Dr. Emory M. Stevens (1858-1937) was an active itinerant member of the Central Pennsylvania Conference for 45 years – 18 of which were spent as superintendent of the Altoona, Harrisburg, Juniata and Willamsport districts. He was elected by his peers to five consecutive General Conferences from 1908 to 1924. While serving Jersey Shore First 1889-91, he submitted material to the Jersey Shore Herald about many of the past circuit-riders and station preachers that had served there. As was the early custom, a large number of these pastors itinerated only briefly – and the material gathered by Rev. Stevens represents all that is known about some of these soldiers of the cross. Occasionally the weekly submission also included general historical information about Jersey Shore.

Rev. Stevens’ material covers several conferences. Originally all the work in America was considered a single conference. When separate conferences developed in the late 1700’s, the Jersey Shore area was not well-positioned to be served by any one conference. Over the years it has been part of the following conferences: Philadelphia (1796-99), New York (1799-1800), Philadelphia (1800-04), Baltimore (1804-08), Philadelphia (1808-10), Genesee (1810-20), Baltimore (1820-57), East Baltimore (1857-69), Central Pennsylvania (since 1869). Jersey Shore was on Northumberland circuit until 1806 – when that large circuit was divided and the western portion, including Jersey Shore, became Lycoming circuit. As the work grew, the circuits gradually became smaller and smaller until Jersey Shore became a station appointment in 1853. The circuit names prior to that were West Branch (1842-45), and Jersey Shore (1845-53).

The material was gathered and retyped in the 1960’s by Dr. Mary Belle Lontz, still active and serving on the Conference Commission on Archives and History. Items marked “*” appear at the end of the transcription as an addendum, published perhaps in March 1891, but they have been inserted where they would logically appear in the text. In general, no other editing has been done – and while the work represents significant research for 1890, current resources not available to Rev. Stevens could be used to correct, complete and update the text.

Four terms that appear in the commentary are no longer in use.

• Supernumerated – a member of conference temporarily not an active itinerant, most likely for health or financial reasons, but not old enough to be retired.
• Located – no longer an active itinerant, also most likely for health or financial reasons, and no longer a member of conference – although such persons usually continued as local pastors and sometimes even returned to the itinerancy.
• Superannuated – retired.
• Effective – a member of the itinerancy available for appointment.
From the Jersey Shore Herald

November 26, 1890

1792-94: James Campbell was a native of Ireland. He began to preach in 1789 and continued until 1795, when he located in Pemberton, New Jersey. He died there at 80 on 12/30/1840.

December 3, 1890

Larry’s Creek, at an early period in the history of the Northumberland circuit, the exact date of which is forgotten, was the site of a preaching appointment. The services were held in a log school house that stood at the point where Plank Road approached the creek, opposite where Gray’s mill stood prior to the June flood.

*1794-95: Robert Manly was sent from here to Caroline circuit, on the Delmarva peninsula – but most of his labor after leaving Northumberland circuit was beyond the Alleghenies. He worked in Ohio. He re-entered Baltimore Conference in 1805, but traveled there only one year.

1794-95: John Broadhead, a native of Pennsylvania, was born 10/5/1770. After serving here he was appointed to Kent circuit in Delaware in 1795, and to New England in 1796 – where he assisted in planting Methodism in that region and in Canada. He was supernumerated in 1810 and settled at New Market, New Hampshire. He died 4/7/1838.

1795-96: James Ward began to preach in 1792. He later worked in Ohio and located in 1814.

1795-96: Stephen Timmons traveled 9 years and then located.

1796-97: John Seward went from Jersey Shore to Elizabethtown, New Jersey. He located in 1801.

1796-97: Richard Sneath was born in Ireland 12/2/1751 and came to this country in 1774. In 1782 he was converted and joined the Methodist Church. Jersey Shore (i.e., Northumberland circuit) was his first charge, and he continued to preach for 28 years. From here he was appointed to Bethel, New Jersey. He died 10/24/1824.

1797-99: John Lackey came to the work from Delaware and remained 2 years, he and Campbell being the only men thus successively appointed during the first 27 years of the Northumberland circuit. He served in Lancaster in 1799, and there he took location.

1797-98: Daniel Higby had just entered the conference. The next year Strausburg and Chester were combined, and he was appointed junior preacher there. He located in 1807.

1798-99: John Leach came from Queen Anne circuit in Delaware, where he had been preaching 1 year. He was a native of Burlington county, New Jersey. He died of dropsy in October 1802 – at the home of his mother in Gloucester county, New Jersey. He preached but 5 years.

Valentine Cook, presiding elder 1793-96, was born in Monroe county, Virginia. Thomas Ware, presiding elder 1796-99. He was born 12/19/1758 in Greenwich,
New Jersey, lost his father when he was a child, and depended on his mother for care. In 1777 Caleb P. Pedicord sang while riding through the woods to an appointment at Mt. Holly in Dorchester, Maryland. Young Revolutionary soldier Thomas Ware heard him and followed him to his night’s appointment. In 1783 Bishop Asbury sent him to Dover circuit. He was later appointed to the Holsten country, where he endured hardships almost indescribable. While on the Casswell circuit in North Carolina, there came a time when he had no money – his coat was out at the elbows, his boots were useless, and his horse died leaving him on foot several hundred miles from home. In 1812 he was elected Book Agent, held the office for 4 years, and then returned to the pastorate. He was the first to propose a delegated General Conference, and during his later years he became an interesting and valuable contributor to our church history. He died 4/11/1842 at Salem, New York.

William McLenahan was presiding elder in 1799. He came from Ireland at 19, was converted at 25, and began to preach in 1787. He was supernumerated in 1811, superannuated in 1812, and died 4/10/1834.

December 10, 1890

1799-1800: James Moore was from county Tyrone, Ireland, where he joined the Methodist Society in 1786. He emigrated in 1792 and joined Philadelphia Conference in 1794. He had not missed a session of conference for 48 years when, on his way to attend the May 1842 meeting of New Jersey Conference, he was taken sick and died.

1799-1800: Benjamin Bidlack had been a soldier of the Revolution – he was at Boston when Washington took command of the Continental forces and at Yorktown when Cornwallis surrendered. He would attend and take part in the services of early preachers, however drunk he might be. He once thus appeared in the congregation with a bottle of rum sticking out of his pocket. The Dutch itinerant Anthony Turck was the preacher in charge – and seeing Bidlack he at once poured forth a terrible denunciation against drunkenness. People were frightened, fearing Bidlack would resent it – but instead he trembled under the Word, went home with his conscience stung with remorse, repented, was converted, and became a Methodist. He served Jersey Shore again 1818-19 as part of the Lycoming circuit. He died in 1843 at 87.

1799-1800: David Stevens was born in Baltimore county, Maryland, in 1759 and converted in his youth – but he didn’t begin to preach until he was 36. He located in 1816 but afterwards re-entered the work and traveled extensively throughout Baltimore Conference until he died in Shippensburg on Christmas Day 1825

1800-01: Ephraim Chambers came here from the Cayuga and Oneida circuit in New York. He traveled 14 years and located in 1806.

1800-01: Edward Larkins entered Philadelphia Conference in 1799 and located in 1810.

1800-01: Asa Smith was assigned here to his first circuit. He was superannuated in 1821, re-entered the work in 1826, and was superannuated a second time in
1836. He lingered for many years after his effective days were over and was beloved by his associates in the ministry.

1801-02: Johnson Dunham was admitted in 1797 and located in 1806.
1801-02: Gilbert Carpenter was on trial in Philadelphia Conference, but for some reason was never admitted. This was his last year on a circuit.

1802-03: Anning Owen had been a blacksmith who went to Wyoming Valley soon after the Revolution broke out, and he barely escaped the bloody massacre of Butler’s savages. When the battlefield retreat began, he thought that he certainly would be killed and go straight to hell. He began to pray. He determined that should he be shot, he would fall on his face and spend his last breath in calling upon God for mercy. He finally was able to hide under a grapevine on the margin of the river, and there he gave his heart to God. After several hours he escaped, returned to Wyoming, and organized a prayer meeting. In 1795 he entered the regular work. He holds the distinction of having been pastor here twice (again in 1808) and also presiding elder of the district (1805-07) – so that within 7 successive years he had some connection with Jersey Shore for 5 years. He retired in 1813 and died in April 1814, his wife following him to the grave 12 hours later.

1802-03: James Aikens was born in Ireland in 1778, came to America in 1792, was converted somewhere in Pennsylvania and united with the Methodist Church in 1795, married in 1800, and entered the ministry in 1801. He died in Bergen NJ after a painful illness of 23 days caused by a cancerous ulcer.

December 17, 1890

1803-04: Daniel Ryan, a native of Philadelphia, was born 8/22/1774. He professed conversion in 1799 and entered Baltimore Conference in 1800. His ministry was a very short one. Northumberland circuit was his third charge, and he went from here to Huntingdon circuit – on which charge he died 2/3/1805.

1803-04: James Ridgeway was assigned here to his first circuit, and he preached for 20 years. In 1823 his name appears on the supernumerary list of Philadelphia Conference, and the next year it disappears.

1804-05: Thomas Adams traveled 8 years, locating in 1801. He went from Jersey Shore to Lancaster.

1804-05: Gideon Draper entered Philadelphia Conference the previous year, during which he served as junior preacher on Huntingdon circuit. He was presiding elder of the Susquehanna district 1809-12 and of the Genesee district 1812-15. He had a short but prominent career in Genesee Conference, which he had assisted in organizing in 1810. He located in 1817 and apparently never returned to the active itinerant ministry. He re-entered Genesee Conference in 1839 as a supernumerary, and he was superannuated in 1845. He died 12/8/1861.

1805-06: Christopher Fry was born 2/13/1778 in Winchester County, Virginia, and died Tuesday 9/18/1835 near Leesburg, Virginia – at 57, in the 33rd year of his ministry. He was converted 9/3/1796 and admitted on trial to Baltimore Conference in 1802. He became a man of great power and influence in that conference – being a presiding elder for 16 years, the longest term for anyone in
that office. Initially he served two rugged districts – Greenbrier of (West) Virginia 1810-14 and Monongahela in the Redstone region of western Pennsylvania, almost as bad as Greenbrier, 1814-18. During 1818-19 he served in Baltimore city with Beverly Waugh, afterwards bishop, before returning to the position of presiding elder. Eventually he served two more settled districts – Potomac 1819-23 and Baltimore 1828-32. He must have been a rather energetic preacher, for it is reported that while in the Wyoming region he preached at a quarterly meeting “with such [physical] power that he split off all the ornaments from the top of the pulpit – which fell with startling effect on the congregation below.” He was superannuated in 1832, and his death was sad. Caught by the left leg in a threshing machine, his thigh bone was broken and knee was crushed before release could be had. The whole limb was severely injured, and he knew that the end had come. He survived only 3 hours.

1805-06: James Saunders came to this circuit as his first appointment. He was sent from here to Juniata circuit, and he located in 1813.

1806-07: Timothy Lee entered Baltimore Conference in 1805 and was assigned to Tioga Circuit. In 1807 he was sent to Monroe circuit in the Greenbrier country of (West) Virginia, a move of several hundred miles. He transferred to Philadelphia Conference in 1808 and was re-assigned to Jersey Shore and Lycoming circuit in 1810. This was the year Genesee Conference was organized, and he was one of its first members and a member of its first delegation to General Conference. At the expiration of his second appointment here he was sent to Canestio, New York – near Cazenovia, another long move. He located in 1812, when all record of him ceases.

1806-07: Jesse Pennel was a conference classmate of Timothy Lee. He was born 10/27/1783 in Culpepper county, Virginia, and born again 6/4/1804. He came here from Berkley circuit in (West) Virginia, and he went from here to Juniata circuit. He was superannuated in 1811 and died of consumption 2/3/1812.

1807-08: James Charles was in the second year of his ministry. The next year he was sent to Chenango, west of the mountains. He located in 1815.

1807-08: William Wolfe was in his first year in the traveling connection – and it seems to have been his last, as the next year his name disappears.

1809-10: John Rhodes entered Baltimore Conference at Georgetown DC the previous year. He was at once transferred to Philadelphia Conference and appointed to Northumberland circuit as the junior preacher. He was born 9/17/1783 in Northampton county, and his ancestors were Friends associated with William Penn in the settling of the state. At 20 he removed to Carlisle, where he became acquainted with the Methodists. In 1804 or 1805 he was converted and joined the church. In 1810 he was sent to Seneca circuit and became a charter member of Genesee Conference. During the War of 1812 he was stationed in Upper Canada and endured great hardships. He was re-appointed to Lycoming circuit 1817-19, and in 1820 by the change of conference lines he became a member of Baltimore Conference. His health failed in 1842, and he retired to Milton – where he died at 60 on 1/13/1843 of inflammation of the brain.
1809-10: Jacob Barnhart served here his first appointment, after which we have no record.

1810-11: Samuel Ross entered the conference in 1808 and had the reputation of being “college-bred.” His preaching was of the fire and brimstone order. He located in 1812.

1811-12: George Thomas, a brother of “Iron John” Thomas, was born, converted, and began to preach at Larry’s Creek. He was admitted to Baltimore Conference in 1807. In 1810 he was stationed on Ontario circuit, by the lake – and it is almost impossible to imagine the difficulties of a horseback journey from there to his new appointment on Lycoming circuit. The next year he was assigned Northumberland circuit, where he remained for one year before being returned to Lycoming. That was his last regular appointment, and in the spring of 1814 he located to spend the rest of his life at Larry’s Creek. He died in the vicinity of Bellefonte, but the date of his demise is unknown.

1811-12: Abraham Dawson entered Philadelphia Conference in 1807. Stationed on Northumberland circuit the year previous to his appointment here, his next appointment was Tioga circuit. He entered the supernumerary in 1814 and was superannuated in 1815. In 1817 he was again in the effective ministry and stationed in Shamokin. He transferred to Baltimore Conference in 1820 – from which he was expelled in 1822, but the minutes are silent as to the cause.

James Herron was the presiding elder in 1808. He had been in the ministry for 9 years, and he served the district for only one year. He located in 1814.

December 24, 1890

George Harman was presiding elder about this time. He entered Philadelphia Conference in 1807. At the time of the organization of Genesee Conference in 1810, he became one of its most active members – until the organization of Oneida Conference in 1829, when he became a member there. Still later, he was a member of Central New York Conference. At one time he was the traveling companion of Bishop McKendree. During his last year on the Susquehanna district he received the magnificent sum of $98.00 – salary, including expenses. He was superannuated in 1846.

1812-13: John Hazzard was admitted to Genesee Conference in 1811 and was appointed to Cayuga circuit, where he served the first part of the year – until Samuel Ross was removed from Otsego circuit, and Hazzard was sent there to finish out the year. He located in 1816.

1812-13: James S. Lent joined Genesee Conference this year. Supernumerated in 1825 and superannuated in 1826, he appears each year until 1841, when the superannuated list was not published. In 1842 his name is no longer on the list.

1813-14: Israel Cook was sent here for his first charge. His admission entry reads, “Israel Cook, Wyoming circuit, age 25 years, zealous and promises usefulness.” He served this circuit again 1819-20, and in 1822 he transferred to Baltimore Conference. He was superannuated in 1822 and located the following year.
1814-15: Peter Jones was admitted to Genesee Conference 1831. His admission entry reads, “Peter Jones, age 24, converted at 8 years, 2 or 3 years improving, from Herkimer circuit, studious and promising abilities.” He came here from Broome, in New York, and after leaving here was appointed as junior preacher with John Hazzard on Bald Eagle circuit. He was superannuated in 1812. In 1824 Canada Conference was formed, and his name appears on its superannuated list. In 1828 that conference reorganized as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada – of this body he became a member, and our knowledge of him ceases.

1814-15: James Bennett was admitted this year, and he traveled only one year.

Thomas Forester was active during this period. He settled on Long Island, opposite Jersey Shore, about 1785. One of his sons, John Forester, became a prominent person in the affairs of the valley and at one time represented Lycoming county in the Legislature. He early was converted and became a staunch Methodist. He became a local preacher, and in August 1813 at Bald Eagle Chapel, near Curtin Furnace, Bishop McKendree ordained him a deacon. In 1810 he built a school house a few rods below town, to replace the one carried away by the flood. In 1813 he opened a Sunday School there, probably the first one in the county – and on the entire circuit, which was larger than the county. Mr. Forester was the superintendent. Members of that school were John Bailey, John Fisher, Joseph Maggs, Andrew Ferguson, William Turner, and Richard Martin. In 1815 he moved to Black Rock, now part of Buffalo, New York.

*Marmaduke Pearce was presiding elder 1815-19. He was the father of J.J. Pearce, who served Jersey Shore circuit 1851-53 and as Williamsport district presiding elder 1877-81. He had been received by Genesee Conference in 1811. He came to the district from Shamokin circuit and was sent to Wyoming circuit when his term here was completed. He was on Shamokin circuit again in 1820 when the conference lines were changed, and thus became a member of Baltimore Conference. He was presiding elder of Northumberland district again 1825-29, the only man to serve in that capacity a second time. He transferred to Oneida Conference in 1834, where he was supernumerated in 1835 and superannuated in 1837. He died at Montoursville.

January 7, 1891

1815-16: John Thomas entered the ministry in 1807. He returned to Lycoming circuit for a second time 1817-18, and for a third time 1820-21. Father Thomas was converted 8/29/1803 at a meeting held by the younger people for the neighborhood, in a grove on Larry’s Creek just above the burnt woolen mill. Larry’s Creek was also his birthplace. In 1823 he supernumerated and acted as an extra man on the circuit. In 1824 he was again made an effective itinerant and appointed preacher in charge, his fourth time on the circuit. As a man he was dignified, yet pleasant. His sermons were solid, orthodox and attended with divine unction. His people loved him because he was good. In 1828 he was superannuated and so remained until his death at 61 – which occurred 10/17/1876 at his home near Williamsport. His body is in old Washington Street Cemetery.
1815-16: Wyatt Chamberlayne came here from a very large and hard field that was formerly part of Wyoming Conference. He was removed from here to St. Lawrence circuit, in Lower Canada. That was a very laborious field, as the second war with England was just over – the treaty of peace signed only six months before. He returned to New York in 1819, but was back in Canada again in 1821. In 1824 he became a member of Canada Conference, and in 1828 he assisted in organizing the Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada. He was a straight, trim built, tall man of 28 when he entered the conference and the journal said of him, “six years in religion, good gifts and acceptable.”

1816-17: Israel Chamberlayne was a younger brother of Wyatt. Born 9/6/1795 in Otsego county, New York. Converted at 15, he was 18 when he entered Genesee Conference in 1813. The year prior to his coming here he had divided his time between Montreal, Ottawa and St. Lawrence circuits in Canada – while he was only 20 years old. The country was rough, the people no less so, and his trials were numerous. After one year here he was sent back to Canada. He was superannuated in 1822, but in 1828 that was changed to supernumerated. He was made effective again in 1834. In 1836 he transferred to Oneida Conference, was stationed at Auburn, and became editor of the Western Banner. After one year he transferred back to Genesee Conference and was again superannuated – although he was still editing the Western Banner. In 1839 he was made effective again and served as presiding elder of Buffalo district 1839-1843 and Genesee district 1843-47. In 1848 he superannuated permanently owing to extreme nervousness, but he continued using his pen. His last published article was “Saving Faith.” He died 3/20/1875 sitting in his chair in his home in Lyndonville, Orleans county, New York. Distinguished for his intellectual strength, he was five times (1824, ’28, ’32, ’52, ’56) elected from Genesee Conference to attend General Conference. His admission entry in the journal prophetically read, “Newton [now Elmira] circuit, extraordinary abilities, 18 years of age, deeply pious, remarkably good young man.”

1816-17: Renaldo M. Everetts had been admitted to Genesee Conference in 1812. He came here from Northumberland circuit and left here to serve Bald Eagle circuit. His name appears on the superannuated list 1831-33, and again in 1837. He filled important stations in western and northern New York, in Canada, and in Pennsylvania. He was possessed of the choicest virtues and graces, and he had excellent abilities and talents for his work. For many years he labored under great physical disability. He died at 77 on 7/20/1865 – at Leon, Cattaraugus county, New York.

1819-20: Thomas McGee entered Genesee Conference in 1816. He came here from Newton [now Elmira], New York. From here he went to Bald Eagle circuit, both he and that appointment coming into Baltimore Conference at that time. He was again on Lycoming circuit 1824-25, this time moving on to Carlisle circuit. He was a good man, a plain and practical preacher who succeeded in getting people converted. He became ill and died 8/8/1859 on a train to Baltimore from Warrenton, Virginia.
1820-22: Robert Minshall was admitted to Genesee Conference in 1813. The journal reads, “Robert Minshall, Northumberland circuit, age about 25, a very good young man and improved mind, speaks well.” He was superannuated 1817-19. He was the junior preacher in 1820, and appointed as the preacher in charge in 1821. The next year he was sent to Bald Eagle circuit. He died 7/15/1828 in Mercersburg, Franklin county. He was a man of good talents, full of piety and zealous in the Master’s service. He was especially successful in the formation and support of Sunday Schools and tract societies. His daughter Lucy was an accomplished author and the wife of Dr. W. Lee Spottswood, presiding elder of this district 1866-70 and president of Williamsport Dickinson Seminary 1870-74. Lucy’s daughter is the wife of the eminent Rev. Dr. Jesse Bowman Young, formerly of Central Pennsylvania Conference and now of St. Louis Conference.

1821-22: Jacob R. Shepperd was born 4/3/1788 in Halifax, Dauphin county, and converted in 1814. This was his first year on a circuit, and from here he went to Aughwick and Juniata. In 1830 his health failed and he became superannuated. He died 9/4/1846 in Loudon county, Virginia. He was a superior expounder of the Word of Life. In 1840 he visited his old charge and preached at the camp meeting on Pine Creek.

1822-24: Robert Caddon came here from Aughwick, spent 2 years, and then spent 2 years on Northumberland circuit. He was of Irish descent, a good preacher, and at one time a presiding elder. He died 6/26/1859 in Baltimore county, Maryland – at 67, having spent 44 years in ministry.

1822-23: William McDowell was assigned here for his first charge. His next appointment was Allegheny circuit. Described as having feared the Lord from his youth up, he was born in Franklin county 9/22/1795 and died 7/27/1827.

George Lane, in 1819, was the last presiding elder of Genesee Conference to oversee Lycoming circuit, as the General Conference of 1820 transferred the area to Baltimore Conference. He seems to have been received only a year or two before his appointment to that office, but he had been a local preacher of a number of years standing. He was very useful and efficient, and it is probable that he was already an ordained elder at the time of his admission. He was born in Connecticut in 1777 of pious parents, and he was awakened and converted at 14 by the sudden death of his sister. At 15 he joined the Baptist Church, of which he remained a member for several years. He later became acquainted with the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which he considered to be more consistent with the Scriptures than those embraced by the church to which he belonged. Most of his ministerial life was spent as a local preacher, in which field he accomplished much for the cause of Christ. He was at least 40 when he entered the regular work, and he located in 1825 at 48.

Henry Smith served 1821-25 as first presiding elder of the new Northumberland district of Baltimore Conference. For many years he was one of the foremost men of the old Baltimore Conference, and he lived to become one of the few remaining links connecting the preachers of this age of Methodism with those of its earlier days. Years after he was no longer able to preach, his letters and
historical incidents were an inspiration to the church. Born 4/23/1669 in Frederick, Maryland, he was converted under the second sermon preached in his father’s house by Judge Scott. When he was about 20, he joined Methodism and soon began to exhort. In 1793 he was licensed to preach, and in the fall of that year he was sent to Berkley circuit in (West) Virginia. The next year he was received on trial in Baltimore Conference and sent to Clarksburg, west of the Alleghenies, and thence to Kentucky – where he remained until 10/1/1799, when he crossed the Ohio and entered the Northwestern Territory to assist in organizing Methodism in what is now Ohio. In 1801 he returned to Kentucky. In March 1803 he was suffering from bilious fever, ague, dyspepsia and rheumatism. Even though he was becoming quite a cripple, he set out at the request of his bishop on a 500 mile horseback ride to reach his home within the conference. He was superannuated in 1835 and died about 1863. When he was on the district he did not marry for some years afterwards. His reason: “I did not have the heart to subject a wife to the privations, poverty and hardships of those days.”

Jersey Shore during part of this time, since the disbanding of the Sunday School in 1815, seems to have held services in a barn that formerly stood where Mrs. Schelie’s hotel now stands on Broad Street – undoubtedly only in the summer months. This was some time after 1817, for Mr. Bastress who remembers being present at services held there came to the neighborhood in that year. He relates that the barn floor was loose, and it was the custom to take up every alternate plank and place it upon its fellow for a pew – and then hang the feet down the crack made by the removal of the plank. David Craft had built a wagon-maker’s shop west of the canal, a few yards north of Smith Street. The Society purchased this building in 1821 and fitted it up for a “meeting house” – as churches were then called. Humble though this first Methodist home was, yet here the power of God came down and many souls now rejoicing around the Throne of God found peace. The congregation worshiped here until May 1831.

January 14, 1891

1823-24: Nathaniel Mills, the junior preacher, was born 2/23/1766 in New Castle, Delaware. At 15 he became a seeker after righteousness, and two years later he found the pearl of great price. In 1787 he entered the ministry and is described as a “sound, good, practical preacher of the primitive school.” Upon leaving Lycoming circuit he became superannuated, but he only retained this relation for one year. He was supernumerated for one year in 1829, and then he was superannuated again in 1835. He died 2/20/1845 in Carroll county, Maryland – 79 years old, 58 years in the ministry.

1825-26: Francis McCartney was admitted to Baltimore Conference in 1823 and appointed to Huntingdon, where he remained 6 months and then was removed to Bedford. In 1824 he had been on Northumberland circuit. From here he went to Lancaster. By birth he was an Irishman. He was a very successful and earnest workman.
1826-27: **Amos Smith** entered the conference in 1820 and spent 48 years in the ministry. He came here from Huntingdon circuit, and he was sent from here to Bellefonte circuit. He was born 4/30/1795 in Frederick county, Virginia. At 16, while in attendance at a camp meeting, he sought and found pardon for his sins. He was a good, practical preacher, and for some years he was a presiding elder. In preaching he was generally calm and, toward the end of his life, very deliberate. He was over six feet tall. He died 1/20/1868 at his home near McConnellsburg, Fulton county.

1826-28: **John Bowen** entered the conference in 1823. He was born 6/8/1793 in Bedford county, and his parents were of Welsh descent. He was licensed to preach 6/10/1822 by Henry Smith and sent to Bedford circuit as a type of home missionary. The youngest of 12 sons and daughters, he succeeded while on that circuit in leading his father and mother and all his brothers and sisters to Christ. He came here from Clearfield circuit to be the junior preacher, and was returned the following year as the preacher in charge. He died 11/18/1864.

1827-28: **Henry Tarring** was sent here for his first year in the work, and from here he was sent to Shamokin circuit. He was very sweet spirited. He was empathetic in the pulpit and nearly always wept while preaching. The 1854 minutes of Baltimore Conference report him as being dead, but they give no date.

1828-29: **Edward E. Allen** was born 8/15/1804 in Accomac county, Virginia. He was a convert of Valentine Cook. He was admitted on trial in Baltimore Conference in 1827 and assigned as the junior preacher on Bellefonte circuit. From here he was sent to Shamokin circuit. In 1858, 30 years after his first pastorate here, after Jersey Shore had become a station, he was returned for two years as pastor. He died 5/28/1872 at Shrewsbury.

1828-29: **Robert Kemp** was appointed here for his first assignment. From here he was sent to South Branch circuit in Virginia. After this his name does not appear in Baltimore Conference minutes.

1829-31: **William Prettyman** entered Philadelphia Conference in 1814 and transferred to Baltimore Conference in 1820. He came here from Chambersburg circuit, and he was returned for a second year. He was presiding elder of the district 1833-1837. While he was not a strong preacher, his sermons did the soul good. He was present at the reunion of the Baltimore and Central Pennsylvania conferences on Monday 3/10/1873.

1829-30: **Charles Kalbus** had been admitted in 1826. He came here from Northumberland circuit and went from here to Fairfax, Virginia. According to conference minutes he was assigned here again in 1840 – but although appointed, he never came. The next spring he located and engaged in various kinds of business pursuits. He failed at everything until 1857, when he was employed to assist Brother Haughawaut on Newberry circuit. This led to his being re-admitted to the conference in 1858. A few years later he transferred to Cincinnati Conference, where he died.

1830-31: **James H. Brown** had been received the previous year and appointed to Bellefonte circuit. From here he went to Sunbury.
David Steele was presiding elder 1829-33. Admitted to Baltimore Conference in 1820, he came to the district from Baltimore circuit and after leaving the district was sent to East Baltimore circuit. He was an effective preacher and a fine singer. A few years before his death he went into business in Baltimore, where he died about 1852.

Jersey Shore had another Sunday School about this time – in addition to the one that had previously been started by Mr. Forester. It was a union school organized in 1829 by the Methodists and Presbyterians, and it met in the old wagon-maker’s shop. In 1833 it was made a Methodist school exclusively, and it has remained as such ever since. The first superintendent was James Spencer, one of the class leaders of the Methodist congregation, and one of the classes had these members: Robert Turner, Richard Calvert, William Spencer, Charles M. Laporte, Samuel Biss, John F. Turner, Benjamin C. Pfoutz, Richard C. Spencer, Benjamin W. Morrison, Matthew A. Turner, George I. Pfoutz, W. Wilson Morrison, James Morrison, Moses F. McMurray, Jacob S. McMurray, Wesley McMurray, Benjamin Shepherd, Zelim Junod, George W. Bubb, John R. Martin, Andrew Junod. The professions of these men in later life were: ministers – 2, physicians – 4, attorneys – 3, civil engineers – 1, surveyors – 1, merchants – 1, blacksmiths – 1, tailors – 2, cabinet makers – 1.

Matthew Turner was one of the ministers. He entered Baltimore Conference in 1838 and located after several years of faithful service. He accepted a position with the post office department in Washington DC, where he still remains.

Jacob McMurray, until recently a member of Central Pennsylvania Conference, was the other minister. He was born 10/26/1821 at Pine Creek. His father was James McMurray, whose grave is in the old Pine Creek Cemetery with a marble slab bearing the following: “James McMurray, born in Ireland June 11, 1764, converted to God in 1820, united with the M.E.C., the husband of 3 wives, the father of 22 children, 18 living, the grandfather of 82 and great-grandfather of 38, who died in Jersey Shore April 11, 1853, being 54 years old.” His mother, whose maiden name was Snyder, was a woman of strong religious convictions. These she impressed upon her son and always believed he would preach. At 14 he was converted and joined the Methodist Church. In his earlier days he attended Pine Creek Academy, which school was located in the old Presbyterian church that stood on the flat at the west end of the bridge where the public road crosses the creek. Here he became a skilled debater, and this art always remained with him. The 1844 quarterly conference of Jersey Shore licensed him to preach, and he traveled Bloomingdale circuit that year under direction of the presiding elder. In 1845 he entered Baltimore Conference and was appointed to Sunbury. He was twice a presiding elder: Carlisle district 1862-66, Altoona district 1869-73. He was a delegate to General Conference in 1864 and 1872. He was the author of the clause in the Discipline in relation to baptized children, and also the Local Option Law once adopted by this State. Dickinson College conferred the D.D. degree upon him in 1879. In 1884, while stationed at Tyrone, he had a slight congestion of the brain, which was probably the beginning of the end. In 1885 he was
appointed presiding elder of the Juniata district. Friday 11/27/1885 he held a quarterly conference at Lilleyville, near Lewistown. While preaching, he seemed distressed and placed his hand to his head. The last half of the sermon was delivered with great rapidity, and the Communion service was shortened – with no stopping to address the tables. He began to cough violently during the second table and asked the people to sing while he was obliged to go out on account of his coughing. He was heard coughing and then appeared at the door and made a sign as though in great distress. When asked about being removed to a neighbor’s home, he replied, “No.” That was his last word, and in a few minutes he was dead at 64.

Jersey Shore remembers 1830 as the year in which the foundation was dug for the first church building proper in the town. The building stood between the old wagon-maker’s shop and Smith Street. Dedicated in May 1831, it was 35 feet square and seated about 150. People worshiped here until 1846, when they moved to the basement of the present building. The old church was sold to colored people, who tore it down in 1879. About the time of the building of this old church, James McMurray, father of Jacob, built the barn that stands near the suspension bridge on Pine Creek. When completed, it was used to hold the regular quarterly meetings of the circuit.

January 21, 1891
1831-32: James W. Dunahay entered Virginia Conference in 1824. In 1829 he transferred to Baltimore Conference and was stationed on Northumberland circuit for 2 years. From there he came to Lycoming circuit, and then to Carlisle circuit. He located in 1835.
1831-32: William Evans was assigned here his first year in the conference. From here he was sent to Fairfax, Virginia. He afterwards became a man of considerable prominence and influence in Baltimore Conference.
1832-33: D. Shaver entered Baltimore Conference in 1827. He came here from Northumberland circuit and from here was appointed to Cove Street Chapel in Baltimore. He located in 1840.
1832-33: John R. Tallentyre was assigned here his first year in the conference. The next year he was appointed to Sunbury circuit. For some reason this brother remained on trial for 3 years and then was dropped.
1833-34: Samuel Ellis was a native of Yorkshire, England. Converted under the preaching of Wesleyans, he emigrated to America in 1819 and was admitted to Baltimore Conference in 1821. He came here from Bellefonte circuit. The next year he entered the supernumerary, but with a field of work at Asbury, Maryland. In 1835, while still classified as supernumerated, he was returned to Lycoming circuit as assistant preacher. He was superannuated in 1843 but made effective again in 1845 and appointed to St. Mary’s circuit. In July of that year he was taken sick while attending camp meeting, and he died 9/4/1845.
*1833-34: Oliver Ege was born in 1800 at Boiling Springs, Cumberland county, and was converted under Jacob Gruber in 1819. Marmaduke Pearce licensed him
to preach 3/23/1825, and 2 years later he was admitted to Baltimore Conference. He married Susanna Thompson. He was supernumerated in 1860. He died 8/9/1889 in Mechanicsburg and was laid to rest in Danville 3 days later.

**1834-36: James Sanks** entered Baltimore Conference in 1828. He came to this work from Bellefonte circuit, remained here for 2 years, and then was sent to Berwick circuit. When East Baltimore Conference was organized in 1857, he became a member and was made presiding elder of the district 1858-62. He made his home in Jersey Shore during those years, living in the house standing at the rear of Mr. Child’s house – near the corner of Wilson and Cemetery streets. It was during this presiding eldership that the difficulty occurred between Brother Price and the Board of Trustees in regard to the cemetery lot. This nearly killed Brother Sanks. When anything went wrong in the congregation, he was inclined to make the trouble his own. He was afflicted with heart disease, and being unusually grieved over this difficulty he took a very violent attack and it was not supposed all day Sunday that he would live. From here he was sent to York, where he died very suddenly of heart disease 6/4/1862 – at 56, 34 years in the ministry. His widow lived in York until 1890.

**1834-35: Joseph Lee** was the son of Timothy Lee, pastor here in 1806 and 1810. He was born 12/16/1806 in Williamsport, during his father’s first pastorate on this circuit. He was converted in September 1829 at a camp meeting in Clearfield county. Lycoming circuit was his first appointment, and the following year he was assigned to Lewistown circuit. He was superannuated in 1863 and died 3/4/1864 at Glen Hope, Clearfield county.

**1836-38: Thomas Taneyhill** is now the oldest member of our conference, being received in 1828 and appointed then to Greenbrier circuit, (West) Virginia. He came here from Huntingdon circuit and remained 2 years. He returned to this congregation in 1844 on West Branch circuit, and in 1845 on Jersey Shore circuit. It was during his second pastorate here that the present church building was commenced. Father Taneyhill became superannuated in 1858 and now lives in Bryan, Ohio. A letter from him dated 8/12/1890 says, “Dear Brother Stevens: Your letter of the 8th received. My right arm is palsied. I can write you only a few lines. I was born 12/7/1803 in Calvert county, Maryland. The church of 1845 in Jersey Shore was not finished when I left. I have no written records of the circuits I traveled. Brother Tongue preached in the basement at Jersey Shore – he is now in the Southern Church and lives in Charleston, West Virginia. Brother Stratton died in Williamsport in 1840. Yours truly, T. Taneyhill.”

**1836-38: Isaac T. Stratton** was born 9/4/1807 in Centre county and born again 9/1/1829. This was his first charge, and the following year he was assigned to Northumberland circuit. In 1840 he became superannuated because of the inroads of consumption. He died 4/20/1840 at the residence of his father-in-law, John Smith, of Williamsport.

**1838-40: James Ewing** entered Baltimore Conference in 1809, located in 1814, and re-enlisted in 1833. He came here from Shrewsbury circuit, remained 2 years, and went from here to Berwick circuit. He was a good preacher and a fine
singer. The last years of his life he was superannuated and spent them in Juniata county, where he died at 74 on 9/22/1861.

1838-39: George L. Brown had been admitted on trial in Baltimore Conference in 1835. He came here from Augusta, Virginia, and from here he went to Huntingdon circuit. He died a short time afterwards, in Baltimore. During the time he was here he married a Miss Hepburn of Williamsport.

1839-40: George L. Guyer was a native of Logan Branch, Centre county. He was one of 5 brothers who became Methodist preachers, 3 of whom have been on this work. He was converted at 18 and was both licensed to preach and recommended to the annual conference by the Huntingdon quarterly conference, the latter event in 1837. During his first year in the ministry he became much discouraged and had determined to leave the ministry – but he was persuaded to remain by the senior pastor. He came here from Bellefonte circuit and after leaving her was sent to Beaver Meadow. In 1841 he was on Danville circuit, but when Robert Nixen became sick he was transferred by the presiding elder back to Lycoming circuit. When the circuit was divided in 1842 and Jersey Shore was placed on West Branch circuit, Rev. Guyer remained with the Lycoming portion. He was on the supernumerary list in 1850, and again in 1853 and 1854. In 1857 he was appointed to Manor Hill circuit, but in June he was changed by Bishop Waugh to become presiding elder of Cumberland district. He was on Juniata circuit 1858-61. He was supernumerated again in 1863, but in December 1867 he was appointed to serve the remainder of the year as presiding elder of Northumberland district. In 1887, at the expiration of his 50th year in the traveling connection, he became superannuated and now resides in Blair county.

In 1839, at the 100th anniversary of Aldersgate and Wesleyan Methodism, he was appointed by Mr. Ewing to preach the centennial sermon in Williamsport. On Thursday 3/4/1884, 45 years later, at the Central Pennsylvania Conference session in that same city, he was selected to preach the centennial sermon at for the anniversary of the Christmas Conference and American Methodism.

John Miller was presiding elder 1837-1841. He entered Baltimore Conference in 1819, located in 1827, and re-enlisted in 1832. He was a native of Stone Valley, Huntingdon county, and died near Baltimore. During his last days he was supernannuated.

January 28, 1891

1840-41: Robert T. Nixen entered Baltimore Conference in 1835. Prior to coming here he had been Brother Haughawaut’s colleague on Danville circuit. He was returned here for a second year and appointed preacher in charge, but he was very much afflicted with inflammation rheumatism and would not preach. The first quarterly meeting for the charge was held in Jersey Shore. Brother Nixen was present but would not take part. Monday he returned with the presiding elder to Williamsport, where he was taken much worse and made what was purported to be a damaging confession against his character as a Christian minister. A committee was summoned at once, and he was suspended. Two or
three days later he was found wandering through the streets completely insane. He was taken to the asylum, where after some months he recovered – having no knowledge of the statements he had made. He was restored to his place in the conference, there being no doubt of his innocence. Soon after his restoration he was transferred to a southern conference and then entered the Church South. He was noted for his flow of language in preaching.

1840-42: John W. Haughawaut was born in Mifflin county in 1811 and converted at 17. He entered Conference in 1837, a classmate of George Guyer. He came here from Danville circuit, remained 2 years, and went on to Penn’s Valley circuit. He was continually in the work until 1880, when he became a supernumerary. For some years he resided in Williamsport, and he was loved by all the brethren of the conference. Never a great preacher, he was practical and could get people converted. During his 2 years here the circuit membership grew from 706 to 925. The membership at Jersey Shore was 40 when he came, and 80 when he left. He married during his term here and went into housekeeping in Jersey Shore in a house that stood where Todd Williamson now lives.

1842-44: William Hirst entered the traveling connection in 1838. He came here from Milton circuit, remained 2 years, and left for Hagerstown circuit. At the outbreak of the rebellion he was stationed in Washington city and was so affected by the danger that menaced the country that it impaired his health and led to his death in the first or second year of the war.

1842-43: Irwin H. Torrence was born of Scotch-Irish parents in Lancaster county on 2/24/1821. He was converted at 17 in 1838 and united with the Methodist Church. He traveled West Branch circuit under the presiding elder and was recommended to the conference for admission on trial by the quarterly conference of the circuit. He then entered the conference in 1843 and was appointed to Bloomingdale circuit. He was returned to Jersey Shore circuit 1848-49. In 1851 he became secretary of the Pennsylvania Bible Society, which position he held for 34 years until compelled to resign on account of failing health. During this time he was enabled to place the Word of God in thousands of homes. He was also a representative to both the Canadian and British Bible Societies. He was supernumerated in 1885 and soon became totally blind – and thus lingers at his home in Danville.

1843-44: James Guyer, born 1/3/1817, was a younger brother of George. West Branch circuit was his first charge, and he gave indication of making an able preacher – but he was permitted to labor only 3 years before being called home. He married the daughter of Judge Crawford – the wedding occurring in the Crawford home, which at that time was on Pine Creek where George Crist now lives. Rev. Guyer died 8/12/1846, and his grave is in the southwest corner of old Pine Creek Cemetery.

1844-45: S.G. Hare was received in 1843 and appointed to Danville circuit. After serving here, he transferred to Philadelphia Conference and was stationed at Newcastle.
1845-46: J.W. Tongue entered the ministry in 1844 and was stationed on Sunbury circuit. He went to the Church South and still lives in Charleston, West Virginia.

1846-48: Joseph Ross was born 7/4/1816 in McVeytown, Mifflin county, and converted 8/21/1837 at a camp meeting on Lewistown circuit. His first work for Christ was in leading Rev. Dr. Mitchell to the cross. Just 24 hours later, on the next Sabbath, they both were received as probationers by Rev. John Ball, brother-in-law of Brother Thomas Waddle. He entered Baltimore Conference in 1839. He came here from Lycoming circuit, remained two years, and left when assigned to Luzerne circuit. He was a chaplain in the U.S. Army 1862-66, superannuated 1878-80, and reinstated in 1880. He was supernumerated from 1883 until his death Sunday 2/5/1888.

1846-47: Charles McClay was from Concord, Franklin county. During the time he was here he married Miss Lloyd of Williamsport. After leaving here he became agent for Dickinson College. Still later he went to California, where he reached great prominence – serving a number of terms in the State Legislature and founding McClay Theological Seminary at Los Angeles in connection with the University of Southern California. He died 7/19/1890.

*1847-48: Nathan S. Buckingham was born 9/13/1831 in Montgomery county, Virginia. He was admitted on trial to Baltimore Conference in 1843. He came to Jersey Shore circuit from Lexington, Virginia, and was assigned to Berwick when he left. He was presiding elder of Danville district 1874-78. In the great revival at Lewisburg in the winter of 1883-84, he overtaxed himself. He returned to conference, became ill, and died a few weeks later as the church bells were ringing on Sunday morning 4/27/1884.

George Hildt was presiding elder beginning in 1841. He entered Baltimore Conference in 1826. He came to the district from West River circuit and went from the district to Baltimore. He was superannuated for some years before his death, which occurred in Baltimore.

Samuel Bryson was presiding elder beginning in 1845. He was a native of Virginia. He was admitted on trial in Baltimore Conference in 1821, filled many important positions, and was considered most excellent as a preacher. He was presiding elder on the Rockingham district 1834-42. When appointed to our district he was stationed at Whatcoat Church in Baltimore. While presiding elder here he preached in 1847 the dedicatory sermon for the audience room of the church. He died very suddenly in Maryland.

February 4, 1891

1848-49: S.L.M. Consor, a native of Centre county, entered Baltimore Conference in 1840. He lost his health while serving as a chaplain during the late war.

1849-50: John Guyer, oldest of the Guyer brothers, was a fine preacher of the argumentative style. He entered Baltimore Conference in 1834 and serve at one time as presiding elder. He died in 1863 at the home of his brother George in Warrior’s Mark, and he is buried in Lewisburg.
1849-51: Thomas Barnhart was on Jersey Shore circuit 2 years. He was a good preach, and very sociable. He was presiding elder of Huntingdon [Juniata] district 1865-69. He was supernumerated in 1875 and transferred to Des Moines Conference in 1876, where he was again made effective and later died.

1850-51: Gideon H. Day entered Baltimore Conference in 1840. He came here from Bloomsburg and remained until 5/1/1851, when he was appointed agent of Dickinson Seminary – which position he held until 1853. He held a supernumerary relation 1862-64 and again 1868-73. At the conference of 1890 he requested the superannuated relation and now lives at Riverside, almost deaf.

1851-53: Benjamin H. Crever was born 3/16/1817. He entered Dickinson College in 1835 and was converted through Dr. Durbin. He entered Baltimore Conference in 1840. When his health failed in 1846, he became superannuated and went to Milton to engage in teaching. While there he learned of the proposed sale of Williamsport Academy and at once made arrangements to secure it for Methodism – which efforts founded Williamsport Dickinson Seminary in 1848. He might have become its first president, but he preferred Dr. Bowman for that office and so remained as general financial agent. He resigned that position in 1850 and was assigned Warrior’s Mark circuit. From there he came to Jersey Shore circuit, remained 2 years, and then was assigned to Lewistown. He was U.S. Army chaplain 1863-66 and engaged in hospital work at Frederick, Maryland. He was presiding elder of the following districts: Carlisle 1866-68, Northumberland 1868-69, Danville 1869-70. Supernumerated 1872-74, at which time he became president of Worthington Seminary in Minnesota, he returned to Pennsylvania and finally became non-effective in 1886 – his wife dying within a few months. His last appointment was Petersburg circuit, Huntingdon county, and there he built a church in his wife’s memory – putting in it one-third of all his savings during the laborious years of his work. During his pastorate in Jersey Shore diphtheria 3 times entered his home, each time claiming one of his loved ones. Only one child, a daughter, remains. On one of his charges a mother and father were smitten down by fever, leaving a helpless son. To his home Rev. Crever took the boy as his own, and he is now Rev. C.T. Dunning of Central Pennsylvania Conference – husband of the surviving daughter. When no longer able to toil in the vineyard of the home, Dr. Crever died 4/15/1890 at Hanover. His body lies in Washington Street Cemetery.

*1851-53: John J. Pearce was born 2/28/1826 at Wilkes Barre. He was the son of Rev. Marmaduke Pearce. He came to Jersey Shore circuit from Lycoming circuit, remained 2 years, and went from here to Lock Haven circuit. He located 1855-57, being a member of the U.S. Congress. In 1857 he entered Wyoming Conference and served as presiding elder of the following districts: Owego 1859-62, Honesdale 1862-65. He located again in 1865. He was admitted to Philadelphia Conference in 1866 and transferred to Central Pennsylvania Conference in 1874. He was also responsible for Jersey Shore as presiding elder of the Williamsport district 1877-81. He was supernumerated in 1888 and resides in Lock Haven. He is a superior preacher.

77
1853-54: Philip B. Reese was the first station pastor at Jersey Shore. He probably entered Baltimore Conference in 1839. He died in Baltimore.

1854-56: John W. Elliott was born in Baltimore in November 1818 and was born again in a great revival which swept the city in 1839. He entered Baltimore Conference in 1843 and died of typhoid fever in Clearfield Monday 6/19/1857.

1856-58: John Moorhead was born 1/4/1814 near Waynesboro, Franklin county. He traveled under the presiding elder 1837-40 and entered Baltimore Conference that latter year. During his tenure here, a difficulty arose between the pastor and Dr. Gibson. This resulted in a trial on 2/26/1857, in which the latter was convicted by a committee on the charge of slander. The case was appealed on the grounds of mal administration – and before it was finally settled 17 persons, several of them influential members of the congregation, withdrew never to return to the communion of the church. Supernumerated in 1881 and superannuated in 1883, Brother Moorhead spent his last years in Mt. Union, Huntingdon county, where he died 7/15/1890. Rev. James Curns preached the funeral sermon.

John A. Gere was presiding elder beginning in 1849. He was born 4/8/1799 in Chester, Massachusetts, settled in Virginia, and was received into the Methodist Church 6/12/1820 by Charles Tippett at Harper’s Ferry. He received quarterly conference licenses as follows: to exhort, in Green county, New York; to preach, in Newton, Virginia. He entered Baltimore Conference in 1823. He came to the district from Huntingdon circuit and left it for Fayette Street, Baltimore. His positions include Sunday School agent 1855-58, presiding elder of Carlisle district 1858-62, and U.S. Army chaplain 1865-55. Delegate to General Conference in 1840, 1844, 1852 and 1872, he died at Shickshinny 6/3/1874.

Thomas B. Sargent was presiding elder 1853-54. He entered Philadelphia Conference 1825 and transferred to Baltimore Conference 1829. He had been presiding elder of the Potomac district 1843-47. At the close of the war he entered the work of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

John Poisal was presiding elder of the newly-created Bellefonte district 1854-57. He was admitted to Baltimore Conference in 1829 and appointed to Clear Spring circuit. He transferred to New York Conference in 1841 and was stationed at Allen Street, New York City. He returned to Baltimore Conference after a few years. When East Baltimore Conference was formed in 1857, he remained with the mother conference and was assigned Baltimore circuit. He was chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1877.

February 11, 1891

1860-62: S.W. Price was born 12/19/1833 in Mifflin county and converted in Strattonsville, Clarion county, 6/20/1850. Licensed to preach 2/19/1853 at McVeytown, he entered the itinerancy that same year. While pastor here he lived in the house of Mrs. Haas on Main Street. He went from here to Baltimore and died 1/8/1866 while pastor of Price Chapel [now Grace Church], Williamsport.

1862-64: Thomas Sherlock was born 2/28/1826 in Philadelphia and converted at 12. He joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. At 19 he was superintendent of
Salem Sunday School, which was connected with one of the leading churches in Philadelphia. He graduated from Dickinson College in 1852, and in July of that year he was sent by Rev. John A. Gere to supply the junior preacher position on Lock Haven circuit. He entered Baltimore Conference in March 1853. He came to Jersey Shore from Baltimore, and he went from here to Carlisle. In 1884 he was appointed to Lock Haven, and in August 1885 he went to Ocean Grove for his health. Early on the morning of 8/25/1885 he went for a walk out on the beach, where his body was later found by others. The funeral was held Friday 8/27/1885 in Trinity Church, Lock Haven. He is buried at Selinsgrove.

1864-66: R.W. Black, a native of Huntingdon county, resided the first year of his pastorate in James Williamson’s house on Main Street. He also lived in the first brick house on the south side of Allegheny Street west of the canal. Upon realignment at the organization of Central Pennsylvania Conference, he became a member of Baltimore Conference. Now supernumerated, he resides in Baltimore.

1866-67: James T. Wilson was born 10/22/1834 in Salona, Clinton county. He was converted when a boy at a camp meeting at Cedar Run, on Lock Haven circuit, and received into the church by Rev. I.H. Torrence. He joined Baltimore Conference in 1857. He served as chaplain in the U.S. Army from September 1864 to July 1865. From Jersey Shore he went to Mifflinburg. In 1888 he was appointed to Mt. Holly Springs, where he suffered heart failure in September 1889. He died 2/27/1890 in Duncannon, at the home of his son.

1867-70: Benjamin F. Stevens is a native of Fulton county. He spent some time at Cassville Seminary, Huntingdon county and entered Baltimore Conference in March 1855. He came here from Ashland and was sent from here to Northumberland. He is now the pastor of Thirteenth Street Church, Harrisburg.

1870-72: Justus A. Melick was born 3/7/1823 at Light Street, Columbia county. He was converted at 20 and became a student at Genesee Wesleyan Seminary in Lima, New York. He entered Baltimore Conference in 1848 – in a class of 25. He came here from Bloomsburg, where his pastorate had been blessed in 200 conversions, and he went from here to Hollidaysburg. He became supernumerated in 1877, but for a few months in 1882 he supplied Fifth Street, Harrisburg. He died 3/23/1886.

1872-74: George Warren is a native of Adams county. He was converted at 22 and entered Baltimore Conference in 1854 after traveling for some time under the presiding elder. He came to Jersey Shore from Hollidaysburg and went from here to Renova. He is now in his second year of a very successful pastorate on Mifflinburg circuit, Union county.

1874-77: William C. Hesser was born in Mifflinburg, Union county, in 1833 and converted at 17. He entered East Baltimore Conference in 1860. He came to Jersey Shore from Shippensburg and at the end of his term here was assigned to Great Island circuit. Since 1889 he has been stationed at Mechanicsburg.

1877-79: Andrew W. Gibson is a native of Lycoming College. He was converted at 22 and licensed to preach by Pine Street quarterly conference. He traveled under the presiding elder on New Washington circuit in 1850 and entered
Baltimore Conference in 1851. He came here from Watsontown and after leaving here became pastor of Hanover and New Oxford. He became supernumerated in March 1887, his last appointment being Muncy – where he still lives.

1879-82: William A. Stephens is a native of Mooresville, Huntingdon county. He was born in 1835 and converted at 22. He read law in Huntingdon, and at the close of the war he removed to southwest Missouri. He practiced law and engaged in the real estate business until 1870, when he entered St. Louis Conference and was appointed to Carthage, Missouri. In 1877 he transferred to Central Pennsylvania Conference and was appointed to Hughsville circuit, having served it a portion of the previous year as a supply. He came from there to Jersey Shore, and from here he went to Renova. At the expiration of his pastorate there, in March 1885, he became presiding elder of Williamsport district – being the first presiding elder in the conference to complete a full term under the new time limit. In 1888 he was a delegate to General Conference.

Pitman Hawkins was a ministerial son of Jersey Shore during these years. A native of Philadelphia, he came here at the building of the glass works in 1859. In 1860 he was appointed class leader, and one year later he was given a license to preach. He was recommended by quarterly conferences for deacon’s orders on 12/9/1865 and for the traveling connection on 3/31/1866 – when he was sent by the presiding elder to supply Karthaus circuit. He was received into East Baltimore Conference in 1867. In 1869 he was appointed to Sinnemahoning circuit, but his health failed in May and he died at Sinnemahoning 12/15/1869.

Rev. William Turner was a class leader and local pastor in the church during these years. He died at 90 on 12/13/1877, during the first year of the pastorate of A.W. Gibson. He was also the father of three ministerial sons. Rev. M.A. Turner lives in Washington DC. Rev. Henry Turner was for some time a member of Baltimore Conference. Rev. William Turner, at one time a professor in western schools and a foreign missionary, is more recently a presiding elder in Columbia River Conference – from which he was a member of the last General Conference.

Charles B. Tippett was presiding elder beginning in 1857. He was admitted to Baltimore Conference in 1820 and had served previously as presiding elder in the Rockingham district 1831-35 and the Carlisle district 1842-45. Most of the time when he was not serving as presiding elder, he was stationed in Baltimore or Washington. He died 2/25/1867 in Baltimore county, Maryland.

Benjamin B. Hamlin was presiding elder beginning in 1862. He was born 8/28/1823 in Warren county and converted 8/28/1842. He was licensed to preach 2/10/1844 and admitted to Baltimore Conference in March 1848 and assigned to Milton circuit. Previous to becoming presiding elder he had been at Danville, and upon leaving here he was appointed to Mulberry Street, Williamsport. He has also served as presiding elder for the following districts: Juniata 1869-73, Harrisburg 1874-78, Altoona since 1889. He was a delegate to General Conference in 1864, 1872 and 1876 – and in 1872 he received a very complimentary vote for bishop. In 1876 he delivered the National Centennial Sermon before the Central Pennsylvania Conference in Harrisburg. Dr. Hamlin resided in Jersey...
Shore during his eldership, occupying the same house employed by James Sanks during his term of office – these being the only two presiding elders who have resided here during their term of office.

W. Lee Spottswood was presiding elder beginning in 1866. Dr. Spottswood was born 11/3/1822 in Centre county. He entered Baltimore Conference in 1843. He came to the district from Lewisburg. He was president of Williamsport Dickinson Seminary 1870-74. When his health failed in 1876, he was supernumerated in 1877 and superannuated in 1880. In 1888 he removed to Kansas City, Missouri, to make his home with his son-in-law Jesse Bowman Young, D.D.

James Curns was presiding elder beginning in 1870. A native of Clinton county, he was converted at 17. He entered Baltimore Conference in 1852 and was appointed to Berwick. Prior to coming to Williamsport district, he was presiding elder of the Carlisle district 1868-70. He left here to pastor First Church, Altoona 1874-77. Rev. Curns is now closing a five year term as pastor at Huntingdon.

Thomas Mitchell, presiding elder beginning in 1874, was born in Mifflin county. Led to Christ by Joseph Ross 8/22/1837 and received into the church the next Sunday, he entered Baltimore Conference in 1839, was president of Williamsport Dickinson Seminary 1860-1870, and presiding elder for the following districts: Northumberland 1856-60, Harrisburg 1870-74, Williams-port 1874-77, Juniata 1877-81. He was a delegate to General Conference in 1872 and 1876. Supernumerated in 1884 and superannuated in 1890, he now lives in Williamsport.

Ezra H. Yocum was presiding elder beginning in 1881. He was born in 1843 near Catawissa, Columbia county. He was licensed to preach by the Mulberry Street quarterly conference, Williamsport. He was received into Central Pennsylvania Conference at its first session in Danville in 1869, having been recommended from Sunbury. He came to the district from Bloomsburg, and at the expiration of his term was appointed to Berwick. A delegate to the 1884 general Conference, he is now pastor at Grace Church, Harrisburg.

March 4, 1891

1882-85: William C. Robbins is a native of Fulton, Schoharie county, New York. Licensed to preach and recommended to the traveling connection by Port Matilda quarterly conference, he is a conference classmate of E.H. Yocum. He came to Jersey Shore from Milton, and his next appointment was to Renova. From thence he was appointed to Ashland, where he now serves.

1885-86: Martin L. Smith was born in Williamsburg, Blair county, converted at 20 and licensed to preach by Williamsburg quarterly conference. In 1858 he traveled New Washington circuit under the presiding elder and was recommended to the traveling connection by that quarterly conference. He entered East Baltimore Conference in 1859. He came to Jersey Shore from Mifflintown. In 1886 he was appointed to Jeansville and Audenried, but for personal reasons requested a change to McConnellstown. He was the preacher in charge at West Huntingdon and Mill Creek 1887-90, at which time he requested the supernumerary relation. He now resides in Huntingdon.