Chapter VIII.

THE CHURCHES OF NORTHUMBERLAND, COLUMBIA, AND SCHUYLKILL COUNTIES

1. Introduction: The Churches of Northumberland County

Northumberland County was erected in the year 1772 and Columbia County was carved out of a portion of it in 1813. Christian Newcomer visited this region of our Conference area on two occasions. On May 2, 1796 he, with George Geeting, left the Little Swatara community of Lebanon County. Concerning this journey he writes: "rode the whole day over hills and valleys, in the evening we arrived at Shamokin. The people received us very friendly; we had a meeting at candle light." The next day they reached Sunbury and the following day Geeting preached there.

Here we have another instance of the indefatigable labors and unmatched zeal of these men of God. They undoubtedly followed the old trail from Pinegrove to Hegins, then on to the Shamokin country—a trail with the general course of the present highway number 125. Anyone driving over this route today finds it a winding road over steep and abrupt mountain crossings, with only scattered dwellings through the valleys and with only about a half dozen clusters of houses where the mountain road crosses a valley road. Shamokin then was the name of a region, not the name of a town or city.

Newcomer in company with Adam Riegel traveled over the same route four and a half years later. Their objective again was Sunbury. On reaching there, Newcomer met with disappointment. He writes: "The person to whom I was recommended happened to have been buried yesterday. This being the day of election, we did not stay in the town, but came through Northumberland, not without some danger and difficulty in crossing the West Branch, sometime after dark we reached the house of Abr. Eyerly."

By these journeys Newcomer blazed a trail of missionary venture which other brethren followed a generation later, and out from which their efforts and influences radiated throughout the "Shamokin Country." In time classes were formed and churches were established from the Mahantango Creek northward to and including Catawissa on the East Branch of the Susquehanna River, and beyond it to Milton on the west Branch.

2. The Circuits of Northumberland and Columbia Counties

The first circuit covering this area was the old Dauphin Circuit. The earliest churches and classes would be a part of this circuit. The second was the Halifax Circuit, divided off of Dauphin in 1843. The ministers appointed to them appear in a previous section of this volume.
In 1846, a new circuit or mission was created out of the Halifax Circuit and named the Northumberland Mission. Ministers appointed to it were: Samuel Seiders, 1846-48; Jacob Brewer, 1848-49; Jacob Brewer and Andrew Steigerwalt, 1849-50; Joseph Young Jr., 1850-52; Israel Carpenter, 1852-53; G. W. Hoffman, 1853-54; George Gilbert, 1854-56; P. L. Zimmerman and D. M. Reeser, 1856-57; Wesley Deitrich, 1857-58; Amos F. Yeager, 1858-1860; John Swank, 1860-62; and G. W. M. Rigor, 1862-63.

For one year only (1863-1864), there were two circuits; one continued as Northumberland and the other was named Catawissa. During that year, John Swank served the Northumberland Circuit and Simon Zimmerman the Catawissa Circuit.

These two circuits were again brought into one in 1864, and called the Shamokin Circuit. Ministers appointed were: G. W. Hoffman and John Swank, 1864-65; Josiah P. Long, 1865-66; George A. Lee, 1866-68; and William B. Evers, 1868-70.

In the year 1870, the Shamokin City church became a station, and the remaining appointments formed a circuit which took the earlier name, Northumberland Circuit. The appointees were: Abraham Kauffman, 1870-71; Jefferson M. Hawthorn and J. H. Nelson, 1871-72; and Thomas Garland, 1872-74.

Certain appointments were detached from the Northumberland Circuit in 1872, forming the Mt. Carmel Circuit. It continued under that name for two years, during which time S. R. Gipple was its minister. In 1873 Northumberland and Sunbury constituted Northumberland Mission station, J. Willis Conery, minister.

The two then existing circuits were reformed and renamed in the year 1874. The eastern and northern churches of the area formed the Catawissa Circuit, and the southern churches the Paxinos Circuit, with the exception of Mt. Zion and Zimmerman's School House, and Northumberland Mission, which constituted Sunbury Mission, John F. Mower, pastor.


Mt. Carmel Circuit was formed a second time, in the year 1883. The ministers who were appointed are listed under the Mt. Carmel Church.
The Paxinos Circuit existed from 1874 to 1894. The following served the Circuit: J. Willis Conery, 1874-75; J. Willis Conery and G. W. S. Wenrich, 1875-76; G. W. S. Wenrich, 1876-78; G. W. S. Wenrich, Jacob P. Smith, 1878-79; Monroe P. Sanders, 1879-80; S. R. Gipple, 1880-81; William Lamey, 1881-83; R. S. Arndt, 1883-85; C. W. Raver, 1885-86; C. W. Raver and J. A. Lyter, 1886-87; J. P. Cowling, 1887-90; Uriah Gambler, 1890-91; M. H. Jones, 1891-93; and C. E. Boughter, 1893-95.

In the year 1895, annual conference changed the name of the Paxinos Circuit to Shamokin Circuit. It continues under that name to the present. The list of pastors serving it is as follows: R. R. Butterwick, 1895-97; S. S. Daugherty, 1897-98; B. F. Goodman, 1898-97; M. H. Wert, 1907-10; J. F. Brown, 1910-16; J. C. Peace, J. C. Deitzler, 1916-17; J. C. Deitzler, 1917-18; H. P. Light, 1918-20; August Williams, 1920-21; P. C. Hoffman, 1921-25; T. J. Leibold, 1925-27; B. F. Goodman, 1927-32; Roy G. Spangler, 1932-35; M. G. Sponsler, 1935-42; and Clifford E. Esterline, 1942-46.

3. The Churches of Northumberland County

Ash Grove Church

Some of the people who held membership at the Pleasant Hill Church formed a nucleus for the congregation at Ash Grove. It was either a new class or a re-organized class which became active in the year 1870. The leaders in the movement were Andrew Rheinhart and David Reeser; and the Rev. Abraham H. Kauffman, minister of Northumberland Circuit. Mr. and Mrs. John Reed, and Mr. and Mrs. Elias Reed, and a Miss Hales also were members at the time. Meetings were held in an old log schoolhouse until 1874. In that year a frame church building was erected on land donated by Jacob W. Maurer and wife, located along the Center Turnpike about one-half mile west of Paxinos. The trustees were Mr. Maurer, Daniel Hummel, and Charles Harp. On this ground stood many beautiful ash trees, and upon the suggestion of Hugh Teats, ancestor of some of the present members, the church received the name "Ash Grove."

In 1930 a fund was created for the erection of a new church when the opportune time arrived. The fund having reached in excess of seven thousand dollars, the congregation on February 17, 1938 decided to build. In the latter part of March the old church was moved to another location and work was begun on the construction of a new. Work progressed rapidly—the cornerstone was laid April 17 by Dr. S. C. Enck. The stone for the building were quarried near by and conveyed to the place of building by the men of the congregation and interested friends. More than a thousand man-hours of labor were donated. The cost of the structure plus furnishings was $20,221, though its actual value was $25,000. The room on the ground floor can be divided into six classrooms by folding doors. On the second floor there is a Primary
room which will seat fifty pupils, and the main worship room has a capacity of 250.

The church trustees, Lorenzo Startzel, J. Wesley Epler Sr., Frank Kerstetter, Charles Boughner, and Fred Snyder were the building committee. Mr. Snyder, Charles Barthel, and Daniel Mowery comprised the finance committee. Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent, dedicated the temple of worship at the morning service of October 9, 1938. Dr. J. A. Lyter preached the evening service. A Wicks two-manual pipe organ was dedicated the following Sabbath. The membership at the time numbered 135. The Rev. Melvin G. Sponsler, pastor of the Shamokin Circuit, 1935-1942, not only led out in the religious work of the parish, but also in the manual labor, to accomplish the work of constructing this most excellent house of worship. The Rev. D. E. Young, conference superintendent, conducted mortgage burning ceremonies June 4, 1944, at which time the Rev. Clifford E. Esterline was pastor.

In the decade preceding that in which the first church was erected, a Union Sunday School was held in the schoolhouse. The school continued as a union effort until September 19, 1915, when, by vote of the people attending, it became a strictly United Brethren organization. Those serving the school at present in official capacities are: J. Wesley Epler Sr., J. Wesley Epler Jr., A. K. Moyer, Mrs. Charles Kerstetter, Mrs. Samuel Williams, and Evelyn Epler. Mrs. Samuel Williams, Mrs. Elmira Snyder, and Mrs. Charles Boughner head the work of the Women's Missionary Society. Frank Kerstetter has served forty-one years as church treasurer, thirty-two years as trustee, and thirty-nine years as class leader.

The ministers assigned to the church are those listed under the following circuits: Northumberland Circuit, 1870-74; Paxinos Circuit, 1874-95; and Shamokin Circuit, 1895-1946.

Clark's Grove Church, Shamokin Township

The missionary endeavors by the United Brethren in Irish Valley resulted in the organization of a class, about 1850, in an old school house known as Zimmerman's, situated on the valley road, about five miles from Shamokin. Trustees, elected September 12, 1868, were Joseph Lewis, Jerry Lewis, and Christian Miller. During the period 1850-69 Michael and George Zimmerman, U. Lewis, and Christian Miller are officers reporting to quarterly conference. As late as 1874 it was still referred to as the Zimmerman's School House appointment in the Conference minutes. Two years later it is called the Irish Valley appointment.

When the first building was erected is not known, nor are we certain that it was United Brethren property. The title was in question and another denomination took over the property. At the March session of conference, 1879, the Rev. M. J. Mumma, presiding elder, reports, "Irish Valley Church on this charge, the title of which has been in litigation for some time, is lost to the circuit. The brethren of this class have, however, another house
of worship in process of erection, which will, the Lord permitting, ere long be dedicated, with no debt, or at most, very little."

This building, virtually the second for the United Brethren in the valley, was dedicated September 17, 1879, presiding elder M. J. Mumma, and the Rev. Lewis Peters, pastor of Harrisburg First Church, officiating. The Rev. Jacob P. Smith was pastor at the time. The second church stood about one half mile west of the site of the first.

There was a proposal, in the year 1890, to erect a new building. The structure, however, was not torn down, but so greatly remodeled, that one might say it was almost entirely rebuilt. Reverend Uriah Gambler, pastor, led the congregation in that project.

After this building had been in use for nearly forty years, the need for a new house of worship was felt. Steps were taken to that end, and the cornerstone was laid, November 10, 1929, by conference superintendent, Dr. S. C. Enck. By spring of the following year the very substantial and beautiful temple was completed. Bishop G. D. Batdorf officiated at the dedicatory services March 30, 1930. This was a great accomplishment on the part of a congregation of one hundred and twenty-four members. The cost of the project was $25,425, and the amount paid on the same was $12,000. The trustees were: K. W. Lewis, J. A. Clark, Harry R. Miller, S. W. Gass and Harvey E. Goodman.

The Rev. Benjamin F. Goodman, one of the most beloved ministers of the Conference, led the congregation in this enterprise. He completed a five year pastorate on the Shamokin Circuit in 1932, having previously served the same circuit nine years, 1898-1907. He had two terms on the Catawissa Circuit: 1892-98 and 1911-15. Altogether he gave twenty-five years to the active ministry in the Northumberland-Columbia area. He was a native of the region, being born in Aristes, Columbia County, April 10, 1855. The Rev. Goodman received quarterly conference license in 1882, annual
license in 1884, and was ordained in 1891; and served forty-three years in active work. The conference treasurer used to remark that, wherever Rev. Goodman was stationed, you could expect the conference assessments to come in, in full. Brother and sister Goodman scattered sunshine wherever they went. They sleep their last sleep in the Summit Hill Cemetery, Irish Valley, awaiting the resurrection call.

The class and later the church were a part of the following circuits: Northumberland Circuit, 1850-64; Shamokin Circuit, 1864-70; Northumberland Circuit, 1870-74; Sunbury Mission, 1874-75; Paxinos Circuit, 1875-94; Shamokin Circuit, 1895 to the present. Pastors serving these circuits were the pastors of the Clark's Grove Church.

Mt. Carmel Church

It was during the year 1863, when the destiny of our nation was being decided in the battle at Gettysburg, that the Rev. Simon Zimmerman was appointed to Northumberland Circuit. It was not long until he was able to form a class at Mt. Carmel. The early membership records show both a German and an English class. The membership had no church building in which to worship. Meetings were held in homes of the community for eleven years. John Dietrich's home on Oak Street between Second and Third streets was the one most frequently used. A small school-house near the site of the old High School, Second and Vine Streets, was used occasionally.

In 1872 the circuit of which Mt. Carmel was a part became Mt. Carmel Circuit. S. R. Gipple was its pastor two years. In 1874 Mt. Carmel class was attached to Catawissa Circuit, having Thomas Garland as its minister. He was successful in buying the present church lot, thirty-six by one-hundred feet in size, on the southwest corner of Third and Vine Streets, for the sum of three-hundred and ten dollars. The trustees were Thomas Garland, Jacob Byerly, and Lewis Dietrich. On this lot a small frame building, twenty-eight by thirty-three feet was erected. It was opened for worship in December of the year 1874, and dedicated the following summer. It looked so little like a house of worship that the citizens of the community nicknamed it, "The Screen Factory." To erase this stigma, Eli Schlabig and Henry Moser collected money to improve and paint the little structure.

The Rev. H. B. Spayd was appointed pastor of Mt. Carmel Mission in 1883. Annual conference made an appropriation of two-hundred dollars during both his first and second year. It was during his second year that there was erected south of the old church building, a parsonage, which necessitated placing a first mortgage of five-hundred dollars on the church property. In the year 1885, conference sent J. G. Fritz to this mission and provided an appropriation of $150. His was indeed a great ministry. Each of his four years was marked by a great revival. The first year he had
more than one-hundred converts and 102 persons joined the church. In 1886, ninety were converted and forty united with the class. The third year sixty-four were saved and fifty-seven were added to the roll. In his fourth year sixty-seven were converted and forty-two new members were received. Busy as he was with the work of spiritual affairs, he found time to direct the erection of a new church at Aristes and in remodeling and enlarging the old building at Mt. Carmel.

During the ministry of the Rev. R. S. Arndt, in 1899, the old remodeled building was moved south on the lot a distance of about fifty feet, and the present church building, thirty-three by fifty feet, was erected. This house of worship was dedicated in 1900. The trustees were: Peter Kaufman, Daniel O. Moser, Horace Moser, Andrew W. Ramberger, J. J. Menger, David Mattern, and Joseph Shoffstoll. Under the leadership of the Rev. S. L. Rhoads, 1904-07, the old parsonage was sold and moved to a lot adjoining the church lot on the west, and the present parsonage was built. At the time the trustees were: Charles Paul, William R. Spatz, Andrew W. Ramberger, Adam J. Rowe, and Levi Dietrich.

Further improvements and enlargements were made while the Rev. John H. Dunham was pastor, 1920-1929. In 1922 the basement was excavated and fitted out for Sunday School class rooms at a cost of six-thousand dollars. Then followed a program of improvements which were completed in 1927 at a cost of $7,779.13, consisting of general renovation and placing of art windows, new carpet, and installing new light fixtures. Reopening services were held Sunday, November 11, 1927.
In 1910 C. S. Miller reported that over a period of years, the following had been granted quarterly conference license to preach: John Yarkes, Conrad Lehr, D. D. Buddinger, Joseph Francis, J. Warren Kauffman, and W. J. Marks. At a later date, 1937, Warren L. Strickler, son of the pastor, E. M. Strickler, was licensed. August Williams has been lay minister for twenty years, and church trustee for fifteen years. James Wert has served as trustee for thirty-five years, been delegate to annual conference eighteen years, and superintendent of the Sunday School fifteen years. The present trustee board consists of James Wert, Thomas Moser, Norman Malick, David Paul, Norman Harner, Victor Harner, and Elmer Long. Other officers in church organizations are: Mildred Lamb, Mary Louise Wertz, Grace Lamb, Mrs. William H. Quaid, Mrs. Clinton Wary, Mrs. Kate Becker, and Mrs. James Wert.

Mt. Carmel Church has been attached to the following circuits: Northumberland, 1863-64; Shamokin, 1864-66; Valley View, 1866-69; Shamokin, 1870-72; Mt. Carmel, 1872-74; Catawissa, 1874-83. Since 1883 the following ministers have served the church: H. B. Spayd, 1883-85; J. G. Fritz, 1885-89; M. J. Heberly, 1889-91; Uriah Gambler, 1891-93; Charles Bauer, 1893-96; Amos Graul, 1896-98; R. S. Arndt, 1898-1902; Thomas Garland, 1902-04; S. L. Rhoads, 1904-07; D. S. Eshelman, 1907-08; J. Francis Smith, 1908-10; C. S. Miller, 1910-16; S. G. Haas, 1916-18; J. C. Deitzler, 1918-20; John H. Dunham, 1920-29; L. R. Walters, 1929-32; E. M. Strickler, 1932-39; Edward T. Uhler, 1939-Nov. 1943; F. G. Flurer, Nov. 1943-45; William H. Quaid, 1945-46.

**Shamokin First Church**

The United Brethren congregation of Shamokin has been in existence for approximately one hundred years. The class had its beginning when Shamokin was a mere hamlet. Rev. Joseph Young Jr. spent the latter part of the year 1865 in opening a new mission in Northumberland County, and met with great success. He was invited to come to Irish Valley to preach by a resident of that valley, Mr. Solomon Zuern, who had occasion to go to the vicinity of Boyle's Run to see a friend, and, while there, heard Rev. Young preach and extended the invitation. The appointment in Irish Valley resulted in an appointment at Shamokin.

The annual conference of 1846 placed Northumberland Mission on its list of appointments, officially, and appointed the Rev. Samuel Seiders, who served two years. The Rev. Jacob Brewer succeeded him. It was on the return of the Rev. Young, in 1850, for a second time, that steps were taken to erect a house of worship. At the quarterly conference held at Malich's Church, May 11, 1850, Jeremiah Zimmerman, George Krieger, and Henry Hagey were appointed trustees "to build a meeting-house in Shamokintown." Mr. Zimmerman had a friend by the name of Boyd who graciously donated a lot for that purpose. The first church, thirty by forty feet in size, was erected in 1850 on the lot donated, located on Sunbury Street, where the present parsonage stands.
Peffley, presiding elder, consecrated the house of worship and preached the dedicatory sermon in the latter part of December, 1850.

Shamokin then had only two houses of public worship, the United Brethren and the Presbyterian. Inasmuch as Northumberland Mission had on it as many as fifteen appointments, preaching services were held only every two weeks in the Church at Shamokin. When not so used, other Christian bodies worshipped in it. The Methodist congregation used the church building during the years 1854-1859; the Lutheran and Reformed, 1864 and 1865; the Evangelical, 1864-1870; and the Baptist and the Quakers occasionally. The latter year Shamokin was made a station.

In addition to the three named trustees, others who served as such in the period to 1869 were: George B. Sinton, Josiah F. Bird, Mahlon Sholl, J. L. Lehman, and John Rudisill. All these men also served in the capacities of class leaders and stewards. The name of Peter Dirk also appears as serving in these offices.

By 1869 there was great need for expansion. Consequently the first building was remodeled and enlarged. Josiah F. Bird, Mahlon Sholl, and John Rudisill, trustees at the time, were assisted in this enterprise by J. L. Lehman, George B. Sinton, and J. Kline. In 1874 the presiding elder reported that the congregation is "seri-
ously embarrassed on account of debt," but three years later reported it to be free of debt. Providing larger quarters and limiting the charge to one church was reflected in increase of membership. John F. Mower, pastor, 1870-71, reported a net increase of 36 the first year that Shamokin operated as a station. At the close of this year the church membership was 101, and the Sunday School enrollment, 170. After a steady growth and another year in which there was a large increase—this time under the pastorate of H. B. Spayd, 1790 — from 161 to 218, plans were laid for the erection of a new building.

The old church was razed during the Rev. Spayd's year, and, when J. P. Cowling took charge in the fall of that year, he found the congregation without a building. The Rev. Cowling set to work with determination to complete the building, and by the fall of 1891 this was accomplished. During 1892 and 1893 funds were collected to pay for the new edifice, valued at $12,000, and it was dedicated in 1894.

In 1911 a parsonage, costing $5,375, was constructed on the corner of Ninth and Sunbury Streets. A new Mohler pipe organ was installed in the church at a cost of $3,000, and dedicated by Bishop W. M. Bell, August 16, 1925.

A third building became necessary through a very unfortunate event. During the night of October 29, 1928, the building of 1890 was completely burned out, with only a part of the walls remaining. Dr. S. C. Enck met with the trustees in November and action was taken to begin immediately the erection of a new church building. The plans called for moving the parsonage eastward to the old church site, and for the erection of the church on the corner of Ninth and Sunbury Streets. The parsonage was not only moved but practically reconstructed. The cornerstone of the church was laid on August 11 of the following year, Dr. A. S. Lehman officiating. The total cost of the enterprise was $12,049.16.

By the wise planning, excellent leadership, and untiring labors of H. J. Behney, pastor, the task of reconstruction was carried forward and completed. Bishop G. D. Batdorf dedicated the new edifice April 27, 1930. It is a three-story brick building of dignified exterior appearance. The sanctuary, outstanding in all its churchly appointments, is on the Sunbury Street level. To the rear of the sanctuary, on two floors, are Sunday School rooms. Due to the abrupt sloping of Ninth Street, there are entrances to two floor levels off the street. On the first, or upper, there is a spacious auditorium with stage and side and rear galleries, adaptable for dramatic, recreational, and social purposes. To the rear of the south gallery are three children's class rooms. A well-equipped kitchen is located on the east of the main floor on this level also. A recreation room, Boy Scout room, etc. constitute the lower level.

The changed industrial situation affecting all churches in eastern Pennsylvania coal mining districts, for a time, severely handicapped
the congregation in meeting its financial obligations. By 1944, however, the situation took on a brighter aspect. In an heroic effort, under the devoted and careful ministry of Dr. O. L. Mease, the debt, by the end of 1945, had been reduced to $25,193. Just three days before his sudden, and to us, untimely death, April 27, 1946, he related to the writer how the congregation had rallied to the work of clearing the debt, and expressed the hope that by 1948 it could be entirely cancelled.

The first Sunday School was organized in the year 1864—a union school conducted jointly by the United Brethren and Reformed congregations. It was reorganized as a United Brethren school in 1870. Mahlon Sholl was elected the first superintendent of this school. Others who had a share in its promotion were: George B. Sinton, John L. Lehman, William Yost, Josiah F. Bird, Isaac Templin, Paul Klinger, H. C. Yordy, and E. Malick. At the close of the conference year 1871, the pastor, J. F. Mower, reported an enrollment of 170. Ten years later the enrollment was 216, and the school has grown steadily through the years. At the close of 1945 its enrollment stood at 414, of which number 34 were officers and teachers.

From the time of the organization of the class, the Shamokin First congregation was affiliated with the Northumberland Circuit until the year 1863. The pastors appointed during this time are listed under that circuit. For one year, 1863-64, it was a part of the Catawissa Circuit, and the pastor was Simon Zimmerman. From 1864-70, together with other churches, it was designated the Shamokin Circuit. The pastors serving the circuit were: G. A. Snapp and John Swank, 1864-65; Josiah P. Long, 1865-66; George A. Lee, 1866-68; William B. Evers, 1868-70. From 1870 onward the Shamokin Church constitutes a station with pastors as follows: John F. Mower, 1870-71; David O'Farrel and J. R. Reitzel, 1871-72; J. R. Reitzel, res., and J. D. Killian, 1872-73; P. C. Detweiler, 1873-74; George A. Brickley, res., and W. S. H. Keys, 1874-75; W. S. H. Keys, 1875-76; W. S. H. Keys, 9 mos., and J. R. Reitzel, 2 mos., 1876-77; J. R. Reitzel, 1877-78; J. R. Reitzel, res., and Israel Groff, res., and E. P. Funk, 1878-79; E. P. Funk, 1879-80; J. G. Steiner, 1880-82; J. Merrick, 1882-83; W. H. Uhler, 1883-86; M. J. Heberly, and H. B. Spayd, 1886-87; J. H. VonNieda, and H. B. Spayd, 1887-88; H. B. Spayd, 1888-90; C. P. Cowling, 1890-1894; C. A. Mutch, 1894-96; Rudolph Rock, 1896-98; Rudolph Rock and I. H. Albright, 1898-99; I. H. Albright, 1899-1901; A. A. Long, 1901-06; A. K. Wier, 1906-11; M. H. Jones, 1911-12; A. S. Beckley, 1912-14; A. S. Beckley died, and I. Moyer Hershey, 1914-15; I. Moyer Hershey, 1915-16; H. J. Behney, 1916-38; O. L. Mease, 1938-April 27, 1946.

**Shamokin, Second Church**

Uniontown, West Shamokin, Tharptown, and Emmanuel, are the various names which the church, now most generally known as “Shamokin Second Church” has borne. The organization had its sponsorship through First Church in 1884, when the Rev. W. H.
Uhler was pastor. The first board of trustees consisted of Josiah Bird, Clinton Tharp, and James A. Miller. The charter members of the class were Clinton Tharp, Casper A. Tharp, Mrs. Elizabeth Tharp, Mrs. Joseph A. Miller, J. Miller, and Mrs. Elmer Mutchler. James A. Miller was the first superintendent of the Sunday School and George Spangler was his assistant.

The lot with the school building on it where the large old red brick school building now stands was purchased in 1884. The school building was practically rebuilt, and dedicated in 1885 by J. B. Daugherty, presiding elder. In 1886 the church was attached to Paxinos Circuit. C. W. Raver and J. A. Lyter served the circuit in 1886-87; and J. P. Cowling, 1887-88. In 1888 the church was supplied by H. C. Yordy; in 1889 it was left open to be provided with a supply by the presiding elder. Uriah Gambler, pastor of Paxinos Circuit, served this congregation for the year 1890-91. M. H. Jones and J. W. A. Kelley served as supply ministers for the year 1891-92.

The present church building was erected in 1894-95 at a cost of $2,600. The congregation had again been attached to the mother church in 1893 and remained with it until the conference session of 1895. C. W. Cowling was pastor 1893-94, and C. A. Mutch 1894-95. The parsonage was erected in 1886 as a circuit parsonage. It was remodeled in 1916 at a cost of two thousand dollars. The two story brick school house adjoining the present church was re-purchased in 1931 and is being used for church school work and for social and recreational purposes. Extensive improvements were made to church and parsonage in 1939 at a cost of $1,831. Both buildings were repainted, the floor of the worship room was covered with beautiful carpet, and new installations were made at the parsonage. This was accomplished under the ministry of the Rev. C. A. Funk.

Trustees at the present are Harry R. Yost Sr., Leon Dietz, Darwin Maurer, Charles Yost, and Emerson Henninger. Officers of the Sunday School are Charles Yost, Warren Thomas, George Frederick Jr., Evelyn Sherry, Ruth Yost, and Arlene Spotts. Mrs. Catherine Newberry, Mrs. Rena Killinger, and Mrs. Darwin Maurer head the
work of the Women's Missionary Society. Mrs. R. S. Heberlig and Jean Carter have charge of Christian Endeavor work.

The Rev. C. A. Mutch had two terms as pastor of this congregation. Other pastorates in this, the northern part of the conference area, were at Sunbury Church and Montana (Aristes) charge. He was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. When he was ten years of age his parents moved to a farm in North Annville Township, Lebanon County. Brother Mutch was licensed at the conference of 1887 and ordained in 1890. From 1894 until 1932 he was a member of, and for much of the time chairman of, the First Year's Study Course Committee. He wrote numerous articles for the Religious Telescope and other religious periodicals. His pastorates included twelve regular appointments and two supply appointments in addition to those mentioned above. Lebanon Valley College honored him with the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1937.

During 1895-96 J. W. A. Kelley was minister. From 1896 to 1916 this congregation was affiliated with Shamokin Circuit. Since 1916 the following ministers have served this church: J. F. Brown, 1916-19; H. F. Boeshore, 1919-21; I. D. Lowery, 1921-23; E. P. Kratzer, 1923-25; C. A. Mutch, 1925-28; Cornwell Beamesderfer, 1928-34; C. A. Funk, 1934-43; and R. S. Heberlig, 1943-46.

**Sunbury Otterbein Church**

Efforts to establish a church in Sunbury began in 1873. In that year J. Willis Connery was appointed to Northumberland Mission Station which had Sunbury as one of its appointments. John F. Mower was appointed to Sunbury Mission in 1874. In 1875 and in 1883 Sunbury appointment appears, being attached to Paxinos Circuit. Sunbury appointment was attached to Milton Mission in 1892. A. H. Souillard served the charge 1892-95; and J. M. Walters 1895-96. Whether a class had been organized at any time during this period is uncertain. In 1891 a special commission on missions recommended that if after investigation an agreement be reached a lot located in the northeastern part of the city be purchased. This recommendation was not carried out.

On the evening of May 17, 1896, R. R. Butterwick, pastor of Paxinos Circuit, held a service in the Good Intent Hook and Ladder Hall on South Fourth Street. This marked the beginning of a more permanent work. A class organized soon thereafter was granted a charter of incorporation by the county court July 15, 1896. This class consisting of twenty-eight members, on November 28 of the same year, bought from the Evangelical congregation a church, parsonage, and lot, located at the corner of Vine and Fourth Streets for the sum of three thousand dollars. Trustees then serving the class were Frank D. Rabuck, C. C. Bartholomew, Albert Miller, J. R. Jones, and M. L. Zimmerman. The church was dedicated by the United Brethren in the month of June 1900, Bishop E. B. Kephart officiating and Charles Bauer, pastor, assisting.

A new church with parsonage attached was erected on the site
Sunbury Church

of the former buildings under the ministry of S. L. Rhoads. The cornerstone was laid in September 1909, and the completed house of worship was dedicated April 17, 1910 by Dr. D. D. Lowery, presiding elder. Its cost in money paid was sixteen thousand dollars; however, considering the material of the old buildings which went into the construction of the new, its value was more nearly twenty thousand.

Additional ground north of the church and some properties on Vine Street were purchased in 1915. A Sunday School annex was constructed, improvements were made to the original building, and a new heating system installed in 1922 at a cost of $22,627.82. Reopening services were held September 27. A two-manual Estey Minuette pipe organ with chimes was installed in 1930. Dr. Enck was present for both these special occasions. The Rev. Jacob F. Brown, under whose ministry these forward steps were taken, was pastor at Sunbury from the fall of 1919 until his death, May 6, 1934. He was born at Lampeter, Lancaster County. His local church connection was with St. John's Church, Paradise, as a young layman. He toiled incessantly for the welfare of the charges he served. The Sunbury Church increased from 294 to 579 in membership during his ministry.

The disastrous flood of March 1936 along the Susquehanna River poured its muddy waters into parsonage and church to a height
of seven feet above the street floor. This was an extremely distressing experience for both pastor and congregation. Pastor Hallman, just two months prior to the flood, had appointed a committee to lay plans for liquidation of a standing debt of $7,800. This effort was just beginning to function when the flood struck. The cost of repairs, redecoration, and new furnishings raised the debt to $15,200. By heroic effort the entire amount was secured by 1944, and a real “Victory Day” was celebrated on September 17.

Laymen serving in official capacities are: Trustees, W. Edward Moyer, Francis L. Shaffer, Ammon J. Drumm, Charles M. Stoner, Bryson E. Campbell, L. H. Goodman, and Roy D. Bastian; Sunday School, Martin H. Gass, Leroy Kessler, Mrs. Carrie Steele Baker, Mrs. Jane Goodman, Mrs. Albert Miller, Mrs. L. A. Schrader, Nevin P. Garman, Robert Arbogast, D. H. Hockenbrough; Women’s Missionary Society, Mrs. Jane Goodman, Mrs. W. Edward Moyer, Iola Rubendall; Otterbein Guild, Hazel Campbell, Elizabeth Stoner, Helen Wolfe. E. D. Rabuck served as Sunday School Superintendent for twenty-five years. Mrs. Valeria Miller is the only surviving member of the charter class of 1896. Many of the present members of the church were enrolled by her on the Cradle Roll. She has been very active in many phases of church life.

Ministers serving Sunbury Church with terms of service are as follows: M. H. Jones, 1897-99; Charles Bauer, 1899-01; J. F. Smith, 1901-05; C. Wallace Miller, 1905-07; S. L. Rhoades, 1907-11; C. A. Mutch, 1911-13; M. H. Wert, 1913-16; J. M. Walters, 1916-19; J. F. Brown, 1919-34; and G. W. Hallman, 1934-46.

Zion Church. Coal Township

Zion Church on Treverton Road several miles west of Shamokin was organized May 4, 1916, at a special quarterly conference held at the home of Daniel D. Klinger. This church, like Shamokin Second Church, is the child of Shamokin First Church. The Rev. I. Moyer Hershey, pastor of First Church, and members of its official board, transacted the business incident to organization.

The following persons constituted the charter membership roll: Mr. and Mrs. Daniel D. Klinger, Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas, Helen and Howard Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. George Tharp, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Tharp, Raymond and Norman Tharp. Daniel Klinger, George Tharp, John Thomas, Joseph Klinger, and Daniel Tharp were elected trustees. Other officers elected were: Daniel Klinger, Sunday School superintendent; George Tharp, class leader; and John Thomas, steward.

A frame church building was erected in 1916. The cornerstone was laid May 30 by Dr. I. Moyer Hershey, assisted by the Revs. J. F. Brown and M. H. Wert. Dedicatory services were held in December, being conducted by Dr. D. D. Lowery, conference superintendent. Other ministerial brethren having part in the service were J. H. Behney, I. Moyer Hershey, J. F. Brown, and J. C. Deitzler.
The organization has grown to a church membership of fifty-one and a Sunday School enrollment of eighty.

Church trustees at present are Mahlon Gearhart, Ferdinand Madara, Joseph Crowle, Clarence Drumheller, and Kenneth Erdman; Women's Missionary Society officers, Mrs. Ferdinand Madara, Mrs. Adam Ressler, and Mrs. Joseph Crowle. In the fall of 1916 the class was attached to Shamokin Circuit, and in 1928 to Shamokin Second Church.

4. Abandoned Churches and Classes of Northumberland County

Malick's or Mt. Zion Church

"Mile Run United Brethren Church" was organized during the winter of 1845-46. A frame church building was erected on a triangular piece of land containing eighty square perches sold by Henry Malick and wife to John Heninger, Daniel Heninger, and David Malick, trustees for the congregation. The stone in the peak of the front gable-end tells the story: "U. B. Mt. Zion.—Built 1847—Rebuilt 1894." It was the first house of worship erected by the United Brethren in Northumberland County. In addition to the names given above as trustees, there appear on quarterly conference proceedings during the period 1847-69 those of Peter Malick, John R. Malick, Charles Conrad, and Adam S. Renn. It can readily be seen why the church became known to be "Malick's Church."

The building stands in a more or less isolated rural area about five miles southeast of Sunbury and one and one-half miles west of Augusta-ville. It was rebuilt at a cost of six-hundred dollars during the ministry of C. E. Boughter while he served the Paxinos Circuit. Through the first half century of its existence it wielded a great influence for United Brethrenism. Though not regularly used since about 1925, those influences continue to live in the congregations at Shamokin and Sunbury—in fact in all of the present congregations of the northern end of the conference.

The parents of the Rev. U. S. G. Renn and his sister, Sophia Alice, the wife of the Rev. Monroe P. Sanders, were members here. Rev. Sanders, his wife, and a son, are buried in the cemetery adjoining the church, where many of the founders and later members of the congregation are interred. He was born in Lebanon County, April 7, 1847. While a mere boy he entered the Union Army and through life suffered from the effects of a gunshot wound received in battle. In 1877 he was graduated from Lebanon Valley College, being the third ministerial graduate. He was granted annual conference license in 1878. After ordination in 1883, he had nine years of active service, dying May 16, 1892, while serving Marietta Circuit.

The Rev. U. S. G. Renn, a spiritual son of Malick's Church, became a member of annual conference in 1888, and served the following appointments: Manor Circuit, Manheim, Elverson, Mont Clare, Oberlin, and Ephrata. Following his pastorate at Ephrata he entered Bonebrake Theological Seminary in 1900, and after graduation was sent to Reading Memorial Church, and from there to Middletown, from which church he was transferred to Harrisburg State Street Church, where he died after a brief illness in 1912.

(On June 4, 1947, the building and contents of Malick's Church were sold for the sum of $383.70, which amount was set aside for permanent upkeep of the cemetery. The contents, consisting of twenty-one benches, two stoves, several chairs, lamps, carpet, and organ, for the most part were bought by persons interested in them as mementos.)

Milton Church

A class of fifteen members was organized at Milton by W. H. Uhler, presiding elder of Shamokin District, on August 10, 1892. The following year a church costing $1,500 was erected on a lot centrally located. A. H. Souli-
lard was pastor 1892-95, and J. M. Walters 1895-96; C. S. Miller and H. E. Miller, 1896-97; M. H. Jones, 1897-98; J. W. A. Kelley, 1898-99; Charles Bauer, 1899-1900; and H. M. Klinger, 1900-01. By change of conference boundary in 1901, Milton Church became a part of Allegheny Conference.

Reeser's or Pleasant Hill Church

The Reeser family lived in the vicinity of Snydertown. This family, together with other rural people of Rush, Shamokin, and Upper Augusta Townships held services in the houses of members beginning about the year 1850. David and William Persing, Andrew Rhinehart, Elias Reed, John Reed, David and Amos Reeser, were leaders and officers of the class. John Reed, Elias Reed, and Reuben Fahringer, were appointed trustees in 1865. In the following year they were instructed to secure title to a church lot, and in 1867 to secure money and material for a church building. The Reeser's Schoolhouse and the Upper Augusta M. E. Church were used during these several years as places of worship. We have no information as to the time of erection of a church house. We do know that Pleasant Hill Church was destroyed by a tornado in 1883, and that a new church was built soon thereafter. These houses of worship stood just north of the Shamokin Branch of the Northern Central Railroad near Snydertown.

David M. Reeser, for some years a local preacher, was recommended for annual license in 1858. He attended several sessions of annual conference. Proceedings of the year 1865 state that he "was killed in the battle at Petersburg, Virginia."

Bear Gap appointment was attached to Catawissa Circuit in 1863. Georgetown (Dalmatia) was an appointment on Lykens Valley Circuit in 1873.

5. Introduction: The Churches of Columbia County

The ministers serving the old Northumberland Circuit made serious attempts to bring the Gospel to scattered groups of settlements more or less isolated because of the mountainous topography of the country. The quarterly conference proceedings of May 3, 1862 list appointments at St. Paul's Church, Slabtown, Roaring Creek, Sharp Ridge, Thomas Schoolhouse, and Hauling Run. At later periods Centralia and Mid Valley are listed.

Welsh Church was on the list of appointments as early as 1857. In 1840 a number of Welsh immigrants came to Locust Township and bought farms. Ten years later James Humphreys and Michael Phillips gave a plot of ground on the road to Ashland, about two miles south of the present village of Numidia for the use of the Baptist denomination. A church was erected by them that year. Many of these families having gone to Canada, the United Brethren bought their house of worship in about the year 1861. In 1908 the church building was abandoned and in 1909 it was torn down. Some of the above named appointments were discontinued, others were absorbed as nearby permanent classes were established. At the present writing there are four houses of worship in the lower half of Columbia County.

6. The Churches of Columbia County

Aristes Church

In the year 1870 Reuben Fahringer organized a class in the school-
house in the little mining town of Montana, now Aristes. Mr. Fahrringer was one of the early trustees of St. Paul's church, by whose class he was recommended for quarterly conference license in 1864. He received annual license in 1870 but served only locally or as a supply. The class was attached to the following circuits: Northumberland, 1870-72; Mt. Carmel, 1872-74; Catawissa, 1874-75; Mt. Carmel, 1885-89; Montana, 1889-93; Catawissa, 1893-98; Mt. Carmel, 1898-1903; and Catawissa, 1899-1923. The first house of worship was a frame building.

During the pastorate of the Rev. P. M. Holdeman plans were laid in April 1916 to erect a new church. The cornerstone was laid by the Rev. H. J. Behney July 29, 1917. The substantial cement-block building has a well-proportioned worship room, a Sunday School room with galleries on three sides, and a basement adaptable for social purposes. Its cost was twenty-thousand dollars, which amount was paid in its entirety by 1924. Dr. Enck dedicated the edifice July 20, 1919. The church membership at the time numbered 114. M. E. Kostenbauder, now trustee emeritus, labored untiringly to make this building possible.

The Rev. Holdeman resigned November 1, 1917 upon being appointed Army chaplain, and the Rev. Samuel A. Rauch succeeded him in January 1918. Upon assuming charge, he worked zealously and successfully in having the building completed. There were some serious difficulties, chief of which were those common to a period when a nation is at war. Brother Rauch was recommended for license by the Lebanon Salem Church in 1898. He was admitted to the annual conference in 1900, and the following year transferred to Nebraska Conference. He served churches in Nebraska and Kansas until he returned to Eastern Pennsylvania to take up the work on Catawissa Circuit. While pastor of Manor Circuit, he passed to his eternal reward on March 10, 1944, within twelve days of reaching his seventieth birthday.
HISTORY OF EAST PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

Improvements made to the church building in 1932-33 involved an expenditure of $2,500. A dwelling bought for use as a parsonage was dedicated by Dr. Enck September 15, 1940. The following persons comprise the present board of trustees: R. M. Kostenbauder, Lander Snyder, Weiler Hunsinger, Elton Hunsinger, Harold V. Bloom Sr., Elwood Fetterman Sr., and Russel Oakum. Other members of the official board are: William Beaver, James Mensch, Allen Mensch, Margaret Kostenbauder, Ruth Oakum, Rose Raker, Mrs. C. L. Zimmerman, Elsie Bucher, and Ruth Oakum.

Pastors of Aristes Church since 1923 are: H. H. Miller, 1923-26; G. W. Hess, 1926-30; Ira Fortna, 1930-32; A. W. Dambach, 1932-38; C. E. Esterline, 1938-39; and John Dunham, 1939-46.

Fisherdale Church, Cleveland Township

This church is located about three miles southwest of Numidia in Cleveland Township. During the year 1879 the people of the hamlet of Fisherdale felt the need of a conveniently located place of worship. Consequently several heads of families, namely, Isaac Fisher, Jonas Rupp, Christian Mensch, David Billman, and others sought permission to hold Sabbath School in the schoolhouse. A union school was organized with Isaac Fisher as superintendent. After a short time these people desired also to have preaching services.

The pastors of Catawissa Circuit began to serve them in the year 1880. A “Bush Meeting” was held in a woods not far from the place where Fisherdale Church now stands. Several conversions resulted and in the year 1883 a class was organized. A trustee board consisting of Phenis Thomas, Franklin Mowery, Christian Mensch, David Billman Sr., and Isaac Fisher, was organized. A frame church was erected mostly through the labors of the members, Christian Mensch being the head carpenter. After more than two years’ labor the work was completed, and the church dedicated in 1886. The deed drawn up in the same year stipulates that Isaac Fisher and wife Harriet sell two plots of ground; one for a church building and the other for a cemetery, for the sum of five dollars.

In the winter of 1886 the Rev. George W. McKee conducted a great revival which resulted in a number of converts and additions to church membership. About twenty years later the foundation walls needed strengthening. The building was raised several feet and the foundation rebuilt. Trustees then were D. F. Mensch, David Mowery, W. B. Levan, A. C. Camp, and Christian Mensch. In 1922 the building was repainted on its exterior and interior, an electric plant, and new heating system were installed, at a cost of $960. In 1937 a Sunday School annex and vestibule were constructed, and the original building again repainted and redecorated. Expenditures amounting to $1,300 were immediately provided for. Trustees serving the congregation at the time were John Mowery, Harold Mowery, C. F. Gable, Charles Shaffer, and Martin Mensch.
The official board now is composed of Lloyd Gouglør, Martin Mensch, Charles Shaffer, Harold Mowery, Ralph Ramsey, Charles Shaffer, Howard Shaffer, Allen Mourer, Mrs. Martin Mensch, and Jacque Ramsey. The church has always been affiliated with Catawissa Circuit—the ministers who served Fisherdale are listed under it.

**Freewill Church, Roaring Creek Township**

William Yeager, in 1874, offered one-hundred dollars and an acre of ground to any denomination which would build a house of worship on his land. Two years later Monroe P. Sanders, who was then traveling Catawissa Circuit, held a meeting in Mr. Yeager's grove. Forty persons were converted and joined the church in October 1876. Plans were immediately made for the erection of a frame building 28 x 40 feet in size. S. R. Gipple, who was sent to the circuit in February 1877, was instrumental in having the building completed. It was dedicated in September 1877. Mr. Yeager, Lewis Bunge, Michael Manhart, and Jeremiah Scott were among those interested in promoting the work of the class.

The building was remodeled in 1890 and in 1902. Certain renovations were about completed when on the night of October 18, 1914, through the explosion of gasoline, it was completely destroyed. The congregation, though disheartened, summoned courage and began the task of rebuilding. In the meantime services were held in Strasser's Schoolhouse. The new frame church was dedicated November 28, 1916. The Rev. P. M. Holdeman was in charge of the services. Dr. D. D. Lowery, conference superintendent, preached morning and evening, and performed dedicatory rites. Trustees who charted the course of rebuilding were Lewis Bunge, W. H. Adams, Oscar Bunger, Harry Schlieder, and Thomas Yeager.

Lay people now holding official positions are: Mr. and Mrs. Troy S. Merkal, Frank M. Snyder, Wesley H. Gilbert, Frances M. Hower, Bertha M. Gilbert, Mrs. Samuel Freese, and Geraldine Snyder. The congregation, since its founding, has been part of Catawissa Circuit.

**St. Paul's Church, Franklin Township**

The quarterly conference of Northumberland Circuit, David Hoffman, presiding elder, John Swank, preacher in charge, held February 9, 1861 in Slabtown M. E. Church, passed the following resolution: “Resolved that we build a new meetinghouse on a piece of land which may be secured from Samuel Diemer near his furnace.” Jeremiah Fahringer, Charles Metz, and Siba Bird were appointed trustees to supervise construction. The furnace here referred to was built by Samuel Bittler, and was known as “Esther Furnace.” The appointment was sometimes called by the same name. The frame building erected was dedicated by David Strickler, presiding elder, on May 3, 1862. G. W. Miles Rigor then being pastor.

Local church officials reporting to quarterly conference during the years 1862-69 were: Reuben Leinz, Charles Egolf, Reuben Fah-
ringer, Peter Huber, J. S. Fahringer, George Rupp, John Cooper, Charles Metz, N. Kostenbaurder, Lafayette Fetterman, and Lloyd F. Reider.

While the Rev. P. H. Balsbaugh was pastor, the church building was enlarged and remodeled, and partly refurnished, at a cost of $1,662.59. Dr. D. D. Lowery preached on the occasion of reopening services held September 29, 1907. J. W. Rider, Amos Teple, Haines Yost, Obadiah Yocum, and Clark Yost were trustees at the time of reconstruction. Concerning his relation to this work, pastor P. H. Balsbaugh wrote: "The task of rebuilding or remodeling St. Paul's was a hard one for me to oversee, it being my first venture in church building, and the successful outcome of the task is due to my friends and co-workers, who arduously toiled and generously contributed to its success."

The first circuit parsonage was built during the conference year 1880-81, when L. R. Kramer was pastor. This house was enlarged in 1890. The present parsonage—No. 475 Mill Street, Catawissa—was bought in 1928 for the sum of five thousand dollars. Some needed improvements were made to the parsonage in 1936. At the same time new pulpit furnishings were installed in St. Paul's Church.

The roster of the official board now consists of the names: Ellis Artley, George V. Hower, Orvin L. Krum, Morgan Davis, Warren Watkins, Ralph Wintersteen, Sterling S. Levan, Alice V. Krum, Donald Widger, Grace Arlene Small, Mrs. Margaret Artley, Dolores Jean Small, Mrs. Kenneth Artley, Mrs. Pierce Rider, and Mrs. Josephine Rhodes.

The ministers who served this church are listed under the following circuits with which it has been affiliated: Northumberland, 1861-63; Catawissa, 1863-64; Shamokin, 1864-70; Northumberland, 1870-72; Mt. Carmel, 1872-74; and Catawissa, 1874-1946.

7. Origin and Expansion of Circuits of Schuylkill County

The earliest preaching appointments in Schuylkill County were made by those local and conference-appointed ministers who labored within the area of the original Lebanon Circuit. Schuylkill
Mission, a conference appointment in 1843-44, was composed of classes of Berks County, not of any in Schuylkill County, as one might expect. Felix Light was probably the first minister to come within the bounds of the county. During the early decades of the last century he preached periodically in a grove of pines opposite Gunkle's Tavern in Pinegrove. His work was the beginning of a movement which culminated in the organization of a permanent class at Pinegrove.

From Pinegrove the work fanned out eastward through Schuylkill Haven as far as Tamaqua, northward to Tremont and Frackville, and northwestward through the gaps of the several mountains to Deep Creek or Hegins Valley. The large Pinegrove Circuit was divided in 1857. Pinegrove, Riland's Furnace, Tremont, and Deep Creek classes formed the reduced Pinegrove Circuit; Dresstown, Schuylkill Haven, Buehler's, and Landingville classes constituted the newly created Schuylkill Haven Circuit. Pinegrove Circuit was further reduced five years later when Deep Creek (Barry), Light's, John Kohr's, Jacob Schwal'm's, and Williams Valley Classes were detached to form Deep Creek Mission.

Preaching appointments in close proximity to the Berks-Schuylkill boundary alternated in attachments to circuits bearing place-names found in each, as for example, Albany Circuit extended into Schuylkill County, whereas Landingville Circuit reached into Berks. On the northern and the western border, likewise, circuit boundaries extended beyond county lines.

Circuits of the county listed according to chronological order had their origin and continuance as follows: Pinegrove Circuit, 1846-1903; Schuylkill Haven Circuit, 1857-75; Deep Creek Circuit, 1862-63; Germanville (Valley View) Circuit (1), 1866-73; Tamaqua Circuit (1), 1867-73; Landingville Circuit (1), 1873-92; Tamaqua Circuit (2), 1874-90; Germanville (Valley View) Circuit, 1874-79; Pottsville Circuit (1), 1875-76; Valley View Circuit, 1879-1946; Tamaqua Circuit (3), 1882-90; Tremont Circuit, 1884-90; Cressona Circuit (1), 1890-95; Tamaqua Circuit (4), 1893-94; Pottsville Circuit (2), 1895-96; Cressona Circuit (2), 1896-1901; and Landingville Circuit (2), 1903-07.

Circuits listed in alphabetic order, and ministers appointed:

Cressona (1), 1890-95; S. S. Daugherty, 1890-95.


Deep Creek, 1862-63; L. W. Craumer, 1862-63.

Germanville (Valley View) (1), 1866-73; Frederick List, 1866-67; James Shoop, 1867-71; William Dissinger, 1871-73.

Germanville (Valley View) (2), 1874-79; H. E. Hackman, 1874-76; Simon Noll, 1876-77; Lewis Fleisher, 1877-78; James Shoop, 1878-79.
Landingville (1), 1873-92: J. P. Miller, 1873-74; S. V. Mohn, 1874-76; Samuel Etter Jr., 1876-80; Amos Lehman, 1880-81; John M. Lesher, 1881-82; Lewis Fleisher, 1882-83; F. J. Butterwick, 1883-86; Gottlieb Myer, 1886-88; William Lamey, 1888-90; A. H. Souillard, 1890-92.


Pottsville (1), 1875-76; P. A. Bowman, 1875-76.


Tamaqua (2), 1874-80: J. P. Miller, 1874-76; Amos Graul, 1876-77; Vacant, 1877-78; H. W. Zimmerman, 1878-79; D. D. Lowery, 1879-80.


Tremont, 1884-90; Newton Shannon, 1884-85; R. S. Arndt, 1885-89; J. A. Keiper, 1889-90.

Valley View, 1879-1946: James Shoop, 1879-81; J. W. Boughter, 1881-82; George Shindler, 1882-83; John Binkley, 1883-84; J. H. Lowery, 1884-85; F. G. Ruloff, 1885-88; Joel Light, 1888-94; James Shoop, 1894-95; C. O. Lehr, 1895-1901; O. G. Romig, 1901-04; R. S. Arndt, 1904-10; M. H. Miller, 1910-12; P. M. Holdeman, 1912-13; H. M. Mentzer, 1913-46.
8. The Churches of Schuylkill County

Barry, Salem Church

Barry Church is located approximately in the center of Barry Township along State Highway Route 919, about midway between Weishample and Mable. Our circuit riders held revival meetings at the home of John Kessler during the middle of the last century. His residence was in an oval-like depression on the Little Mountain, about four miles southeast of the present Barry Church. Here Katie Ann Rickert, later the wife of Joseph Morgan, was converted in the year 1853 at the age of thirteen. A few years later this body of believers worshipped in a community church located about a half mile south of the present church. A neglected burial ground overgrown with saplings marks the area where the church stood.

The United Brethren built a stone church which stood about one-hundred feet east of the present edifice. Jacob Klinger sold 113 square perches of ground for the consideration of five dollars to Daniel Kelinger, Edward Klinger, and Daniel Kessler, trustees for the United Brethren in Christ. The date of the instrument of transfer is August 18, 1856. Presumably the building was erected in the same year. The class was then known as “Deep Creek”—so named after the creek which had its sources in the mountains south of the Barry Church, then flows in a general westerly direction and empties into the Mahantango in the extreme western point of the county.

In 1857 Deep Creek class was attached to the reconstructed Pinegrove Circuit. In 1862 Deep Creek Mission, consisting of Deep Creek, Light's, John Kore's, Jacob Schwalm's, and Williams Valley Classes, was constituted. The class was still called Deep Creek in 1863, but when next appearing (1873) in boundary committee reports it appears as Barry. Daniel Kessler, Simon Light, and Jeremiah Klinger were trustees of property in 1861.

In October 1890, the presiding elder reported that “the brethren at Barry are preparing to build a new church in the spring.” A frame structure was erected in 1891, and dedicated in the late fall of that year while the Rev. Joel Light served the congregation, then one of the points on Valley View Circuit. The trustees then in office were: Joseph Morgan, Charles Moser, Daniel Troup, Gabriel Klinger, and Cyrus Klinger. Mr. Moser was a public school teacher. He was chosen class leader first in the old stone church, continuing in that office for several years in the new church.

This enterprising congregation erected a modern parsonage, bungalow style, which was dedicated by Dr. S. C. Enck, November 29, 1927. The Rev. Homer H. Miller led the people in this project, which cost $6,500, toward which amount, $4,500 was collected by the end of the conference year. The church membership then numbered seventy-nine and the Sunday School enrollment, 175. The congregation paid for all purposes in that year, $6,847. The Rev. C.
R. Swartz served the church four years. When he closed his pastorate there were three flourishing Christian Endeavor Societies with a total membership of seventy-two, a Sunday School of 167 enrollment, and a church enrollment of eighty-nine members.

Charles Dietrich, Harvey S. Harner, Edward Shuey, Walter Morgan, and Herbert Ludwig currently compose the trustee board. Mr. Dietrich was Sunday School superintendent and one of its teachers over a period of thirty years; Mr. Shuey, trustee and secretary of the board, twenty-eight years; Mr. Harner, treasurer of the church, and chorister of the Sunday School, twenty-three years; and Mr. Morgan, present superintendent, trustee, and steward, has given twelve years of active service in official work. Leroy Shuey, Mrs. Emma Morgan, Mrs. John Shuey, Mrs. Harvey S. Harner, Mrs. Irwin Clauser, Leroy Lucas, and Mildred Harner, together with the trustees, complete the roll of official members.

The ministers serving Barry Church are given under the following circuits with which it was affiliated: Pinegrove, 1857-62; Lykens, 1863-74; Germanville (Valley View), 1874-1913. For the year 1862-63, the class was attached to Deep Creek Circuit, L. W. Craumer, minister. From 1913 to 1926 the Barry Church and the Tremont Church formed a charge—also from 1932 to 1946. While the class itself constituted a charge, 1926-32, Homer M. Miller was pastor, 1926-28; and C. R. Swartz, 1928-32.

Cressona, Grace Church

There was a class of worshippers meeting in homes by the year 1875. The Rev. P. A. Bowman who was appointed to Schuylkill Haven also served the class at Cressona. In 1878 the class was attached to Pinegrove Circuit. At the quarterly conference held on the circuit March 30, 1878, the pastor, J. Francis Smith, reported having held a meeting at Cressona, and that two persons had joined the church. At this quarterly conference also Moses Fenstermacher was steward and A. S. Riland of Freidensberg was authorized to organize a Sunday School. At the third quarterly conference Gottlieb Wagner, George Bretz, and John N. Riland were appointed trustees. On May 1, 1880, they were instructed to erect a church building and to proceed according to Church Discipline. George Dengler succeeded Riland as Sunday School superintendent.

On January 1, 1881 the following persons supported the movement to buy a lot: Revs. L. W. Craumer, George Shindler, and R. S. Arndt; and Messrs. A. S. Riland, Specht, E. A. Sarge, George Sausser, Daniel Riland, and W. S. Wagner. A small lot was purchased for the sum of seventy-five dollars as per deed dated March 24, 1881. Trustees acting for the class were Luther S. Keefer, A. S. Riland, Gottlieb Wagner, Reuben Bretz, and John W. Riland. A church was erected thereon. This church was repaired in 1893.

During the pastorate of the Rev. D. E. Long, an exchange of church properties was made with the Evangelical Church. The
building then purchased by the United Brethren for the sum of two thousand dollars was located on a lot fronting fifty feet on Second Street, and extending eighty-five and one-half feet along Maple Street. The date of purchase was July 26, 1902. The trustees then were Albert F. Diebert, William A. Grieff, Milton Dress, William Thiel, and J. Frank Bretz.

A beautiful and commodious brick parsonage, costing $10,584.60, was constructed in 1923. Dr. S. C. Enck dedicated this new manse November 18, 1923. Less than two thousand dollars remained to be paid after dedication. It was a very great—but a very successful—undertaking, considering that the membership at the time numbered 130. In 1931 the house of worship was completely renovated, carpeted, and redecorated at a total cost of $4,715.89.

This church demonstrated a charitable attitude toward the pastor, the Rev. Harry F. Boeshore, under whose ministry the parsonage was built. Not long after the house was dedicated the Rev. Boeshore became critically ill and was compelled to cease active service. From that time until his death, January 24, 1926, he was permitted to reside in the parsonage. He was converted at a very tender age in Lebanon Salem Church and when a mere boy, at the age of sixteen, was granted quarterly conference license upon recommendation of said church. He was graduated from Lebanon Valley College in 1917. In 1913 he was admitted to annual conference and served Pottstown, Reading Trinity, Shamokin Second, and Cressona charges, in the order named.

Trustees serving the congregation are Isaac Berger, Morris Springer, Alvin Warner, E. D. Grieff, and George Kiehner. Officers of the Sunday School are John M. Seiger, Mrs. Vera Rauch Eichert, Alvin Warner, Cloyd Bagshaw, Anna Leininger, Daisy Sweigart; and the officers of the Women's Missionary Society, Mrs. I. Herring, Mrs. George Lindemuth, Mrs. E. D. Grieff, and Mrs. A. R. Warner.

The church has been attached to the following circuits: Schuyl-
HISTORY OF EAST PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

kill Haven, 1875-78; Pinegrove, 1878-84; Landingville, 1884-90; Cressona, 1890-95; Pottsville, 1895-96; and Cressona, 1896-1901. Since 1901 its pastors have been: D. E. Long, 1901-03; C. A. Snavely, 1903-06; H. J. Behney, 1906-09; D. S. Eshelman, 1909-10; Thomas Garland, 1910-12; Clarence Mease, 1912-15; L. R. Kramer, 1915-18; L. R. Walters, L. R. Kramer, 1918-19; Ira D. Lowery, 1919-21; H. S. Boeshore, 1921-23; H. S. Boeshore, John A. Kauterman Jr., 1923-24; John A. Kauterman Jr., 1924-38; H. M. Falstick, 1938-41; and H. M. Mathias, 1941-46.

Fearnot, St. Peter's Church. Hubley Township

The Jacob Schwalm class was an appointment on Deep Creek Mission charge as early as 1862. Great revival meetings were held in the "Old Block House" on Mr. Schwalm's farm. These meetings so strengthened the class that a church was erected in 1886. It was locally known as "Schwalm's Church." Jacob Schwalm, its founder, was born August 22, 1823, and died July 25, 1896. He married Justina Engler. This consecrated couple was a pillar of strength for United Brethrenism in the valley for many years.

The cornerstone of the church bears the inscription: "St. Petrus Kirche der Vereinichten Brüder in Christi, 1886" (St. Peter's Church of the United Brethren in Christ). The church stands a short distance south of the group of houses forming the village which once bore the name, Cressona. When a Post Office was about to be established, a new name had to be found. After some suggestions were sent in to the federal department and all of them rejected, Mr. Oscar Carl, a local member, suggested "Fearnot" which was accepted. "He said these are the words of Jesus and he is sure there is no duplicate."

Rufus E. Carl, Oscar Messner, Lester Bixler, Ray Lettich, Harry Miller, Irene Hoffman, Titus Miller, and Daisy Lettich compose the official family of the church. It has always formed a part of Valley View Circuit.

Landingville Church

The Landingville class was organized by the Rev. David Hoffman in the year 1856. It was recognized by annual conference at its session in 1857 and attached to Schuylkill Haven Circuit. A frame church building was erected in 1869. Title to the lot, 48 by 62 feet, on which the church had already been built, was granted by deed dated November 26, 1872, to John Y. Houck, George Adams, and A. F. Diebert, trustees, for the consideration of fifty dollars. In 1893 under the management of the Rev. S. S. Daugherty, pastor, the church was handsomely repaired and the expenses paid for. In 1933 the building was raised two feet and generally repaired at a cost of $1,754. Reopening services were held November 19, the Rev. H. M. Miller preaching the sermon.

Ed. Drumheller, W. M. Shoener, I. Foster Wagner, and Benjamin Fryer are its present trustees. Officers of the Sunday School are:
L. M. Miller, I. Foster Wagner, L. V. Maine, W. E. Fritz, George Bair, and Edna Miller. The Women's Missionary Society officers are Edna Miller, Mrs. W. E. Fritz, Mrs. Mary Umphry, and Mrs. George Deibert. L. M. Miller has held lay license for more than fifty years.

The circuits to which the Landingville church has been attached are: Schuylkill Haven, 1857-70; Tamaqua, 1870-73; Landingville, 1873-92; Cressona, 1892-95; Bern, 1895-1901; Cressona, 1901-03; Bern, 1907-25; Shoemakersville, 1925-38; and Cressona, 1938-46. It was a separate charge 1903-07, and the ministers who served were: P. M. Holdeman, 1903-04; H. B. Dohner, 1904-05; A. S. Beckley, 1905-06; and M. H. Wert, 1906-07.

**Pinegrove, St. Paul's Church**

The regularly appointed and local preachers of the Lebanon Valley extended their ministries through and beyond the Swatara Gap during the early years of the nineteenth century and preached to the people of Pinegrove. The Rev. Christian S. Crider, while in the first year of his pastorate at Lebanon Salem, held a successful revival in that town in a storehouse adjoining Paul Barr's drug store. A class consisting of the following charter members was organized: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barr, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Barr, Mr. and Mrs. John Huber, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Spancake, Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Schropp, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Buechler, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Hackman, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gamble, Mr. and Mrs. William Lutz, and Frederick Sporman.

In February 1846, the Rev. John Adam Sand was transferred from Lebanon Circuit to Pinegrove Mission. In support of the work of this charge, annual conference of the same year took the following action: "That the Home Missionary Society appropriate $200 to Pinegrove Mission. If, however, J. A. Sand collect money, he shall refund it to the Home Missionary Society." A two-story frame building, 35 by 42 feet, was erected at a cost of $2,000 on a one-half town lot purchased from George N. Eckert and wife Emily for the sum of twenty-five dollars. The deed of transfer is dated February
25, 1847, and in it Paul Barr, Jacob Barr, Henry B. Schropp, Henry Spancake, and Peter Gamble are named as trustees.

Names of trustees recorded in quarterly conference proceedings from 1861 to 1881 are: Lewis Hackman, Paul Barr, William Auchenbach, William Reed, Daniel Gensemer, Monroe Hackman, Singleton Hikes, William Lutz, Lewis Fleisher, John Wunderlich, Michael Buchmeyer, George Sauser, Henry Lewis, Henry Spoorman, and Jacob Klaur. For the same period, the following are listed as superintendents of the Sunday School: Paul Barr, Singleton Hikes, Christian Buchmeyer, Ed. Barr, and E. A. Sarge. Mr. Hikes continued in that work for more than twenty-five years.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Clint S. Miller, the congregation bought a lot, sixty by three-hundred feet, fronting on Pottsville Street and erected thereon a parsonage and a frame church building at a cost of $7,000. The old property which was located on Tulpehocken Street was sold for the sum of $1,550. The cornerstone for the new church was laid May 5, 1889, and the structure was dedicated in the fall of the same year. In the latter part of July 1892 a violent storm wrecked the so recently completed house of worship. It was a disheartening experience for the congregation. Inasmuch as there remained a mortgage of $2,300 on the wrecked building, the undertaking to rebuild seemed impossible. The presiding elder at the ensuing session of annual conference stated: "Our brethren have nothing left but the wreck and the debt. They are not able to rebuild, and if we as United Brethren are to have a church at Pinegrove, this conference must take it in hand and pay a good portion of it."

Interested citizens supported the effort of the congregation to raise cash. The sum of twelve-hundred dollars was collected and construction began in December of the year 1892. The completed edifice was dedicated during the year 1893-94. The Rev. James Shoop, presiding elder, kept the necessity of special support before the conference over a period of several years. The debt was finally canceled in 1901. The acceptable ministry of P. L. Hains (1892-95) had great influence for success during the years when the burden was the heaviest.

This second building on East Pottsville Street was enlarged and improved in 1911 by the erection of a tower and vestibule at the southwest corner, an annex to the rear for the Primary classes of the Sunday School, a pulpit recess, galleries, placing of memorial stained glass windows, new pews and a new steam heating plant, making an expenditure of $5,000. Dr. D. D. Lowery, presiding elder, and pastor L. R. Kramer held reopening services September 24, 1911. In 1917 an electric light system was installed; and a Social Hall constructed in the basement in 1922. In the fall of 1933 a two-manual Moller pipe organ was installed, a metal ceiling placed in the church auditorium, and the floors and pews refinished. Dr. Enck was present for dedicatory services on January 7, 1934, which were in charge of pastor Harry W. Zechman.
Pinegrove Church and Parsonage

The parsonage was thoroughly altered and modernized in its interior structure and in equipment, and an R. C. A. Sound System was installed, at a total cost of $3,000, during the conference year 1940-41.

On April 19, 1943 the quarterly conference approved plans for a general remodeling of the church and the erection of an addition. A modern Christian Education Building, comprising twenty-two class and departmental assembly rooms and a prayer chapel, was added to the rear of the original structure and attached to the parsonage. The furnishings, equipment, and worship appointments are adequate and convenient in every respect. The church worship room was partly reconstructed and refitted. An eight-foot altar was made central and has for a reredos a beautiful glass window which presents Christ as the Good Shepherd. All of the interior was altered to correspond in dignity and appearance to the chancel and altar. The tower was rebuilt and the entire exterior of the building including the parsonage was brick veneered. Five new stained glass windows were added. Work was begun on the project in September 1943. Its cost was $30,000. Services of dedication were held Novem-
ber 19, 1944. Bishop G. D. Batdorf preached at the morning hour of worship and in the afternoon. At the latter service the Bishop read the Litany of Dedication. Dr. D. E. Young, conference superintendent, preached at the evening service.

The Rev. Harold C. Hollingsworth was pastor during this latest and rather marvelous transformation of both parsonage and temple of worship. This has been his first appointment since being graduated from Bonebrake Theological Seminary. His endeavor to enlist youth in the work of the church, and his interest to improve modes of worship led to organizing and vesting of both a Junior Choir and a Youth Choir.

On the list of trustees of more recent years are the names of: Amos Boughter, Joseph W. Schwalm, William Werner, Harry Carl, Wilson Lewars, Robert Werner, George Harris, John Reed, and Allen Schwalm. With the addition of Claire, Harry, and Phaon Adams, Mrs. Luther Aungst, Margaret Bligan, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Carl, Mrs. Harry Carl, Florence and Thomas Haeseler, Mrs. Merritt Heim, Mr. and Mrs. John Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. David Hummel, John H. Reed, Mrs. J. W. Schwalm, Fred and Slater Schwartz, the official roster of the church is complete as of the year 1945.

Ministers who served Pinegrove Church from 1846 to 1903 are listed under Pinegrove Circuit. Ministers serving since 1903 are as follows: H. F. Rhoad, 1903-04; L. R. Kramer, 1904-15; Amos Lehman, 1915-16; R. E. Morgan, 1916-21; J. A. Keiper, 1921-22; S. A. Rauch, 1922-26; J. E. Keene, 1926-33; H. W. Zechman, 1933-37; R. S. Heberlig, 1937-40; and H. C. Hollingsworth, 1940-46.

Sacramento, Messiah Church

The background of the church at Sacramento had its setting in the general expansion of class organizations in Deep Creek Valley. Hubley Class, mentioned in the boundary committee report of 1873 probably was meant for the Sacramento class. A frame church was built in that year. Cornelius Moyer, William Artz, and John Kohr, trustees, acquired a lot fronting forty feet on Tulpehocken Street and extending north on Elm Street one-hundred feet, for the sum of $100. The church is located on the main valley road about two and one-half miles west of Valley View.

Among the lay people who compose the official board are Allen Zerbe, Ammon Scheib, Gurney Harner, C. G. Updegrove, Henry Stiely, Mrs. Irene Radel, and Mildred Harner.

For one year the church was attached to Lykens Circuit and since 1874 to Valley View Circuit.

Schuylkill Haven, Messiah Church

Some interested citizens of Schuylkill Haven invited the Rev. John Adam Sand, while in his first year (1846) on Pinegrove Circuit, to come to their town to preach. He accepted the invitation and continued to preach every two weeks during the summertime.
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He conducted a protracted meeting in an old schoolhouse and later in the year formed a class. In connection with this effort and another protracted meeting in the home of David Dress, located west of Schuylkill Haven, a class was organized there, known as the "Dress" or "Dresstown Class."

Upon being reappointed to the circuit in 1847, the Rev. Sand set about to erect a house of worship. A lot twenty-five by one-hundred feet, located at the corner of St. John and Market Streets, was purchased by the trustees William Fisher and John Freeman at the price of $150. A frame church house was erected on this lot in 1847. David Hoffman was appointed to the circuit in 1855. He reported having found but seven members in both classes. However, as the result of a revival effort, the membership was greatly increased.

Under the pastorate of the Rev. Daniel M. Kauffman the trustees William Deibert, Wendel Fenstermacher, Solomon Fidler, John Y. Houck, and Benjamin E. Drumheller met on August 22, 1860 at the home of S. M. Shultz and agreed to build a larger house of worship and chose as the church name: "Messiah Church of the United Brethren in Christ." The sum of twenty-five hundred dollars was set as a minimum with which to begin building. The pastor succeeded in collecting the amount designated. A new site was purchased on East Main Street for the sum of eight-hundred dollars on November 16, 1860. A brick building was erected—its cost, together with the furnishings, was $3,160.40. S. M. Schultz, Wendel Fenstermacher, and Joseph Dengler composed the building committee. The old building was used for public worship until September 8, 1861, when it was sold for four-hundred dollars. It remains intact and is used as a dwelling.

In 1861, the pastor, with William Deibert, were appointed to draw up an act of incorporation and to apply to the county court for a charter. The signing of the application for a charter bore the names of Samuel M. Shultz, Wendel Fenstermacher, William Daubert, John Hendricks, Daniel Kaercher, Frederick Hess, Solomon Fidler, B. E. Drumheller, Charles Herbst, David Cummings, Joseph Mellon, George M. Boyer, William Deibert, and John Y. Houck. In 1885 a Women’s Missionary Society of fifteen members was organized.

At a congregational meeting held August 8, 1899 it was decided to improve and enlarge the church building. The committee charged with this responsibility consisted of the trustees, Dr. C. P. Detweiler, Charles Schumacker, Emanuel Maberry, Moses Evely, and W. J. Schwenk, together with Charles Keller, M. W. Quinter, G. W. Maberry, August Hertzell, and B. F. Herliman. The total cost of these alterations was four-thousand dollars, and the entire amount was satisfactorily provided on the day of dedication. Dr. I. H. Albright conducted reopening services, December 31, 1899. The Rev. C. A. Mutch was pastor when the plans were formulated, and the Rev. S. B. Wengert when the work was completed.
During the years 1926 and 1927 further extensive improvements were made and new equipment installed, consisting of redecorations, new windows, new pulpit furniture, new heating plant, sound-proof curtains and new chairs for the Sunday School rooms, hardwood floors, and a new Moller pipe organ, at a total cost of $10,226. Dr. S. C. Enck officiated at the day of dedication on Easter Sunday, 1927; the pastor, C. R. Beittel was in charge.

The first parsonage in the possession of the congregation was a dwelling which stood thirty feet from the church building. It was purchased on April 1, 1882, for the sum of $1,300. The present large brick parsonage was erected during the pastorate of Dr. R. R. Butterwick at a cost of $4,499.76. Dr. C. I. B. Brane dedicated the manse on November 1, 1908. The trustees were M. W. Quinter, W. J. Schwenk, John Kauterman Sr., Arthur Yost, and George Maberry. They, together with Dr. Butterwick, George P. W. Saul, and Thomas Luckens, constituted the building committee.

The Rev. John W. Luckens is a spiritual son of this congregation. He received quarterly conference license in 1922. Since ordi-
nation in 1929 he has served Hummelstown Circuit; Old Otterbein Church, Baltimore, Maryland; Reading Zion, and in the chaplaincy of the United States Army. John A. Kauterman Jr., a local preacher of much usefulness, also a member of Messiah Church, supplied various appointments.

The several church organizations have for their officers the following: trustees—Vilas Staller, Joseph Fisher, Reuben W. Fisher, Everett Jones, George P. W. Saul, G. Frank Schumacher, and Paul Neyer; Sunday School—John A. Kauterman Jr., Mary Schwenk, Paul Miller, Austin Potts Jr., Dorothy Staller; Women's Missionary Society—Mrs. Leon Heckman, Mrs. Edward T. Uhler, Mrs. Celeste DeWitt, and Mrs. Clyde Jones. Other lay workers having given many years of faithful service are: Thomas Luckens and Joseph A. Fisher as lay preachers; Kathryn Schwenk, William Schwenk, Ella Palsgrove, and Sadie Schumacher in Sunday School work; Elva Quinter as choir director; and Mrs. Margaret Schumacher as teacher and Ladies' Aid president.

Ministers who served this church are listed under Pinegrove Circuit, 1846-57, and under Schuylkill Haven Circuit, 1857-75. Since 1875, when it became a station, the following were appointed: P. A. Bowman, 1875-77; J. C. Mumma, 1877-78; C. Seltzer Melly, 1878-79; J. D. Killian, 1879-81; H. B. Dohner, Feb. 1881-Oct. 1881; Amos Graul, Oct. 1881-83; J. H. Mark, 1883-87; Amos Lehman, 1887-89; J. G. W. Herrold, 1889-90; J. G. Fritz, 1890-92; Amos Graul, 1892-94; C. S. Miller, 1894-96; C. A. Mutch, 1896-99; S. B. Wengert, 1899-1902; S. B. Wengert, J. R. Blecher, 1902-03; M. J. Mumma, 1903-07; R. R. Butterwick, 1907-08; S. G. Kaufman, 1908-11; D. D. Brandt, 1911-13; C. A. Mutch, 1913-16; G. M. Richter, 1916-19; P. H. Balsbaugh, 1919-22; C. R. Beittel, 1922-28; C. A. Snively, 1928-34; C. W. Hendrickson, 1934-37; C. E. Rettew, 1937-41; G. Jay Umberger, 1941-43; and Edward T. Uhler, 1943-46.

**Spring Glen. St. Mark's Church, Hubley Township**

Spring Glen congregation is one of the newer organizations in the conference. The house of worship is beautifully located on a wooded knoll several hundred feet south of the main valley road. It is the westernmost appointment on Valley View Circuit. There was an appointment on the circuit in 1865 by the name, "Springfield." This may have been a misnomer for "Springville," the earlier name for Spring Glen. For a number of years there were loyal United Brethren living in and about the village who went to Sacramento and Fearnot churches to worship. In time the demand for a place of worship more conveniently located became urgent.

A Sunday school was organized April 9, 1911 in the local schoolhouse, with C. O. Koppenhaver as its superintendent. The attendance was encouraging, and steps were taken to erect a building. The work proceeded promptly. The cornerstone was laid May 25, 1911 and by September 24 the first Sunday school session was held.
in the new building. The building was completed by the following spring and was dedicated by Dr. D. D. Lowery May 12, 1912. Its cost was $3,250. C. O. Koppenhaver, Jacob Henry, I. Irvin Miller, Irvin Artz, and C. Henry Schwalm were the trustees. The Rev. M. H. Miller was the pastor in charge.

During the ensuing ten years the congregation grew rapidly, and therefore it was decided to build an annex on the north side of the original structure. The annex was dedicated May 31, 1925 by conference superintendent Dr. S. C. Enck, who preached morning and evening to a crowded house. A Sunday School Rally was held in the afternoon. The total cost was $4,860, of which amount $3,028 was collected before and on the day of dedication. The Rev. H. M. Mentzer gave inspiring leadership to this significant forward step in the congregation’s progress. The present official roster contains the names of C. A. Koppenhaver, Charles Herb, Benjamin Koppenhaver, Boyd Hepler, Ivan Koppenhaver, Eston Artz, Lester Koppenhaver, Lester Eby, and Mrs. William I. Klinger. The church is attached to Valley View Circuit.

Tremont, St. John’s Church

As early as 1857 the minister of Pinegrove Circuit had a regular preaching appointment at Tremont. The quarterly conference proceedings of that circuit for the years 1861-81 show that Tremont was a point on the circuit during all of that period, and that the following persons were officers: William Hoff, Simon Fegley, George Warfel, Tetrel Artz, George Boyer, Jacob Stark, Joel Sauser, Elias Donmoyer, Henry Donmoyer, George R. Hatter, E. Dixon, H. Dixon, and Jacob Erdman.

Information on the possession of a house of worship and its location is incomplete. There was a board of trustees from 1861 onward. In 1871 a newly created board was authorized to rent or build a church. In 1879 the board reported having leased the church building for six years, the rental to be paid through church repairs. The first congregation at Tremont was still operating in 1892 when its attachment was shifted from Cressona Circuit to Pinegrove Circuit. Earlier attachments to circuits were: To Pinegrove, 1857-84; to Tremont, 1884-90; and to Cressona, 1890-92.

The present organization had its origin in 1913. The Rev. P. M. Holdeman, while pastor of Valley View Circuit, held a prayer service at the home of John Ney on April 13. A second similar meeting was held at the home of John Conrad, and a third at the home of Ottis Knapp. The fourth meeting of the group was in the English Lutheran Church on May 14 at two o’clock in the afternoon. A Sunday School was then organized: forty-one persons were enrolled, and H. C. Schach, superintendent, Fred Koppenhaver, treasurer, and Katie Fetterhof, secretary, were elected its officers.

The Reverend Holdeman held an open air meeting on the lawn to the rear of the above mentioned Lutheran Church, June 24 to July
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3, which resulted in six conversions, and so stimulated interest that at the close of the meetings a class of nineteen members was organized. Representatives of the Conference Missionary and Church Extension Society met with members of the new class on September 19. These representatives decided to recommend it as a class worthy to be received by the annual conference. The class pledged $300 toward the support of a pastor beginning with the new conference year, and requested that the Reverend Holdeman be sent as their pastor. Annual conference of the year 1914 recognized the Tremont class and constituted the Tremont-Barry charge and appointed the Reverend Holdeman as pastor. He remained on the charge two years.

A series of nightly services began on New Year's eve 1913 which continued six weeks. There were twenty-eight conversions and accessions. Among them were Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Herb and Mrs. Wilson Schaeffer. At a quarterly held at the pastor's home on Easter 1914, five trustees were elected and a movement was launched to buy the English Lutheran Church which was located on Clay Street. This very substantial two-story stone structure was purchased on August 11, 1914 for the sum of $2,500. Rededication services were held on the Sabbath following by Bishop W. M. Weekley. Dr. D. G. Gossard preached at the evening service. Later the dwelling at number 37 Clay Street was acquired for the sum of $1,700, for use as a parsonage.

Over the past several years renovations have been made and new furnishings bought as follows: repainting of the front wall, placing of new windows, new carpet, and redecoration of the main audience room. The stone in the front wall was changed to bear the name "St. John's Evangelical United Brethren Church."

Trustees serving the congregation at present are: Henry G. Herb, S. H. Herb, Harrison Moyer, Harry Carl, and Ray Wolfgang. Those who head the work of the several departments of church work are: William Carl, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hoy, Mrs. William Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. William Carl, Luther Wolff, June Daniels, Mrs. Clarence Imschweiler, and Mrs. Eva Miller. John Goodman as superintendent of the Sunday School, Harry Yeagley as class leader, Mrs. Clarence Imschweiler as pianist, and Henry B. Herb as trustee have given many years of service to the work of this congregation. Brother Herb has continued in the trusteeship from the beginning to the present.

The following names compose the roll of ministers who have served St. John's Church: P. M. Holdeman, 1913-15; B. F. Goodman, 1915-27; C. E. Rickabaugh, 1927-28; Charles Lee, 1928-29; R. G. Becktel, 1929-34; S. L. Rhoads, 1934-Feb. 16, 1941; E. M. Strickler, 1941-43; and Clarence I. Summy, 1943-46.

Tower City Church

The Rev. James Shoop organized a class in the year 1871 which
Sacramento Church had as its meeting place the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Kuntzle-
man. John B. Mattis, Charles Harbist, and H. G. Shultz were the
trustees when the church was erected in 1872. The lot on which the
curch was built is that of the present church site, on East Grand
Avenue—it cost was one hundred and fifty dollars. This house
of worship was enlarged, a tower was erected and a bell placed.
The building was generally remodeled in 1892.

A new brick church was dedicated by Bishop Wm. M. Bell July
11, 1920. The cornerstone had been laid by Dr. H. E. Miller July 13,
1919. The cost of construction and furnishings amounted to $15,000.
It consists of a main worship room on the street floor and a base-
ment for Sunday School work. The furnishings are in oak; windows
of gothic design were placed as memorials. Dr. S. C. Enck preached
on the evening of the day of dedication. During the week following,
the Revs. H. E. Miller, H. M. Mentzer, C. S. Miller, and P. M.
Holdeman preached at evening meetings. The Rev. S. G. Haas,
pastor, was in charge of the services.

The frame parsonage located next to the church at number 642
East Grand Avenue was built in 1905 at a cost of $1,500, exclusive
of additional ground bought for its site. The congregation observed
the sixtieth anniversary of its founding June 11 to 19, 1931. Former
pastors took part in the celebration, among them being the Reverend
Shoop who organized the class.

The present trustees are: Allen I. Kissinger, Lester L. Jennings,
Edgar M. Stover, Lee J. Warfield, Joseph Kehler, and Galen Knorr.
Gurney A. Klinger is superintendent of the Sunday School, and
associated with him as main officers are Mrs. William Wolfe, Joseph

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L. VanHouten, Lee J. Warfield. Those in charge of Christian Endeavor are Mark Adams, Dale L. Jennings, and Mrs. Allen I. Kissinger. The four main officers of the Women's Missionary Society are Mrs. R. C. Penman, Mrs. Marlin Minnich, Mrs. Edna Carl, and Mrs. Allen I. Kissinger. Mrs. Fianna Krebs, a daughter of the Kuntzleman family in whose house the class met, Mrs. William B. Carl, Mrs. Jane Kuntzleman, and William Romberger respectively have had long and distinguished careers as workers in the local church and school.

In 1873 the church was attached to Williams Valley Circuit, with which it remained until 1884. From 1884 to 1890 it was attached to Tremont Circuit. In 1890 it was named a station with several classes attached. Ministers serving since that year are: J. A. Keiper, 1890-91; C. S. Miller, 1891-93; Uriah Gambler, 1893-94; J. M. Walters, 1894-95; R. S. Arndt, 1896-98; C. S. Miller, 1898-1901; William Beach, 1901-03; J. C. Pease, 1903-06; C. Wallace Miller, 1906-10; H. M. Trautman, 1910-12; N. I. Fake, 1912-14; O. G. Romig, 1914-16; G. W. Hess, 1916-18; S. G. Haas, 1918-21; R. E. Morgan, 1921-22; J. C. Deitzler, 1922-25; J. A. Keiper, 1925-31; Ira D. Lowery, 1931-34; S. A. Rauch, 1934-37; Cornwell Beamesderfer, 1937-39; C. E. Esterline, 1939-42; C. C. Witmer, 1942-43; and Lloyd E. Beamesderfer, 1943-46.

Valley View Church

In the preliminary survey of activities in Schuylkill County related at the beginning of this chapter, mention is made of classes known as Light's, John Kohr's, and Jacob Schwalm. These definitely existed in 1862 and may have been included in the "Deep Greek Classes" of the 1857 report. The Light's class was named for Simon Light (1825-1908), a local preacher and class leader who was active in the promotion of several classes and was at one time trustee for the Barry Church. John Kohr, also a local preacher and class leader, came from the Pinegrove region and married a Mrs. Harner. Jacob Schwalm lived farther down the valley in the vicinity of the present village of Fearnot.

Sometime after the Light and Kohr families had been established at the foot of the mountain between Valley View and Sacramento, services were held in the barn of John Artz located in that area. These scattered classes finally united in a movement to build a house of worship in the village then known as Germanville, now Valley View. The building was erected in 1862. There is on record a deed at the county courthouse dated April 2, 1899 which recites that George W. Moyer sold fifty-six square perches of land for the sum of $105.40 to John Schrore, John Rickert, Paul Wolfgang, Aaron Updegrove, and Alfred Klinger, trustees of the United Brethren in Christ at Valley View. The congregation built its second house of worship in 1905.

In 1914 this second edifice was greatly improved and increased to its present large proportions. S. Ellsworth Schwalm, Charles Wil-
liamson, Paul Wolfgang, John Herb, and William Keres were its trustees at the time. The building committee consisted of S. P. Schwalm, J. E. Rickert, C. E. Snyder, I. H. Schrope, and W. H. Harner. The amount of expenditure involved was six thousand dollars. Dr. D. D. Lowery performed the dedicatory rites on November 15, 1914. Two thousand dollars were spent in 1924 for remodeling and redecorating. Further improvements were made and a Wurlitzer Pipe Organ was installed in 1934 at a total cost of $2,463. Dr. C. A. Lynch dedicated the organ June 17. In 1939 the church was again redecorated, the main audience room was recarpeted, new floors were laid in the basement rooms, and new worship appointments were installed as memorials, the cost amounting to $1,853. Dr. S. C. Enck preached the reopening sermon on Sunday morning, July 9, and the Rev. Warren F. Mentzer, son of the pastor, preached in the evening.

The Rev. Harry M. Mentzer, pastor of Valley View Circuit will receive special mention in Chapter X.

R. E. Morgan, Harry W. Zechman, and Warren F. Mentzer, members of the Valley View Church, were licensed to preach upon recommendation of the congregation. Dr. C. W. Schwalm, M.D., an ordained elder of the conference, is another spiritual son of this church.
The dwelling across the street from the church was for a time used as a parsonage. In 1893 the house was purchased for that purpose. It was reconstructed and modern conveniences were installed in 1916.

Valley View Church has had attachment to the following circuits: Pinegrove prior to 1862; Deep Creek, 1862-63; Lykens, 1863-66; Germanville, 1866-73; Lykens, 1873-74; Germanville, 1874-79; and Valley View, 1879-46. Ministers who served the church are listed under these circuits.

Persons composing the present officiary of the church are: R. F. Harner, George Scheib, Vernon Bomberger, Oscar Bixler, James E. Miller, John Bergey, C. Lanston Mentzer, Irvin Schroppe, Iva Schwalm, Mrs. Eva Legett, Eleanor Unger, Mrs. Mary Maurer, and Sula Kehres.

9. Abandoned Churches, Classes, and Appointments of Schuylkill County

Ashland There was an appointment or class in the city of Ashland which in 1867 was attached to Tamaqua, in 1885 to Valley View Circuit, and in 1889 to Montana (Aristes).

Auburn, South Manheim Township. This class is mentioned but once. In 1890 it was attached to Landingville Circuit.

Buehler's. The class bore the name of the man at whose house the meetings were held, that of George Buehler. It stood near Sholl's Mill, about two miles east of Orwigsburg. The Rev. David Hoffman organized the class in the year 1856 while pastor at Schuylkill Haven. It was attached to that circuit, with which it remained until 1898, when it ceased to exist.

Clark's Valley. The class named after the valley which lies principally in Rush Township, Dauphin County, was attached to Tower City in 1890.

Donaldson The class met in the village whose name it bore, which lies a short distance west of Tremont. It appears on the list of classes attached to Pinegrove Circuit, 1861-66 and 1868-69. It was placed with Tremont in 1894, and in 1892 switched back to Pinegrove.

Drehersville, East Brunswick Township. The class was taken from Landingville Circuit and placed with Albany Circuit in 1882.

Drejnstown The Rev. J. A. Sand organized a class in 1847 at the home of David Dress located a few miles west of Schuylkill Haven. It was shifted from Schuylkill Haven Circuit to Pinegrove Circuit in 1854, then returned to the former connection in 1870.

East Franklin The class is listed in the proceedings of Pinegrove Circuit quarterly conference over the years 1877 to 1879.

Frackville The class in the city of Frackville was attached to Tamaqua; Tremont, and Valley View Circuits, respectively, over the years 1874 to 1885. The Rev. Charles Bauer, pastor at Mt. Carmel, organized a new class in that city in 1895. A lot had been purchased and some subscriptions toward a church building had been received, but after 1896 no further activity is reported.

Freidensburg When organized, this class was known as "Riland's" and attached to Pinegrove Circuit in 1857, with which it remained until 1884; subsequently it was attached to Landingville, Cressona, Pinegrove, Pottsville, and Cressona Circuits, in the order named. Its meeting-place was first in the Riland home, and later in the Union Church at Freidensburg. It no longer appears on the roll of conference churches after 1925. A. S. Riland was for many years its sole representative at quarterly conferences.
He was a familiar figure at annual conference sessions, and for a number of years was a trustee of Lebanon Valley College.

**Furnace**  The location of this class remains unidentified. The only mention of it is in the boundary committee's report of the year 1857 when it was placed to Pinegrove Circuit.

**Hill**  From 1861 to 1868 Hill Class was represented at the quarterly conference sessions of Pinegrove Circuit.

**Kofter's**  Porter Township  The class named after Koffer's Station on the Summit Branch Railroad was detached from Pinegrove Circuit in 1884 and attached to Tremont Circuit.

**Klingertown**  The village is in the extreme western end of the county, North Mahanoy Township. The class met in the town hall. It was attached to Pinegrove Circuit in 1847.

**Llewellyn Church** The United Brethren built a house of worship in Llewellyn in 1850. It was attached to Pinegrove Circuit, 1850-84; to Tremont Circuit, 1884-90; to Cressona Circuit, 1890-92; and to Pinegrove, from 1892 until it went out of existence. At various periods it was a flourishing organization. Annual conference in 1904 authorized a special board of trustees to sell the property. John Shultz, Michael Berhart, Benjamin Berhart, John Hoffman, Charles Heisler, Thomas Garland, and Isaac Dando were some of the laymen who took an active part in the official work of the church over the period 1861 to 1881.

Thomas Garland was born in Llewellyn September 23, 1847, the son of Irish immigrants. He left public school at the age of thirteen to work in the coal mines. At the age of sixteen he enrolled in Co. F. 48th Reg. Pa. Vol., served in the war of the Rebellion, was wounded, then hospitalized for about five months. Upon being mustered out he again worked in the mines. He served as Sunday School superintendent at Llewellyn, was recommended for quarterly conference license, received annual license in 1871, and was ordained in the year 1876. The Reverend Garland was in the active ministry from 1872 to 1921, serving conference appointments with great acceptability.

**Newtown**  Newtown and Swatara Valley Classes were probably one and the same. They are listed on the proceedings of Pinegrove Circuit from 1862 to 1889.

**Mahanoy**  The Mahanoy City class was attached to Tamaqua Circuit in 1867. It receives mention but once.

**Middleport**, Blythe Township  A class at Middleport was a part of Tamaqua Circuit in 1882.

**Orwin Church**  A Class was organized at Johnstown, now Orwin, in about the year 1890. A lot costing one hundred dollars was secured for the erection of a church in 1892. Samuel Uhler, Nathan Hatz, John Goodman, Andrew Hand, and Alfred Hand were the trustees. A frame church was erected in 1892.

**Paradise**  A class mentioned by this name was connected with Pinegrove Circuit in 1882.

**Pottsville**  First mentioned in the year 1875, this class was attached to a newly created circuit by the same name. During the summer of 1895 the Rev. C. S. Miller, pastor of Schuylkill Haven, rented a church property centrally located in the city and succeeded in organizing a new class. Prospects for a successful missionary enterprise seemed favorable. Pottsville Circuit was a second time constituted. In each case, however, the class and circuit continued but one year.

**Reynolds Church**  The church is located on the east bank of the Little Schuylkill River between New Ringgold and Tamaqua. A class was organized at a woods meeting under the ministry of John M. Lesher, then pastor of Landingville Circuit, in the year 1881. Israel Hunter sold a half acre of ground, June 5, 1883, to the trustees for Reynolds Church, who were: Gottlieb Walters, Valentine Auley, Elias Moyer, George Wittich Sr., and Frederick Walters. The congregation was regularly served by our
ministers from 1881 to about 1901, and was connected with the following circuits throughout that period: Landingville, Tamaqua, Cressona, Bern, and Sinking Spring. A class of The Evangelical Church is now worshiping in the building and negotiations are under way to transfer the property to it.

Gottlieb Walters above mentioned was the father of the Rev. John M. Walters who was born at Reynolds. He joined this church and was licensed from this class. During the forty-six years of his active ministry he served fourteen appointments in the conference. He was graduated with the 1893 class of Union Biblical Seminary. He died March 27, 1945, while sustaining the status of a retired elder. The Rev. LeRoy R. Walters is a son of the Rev. John M. and Emma Katherine Hauser Walters.

Tamaqua Church The Rev. Daniel M. Kauffman opened a preaching appointment in Tamaqua in the year 1863. A class was organized and attached to Schuylkill Haven Circuit in 1885. The congregation came into possession of a lot fronting forty feet on Hunter Street and extending along Penn Street a distance of one hundred and fifteen feet. It was purchased by Christian Walter, Christian Bachman, and Reuben Kieshner, trustees for the class. The deed is dated July 23, 1880, and the purchase price was $200. Repairs were made in 1885 but there was a standing debt of $1,000 which, as reported by the presiding elder, greatly hindered the work. The difficulty of debt and the refusal to accept the preacher appointed in 1894 issued in annual conference recommending that the property be sold, the creditors paid, and the balance of credit be turned over to the Conference Church Erection Society. Following this action, the congregation entreated conference authorities not to sell the church. J. H. Gilbert of the Mt. Carmel quarterly conference was appointed. He was successful in paying interest that was standing four years. But his work was not appreciated, difficulties arose, and his services were no longer accepted. During the conference year 1896-97, the Tamaqua church was sold.

Umbenhauer’s Zion Church Zion’s Class was a part of the Pinegrove charge from 1870 to 1881 and probably later. The class first met in Umbenhauer’s Schoolhouse. Later a church building is mentioned. The men appointed as trustees were: William H. Uhler, William Marshall, Edward Miller, Samuel Umbenhauer, A. Umbenhauer, M. Brenner, and Jacob Huber. A. Zimmerman, C. Shutt, L. Dippinger, Joseph Betz, J. Rump, Simon Shucker, and William H. Uhler were class leaders or stewards, or both.

West Penn West Penn Post Office was located in about the center of the township bearing the same name. A class bearing the same name was, in 1880, attached to Landingville Circuit. The United Brethren built a church during the conference year 1882-83 on a lot which was bought by Philip Daubenspeck, Andrew Klechner, George Hill, William Osenbach, and William L. Daubenspeck, trustees. The appointment was attached to Tamaqua Circuit in 1885. When the congregation ceased to function, or when the property was sold, conference proceedings do not show.