Chapter IX

THE CHURCHES OF BERKS, CHESTER, MONTGOMERY, LEHIGH, NORTHAMPTON, BUCKS, PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES; NEW JERSEY; AND BEYOND THE PRESENT CONFERENCE BOUNDARY

1. The Circuits of Berks County

The preaching appointments in Berks County were officially grouped under Schuylkill Mission in the year 1843. Christian Peffley was appointed and an appropriation of fifty dollars was made from the funds of the Missionary Society to supplement his income. The next year this charge became Berks County Circuit, and Brother Peffley was reappointed. It is therefore evident that the Mission of 1843 did not take its name from Schuylkill County but from that region of Berks County which bordered on the Schuylkill River.

Christian Newcomer and George Adam Geeting held a "Great Meeting" in the vicinity of Sinking Spring as early as 1796. Incidentally, this is the first meeting of its kind recorded in Newcomer's Journal. He mentions other preaching appointments located east and west of the Schuylkill. Though there are no records to show expansion of our denomination in Berks County following the notations by Newcomer, it can be taken as a matter of course that the local and itinerant preachers of Lebanon and Lancaster Circuits, at an early date, extended their appointments into the southern and western areas of the county. The place-names of circuits which follow and the establishing of a church in Reading indicate the spread of the work.

The circuits of Berks County with the periods of their existence, in the order of their formation, are as follows: Schuylkill Mission, 1843-44; Berks County Circuit (1), 1844-55; Amity Circuit (1), 1854-61; Sinking Spring Circuit (1), 1855-59; Sinking Spring Circuit (2), 1860-69; Amity Circuit (2), 1862-64; Amity Circuit (3), 1866-70; Monocacy Circuit (1), 1870-80; Sinking Spring Circuit (3), 1871-73; Berks County Circuit (2), 1880-84; Amity Circuit (4), Oct. 1881-82; Monocacy Circuit (2), 1881-82; Albany Circuit, 1882-83; Sinking Spring Circuit (4), 1883-94; Bern Circuit (1), 1894-1901; Bern Circuit (2), 1904-25.

The list of circuits, years of continuance, ministers appointed, and terms of service, are as follows:

Albany Circuit, 1882-83; Isaac Goodling and R. S. Arndt, 1882-83. This circuit named after Albany Township, Berks County, was largely composed of appointments in Schuylkill County.

Amity Circuit (1), 1854-61: David Hoffman, 1854-55; Simon Zimmerman, 1855-56; Eusebius Hershey, 1856-57; Joseph Young Jr.,
1857-58; J. B. Daugherty, 1858-59; Israel Carpenter, 1859-60; and Lewis Peters, 1860-61.

Amity Circuit (2), 1862-64: Henry Hilbish, 1862-64.
Amity Circuit (3), 1866-70: C. T. Poulton, 1866-70.
Bern Circuit (1), 1894-1901: F. J. Butterwick, 1894-98; and S. S. Daugherty, 1898-1901.
Monocacy Circuit (2), 1881-82: J. D. Killian, John F. Mower, 1881-82.
Schuylkill Mission, 1843-44: Christian Peffley, 1843-44.
Sinking Spring Circuit (4), 1883-94: D. S. Longenecker, 1883-85; L. W. Craumer, 1885-86; J. R. Blecher, 1886-89; I. B. Koons, 1889-92; and William Lamey, 1892-94.

2. The Churches of Berks County

Bern, Salem Church
Benjamin Altenderfer headed an evangelistic movement in Center and Upper Bern Townships which culminated in the organization of
a United Brethren Class. Though, like the founders of our denomina-
tion he was a member of an established Church, yet he sought
the assurance of forgiveness of sins and the experience of vital faith.
William Blatt, a neighbor, and John Becker, a personal friend, were
also convinced of the necessity of conversion. They began holding
prayer meetings in homes. George K. Haag encouraged the work
by holding meetings in his home where he and his wife and Benja-
min Wert and his wife were soon afterward converted.

The meetings which had their origin in Center Township soon
spread to Upper Bern Township and were held there in the homes
of John Klein, Jacob Fisher and Benjamin Seaman. The Lord
visited these people with a gracious revival in the winter of 1859-60.
A protracted meeting of six weeks duration was held in 1860 in the
home of Benjamin Altenderfer. The movement began in 1848 and
continued until about 1870 without pastoral leadership and without
a church house. Being now of a considerable number, one of them
journeyed to Reading to invite the Revs. Job Light and Lewis Peters,
then pastors of Reading Zion and Reading Otterbein Churches re-
spectively, to visit them. Reverend Light responded and preached
in the home of Jacob Fisher. Sometime thereafter James H. Unger
in charge of Tamaqua Circuit, within whose parish-area Upper Bern
fell, organized a class in March 1871, at the home of George A. Loose.

At a quarterly held April 15, 1871 at Landingville Church, Jacob
Fisher, Benjamin Seaman, and Benjamin Wert were appointed trus-
tees to erect a church building. Work was begun and the corner-
stone was laid, May 28 of the same year. A rectangular brick house
of worship, with a gallery, was built on the ground of John A. Loose.
In course of time it became unsafe for use and was torn down to the
foundation walls, and a new structure also of brick was erected
thereon, with the addition of an annex for Sunday School use. The
cornerstone was laid June 3, 1906, Dr. I. H. Albright, the Rev. J. R.
Blecher, pastor, and the Rev. A. S. Beckley taking part in the serv-
ices. The building, costing $6,000, was dedicated during the con-
ference year 1906-07. Its location is about a mile south of Highway
Route 22 at a point four miles east of Shartlesville on an elevation
of ground “beautiful for situation.”

When the building was erected its members memorialized certain
of the dead and the living by placing their names on artglass win-
dows. Those thus honored were: Jacob Fisher and wife Elizabeth
Klein Fisher, Benjamin Seaman and wife Elizabeth, John A. Loose,
John, Daniel, and Isaac Althouse, Franklin J. Miller, Daniel Dietrich,
Lizzie Zimmerman, Matilda Spatz, Nora R. Hamm, and Warren
Naftzinger.

George A. Loose, at whose home the class had been organized,
standing a few rods west of the church, was a minister of East
Pennsylvania annual conference. He received license in 1873, was
ordained in 1876, and served Florin, Jacksonville, and Hummels-
town Circuits. John K. Fisher, son of Jacob and Rebecca Fisher was
graduated from Lebanon Valley College with the class of 1872—the
third class to be graduated from said institution. He with the Rev. J. Wesley Etter were the first ministerial students to graduate from Lebanon Valley. They also were the first members of the conference to take a full theological course. They were ordained in 1876 after having been graduated from Drew Theological Seminary. The Reverend Fisher subsequently served several of our strongest churches.

Valentine Fisher, brother of the Rev. John K., was superintendent of the Sunday School for a period of twenty-seven years. Leroy Siegfried, Lloyd Y. Christ, Wilmer J. Althouse, J. Brooke Althouse, and Emerson Wert are church trustees. They also serve the Church and Sunday School in other official capacities, and with them are associated: Mrs. George S. Miller, Mrs. William Oswald, Mrs. Wilmer J. Althouse, Mrs. J. Brooke Althouse, and Anna Artz. Mrs. Warren F. Naftzinger has the unique distinction of having served as pianist for fifty-two years.

Salem Church has been affiliated with the following circuits: Tamaqua, 1871-73; Hamburg Mission, 1873-74; Landingville, 1874-80; Berks County, 1880-82; Landingville, 1882-83; Sinking Spring, 1883-94; Bern, 1894-1901; Sinking Spring, 1901-04; Bern, 1904-25; and Shoemakersville, 1925-46.

Birdsboro Church

Birdsboro appointment was attached to Springfield (Elverson) Circuit in the year 1882, but there was no organized class until 1885. Services by the group which later formed the class were first held in the Hampton Schoolhouse situated about a mile south of Birdsboro in the beautiful Haycreek Valley. The Rev. Martin P. Doyle, pastor of Reading Otterbein Church organized a class consisting of the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Millard, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Wert, Mr. and Mrs. David McChalicher, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Grubb, Emanuel Grubb, Levi,
Mary, and Carrie McChalicher, David Painter, and Lavina Millard.

Approximately sixty new members came into church fellowship during the first year of organized work as a result of a great revival. This new congregation built a house of worship in Birdsboro at the corner of Haycreek Road and Hopewell Street during the conference year 1886-87. Frederick H. Millard, Benjamin Grubb, Emanuel Grubb, David McChalicher, and Levi McChalicher composed the first trustee board. One of their number, Benjamin Grubb, sold the lot for the proposed building for the sum of $125. These five brethren served as the building committee, and did much of the manual labor entailed in the construction. Bishop Jonathan Weaver dedicated the edifice on the Sunday following Pentecost in the year 1887.

The house of worship built of stone was improved from time to time. In 1907 a brick annex was added for the use of the Children's Division of the Sunday School. Three years later the interior was redecorated and new pews and other furniture placed, all at a cost of $532. The question of relocating came up in 1924. After careful consideration and investigation of all possibilities, the matter was dropped. A fund of five hundred and fifty dollars had been gathered for the project. At this time the parsonage, being no longer used by the pastor on the charge, was sold for the sum of $1,450. The proceeds of the sale plus the building fund amount were used to liquidate a mortgage of nine hundred dollars, and the balance applied to expense incurred in redecorating the interior and stuccoing the exterior. Further improvements, including the placing of a new floor, were made in 1942.

Lay people who headed the work of the congregation in 1909 were: Frederick H. Millard, Samuel H. Wert, Vernon D. Grubb, Elmer E. Keinard, William Painter, D. Hunter Watts, Harvey Kulp, Carl Pearson, Walter Moyer, and Mrs. Renie Kulp. Some of these workers continue in active service to the present. New names on the official roster of more recent date are: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lykens, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brady, Mrs. James Caleo, Mrs. Charles Patton, Mrs. Mahlon Snyder, Mrs. Ethel McCord Whitman, Mrs. Leroy Yohn, and Mrs. Merl Bartel. Mr. William Painter has served as church trustee for fifty-five years. Prof. J. A. Grier, a local minister of the congregation, served the Birdsboro charge three consecutive years as its minister. During his ministry the church had one evangelistic effort which resulted in more than sixty conversions. He has supplied this church and others affiliated with it at other periods.


Other ministers who served this church were those appointed to the following charges and circuits, with which the church has been affiliated: Otterbein Church, Reading, 1885-88; Springfield Circuit, 1888-Feb. 1889; and Oct. 1889-94; and 1897-1900; Elverson Charge, 1900-07; and Pottstown-Birdsboro Charge, 1931-46.

Lincoln Park Community Church

Under the sponsorship of lay members of Reading Zion Church living in the Lincoln Park Community, which is located in Spring Township, between Shillington and Sinking Spring, a Sunday School was organized in 1937. Both Zion Church and annual conference leaders looked forward to the time when a church organization might be formed in this rapidly developing residential area.

Definite steps toward this accomplishment were taken in 1944. During the summer the Rev. C. R. Swartz made a house-to-house survey of the entire community. The annual session of conference immediately following authorized the opening of a mission if, upon further investigation and survey, that seemed advisable. Dr. S. C. Enck who, while active conference superintendent was well acquainted with the possibilities of a new organization and was very enthusiastic for it, was selected to give some time to this field during the summer of 1945. His work was eminently successful.
HISTORY OF EAST PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

On September 16, 1945 Drs. Enck and Young conducted an organization meeting in the schoolhouse where the Sunday School held its sessions during the preceding eight years. Twenty-three charter members were enrolled. It was decided to name the church “The Lincoln Park Community Church.” Dr. Young installed the following officers: trustees, Joseph H. Funk, L. Frank Wagner, Mervin Uhler, Luke Youndt, Gordon Long, and William Angstadt; church treasurer, Carl S. Madeira; financial secretary, Calvin Oliver; Sunday School superintendent, Joseph H. Funk; secretary of the official board, Carl S. Madeira; and president of the Ladies' Aid, Mrs. Joseph H. Funk. Other charter members were: Mrs. Carl S. Madeira, Mrs. Mabel Noll, Mrs. L. Frank Wagner, Mrs. Irene Lutz, Mrs. Marguerite Moyer, Mrs. Mervin Uhler, Mrs. Fern F. Super, Mrs. Luke Youndt, Mrs. William Angstadt, Mrs. Gordon Long, Mrs. Calvin Oliver, Mrs. Amelia Wooten, Mrs. Dorothy Mohler, and Mrs. Lulu Helen De Temple.

At the following annual conference session, September 1945, the class was attached temporarily to Reading Zion Church. The Rev. Mark J. Hostetter was appointed to this joint pastorate. Two lots, excellently located, costing $4,629.26 were purchased in the summer and fall of 1945. The first worship service by the new class was held in the schoolhouse January 27, 1946. Plans have been made to erect a brick structure of modified American Colonial design, in the main seventy by thirty-six feet in dimensions, to cost $85,000. East Pennsylvania Conference made an initial grant of $10,000. The members of the class and interested citizens of the community are giving generous support to the new project.

Mt. Aetna, Trinity Church

The Mt. Aetna Church was founded by the Zeller family, of whom Bishop Andrew was a member. George Zeller, father of Bishop Andrew had a family of six sons and five daughters. The Zeller homestead is located within a mile north of Mt. Aetna, on a small branch of the Little Swatara Creek. Henry Zeller, father of George and grandfather of Bishop Andrew was an elder in the Tulpehocken Reformed Church as early as 1740. He died in 1756, just two years before Otterbein began his ministry in the Tulpehocken region. The spiritual work of Otterbein in this area was revived about forty years later by the preaching of Geeting, Newcomer, Kreider, Boehm, and others, in their holding of “Great Meetings” at the Zeller homes.

Though another forty years passed before a house of worship was erected by the United Brethren in this area, one can be certain that the streams of influence, culminating in the organization of a class and the erection of a church building, can be traced to their spiritual source in the sainted Otterbein.

On a painted wooden panel in the east gable of the Mt. Aetna Church is this wording: “Trinity Church of the U. B. in Christ—
Committee—D. & G. Zeller.” Daniel Zeller, the elder of the two men named here, born in 1789, was probably a nephew of Bishop Andrew. The other of the names appearing on the panel is that of George Zeller, born 1818. In the deed of transfer, dated March 22, 1849, of the Mt. Aetna Church lot, George Zeller and wife Mary are the grantors; and Daniel Zeller, Jacob Wagner, and David Hoffman, “Trustees of the Congregation or Religious Society of the said township (Tulpehocken) called United Brethren in Christ,” are the grantees.

The church lot identified in said deed was lot number 17 on the town plan and had a frontage of 66 feet on Lancaster Street, and a depth westerly of 198 feet. Lot number 16, adjoining lot number 17 on the north, was sold by the administrators of George Zeller, deceased, May 15, 1891 to the trustees of the church who then were, Jared D. Klopp, C. P. Heffelfinger, and John Klopp. The area to the rear of the church of the original lot, and the later acquired lot are used as a cemetery. In it the Zeller, Wagner, Klopp, Boyer, Keller, Daub, Dundore and Schell families, whose praises once filled the Lord’s house, now sleep the sleep of the blessed.

A small frame church was erected in the year 1848. The quarterly conference of the Lebanon Salem charge met in the newly erected building at Mt. Aetna on February 12, 1849, at which time the following accounting of the building was submitted: Cost of building, $700.27½; paid on same, $490.00; leaving a debt of $209.47½, which amount the trustees were instructed to collect as soon as possible.

Like many other villages and rural churches, the Mt. Aetna church, by removals of its membership to more densely populated communities, and for other reasons, some justifiable, and others not so, has suffered severe handicaps. A brief historic note states that there were fifty members in the year 1885. At the present its membership numbers fourteen. Its record is to be judged, not by its present weakness, but rather by the life that flowed out from it in its better years. The Reverend S. T. Dundore was licensed by this class in 1916. Through the continued care of local people, and others living at a distance who still hold this place of worship in high esteem, the building today presents a neat appearance.

The class at the time when the church building was erected was attached to Lebanon Salem. In 1849 it was made a part of Myers-
town Circuit, and remained so until 1898 when, for one year, it was constituted a charge and the Rev. D. E. Long was appointed. Since then it has been attached as follows: to Jonestown Circuit, 1899; to Iona Circuit, 1903; to Lickdale, 1905; under Lebanon Salem quarterly, 1906; to Lebanon Circuit, 1909; to Schaefferstown, 1915; to Myerstown, 1917; to Rocherty, 1923; under Lebanon Salem quarterly, 1924; to Rocherty, 1927, and from 1935 to 1946 under Lebanon Bethany quarterly.

**Reading, Salem Church**

Annual Conference of the year 1885 took the initiative to promote a new mission in Reading. The preliminary work for the project was left in the hands of Zion Church and its pastor Samuel Etter Jr. Frank Shimmer, Joseph Levan, Joel Ganser, members of Zion Church were elected the first trustees. They purchased a lot for a proposed chapel, fronting forty feet on Spring Street and extending in depth one hundred feet on North Tenth Street, for the sum of $700. A quarterly held in Zion Church July 3, 1886 approved the action. At this quarterly, brothers Levan and Ganser resigned from the trustee board and Adam Bower and Cornelius Mengel were elected to fill the vacancies.

Shortly after holding of the quarterly the first service was held at the rear of the Presbyterian Church on North Ninth Street beyond Amity. Then for a short time meetings were held in a tent pitched on the commons between Ninth and Tenth Streets, some distance north of Spring.

In September 1886 the Rev. Etter was assigned to give full time to the new enterprise, annual conference supporting it by an appropriation of $450. On the 29th the presiding elder organized a new class consisting of the Rev. Etter and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shimmer, and Adam Bower. At this meeting which was held in Mr. Shimmer's storeroom on the corner of Spring and North Eighth Streets, it was decided to hold services there regularly. A frame church building, thirty-five by fifty feet in dimensions was constructed on the south end of the lot, fronting on North Tenth Street, at a cost of $1,100. The cornerstone was laid May 26, 1887 and the completed building was dedicated June 19th following, by James Shoop, presiding elder of the district, assisted by the pastor A. M. Blecher. The Rev. Shoop preached at both afternoon and evening services, and following the evening sermon conducted the Lord's Supper.

Annual Conference continued to give financial support. The Rev. Etter remained three years, reporting at the close of his pastorate a church membership of thirty-nine, and a Sunday School of 120 pupils and twenty-two teachers.

Additional ground adjoining the church lot was purchased on April 1, 1891. This gave the church lot forty-three additional feet on Spring Street, making it a rectangle of 100 feet on North Tenth
Reading Salem Church

Street and eighty-three feet deep on Spring Street. The corner lot, extending sixty feet on North Tenth Street and eighty-three feet on Spring was sold in 1892, leaving to the church but forty feet on North Tenth and extending eighty-three feet along a ten foot alley. "Blunders like this will sometimes be made in church enterprises as well as in other undertakings."

On October 1893 the Rev. D. S. Longenecker became pastor of Salem Church. The editors of the "Conference Souvenir" for 1906 say that the Rev. Longenecker found only eleven names on the church record and a notice on the church door, "For Sale." He refused to preach in the church until the notice had been removed. He reorganized the membership, reinstated many former members, and repaired and enlarged the chapel. At the end of his four year pastorate he reported a membership of 196. The first report of a Young People's Society appears in the conference proceedings of 1894. It then had fifty-four members.

The church continued to grow in members and influence under the pastorate of the Rev. Amos Lehman, who took charge of the work in October 1897. After serving the congregation six years, he reported 311 members; a Sunday School enrollment of 329; a Senior Young People's Society of 134 members, and a Junior Society of
81 members. In 1901 the three-story brick dwelling adjoining the church property on the north was bought for $2,300, for use as a parsonage.

The church building was partially destroyed by fire on the evening of April 28, 1904. Soon thereafter arrangements were made to build a new house of worship. The present substantial brick structure was erected at a cost of $12,222.25. It was dedicated January 8, 1905 by Bishop Job S. Mills. This was accomplished under the ministry of the Rev. William Wesley Fridinger. He was born in Carroll County, Maryland, July 18, 1862, and was converted at the age of fourteen. In 1893 he was admitted to East Pennsylvania Annual Conference membership. Fishburn Circuit, Schaefferstown Circuit, Reading Salem, Allentown Sixth Street Church, Denver Church, and Jonestown Circuit were the charges he served. At the session of 1918 he was assigned to New Holland charge. During the night of the first Sunday he preached on his new charge, he became very ill and suddenly passed on. The ministerial services of his two sons, Mertis V. and Paul E. are recorded in scattered pages of this volume. A third son, Willis H., has been delegate to annual conference sessions, and served as alternate delegate to the uniting conference of 1946.

Salem congregation bought the dwelling at No. 1014 North Tenth Street in 1923 at a cost of $6,250, for use as a parsonage. It is a three-story brick building, well-adapted for a pastor’s residence. The former parsonage was converted into apartments and class rooms in 1926. At the same time considerable improvements were made and new equipment was purchased. The church basement was enlarged and furnished, the worship room was refloored, and a new heating plant and a new three-manual Moller pipe organ were installed, at a total cost of $25,000. Reopening services were held and the organ dedicated on November 14, 1926. This advance was made under the leadership of the Rev. Clifford A. Funk, whose nine-year pastorate exceeds in length of time that of any other pastor of Salem Church.

The trustee board presently consists of Arthur L. Schott, J. Pierce Gates, Edward Coldren, Willis Fridinger, and Howard Schach. Other lay people active in the organizations of the church are: Paul Schott, B. S. Longenecker, Wilbert Saule, Mrs. Ralph H. Wolfe, Mrs. Jennie McLaughlin, Mrs. Mary Posey, Mrs. Minnie Hilton, Mrs. Clara Schernach, Mrs. Harry Fizz, Mrs. Erma Weinhold, Miss Gladys Gates, and June Gerhart. Miss Sallie Hartranft for many years was the superintendent of the children’s department. A sainted name of Salem Church is that of Frank J. Leibold who was a trustee and class leader and served as Sunday School superintendent for twenty-five years.

The list of ministers appointed is as follows: Samuel Etter Jr., 1886-89; Jacob H. Mark, 1889-90; Clint S. Miller, 1890-91; L. W. Cramer, 1891-93; D. S. Longenecker, 1893-97; Amos Lehman, 1897-1903;
THE CHURCHES OF BERKS COUNTY


Reading, Trinity Church

Presiding elder H. B. Dohner of the Lancaster District, East Pennsylvania Conference, reported to the 1890 session that a congregation of thirty-six persons known as "The Ancient Church of God" expressed a desire of becoming identified with the Reading Otterbein Church, that they cheerfully consented to submit to the disciplinary requirements of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ; and in consequence thereof they are now recognized as the Boehm congregation. This group had its origin with a few people who in 1884 met for their first religious service under the leadership of Mr. Harry Lengle at his home, 123 River Street. Subsequent meetings were held in various other quarters.

The first appointee by conference authorities was G. H. Knox who served as their spiritual leader for the year 1890-91. The Rev. H. V. Mohn, an ordained elder of the conference, was appointed in October 1891. He held pastoral relations with this congregation until 1897. During his first year the work was under the supervision of the Otterbein Church. The elder, in 1892, expressed the opinion that a church building was indispensable to the congregation's progress. Conference authorized a special agent to collect at least $2,000 for the project. On October 27, 1892, the Rev. Mohn bought a parcel of ground, forty-nine and one-half feet by 110 feet, on the southeast corner of Buttonwood and McKnight Streets for the sum of $1,000. Building operations were begun; and the cornerstone laid July 1, 1894 by Bishop E. B. Kephart.

It was in the fall of 1894 that the appointment was left open to be supplied, but the Rev. Mohn continued to serve by arrangement with the congregation. Conference of the year 1895 questioned the legality of receiving his report. Nevertheless it was entered upon the journal. The congregation moved into the partly constructed house of worship in April 1895. In the fall of that year East Pennsylvania Conference surrendered control of the Boehm Church to East German Conference. It appointed the Rev. Mohn.

At the close of the year the presiding elder reported that construction costs had reached the amount of $7,200, of which $2,676.79 had been paid. The Conference Church Extension Society in 1896 agreed to pay $700 to support the work provided the title proved to be satisfactory. Upon investigation the said Society was not satisfied with the vesting of title and the provisional support was withheld.

By letter dated May 4, 1897, the Rev. Mohn resigned. The presiding elder on coming to the church building June 29 to hold a quarterly conference was refused entrance. He then went to the
home of J. E. Rauch to hold the meeting. Later a minister was appointed to serve the congregation worshipping in the incompleted structure, but the doors were closed against him. On the 14th of July the elder met with twenty-six loyal members in a hall, enrolled them in a class, and appointed I. E. Runk, then a student at Lebanon Valley College. Upon resignation, or shortly thereafter, the Rev. Mohn organized an independent congregation. East Pennsylvania Conference in 1899 ordered his name erased from its roll of ministers.
The young people of the conference area having expressed a desire to support mission work in Reading, annual conference of 1898 accepted the offer and placed the reorganized congregation on its list of charges as "The Young People's Christian Union Church." The Rev. W. H. Uhler, who was presiding elder when the congregation came under the control of the East German Conference and who had faith that the project would sometime plan out successfully, was appointed. The conference board of Church Extension from this time forward to 1908 exercised trusteeship, and from time to time voted generous aid.

Under this new leadership the property was purchased from the Rev. Mohn for the sum of $7,525.72. On April 28, 1899 the worshippers moved back to the church building. It was subsequently completed, and dedicated in the month of June 1900 under the ministry of the Rev. C. A. Mutch. The union of the English and the German conferences in 1901 brought the church under the supervision of the Conference Missionary and Church Extension Society of the new conference.

This Society relinquished its official relation in 1908. James B. Baker, Robert B. Kern, I. N. Pickle, R. H. Reist, and Milton Hummel constituted the new trustee board of the Reading Memorial Church with full authority to act for said church. This congregation has not been wanting for names by which it was designated: Boehm, West Reading Mission, Young People's Christian Union, Fourth, and Memorial—all appear on official conference records.

The last name given it is Reading Trinity Church. This was given by annual conference when in 1912 it ordered that Otterbein Church and Memorial Church unite. After the consummation of the union, the matter of relocating came under consideration. There were various proposals whose details need not be recited. All proposals were dropped and finally in 1919 the lot on the corner of North Fifth and Spring Streets, which had been bought by the Otterbein Church trustees, was sold for the sum of $10,000. The trustees who had a part in the transaction were: Robert B. Kern, W. D. B. Spatz, Walter C. Lessly, William E. Taylor, J. J. Schoffstall, Harry A. Johnson, and Elmer C. Smith. From these receipts it was possible for Trinity Church to buy a dwelling for use as a parsonage. The house bought is located at 342 North Second Street; its purchase price was $4,500.

Except for redecorating of walls of both chapel and sanctuary, there were no extensive improvements until 1926. During the ministry of the Rev. C. E. Procasco the sum of $10,000 was expended on new installations and renovations. The Rev. Byron Sheetz was appointed to Reading Trinity on October 1, 1931. His fifteen years of diligent and constructive work has been a boon to the people who have given him their united and loyal support. On June 19, 1941 a program of major improvements was launched. Some of the items in this program were: redecorating of the interior, placing new art
glass windows, releading old ones, placing storm windows, changes in arrangement and construction of the chancel, new pulpit furniture and worship appointments, renovating all old furniture, installing new lights, laying of a beautiful maroon carpet of high quality over the entire floor, repainting and repairs of the exterior. When the work was completed both interior and exterior had the appearance of a new house of worship. The cost involved, amounting in round figures to $10,000, was paid for in a period of two years.

William E. Taylor was president of the trustee board for many years. The present board consists of: Edward Riegel, Robert Kern, Walter C. Lessly, William Stover, Howard DeHart, William Rhoads, and Raymond Williams Sr. The three main officers of the Sunday School organizations are: Mark Taylor, George Warr, and Edward Riegel. The general superintendent is also the adult superintendent, and the pastor, Rev. Sheetz, heads the Young People's Department, and Beulah DeHart the Children's Division. Raymond Williams, Sr. heads the Adult Christian Endeavor Society, and Ronald Cocroft the Intermediates and the Juniors. Officers of the Women's Missionary Society are: Mrs. Joseph Fleming, Mrs. Byron Sheetz, Mrs. William Taylor, and Mrs. Myrl Fillman.

Ministers who served, with years of service of each are: G. H. Knox, 1890-91; H. V. Mohn, 1891-95; H. V. Mohn, I. E. Runk, 1895-96; R. R. Butterwick, 1896-97; W. H. Uhler, 1897-99; C. A. Mutch, 1899-1901; H. B. Dohner, 1901-03; U. S. G. Renn, 1903-07; M. H. Jones, 1907-11; J. B. Funk, 1911-12; I. N. Seldomridge, 1912-13; S. S. Daugherty, 1913-14; W. E. Daugherty, 1914-17; H. F. Boeshore, 1917-19; M. H. Jones, 1919-26; C. E. Procaso, 1926-29; Ira D. Lowery, 1929-31; and Byron Sheetz, 1931-46.

Reading, Zion Church

The regularly appointed ministers to Berks County Circuit extended their ministry to include the city of Reading. Christian Pefley was so appointed in 1844, Samuel Seiders in 1845, Simon Noll in 1846, and Solomon VonNieda and Christian Siechrist in 1848. It was in 1847, during the Rev. Noll's ministry, that the first class in Reading was organized. Instrumental in its organizing were Solomon VonNieda of Adamstown and Solomon Weidman of Sinking Spring. The class was composed of the following six charter members: James and Elizabeth Stahr, John and Sarah Kutz, Henry and Mary Bitner. Mr. Weidman was in possession of a lot—the site of the present church—fronting forty feet on South Ninth Street and extending in depth one hundred feet, having on its front two houses. The class erected a small frame chapel 20 x 30 feet, costing about $600, on the rear of said lot.

Some discouraging circumstances faced by this infant class are recited, as follows: On one occasion Mr. VonNieda had determined to drop the appointment, stating that he thought it was not worthwhile to preach to empty pews. Mr. Stahr then suggested that he arrange the half-dozen members who
attended regularly into a semi-circle and take God in the midst. In addition to fears within the early life of this church, there were bitter foes without. Some of the other churches and pastors of Reading strenuously opposed the mission, and held it in derision. An unfriendly pastor from whose church a number of members had gone to the “meetinghouse to get religion” and who afterward united with it, gave expression of his feelings on this wise: “Whenever we establish a good work anywhere, the devil has these United Brethren around to spoil it.”

The annual conference proceedings of February 16, 1849 state: “That the city of Reading be a mission charge, and be supplied with a missionary, if we have a preacher fitted (for the charge); if not, it shall remain on Berks County Circuit.” The Rev. Simon Noll was appointed. He gave three years of strenuous and sacrificial service to the congregation, during which time 109 new members were received.

Immediately after the chapel had been erected, steps were taken
toward the organizing of a Sunday School. The community was canvassed for prospective pupils, and funds with which to buy literature. Twenty-four pupils were present for the first session. John Kutz was its first superintendent and James Stahr its first secretary. The remaining four of the charter church members served as teachers. Mrs. Sarah Ebbert, Jacob Gossler (the first leader for the church class), and Joseph Levan, soon joined the first group of Sunday School promoters, and gave many years of faithful service.

A quarterly conference record under date of May 3, 1851 shows that Israel Carpenter, Martin Seiler, and W. Boyer were class leaders and Michael Sands, Amos Graul, and Hiram Roland were class stewards. At this meeting the quarterly license of Martin Seiler was renewed and Israel Carpenter received his first license.

A charter of incorporation was granted by the Berks County Court to “Zion’s Church of the United Brethren in Christ,” August 12, 1853. The names of the incorporators affixed to the instrument are: William Dusen, William Bingaman, Jacob Gossler, Daniel B. Lewis, Joseph Sands, Michael Sands, Amos Graul, and Mordecai Frederick. In the same year the lot and the two houses on it were sold by Soloman Weidman to William Bingaman, Michael Sands, and Jacob Gossler, trustees of Zion’s Church, for the sum of $2,100. These transactions were made while the congregation was in process of erecting its second house of worship. The new church, fronting on the street, was of brick construction, two stories in height, the lower floor to be used by the Sunday School and the upper floor as a Sanctuary. The structure costing $6,000 was dedicated to Divine Worship, November 6, 1853.

One hundred and one members constituted the congregation at the time. The amount involved in cost of lot and erection of church building turned out to be quite a financial burden for them. A debt of $3,000 remained to be paid after dedication. Annual conference, over a period of more than a decade, took measures to assist the congregation in meeting its financial obligations. This was fully accomplished in about the year 1868.

Reading Zion’s third house of worship was erected on the old site in 1898. The cornerstone was laid April 24. Services were in charge of the Rev. J. H. VonNieda, pastor. The Rev. H. S. Gabel, presiding elder, preached the sermon, and the Revs. I. E. Runk and R. R. Butterwick assisted in the service. The building is patterned somewhat after the second in that it has two main floors. The sanctuary on the second floor with its gallery seats about 550. The building constructed of brick with a brown-stone front, together with furnishings, cost $13,203.23. It was dedicated October 30, 1898 by Bishop Nicholas Castle, with a number of conference ministers present, some taking part in the services of the day.

In 1907 the interior of the church was renovated, electric lights and a new two-manual pipe organ were installed. The total cost
of these improvements was $3,500. General renovations were made and new furnishings installed in 1926 costing $3,500. A new heating plant was installed in 1931 at a cost of $1,028. Currently there is in progress a third general renovation and improvement program which calls for sandblasting the stone front, erection of concrete steps and guard rail, new lighting, new oil-burner unit, excavating and fitting out of basement, and placing movable curtains on the street-level floor for Sunday School rooms.

The Rev. Mark J. Hostetter came to this congregation in the fall of 1945 and since then is leading out in the plans for the project of renovation. The church trustees at present are: Harry N. Brown, Jacob O. Lentz, Thomas G. Ebright, S. B. Klopp, and Earl M. Leisey. Elmer Z. Yoder is the general superintendent of the Sunday School and lay representative to annual conference. Among the lay workers not above mentioned are: John E. Best, George R. Ebright, John W. Holsberg, Samuel L. Clauser, Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Benson, Mr. and Mrs. Roy S. Lingham, Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Hartman, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis O. Davies, Mrs. Carrie V. Kreider, Mrs. Nellie L. Lonaberger, Mrs. Rebecca Menges, Mrs. Elizabeth Newpher, Mrs. Walter S. Smith, Mrs. Elmer Z. Yoder, Mrs. Walter P. Zell, Mrs. Elizabeth Haines, Mrs. Esther N. Walters, Elizabeth E. Walters, Janet Hoy, and Margaret Lonaberger.

Reading Zion gave three sons to the active ministry within our conference bounds: viz., Israel Carpenter, Amos Graul, and J. C. H. Light. The Rev. Graul's career is recorded in Chapter X of this volume; that of the Rev. Light under the Lititz Church. The Rev. Israel Carpenter, who was licensed by this class, was born in the city of Lancaster, October 17, 1824, and died in the city of Reading October 2, 1890. He was converted in Zion Church under the pastorate of the Rev. Noll, was granted annual license in 1852, and was ordained in 1855. He served a total of ten conference appointments over the years 1852 to 1879. About the year 1885 he lost his sight while living in retirement at Reading. He was an eloquent and forceful preacher.


John Wanshop, a real patriarch both in demeanor and years, and
a local preacher, transferred to Zion Church from the Alsace Chapel class in 1906 at the time when services were disbanded there. He was born in Ruscomb Manor Township, Berks County, and lived in his native community all his life. “He had a conversion experience and became a devout Christian at the age of sixteen.” His German sermons, delivered in extreme seriousness, made a great impression upon all his hearers.

**Shoemakersville, Salem Church**

The church organization had its origin in a prayer meeting group which met in the homes of those participating. In 1871 the group met in the home of Peter D. Heckman, and in 1873 at the home of Samuel Lesher. During this year the group journeyed occasionally to the Bern Church about six miles westerly from Shoemakersville. The Rev. S. V. Mohn who was pastor of Landingville Circuit 1874-76, which included the Bern Church, was invited to Shoemakersville to hold services.

A class of thirty members was organized by the Reverend Mohn in 1874. Samuel Etter Jr. succeeded him in February, 1876 as pastor of the above circuit. Under his ministry ground was broken for the erection of a church building. The cornerstone was laid in June, and the church dedicated in November of the same year. It was a small brick house, plainly built.

John Seiger, Peter D. Heckman, and Frank Gundy constituted the first trustee board. Their immediate successors were Israel Strauss, Richard Perry, Samuel Lesher, and William Epler. The Sunday School was organized in 1878. Henry Dubson was one of the early superintendents of the school. The church membership remained small for a period of nearly half a century, numbering forty in 1920. The Sunday School at the same time had an enrollment of 170.

Plans for a new edifice were adopted in 1924. The last service in the old church was held August 15, 1926, and cornerstone laying ceremonies for the new were held October 31, conducted by Dr. S. C. Enck and the pastor. Within a year’s time the beautiful new brick church was completed. Bishop Wm. M. Bell performed the act of dedication at the afternoon service of October 30, 1927. The Bishop also preached at the morning hour, and Doctor Enck preached in the evening. During evenings of the week following, former pastors and other guest ministers spoke. On the Sabbath following, the dedicatory celebration was concluded with the pastor and Dr. J. Arthur Heck of The Evangelical School of Theology, Reading, preaching at the morning and evening services, respectively.

The seating capacity of the Sanctuary room is 300; the Sunday School main room and the basement room for elementary work can accommodate 300. The cost of construction and equipment was $52,000, of which amount $35,236.40 was paid by the close of the conference year. This project was accomplished by an organization of seventy-four church members and a School of 178 pupils. At the
same time enrollment in Christian Endeavor Societies was seventy-five and in the Women's Missionary Association forty-three. A new two-manual Moller pipe organ costing $4,200 was added to the equipment in 1931. It was dedicated by Doctor Enck on November 25. All indebtedness on the new church and later property expenses were paid by 1937. Special mortgage-burning ceremonies were held October 3. Doctor Enck, with one exception, has been present on every Anniversary celebration occasion.

The Rev. Chester C. Hollingsworth was pastor of this charge 1921-1929, enjoying the distinction of serving the longest pastorate to date. The building enterprise was greatly stimulated by his excellent leadership. Harold C. Hollingsworth, pastor at Pinegrove, is a son of the Reverend Chester. Associated with the pastor in the construction of the new church was the committee comprising Howard Seiger, chairman, Guy H. Madeira, secretary, A. B. Lesher, Foster B. Weidman, and John Strausser. Trustees at the time were Howard Seiger, John Strausser, John Williams, William Strausser Sr., and John Kline. In addition to the above named laymen the following trustees have served since 1927: Guy H. Madeira, Leon W. Miller, Elmer Z. Yoder, A. B. Lesher, David A. Strausser, Foster B. Weidman, and Lyman W. Meyer. The list of Sunday School superintendents includes the names of John Kershner, John Williams, Howard S. Madeira, A. B. Lesher, Guy H. Madeira, and Paul A. Balthaser. Other workers in official capacity are: Wayne S. Lesher, Seward D. Wheeler, Mrs. Foster B. Weidman, Mrs. C. W. Schwalm, Mrs. Elia R. Strausser, Mrs. Leon W. Miller, Mrs. Elda Meyer, Mrs. Evelyn H. Raudenbush, Mrs. Henry C. Krieger, Mrs. Donald M. Yost, Evelyn Kaufman, Lorraine Moyer, Howard S. Madeira, George W. Grickis, Mrs. Guy H. Madeira, and Mrs. Seward D. Wheeler.

The ministers who have served the Shoemakersville Church are those who were appointed to the following Circuits: Landingville, 1874-80; Berks County, 1880-82; Landingville, 1882-83; Sinking Spring, 1883-94; Bern, 1894-1901; Sinking Spring, 1901-04; Bern, 1904-25. Those appointed to the Shoemakersville-Bern charge were: C. C. Hollingsworth, 1925-29; S. L. Rhoads, 1929-30; C. E. Ulrich, 1930-35; L. R. Walters, 1935-38; A. L. Haeseler, 1938-42; H. M. Falstick, 1942-46.

Sinking Spring Church

The two-story brick church standing along the highway running through Sinking Spring, near Van Reed Road, was erected in 1866-67. The cornerstone was laid October 14, 1866, and the completed building was dedicated June 9, 1867. The pastor's report to the 1946 session of annual conference shows a church membership of forty, a Women's Missionary Association of seventeen, an Otterbein Guild of ten, and a Ladies' Aid Society of nineteen members.

However, long before anyone dreamed of laying a foundation of stone for a special house of worship, the spiritual foundations for
Christian Newcomer was present at two Sacramental Meetings held near Sinking Spring at an early date. George Geeting was Newcomer's companion for the first meeting, which was held in 1796; at the second meeting, held the following year, Newcomer, Troxel, and Pfrimmer preached, and possibly Boehm and Christian Crum.

There is a tradition that the meetings were held at the Weidman home about a mile west of Sinking Spring, but Newcomer does not in either case mention the name of the residence. The first Weidman to reside on this now famed farm was Solomon Weidman. Joseph Weidman, the father of Solomon, lived in Brecknock Township. The time element does not admit of reaching the conclusion that the earliest Sacramental meetings were held at Solomon Weidman's farm; first, from the fact that he was born February 13, 1807; and second, that he did not move to the vicinity of Sinking Spring until the year 1833.²

While the location of the meeting place of the earliest Sacramental meeting is not known, it is well known that such meetings at a later date were held on the Weidman farm. The traveling preachers held services there regularly until the church in the town was erected. Sinking Spring Circuit was created in 1855. Four times annual conference formed a Sinking Spring Circuit, none of them being alike in structure. At one period it reached as far south as the Shissler Church near Neffsville, and at another period as far north as Bern Church.

A church book of the circuit lists on the roll of the Sinking Spring congregation for the years 1871-81, the following: Amanda Blankenbiller, Sebastian Blimline, Elizabeth Barr, Samuel and Margaret

Beneville B. Weidman, Joel Steffy Jr., Allen Steffy, Solomon B. Weidman, Daniel Laush, Bennevile Steffy, and William Steffy were the class officers for the same period.

The Weidman family has maintained an active interest in the work of the church, as is evident from the following roll of officers. Solomon Weidman, Raymond P. Weidman, and Cleaven Steffy constitute the present trustee board. Daniel Weidman is now and has been for many years church treasurer. Harry Miller has had long-time service as superintendent of the Sunday School. The names of Jacquelyn Miller, Mrs. Ira Ruth, Mrs. Olivia Weidman, Mrs. Elsie Evans, and Nora Livingood complete the official roster.

The ministers who were appointed to the Berks County Circuit would be those who served the Sinking Spring class prior to 1855. Following that year, circuit attachments were as follows: Sinking Spring, 1855-59; Myerstown, 1859-60; Sinking Spring, 1860-69; Schaefferstown, 1870-71; Sinking Spring, 1871-73; Hamburg, 1873-74; Brunnerville, 1874-75; Hopeland (then Paradise), 1875-81; Berks County, 1881-83; Sinking Spring, 1883-94; Reading Third Church, 1894-95.

Ministers serving the Sinking Spring charge, 1895-1907, were: Ira E. Albert, 1895-97; I. E. Runk, 1897-98; R. R. Butterwick, 1898-1900; D. D. Buddinger, 1900-01; M. H. Miller, 1901-04; P. M. Holdingman, Jacob Runk, J. Warren Kauffman, 1904-05; J. Warren Kauffman, C. W. Shoop, 1905-06.

From 1907 to 1910, it was with Denver Church. Sinking Spring Church was served by J. P. Smith, 1910-11; Uriah Gambler, 1911-12; and P. F. Roberts, 1912-13. It was again attached to Denver, 1913 to 1920. While a charge from 1920 to 1926, the following were appointed: J. H. Arnold, 1920-22; James Bingham, 1922-23; Elias Bressler, 1923-24; Ira F. Fortna, 1924-25; R. G. Becktel, 1925-26. It was under Reading Salem, 1926-32; with Denver, 1932-33; and under Reading Salem, 1933-35; under Reading Zion, 1935-43; and under Reading Trinity, 1943-46.

3. Abandoned Churches and Classes of Berks County

Albany Circuit

In 1882 East German Conference created a new charge which it called Albany Mission and appointed Isaac Goelling and R. S. Arndt. It consisted of West Penn, and Drehersville appointments in Schuylkill County; and Albany, Stinesville, and Kistler Valley appointments located in the extreme
northwestern part of Berks County. The Circuit or Mission took its name from Albany Township, Berks County. The charge existed for one year only, and then its appointments were added to Landingville Circuit.

**Albany Class**

Albany Class tried to purchase the Bolick's Church in Albany Township. The presiding elder, in 1883, reported that this building could be bought for the sum of $350, if the amount could be raised by April 1, 1884. The Rev. R. S. Arndt who traveled the Landingville Circuit in 1883-84 had collected $30 to apply on the purchase price. The agreement of the previous year was not carried out—the church did not come into the possession of the United Brethren. The class had a brief existence.

**Alsace Chapel, Alsace Township**

This chapel was located about five miles from the heart of Reading in a northeasterly direction. Members of Reading Zion Church and citizens of the township interested in establishing a new congregation erected the small frame chapel, twenty and one-half feet by thirty-one feet, in 1878. The names on the deed of sale are: Joel Ganser, Mordecai Frederick, Jacob Snyder, Joseph Levan, Jeremiah Ebert, Samuel Hertz, John Printz, William Eyler, and Solomon F. Seidel. The class was attached to the following churches and circuits, respectively: Reading Zion Church, Berks County Circuit, Sinking Spring Circuit, Reading Salem Church, and finally Reading Zion. Services were discontinued about 1906. The chapel was razed in 1919 and the ground reverted to the farm of which it formerly had been a part.

**Amity Church, Amity Township**

The small settlement in Amity Township, variously bearing the names, New Storeville, Amity Post Office, and Amityville, is located at the intersection of the Yellow House-Douglasville road and an east-and-west road. The United Brethren worshiped in a small, plain brick church building which was erected by the English element of St. Paul's Lutheran Parish. After this element rejoined its former fellowship, our people began to use the building they had erected. Amity Mission or Amityville appears on boundary reports and on stationing committee reports from 1854 to 1891. These names are variably applied to both a church and a circuit. Attachment of the class shifted constantly—as many as eleven times during its existence. We have not found a deed on record to show that the United Brethren owned the property, but the Atlas of Berks County (1876) shows the location of a United Brethren Church in Amityville.

**Forrest Class**

This class met in an old stone church building located southwest of Shillington. A church roll of the Paradise (Hopeland) Circuit of 1874 lists the following members: Frederick and Barbara Blimline, Henry and Katie Fritz, Sebastian and Margaret Loudenbach, and Abraham and Sarah Steffy.

**Hamburg Appointment**

A charge named Hamburg Mission was formed in 1873. An appropriation of $150 was made, and John H. Lowery was appointed its minister. He reports three classes and four appointments. This shows that it was really a circuit. The records show that Sinking Spring Church and Bern Church were on the circuit. The status of the work at Hamburg is not known. Hamburg is once more mentioned in 1882, when it was taken from Berks County Circuit and attached to Landingville.

**Kutztown Mission**

In 1852 David Hoffman, then pastor at Reading, extended his appointments northeastward to include Kutztown. A mission was established which in 1866 was attached to Bethlehem Mission, and in 1869 to Allentown. There is no later mention of this work in Kutztown.
Monocacy Church
A half mile south of Baumstown on the Reading-Pottstown Road stood a United Brethren Church known as Monocacy, or Exeter Church. A half acre of land with a church building on it was bought from George Wamsler in 1869, and the church rebuilt by the class. It was attached to Amity, Berks County, Port Providence, and Phoenixville Circuits. It was also on Monocacy Circuit, which derived its name from this church. At an earlier date, 1862, Baumstown appointment was also listed. Exeter appears, 1880, 1883, and 1884.

Mt. Shiloh Church, Caernarvon Township
About a mile and a half north of Morgantown stands Mt. Shiloh Church. Religious services were held by various groups beginning in the year 1851 in an old stone Schoolhouse known as “Ammon’s.” The United Brethren began holding services about the year 1885 under the ministry of the Reverend J. F. Mower, pastor of the Elverson Charge. The class was organized in the year 1886. The Reverend Elmer Hoffman, a local preacher, was the first class leader and Sunday School superintendent. Construction of a church building was begun in the same year. It was used about five years before it was completed. In the meantime building paper covered the ceiling and common pine boards on trusses served as crude seats. The Reverend U. S. G. Renn finally succeeded in collecting enough money to complete the structure. It was dedicated in 1891 by the Reverend M. J. Mumma, presiding elder. After some years a controversy arose over ownership of the property. At the conference session of 1901, a Mr. W. H. Wilson made a statement with reference to the Mt. Shiloh Church. Conference agreed to give moral support to the action of the quarterly conference of the Elverson Charge in its efforts to secure the property. This effort evidently ended in failure and occupancy by the United Brethren ceased. In 1927 The Evangelical Congregational denomination began holding services in it.

Reading, Laurel Street
The Committee on Resolutions report in the 1890 proceedings contains the following item: “That the presiding elder of the Harrisburg District in conjunction with the pastor of Otterbein Church shall proceed at once to organize a new mission in the southern part of Reading.” Reading Laurel Street was placed on the list of charges, but was left open to be supplied. Similar items reappear in 1872 and 1873. What, if anything, was done to establish this proposed new mission, the conference proceedings fail to show. In 1874 conference ordered that Reading Laurel Street be discontinued.

Reading, Otterbein Church
The language problem entered into the founding of a new congregation in the city of Reading in the year 1866. Forty-four members of Zion Church organized this new class whose services should be exclusively in English. This separation was mutually agreed upon by both the German and English speaking members of Zion Church. After worshiping several months in Hagy’s Hall, northeast corner of Penn and Seventh Streets, a small new chapel of frame construction was dedicated for the new organization by Bishop J. J. Glossbrenner, March 31, 1867. The church lot, 40x109 feet, costing $1,600 was located on the west side of North Eighth Street between Walnut and Elm, now the site of Ludens Inc. Michael Sands, William Bingaman, E. G. Fishburn, and Joseph Sands, are named as trustees in the deed of purchase.

Some financial matters arising out of the relation between the mother church and the new congregation were brought before annual conference in 1867. The conference committee appointed to consider these matters recommended to the English brethren that, if possible, they compromise with the German brethren by accepting the sum of $500 instead of $750 as a settlement.
In 1879 the chapel was remodeled and enlarged. In 1883 and in 1904 the building was further improved. These enlargements and improvements gave the house of worship a churchly appearance on its exterior and made it quite convenient for worship and instruction by its interior capacity and arrangement.

The congregation reached the peak of its numerical strength in 1887, the pastor reporting at the close of the conference year a church membership of 369. Industrial encroachment and railroad expansion to the rear of the property and the closing of several east and west streets in the area were contributory factors in lessening its former more favorable location. The congregation began considering relocating. Pursuant thereof it sold its property to William Luden for the sum of $10,000 and purchased a lot on the northwest corner of North Fifth and Spring Streets at a cost of $8,600.

Those in authority in annual conference circles advised against relocating and recommended the alternate plan of uniting Otterbein and Memorial churches. The conference of 1912, by resolution, ordered that the two congregations unite. Some of the 127 members which Otterbein reported in 1911 transferred to Trinity Church, some to Zion Church, and others were lost to the denomination.

The ministers serving Otterbein Church were: Lewis Peters, 1867-71; Wm. B. Evers, 1871-72; Israel Carpenter, 1872-76; M. J. Mumma, 1876-78; J. B. Funk, 1878-80; H. C. Phillips, 1880-86; M. P. Doyle, 1886-88; M. A. Salt, 1888-89; Isaiah Baltzell, 1889-92; H. D. Lehman, 1892-95; Z. A. Weidler, 1895-98; J. R. Meredith, 1898-1904; Esdras Ludwig, 1904-06; C. I. B. Brane, 1906-08; C. I. B. Brane, J. T. Spangler, 1908-09; G. B. Renshaw, 1909-10; J. B. Rittgers, C. W. Shoop, 1911-12.

Miscellaneous Classes
Bernville, 1855, Brownstown, 1890, Kistler Valley, 1882, Pine 1880, Robesonia, 1882, Stinesville, 1882, Wernersville, 1882, and Wummer's, 1854, appointments are mentioned in Boundary Committee reports. Knowledge concerning them is limited to this mention.

4. Introduction: The Area of Chester and Montgomery Counties

United Brethren itinerants serving established churches and circuits in Berks County extended their efforts eastward into Chester and Montgomery Counties. Annual conference, in the year 1852, placed Chester County Mission on the list of appointments and sent James Chamberline to serve it. The strength of the work can be estimated by the figures he submitted at the close of his year's work. He reports four appointments, two classes, a membership of fourteen, and a salary paid by the charge of $6.15, plus forty-five dollars received from the conference missionary fund. The names of these preaching points are not on record. Nothing is known to the writer of this minister except that he was admitted to annual conference membership in 1852, and that his name was dropped in 1861. Later developments in Chester County appear under Elverson and Coatesville Churches.

A circuit known as Montgomery Circuit was opened in 1854. In 1855 David Hoffman, pastor of Reading Zion Church reports separately for Amity Circuit. It seems that this was merely a substitution of name for Montgomery Circuit. He reports for Amity Mission (or circuit), three appointments and eleven members. Amity Mission continues as a charge until 1861. From that year forward until 1882, Amity, Monocacy, and Sinking Spring Circuits include
in their structure certain classes and preaching appointments in Montgomery and Chester Counties, as well as some in Berks County.

5. The Churches of Chester County

Coatesville, Grace Church

Industrial and labor opportunities induced some United Brethren to move to Coatesville. Among them was the Charles C. Leber family which came from Elverson. For a number of years other families who had gone to Coatesville were lost to our denomination because we had no church there. The interest of the Leber family and of the Rev. G. W. Miles Rigor, pastor of the Elverson charge, in conserving our members, prompted the organizing of a class. This was accomplished at the Leber home, 41 South Fourth Street, on November 5, 1901, by the Rev. Mr. Rigor. Charles C. Leber, Emma P. Leber, J. W. Hughes, Mary Hughes, Mame Trego, and Howard Wilson made up the charter membership class. Mr. Hughes was elected class leader, and Messrs. Leber and Wilson, class stewards.

The ensuing annual conference recognized the class, placed it on its list of appointments as Coatesville Mission, appointed the Reverend Rigor, and made an appropriation of $300 to supplement his salary. The class now having increased to fourteen in number, rented the Odd Fellows Hall for a place of worship. A Sunday School was organized with W. P. Snyder as superintendent and J. H. Peters as assistant. A Christian Endeavor Society also was organized, having A. H. Gehman as president and Mrs. Violet Bokes as vice president. The first trustee board consisted of G. W. Miles Rigor, W. P. Snyder, E. V. S. Diem, Charles C. Leber, and H. J. Bokes. A lot for a proposed church was purchased. Later the executive committee of the Conference Church Extension Society visited Coatesville by the request of the pastor and the trustees, and, after investigation, a joint decision was reached that the lot was not suitable for a church site.

During the year 1905-06 purchase was made of a lot located on the corner of Virginia Avenue and Olive Street for the sum of $1,900. On this lot a church, costing $8,000, was built under the direction of the following trustees: E. V. S. Diem, W. R. Kenner, P. H. Heckler, R. B. Stover, and S. A. Bell. The building, 40 by 60 feet in size, erected of Reading shale brick with Indiana limestone trimmings, was dedicated March 3, 1907 by Bishop Job S. Mills, assisted by Dr. D. D. Lowery, presiding elder, and H. M. Klinger, pastor. Items in the pastor's report of 1908 are: Members, seventy; Sunday School enrollment, 275; Senior Christian Endeavor Society, forty-four; and Junior Society, 103.

A modern dwelling located at 49 South Sixth Avenue was purchased in 1923 at a cost of $5,500 for the pastor's residence. The house of worship has been kept in an excellent state of repair. A basement was constructed in 1932 to provide for class rooms; cost of the improvement was $1,089.50. The church membership now

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Coatesville Church

stands at 200. The Rev. Ira R. Fortna, in this year 1946, is completing the ninth year with the people at Coatesville.

The trustee board is composed of Ralph Hackett, P. H. Heckler, Fred Schreiber, Charles Campbell, and Elmer Dripps. Mrs. Ralph Hackett, Mrs. Viola Lyons, Mrs. Elizabeth Spotts, Mrs. Bertha Dripps, Mrs. Ira Fortna, John Rineer, Gorman Norton, Mrs. Charles Gursley, Mrs. Howard Reese, and Mrs. Elizabeth Fortna are among the lay people who promote the organizational work of the congregation. Mr. Heckler has served as trustee since the time of the erection of the church.

The pastors of this church have been: G. W. Miles Rigor, 1902-03; E. B. Harris, 1903-04; H. M. Klinger, 1904-08; H. S. Kiefer, 1908-10; J. Francis Smith, 1910-11; Z. A. Weidler, 1911-14; C. L. Early, G. M. Richter, 1914-15; G. M. Richter, 1915-16; Ira W. Funk, 1916-19; W. E. Daugherty, 1919-23; J. R. MacDonald, 1923-32; James Bingham, 1932-37; and Ira R. Fortna, 1937-46.

Elverson Church

Until the year 1900 Elverson Church was listed on our conference records as Springfield Church, after the name of the village in which it is located. The pioneering work in Chester County was in the nature of revival meetings held on a farm now in possession of Henry Kurtz. The farm is located a short distance southwest of Elverson. The early meetings were open-air revival meetings held for some consecutive years on a hill north of the present farm buildings. In the eighteen-sixties meetings were held in a large tent pitched on the said farm. By the year 1870 there was a class of forty-five members. During the same year the class erected its first house of worship under the leadership of the Rev. Campbell T. Poulton then traveling Amity Circuit. The brick church known as Tabernacle United Brethren Church was erected on the Kurtz farm. Because of faulty construction it served the congregation but thirteen years.

On June 25, 1883 at a quarterly conference meeting held at the pastor's house, the decision was reached to build a new church.
The following were chosen a building committee: S. W. Handwork, Christian Kurtz, Wm. C. Witman, Jacob Diem, William Wilson, William Wamsher, and the pastor, J. F. Mower. The new church was erected on Water Street south of Main, in Elverson. Christian Kurtz, who donated the ground for the original building, also gave the ground for the second.

Excavation was begun on July 24, 1883. The structure, built of stone, cost $2,551.75. The following items of labor and material costs present a striking comparison to costs of the present. The mason work cost seventy cents per perch; complete plastering job, $100; carpentering, one dollar and fifty cents per day; and roofing $3.75 per square. Dedication services were held in December, 1884. A tower was added to the structure in 1890 at an expense of $525.

The Reverend Poulton who was the moving spirit in the erection of the first church building, and who organized the Phoenixville Church (see Mont Clare Church), was born in Carroll County, Ohio, August 17, 1837, and departed from this life at North Vineland, New Jersey, April 30, 1873. He entered the ministry at the age of twenty-one, came to Pennsylvania in 1858, and in 1869 was received to annual conference membership by acceptance of his credentials from the Methodist Protestant Church. He served Amity Circuit, 1868-70; Monocacy Circuit, 1870-71, and Darien Street Mission, Philadelphia, 1871-72. He was a great revivalist and a good organizer.

During more recent years the work at Elverson has suffered losses by removal of members to other communities. Eleven members remain to carry on. Those who compose the present officiary of the organization are: Margaret Handwork, Mary Jean Snyder, Mrs. Mary Snyder, Mrs. Marie Seiward, William Benner, Albert Wallace, Henry Hartz, and James Ruoss. The Rev. George S. Ranck is giving part time to the work since April, 1945. His salary is supplemented by the conference Rural Church Commission which has taken this and other measures to keep the work going.

Pastors who served Springfield Circuit were: J. F. Mower, 1880-86; J. G. Smoker, J. Francis Smith, 1886-87; George A. Doyle, 1887-89; U. S. G. Renn, 1889-91; J. K. Wagner, 1891-93; M. J. Mumma, W. M. Goodwin, 1893-94; W. M. Goodwin, 1894-97; N. A. Kiracofe, 1897-99; and Thomas Garland, 1898-1900. Those serving Elverson Circuit were: G. F. Bierman, J. A. Grier, 1900-01; G. W. M. Rigor, 1901-02; G. B. Raezer, 1902-04; William Beach, 1904-06; and J. Francis Smith, 1906-07. Elverson was attached to Birdsboro, 1907-31, and since 1931 to Coatesville, or under Coatesville quarterly conference.

6. The Churches of Montgomery County

Mont Clare, Otterbein Church

Three efforts to establish a United Brethren Church in the vicinity of Mont Clare enter into the background of the present church organization. The first was at Phoenixville in Chester County where a class was organized in about the year 1868. In 1870 Phoenix-
ville Mission was constituted of Otterbein and Phoenixville appointments. Otterbein appointment soon thereafter dropped out of the picture. Under the ministry of the Rev. Campbell T. Poulton, then pastor of Amity Circuit, a church building was erected on Gay Street. In 1878 annual conference ordered that the class be abandoned and the building be sold. The church trustees did not comply with the order and the class organization was maintained. Phoenixville Circuit was created a second time in 1880, but it existed for one year only. In 1881 the class was attached to Monocacy Circuit. The building was sold to a congregation of the Reformed Church in 1882.

The second effort was in Port Providence, about a half mile south of Mont Clare. Port Providence class is on the list of appointments in 1883. Work on the erection of a church building was begun in 1888. During the following year the class began holding services in it. On October 9, 1890 the presiding elder made the following statement: "The church building is a two-story stone structure, and was completed during the year, and is valued at $3,830. It was dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, August 24th, free of all encumbrances." The pastor, Elmer E. Hoffman, reported to this annual session a church membership of sixty-seven, and a Sunday School enrollment of 171 pupils and sixteen teachers and officers. In 1891 the conference changed the name of this church to Mont Clare. The interior of the building was renovated in 1892.

In 1900, the Rev. J. Francis Smith recommended to annual conference the disbanding of the organization, stating that it was hopeless to continue. Conference complied and sent letters of transfer to all members. Many of the members accepted their letters; but a few continued to work and meet for worship. William Force, a local minister, led the group. Later the services of the Rev. S. Edwin Rupp, while engaged in special studies, were secured. On September 17, 1904, the congregation voted to become definitely affiliated with the United Brethren Church, having up to this time maintained a more or less independent relation. The presiding elder reported to the 1904 session as follows: "Through the tactful efforts of Rev. S. E. Rupp, in connection with his school work, this charge (Mont Clare) was thoroughly organized and greatly strengthened. This class now comes with a good, substantial church building and a membership of eighty-five persons."

While the Rev. J. Owen Jones was pastor a large seven-room brick house, 128 Walnut Street, was purchased in 1917 for the sum of $3,150. During 1938-39, two lots next to the church property were bought, hardwood floors were laid in the Sunday School room and on the basement floor, and the main worship room was redecorated. The improvements cost $896. Both interior and exterior of the building were painted in 1942; also new pews and new lights were installed, and a new floor laid in the worship room. The building was reopened for services on March 15, Dr. C. A. Lynch
preaching the sermon, with the Rev. Wm. C. Blatt, pastor, in charge.

The trustee board consists of: W. J. Epprecht Sr., C. E. Readman, Paul Sipple, Newton Ulmer, J. H. Detweiler, H. B. Willaredt, Earl Blank, Irvin Taney, and John Keene. General Sunday School officers who have given years of service are: John Keene, superintendent, sixteen years; W. J. Epprecht Jr., treasurer, twenty-eight years; Sarah Mitchell, secretary, thirty-five years. Mrs. William Weinert has been primary superintendent twenty-three years; Mrs. E. B. Fernet has served thirty-one years as secretary of the Ladies' Aid Society, and Mrs. Ida Kesting, twenty-one years as treasurer of the same organization. Mrs. W. J. Epprecht has been president of the Women's Missionary Association for nineteen years. C. E. Readman has had twenty-four years as financial secretary, thirty-six years as Sunday School teacher. Eliza Phillips is superintendent of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, and Mrs. Wm. C. Blatt of the Junior Society.

Phoenixville Mission, or Circuit, was served by the following ministers: E. L. Hughes, 1870-75; Wm. B. Evers, 1875-77; J. B. Funk, 1877-78; and H. S. Rice, 1880-81.

Port Providence Charge had the following ministers: G. B. McKee, 1884-86; H. A. Buffington, E. E. Hoffman, 1886-87; E. E. Hoffman, 1887-91.

Mont Clare was served by the following: U. S. G. Renn, 1891-93; J. F. Mower, 1893-94; George Cavenaugh, 1894-95; by the minister of Pottstown Church, 1895-96; H. H. Hoffer, 1896-98; J. F. Smith, 1898-1900; S. E. Rupp, 1904-06; A. S. Beckley, 1906-10; H. C. Kottler, 1910-11; C. E. Rettew, 1911-12; C. H. Holzinger, 1912-13; J. O. Jones, 1913-19; J. E. Keene, 1919-26; P. C. Hoffman, 1926-28; Wm. H. Quaid, 1928-36; R. G. Becktel, 1936-40; and Wm. C. Blatt, 1940-46.

**Pottstown, Baltzell Memorial Church**

The founding of a congregation in Pottstown followed the almost universal pattern: that where a few United Brethren settled, there a church was established. Those who came to Pottstown met in...
one another's homes for prayer and to hear, occasionally, a sermon by a visiting itinerant. The homes of William Kerper on Penn Alley between Beech and Second streets and of Davis Arters on the northeast corner of Lincoln and Hale streets were open to such meetings. The Rev. Elmer E. Hoffman, while serving the Port Providence Circuit, was the minister who made such visits, and in time organized a class.

The trustees elected for the class were: J. L. Kennedy, William Kerper, G. A. Bulon, H. F. Lessig, H. K. Morgan, H. Linsinbigler, and David Arters. These men became interested in providing a house of worship. They first purchased a lot, thirty feet by one hundred and three feet, fronting on Hale Street, near Jefferson Avenue, March 15, 1889, for the sum of $107; and second they applied for a charter of incorporation. The latter was granted by the Montgomery County Court, September 6, 1889.

On this lot a plainly built chapel, twenty by forty-eight feet was erected and dedicated to Divine worship on August 4, 1889. The Rev. Lewis Peters preached at the morning service and performed dedicatory rites; the Rev. Ezekiel L. Hughes preached at the afternoon service; and the Rev. Peters gave another discourse in the evening. Due to being poorly located, the site was abandoned just nineteen months after completion of the chapel.

The Conference Church Extension Society bought a new and more promising site, and placed on it a temporary structure for the sum of $250. This lot, costing $2,000, was located on the north side of Walnut Street near Washington Street. The date of purchase was January 31, 1891. In the fall of 1892 the Rev. Isaiah Baltzell was appointed to Pottstown. After a brief period of three months his labors were brought to an end by the summons of death.

The Rev. Grant L. Shaeffer, his successor, went to work enthusiastically to make possible a permanent house of worship. The cornerstone was laid October 1, 1893 with appropriate ceremonies, in which the Rev. H. B. Dohner, presiding elder, and pastor Shaeffer participated. The trustees—H. E. Lau, John W. Hughes, J. L. Kennedy, William Kerper, D. P. Rinker, H. G. Reigner, and the pastor—had general oversight of the work. The main room, thirty by forty feet in size, was furnished with semi-circular pews having a seating capacity of 250. This communicated with a class room fifteen by twenty feet in size. Bishop Jonathan Weaver dedicated the edifice on January 28, 1894, as the Baltzell Memorial Church. Dr. D. D. Lowery, presiding elder, preached in the afternoon and conducted the service of Holy Communion.

On the morning of January 1, 1941, the building was partially destroyed by fire. Immediate steps for construction were taken. After completion, the house of worship, now more beautiful and commodious than before the disaster, was dedicated June 8, 1941 by Dr. S. C. Enck, assisted by the pastor, the Rev. James O. Beamesderfer. The cost, $2,872, was partly met by income from fire insurance.
Early in the year 1907 the house at 516 Walnut Street was purchased for use as a parsonage. Due to financial exigencies the property had to be sold. The pastors, for a number of years, lived in a rented dwelling at 119 North Washington Street. In March 1945, under the pastorate of the Rev. James O. Bemesderfer, a spacious residence at 1331 South Street was purchased by the church for use as a parsonage. The house is of modern brick construction, semi-detached, with seven rooms and all conveniences.

The Jubilee Celebration of dedication of the first chapel was held with special services in 1939, the pastor, Dr. S. C. Enck, Bishop G. D. Batdorf, and former pastors participating in the week-long program.


7. The Circuits of Lehigh, Northampton, and Bucks Counties

The circuits of Lehigh, Northampton, and Bucks Counties were: Allentown, Bethlehem, Bucks County, Catasauqua, Lehigh Valley, and Northampton. The periods of their existence and ministers appointed are as follows:

Allentown Circuit, 1908-12; M. H. Miller, 1908-10; R. S. Arndt, 1910-12.
Bethlehem Circuit (1), 1864-65; David Hoffman, 1864-65.
Bethlehem Circuit (2), 1867-79; B. M. Shade, 1867-68; Job Light, 1868-69; Jacob Runk, 1869-72; J. B. Daugherty, 1872-74; J. W. Kunkel, 1874-75; George Shindler, 1875-77; J. H. Lowery, 1877-79.
Catasauqua Circuit (1), 1881-82: M. N. Kelly, 1881-82.
Catasauqua Circuit (2), 1886-90; S. S. Daugherty, 1886-87; William Lamey, 1887-88; and Gottlieb Myer, 1888-90.
Lehigh Valley Circuit, 1870-1908: David Hoffman, 1870-71; J. H. Unger, 1871-72; (For the year 1872-73 attached to Bethlehem Circuit); Simon Noll, 1873-74; Samuel Etter Jr., 1874-76; B. K. Keck, 1876-79; J. H. Lowery, 1879-80; W. H. Uhler, 1880-81; H. B. Spayd,
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8. The Churches of Lehigh County

Allentown, Grace Church

Grace Church, Allentown, is the spiritual child of Zion Church of the same city. The pastor of Zion Church, the Rev. J. M. Walters, and his lay leaders took the necessary steps to establish a new organization. On April 6, 1902 a new Sunday School was formally opened in the Steven's Public School Building at Sixth and Tilgham streets, having Cyrus Ritter as its superintendent, who had been elected by the official board of Zion Church. At the next Sabbath's session the following officers were elected: assistant superintendent, A. M. Butterweck; treasurer, B. F. Wehr; superintendents of the Primary Department, Katie Hertz and Emma Reinsmith; secretaries, H. A. Butterweck and Clarence Fisher; librarians, Valentine Allender and Miles Smith; and organist, Mayme A. Scholl.

The church organization was effected in 1903, having eleven charter members, as follows: Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Wehr, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Wolf, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Ritter, F. M. Hassler, Albert Schimpf, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bergenstock, and Mrs. Ella Bachman. In the same year a lot, sixty by one hundred and twenty feet, located at the corner of Sixth and Washington streets, was purchased by the trustees, who were: F. M. Hassler, B. F. Wehr, George Breining, Richard A. Parks, C. H. Wolf, Dr. A. J. Hertz, and Cyrus Ritter. A commodious brick church was erected, the cornerstone being laid May 25, 1904. The officiating ministers were the Reverends H. S. Gabel, C. I. B. Brane, and the pastor, S. L. Rhoads. Bishop Wm. M. Bell dedicated the house of worship September 4, 1904. The lot and church with furnishings cost $8,425.33.

Major improvements made to the building are as follows: exca-
vation of the basement in 1909; remodeling, refrescoing, and re-carpeting in 1926, costing $700; and refinishing of interior in 1937, costing $1,350. After the last mentioned work was completed, the Rev. M. V. Fridinger preached on the occasion of reopening at the morning service of August 29th, and the Rev. H. M. Palstick at the evening service. Pastor H. M. Tobias led out in this project of remodeling. He also was pastor when a new Orgatron was dedicated November 10, 1941.

The house at 758 North Sixth Street was purchased in 1917 for use as a parsonage at a cost of $4,400.

Cyrus Ritter, Charles Bergenstock, George Bachman, and Stanley J. Kleppinger, the latter still serving, have been superintendents of the Sunday School. Other lay workers at present are: Ralph Hittinger, Mr. and Mrs. Ammon C. Roth, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Barto, Alfred Marsden, Warren Wehr, Mae Forstler, Mrs. Samuel Engler, and Mrs. Edward R. Bray.

Allentown Grace Church

Sporadic efforts had been made prior to 1864 to establish a church in Lehigh Valley, but without permanent success. The Rev. David Hoffman in 1855 preached in Millerstown and Allentown. In 1862 members of the United Brethren Church residing in Allentown attempted to secure the services of the Rev. Hoffman in the interest of organizing a congregation. The next year the Rev. Henry Hilbish, then traveling Amity Circuit, rented buildings in Allentown and Bethlehem and preached occasionally.

The following year, the Rev. David Hoffman was appointed to Bethlehem Circuit. He rented a hall east of Seventh Street on Hamilton Street, where he conducted services for three months. At the end of that period he rented Marx Hall, Ninth and Hamilton streets, the present site of Hess Brothers' Department Store. There the first class was organized in 1864 with three members. That winter a revival was held through which forty persons were led to profess faith in Christ. At the end of the first year the class numbered fifty-four souls. A Sabbath School of twenty-three members was organized, with the following officers elected: Jonas Kunkle, superintendent, John R. Gassler, assistant superintendent; T. J. Schmeyer, secretary and librarian. Two prayer classes were organized which had T. J. Schmeyer and B. Stettler, respectively, as their leaders.

Free Hall, at the corner of Ninth and Linden streets, site of the present church, was bought April 1, 1866. The first floor of the remodeled building was dedicated by Bishop J. J. Glossbrenner Sept. 8, 1866. By 1870 the cost incurred, $1,400 was entirely paid.
The church membership had increased to 170. This house of worship was remodeled in 1867 at a cost of $700. It was again renovated in 1898, the expenditure amounting to $650.

A fine brick church was erected on the site of the old building in 1905-06, under the ministry of the Rev. H. B. Spayd at a cost of $25,000. The building committee consisted of George F. Breining, George F. Hummel, Dr. Wm. J. Hertz, William H. Guth, Mason L. Light, Charles A. Bachman, and George H. Bernhard. Bishop Job S. Mills, assisted by Dr. D. D. Lowery, presiding elder, and H. B. Spayd, pastor, dedicated the temple of worship January 3, 1906. The spacious brick parsonage stands next to the church on Linden Street.

At the time of erection of the new church the organization was incorporated. Trustees now in charge of church and parsonage properties are: J. M. Francis, J. Archie Krause, M. A. Reinsmith, Bruce Miller, Chester E. George, John Hilbert, and Clarence Kepp. Among other lay men and women who carry forward the organizations of church life are: Clifford Kinsey, Arthur Prechtel, William Cunningham, Mrs. Mark Kratz, Mrs. Richard Dickert, Mrs. Harry Smith, Ruth Keiper, Carrie Gangaware, Blanche Litzenberger, and Mabel Fenstermacher. Messrs Breining, Francis, Hilbert, and Reinsmith are of those who have represented the congregation as delegates to annual conference.


9. Abandoned Classes of Lehigh County

Allentown. (English Mission)

East Pennsylvania Conference established a new mission in Allentown in 1871. The class was in possession of a house of worship. Henry V. Mohn served this church 1871-73; John F. Mower, 1873-74; and A. H. Kauffman, 1874-75. In 1875 the property "passed into the hands of the creditor on amiable terms."

Breinigsville. Upper Macungie Township

The class was attached to Lehigh Circuit in 1874. There was a church house owned by our brethren. The class was still in existence in 1900, but conference records do not show when it was discontinued.

East Texas

The class was attached to Lehigh Circuit in 1874. The church was repaired, and a steeple erected and bell placed in 1888. Other improvements were made
in 1899. In 1932 the building was sold to the East Texas Cemetery Association for the sum of $800, which amount is to be held in trust by the trustees of the Allentown Zion Church for the upkeep of the cemetery.

**Fogelsville,** Upper Macungie Township
A place of worship was secured in 1888. Information on the work of the church is lacking.

**Millerstown,** Lower Macungie Township
David Hoffman preached in this village as early as 1855. A class organized there was attached to Lehigh Circuit in 1874.

**Seigertsville,** Heidelberg Township
This class, like most classes of this area, is first mentioned in 1874. The church building was refitted in 1885 at a cost of $200. The organization was still active in 1912, but has since been discontinued.

**Sipesfown,** Weissenburg Township
The building had been erected some time prior to 1896. It was sold in 1933 for the sum of $400. Allentown quarterly conference was made responsible to use the income from this amount for upkeep of the cemetery.

**Vera Cruz,** Upper Milford Township
This class was taken from Bethlehem Circuit in 1881 and attached to Northampton Circuit.

10. **The Churches of Northampton County**

**Cross Roads Church,** Moore Township
The work of Cross Roads Church had its roots in the earlier organization at Chapman's Quarries Church. It had its origin in about the year 1870 when the Rev. Jacob Runk was traveling Bethlehem Circuit. One day while in the vicinity the Rev. Runk was accosted by a man whose name was Henry Slater. Mr. Slater, upon being assured that he was talking to a preacher, invited him to come to his house to hold services. A short time thereafter a revival was held at the Slater home. There was much opposition on the part of some citizens of the community to these revival efforts, and protection was sought of a peace officer who was a Roman Catholic. Among the converts during these meetings was this same officer of the law. Later he was elected superintendent of the Sunday School.

The Chapman's Quarries Church was erected in the year 1872. Among the class leaders at the old church were: Henry Boyer, Henry Slater, Harry Bash, William, Augustus, and Thomas Fehnel, Frank Lapp, Reuben Patterson, Alvin Heberling, and Ellen Heberling.

When, in 1904 it was found that the old church was in much needed repair, it was decided to erect a new building on another site. A new frame church building costing $4,000 was completed during the conference year 1904-05, then said to be at Klecknersville, but later, and presently known as Cross Roads. The Rev. C.
O. Lehr was pastor at the time. In 1922 the building was repainted on the exterior, and the interior walls and furnishings were renovated at a cost of $1,405. In 1933 during the ministry of Rev. H. M. Falstick a basement was constructed for use as class rooms, costing $2,373. Also during his pastorate of six years, 1932-38, an Otterbein Brotherhood, a choir, a Junior Society of Christian Endeavor, and an Otterbein Guild were organized.

While the Rev. H. R. Blouch was pastor, the house of worship was again repainted and redecorated, this time at a cost of $1,200. Bishop G. D. Batdorf preached on the day of reopening, April 23, 1939. Former pastors and other visiting ministers preached during the week that followed.

Mrs. Ida Edelman Marsh, the first convert in the new church, is still a member. Members who have given long and faithful service in various offices are: Mr. and Mrs. George E. Fritz, Miss Ellen Heberling, Mrs. Anita Patterson Groner, and Reuben Patterson. Those in official positions at present are: Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Getz, Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Flick, Mr. and Mrs. William Klepinger, A. A. Marsh, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Fehnel, Kathryn E. Flick, and Mrs. T. G. Kostenbauder.

Chapman's Quarries Church was affiliated with the following circuits: Bethlehem, 1870-79; Northampton, 1879-87; Catasaqua, 1887-90; and Northampton, 1890-1904. The Cross Roads Church has been served by ministers preaching on the following circuits: Northampton, 1904-08; Allentown, 1908-12; and Northampton, 1912-25, and 1932-46. From 1925 to 1932 it was under Allentown Grace Church
quarterly conference, the ministers being: Irvin C. Wise, 1925-26; Irvin Butterweck, 1926-27; and Clinton Hahn, 1927-32.

**Point Phillips, Salem's Church, Moore Township**

While the Rev. J. R. Blecher was pastor of Northampton Circuit, a new class was organized in Moore Township about four miles northeast of Cross Roads Church. Josiah R. Miller, William H. Deemer, Conrad Reese, Daniel Schlegel, James Titus, and Cornelius Beers, were appointed trustees to erect a church. The inscription on the stone is: "Salem's Kirche Der Vereingten Brüder in Christo—1883" (Salem's Church of the United Brethren in Christ). Work has been continued and the house of worship maintained in good repair.

The pastor, Herbert H. Bowers, reports at the close of the year 1945-46 a church membership of thirty, and a Sunday School average attendance of forty-six. There is an active Senior Society of Christian Endeavor and a Women's Missionary Society. The board of trustees presently serving are: Mrs. Jacob Deemer, Harvey Deemer, Franklin Scholl, Harold Kocher, and Clifford Graver. John Bartholomew has served as teacher of Young People's and adult classes and as general superintendent of the School. Harold Kocher is the present superintendent. He has served in that capacity for twelve years.

Since the time of organization of the class, the church has had the same circuit affiliations and pastoral supervision as Cross Roads Church.

11. **Abandoned Classes of Northampton County**

**Bethlehem**

The Rev. Henry Hilbish organized a class of twelve members in the city of Bethlehem in 1863. No individual items appear in conference proceedings concerning the class or church of this city. Bethlehem Circuit existed over three different periods as listed in an earlier paragraph of this chapter.

**Catasauqua**

A class was organized in Catasauqua in 1881 by M. N. Kelley. A church building was erected in 1886. The first building was destroyed by fire in 1891, after which a new building was erected costing $2,200. In 1904 the managers of the Conference Missionary and Church Extension Society were authorized to take charge of the property, the congregation having been disbanded.

**Nazareth**

The Rev. I. B. Koons reported in 1900 that he had opened a new appointment in Nazareth. This is the only mention of work in that city.

**Pennsville, Moore Township**

In 1874, Pennsville appointment is mentioned. In the 1896 conference proceedings there is an item of repairs made on the church costing $600. In 1928 annual conference ordered that the building be sold to the Pennsville Cemetery Association for the sum of twenty-five dollars.

**Petersville, Lehigh Township.** A class was in existence in 1874.
**Siegfried's Allen Township**

A class was organized in 1897. The Rev. I. B. Koons was pastor of the circuit. He organized the class and through his work a lot for a parsonage and church was bought. The parsonage was built in 1899 as a circuit parsonage. Information is lacking concerning the erection of a church and the disbanding of the class.

**12. Bucks County Circuit**

The East German Conference at its session in 1879 created a new charge called “Bucks County Mission.” It was constituted of appointments at Quakertown, Hatfield, Coopersburg, Telford, and Irish Meetinghouse. The charge was left open to be supplied at time of meeting of conference. The statistical report made at the close of that conference year shows that W. N. Shelly was the supply preacher for the year. He reported having served four appointments, no classes organized and no members. In 1880 J. H. Unger was appointed. He reported at the end of the year having organized one class of twelve members. Efforts in Bucks County appear to have terminated in the year 1881 or 1882.

**13. The Churches of Philadelphia**

At the present time there are four United Brethren Churches in Philadelphia. Other efforts than those resulting in the establishing of these four are described in the next section of this chapter. There are a number of quite natural circumstances which prevented growth of our work. The movement of our people away from the more inland strongholds of our denomination was always westward rather than eastward. We did not have the men nor the means to gain a foothold through strictly missionary ventures when the city was small. When our members from upstate churches began to settle in this city, they scattered, so that no one strong nucleus could be established.

It was not that the brethren did not have the missionary passion to extend the cause of Christ in the city of Brotherly Love, for they made numerous and serious attempts to found congregations; but rather, they failed because the leaders were not supported, and because they themselves employed the wrong method. No better illustration of this could be given than that outlined by Dr. Lowery, when in 1898 he wrote as follows:

No better field for the home missionary effort of this church can be found anywhere than in Philadelphia. . . . I have brought this promising field to your notice in every report I have made to this body for the past five years, and yet again I cannot refrain from coming to you with the additional emphasis of a still deeper conviction that this is decidedly the best field open before the Church today, and surely you will not hesitate any longer to put into it, to the fullest extent, your financial and moral support. Brethren, it seems to me that it means the proper occupancy of this field now, or never. I say proper occupancy, for we have been there for years.

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Hardly a year passed that Dr. Lowery did not emphatically state his opinion along the same lines. He further elucidated his understanding of “proper occupancy” in the following words:

This means the securing of a first-class location to start with, and then a first-class man (if you will allow me to make this distinction by classification just as an accommodation for this particular case) to be placed in pastoral charge of the work . . . to expend enough money to insure at once its permanency and inspire the community with confidence in our fixed purpose and ability to carry the mission forward to success.

This not only laid down the blue-prints for future procedure; it was by implication a setting forth of reasons why past efforts, with but one exception, ended in failure.

Mt. Pisgah, or First Church

A small band of members of the Fourth Street German Mission, because they worshipped in English, were no longer recognized by the East German Conference. These were received and properly organized as a class of East Pennsylvania Conference.3 After worshipping for a short time in a private dwelling at 2812 Leamey Street (now B Street) under the spiritual guidance of J. A. Nice and T. B. Miller, they secured, during the summer of 1882, a lot on the southeast corner of Kipp and Cambria Streets and erected thereon a frame chapel.

This section of the city was then in the development stage. Rows of two and three-story houses spread out in several directions, but for the most part the area consisted of small farms and brickyards. J. Frederick Snyder sold the lot to the small congregation. The mortgage of two thousand dollars was dated July 19, 1882. Through several successful evangelistic efforts the class was increased to fifty-four members by conference time of 1883. According to one account, the church was named Mt. Pisgah, due to this hopeful outlook.

John Spink, John McMillen and Daniel Keys were the first trustees. Joseph Kirk was the first superintendent in the frame building. James, his son, was organist and choir leader. T. B. Miller, an ordained minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a druggist, and medical doctor, remained as pastor of the congregation until conference session of the year 1885, then reporting a membership of seventy.

From 1888 to 1899 both congregation and annual conference wrestled with the problems of relocation and reconstruction. By 1898 the decision was reached not to locate on another street, and, on January 10, 1900, the contract was let to rebuild, on practically the same location. Contracts for buildings and furnishings called for an expenditure of $11,500. The cornerstone was laid October 2, 1900. The brick structure was dedicated July 28, 1901, by Bishop
J. S. Mills, assisted by Dr. Lowery, presiding elder, and H. C. Phillips, who had been pastor since 1893.

The names of the following lay members constituted a partial list of the official board: Charles J. Leirer, Henry Price, John W. Crassley, S. C. Snoke, William H. Clouden, Jesse Dawson, Jennie M. Phillips, Lizzie Duffel, Helen H. Harris, Mrs. Ann Simons, Maggie Duff, James Grant, John Grant, Thomas Smith, and Ernest Kitchen. The property was then in the hands of a conference board of trustees consisting of D. D. Lowery, C. B. Rettew, H. C. Phillips, and S. C. Snoke. In 1908 the Conference Church Extension Society authorized transfer of title to property to the trustees of Mt. Pisgah Church, in trust for the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. In 1913 conference changed the name of the church from Mt. Pisgah to First Church.

The dwelling at number 134 East Allegheny Avenue was purchased for use as a parsonage in February 1915 for the sum of four thousand dollars. The Rev. C. A. Funk, pastor, 1915-16, advocated that the congregation become self-supporting. It had been receiving financial help of some kind or another from annual conference since its founding. All incumbrances on church property having been paid, a mortgage-burning ceremony was conducted in July 1920 by the pastor, C. Y. Ulrich, assisted by Mrs. William Dawson and Mrs. Daniel McCoy, the two oldest living members of the church.

A two-manual Moller pipe organ, costing three thousand dollars
was installed on Easter, 1923. Improvements and installations made during the period, 1926-30, included placing an enlarged heating system, metal ceiling and walls in the Sunday School rooms on the main floor, accordion doors between the main Sunday School room and the Primary room, improving of the basement, laying new linoleum in the Sunday School room, and new carpet in the worship room.

Philadelphia First Church observed its Golden Jubilee Anniversary, April 12-24, 1932. Services were in charge of the pastor, the Rev. M. H. Wert; Bishop G. D. Batdorf preached the opening sermon; Dr. S. C. Enck, the closing sermon. At that time the official family consisted of Josiah Dawson, Harry R. Burkholder, Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Bartholomew, Daniel Olsen Jr., Herbert Sellers, Mr. and Mrs. William Hatfield, George R. Wilby, Russel Wert, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Adamson, Robert P. Johnston, Carrie Heisler, Mrs. H. W. Slemmer, Mrs. M. H. Wert, Mrs. W. E. Kleppinger, Edith Mertz, Harry H. Wagner, Elizabeth Wilby, Adam Woltemote, and Edwin Sharp.

New members of the official board as of 1946, not above mentioned, are William Taylor, Charles W. Kester, D. G. Emenheiser, Mrs. Elva Wilby, Mrs. Bessie Taylor, Richard Rettew, and Mrs. Arthur Stewart. Mrs. Mary McCoy, the oldest charter member, has been active through many years in the work of the Sunday School, Women's Missionary Society, and Ladies' Aid. Many lay members have been sent forth as special workers in various Christian activities. Five men were licensed to preach by vote of this class, namely: C. E. Pilgrim, O. T. Ehrhart, G. A. Richie, William G. Grosz, and Richard Rettew. Josiah Dawson, Robert P. Johnston, and George R. Wilby, in these more recent years, have been lay representatives to annual conference.


Second Church

Efforts to permanently establish a church in West Philadelphia took on a promising aspect in the fall of 1912. On the first day of conference sessions, October 2, a resolution was adopted which made this the exclusive conference financial project for the year, and empowered some person to canvass the conference area for funds. Dr. Enck, on the last day of the conference, was appointed to carry out the mandates of conference. That which ensued is best told in his own words:
Immediately after conference we moved to 402 South 57th Street. I well realized that the Master’s service required haste. I at once renewed the survey and began to seek diligently for United Brethren families. At the same time I began to solicit money for the prospective new church, not knowing where such might be located. One beautiful moonlight night I walked to 59th and Catherine Streets. There were no houses between 58th and 59th Streets. Fifty-ninth Street was not yet fully opened, there was a brickyard at 59th and Cedar Streets. As I looked upon this site, I prayed, and said loudly, “O, Lord, let a church come down from heaven on this site.” I called the members of the Conference Missionary and Extension Society, and the site was decided upon.

A charter class of fifty-three members was organized on Easter Sunday, March 23, 1913, at the minister’s residence. The following officers were elected: trustees, Harry Friday, Ira Hoober, Jacob Behm, William May, Francis Bear, the latter wishing to be excused, George Haines was elected in his stead; class leader, the Rev. Mark G. Holtzman; treasurer, Park Kurtz; financial secretary, M. C. Spengler; Sunday School superintendent, Elwood S. Snyder; Women’s Missionary Society president, Mrs. S. C. Enck; Ladies’ Aid Society; Mrs. Clayton Latshaw, Mrs. Arthur Schlichter, Mrs. Jacob Behm, and Mrs. M. C. Spengler.

From June until August services were conducted in a large “Gospel Tent.” In this, on June 8, a Sunday School of thirty-seven
pupils was organized. The church lot on the northeast corner of Catherine and Fifty-ninth Streets, cost eight thousand dollars. It was seventy-two by one hundred and fifty-six and one-half feet. The cornerstone for the church plant, consisting of a Sunday School building with a large parsonage attached, was laid Sunday, June 1, by Dr. D. D. Lowery, conference superintendent, assisted by Dr. Enck. These buildings were dedicated November 2, 1913. The same brethren who laid the cornerstone also officiated at the dedicatory services. The Hon. A. S. Kreider of Annville, who had paid for the furnishing of the chairs and the pulpit furniture, spoke in the afternoon, and Dr. R. R. Butterwick in the evening. Harry Friday, Ira Hoober, Jacob Behm, M. C. Spengler, and H. J. Davidson were the building committee. The church plant cost $51,169.41.

At the close of the first year's work, Dr. Enck reported a church membership of eighty-four and Sunday School enrollment numbering seventy-four, and a church plant about ready for dedication. On the strength of that progress, Dr. Enck invited the 1914 session of conference to meet at Philadelphia Second Church—the invitation was heartily accepted. At the end of his five-year pastorate when he was elected conference superintendent, the church membership had increased to 429.

Extensive repairs and improvements, partly necessary by a fire which broke out in the boiler room and spread to other parts of the building, were made in 1925-26. The damaged plaster was replaced, the floors scraped, and covered with new carpet; the pulpit and chancel surrounded by new cabinet work; and new lighting fixtures and pews were installed in the main room. A new Moller pipe organ costing six-thousand dollars was installed. The total expenditures over and above fire damage amounted to eighteen thousand and five hundred dollars.

Reopening services were held October 17, 1926, in charge of Dr. C. A. Lynch, pastor. Dr. Enck preached the sermon and dedicated the organ at the morning service. In the evening, the choir presented a musicale with Mr. J. W. Baird as director, and Mrs. Baird as organist. J. M. Blew, R. D. Dryson, Dr. Ralph L. Engle, and Jasper M. Brown composed the committee on improvements.

In January 1944, the pastor, Harold S. Peiffer, presented to the trustee board the necessity of making the appearance of the sanctuary more conducive to the beauty of worship. His suggestion was readily accepted. Subsequently the walls were redecorated, linoleum laid in the vestibule, and new carpet in the main room. A number of appropriate and chaste memorials were donated. Former pastors, Drs. Enck and Lynch participated in reopening ceremonies July 9, 1944.

The general superintendents of the School have been: Elwood S. Snyder, 1913-20; John B. McKelvey, 1920-33; and Foster N. Parker, 1933-46. Mr. McKelvey has been a very active lay leader in several capacities, having served approximately twenty-five years as lay representative to annual conference. He has also made valuable
contributions of service to various departments of interdenomina-
tional work under the Philadelphia Council of Churches. Jasper M. Brown has been trustee for twenty-five years, and George C. Stine treasurer for fifteen years. Other lay people now serving in
official capacities are: Larrison B. Carhart, Jacob Funk, Mr. and
Mrs. Harlan Hufford, Harvey Zimmerman, Russell Sloan, Harry M. Slack, Earl Morton II, Mrs. John B. McKelvey, Mrs. Carl Al-
ford, Mrs. Pauline Kurtz, and Mrs. Hirum Vinton.

The list of pastors is as follows: S. C. Enck, 1912-17; N. L. Line-
baugh, 1917-20; I. N. Seldomridge, 1920-23; G. A. Richie, 1923-25; C A. Lynch, 1925-30; H. U. Roop, 1930-31; C. H. Stine, 1931-43; and
H. S. Peiffer, 1943-46.

Third Church

The Logan district of North Philadelphia next engaged the
attention of our conference leaders as a promising field in which
to found another congregation. The "phenomenal success of our
Second church," as the conference superintendent reported in 1915,
spurred on the Conference Missionary and Church Erection Society
to take decisive measures. The members of the Society carefully
and conscientiously studied the possibilities, and recommended to
the 1915-session of conference the purchase of a lot, 168 by 100'
feet, located on Wyoming Street, between Twelfth and Camac
Streets, for the sum of nineteen thousand and five hundred dollars.
This recommendation, and the plan of financing the purchase of
the ground, was accepted.

Permission had been granted to erect a tent on the above lot or
lots for the purpose of holding services. The first service was held
on the first Sunday of June, 1915. Services were continued in the
tent during the summer months. The Rev. Charles A. Snavely
was appointed to the work in the fall of that year. He moved into
the dwelling at 1220 Louden Street, which house was also used
as a place of worship for fourteen months. A church organization
of thirty-six charter members was effected, January 9, 1916.

On the first Sunday of May 1916, ground was broken for a new
Sunday School building. The cornerstone was laid Saturday, June
18, and the edifice, though still incomplete in all details, was con-
secrated by Bishop William M. Weekly, December 10, 1916. The
total cost of lot and building was about fifty thousand dollars. The
Conference Society pledged itself to provide twenty-five thousand
dollars, and the official board of the church all above that amount.
In addition to payments on property costs, the conference made
appropriations toward pastor's salary over a period of years.

The membership numbered forty-eight in 1916. This number rose
gradually until in 1924 it reached 140; and in 1946 stands at 195.
The roll of official members of church organizations, and teachers
for the year 1918 carries the following names: Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Snavely, William T. Woods, Sarah Woods, Mrs. C. C. Bridge,
Charles L. Bitzer, George Birch, Walter Frantz, Clarence C. Clay-

Various residences were rented for occupancy by the pastor's family until 1919, when a brick parsonage was erected next to the church building on its south, at 4655 Camac Street. Some of the rooms on the first and second floors which remained unfinished when the church structure was erected were completed at a cost of four thousand and five hundred dollars. Dedicatory services were held on January 9, 1921, Dr. S. C. Enck performing consecration rites and preaching at the morning service, C. A. Snively, former pastor, preaching in the evening. Dr. D. E. Young, pastor, was in charge of the day's services. Under his ministry also, in the year 1925, the basement, consisting of a social hall and a well-equipped gymnasium, was completed, at a cost of $12,495.88.

Fire of unknown origin damaged the church building on January 29, 1931. The damaged portions were repaired, the interior re-decorated, a practically new heating system and a new Moller pipe organ were installed, a new carpet, new art glass windows and new electric fixtures were placed—all at a cost of $18,396.64. Bishop G. D. Batdorf preached on the morning of reopening, June 14, Dr. Enck preached in the evening. Dr. I. Moyer Hershey, pastor at the time, led the congregation in this work of new advances.

The Rev. Raymond G. Uhrich is now in the fourteenth year of
his ministry with this congregation. Among his lay co-workers in official positions are: John A. Steitz, Morris Lindermuth, George T. Birch, Gerald Stutzman, W. Y. Moritz, Mrs. T. A. Dintaman, Mrs. H. J. Paul, Mrs. I. E. Brandt, and Mrs. F. W. Heizman.

S. C. Snoke, who in his earlier years, was a lay leader in First Church, was one of the organizers of Third Church. He was its first Sunday School superintendent, was for a number of years, lay representative to annual conference, and has been president of the trustee board during the church's history. Other lay leaders have given long and faithful service: Carl C. Hafer as church treasurer and trustee; E. P. Runyan as Sunday School superintendent, lay delegate, and director of the Board of Christian Education; John Cantrill, as Sunday School superintendent and lay delegate; Miss Ella Bitzer, a charter member, as teacher, choir member, and president of the Women's Missionary Society; Mrs. R. O. Gulden, as secretary of the official board, member of the choir, and superintendent of the children's division of the Sunday School; Mrs. E. P. Runyan and Mrs. C. C. Bridge, as presidents of the Ladies' Aid Society; and Miss Sara Woods, deceased, as worker with the children of the church.

Ministers who have served the congregation are: C. A. Snavely, 1915-18; A. K. Wier, 1918-19; D. E. Young, 1919-26; I. Moyer Hershey, 1926-31; I. Moyer Hershey, M. B. Beerhalter, 1931-32; and R. G. Uhrich, 1932-46.

Burholme Church

The Rev. Charles Y. Ulrich while pastor of First Church sensed the opportunity of opening a mission in the Burholme section of Philadelphia. The work was begun in July 1924 in the house of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Clapp, 7311 Dorcas Street, members of First Church. In November of the same year the place of meeting was changed to a store property located at the corner of Dorcas and Cottman Streets.

Sanction for the launching of this new mission was given by the Conference Missionary and Church Erection Society, and it supported the project by granting a gift of three thousand dollars payable October 1, 1926. The trustees of First Church had secured a lot on the southwest corner of Algon Avenue and Cottman Streets for the sum of four thousand and five hundred dollars by deed of transfer dated June 15, 1926.

Edwin H. Castor, an architect, was superintendent of the Sunday School at the time the mission drew up plans and specifications for a small chapel. The cornerstone was laid November 6, 1927; and the chapel, costing eleven thousand and seven hundred dollars, was dedicated January 15, 1928 by Dr. S. C. Enck. The pulpit desk was presented in memory of Mrs. Rebecca King by her four daughters, the pulpit Bible by John H. Nugent Jr. of Burholme.

The work was carried on by local members and workers under the supervision of the pastor and trustees of First Church until
the fall of 1929, when William G. Grosz was appointed, who served the mission till the conference session of 1931. G. Jay Umbarger was then appointed and served one year. The Rev. Ulrich again took charge of the work, serving part time until 1945, when he resigned so a minister who could give full time might be appointed. R. G. Becktel was appointed his successor. He reported a membership of ninety-one at the close of the year 1945-46.

James W. Hallam was the first lay delegate to represent the congregation at annual conference. That was in the year 1934. James Oates was lay delegate in 1935 and 1936. From 1937 to 1946 inclusively, Josiah Dawson has served in that capacity. Wilbur Clapp, James Oates, James Childs, James Hallam, August Dahling, and Waldo Roustle are the church trustees.

14. Abandoned Churches and Missions of Philadelphia

Clinton Street Mission

United Brethren work began in Philadelphia through the entreaty of a group of worshippers known as the American Primitive Methodist Church to be taken into the United Brethren Conference. A Discipline of our denomination had been secured by a Mr. Norcross of Philadelphia who, when on a business trip to Cincinnati, Ohio, attended a service in the United Brethren Church. Mr. Norcross was favorably impressed by the doctrines, rules and regulations set forth in the Discipline. He passed it around among his friends and it happened to fall into the hands of some of the members of the above named congregation. Soon thereafter they sent J. W. Bonewell, a local preacher serving them at the time, to the session of Pennsylvania Annual Conference held during March of the year 1847 at Hershey's Church, Middlesex, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

After hearing the statement of Mr. Bonewell, the conference resolved to send the Rev. George Miller, presiding elder, to visit the Philadelphia congregation, and invested him with discretionary authority to receive said congregation and minister. Mr. Bonewell continued with the congregation while the Rev. Miller made his investigation. In 1848 he was received, and ordained, by vote of Pennsylvania Conference, and appointed to the Philadelphia Mission. Subsequent pastors of the mission were: J. S. Kessler, 1854-55; J. E. Bishop, 1855-57; and George W. Showman, 1857-59. During the period covered by these pastorate the mission was under the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

East Pennsylvania gave its consent to this arrangement for the reason that it could not spare any of its preachers who used the English language fluently in preaching. The arrangement continued until 1859 when the property and the exercise of appointment of a minister were surrendered.
to East Pennsylvania. This conference, however, had from time to time been giving financial support to the mission and its ministers. Each conference, separately, took action in 1858, that if the Philadelphia Church did not satisfy them by the next session as touching the matter of secret societies, no further support would be given. Neither conference sent a minister in 1859. The following year our conference gave the Philadelphia (English) Church matter into the hands of Bishop Glossbrenner to dispose of according to his judgment. We have no record of his or any other action taken in regard to the Church.

When the Rev. Kessler went to Philadelphia the congregation, consisting of thirty-one members, was in the process of erecting a small house of worship. Bishop Jacob Erb, assisted by the Rev. Alexander Owen and the pastor, dedicated it June 20, 1849. The structure was located on Clinton Street. A city map of the period shows a Clinton Street north of Brown Street between Eighth and Ninth Streets. Due to church debt, small salary, external opposition, internal troubles, and the stand then taken on secret societies, the ministers had a hard struggle. In spite of these difficulties, the Rev. Kessler, in 1851 reported having received 104 new members, and a total enrollment of 173. This rose to 209 by 1853. The Rev. Showman at the close of his last year reported a membership of 176.

First German Mission

A second congregation in Philadelphia made overtures to unite with the United Brethren. This was in 1859. The following item appears in the proceedings for that year: "In reference to the German congregation in Philadelphia, presenting itself to the notice of this conference; it was resolved, that the Stationing Committee supply said congregation with a preacher." The name of George Locker, not a member of conference, appears as the appointee in 1859 and 1860. He reported to annual conference in 1860 as having had fifty-two members at the beginning of the conference year and forty-one at the close. In the statistical report of 1861, his name only appears, no report was made. Nothing further is known about this mission.

Mt. Airy Church, Philadelphia

A mission was opened in the Mt. Airy area of Philadelphia by the Rev. Samuel L. Minnich under the auspices of Pennsylvania Conference. The Rev. Minnich was born at Chestnut Hill, near Philadelphia, in 1815. He became a member in 1854, was ordained in 1857, and served regularly in that conference until 1858. Being without appointment, he returned to Mt. Airy. In 1861 Pennsylvania conference took action to rent a church, made an appropriation of one hundred dollars, and assigned Rev. Minnich to the field. At the close of the year he reported having organized a class of twelve members at Mt. Airy and having preached also at Rittenhouse. He continued the work at Mt. Airy under appointment of Pennsylvania Conference until 1865. That conference made a total appropriation of five hundred dollars to the work.

In 1865 both pastor and class transferred to East Pennsylvania Conference. He continued as pastor until 1869. Those who followed the Rev. Minnich in that assignment were: J. R. Reitzel, 1869-71; J. F. Mower, 1871-73; H. V. Mohn, 1873-76; C. I. B. Brane, 1876-77; and J. Wesley Etter, 1877-79.

A house of worship was erected, and dedicated in the year 1873. In reporting the erection and dedication of the building, the presiding elder also stated there remained an embarrassing debt. Two years later the financial situation had become critical. A special conference committee dealing with the problem outlined an "excellent" plan to finance the debt, and appointed G. W. Miles Rigor to carry it into effect. The plan did not succeed, and in 1879 the property was sold. Conference had voted, over a period of fourteen years, direct appropriations amounting to $3,250, had extended credit through loans, had secured the help of the Parent Missionary
Board of the denomination; individual members from upstate churches had made generous contributions, but nothing availed. The membership, at one time, numbered 128; when abandoned, only 34 remained.

**Parrish Street Mission**

While the Rev. S. L. Minnich was pastor at Mt. Airy, he organized, in 1868 a class of forty-four members which met in the vicinity of North Eighth and Parrish Streets. Conference recognized it at its session of 1869 and named it Parrish Street Mission Station. In 1872 the name Darien Street Mission appears; in 1874, Girard Avenue Mission. Mention of Eighth, Parrish, and Darien Streets, indicates that the location of this mission was within a block of the first Mission on Clinton Street.

This fourth venture in Philadelphia came to failure in the year 1875. S. L. Minnich had served three years, 1869-71 and 1872-73; C. T. Poulton, one year, 1871-72; Daniel Eberly as supply four months during 1873-74; and an unnamed preacher as supply, 1874-75, during the last year of its existence. The presiding elder reported that it was abandoned "for lack of means to carry it forward."

**Fourth Street German Mission**

The East German Conference which convened February 27, 1873, ordered the presiding elder and the missionary to be appointed to arrange for the renting of a suitable place of worship in Philadelphia and to report to the next session. The Rev. David Hoffman, a seasoned and successful organizer of missions, was sent to carry out the order of conference. Financially, he was supported by an appropriation of five hundred dollars. He did more than conference asked. He not only organized a class of nine members, but also erected a house of worship. Its location was on North Fourth Street above Norris Street; thus it was in the 1800 block north. The church building was dedicated February 16, 1874.

At the time of dedication $1,113.71 had been collected on an expenditure of $1,310.46. The Rev. Hoffman remained as pastor of this church until 1879, serving also as its treasurer. In 1874 conference set a goal of five-thousand dollars to be collected, and appointed David Strickler to canvass the people of the conference area for funds. It being the "Centennial Year," this was one of the mission projects that profited by payments made to the Centennial Fund. The pastors of the mission were: David Hoffman, 1873-79; J. G. Fritz, 1879-81; M. J. Heberly, 1881-83; Frederick List, 1883-84; and Job Light, 1884-86.

The mission had a net increase in membership from year to year until 1881, the congregation then numbering seventy-three. But the common plague "Old Monster Debt" beset its progress from then on. Its encumbrance then amounted to $3,769.23. The membership began to decrease, thirty-four remaining when the work was abandoned in 1886.

**Ebenezer Church**

The stationing committee of East Pennsylvania Conference of 1876 had the following item in its report: "That the new work in South Philadelphia be recognized as Ebenezer charge." Daniel W. Fow was appointed to serve this charge in 1876 and 1877. A report of the work got into the record for one year only, 1877. It showed a membership at the beginning of the year of seventy-two, and at the close, forty-four. The pastor did not report a salary, but reported church expenses on a house of worship amounting to $3,168. The minister's residence was given as 2615 Federal Street. He was not a member of Conference. In 1876 the presiding elder informed the conference that the work was abandoned because it was found that the congregation was almost hopelessly in debt.

**Port Richmond, St. Paul's Church**

Port Richmond Mission had its beginning in 1876 under the ministry of David Hoffman while he was pastor of the German Mission on Fourth Street.
Two years later this mission and the one at Camden, N. J. formed a charge. After another two years passed, it alone constituted a charge. It then had thirty-four members. Title to property valued at $3,500 had been secured by 1882. The building was located at the corner of Edgemont and Westmoreland streets in the section of Philadelphia then known as Port Richmond, hence the name of the church. In succeeding years it was also known as St. Paul’s Church.

The East German Conference turned the work over to the care of East Pennsylvania Conference in 1885. The latter conference did not then accept it; however, in 1889, it was definitely transferred to East Pennsylvania Conference. It continued as a separate charge until 1894. The ministers appointed during the period were: Gottlieb Myer, 1880-81; W. H. Uhler, 1881-83; William A. Baier, 1883-84; H. S. Gabel, 1884-85; no pastor appointed, 1885-87; Frederick Reel, 1887-89; J. F. Mower, 1889-92; J. A. Lyter, 1892-93; H. B. Dohner, 1893-94. From 1894 to 1899 the congregation was served by H. C. Phillips in connection with his work at Mt. Pisgah Church; from 1899 to 1904, Thomas Whittle, a minister of the Methodist Church was its pastor, under the jurisdiction of Mt. Pisgah quarterly conference.

The annual conference supported the work during the period of its existence to the amount of approximately four thousand dollars. In 1904 the presiding elder Dr. Lowery, suggested that the property be sold, inasmuch as the few loyal members who remained were no longer able to continue the organization intact, and the location made it improbable that the congregation could be increased. At the elder’s suggestion and by the interest of the Rev. J. T. Shaffer, pastor at Mt. Pisgah, most of the members were transferred to his church. Conference authorized sale of the property in 1906.

In excess of four-hundred new members were received into church membership during the entire period of its history.

**Jasper Street Mission**

There was a brick chapel forty by fifty feet in size, located on the corner of Ann and Jasper Streets, known as Ann Street Gospel Mission, in charge of J. W. Taylor in 1882. The presiding elder in 1883 reported that he expected the congregation which worshipped there to come over to our denomination in the very near future. The language indicates that the congregation was not yet recognized as a United Brethren organization, nevertheless, its membership of twenty-five and Mr. Taylor’s name are regularly included in the statistical report for the year. T. B. Miller served this congregation as supply, 1883-84. The appointing of the Rev. G. W. Miles Rigor in 1884 is the last item appearing on record concerning this mission.

**Grace Mission**

Dr. E. W. Kirby, a physician and a local preacher, reports a new congregation, named “Grace” in 1885. He was appointed to serve the mission in 1885 and made a report to conference in 1886. There is no further record of this mission.

**Fifth Street Mission**

The only mention of this mission is in the boundary and in the stationing committees’ reports of the year 1885. T. B. Miller was appointed. It may have been a continuing of the work on Jasper Street under another name.

**Clearville Mission**

The February session of the year 1889 lists “Clearville of West Philadelphia” with two churches of Camden, N. J., as one charge. No other instance of this mission appears in the annual minutes.
Elmwood

Information was brought to conference in 1890 that a certain Mr. Heath of Elmwood, Philadelphia, had made a proposition concerning property for a new mission building in Elmwood. The following year it was reported that the Rev. Rigor had gone to Elmwood and had laid the cornerstone for the structure. Certain presentations having been made at a quarterly being held at Mt. Pisgah Church, a trustee board was appointed with the understanding that they proceed cautiously with the work at Elmwood. Due to certain irregularities in procedure, the trustees were dismissed at the last quarterly held for the year. Evidently that was the end of the project at Elmwood.

West Philadelphia Class

In order to conserve to our denomination members moving into the different sections of the city, the Rev. H. C. Phillips organized two classes during the conference year 1896-97. One was located in West Philadelphia in a private residence on Forty-first Street below Girard Avenue. When the class disbanded in 1896 its small amount of equipment was turned over to the mission next named below.

Central Mission Station

This mission was the second class organized by the Rev. Phillips in 1896-97. Its first place of worship was the home of William E. Clark on the corner of Stiles and Thirteenth streets. Annual conference in 1898, by the urging of Dr. Lowery, presiding elder, made a sincere effort to become more firmly established in Philadelphia. It appointed E. O. Burtner to promote the work, and voted an appropriation of six hundred dollars. He found a class of twelve members, then went in search of a more suitable place for worship. He found an excellent church property for sale on Twelfth Street near Thompson, in the very heart of the city, and negotiated for its purchase for the sum of $5,100. A deposit of six hundred dollars was made, the building was repaired, and re-opened for worship April 2, 1899. C. W. Hutzler was next appointed and a similar amount of money was appropriated. The last full-time pastorate was that of the Rev. J. Francis Smith. His year ended in 1901. He reported a membership of twenty. The work continued but one more year, this under the care of the Mt. Pisgah Church. The trustees were never able to secure a clear title to the property.

Haverford Avenue Class

The Rev. J. T. Shaffer, by special assignment during the interim of conference sessions organized a class of fifteen members in West Philadelphia during the year 1906-97. The meeting place was Gracey's Hall on the corner of Haverford Avenue and Fifty-second Street. He continued his labors in this section of the city until his death, August 6, 1909. He was born in Carrollton, Maryland, October 8, 1843, and gave about forty-three years to the ministry, serving important churches in Pennsylvania and East Pennsylvania conferences. Having served Mt. Pisgah three years just prior to his work in the western part of the city, he was well acquainted with the opportunity for our church in the "City of Brotherly Love." He made many profitable contacts in West Philadelphia.

The Conference Church and Missionary Society bought a lot on the corner of Haverford Avenue and Pearl Street for the sum of $4,200 on September 5, 1906. The matter of erecting a church building was kept under advisement until the said Society could be sure the right site was found. By 1912 the decision was reached not to build on the site purchased and, in the month of September, the lot was sold at its purchase price. Some of this class became charter members of the church known as Philadelphia Second.
15. Efforts in New Jersey

Camden, Emmanuel Mission

In the year 1876 the Rev. David Hoffman pastor of Fourth Street German Mission in Philadelphia, organized a class in Camden. In 1879 this class with two others were constituted Camden Mission and in 1880 it was constituted a separate charge. The following ministers served Camden Mission: George Stoll, 1878-79; Gottlieb Myer, 1879-80 and 1881-82; Frederick List, Feb. 1881-Oct. 1881; and 1882-83; D. D. Lowery, 1880-81; F. Marsfelder, H. E. Roediger, 1883-84; and J. H. Unger, 1884-85. The building was located on Line Street on lots numbered 410-412. It was probably a union meetinghouse. Nothing appears on our records concerning this congregation after the year 1888.

Camden, Bethel Mission

Here is another instance where both minister and congregation came over to the United Brethren, en masse. The congregation had W. O. Shimp as their minister, and were worshipping in a rented chapel on Third Street. W. O. Shimp was appointed from 1883 to 1887. No appointments were made after February 1887, and, in September of that year, our conference leaders decided to abandon this work.

Vineland

Vineland, New Jersey; Wilmington, Delaware; and Greensboro, Maryland, in 1885 were considered to be inviting fields. The three points were constituted a charge in that year. There are no additional references to them except that, in 1886, W. H. Koppenhaver was to serve Greensboro Mission under the direction of the presiding elder.

Camden, Woodland Avenue Mission

A new mission was projected in Camden in September 1887. H. T. Denlinger of the class of 1887, Lebanon Valley College, was assigned to the work. A tabernacle was provided, and a village campmeeting was held with good results. The minister reported a class of twenty-five members. The Church Extension Society purchased, for the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, a lot, sixty by one hundred feet, located on Woodland Avenue between Seventh and Eighth streets. The Rev. Denlinger was reappointed in 1888, but resigned during the year, and the Rev. Rigor of Mt. Pisgah Church took over. Under his leadership a new church building was erected on the lot purchased. Its cost was $775, of which amount $103 was paid and about forty dollars subscribed. The Rev. Rigor was appointed in February 1889. No appointment was made in the fall of that year. The class was soon thereafter abandoned and the property sold.

Abescom

In 1877, Abescom, New Jersey, was recognized as a charge. The presiding elder in 1888, reported that William Muir had tried to establish a church, but had no success in that undertaking.

Mt. Holly Mission

"We took hold of this work through the request of a number of people identified with another denomination. Services were held in the Court House in Mt. Holly, New Jersey. A private individual purchased a property on Washington Street and rented it to the class for its use. This building was remodeled so that two hundred people could be seated. The class numbered fifty-eight, the Sunday School enrollment was fifty-five. The work was carried on during the years 1915 and 1916."
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16. Churches Beyond the Present Conference Boundary

Certain churches located within Pennsylvania and Allegheny conferences, respectively, were once affiliated with East Pennsylvania or East German conferences. Inasmuch as they were regularly served by ministers of the two conferences whose histories we are recording, and were under the supervision of their presiding elders, the record of ministerial service is included in this volume. The local church histories are covered in the published histories of the two above first named conferences.

a. Churches in Baltimore, Maryland

Baltimore churches under the jurisdiction of East German Conference were: Old Otterbein, Fulton Avenue or Third, and Seventh.

Old Otterbein Church

Old Otterbein Church, by virtue of its charter of incorporation and church discipline, has exercised its right to choose its minister and to select the annual conference to which it would give its financial support. From 1871 to 1901 this congregation gave financial support to East German Conference. During these years such matters pertaining to a local church as are commonly recorded in annual conference proceedings are on record in the minutes of East German Conference.

The ministers serving this congregation over the period 1871-1901 were: Nehemiah Altman, 1871-73; Jacob Doerkson, 1873-77; J. W. Kunkel, 1877-81; August Krause, 1881-84; August Krause, then William Mittendorf, 1884-85; William Mittendorf, 1885-89; J. R. Blecher, 1889-93; and August Schmidt, 1893-1901.

Nehemiah Altman was converted from Judaism to Christianity in Ohio under the influence of Bishop Henry Kumler Sr. He was voted annual conference license by the original conference in the east in 1845, was ordained at the session held in Florin, Pennsylvania, in 1846, and at the same session was granted a transfer to Scioto Conference. He transferred to Pennsylvania Conference in 1853, to East Pennsylvania in 1873 and returned to Pennsylvania Conference in 1876. August Krause transferred to East German Conference in 1882, William Mittendorf in 1887. August Schmidt was a member of Ohio German Conference.

When East German Conference went out of existence in 1901, by order of General Conference, the Otterbein congregation affiliated with Ohio German Conference, with which it remained until 1918. German services were discontinued during the period of the First World War. Through the mediation of Professor William A. Weber of Bonebrake Theological Seminary, who had supplied the congregation during the summer of 1915, and who was well acquainted with the situation, P. B. Gibble began a five-year pastorate at Old Otterbein in the fall of 1918. With his going to Baltimore, the church became affiliated with East Pennsylvania
Conference. After his term of service ended, the following brethren from the same conference served the congregation: Cawley H. Stine, 1923-31; J. W. Luckens, 1931-33; and Ezra H. Ranck, 1933-34. From that year forward the congregation has looked to Pennsylvania Conference for its pastors.

**Fulton Avenue**

Fulton Avenue, or Baltimore Third Church, was also affiliated with East German Conference from 1871 to 1901. This congregation evidently also wanted German-speaking brethren to serve it. But by what authority it exercised such choice for the years 1871 to 1881 is not evident. In 1881, however, General Conference, in fixing the boundary of East German Conference, legislated that “Otterbein and Third Churches, with any exclusively German missions that may open in the city of Baltimore” shall be a part of said conference.

Strange as it may seem, Carl Schneider, a member of Ohio German Conference, was its pastor, 1871-73, while at the same time the church was under the jurisdiction of East German Conference. Following are the pastors of Fulton Avenue Church appointed by East German Conference: Nehemiah Altman, 1873-75; J. W. Kunkel, 1875-77; Jacob Doerksen, 1877-81; Job Light, 1881-85; Frederick List, 1885-89; F. H. Ruloff, 1889-90; Jacob Doerksen, 1890-91; Jacob P. Smith, 1891-96; and J. M. Walters, 1896-1901.

**Seventh Church**

In 1889 Frederick List was appointed to open a new German mission in Baltimore to be known as Seventh Church. He labored until 1892, and then reported a membership of seventeen. H. D. Duennebier was appointed in 1892, and George Stoll in 1893. There is no record of this mission on conference minutes after 1894.

### b. Ministerial Appointments to Pennsylvania Conference
#### Churches, 1882-85

During the period 1882 to 1885 when Pennsylvania and East Pennsylvania conferences met in joint session, some ministerial members of East Pennsylvania Conference served churches in Pennsylvania Conference. In order that the record of these brethren may be given fully, their names, the churches they served, and the terms of service follow.

c. Churches of Union, Center, Snyder, and Juniata Counties

The second group of churches formerly affiliated with East Pennsylvania, then later with East German Conference, were located in Union, Center, Snyder, and Juniata counties. This was part of Allegheny Conference territory since 1839. Many Pennsylvania Germans had settled in that region, which accounts for the fact that the classes formed there sought the service of ministers who used the German language.

John Stamm preached on Millheim Circuit during the conference year 1848-49. At the close of the year he brought with him to conference a request from the brethren of the circuit that East Pennsylvania Conference appoint a preacher to their circuit. Conference decided to send them a preacher, and at the same time passed a resolution to the effect that the delegates who would be elected to represent the conference at the General Conference of 1849 should make an effort to have the area, including Millheim Circuit and from it extending eastward to the Susquehanna, attached to East Pennsylvania Conference. The General session took action favorable to the request of the delegates. In 1870 the churches of the area went into the organization of East German Conference.

The circuits which were formed and the years of their continuance are as follows: Millheim (1), 1848-66; Union County, 1850-62; West Branch, 1852-66; Susquehanna, 1854-1901; Middleburg (1), 1862-72; Freeburg (1), 1873-74; Middleburg (2), 1874-86; Freeburg (2), 1879-88; Millheim (2), 1881-85; New Berlin, 1886-87; Middleburg (3), 1887-1901; Freeburg (3), 1892-1901.

The ministers appointed to the circuits and their years of service follow.

Freeburg Circuit (1), 1873-74: Amos Graul, 1873-74.
Middleburg Circuit (1), 1862-73: G. W. Hoffman, 1862-64; J. H. Lowery, 1864-65; Jacob Runk, 1865-67; Frederick List, 1867-68; B. M. Shade, 1868-69; and S. V. Mohn, 1869-70; Wm. S. Dissinger, 1870-71; Amos Graul, 1871-72; and J. P. Miller, 1872-73.
Middleburg Circuit (2), 1874-86: William Lamey, 1874-75; Joseph Weirich, 1875-78; P. L. Hains, 1878-79; George Shindler, 1879-80; Uriah Gambler, 1880-81; Christopher Miller, 1881-82; J. W. Boughter, 1882-84; William A. Baier, 1884-85; J. A. Keiper, Wesley Dietrich, 1885-86.


New Berlin Circuit, 1886-87: M. B. Spayd, 1886-87.


West Branch Circuit, 1852-66: Daniel Henninger, 1852-53; Samuel Seiders, 1853-55; Eusebius Hershey, 1855-56; Amos F. Yeager, 1856-58; Wesley Dietrich, 1858-60; Amos F. Yeager, 1860-62; David Moyer, Amos S. Miller, 1862-63; and Amos S. Miller, 1863-66.

Classes which had church buildings are as follows:

In Juniata County: Richfield, Monroe Township; Salem's, Susquehanna Township; and St. Paul's Union, Delaware Township.

In Snyder County: Dreese's, Washington Township; Freeburg, in the village of the same name; Fremont, Perry Township; Independence, Chapman Township; Middleburg, in the town of Middleburg; Paradise, Chapman Township; Port Treverton in the village of the same name; Trinity, at McKees Half Falls; Zion's, Center Township; and Zion’s, Union Township.

In Union County: New Berlin, in the town of New Berlin.

Classes without church houses, scattered throughout three counties were: Swengelsville, West Lewisburg, Troxelville, and Bowersox. This by no means exhausts the list of preaching appointments during the more than half century that our preachers labored in...
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this area. Only those churches and classes are listed above which remained at the close of the period we are covering. There must have been many others which never got into the conference record, as, for example, the private diary of the Rev. L. W. Craumer would indicate. From it we learn that during the first year of his ministry on Millheim Circuit, 1850-51, he served sixteen regular appointments and twenty-one scattered appointments.

East Pennsylvania Conference held two annual sessions in this part of its territory—at Millheim in 1858 and at McKees Half Falls in 1862.

Conference ministers who were natives of this area were: Henry E. Hackman, Peter L. Hains, Peter Swartz, John K. Snyder, and William A. Wilt. The Rev. Wilt’s biography appears in another chapter of this volume. Peter Swartz, converted under Christian Newcomer’s influence, was first licensed in 1811. John K. Snyder began his ministry in Allegheny Conference in 1851. He transferred to East German Conference in 1873.

The Rev. Henry E. Hackman, a product of Millheim Circuit, was born in Miles Township, Center County, September 15, 1824. He was voted annual license in 1851, and was ordained in 1856. He gave twenty-six years of active service on the following charges: Halifax Circuit, Annville Church, Lebanon Circuit, Millheim Circuit, Lykens Circuit, Mt. Joy Circuit, Highspire Circuit, Myerstown Church, and Valley View Circuit.

The Rev. Peter L. Hains was born near McKees Half Falls on October 10, 1847. It is quite a coincidence that he was converted on his birthday, at the age of twenty-one. In order to prepare more fully for his high calling he attended Lebanon Valley College for a time. He served charges in Snyder, Dauphin, Schuylkill, Lebanon, Lehigh, and Northumberland counties.

NOTES

2. See M. L. Montgomery; “History of Berks County,” pp. 1177-79, which give an authentic account of the Weidman family. In it is the statement that Beneville B. Weidman (son of Solomon) was born September 5, 1833, in Brecknock Township, and, when an infant, removed with his parents to Spring Township.
3. From the report of Ezekiel Light, presiding elder, Conference Minutes, 1883, p. 11.