885, Woman's Missionary Society, 1880; and Junior Society of Christian Endeavor, February 13, 1894. Though no dates of organization of other groups have been submitted, it can be said that Centenary Church is functioning through all those organizations common to our local church setup.

A Mission Sunday School was organized in Rheeling's Hall, West Steelton in 1885. Annual Conference of the year 1886 authorized that a Mission Station be established in West Steelton, but it remained without a pastoral appointment, the work was continued under supervision of Centenary Church. The Conference Missionary Society purchased a lot in 1889, paying $200 on the purchase price of $900, "with a view to build a chapel whenever circumstances will favor such an enterprise." Due to the silence of conference records on further procedure of this venture, we surmise it was soon thereafter dropped.

The amazing growth of the Steelton community made it a fertile field for expansion. The constant enlargement of the house of worship is indicative of an increase in membership. Mass evangelistic efforts from time to time resulted in many converts. Probably the
The greatest increase in any single year was that of the second year of Dr. A. K. Wier's pastorate when 148 persons were received to church membership on profession of faith. The church membership reached its peak in 1921-708 in number—under Dr. Joseph Daugherty. In more recent years there have been decreases due to several prevailing factors, of which the greatest is the shifting population. Of the 538 members now on the church roll, 152, or more than one-fourth of the total are non-resident. The Rev. Harry W. Deaven, pastor since 1942, is doing heroic work in coping with that which every pastor dealing with a similar situation knows to be a difficult task.

The official directory of the year 1945-46 contains the following officers: George W. Parks, W. H. Cumbler, J. B. Malehorn, E. E. Herrman, Lawrence Eckels, Clarence Dessenberg, Raymond Gerhart, E. U. Balsbaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ort, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wolfe, Mr. and Mrs. George Hartz, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Behman, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stouffer, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Finger, M. S. Marks, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Geesey, Guy Stehman, R. D. Shipley, John Beistline, Sr., Benjamin Conner, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Burtner, Mrs. Stephen Lukio, Mrs. A. Drayer Jr., Mrs. Kathryn Gardner, Mrs. John Baker, Mrs. Marion B. Linn, Mrs. W. H. Cumbler, Mrs. Lee Kuntz, Dorothy Beistline, Evelyn Baker, Robert Miller, Frank Pugh, Fern Dessenberg, Evelyn Dietrich, and Mrs. Harry W. Deaven.

Professor Earl Caton is giving exceptionally fine service as director of the choir. Mrs. Harvey Baker is church organist and Miss Rachel Stoner is her assistant. George W. Parks born March 8, 1854 has served in many local capacities. He has been a trustee of property since 1883, and recently was elected president emeritus of the board. Brother Parks still attends morning worship regularly. J. B. Malehorn is a familiar figure at the sessions of annual conference, representing his church as lay delegate.

The church was affiliated with Highspire Circuit, 1869-71; Hummelstown-Highspire Circuit, 1871-72, and with Highspire Circuit, 1872-73. It continued on the conference records as Baldwin Church until the year 1880, from then onward as Steelton, Centenary Church. Ministers since 1873 have been: A. V. H. Gosweiler, 1873-74; E. F. Light, John H. Graybill, Lewis Peters, 1874-75; Lewis Peters, 1875-76; H. C. Phillips, 1876-80; J. C. Mumma, 1880-83; J. R. Hutchinson, 1883-86; Lewis Peters, 1886-89; E. L. Hughes, 1889-92; J. R. Meredith, 1892-93; Esdras Ludwig, 1893-96; J. M. Shelly, 1896-99; A. R. Myers, 1899-1907; E. A. G. Bossler, 1907-13; A. K. Wier, 1913-18; Joseph Daugherty, 1918-23; C. W. Hendrickson, 1923-28; E. O. Burtner, 1928-36; P. E. Fridinger, 1935-42; and Harry W. Deaven, 1942-46.

Stoverdale Memorial Church, Derry Township

Edward Stover Sr., the founder of Stoverdale Memorial Church was a successful businessman of Harrisburg, whose residence was on the site of the present Pomeroy's Store of that city. He was also
the owner of a large farm located about two miles southwest of Hummelstown. Mr. Stover's first marriage was to Miss Mary Shenk and to them was born a son named Edward, who while a student at Dickinson Law School, took ill with a malignant disease and died at the Harrisburg residence. The father, who until this incident was not a professed Christian, interpreted the loss of his son "as a call from a Higher Power" to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and to devote his life to Christian service. He had been admonished by the dying son in his last hours that material wealth is but as dust in the sight of God.

Within two years after this event, the elder Mr. Stover set aside a tract of land for a church and cemetery and at his own expense erected a frame temple of worship, 30 x 40 feet in size. Mr. Stover, at the same time, began the development of a campmeeting grounds on his land bordering on the Swatara Creek. The church edifice, erected as a memorial to the deceased son, was dedicated August 4, 1872. Among the ministers participating on that occasion were: Ex-bishop Jacob Erb, and the Revs. J. F. Smith, Lewis Peters, Ezekiel Light, and G. W. Miles Rigor, the latter being presiding elder of the district.

The house of worship has been kept in an excellent state of repair. Recently a new carpet costing $650 has been laid in the aisles and within and about the chancel. Two portraits hang on the south wall; one of the founder, and the other of the Rev. Mr. Rigor whom the founder held in high esteem. Piramidal aborvitae and stately pines form an artistic setting for the gleaming white structure with its well proportioned spire.

Edward Stover, a son of the second marriage of the elder Mr. Stover, took up the interests and the responsibilities the father laid down upon his death in the year 1903 in the eightieth year of his age. Edward Stover Jr. has been superintendent of the Sunday School since 1910. He has frequently been elected lay representative to annual conference. Dauphin County authorities have appointed him to civic duties within the county and recently he was elected county treasurer.

Christian Rupp and William Gollam have also served as superintendents of the School; Edward Habbyshaw, William Gollam and Jacob Gipe have served in the position of class leader. The trustees are Edward Stover, George Bricker, Harry Baum, Oliver Swartz, and John Stover.

The Stoverdale congregation was affiliated with Hummelstown charge from the time of its founding until 1882. In 1882 it was attached to the Swatara Circuit. From 1885 to 1889, the congregation was served by local preachers, among whom was the Rev. Solomon L. Swartz. In 1889 it became a part of Fishburn Circuit and in 1904 was attached to Union Circuit. The church remained under the quarterly conference of Union Circuit, 1914-1917, and Joseph Weirich preached by that arrangement at Stoverdale. Ministers serving the congregation from 1917 to 1929 were those of the Stover-
Stoverdale Church

Killinger's Church
(Upper Paxtang Township)

Stoverdale Church

Stoverdale Circuit, and those serving from 1929 to 1946 were those appointed to Hummelstown Circuit.

St. Paul's Church. Jackson Township

Northeast of Jacksonville, near the base of Berry's Mountain stands St. Paul's Church. It was formerly also known as Deitrich's. It was so known because it stands on a parcel of ground sold by Isaac F. Deitrich. Josiah McCulley, Elias Meunch and James Hoke, trustees for the class purchased the said parcel of ground, consisting of one-half acre, October 1, 1873, for the price of $75. The church was erected in the year 1874, the Rev. John D. Killian being pastor.

At the present time Lawrence Hoffman, Andrew Harmon, Mrs. Elsie Parmer, Frank Hoffman, and Amos Hetrick are trustee board members. Mrs. Andrew Harmon is in charge of the Sunday School.

It has been connected with the following circuits: Jacksonville, 1874-1919; Enders, 1919-1934; and Enders and Powell's Valley, 1934-1946.

Trinity Church. Jefferson Township

The easternmost church of four in Powell's Valley is located in a small settlement known as "Carsonville." Philip Runk, Jacob Runk and Solomon Buffington were trustees of a class when in 1862 one-fourth acre of ground was purchased for the location of a church. While seemingly there are no records to show when the frame building now standing on the said lot was erected, it was presumably in that year. The building was improved in 1874. At the present
time, James Hummel, Mrs. Charles Calmon, Vesta Kessler, Erma Fowler, and Mrs. George Kinsinger compose the trustee board.

Pastors of the following circuits were pastors of the congregation at Trinity: Halifax, 1862-1873; Jacksonville, 1873-1919; Powell's Valley, 1919-1934; and Enders and Powell's Valley, 1934-1946.

Union Church, Wayne Township

The first people to worship on the site of the present Union Church were Methodists. As early as 1842 they bought one-half acre of ground fronting on the south side of the northern road through Powell's Valley, about three miles east of Jacob's Church, and erected thereon a small frame building which was known as “Trinity Church.” The United Brethren class worshiped in the building some time before purchasing it. In 1890 John Sheetz and William Lodge, surviving trustees of the M. E. Church, at the direction of the presiding elder of that denomination sold the property. It was deeded in that year to Philip G. Shoop, William Shoop, John Enders, Amos Sponsler and George Baker, trustees for the United Brethren congregation for the sum of one dollar. The original building was replaced by a new and larger one in the year 1892.

The Rev. Charles W. Shoop was granted a quarterly conference license, Jan. 30, 1903, upon recommendation by this class. Sunday School superintendents of recent years have been: Ira Shoop, 1942-44, and Robert Snyder, 1944-46. Mrs. Harry Snyder, Mrs. Ira Shoop, Harry Hartman, Mrs. Elmer Shoop, and Edward Shoop constitute the trustee board.

The congregation has been affiliated with the following circuits: Jacksonville, 1890-1919; Powell's Valley, 1919-1934; and Enders and Powell's Valley, 1934-46.

Union Deposit Church

This church like many others bears a place-name. The village in which it is located was laid out by Philip Woltersberger, three years before the United Brethren Church was erected, and called Unionville. The place, however, soon after and since is known as Union Deposit. This arose from the fact of its being a deposit for much of the grain and other produce of the region, preparatory to its shipment on the canal by Mr. Woltersberger, who owned several boats. For the sake of brevity, no doubt, the community, the church, and the circuit of which the church has been a part for many years, goes by the name, “Union”.

Isaac Hershey, owner of a farm adjoining the Woltersberger lots on the west also laid out lots on his land. He conveyed two of these lots, numbers, 15 and 16 consisting of 53 square perches to the trustees for the congregation, on May 29, 1848 for the sum of $80. The senior preacher of the Dauphin Circuit, the Rev. David Gingrich Sr., was one of the trustees. The other two were: John Hoover and David Handshaw. Services were held under an oak tree standing on the church site and in brother Hoover's house for
some time before the house of worship was built. The Rev. Gingrich, who resided in Mt. Joy Township, east of Elizabethtown while he served the large Dauphin Circuit, died in the year 1849, about a year after the church was built. Isaac Hershey succeeded him as trustee.

The original building, constructed of brick in 1848, has served this congregation for almost one hundred years. An item in the quarterly conference minutes, dated Dec. 15, 1849, states that the cost of the building was $1,350, of which amount $285 remained unprovided for; and that Thomas Lesher, with the trustees would endeavor to raise that amount. Rev. Thomas Lesher was a minister in the East Pennsylvania Conference, having been ordained in 1847, he served several appointments in it, but withdrew in 1870 and affiliated with the United Christian Church. He lived about a mile north of Sand Beach, and was a local member of the Union Deposit class while connected with our denomination. George Landis, also a member of this class, was granted quarterly conference by it in 1850. He received annual conference license in 1852, but his membership ceased in 1869 without having been ordained.

Laymen active in official capacity in this congregation during the first twenty years of its history were: Isaac Hershey, John Hoover, David Handshaw, Jacob Killinger, George Spangler, Henry Horst, John Frantz, Samuel Martin, Charles Dasher, J. Breneman, Michael Louck, John Louck, Jonas Shartzer, Solomon Landis, Samuel Smith, Dr. D. C. Keller, and G. M. Mark. A class closely affiliated with Union Deposit and later absorbed by it was first known as "Lesher's," later as "Manadaville." The latter was once the name for the village of Sand Beach. Lay officials of this class were: Amos Clauser, Henry Reist, and John Yengst.

In recent years the interior of the church has been improved by the placing of hard wood floors, new carpet, replacing of clear glass in the windows by art glass, installation of electric lights, and by repapering and repainting. The exterior has been improved by repointing and painting the brick walls.

A. L. Landis was for many years one of the leading laymen, serving as class leader, trustee and delegate to annual conference. On the list of officers who have given many years of service in several capacities are: Uriah Fasnacht, Frank Stauffer, John Stahley, Frank Long, Stella Fasnacht Long, Mazie Seibert, William Long, and Harry Jones. The trustee board of the present consists of Arthur Howard, Wayne Blair, Harry Fasnacht, John Brown, and Harry Jones.

The names of ministers who preached in this church as regular pastors are those of the circuits named as follows, to which the church has been attached for the years indicated: Dauphin, 1848-53; Hummelstown, 1853-57; Dauphin-Hummelstown, 1857-58; Hummelstown, 1858-66; Union Deposit, 1866-93; Grantville, 1893-1901; Derry Church, 1901-04; and Union Deposit, 1904-46.
Williamstown Church

As nearly as can be ascertained, a preaching appointment was opened in Williamstown in the year 1871 by J. W. Kunkel, minister of the Lykens Circuit. Services were first held in a small building near the present church site and later in the Evangelical Church. John M. Blum, one of the founders of the town, sold lot number 74 in the town plan for the sum of $250 to Benjamin Riegle of Mifflin Township, John Mattis and John Hoffman of Tower City and John Hawk and John Griner of Williamstown, trustees for the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. A small frame church building was erected on said lot in 1877. The Rev. James Shoop, minister of Williams Valley Circuit, of which this church was a part, laid the cornerstone and dedicated the building.

The original structure was enlarged in 1931, conference superintendent Dr. S. C. Enck, laying the cornerstone for the annex November 22, and rededicating the house of worship January 31, 1932. In connection with the work of new construction, the interior of the original was rearranged, new oak pews were placed, and the interior and exterior repainted—total cost of the project was $4,800. The following year, the Men's Bible Class purchased a new pulpit; the Friendly Bible Class, a new communion table; and the Wide Awake Society, a baptismal font.

In 1938 another building enterprise was begun. The cornerstone for the annex was laid by Dr. C. A. Mutch, August 13, 1939. This structure was of brick and the exterior walls of the previous structure were brick veneered. Expansion and reconstruction provided for additional Sunday School rooms, kitchen, boiler room, and other basement rooms. The cost was twelve thousand dollars. After much delay due to difficulties encountered in building operations, the work was completed and the building rededicated at the morning service, February 16, 1941 by Dr. Enck, Dr. C. A. Lynch preached at the evening service.

The Rev. W. G. Grosz was pastor during this more recent improvement of the house of worship. During his five-year ministry the parsonage was also improved and new installations were made; and fifty-six new members were received. The committee in charge of the 1939-41 building project was composed of Frank Shadel, William Ritzman, Harry Shammo, Raymond Adams, and John Kapp. Lay men and women who made up the official family in 1941 were: Norman Bixler, Alvin Reightler, Frank Miller, Robert Feaster, Mrs. Gordon Hoffman, Mrs. John Kapp, Mrs. Minnie Shadel, Mrs. Pearl Lubold, Mrs. Jacob Martz, Miss Elsie Peterson, Miss Clara Stauffer, Mrs. Harry Shomper, Miss Minnie Drum, Mrs. Howard Skelton, Miss Mildred Reinoehl, Mrs. William Burke, Mrs. Frank Miller, Mrs. Alvin Reightler, Miss Thelma Spittle, Miss Winifred Skelton, Philip Fetterhoff, Earl Wenrich, and Jacob Lesher.

Williamstown Church was affiliated with the following circuits: Lykens, 1871-73; Williams Valley, 1873-1884; and Lykens, 1884-90. Ministers serving the church since 1890 are as follows: J. P. Smith,

**Zion's Church, Halifax Township**

When one takes a position on the summit of Peter's Mountain where the Dauphin-Halifax road crosses it, and looks northward, there stretches out before one a rolling country drained by the Powell's Creek flowing westerly into the Susquehanna River, which is in view to the left. In this valley are four United Brethren Churches: Zion's, on the Western edge of Halifax Township; Jacob's and Union in Wayne Township; and Trinity in Jefferson Township. Descending into the valley, and crossing the creek we come to the village of Matamoras. Before the days of Rural Free Delivery there was a post office in the village by the name of "Powell's Valley." Consequently the village is also known by that name. Along a fine macadam road, branching off westward in the village from the Dauphin-Halifax road, stands Zion's or Stone Church, on the south side of said road. Officially, in our conference records it is named, "Zion's," but because of the material of which it is constructed it has also been known as "Stone Church."
In these recent years the importance of the city congregation looms so large that a rural church away from the much-traveled highway fades almost into obscurity and insignificance. Zion's Church deserves a better fate. It has had and still has an enviable place in our conference. So far as its house of worship is concerned it has no equal within our bounds, being the oldest stone edifice in the conference. It was erected in about the year 1842, thirty-six by forty feet in size, of mountain stone of variegated buff and yellowish colors brought from Peter's Mountain. John Wolbert, a stone mason, who later became a member of the congregation, built the wall. After the passing of a century, it is as substantial as the day when erected and bids fair to remain so for many years. This temple of stone surrounded by shrubbery and trees might inspire the talent of the artist. In more recent years, during the ministry of the Rev. M. G. Sponsler, a vestibule was attached which matches the original structure perfectly both in symmetry and in materials used.

Prior to the erection of the church, services were held in a public school building known as "Funk's," then standing on the north side of the road, opposite the site of the church lot. The class grew in numbers and prestige to the extent that arrangements were made to entertain the annual conference of the year 1842. No conference session had ever been held so far north. At that time the present Pennsylvania and East Pennsylvania Conferences were still one conference.

It is quite likely that the holding of annual conference stimulated the work of the congregation, which soon thereafter set itself to the task of erecting a house of worship. The deed transferring eighty perches of land at a cost of ten dollars is dated, December, 1844. There are a number of instances where a deed was given for property after a church was built. It may have been so in this case. Since the conference session was held in the first month of the year 1842, the church may have been completed in the same year.
HISTORY OF EAST PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

The trustees then serving the congregation: Henry Rouch, Henry Tyson, and Isaac Glace bought the land from the heirs of the John Funk estate. In addition to the families of the trustees, members of the Frank, Bobb, Baker, Mikles, Shammo, Meredith, Sweigard, Seiders, and Zearing families were then, or soon thereafter, members of the congregation.

Sometime later Henry Rouch donated a plot of ground, adjoining the original purchase, for use as a burial ground. His grandson, Henry Rouch Landis, was a trustee for many years. Isaac Glace and his family gave much time to the promotion of the congregation's interests. A son of Isaiah Glace, William Otterbein Glace, now eighty-nine years of age, related that in boyhood days he attended Funk's School during the week and on Sunday the services of the church across the road. Two Bowman brothers, Samuel and Michael, came to the valley in about 1838 and engaged in the milling trade. Samuel married Elizabeth Straw, a native of the valley, reared a large family, many of whom and their descendants have had, and still have, connections with the church. James Bowman now eighty-one years of age is treasurer of the trustee board. Lloyd Bowman served as a missionary in our African mission for eight years. Meade L. Bowman is serving in his twenty-third year as Sunday School superintendent. Trustees now serving are: S. B. Hoffman, president; S. M. Kemerer, secretary; James Bowman, treasurer; John Baker, and Earl Enders.

The congregation celebrated its one-hundredth anniversary during the week of September 12-18, 1943. Former pastors, and ministers licensed by the quarterly held on the circuit, preached during the week. Dr. D. E. Young, conference superintendent, preached on Sunday afternoon of the 12th, and dedicated a recently placed mural painting. Prior to the anniversary celebration other improvements were made, all at a cost of $375. S. B. Hoffman, who is a very active member of the church, read a paper on the history of the congregation. He served for some time as pastor in Allegheny Conference. The Rev. Harry E. Fogelman, pastor, directed the work of renovation and was in charge of the anniversary services. He had a very successful year on this circuit of eight churches, achieving material, financial, and spiritual gains at every church.

The pastors of Zion's Church are those who served the following circuits and stations: Dauphin Circuit, 1842-43; Halifax Circuit, 1843-73; Halifax Station, 1873-75; Jacksonville Circuit, 1875-77; Halifax Station, 1877-1906; Jacksonville Circuit, 1906-1919; Powell's Valley Circuit, 1919-33; and Enders and Powell's Valley Circuit, 1934-46.

4. Classes and Churches No Longer Existing.

Information on classes which were attached to local churches or absorbed by them is given under said churches. There follows a brief statement on those which have been disbanded. With but few exceptions the location of each could be definitely described, but the subject does not warrant lengthy descriptions of locations. In order to avoid repetition of name
of township, they are grouped according to the township in which they are located.

**East Hanover Township:**

**Manada Furnace Class** was an appointment on Hummelstown Circuit from 1854 to 1859. D. Oakum was its leader and steward. The Furnace stood near the Manada Creek, about a mile southwest of the gap known as Manada Gap.

**St. Paul's Church** stood in the Fishing Creek Valley, across the South Mountain, northeast of Manada Gap. The class, when organized January 10, 1875 was known as "Neidig's Fishing Creek Class." Jacob Capp and wife Mary sold an acre of ground for the sum of fifteen dollars for a church site, by indenture dated November 21, 1877. A frame house of worship, twenty-four by thirty-two feet in dimension was erected in 1876. The trustees were Daniel Neidig, Henry Neidig, and Christian Capp. An active organization was maintained until 1931. In 1932 the trustees agreed to sell the building. The immediately following session of annual conference authorized John Neidig, one of the remaining trustees to dispose of the property. Due to the extension westward of the Indiantown Gap Military Reservation the region became entirely depopulated. Those still holding membership transferred to other churches.

**Hoernersfown, Salem Church.** For more than forty years, the United Brethren had a class organization in or near Hoernerstown. It first comes to notice as an appointment on Hummelstown Circuit in the year 1849. Ground was purchased in 1862 for the sum of fifty dollars. Michael Overcash, David Shaffner, and Jacob Hershey were trustees for the property. The church was erected on this ground located at the eastern end of the village. George Blough, Martin Hershey, John M. Sheek, Michael Keller, Benjamin Klein, Jacob Klein were among its official members. Its members transferred to Union Deposit Church about 1893. The class was attached to the following Circuits: Dauphin, Hummelstown, Grantville and Union Deposit.

**South Hanover Township:**

**Manadaville Class.** The village of Sand Beach, two miles northwest of Hershey, was earlier called Manadaville. John Hoffer, David Keller, Joseph Lauch, M. Lauch, Henry Reist, Thomas Bomgardner, John Yiengst, and John Keller are listed as officers of the class during the years 1859-69.

**Hanover Class** receives mention periodically over the years 1858 to 1874. Whether it was the same class appearing under other names, and where located, has not been ascertained. It was attached to Hummelstown Circuit in 1858, and to Union Deposit Circuit in 1874.

**West Hanover Township:**

**Forney's Schoolhouse Class.** Forney's Schoolhouse stood along a country road running north of and parallel to the Manada Hill-Linglestown Road. John Look was the chief promoter of the class which met there. It was reorganized from time to time, and was also known as West Hanover Class.

**Fishing Creek Class** (not the same as St. Paul's in East Hanover) makes its appearance on authentic records, first in 1864. Joseph Zeiders, William Zeiders, Peter Patrick, and Rudolph Baker were its officers.

**Bomgardner's Schoolhouse Class** absorbed the two classes just mentioned. In 1872 the quarterly conference of the charge named Rudolph Baker, Alfred Potteiger, Joseph Lingle, Jesse Lenker, and John Look as trustees to build a house of worship in the vicinity of Forney's Schoolhouse. This action was not carried out. In 1882 Amos Paul, William H. Hotz, and Alfred Potteiger were elected trustees for the Bomgardner's Class. Whether their duty was to make arrangements with the school directors for use of the school building, or to take steps to erect a house of worship is not stated. The schoolhouse was located on the north side of the South Mountain along
the road passing through Heckert's Gap to Fishing Creek Valley. In 1881 there were forty names on the church roll—the names of Potteiger, Zeiders, Shatzer, Paul, Hotz, Baker, Foust, Riegel, Mumma, Peters, Strohm, etc. appearing therein. It is last mentioned in 1888.

Shope's Schoolhouse Class and Keefer's Schoolhouse Class may have been the same. The former appears on the record in 1860 and the latter in 1861.

Londonderry Township:
Swatara Hill Class was the name for an appointment attached to Lancaster Circuit in 1861, and to Highspire in 1863. The class was attached to Union Deposit Circuit in 1869, to Swatara Circuit in 1875, to Conewago Circuit in 1880, and to Hillsdale in 1901. It is last mentioned as a point on Hillsdale Circuit in 1917. Where services were held during its early period is not known. In later years a Union Church was built at Swatara Hill, formerly Rocktown, and the United Brethren Class worshipped in it.

Detweiler's Class met in Detweiler's Schoolhouse. For the early work there refer to Geyer's Church. A new class was later organized. It was attached to Middletown, and as late as 1890, is mentioned as being taken from Fiahburn's and again attached to Middletown.

Lower Paxton Township:
Brown's Schoolhouse Class was in existence prior to 1849 and continued to function over more than two decades. The schoolhouse was located along the Harrisburg-Jonestown Road, a short distance east of the road leading north to Linglestown. At times this class was also known as Levan's Class. It had Peter K. Levan, Christian Reist Sr., Abraham Shope, William Hoffnagle, Jesse Lenker, Christian Reist Jr., George Look, and William Bolton as officers. Its attachment to circuits was the same as that of Linglestown.

Witley's Class is mentioned as forming part of the reconstructed Dauphin Circuit in the year 1853.

Gilgrist's Schoolhouse Class was in 1869 an appointment on Harrisburg Circuit. The building was located two miles west of Linglestown.

Fox's Schoolhouse Class is named in 1877 as being taken from Linglestown Circuit and added to Harrisburg Circuit.

Runkle's Class. There were possibly three classes by this name: one that was later absorbed by Grantville; the second, in the vicinity of Linglestown; and the third, that which had David Runkle as its leader and was identical with Rockville.

Mifflin Township:
Uniontown or Pillow Church. At a quarterly held September 13, 1847 Jonathan Shiffer, John Buffington, and Conrad G. Geist were appointed trustees to erect a church building. Joseph Kratzer sold lot No. 85 in the town plan, fronting on Chestnut Street in Uniontown, in the year 1848 to the above named trustees. The church was erected in that year. It was attached to the Northumberland Circuit at the time. In 1892 it was attached to Halifax Circuit and in 1874 to Lykens Circuit. Jacob Kratzer and J. Dawson, together with the above named trustees held various official positions. The Rev. William Motter was member of this class. He entered annual conference in 1844, was ordained in 1848, and transferred to White River Conference in 1857. The Rev. Conrad G. Geist also was licensed when a member of this church. He received annual license in 1847, was ordained in 1853, and traveled several years as an itinerant. On account of ill health he had to ask for local relation. He assisted ministers on the local circuit whenever he could. A new church was erected in 1886. It does not appear on the list of appointments or on a charge after 1929.

Washington Township:
Loyalton Class. In 1896 a new class was reported to have been organized at Loyalton. It was attached to Elizabethville Station.
Notes

1. See W. R. Strickland—"Life of Jacob Gruber," for a most fascinating account of this rather eccentric preacher.
2. Reminiscences, p. 106.
3. Ibid., p. 179.
4. Concerning this schoolmaster, Boehm, on another page writes: "I had a common school education. The old schoolhouse, and my old schoolmaster, Henry Rosman, I well remember. He went from house to house, and it was a great occasion when he came to my father's house to board. He came from Hesse Cassel, and was one of the Hessian soldiers taken prisoner at Trenton, New Jersey."
5. See biography of John Hershey, pp. 50, 51.
6. The Rev. John Winebrenner was a minister in regular standing of the German Reformed Church, and pastor of the Salem or First Reformed Church at Harrisburg from October 1820 to March 1823. Owing to views and practices held by him not in harmony with the Reformed Church, he became alienated from the Synod, which in 1828 erased his name from the list of its members. In the year 1829, July 4th, Bishop Jacob Erb of the United Brethren Church rebaptized him in the waters of the Susquehanna, and in the same year he organized the "Church of God." In the same year he also visited the session of the United Brethren Annual Conference and was voted an advisory seat.
7. Mr. Riley here mentioned is the Rev. James Ross Reily, who also was a minister of the German Reformed Church. (See "American Church History Series," Vol. VIII., pps. 353, 354)
8. The annual conference supported the policy of our Publishing House to select a Book Agent whose duty it was to handle its own and other publications and collect for same.
10. Unfortunately there is no transfer on record as is the case of the Light's Meetinghouse at Lebanon, and the Shirk's Meetinghouse in West Hanover Township, Lebanon County. If there were, it is reasonably certain that the word, "Impartial" would have been employed. (See sketch of Lebanon Salem and Shirk's Churches.) There is a tradition that the Spring Creek Meeting-house was erected, "That all denominations might have a place of worship."
11. Henry Landis of Derry Township and Henry Breneman of Donegal Township, administrators of the estate of Christian Bear, deceased, sold this property, a farm of 124 acres and four perches, to Adam Riegel, April 1, 1805. The farm house is still standing on a knoll immediately south of the Water Company buildings. Christian Landis mentioned in the above sketch later bought the property. For a fuller account of Riegel, see his biography, pp. 60, 61.
12. From an account by Nevin W. Moyer of Linglestown which he read at a service in this church, August 13, 1833.
13. Only those activities of the Rev. Neidig which deal specifically with his work at Oberlin are noted in this connection. Biographical facts, and statements concerning his wider interests appear on other pages of this volume.
15. Dr. William H. Egle, who gave the later years of his life to historical research and writing, evidently had access to this manuscript. The account was published (1879-92) in Mr. Egle's "Notes and Queries, Historical and Genealogical," IInd Series, Volume 2, page 291 and following.
16. In the conference records the spelling is "Powll's," but county histories and the Atlas of 1875 give "Powell's."