

The Evangelical Church in Dauphin County

by Paul Diener, 1953

[Editor's note: While attending Lebanon Valley College and serving Charlton Church in 1949, Paul Diener became interested in local church history. This interest produced an excellent history of the Charlton Church. While attending Evangelical School of Theology and still serving Charlton Church in 1953, he assembled material for a history of the Evangelical Church in Dauphin County. The Dieners left as missionaries to the Philippines 1955-1971, and the project was never completed. Forty-five years later, THE CHRONICLE is pleased to present this paper -- compiled with Rev. Diener's permission from his original 1953 notes and photographs as preserved in the conference archives.]

Introduction

Converted about 1790 while a member of the Lutheran Church, Jacob Albright originally found evangelical spiritual fellowship with like-minded Methodist and United Brethren believers. In October 1796 he began preaching informally on his own. From 1796 until 1800 Albright worked largely in Lancaster, Dauphin (then including Lebanon), and Berks counties -- with excursions into adjacent areas to the north and east. By 1800 Albright determined that his followers had increased to such an extent that some form of supervision should be provided for their religious nurture. This informal 1800 conference of Albright and his associates marks the beginning of the Evangelical Association.

Originally there were no official circuits. Albright and his fellow laborers traveled, made appointments and preached wherever God opened doors. Early in his ministry Albright preached in Dauphin County's Fishing Creek Valley. A Mrs. Hoffman, who died in Ohio in 1863 at the age of 78, was converted here "under Albright" in 1801. Here also occurred the earliest known baptism by Albright -- his 1803 baptism of Benjamin Stroh's infant daughter Mary Ann. She later married George Gippel, a member of another Fishing Creek family converted under Albright. In 1831 George and Mary Gippel moved ten miles north to Peter's Mountain and opened their home to Evangelical preaching. George served as class leader there until 1852 when they moved to Grandview IA, organized a class, and helped erect that state's first Evangelical church building. George died in 1856 at the age of 58, while Mary survived until 1891 and the age of 88.

Another of Albright's early county preaching places was at the Michael Becker home, on the Swatara near the village of Hanover. Michael was a member of the prominent Evangelical Becker family of Lebanon County. It was in his brother Samuel Becker's Millbach home that the first annual conference was held in 1807,

and at his brother George Becker's Klinefeltersville home that Albright died in 1808. One of Albright's visits to Michael's home was described in this 1848 letter that appeared in the *Christliche Botschafter*.

Esteemed Brethren in the Lord: I have felt for some time as though I ought to write something for the *Botschafter* concerning God's work of years ago, and since I am old and unable to write much more, I will relate some things of the early days. Forty-three years ago (1805) Father Albright held a big meeting at Michael Becker's, two miles from Hanover, under some apple trees. On this occasion I found Him in whose blood we have purification from sin. On Sunday forenoon Brother Albright preached. After him John Walter spoke so powerfully that a wonderful commotion took place among the audience. There was a blind man present who was so deeply affected that he cried "Fire, fire," believing that the world was burning. Another man, then unconverted, sprang upon his horse and hastened to his people and told them that the world was coming to an end and was even then burning.

In the winter of 1807-8 Albright passed through Linglestown in the midst of a snow storm and asked to spend the night at the home Peter Raidabaugh, a devout Lutheran. When the storm abated, Albright preached in his house from I John 1:9 and caused quite a stir. Many were converted and a class was started, but so great was the opposition that physical attacks were made in attempts to break up meetings and prevent Albright from ever preaching in the area again. When a large meeting was scheduled for Peter Radabaugh's barn a few months later in April 1808, Albright felt compelled to attend to show support for this persecuted group. Although only 48 years old, he had so pushed himself and was in such poor health that he could only sit propped against the wall and was unable to address the gathering. Following the meeting he tied himself to his horse and headed with two associates for his home near Ephrata -- some fifty miles away. He managed to get only as far as Klinefeltersville, where he died at the home of his friend and convert George Becker.

Formal mention of the work in Dauphin County begins with the separation of the Lykens circuit from Schuylkill circuit in 1837 -- this was later divided into the Millersburg, Berrysburg and Williams Valley circuits. In 1844 the Dauphin circuit was formed from parts of the Lebanon and Lancaster circuits. Unfortunately, the journals do not identify the specific appointments or the exact geographic areas involved in these early arrangements. It may be assumed, however, that no Evangelical Association church buildings existed at this time and that all the classes involved met in homes or schools. As the work grew, these two original circuits were divided and re-divided to form the present charge alignments. This paper is organized by major, long-standing circuits intermediate to those of 1837 and 1953.

Dauphin Circuit

In 1806 Albright conducted a revival and formed a class "about eight miles northeast of Harrisburg." The principal members were the families of Jacob Becker

(Baker), a Mr. Stein, and Leonard Crum. The latter became the class leader and the group became known as "Crum's Class." Leonard Crum died in 1869 at the age of 83. The story was told to Rev. E.E. Stauffer, pastor of the Charlton church from 1899 to 1903 by Amos Crum, a grandson of Leonard Crum, that Jacob Albright often preached in his grandfather's home and that it was actually from Leonard Crum's home that Jacob Albright set out when he died in 1808.

Organized in 1806, Crum's was the senior class of the Dauphin Circuit when it was formed in 1844. The other places of preaching on the circuit were Dauphin, Zion (also called Zionsville), Clarks Valley, Fishing Creek and Red School House. Egle's 1883 county history states the class at Fishing Creek was formally organized in 1831, Zion was organized in 1862, and Dauphin was organized prior to 1872 -- when the church building (Trinity) was erected, the services being held in a school house before then. The Fishing Creek Trinity church building was erected in 1898. While there were services conducted over the years with varying degrees of regularity at the Clarks Valley schoolhouse, there was not an organized congregation or church building (Clarks Valley Grace) until after 1923. There was never an organized class or church building at the Red School House appointment.

These churches were a good distance apart, and the pastor had quite a time traveling between his churches. Rev. Henry D. Kriedler, pastor from 1892 to 1895, for example, reports that it took him about 3 hours to make the 12 mile trip from Dauphin to Crum's and that "often as I approached Crum's church, I could see smoke coming out of the chimney; then I knew it was a freshly-made fire."



Crum's Church, erected 1868 -- photograph by Nevin Moyer, 1920

The original Crum church was built during 1868. It was located on what is now Colonial Road (formerly called the Goose Valley Road), approximately one mile north of Shoop's Lutheran Church. The ground was given for the church by Leonard Crum to the Evangelical association, with the understanding that if it is not used for religious and burial purposes it becomes part of the farm from which it was taken.

According to Nevin Moyer, a former historian of Linglestown, the church was still in use by various groups during 1915. But shortly after that time it seems to have been abandoned. The accompanying picture was taken by Nevin Moyer in 1920 and the church was abandoned then, for one can see that the door is nailed shut. In the summer of 1933 a drastic incident occurred -- some persons came one night, tore the church down, and hauled it away. To this day, no one knows where the old church went or who was responsible for its being torn down.

The Dauphin Circuit always had a strong German element. For one year, in 1874, Crum's Church was attached to the Harrisburg German mission. About that time Rev. J.A. Fegar, who served the circuit 1871-74 and preached only in English, was asked by some members to preach in German. He said he would try. After the German sermon they approached him again and said, "Well, Brother Fegar, you might as well as not preach in English all the time." That story was related by Rev. E.E. Stauffer, son-in-law of Rev. Fegar.

The 1891-94 Dubs-Esher split in the Evangelical Association that culminated in the formation of the United Evangelical denomination had a profound effect on the Dauphin Circuit. The membership of each church sided with the United Evangel-



Charlton EUB Church, 1953

licals. But since the courts had ruled the Evangelical Association to be the legal owners of all church property, the dissident congregations had to re-purchase their own buildings.

At Crum's church, however, the situation was more complicated. According to Rev. Kriedler, who was pastor at the time of the split, the vast majority sided with the United Evangelicals and Bishop Dubs, and Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Crum were the only members of the church adhering to the Evangelical Association and Bishop Esher. (E.E. Stauffer, who was pastor 1899-1903, however, remembers the single Esher holdout to be Samuel Crum.) The congregation then had to find a new place to worship. They met in Brown's (also called Pleasant Hill) School House until the Lower Paxton (also called Paxtonia) Evangelical Church was erected in 1898. The name Charlton begins to appear in church records shortly before 1920 -- apparently from Dr. Charles Smith, who was responsible for getting the trolley out from Harrisburg as far as the church and over to Linglestown.

Following the erection of their new building, the Charlton congregation moved from the Dauphin Circuit into a series of associations with suburban churches at Park Street, Penbrook, Rutherford Heights and Steelton before it was decided the author would become its first full-time pastor starting in 1954.

The shift of the Charlton congregation from the rural Dauphin Circuit to association with suburban United Evangelical churches in 1899 also probably shaped its decision in 1922. When the Evangelical Association and the United Evangelical Church re-united at that time to form the Evangelical Church, not all of the United



Zion Evangelical Congregational Church (west of Dauphin), 1953

Evangelical congregations embraced the re-union. The Dauphin Circuit appointments -- then consisting of Dauphin, Zion, Clarks Valley and Fishing Creek -- elected to join with the other non re-uniting United Evangelical churches to form the Evangelical Congregational denomination.

The decision of the Dauphin Circuit not to enter 1922 re-union was clearly the congregations' and not the pastor's. Assigned by the United Evangelicals in 1922, Rev. N.A. Barr remained loyal to the merged body and was re-assigned by the Evangelical Church in 1923. In the meantime the dissidents, who originally tried to continue using the United Evangelical name, assigned Rev. W.W. Wieand to serve Dauphin Circuit. Following is a portion of what Rev. Wieand wrote in the circuit record book concerning the matter:

At the session of the East Pennsylvania Conference of the United Evangelical Church, held at Allentown, Pa, February 22, 1923, the undersigned [Wieand] was assigned to the Dauphin Charge. At the same time, Rev. N.A. Barr was assigned by the Evangelical Church to Dauphin, this to be his second year. The Dauphin Charge had declared to remain out of the merger and stay United Evangelical. The undersigned, however, moved his goods to Dauphin and placed them in the Section House, where he and his wife lived until July 6, 1923, when Rev. N.A. Barr was compelled to hand over the keys of the parsonage to the undersigned.

As Rev. N.A. Barr was unable to secure a house to store his goods, an agreement between the undersigned and Brother Charles Reed, secretary of the Dauphin Charge Trustees, was made to permit the Rev. N.A. Barr to store his household goods in the two front rooms of the parsonage for two months.

At the expiration of the two months, about the 4th or 6th of September, Mr. Barr removed his goods and the undersigned had full possession of the parsonage.

Millersburg Circuit

I am aware of the fact that a founding date and organizational date of the work in Millersburg is a matter of opinion. In this study, I have been unable to find one. If I were to establish a date when the work began in Millersburg, I think that I would select the date 1826, or 19 years after the town was laid out by Daniel Miller. Both W.W. Orwig's and Reuben Yeakel's histories of the Evangelical Association cite a report of the 1826 Annual Conference that in the preceding conference year Bishop Seybert, at that time presiding elder, explored the Mahantango and Lykens valleys and sought out the first preaching places there. In addition, Bishop S.P. Spreng's biography of John Seybert indicates "In 1826 Brother Seybert broke the fallow ground for the work of the Evangelical Association in the valleys of Lykens,

Mahantango, Mahonoy, Powell's, Armstrong and Deep Creek."

It seems very likely that Evangelical circuit riders did preach in Millersburg starting with the exploratory trip of Bishop Seybert in 1826. While the preceding accounts do not mention Millersburg -- or any other specific community -- by name, several other early references do. Frederick Rathven was among the community's earliest Evangelicals. In a November 20, 1896, Rally Day Message, Mr. George W. Kline credited Rathven for organizing the Sunday School there "about the year 1832." That date is of particular interest since it is stated that the first Sunday School of the Evangelical Association was begun in Lebanon in 1832 by preachers Jacob Schnerr and J.P. Leib. But Schnerr was a circuit rider on the Schuylkill Circuit in 1831. Is it possible that he could have established a Sunday School in Millersburg when he served there in 1831, or at least that he could have planted the seed which sprang up in 1832 or subsequent years?

W.W. Orwig's history also notes that in 1834, "Schuylkill Circuit, which extended as far as Millersburg in Dauphin County, was especially revived during this year, particularly the western portion of it." Finally, on September 15, 1838, a deed for the present property was executed at the Dauphin County court house. The deed was negotiated for the Evangelical Association by John Seybert and included an existing log house.

Millersburg was part of the Schuylkill Circuit until the Lykens Circuit was formed in 1837, and a part of that circuit until 1862 when "Millersburg, Weaver's class, Powell's Valley and Fisher's class were taken from Lykens Circuit and organized into a new field called Millersburg Circuit." Millersburg was made a station in 1871. *[Paul Diener also compiled from the conference journals a complete list of the Millersburg pastors and circuit affiliations beginning with the Schuylkill Circuit in 1826. That list is on file in the conference archives -- ed.]* The following churches were at one time associated with this circuit.

Fisher's class: This class met in Fisherville, Armstrong Valley, and apparently was not very strong. It seems to have died out and then been revived in 1886 as the southernmost appointment on the Berrysburg Circuit. In 1891, the class sided with the United Evangelicals and purchased the building that the Methodists had erected there in 1859. In 1903, that building was sold to the United Brethren in Christ and today it is Grace EUB church on the Enders-Powell's Valley charge.

Halifax: The Berrysburg circuit book notes that this appointment was added in 1878 and given to Millersburg in 1879. According to Egle's 1883 county history, "The [Halifax] Evangelical Association Church was once part of the Millersburg Circuit, but preaching here has been abandoned."

Millersburg: The present brick building was erected in 1861 as St. Matthew's Church of the Evangelical Association. October 15, 1894, the congregation re-organized as Grace United Evangelical Church and bought their building back from the

Evangelical Association -- having lost only seven members. In 1922, Millersburg Grace became the only Dauphin County United Evangelical church north of Peters Mountain to participate in the re-union with the Evangelical Association that formed the Evangelical Church.

Powell's Valley: No information has been discovered about the Evangelical work in Powell's Valley. The present Union EUB (formerly United Brethren) property in Wayne township was originally owned for religious purposes by the Methodists in 1842 and sold to the United Brethren in 1890. The name "Union" and the fact the United Brethren had worshiped there for some time before formally purchasing the property suggests that it may have also been an Evangelical appointment.

Weaver's (also designated as Weber's): It is believed that this class was located near Elizabethville and essentially became the Ebenezer Evangelical Church of Elizabethville. They erected St. Peter's Church of the Evangelical Association in 1871, but it burned in 1882. They continued to meet in homes following the fire, but disappear from the records after a congregation was organized in Elizabethville in 1885 and a church erected there the following year. Ebenezer Church was a frame building situated on the southeast corner of Main Street and Buttonwood Avenue, and the congregation merged into Trinity EUB (former United Brethren) in 1947. The building was sold in 1948 to Edward T. Romberger, who presented its memorial window depicting "The Shepherd and the Lost Sheep" to the Trinity congregation. He sold the building to the Immanuel Wesleyan Church and it was dismantled in sections and moved to the north side of PA route 25, about one mile west of Gratz, where it stands today.

Williams Valley (Lykens) Circuit

The Evangelical Association class at Wiconisco was organized in 1831 and is the town's oldest congregation. Its third and present building was erected in 1926, the second church structure having served from 1884 to 1926. Evangelical church buildings in Williamstown and Lykens were first erected in 1869 and 1873 respectively, preaching in both places occurring in school houses prior to those days. The Evangelical Association appointment at Dayton met in a schoolhouse, and there was no church building there until the United Evangelicals erected one following the 1894 split.

The following notations come from the circuit record book housed in Wiconisco. Because Williamstown Seybert became a station appointment in 1881, and has remained essentially so over the years, it is not mentioned in this material. *[Paul Diener also compiled from the conference journals a complete list of the Wiconisco pastors and circuit affiliations beginning with the Schuylkill Circuit in 1831 and of the Williamstown pastors and circuit affiliations beginning with the Lykens Circuit in 1869. Those lists are on file in the conference archives -- ed.]*

Record Book -- authorized to be bought on July 20th, 1877 for Lykens

Circuit. C.K. Fehr presiding elder, J.R. Hensyl pastor in charge.

At Conference in February 1876, Lykens Circuit was taken from Williams Valley Circuit and supplied by George Lawrey, first part of the year, and L.N. Norman, latter part of the year. In 1877 J.R. Hensyl was appointed to the charge. Had first protracted meetings in Dayton November 1877, second in Wiconisco in 1878, third in Lykenstown 1878.

At the 41st Annual Conference February 1880, Lykens and Wiconisco and Dayton were taken from Williamstown Circuit and called Lykens Circuit, A.A. DeLong appointed pastor. He was reappointed in 1881. Protracted meetings in Dayton and Lykens.

In 1882 Nathan A. Barr was appointed. In 1883 Reiner City and Tower City appointments were taken from Tremont Circuit and annexed to Lykens Circuit, N.A. Barr appointed pastor. Successful protracted meeting at both new appointments and at Wiconisco.

In 1884 J.S. Overholser was appointed. A new church was built at Wiconisco, dedicated December 21, 1884, by Bishop Dubs. Protracted meetings at Reiner City, Tower City, Wiconisco, Lykens and Dayton.

In 1885 J.S. Overholser was reappointed. Tower City and Reiner City taken from circuit and name changed from Lykens Circuit to Wiconisco Mission. In 1886 J.S. Overholser was reappointed.

In 1887, 88 and 89 George B. Fisher was appointed to Wiconisco Mission. There were no meetings at Dayton in 1888.

In 1890, 91 and 92 C.A. Smith was appointed. Dayton again was taken up. Held successful protracted meetings. Church at Lykens repaired. At Conference in 1892 Lykens and Dayton were detached from Wiconisco and called Lykens and Dayton Circuit. Wiconisco remained a mission. J.N. Metsger was appointed to fill the expired term of C.A. Smith, who resigned in July 1892.



Williamstown Seybert EUB Church, 1953

In 1893 W.S. Harris was appointed. Wiconisco and Lykens were united in one charge.

In 1894 W.S. Harris was reappointed. Supreme Court Decision. Esherites demanded the keys. D.S. Manning appointed by Evangelical Association. A.N. Metzger appointed assistant on November 1, 1894.

In March 1897 J.K. Fehr was appointed to Wiconisco and Lykens Mission.

In 1898 N. Shannon was appointed.

In 1899 J.L. Mussina was appointed. Had difficulty in Wiconisco.

In 1900, 01 and 02 W.I. Miller was appointed. Revival in Lykens. In 1902 Brother B.L. Romberger assisted Miller.

[No entries for 1903 and 04]

In 1905 Henry E. Hildt was appointed. The circuit consisted of Lykens, Wiconisco and Reiner City. In 1906 Henry E. Hildt was reappointed, and Reiner City was detached. Hildt was reappointed in 1907 and 1908.

No record until 1912, when L.H. Yergey was appointed. The circuit consisted of Wiconisco and Reiner City. Rev. Yergey served until 1921.

In 1921 A.E. Miller was appointed.

In 1925 E.V. Sunanday was appointed. A new church, costing \$50,000 and seating 1300, was built in 1926. Great revival.

W.S. Harris, the pastor sympathetic to the United Evangelicals who was forced to leave in 1894, went on to distinguished service for the new denomination in the Harrisburg area. He probably left when the Evangelical Association regained control of the church building to avoid being accused of splitting the church. The United Evangelicals eventually formed their own congregations of Williamstown Ebenezer, Wiconisco Grace and Dayton St. Paul's. These churches remained outside the 1922 re-union and exist today within the Evangelical Congregational denomination.

Berrysburg Circuit

The Evangelical Association organized a class in Berrysburg in 1846 and erected a building there that same year. The church at Oakdale was erected in 1859. A record book was purchased when this circuit was formed in 1871. The following items have been gleaned from this book.

At the 32nd annual session of the East Pennsylvania Conference which convened in the Immanuel Evangelical Church in Lebanon on February 22 ["the last

Wednesday in February" was the regular conference meeting date], 1871, Berrysburg circuit was formed of the following appointments: Berrysburg, Gratztown, Oakdale, Dunkleberger's class, and Weaver's class. J.K. Knerr was appointed pastor. During the year Weaver's class erected the church edifice known as St. Peter's Church of the Evangelical Association, members were added to the circuit, 20 infants were baptized, and 3 marriages were performed.

The 1872 annual conference convened February 28 in Pine Grove, Schuylkill County. At this session the Deep Creek appointment, better known as Dunkleberger's, was transferred to Mahantango circuit. Rev. J.C. Hornberger was appointed, and he was reappointed in 1873. According to his records, he led the circuit through 41 conversions, many child baptisms, 7 marriages, and 16 funerals.

J.P. Leid was appointed in 1874. J.S. Newhart was appointed in 1875, 76, 77. A Sunday School was organized at Weaver's in 1875, which was opposed by the United Brethren. The class there numbered about 60 in 1875. A union camp meeting was held in 1876 in the grove belonging to Alexander Klinger. In 1877 one was held at Oakdale, in the grove of John Harmon. Both were very successful.

W.S. Black was appointed in 1878 and 1879. Halifax was added to the circuit in 1878, making a total of 7 appointments in all. In 1879 Halifax was removed and annexed to Millersburg. He reported, "I found the work sufficient."

A. Dilibar was appointed 1880, 81, 82. He noted that Gratz was the "best charge on the circuit" and that his third year there found "no particular moving among dry bones." Weaver's Church was consumed by fire on December 3, 1882.

G.D. Sweigert was appointed 1883 and 1884. Great camp meetings were held at Klinger's both years.

G.B. Fisher was appointed in 1885 -- the charge consisting of the Gratz, Oakdale and Berrysburg church congregations and the Weaver's appointment meeting in private homes. On June 13, a class consisting of 8 members was organized at



Oakdale EUB Church, 1953

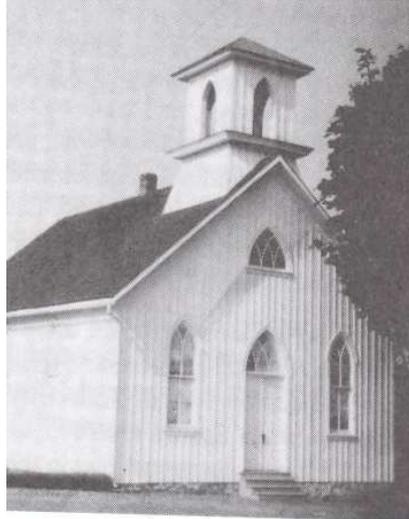
Elizabethville. A camp meeting was held in conjunction with the Millersburg and Wiconisco circuits.

G.B. Fisher was reappointed in 1886. He began to preach at Fisherville and organized a new class there. A quarterly conference was held for the first time. A church building was erected at Elizabethville with "great liberality" from the congregation and from the Rombergers, who served on the building committee. The building was dedicated November 14 by B.J. Smoyer. Fisherville and Elizabethville are now two more solid appointments.

In 1887 the Gratz church was rebuilt. The preacher did not give his name, but according to the conference journal it was H.W. Wingert. There are no further entries until 1890.

S.S. Manning was appointed in 1890 and 1891. In 1891 the conference suffered the Dubs-Esher division, and so did the circuit. Three churches preferred men sent by the minority (Dubs) faction -- these were Gratz, Berrysburg and Fisherville. Manning served Oakdale, Elizabethville and Weaver's -- and also Hegin, an appointment on Mahantango circuit that chose not to follow the minority faction. "Not a very pleasant year."

C.N. Roth was appointed in 1892 to serve the Berrysburg and Uniontown circuit congregations remaining with the majority faction. On account of the difficulties existing in our beloved Zion, these circuits were torn asunder -- part adhering to the faction commonly known as "the Dubs faction." Elizabethville and Oakdale classes had no division and remained entirely with the Evangelical Association. At Uniontown there was trouble with the Dubs faction, and they broke in to take the church.



Uniontown (Pillow) Evangelical Congregational Church, 1953

C.N. Roth was reappointed in 1893 and 1894. In 1893 there was a good camp meeting. In 1894 the dispute at Uniontown was settled by the courts. The trustees invited the misled people to remain in the church, but they left.

C.C. Moyer was appointed to serve Berrysburg and Lykens circuit in 1895. Lykens and Wiconisco had a small membership, while Elizabethville and Oakdale were prospering. During this year we regained legal possession of the Gratz and Berrysburg buildings.

C.C. Moyer was reappointed in 1896, with L.H. Yergey as the junior pastor in charge of Lykens. The Gratz and Berrysburg churches were sold to the United Evangelicals.

C.C. Moyer was reappointed in 1897. Lykens and Wiconisco were made a separate field of labor. Bethel Evangelical Association Church of Millersburg was built at a cost of \$1500, all paid excepting \$150. Oakdale Church sponsored a building project in Loyalton that was dedicated in November as Immanuel Evangelical Association Church of Loyalton. The new church cost \$2150, and all was realized in subscription and cash excepting \$420. Had good revivals.

There were no further entries in the book until the present [H.M. Young in 1953], except for a notation that Pillow was added to the charge in 1932 and discontinued as a congregation in 1934. That former Evangelical Association building now houses the God's Missionary Church congregation. The former United Evangelical congregation remained out of the 1922 re-union and is now Evangelical Congregational.

Harrisburg Area Churches

The first listing of a Harrisburg Mission occurs in 1849, and it seems to have included some surrounding appointments as well as one in the city. The city congregation was formally organized about 1853 and worshiped in the lower story of the Sons of Temperance Hall, corner of Second and South Streets. In 1862 they erected a building, held services in German, and went by the name Salem. In 1874 an English mission was formed by the members who preferred services in that language and was named Trinity. The General Conference of 1875 authorized the formation of a German Conference. When the Atlantic Conference was formed in 1876, Salem was one of the charter congregations. As neither congregation exists today, what happened to Salem and Trinity?

Salem: This was a one-story brick structure erected in 1862 on North Street, near Elder. The other churches in the Atlantic Conference, however, were concentrated in metropolitan areas along the coast -- New York City, northern New Jersey, Philadelphia and Baltimore. And so Salem returned to the East Pennsylvania Conference, creating two small mission congregations in the same area. Breyfogel's 1888 conference history reports of the 1884 annual conference: "The church affairs at Harrisburg were referred to a committee, consisting of the presiding elder of the district, the preacher in charge of the Harrisburg Mission, C.K. Fehr, and one member of each of the congregations at Harrisburg. The trustees of both churches were authorized, if so decided by this committee, to sell either or both church properties and to apply the proceeds of such sale to the erection of a new church."

Trinity: This was a frame structure erected in 1874 at the corner of Broad and Fulton. Continuing the proposal of the previous year, the 1885 annual conference created a building committee for the two congregations (Salem and Trinity) in Harrisburg and authorized them to proceed with certain restrictions. The cornerstone for the new Trinity Church (also called North Street) was laid on July 25, 1886, and a building was erected at North and Capital Streets.

Harris Street: When the North Street congregation sided with the United Evangelicals in 1894, however, they lost their new building -- which the Evangelical Association sold to the Harrisburg Consistory for \$10,000. They met for a while in the Harrisburg YMCA until their building on Harris and Susquehanna Streets was completed on November 25, 1895. This was replaced by the present structure of the Harris Street EUB Church in 1911.

Steelton Grace (current EC): When the Evangelical Association class in Steelton sided with the United Evangelicals in 1894, they lost their building and erected the current structure on Lincoln Street. Steelton Grace and Rutherford Heights Trinity were the only suburban Harrisburg congregations opting to remain out of the 1922 re-union and join the Evangelical Congregational denomination.

Park Street: The Harris Street United Evangelical Church opened a mission on Allison's Hill at the corner of 16th and Park Streets in 1895 and dedicated a new church edifice there the last Sunday of that year, but the work struggled under great

debt. In 1903 W.S. Harris was appointed and the debt was liquidated, a parsonage lot was bought and paid for, and a fund was started for a new building. In 1906 the old building was torn down and the present sanctuary and Sunday School rooms were erected, being ready for occupancy in 1907.

Penbrook: In 1905 Park Street pastor W.S. Harris observed that quite a number of United Evangelicals were living in Penbrook and the 1906 annual conference granted him permission to collect money for a new church there. A lot was purchased at the corner of 25th and Canby, the cornerstone was laid in 1906, and the present edifice was dedicated by Bishop Dubs in 1907.

Rutherford Heights Trinity: The cornerstone of this building, located at 67th and Huntingdon Streets, is dated 1909. This congregation was planted by the Harris Street Church, worshiped in homes for a short time before erecting a building, and is currently Evangelical Congregational.

Sixth Street: This work began January 20, 1918, as "Faith Mission United Evangelical Sunday School" in the auditorium of the Steele School. Formal organization of a congregation took place on April 20 when 33 and 4 persons transferred memberships from Harris Street and Park Street respectively. Lots were purchased at the corner of Sixth and Radnor Street in 1918 and the present building was completed in 1920. All the Harrisburg area churches were United Evangelical and not Evangelical Association. This was the only church in the city that remained out of the 1922 re-merger to become Evangelical Congregational.

Steelton Grace (current EUB): Even though the majority of the Steelton United Evangelical congregation chose to join the Evangelical Congregational denomination instead of participating in the 1922 re-union, enough pro-union members remained for W.S. Harris to form Grace Evangelical Church. Worship services were held on the second floor of the Hygienic Hose Company fire station until the current building at 219 Locust Street was dedicated in 1924.

Lawnton Grace: Located at 45th and Franklin Streets, this congregation was begun as an Evangelical Congregational work after 1922.

Other Churches

Shellsville: According to both Egle's 1883 and Kelker's 1907 county histories, the community of Shellsville (often called Earlysville) on Jonestown Road in East Hanover township had an Evangelical church building. The latter history is known to have reproduced much of the former, however, and apparently did so here without verification. It was served by circuits extending from Lebanon county and appears to have been a belated victim of the 1894 split. The 1900 conference journal states, Whereas the members, two in number, of Shellsville church have offered to transfer their property to the Conference, and that they will acquiesce in such disposition as this Conference will authorize; therefore,

Resolved, That the Litigation Committee be authorized to sell said property, and apply the proceeds to the liquidation of the debt on our unfortunate Annville church, and the residue flow into the Church Building Society.

Riegel's: Egle's 1883 history states that

The Evangelical Association Church at Riegel's, a handsome frame edifice, is in the extreme eastern part of Upper Paxtang township, and only a few yards from the Mifflin township line. It is supplied with preaching by the pastor of the Berrysburg church.

Apparently this is not the Riegel's United Brethren Church located just across the line in Mifflin township, for both the original 1844 and the existing 1909 buildings were constructed of brick. The exact location, history and fate of this structure remain unknown.

Summary: Documented Evangelical buildings in Dauphin County, 1953.

EA = Evangelical Association (prior to 1894 and/or 1894-1922)

UE = United Evangelical Church (1894-1922)

EV = Evangelical Church (1922-1946)

EC = Evangelical Congregational Church (after 1922)

EUB = Evangelical United Brethren (after 1946)

Dauphin Circuit

Crum's EA →Charlton UE→EV→EUB

Dauphin Trinity EA→UE→EC

Zion EA→UE→EC

Clarks Valley EA→UE→EC

Millersburg Circuit

Millersburg St. Matthew's EA→Grace UE→EV→EUB

Bethel EA→x

Fisherville EA→UE→x

Halifax EA→x

Williams Valley Circuit

Wiconisco Calvary EA→EV→EUB

Grace UE→EC

Williamstown Seybert EA→EV→EUB

Ebenezer UE→EC

Dayton EA→St. Paul's UE→EC

Lykens EA→EV→EUB

Berrysburg Circuit

Berrysburg EA→UE→EC

Gratz EA→UE→EC

Riegel's EA→x
Oakdale EA→EV→EUB
Loyalton EA→EV→EUB
Weaver's EA→Elizabethville EA→EV→EUB→x
Uniontown (Pillow) EA→EV→x
UE→EC

Harrisburg Area

Steelton EA→Grace UE→EC
Grace EV→EUB
Salem EA & Trinity EA→North Street EA→Harris Street UE→EV→EUB
Park Street UE→EV→EUB
Penbrook UE→EV→EUB
Rutherford Heights UE→EC
Sixth Street UE→EC
Lawnton EC

Other

Shellsville EA→x