

Chillisquaque



THE HISTORY OF THE CHILLISQUAQUE CHURCH

BY
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At the Parting of the Ways

Chillisquaque was always the church at the crossroads. To mark the original site a boulder was brought from the Montour Ridge and a bronze tablet bearing this inscription: "Site 1774. Burned by the Indians 1779. Pastors 1791-1891: Bryson, Barber, Park, Finney, George, Waite," was dedicated Sunday afternoon, July the Fourth, 1926. The Sesqui-Centennial of the Nation's birth made the ceremonies impressive. The sermon was preached by the Rev. James Wollaston Kirk, D. D. The unveiling of the tablet was by four girls who recently united with the church: Grace Evelyn Koch, great-grandniece of John Bryson; Louise Christine Murray, great-great-granddaughter of James Murray, one of the three brothers who took all this adjacent land; of the Mooresburg Church, Mildred Elizabeth Auten, great-great-granddaughter of John Auten, who furnished logs for the second building, and Anna Elizabeth Sington, whose great-great-grandmother Hinds was a Finney.

The second pastor, Daniel M. Barber, was the uncle of Rev. Phineas Marr, of Lewisburg, who supplied the charge about two years after Mr. Park. Mrs. Annie Haine, now visiting here in her 89th year, remembers the second building and Mr. Barber's pastorate.

The old mail route, from Northumberland to Jerseytown, passed the Strawbridge home diagonally to the cross roads where William Dale kept the Inn and where the horses were changed, thence across the hill to the Sheddan place and the Auten Mill, and on to Washingtonville and Jerseytown.

Chillisquaque has its Assemblies; others theirs; but by and by we will all gather home from the long trail and rest in a new adventure.

The bronze tablet measures 14"x20". It is a fine piece of work from Detroit, Mich. The boulder is a big monolith standing nearly as high as a man and a yard in breadth. It is rugged and faces the main entrance. The workmen dug through the old south foundation in putting in the concrete base. The stone is harder than any granite. It stands near the position where John Bryson preached from the high pulpit shaped like a wine glass. Just near by at the edge of the burying ground is the grave of Ellen Murray who left the first money for the upkeep of the ground. She rests by the side of her parents, Meeting House John, as he was called, a remote cousin of the Murray brothers. His home was the Clewell land, hard by the Sanctuary. Ellen retained part of this land at the crossroads opposite the church. Her mother was Margaret Murray, the cousin

of her husband. See the account of this family of those who had come from Scotland and lived on the Swatara, in Upper Paxtang. It is given in Part Two of this History, which tells of the Pioneers.

Below the tablet in the boulder has been placed a brass disk furnished by the State Geological Survey to record the elevation above Sea Level. It had been in the step of the Mexico Church of the Methodists up the valley, recently taken down and by government authority. Mr. Peter Auten, whose daughter took part in the unveiling, secured this spot for its preservation. There is a fine expression of church unity in this. Christ is the great Rock and the One Foundation. It is a Symbol of our Catholic Faith, to guide the people who worship in many ways, to the one spiritual conception of which Christ spoke to the woman at the well. Let us all come up to this one standard elevation of service.

The expense involved in this tablet was about \$100 which was met by the contributions for the occasion. The day turned out rather showery but there was a maximum attendance of about seventy automobiles and perhaps nearly 400 people. Dr. Kirk gave a splendid sermon on the progress of the Gospel from Pentecost, via Antioch, the Isle of Iona, the Lower Counties of the Colony and the Eastern Maryland Shore, to Chillisquaque. This is a name to conjure with. The Shawnese Indians had the name, Chillicote, a generic term for "town" of which there are several, as one in Ohio, and in our instance corrupted to Chillisquaque. The Crossroads became a new point of departure at that crisis hour in our History.

The prayer of consecration was offered by Dr. Kirk. His service was wonderful indeed. His presence left a benediction upon our efforts. His sympathy with this particular work was so great.





Rev. William Gardner Finney

Part I—Introduction

BEFORE 1769

The History of the Chillisquaque Church has never been written. It is located at Pottsgrove, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, and belongs to the Northumberland Presbytery of the Synod of Pennsylvania, in the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

The same year that Daniel Boone went to Kentucky, 1769, the first settlers located their claims in the Chillisquaque Valley. They were mainly Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. The original site, one mile north of Pottsgrove, nearly two to drive, remains as church property. The field includes the Mooresburg Church which, originally, was one with this church and grew out of it. The pioneers brought the church with them, being a select body of men, capable and influential. There are older churches in lower counties from which they came. In all probability those principal men of affairs included Scotch elders. This country was a wilderness. The thought of settlers was for home and church. Three churches started almost at once—one in the Buffalo Valley, west of the river; one at the mouth of the Warrior Run, and this old mother church along the Chillisquaque. Then there were no towns and no other churches. In the Colonial era, the Chillisquaque Church was strong, relatively, occupying a key position between the rivers, with a wide scope up country to the Muncy Hills. The Warrior Run Church, then, it is said, was Covenanter, and stood at the lower edge of Watsontown. When twenty years later, in 1789, it joined with Chillisquaque in calling Bryson, and many of the Covenanters united with them, old Warrior Run secured its present site, four miles from the river, about the same distance as the other two churches. That was the real beginning of its strength, and a wonderful record it made for at least a half century.

The name Chillisquaque comes from the Indians whose large village stood at its mouth. The creek of that name rises in the Muncy Hills and flows southwest into the West Branch, being its principal tributary from the east below the Muncy Hills. The Buffalo Valley and the Chillisquaque are really one, and from the bench of the Montour Ridge, just south of us, there is a grand view westward into the Seven Mountains and northward across Muncy Valley to the Alleghanies. This great West Branch Valley is one of Pennsylvania's best. Its early white inhabitants were a remarkable body. The story of the Forks of the Susque-

hanna is a long and interesting one. Passing the mountains south of us, our fathers came to this rich valley as farmers. These men felled the forests and tilled the soil and helped build a nation.

In the days of old, before the white man came, Shamauking, or Shamokin, was a large Indian village where Sunbury now stands, and a very important point. It was there the Kings met. The Five Nations of New York had subdued the Tuscaroras and Shikellimy was sent here to represent the Six Nations. This became his headquarters where he met the chiefs of the Southern Tribes. From this center he exerted a wide influence, commanding the strongest of the Indian forces. During the French and Indian War they were loyal to the white men and were invaluable in their service. This was a determining factor in making America English and Protestant.

The Shawnese, driven from the South, were admitted by the Penns into the Cumberland Valley in 1700 and held their Council Fires at Carlisle. They came as far North as the Chillisquaue, and when the German Indian agent, Conrad Wesier, came from Womelsdorf in 1737, the first white man to come save French Traders and Scouts, he crossed the Chillisquaue (Zilly Squachne) in the canoe of an old Shawnese. At that time Shikellimy had his village just below West Milton.

The Moravian Missionaries came to work among the Indians in 1742. In 1745 David Brainerd visited Shikellimy. Until 1749 the Kittatinny Range was the limit of the white man's territory. The Moravian Mission was discontinued after Braddock's defeat.

The Quakers and German Pietists occupied the rich valleys in the southeastern part, and the Scotch-Irish, coming first in large numbers about 1719, were forced to the disputed territory along the Maryland border, and also to the Susquehanna and beyond, some of them entering the Indian land above the North Mountain. After 1730 they poured into the Cumberland Valley. During this period all west of Chester County was called Lancaster. In 1750 Cumberland County was formed.

When some of the daring frontiersmen crossed the Kittatinny Range into lands not yet purchased from the Indians, it aggravated the Indians, who had already suffered injustice at the hands of the Penns in various transactions. William Penn's sons were not Quakers, nor so conscientious as their father. Great Britain had war with France involving the colonists. The French engaged the Indians, and so resulted the terrors of the Indian wars. Up until this

time the Quakers dominated what was coming to be the strongest colony, but thereupon they yielded to the Scotch-Irish, who were acquainted with the smell of powder. In the history of human freedom the coming of these fathers of ours to the Highlands of Pennsylvania, costing them so heavily in blood and treasure, proved the salvation of the cause dear to the patriot's heart. They were a wall of fire to the peace-loving settlers down the country. The peace which William Penn effected with the Indians had lasted seventy-five years. It now ended. After the death of Shikellimy, 1749, Weiser, the capable Indian interpreter, visited Shamokin and found the Indians uneasy about white people in Juniata and Sherman's Valley, their great hunting ground, what is now Perry County. About thirty families had gone in on Indian ground. The German Lutherans and German Reformeds came about 1734 and united with the Scotch-Irish in fighting for liberty. As early as 1747 it became evident that a uniting of the colonies was desirable for defense against the French. The Penns being absent, placed the administration of the affairs of the colony in the hands of a Council whose sessions were usually held at Philadelphia, and their records are the Colonial Archives of Pennsylvania.

Chambers' Mill at Paxtang was a frontier meeting place for the scouts and agents of the government treating with the Indians. Conrad Weiser came to America with his father, lived among the Indians awhile and learned their language and customs, and was employed by the Proprietary Government as an Indian agent and interpreter. Andrew Montour, the son of Lady Montour, probably a French half-breed, who lived at the mouth of the Loyalsock, did great service, also, as a friend of the whites. As early as 1701 the Provincial Council had passed resolutions about regulating the trade with the Indians, as some French were intruding; also had recommended that care should be taken to have the Indians duly instructed in the fundamentals of Christianity. These troubles began early and grew as the colonists spread to the interior. French priests and traders were active on the frontiers. All these matters tended to disturb the peaceful relations with the Indians.

New Castle, Delaware, was an important seaport. The three counties of Delaware belonged to the jurisdiction of the Penns and were called the lower counties. In July, 1747, Dr. John Finney, a port official, notified the Proprietary Government of the appearance of French privateers off the coast. "Being apprehensive of danger, we sum-

moned the inhabitants who, with great unanimity, appeared under arms."

Due to the troubles brewing, associators were commissioned. In Chester County, November 9, 1747, were William McKnight, Esq., Captain; James M. Makin, Ensign; February 12, William Reed, Captain; Thomas Clark, Ensign; at New Castle, David Finney, Captain (son of Dr. John Finney). The records of the Council note the fact that "it was necessary to give the back inhabitants of Lancaster County the earliest possible notice that they might be on their guard." Instructions were included to get ready with arms and ammunition to repel enemy in case that they should make attempts on the west side of the Susquehanna.

On May 25, 1750, it was noted that "settlers over the hills in Cumberland County, who had presumed to stay notwithstanding a proclamation prohibiting them under penalty," were a subject of conference on the part of Weiser, Croghan and Montour, when Montour had just returned from the Alleghanies with a report. Capt. Croghan was an Indian agent who had large influence with Indians. Again, July 31, 1750, Council proceedings related to "persons settled in the unpurchased parts of Pennsylvania." Messrs. Benjamin Chambers and George Croghan reported later that they had been at Sherman's Creek, or Little Juniata, six miles over the Blue Mountains, and had found a number of settlers, among them James Murray. Some had entered these and neighboring valleys as early as 1747. Several of their cabins were burned to pacify the Indians, and the men withdrew agreeable to orders.

In November, 1755, intelligence came of a proposed attack by the Indians upon Shamokin with intent of building a fort there. Braddock's defeat encouraged the Indians. From 1755 until 1780 the whole wilderness from Juniata to Shamokin was filled with parties of Indians, murdering, scalping, burning. The Indians at Shamokin abandoned their village and went up the river. In April, 1756, the Provincial Government erected Fort Augusta. It was garrisoned during the French and Indian War. On July 18 a Commissary General visited this place, and sent in his report to Governor Morris from Carlisle, stating that the troops had gone to Sherman's Valley to protect the farmers at their harvest.

Part II—Colonial Era

1769-1789

Peace was made in 1763, but the Pontiac Wars continued three years. In 1765 the Scotch-Irish petitioned for "land in which to embody themselves in a compact settlement in some good land at some distance from the settled parts, where by industry they might live and become a barrier to the colony." The treaty of 1768 added much land above the Forks of the Susquehanna, and as the men who served in the wars wanted pay in land, the officers met at Fort Augusta in February, 1769, and determined to open two tracts, the Chillisquaque and the Buffalo Valleys. The land office was opened April 3, 1769, when numerous claims were entered. Some of those who came at this time from Sherman's Valley took up land, but did not come to stay until 1771. Northumberland County was erected in 1772. By 1773 it is claimed that all three of the churches—Buffalo, Warrior Run and Chillisquaque—were in existence. The birth of the church was simultaneous with the beginning of the great War of Independence, being constituted principally with veterans of the French and Indian War, numbers of whom received large tracts of land as pay, gave it peculiar strength and character. These and others who came later figured in the Revolution and suffered in one of its battles at a critical time, when the Indians ravaged this land, from 1778 to 1780.

By 1774 Chillisquaque Church appeared upon the roll of the Donegal Presbytery. On the 22nd of September, that same year, they secured twelve acres of land. Part of this tract, including the churchyard and the burying grounds, remains in possession of the church. In the letters patent, a precious document, it is described as having been surveyed in pursuance of a warrant granted Robert Moody, William McKnight and William Murray. After the last two had died, the congregation, on July 2, 1805, elected Joseph Wilson and Hugh Reznor in their stead. This parchment is signed and sealed by the Governor of the Commonwealth, Thomas McKean. In all probability, the application for this purchase from the Penns was made early. In an old deed to William Fisher, it is stated that the application was made April 3, 1769; the paper is dated September 20, 1774.

The early official records of the church have not been preserved. On the day the land office at Fort Augusta was opened, April 3, 1769, 2782 applications were entered, and by August 31, 4000. The opened land of "the new purchase" extended from the Forks of the Susquehanna, with all land drained by both branches, and on the West Branch as far up as the Lycoming Creek, above which, on the north side, the land yet belonged to the Indians. The old trails followed the rivers, and the Indian villages were at the mouths of the creeks. Col. Turbot Francis and officers of the First and Second Battalions, Pennsylvania Regiments, took title to 24,000 acres of West Branch land between Northumberland and Watsontown, to be sold within two years in sections of not over 300 acres.

SKETCHES OF PIONEERS

Samuel Blair is said to have served, while quite young, a short term in the Revolution, and, while a Covenanter, perhaps, as the Blair family is reported to have been, he was a supporter at Chillisquaque, and his widow was a member many years. In the earlier times all of the Scotch Reformation were called Covenanters, having taken a solemn oath of allegiance to the pure Gospel. At one time 60,000 assembled at Edinburgh and in Greyfriar's Churchyard, signed the covenant, many of them opening their veins and signing in their own blood. After the Restoration, in 1660, they came generally to be called Presbyterians; while, due to the revolt following upon the breaking of his promises by Charles the Second, one of the principal leaders in the Revolution led off a party of sympathizers, who became known as Reformed Presbyterians, or Covenanters. These Covenanters were not so numerous, but made up for that by exceptional devotion to the peculiar tenets of their faith.

John Clark came in 1786 to what is now called Liberty Township, Montour county, but was, at first, called Mahoning Township, in Northumberland County, which then embraced a wide range, for out of Mother Northumberland about thirty counties have in part at least been formed. Clark is said to have served in the Revolution. His son, John Clark, it is said, was in the War of 1812.

Simon Cole was Captain of the Sixth Company, Third Battalion, of the Northumberland County troops, March 13,

1776; Colonel, William Plunkett; Lieutenant Colonel, James Murray, Esq.

Robert Curry, who married Jane McWilliams, sister of Hugh, before leaving Ireland, was First Lieutenant, in 1776, in the Seventh Company, First Battalion, of Northumberland County, and met a tragic death in 1780 at the hands of the Indians. In the Great Runaway the previous year they had fled on rafts down the river to Fort Augusta, but now a fort had been erected midway between Danville and Northumberland, and here Lieut. Curry was doing military service and had his family with him for safety. He and his wife, on horseback, were going over to their land on the north side of mountain, when at a spring on the way up the southern slope, they were attacked by the Indians and their horses were shot from under them. Mrs. Curry was seized by an Indian. She saw her husband tomahawked, scalped and killed, the blow of the weapon crushing his skull. She was taken captive, but somewhere in the Vincent Hollow they bivouacked. While it rained, she escaped from her captors, as they slept, and making her way back to the fort, she obtained assistance and brought back her husband's body, which was then buried with the honors of war in the original burying ground at Danville. She had been bound with bark ropes to her captors, but she had a pair of scissors with her and used them to obtain release. The falling rain assisted her, and she hid awhile in a hollow log, where the aroused savages came near finding her, as they paused nearby and called her, "Much pretty squaw, come." Robert Curry was born in Ireland, June 9, 1741. His father was a well-to-do linen manufacturer. Robert Curry came to Valley Township in 1772. His marriage occurred at Belfast. They had four children. James, the first-born, was born in Ireland. Jane was born February 8, 1773, the first child born in the Forks of the Susquehanna. She married Hugh McWilliams' son Robert.

The Great Runaway was in July, 1778, and that summer Fort Meade was erected, garrisoned by Capt. Gaskins.

Robert Curry, Hugh McWilliams, John Simpson and John Clark, in 1775, bought the land where the Grove Church and the Memorial Park, Danville, are now located, and it was used for burial purposes, Simpson, it is said, being the first to be buried there and Robert Curry the second.

Philip Davis came to Limestone Valley from Lancaster County prior to 1772. His name is found among the list of taxes for Lancaster County in 1771, as carpenter and surveyor. He married Rebecca Mitchetree, who is buried beside him in the Chillisquaque graveyard. He probably saw

service in the French and Indian War. He built the first log church at Chillisquaque, a building which was burned by the Indians and later was rebuilt on the same spot, a little south of the position of the later brick. He was Captain of the 11th Company, in the Second Battalion, Northumberland County, January 24, 1776. The stone house, which he built for his home on the Limestone Road, five miles from Milton, in 1811, was occupied later by his son.

James Durham and his wife, Margaret, are buried at Warrior Run. She was long a member at Chillisquaque, but having figured in the event of the taking of Fort Freedom, her further history will be narrated later.

Robert Finney, commonly called "Robin," came from Ireland with Robert Curry, a boon companion. He took up land jointly with Robert Hinds, his brother-in-law. Robert Finney's mother and sisters came to America with him. One sister was married to Robert Hinds. They were buried in the old graveyard at Danville, where their bodies were left when the cemetery was abandoned, the markers being laid over and covered. It is said Robert Curry, coming from Ireland, first visited his relatives in Chester where, also, there were Finneys living. The release which Finney signed for the Kerr descendants of the Hinds family is still in existence. They all figured in the Great Runaway and may have seen service in the army. Jane, daughter of Robert Hinds, was five years of age in 1778. She married Joseph Kerr, whose father, Joseph Kerr, Sr., was an officer in the Revolution. Joseph Kerr and his wife, Jane Hinds, are buried at Chillisquaque. The family of John Clark took care of "Robin" Finney in old age and inherited the land. They called him "Uncle Robin." Among the earliest recorded deeds from the Penns was 329½ acres southwest of Mooresburg, assigned to the Presbyterians, which in 1806 was purchased by Finney, earning the money by the use of a flail, and there he lived until his death in 1839, when nearly one hundred years old. He had lived alone awhile, as he never married, but was gallant, genial and popular, and he used to afford pleasure to young ladies by taking them to drive in his carriage, there being only two others of the kind at that time, which were owned by William and by Daniel Montgomery, of Danville. He built a two-story spring-house, where he lived awhile. It stands today.

William Fisher purchased of the Penns the hill land east of Pottsgrove, across the creek. Later he sold to Samuel Bond and purchased the Fredrick farm. William

Fisher was Second Lieutenant with Captain James Murray in the Third Company, First Battalion, Northumberland County, Muster Roll February 8, 1776.

Ham Foresman is said to have lived where was a fort a few miles south from here, along Hewitt's Run.

Jacob Fulmore held land just this side of Milton. He was an Ensign with Captain Philip Davis in the 11th Company, Second Battalion, January 24, 1776.

James Ocheltree Giffin lived a mile beyond the creek from Pottsgrove. He married Sarah Alexander; his brother, General Robert Giffin, married Mary Strawbridge, daughter of Thomas Strawbridge; another daughter of Thomas Strawbridge being the wife of General Daniel Montgomery.

David Hammond enlisted at the beginning of the Revolution, June 25, 1775, with the Northumberland County troops, and served throughout. From the effects of a wound received in the year 1780 at the Block House, near Jersey City, he died in 1801.

William Harvey was born in Ireland and came to this region about 1793. His wife, a relative, was Sarah Harvey. She was born in Bucks county. Her parents were Alexander Harvey and Kate McFarland. Her sister Margaret married Joseph Kerr, the veteran whose son Joseph was described.

Thomas Hewitt represented Mahoning Township on the Northumberland County Committee of Safety. His land lay along Hewitt's Run.

David Irland, Sr., it is said, served in the French and Indian War and took up 1000 acres of land in Pleasant Valley. David Irland, Jr., was born at Fort Augusta, 1779, and served in the militia.

Daniel Robbins came early to Tuckahoe and afterwards to this valley. He built the Eeg home about 1818. Joseph Kerr came with Daniel Robbins, and also removed to this side of the mountain.

John Martin and wife were murdered by the Indians, 1781. He was a big man and an old Indian fighter. Some of the Montour Indians are said to have perpetrated the deed, having sought refuge at Fort Augusta. They were not welcomed at the fort and located awhile in a cove on the north side of the mountain, near the western end. Mrs. Martin died at once, but Martin was living when found by

his sons, Hayes and Rogers, and presently expired. One of the boys buried the parents, while the other pursued the Indians a few days. Two girls, a daughter Susan and a granddaughter Ann McNeal, were captured by the Indians and carried away, but some years later returned. The tradition is that the Indians treated them well, giving a drink of goose grease each day. Susan married a Davis, of Limestone. Ann McNeal lived to be old, and is remembered by the living of today. Rogers Martin was with the relief at the taking of Fort Freeland, 1779. The Martin family lived on a pine bluff, a mile across the creek from the old church.

General William Montgomery bought 180 acres of land in 1774 at Danville. He served with Chester County troops and came to live at Danville, 1777. He built the first house at Danville. He was in command of the Fourth Battalion, while his brother-in-law, Thomas Strawbridge, was a Captain.

William Montgomery and Walter Finney were together on the Committee of Safety for Chester County, December 20, 1774. General Montgomery was representative in the Provincial Convention. In 1776 he and Walter Finney were a committee to inspect the saltpeter works in Philadelphia and to learn mode of manufacture so as to instruct the citizens.

General Daniel Montgomery, son of William, bought land in 1783 and laid out town in 1792, giving the name, Danville.

James Montgomery was born in 1766, in Ireland; came to Chester County in 1790, and later to Montour County. He became a member at Chillisquaque in 1800. He married Sarah Sheddan, daughter of James Sheddan. James Montgomery built the first schoolhouse, at the county line, 1793, and he was the first teacher. He served in the militia, 1805.

Robert Moody was a justice of the first court, 1772; signed the petition relative to the Connecticut trouble, and was a Colonel in the Second Battalion, January 24, 1776. He was one of the trustees when the land was bought for the church, 1774. He lived probably near the mountain south of this.

Stephen W. Moore, whose ancestors came with William Penn, and were Quakers, located Mooresburg about 1800, laying out about thirteen acres. His son Abner had a wagonmaker's shop where the Sunday school at Mooresburg was started by Joseph Kerr, 1829. Out of this came the church.

James Murray, John Murray and William Murray were three brothers. They came from Cumberland, what is now Perry County, where, in Sherman's Valley, James had been while the land was yet Indian property. James bought the land adjacent to Pottsgrove, on the northeast; John, across the creek; William, above James, near the church. James Murray was Captain, Company 7, Second Battalion; Colonel, Potter. William Murray was Captain of Fifth Company, Third Battalion (Col. William Plunkett), in which James Murray was Lieutenant Colonel and later Colonel.

In 1775 a petition was presented to Governor John Penn about the Connecticut invasion, claiming the part of Pennsylvania above the forty-first parallel. James Murray was among the signers.

William Murray was one of the trustees who bought the church land. His death before 1805 led to another being elected in his place.

John Murray was First Lieutenant, Third Company, First Battalion. Muster Roll, Northumberland County, 1776.

John Montgomery, of Paradise, was the fifth son of Robert and Sarah Montgomery, who came to America in 1737, from County Armagh, Ireland, when the father was 32 years of age. Robert located at Harrisburg, where he died October 15, 1776, and was buried in Paxtang Churchyard, being then 71 years of age. John was born in Ireland and came to Turbut Township, 1773. He bought wild land from William Patterson and, because of its beauty, called it Paradise. He did not settle on that at once, and may have served in the war, as the name occurs among the Dauphin County Associates. He later came to Paradise, for at the time of the taking of Fort Freeland he took his family back to Dauphin County. His buildings were burned, and Col. William Rice and forty Germans built a two-story stone building of limestone enclosing the spring and barricaded it as a fort. John Montgomery returned in 1783, altered the house and occupied it. He was killed in 1792 by a falling tree while opening the Derry Road. His widow, Christina, lived to her eightieth year.

As there were three Montgomery families, there were at least two Murray families. In each case the name is legion.

John Murray came from Scotland late in life, with two sons. One of them, William, was born in Scotland, settled in Swatara and died there in 1773. The other son, John, went to New York and rose to eminence, hence the well-known Murray Hill. He was known as Presbyterian John. William had a son James, also born in Scotland,

who was a member of the Committee of Safety 1775, and died 1804, in Upper Paxtang. A son of this James settled in Chillisquaue Valley. He was a member of the House of Representatives 1807-10 and of Congress 1817-21. His name was John. He married his cousin, Margaret Murray, the daughter of Col. John Murray, who was the brother of James.

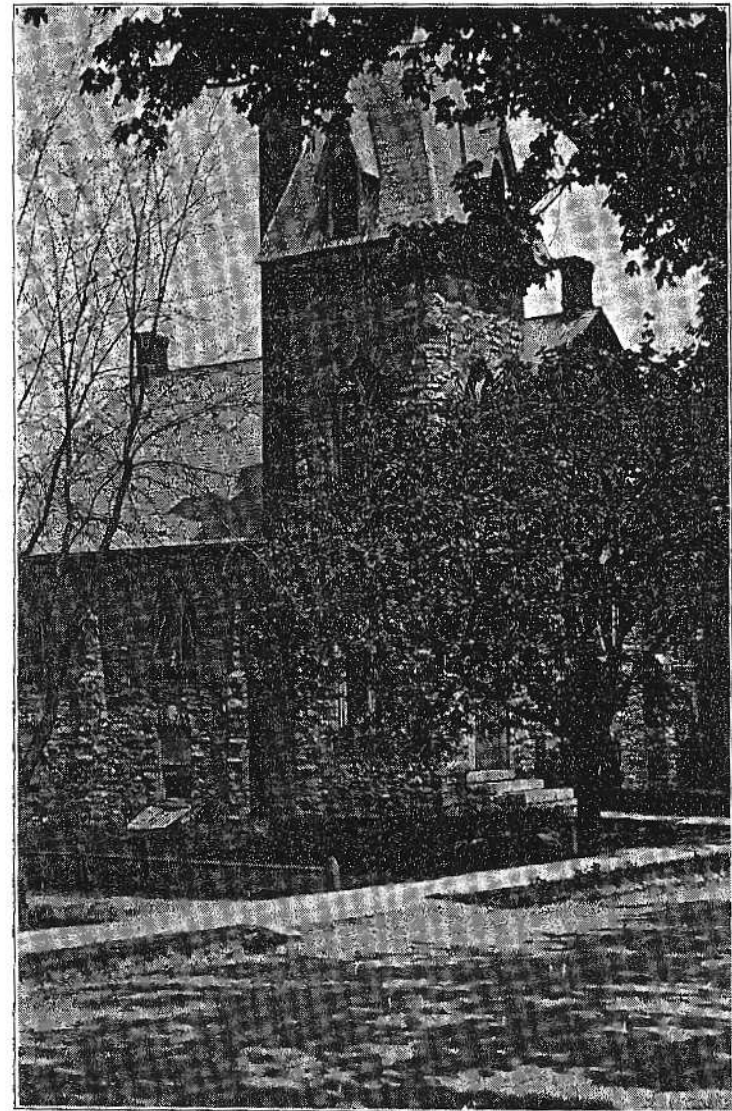
The father of the three brothers, of Sherman's Valley, Perry County, mentioned first, was, it is believed, William, also.

William Murdock was born in Scotland and came to America about the middle of the 18th Century. He served under Braddock and later at Fort Augusta. In June, 1772, he was employed by Surgeon General Lukens in laying out Sunbury. He died 1790. His son, Robert Augustus, was born in the fort. He was the first white male child in the county to be born. In 1799 he married Mary Fisher, daughter of William Fisher, the early settler along the Chillisquaue, and one of the original subscribers of the Chillisquaue Church. William Fisher was a native of Cumberland county, as was his wife, Mary, daughter of Alexander Murray.

Robert Augustus Murdock died 1845. His son, Thomas Murray Murdock, was born in Chillisquaue Township, 1803; married Eleanor Wilson, daughter of Nathaniel Wilson, Jr., in 1834. Mr. Wilson lived near Pottsgrove. The elder Nathaniel Wilson lived 1747-1826, one of the founders of Chillisquaue. He married Eleanor McCalister in 1774. Nathaniel Wilson, Jr., married Sarah Bond, who was born 1781, the daughter of Samuel Bond, who came from Maryland late in the 18th Century and bought the land at first owned by William Fisher. Samuel Bond was the grandson of Sir Richard Bond of England.

William McKnight, Sr., came to this vicinity from near Gettysburg, where he had lived a short while. The name occurs, listed as Captain of Chester County troops, 1747, when war arose with France. As he took up a considerable amount of land with the first settlers, some in the Buffalo Valley, and mainly in Limestone Valley, just over the ridge from the old church, and also some land near Fort Freeland, it is believed he had served in the French and Indian War. He was a member of the Committee of Safety for Northumberland County and fought in the Revolution. Three of the Charter members of Chillisquaue were on this committee in 1776. The others were William Shaw and Thomas Hewitt, the latter of Mahoning Township. In this original settlement, the land on the north side of Lime Ridge, from Milton to Limestoneville, was, much of it, taken by Jacob Fulmore, then, David Irland, 1000 acres, William McKnight and Philip Davis. Mr. Davis was an Episcopalian.

Samuel Bond married Wm. Taylor
& Ann Wilson
Nathaniel Wilson appears to be
our great^x grand uncle



The Church at Pottsgrove

William McKnight, Sr. and his wife, Elizabeth, were killed at Fort Freeland by the Indians. This was in 1779. Their son James took the bodies and buried them at Chillisquaque. William McKnight was one of the three trustees who bought the land for the church, 1774. His wife was, probably, Elizabeth McCormick. James McCormick was one of the signers of "the humble address of the governor, officers, clergy and other gentlemen in the city and garrison of Londonderry" to William and Mary, July 29, 1689, shortly after the famous siege of that noted stronghold of Protestantism. His son Hugh, born 1695, in Ulster, emigrated with family to America, prior to 1735, and located in Paxtang Township, now Dauphin County. It was all Lancaster County then. John McCormick, son of Hugh, born in Ireland, 1718, died in 1782. He was member of the Silver Springs Church at Mechanicsburg. He located there, in East Pennsboro Township, 1745, where was a fort known as Fort McCormick. This was on the Conodoguinit. Samuel McCormick, son of Hugh, born 1723, in Ulster, died 1765, in Cumberland County. He took land adjoining his brother, 1745. The oldest child of this Samuel was Elizabeth, born 1749, and she married William McKnight. The splendid monument in Chillisquaque to William McKnight, Sr., and his wife, Elizabeth, and other members of the family suits the record.

The identity of the William McKnight, Sr., and Elizabeth with the names of the McCormick record is probable.

Jane McCormick, sister of Elizabeth, born 1751, married Archibald McGuire. Mary McCormick, another sister, born 1754, married Arthur James Chambers. Hugh McCormick, a son of Hugh, Sr., born in Ulster, 1725, died 1777 in Cumberland County, having moved from Paxton (Paxtang) to the homestead of his father-in-law about 1758. About 1770 he purchased 1800 acres in White Deer Valley. He was a prominent man on the frontiers, aided in counsel and money. He was in Provincial Conference June, 1776. His health prevented other service.

James McCormick, son of Hugh, Jr., was on the Committee of Safety for White Deer Township, Northumberland County, 1777.

The McKnight record is not full. Wm. McKnight, Sr., probably married twice.

James McKnight, son of William, born 1753, died 1823; served in the Revolution as an officer. His wife was Elizabeth Gillan, 1767-1807.

Captain William McKnight, Jr., son of James, was a Captain in 1812, having been born in 1789 and died in 1828. His wife was Susanna Boyer, who died in 1873, aged about 76. She told of the Indian graves in the southeast corner of our graveyard. The massacred McKnights were the grandparents of William, Jr.

At the time of the Indian invasion of 1778, some, who had taken refuge at Fort Freeland, were fleeing to Fort Augusta. Mrs. William McKnight and Mrs. Durham were on horseback, each with an infant in arms. Near the mouth of the Warrior Run they were attacked and as Mrs. McKnight's horse wheeled, her child fell from her arms, but she caught it by the foot and so held it until they reached Fort Freeland. Mrs. Durham's babe was killed and she was scalped and left for dead. She was rescued and taken to Fort Augusta, where she received proper care from Doctor Plunkett and she lived for years on the Chillisquaque. The two sons of the McKnights were at this time captured, but having been carried to Tioga, escaped and were on hand for the taking of Fort Freeland the next year when the parents were both killed.

James McKnight was a member of the Assembly in 1779. During the stay in Fort Freeland Mrs. McKnight and Mrs. Kirk melted pewter plates and spoons and made them into bullets. The attack occurred July 29, 1779, at 9 a. m. The prisoners were marched out after an article of capitulation had been signed, and at 11 o'clock the fort was sacked and the victors were feasting on the spoils when relief came. There was no time to summon regular troops, and Captain Hawkins Boone, with volunteers, surprised the Indians and killed about thirty, the fight lasting until 2 p. m. The Indians outnumbered the whites nine to one. Eighteen white men were killed. Among those who escaped were Rogers Martin, James Sheddan, William Kerskadden, James McMahan, William Reed and David Hammond, whose connections are with Chillisquaque Valley history. The history of the McMahan family, by Samuel McMahan, furnishes this account.

In the Muster Roll of Northumberland County, James McMahan is listed as Captain, February 8, 1776. In 1747, James M. Makin, probably the same, was enrolled as Ensign with the Chester County men. He took up land along the Chillisquaque, south of Pottsgrove and the creek. There was a fort as a refuge for the settlers. For gallantry of service late in the war he was promoted to Major. His death occurred in 1823. His wife, Mary, died in 1818. She was aged 79. There were three brothers. John, a younger brother, served throughout the war, was in Battle of Brandywine and numerous engagements, and ranked as Captain. His wife was Jane Murray, daughter of John Murray. Benjamin, the youngest of the three, and his mother made their home with John. She was a widow and was drowned in crossing the creek, returning from the mill.

The tradition is that the wife of the original John McMahan, the father of the three brothers, was Margaret Murray, the sister of the original William Murray of Cumberland, whose three sons came up from Sherman's Valley in 1769. John Murray's son, known as

Thomas Jr., distinguishing him from Thomas, son of James, also, had a sister, Jane, who married John McMahan, the brother of James.

William McCormick came from Ireland when young and settled with his father-in-law, William Shaw, at Washingtonville, Derry Township, the name of Mrs. McCormick being Margaret Shaw.

William McWilliams came from Ireland about 1740, located first in Bucks County, was a Revolutionary soldier and died in 1819, aged 80, and was buried at Chillisquaque, having come here about 1769. Shaw and McCormick and the McMahans, and the Murrays, rest at Chillisquaque, though only James Murray's grave, of the three brothers, is known.

Hugh McWilliams was the first who took up land at Mooresburg. He was a veteran Indian fighter of the French and Indian War, a Lieutenant, and came on his claim in 1771. It was a large tract, 800 acres. He went back to Ireland three times returning with more people for the new colony. He died in the Wyoming engagement with the Connecticut settlers, and it is recorded that only one from this region met death in that battle. This was at Nanticoke. His brother Robert served in the army with Washington, was at Valley Forge and died there. I have read that of the 10,000 of that army 3,000 died as a result of its distressing hardships and of these only one grave bears a name.

John Martin Mack, a Moravian missionary, came from Bethlehem to Shamokin. The ancestors of the Macks of Chillisquaque came to Bethlehem about 1750. One hundred years later their descendants came here. The pioneer was John George Mack. One of this family, George, born 1775, had a wife named Agnes, their son, Robert, coming to Chillisquaque.

One of the Macks of our congregation married a descendant of Conrad Weiser, both being members here a few years since.

William Reed, the veteran of the Revolution, buried in this old cemetery, was the son of William Reed, probably veteran of 1747. The latter when seven years of age came with his widowed mother and the other children, four in number, from Donegal, Ireland, where the fathers had died. Mrs. Reed's maiden name was Dolly Letson. She located in Delaware on a farm. William married Jane Mitchell at Wilmington and settled in Chester County. He came to Lock Haven in 1772 with two sons. Both of these served in the Revolution with the Chester County troops. In 1778 the family fled back to Chester County. After the war they

returned to Great Island. Then William married Mary, daughter of Col. James Murray, living awhile at Sunbury and then coming to Pottsgrove. His land joined that of James Murray about where I am at this writing. The farm extended southwest. Pottsgrove is built on these adjoining lands. William's older brother lived at Lock Haven. William died in May, 1831, age 78. His wife died the fall of the same year. He was a Justice of Peace many years. They had eleven children. His military record is that of Ensign. In the militia rolls, 1780, Fourth Battalion, Chester County, William Reed is listed Lieutenant, Eighth Company. (Probably our veteran).

William Shaw was born in Ireland, held office in Northumberland County before the war and served on the first Committee of Safety, 1775-77. He represented the county in the Assembly, 1781-82. He came to this valley from Dauphin County, his daughter marrying William McCormick. Washingtonville was settled before the Revolution. The earliest church was a log school house and church combined, 1832. Brady's Fort was at Washingtonville, and in 1788 there was a famine.

Jerseytown and Jersey Shore were settled by people from New Jersey. They fled in the Great Runaway, but some returned afterwards.

James Sheddan was born in Ireland, August, 12, 1744. He came to America in 1774. His children were Sarah, Margaret, Agnes, William, Ann, Robert, Mary and Elizabeth. James Sheddan died August 13, 1817. His wife died April 17, 1813. He was an elder, as was his son William. He was with the relief troops at Fort Freeland.

Robert Simington was a native of Scotland who emigrated to America in 1776. He joined the Jersey Blues and served through the Revolution. He married Elizabeth Jacoby of Northampton County, and came to Montour County, as it is now called, where he lived until death, when 84 years of age, and was buried at Chillisquaque. His sons, John and Peter, are said to have served their country in the War of 1812. Peter is at rest in Chillisquaque, also his mother, while John was buried at Milton. John led the singing in the old church.

Thomas Strawbridge was a tanner, as was his father, whose name he bore. They lived in Chester County. He took up land along the Chillisquaque, just above the McMahan land. He, however, served in the army of the Revolution with the Chester County troops. The Committee of

Safety of Chester County, in March, 1775, appointed him Captain of Militia. In 1776 he was Lieutenant Colonel of the Second Regiment. In September he was a member of the First Assembly to form a State Constitution. In 1777 his name appears as President of the Board of Appeal, before whom all persons drafted came to have their fitness for service determined. He was nearly ruined financially in equipping his troops at his own charges and was reimbursed in worthless Continental Specie. Thomas Strawbridge married Margaret Montgomery of Londonderry Township, Chester County. She died in 1814. She was the sister of Gen. William Montgomery, the pioneer of Danville. Capt. Strawbridge was with Washington at Trenton. He took his land in connection with the early settlement and came here to live in the latter part of the war. The old stone house stands today a monument of the Strawbridge name. Capt. Strawbridge and wife are buried at Chillisquaque among the graves without inscription. After his death his son James lived on at the same place. They were original members of Chillisquaque. Mrs. Strawbridge was brought up and educated in the family of an aunt in Philadelphia. "She manifested ability and great devotion to her husband and to the cause during the hard times of war, carrying on the work of a large farm herself, the proceeds going to relief work. During the terrible winter of Valley Forge, once a week she rode on horseback to carry bundles of clothes and stockings and the like, knit by the wives and daughters of the men, distributing them herself. The day before the crossing of the Delaware she met her husband after many months for the first." There were four children. *Our Gt. Grand Uncle?*

John Wilson was Second Lieutenant, 11th Company, Second Battalion, Northumberland County, 1776. He surveyed the line, between Northumberland County and Columbia County, now Montour County, which passes the front of the old churchyard. His wife Margaret and he are buried at Chillisquaque. By their side, in an unmarked grave, is their daughter Nancy, who married James Curry, a son of the veteran Lieut. Robert Curry. Another daughter married James Johnston. Her grave is here. The name Johnston is among the early settlers.

Richard Wilson was a veteran of a later war. Buried at Chillisquaque. His grave is marked and decorated.

Ezekiel Lunger is said to have served in the Black Hawk War. His grave is marked and decorated, but bears no inscription. Died about 1865, 80 years of age.

James Wilson, Second Lieutenant, was a noted surveyor in Northumberland County, prior to war.

John McMahan, eldest son of James McMahan, was born in Leek Township, Cumberland County. He did some service in Revolution. When but fifteen years of age he was placed as sentinel over stacked arms of a company of reapers who were harvesting the crop of William Fisher.

Roll of Capt. John Loudon's Company. Sworn in at Northumberland June 29, 1775. "We chose our officers and lay until the 7th of July, when we got orders to march next morning. July 13 reached Reading, 1st August, Bethlehem; Aug. 20, North River; 24th, Litchfield, Conn." *Our Cousin?*

William Wilson, Third Lieutenant, served entire period of war. On the 13th of January, 1792, he was appointed Associated Justice, which office he held until 1813.

"William Wilson emigrated from North Ireland, when quite young. He was commissioned Ensign, Capt. Lowden's Company, Col. Wm. Thompson's Battalion, the first troops raised in Pennsylvania, June 25, 1775, and the first to reach Gen. Washington at Cambridge. He was promoted, and eventually, in 1777, was commissioned Captain. The regiment lost heavily at Brandywine." Capt. Wilson rendered distinguished service at Monmouth. After the war he engaged in mercantile business at Northumberland and later, with his partner, Capt. John Boyd, erected the Chillisquaque Mills. He lived here and until his death occupied prominent positions. He is buried in the old Presbyterian Churchyard at Northumberland. From a descendant of William Wilson I have this in a recent letter: "I do wish my great grandparents had been buried at Chillisquaque Churchyard, as there is now no trace of the graveyard in Northumberland." General Wilson married Mary Scott, daughter of Major Abraham Scott, of Lancaster County. Major Scott's wife was Sarah MacQueen, daughter of Capt. MacQueen of the French and Indian War.

This distinguished citizen of the Chillisquaque Valley and wife, with many others of the brave pioneers, have no marked graves, some of them in abandoned graveyards. These old yards were filled up long ago and in the early times fear of Indians led them to place no mark. Later the ground was buried over again.

The first settler after the new purchase, 1768, was John Kelly. While he located in Buffalo Valley and belongs properly to the history of that old church, yet, inasmuch as his entrance occurred so early, while the land office was not opened until the next year, and due to the close relation between the two valleys and churches, and, furthermore, his descendants are with us as very active members, it seems fitting to note, in passing, this great Indian fighter, veteran of the French and Indian and the Revolutionary Wars. The county was one at that time. To set forth the way these men figured, observe the Muster Roll for the county, 1776, Second Battalion, Col. James Potter, Lieut. Col. Robert Moody, Major John Kelly. The story of his experiences with the Indians and in the crossing of the Delaware reveals a strong and brave character and he was buried in the old community graveyard at Lewisburg where his body rested until the removal to the new cemetery.

"All born by or before 1770-1773 who during the Revolutionary

War lived on the frontier had to do some kind of service. All others were run off by the neighbors. Boys of ten carried guns and, in those days, boys of six and the women loaded guns and helped the sick and wounded."

Religious services in the Colonial era were few and far between. The terrors of war and the poverty of the people hindered. They were, as a rule, Presbyterians. During fifty years prior to the settlement of the Forks of the Susquehanna, the Scotch had been building the foundations of a great nation, by forming churches in Chester and Lancaster Counties. The Paxton Church is a notable one, occupying a frontier position and a strategic point in our church history and that of the great Commonwealth. As a historic and strategic Colonial Presbyterian Church, Chillisquaque has its claim upon the student of history. As Fort Augusta occupied the chief post on the frontier in military affairs, so this church stood on the front line fortification in the spiritual warfare. At an early date supplies were sent out by the Synod.

In May, 1774, Mr. Latta was directed to spend five Sabbaths up the West Branch in October and November, and Samuel Dougal, seven Sabbaths in July and August. On the 20th of June, 1775, Rev. Philip V. Fithian attended Presbytery at Mr. King's house, in Upper West Conochague, Mercersburg, and was appointed as a missionary to preach for the various congregations in the West Branch, the first Sabbath of July at Northumberland, the second at Buffalo, the third at Warrior Run, the fourth at Bald Eagle, and the fifth at Chillisquaque, being the 30th of the month. The day at Northumberland the troops were waiting orders to march. The Presbytery was at that time named Donegal. These appointments were filled.

Part III—One Hundred Years, 1789-1889

The Colonial period covers about twenty years, 1769-'89. After peace, the settlers, many of them, came back upon their lands. The reign of terror ended. There were the Presbyterians, the Covenanters, the Dutch of Holland and the Huguenots, all, forms of Presbyterians, essentially the same in doctrine and form of government. Then, too, the German Reformed and Lutheran became more and more numerous. There were English, of various faiths—Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopalian. The continental strain was threefold—Lutheran, Reformed and Catholic. All were

represented here. National European Churches were planted here and the type developed. At the time of the early settlement of Pennsylvania it became the asylum of the persecuted. Presbyterian preaching elsewhere was not allowed. Intolerance prevailed.

Adrian Hendrickson Aten came from Holland in 1651. His descendant, John Aten (Auten) located in Chillisquaque Valley in 1800. The new church was constructed on the old site. Mr. Aten assisted in its building. He owned 320 acres joining William Murray on the east. This land extended from the ridge across the creek. At first he lived in a log house and later built the "old yellow" which still stands. The date of the latter, 1808. Mr. Aten built the first gristmill, the first fulling-mill and the second sawmill, one mile from the church along the creek. He furnished logs for the new church. The foundation of the original churches can be readily discerned. Also that of the third building, a little north. The flag staff erected in August, 1923, marks the front entrance to the latter. The sawmill was built in 1812.

Gilbert Voorhees was among the first subscribers for the original Mahoning Church. A list of citizens of Danville, 1798, includes Bogart, Blue, Boyer, Clark, Caldwell, Davis, Kerr, Moore, Montgomery, Robinson, Gilbert Voorhig, Wilson, Sechler. After the Revolution, the Colonial Chillisquaque was flanked by other churches on her original border, which drew largely upon her strength. The towns which surround us, near us in each direction, circumscribed our first territory. Jacob Sechler was the first male child born in Danville. James Voris, son of Gilbert, was a carpenter in Liberty Township, and built the eight-cornered school house, and some of the old houses at Mooresburg, these now owned by Mr. John Caldwell McWilliams. The Caldwell ancestor came from Ireland at the close of the Revolution, about 1785, four brothers, of whom John married Martha Calhoun, related to the eminent John Calhoun. It is a tradition that some of the Caldwell forefathers were burned at the stake in the religious persecutions in Ireland.

The Colonial Church in the wilderness truly passed through great tribulation. The church was the only institution, but the fellowship and faith it afforded remained with the people fleeing from the region now desolated by the tomahawk and firebrand. The churches and the log cabins were burned. The hardships were prolonged into the reconstruction era. By 1789 they were ready to work, and

many had returned and others followed. The century between that and the year they began to build at Pottsgrove forms a definite period with four long-term pastorates on that old site.

The first pastor was John Bryson (1789-1839.) From his first sermon until his resignation was 50 years. The father of John Bryson was Robert Bryson and his mother was Esther Quigley. They came from Ireland and settled in Cumberland County in 1727. It was then a part of Lancaster County and so continued until 1750. They had four sons, James, John, William and Samuel. The father died September 29, 1769. Their farm consisted of 500 acres. It was located near the Silver's Spring Church, which dated back to 1734. William remained on the farm. There the widowed mother had managed bravely for her four little boys. John born 1 January 1758

The Silver's Spring Church was erected in 1783, a mile and a half from Mechanicsburg and nine miles from Harrisburg, a stone building which forms a part of the present fine edifice, having been enlarged and modernized by the McCormicks of Harrisburg.

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John Bryson was four years old when his father died. "His mother was pious, energetic and thoroughgoing." John was drafted a militiaman under Gen. James Potter and saw six months' service in the Revolution and was engaged in one light skirmish. He studied under Rev. Joseph Waddell, D.D., widely known as the blind preacher, the father of Janetta, who married Archibald Alexander, and who had 1,000 acres of land in Virginia. After graduation, John taught the school two years and then went to Dickinson College, Carlisle, for three years, graduating with honors, September 26, 1787. This was an institution founded by Presbyterians in 1783. A number of colleges started then and bore the names of distinguished statesmen. Fifty years after, when the Presbyterians had given up here and started, at Easton, Lafayette College, the Methodists took over the institution and have held it ever since. John Bryson and others formed the first literary society in 1786 and his was the first class graduated, consisting of nine young men, and the account was given in the first newspaper published in Cumberland County and the furthest west at that time. Dr. Nesbit was the President.

John Bryson studied Theology with Dr. King, of Mercersburg; Dr. Cooper, of Middle Spring, and Dr. Nesbit, under whom he completed his course and was graduated in a class of four, including Isaac Grier, whose funeral sermon

he preached in 1814. This was the first class in Theology. He was licensed to preach by the Carlisle Presbytery, October 8, 1789. That was the year the General Assembly was organized. The Constitution of the Church and the Nation are closely associated in history. Having been created by the same minds, they came into effect simultaneously. That date, 1789, marks the inauguration of President Washington.

On the second Sabbath of November, Bryson preached at Chillisquaque, the third Sabbath at Mahoning, Danville; the fourth at Warrior Run. He traveled on horseback and crossed from Northumberland over the mountain, by a bridle path, inquiring the way to the home of Thomas Strawbridge, whose son, with other men, was engaged in making the road. It was the post road to Jerseytown. He was guided by the young Strawbridge to his home and introduced to the veteran from Chester County who, as devoted to his church as to his country, could scarcely be persuaded to stay at home from church, even when the worst storms prevailed. The old stone house stands today.

At the Spring meeting of Presbytery at Big Spring, April 13, 1790, Bryson was invited to supply the churches for six months and, on the 7th of October, he accepted the calls to Chillisquaque and Warrior Run, having calls also to Mahoning and Marsh Creek, Gettysburg. The calls he accepted were signed by one hundred and nine men. The one from Chillisquaque bore forty-one signatures; the Warrior Run, sixty-eight. The Chillisquaque names are: Thomas Hewitt, David Hammond, James McMahan, John Hood, John Montgomery, William McCormick, William Murray, John McMahan, John Murray, James Murray, John Gillespie, Hugh McBride, William Fisher, John Hunter, James Bigger, James Carskadden, John Alexander, Thomas Murray, William Allen, Thomas Strawbridge, Robert Rhea, George Hood, Joseph Wilson, Robert McNeal, Thomas Rogers, William McKnight, James Sheddan, William McWilliams, James McKnight, William Irland, John White, Robert Henry, David Irland, Robert Finney, Thomas Stadden, Neel McMullin, Charles Cochran, John Ray, William Montgomery, William Reed, John Wilson, Nathaniel Wilson.

The date of the call was June 23, 1790. John Bryson was ordained at Carlisle, December 22, 1790. Rev. Charles Nesbit, D.D., preached the ordination sermon and Dr. King presided and gave the charge and he was installed in June, 1791. Mr. Bryson did not accept the call to Mahoning but

supplied for some years until he found a pastor for them. He served without pay. After that he made Milton an outpost. The Carlisle Presbytery was erected in 1786; the installation was by the Carlisle Presbytery, to which these churches then belonged. In 1795 Huntingdon Presbytery was formed, out of Carlisle, over a territory embracing what is now fifteen counties in Central Pennsylvania. Mr. Bryson attended the first meeting of the Huntingdon Presbytery which was held in Penn's Valley and was appointed as a commissioner to the General Assembly, which then always met at Philadelphia. He attended the Assembly oftener than any other minister. The Northumberland Presbytery was organized on the first Tuesday of October, 1811, at Northumberland, and was composed of the following ministers: Asa Dunham, John Bryson, Isaac Grier, John B. Patterson, Thomas Hood. At this time, also, the Milton congregation was organized, with Mr. Hood as the first pastor.

Mr. Bryson lived on his farm, one mile from the Warrior Run Church, having bought 298 acres, December 11, 1792, from John Montgomery, whose original purchase from the Penns is recorded at Philadelphia. By 1804 this farm, known as the Long Square, was in a high state of cultivation and two years earlier he had built a large stone house, which was his home. December 20, 1805, he bought of James Murray 150 acres, known as the Springfield farm. Slavery existed in Pennsylvania at that time and he secured several slaves in order to get his work done. His labors during a score of years were very extensive; weekly prayer-meetings were held at a number of points, being well attended. He was a leader in the Presbytery. This was the largest field, having 500 members. He was the foremost in organizing the various benevolent activities of the Presbytery. The ladies of Warrior Run were organized as a Missionary Society in 1818 and those of Chillisquaque in 1820. Mr. Bryson started schools and gave young men a stepping stone into the ministry. Among those who entered the sacred calling from his school were the Rev. A. K. Russel, Rev. John Graham, D.D., Rev. Richard Armstrong, D.D., who was the missionary to the Sandwich Islands; the Rev. Daniel Gaston, D.D., Mr. Bryson's own son, Robert, the Rev. S. S. Sheddan, D.D., and the Rev. Andrew Barr.

In 1831-34 Mr. Bryson was assisted by the Rev. Joseph Painter, D.D.; next by Rev. David Hull, and, in 1839, by Rev. Mr. Sheddan as co-pastor. It was the custom to hold

two services with an hour's intermission. The Communion season included four days, beginning Friday and concluding Monday. In the last years of his ministry he baptized 905. In the year 1825 he baptized 155. He preached far and wide and founded churches. All the field from Danville to Muncy being under his oversight.

Milton, the Washington Church, Muncy, Mooresburg, Watson-town, McEwensville churches grew in the bounds of his labors. To these may be added Washingtonville and Derry. He was systematic, gifted, fervent, zealous. He left a large number of sermons written out, in a fine neat hand, dating back to 1789, also prayer meeting, funeral and communion addresses. His sermons were full of scripture quotations. He resigned at Chillisquaque October 1, 1839. He continued to preach at Warrior Run until October 5, 1841. He died August 3, 1855. His wife had preceded him in death July 5, 1845. He lived to see his 98th year and was the oldest Presbyterian minister in the United States at that time. The funeral was held Sabbath morning and he was buried at McEwensville. He had seven children, of whom four survived him. Jane died July 30, 1875, at the home of her brother-in-law, Rev. J. P. Hudson, whose sketch, in the Meginness' Historical Journal, has been freely used. His youngest son, Robert, attended the Milton Academy and Dickinson College from which he graduated in 1828 and, after three years at Princeton Seminary, was licensed to preach April 20, 1831, and was called to the Bloomsburg Church, but died at the age of 27, having just been ordained. Hettie, the youngest daughter, married Rev. J. P. Hudson.

The elders who were present when Northumberland Presbytery was organized in 1811 were James Sheddan, James Hepburn, William Montgomery, Thomas Howard. The original elders at Chillisquaque were James Sheddan, James McKnight, David Irland. In addition to these, April 5, 1808, there were John Chestnut, William Murray, William Shaw, Paul Geddes.

Same date at Warrior Run were James McAfee, Robert Smith, John Woods, Henry Graham, John McKinney, William Pollock.

Later the Chillisquaque elders were James Moody, John Murray, John Irland, William Sheddan, James McMahan, Robert Simington, James Durham, Richard Wilson, James F. Murray.

The second church was log also, and unfinished when Bryson came.

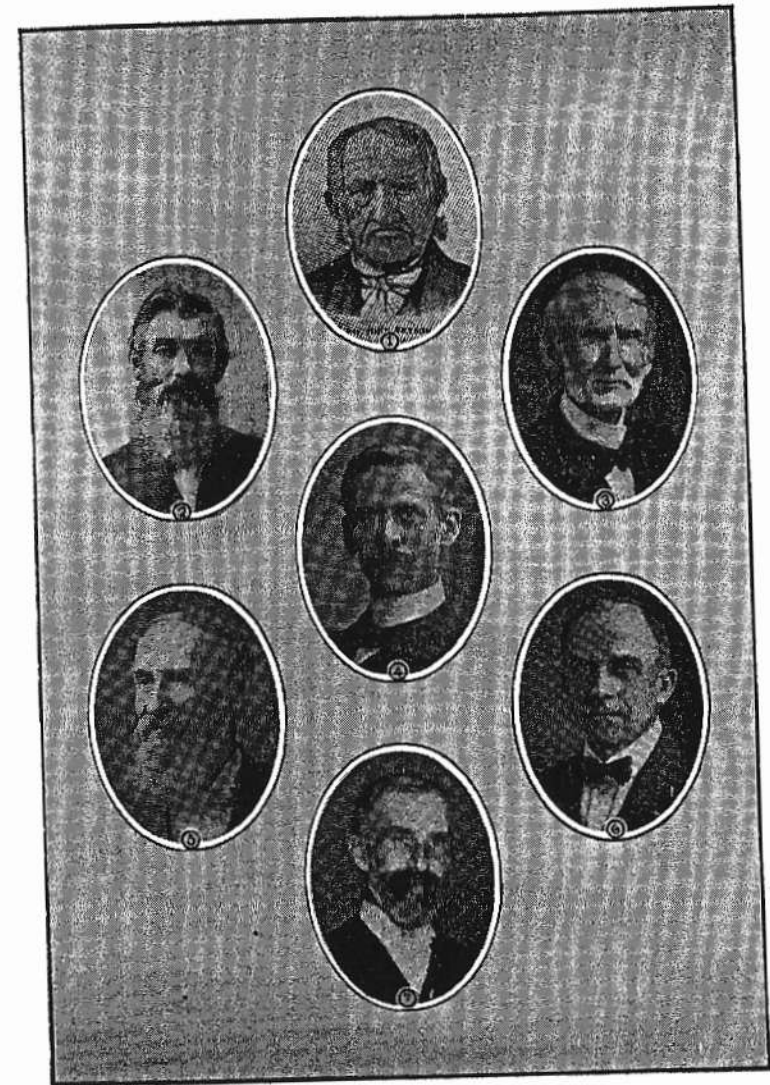
"As far as known no records kept from the organization of church until 1790. Or perhaps lost in the Great Runaway."

The building was enlarged and improved in 1796. A second story was added to provide a gallery to which entrance was made by an outside stairway. In this condition it remained until about 1830 when it was plastered inside and out and a stairway was then made inside. The brick edifice was finished in 1853, a few rods north of the first site. It was dedicated January 10, 1854. The pulpit had sound-

ing board high up toward the ceiling. Below was the place for the precentor. On either side were ranks of Amen pews, with a long aisle, across the church in front of pulpit, where it was the long, narrow tables stood, for the Communion, about which the members sat during the Lord's Supper, which was celebrated with great solemnity, usually, with assistance of neighboring ministers, and attendants came, in the early days, from the Muncy Hills and from Norhtumberland. At the Preparatory service tokens were given the communicants and these were surrendered when coming to the table. The largest number of communicants on record 157. About fifty years ago the older men and women held to the ancient custom of sitting at the Lord's Table, and standing during the prayers was observed by all. The customs soon changed.

Those who paid to enlarge the building in 1796 were as follows, June 20:

CHILLISQUAQUE TOWNSHIP	£	s	d
Samuel Hibler	3		
Stephen Hunt	1		
Samuel Bond	3		
Charles Cochran	1	3	6
William Davidson, Jr.	1		
William Hays	3		
William Murray Hibler	1	2	6
William Davidson	1	2	6
Robert Craig	1		
Adam Clark		15	
James R'chard	1	5	6
James Davidson	2	5	
Thomas Murray	1	2	6
Conrad Cook	1	10	
John Chestnut	1	2	6
Robert Irland	1	2	6
James Moodie	1		
Isaac Ormond	1		
John Murray	1	2	6
Robert Giffin	1	10	
James Murray	1	10	
Robert Simington	1	10	
John McMullin	1	10	
Adam Reed	1	2	6
Thomas Strawbridge	1	10	
James McKnight	1	10	
William Shaw	1	10	
William McElhenny		15	
David Irland	1	10	
Paul Geddes	1	2	6
James McMahan	1	2	6
John Bryson	2		
John Tietzworth	1	2	6
Robert Taggart Hibler	1	2	6
John Hennigan	1	2	6
William Milligan	1	2	6
William McKnight		15	
David Irland	1		
Total	51	2	6



FORMER PASTORS

No. 1, John Bryson; No. 2, Charles H. Park; No. 3, Henry G. Finney; No. 4, Abbott L. R. Waite; No. 5, J. D. Fitzgerald; No. 6, Arthur B. Herr; No. 7, W. J. Arney.

March 29, 1786, a subscription paper with 133 signatures, all men but one, was taken up, perhaps for the second building. The subscription in 1796 had this preamble: Whereas, Chillisquaque meeting house appears too small for the accommodation of all persons who are applying for seats.

It is agreed by a majority of the members that it shall be enlarged.

Major James McMahan and Samuel Hibler were appointed to superintend the work. John McMullin, James Richard, Robert Giffin and James McKnight were appointed collectors.

There is a record that in 1818 the trustees of Chillisquaque, James McKnight, John Irland, John Murray, Richard Wilson and William Sheddan, advertised for proposals to build a stone wall around the churchyard.

The membership of Chillisquaque was depleted by the organization of Milton and Mooresburg and other churches.

For 56 years, until 1876, the Woman's Missionary Society was the sole agent for collecting funds for missions. They met annually at the church, at the time of the preparatory for the June Communion, the officers at the table in front of the pulpit receiving the dues, 25 cents per member. May 1, 1775, was the first meeting held at Milton to obtain volunteers for the army. These women were active in a small way cherishing the missionary spirit enkindled by the first pastor and caught originally from the patriots of 1775. "Let the lower lights be burning."

The Milton Missionary organized by the Rev. John Bryson and the Rev. George Junkin was probably Union, as these strong men worked together in such forward movements, and the Chillisquaque women were auxiliary to Milton. The Covenanters who joined with the Presbyterians in the calling of Bryson and the formation of Warrior Run 1789 after about thirty years separated again and called Mr. Junkin as the pastor of their two churches, Shiloh at Milton and Penuel at Watsonstown. The Milton church was located near where the Pennsylvania Railroad station now stands and later about the position of the present Presbyterian Church on Walnut Street, where, in its basement, for some years, a classic school was held. There was only an occasional supply, and after the great Milton fire the church was not rebuilt. Among the Covenanters were the Blairs, Staddens, Dougals, Pollocks, Grahams, and later, some of the Finneys. The last were Samuel Teas and wife, Matilda Finney. The Covenanters were Psalm singers and practiced close communion and Mr. Teas held to a custom of great beauty, as long as he lived, that of returning thanks,

at the close of a meal, in addition to the usual blessing at the beginning. The Covenanters were preachers of great ability. They exerted a great influence in their day out of proportion to their numbers. The First Covenanter Church in New York City was under the Rev. John Mason, D.D., as pastor, who also taught Theology, and among his students was George Junkin. Mr. Junkin, after serving the churches here for the Covenanters, entered the Presbyterian Church and served the Washington Church in White Deer Valley as a permanent supply from 1826-'30. Mr. Junkin became the father of Lafayette as its first president at Easton, Pa. This was in 1832; later, he served other institutions in like capacity, and, finally, Washington College, Lexington, Va., 1848-'61. His sympathies were strongly with the North and he then returned to Pennsylvania, doing various works, writing books and otherwise serving his day. Two sons became ministers, one a physician, one a lawyer, one daughter a poetess of note and one the wife of "Stonewall" Jackson.

Dr. Charles Nesbit, the first President of Dickinson, was called by unanimous vote of trustees, April 17, 1784, at a full meeting, among them accomplished scholars and patrons of science, John Dickinson, President of the Board, and Dr. Benjamin Rush, of Philadelphia. Dr. Nesbit came from Edinburgh, Scotland, on this call and was received with great demonstration, a large concourse of citizens and a military escort. Such was his zeal and fidelity that he never was absent a single day from duty until taken with fatal illness. He preached regularly in the Presbyterian Church alternately with the pastor and he delivered a long course of theological lectures to several classes. He was loved by his students and had many friends of prominence and influence in England and Scotland.

In addition to his native ability, John Bryson showed the influence of the great associations that helped to mould him and he had a strong material with which to work in preaching Christ to numbers of the principal people of the day. There was a real greatness about these pioneers who formed these congregations out of which grew, later, big towns and the churches of the Upper Susquehanna. From 1789 until 1811 John Bryson is said to have been the only minister of the Gospel in this valley between the rivers.

"His ministry covered a period the most remarkable in the history of the American Church, a period of wonderful development in Christian thought and energy, and prolific in societies and agencies for the good of men and the advancement of Christ's Kingdom."

Mr. Bryson was a leader in the Presbytery in taking up the new movements which were in the air. Strong young men and many pious women in this big field worked with him and the influence exerted in an age on ages telling can never be measured. It was thus that the Northumberland Presbytery decided to organize a missionary society auxiliary to the Union Missionary Society of New York, which, I believe, was the first Woman's Missionary Society to be organized and, today, the oldest in existence; just as the American Board of Missions was first organized as a Union Society embracing the Presbyterians and other denominations. The date of the Presbyterial action was October 9, 1818. A Bible Society was started in 1816. The churches of Warrior Run and Chillisquaque formed the largest field in the Presbytery until the end of his pastorate. The Chillisquaque Bible Society was organized May, 1827.

Isaac Grier was pastor 1793 at Great Island, Pine Creek and Lycoming Churches, which field he served twelve years. Then he was called to Northumberland to take charge of the academy founded by the noted Joseph Priestley, the discoverer of oxygen. This school needed a Presbyterian to make it go. Dr. Priestley was a Unitarian. That faith was not acceptable in the West Branch.

The First Church at Mifflinburg was composed of some who dissented from the use of Watts' Hymns, preferring Rouse's version of the Psalms. They left old Buffalo and called Mr. Kirkpatrick as pastor. In 1827 he came in with the Presbyterians and started a classical academy at Milton. The Covenanters of Mifflinburg then formed a Presbyterian Church.

The McEwensville Presbyterian Church came out of the Warrior Run Congregation in 1842. The first pastor was John Paris Hudsonson-in-law of Mr. Bryson, who later was pastor of First Church of Williamsport and who wrote a brief biographical sketch of Mr. Bryson for the McGinness' Historical Journal. The McEwensville church lived only a few years.

When we consider the vicissitudes of the churches of this valley we may be grateful for the Providence that has overshadowed old Chillisquaque, inasmuch as the Good Shepherd is still leading gently on this flock of God as of old. These Chillisquaque Creek farms are good ones for pasture, and while no sheep are kept by our farmers yet the sheep of this spiritual fold are still answering to his Call. The History of the Presbytery of 1888 did not tell much about this field. It passed it by with a meager statement of its dying existence. After all, bringing the church to the village center was wise. Then the strengthened the charge, being always united.

The Presbyterian church of Mooresburg began as a Sabbath School in 1829 in the wagon-maker shop of Abner Moore, whose father laid out the village. Joseph Kerr started this Sabbath school. The church was organized five years later, drawing its membership mostly from Chillisquaque, thirty-seven by letter and nine on profession making the charter list.

Mr. Sheddan, copastor with Bryson, wrote this description of the old Chillisquaque building:-

"That old, white house and its worshippers have passed away. Nearly two score years have gone since I was man enough to walk the two miles to church. We came in at the north side of the graveyard. At that corner stood the old study house and, close by, the most honored tree with the hook where the pastor hitched his old horse. How often, of a summer's morning, have I come early and not seeing Dominie's horse at that tree or in the winding road up the hill, hurried to the spring, then wandered through the grove, until I was warned, of the meeting time, by the strong tide turning toward the church. Even now I think I can see again old Father Bryson as he came from the study house, his head so white, his appearance so venerable, his step so slow! Mark a gentleman of the old school as he stops to speak to that band of Scotch elders who rise from the bench to welcome him! He neither uncovers nor touches his hat but there is something in that peculiar bend and the movement of his head that no modern manners can surpass."

Mr. Sheddan goes on to describe "the six wooden steps at the entrance, the high and straight backed pews, the square box, in front, for the clerk who raised the tunes, and was a very important man in the church, and how still the ruling elder sat under the preaching of the word, having walked four miles to church. What a number of devout fathers sit at the heads of the pews. The fact is there is a good deal of nobility in this old church, the nobility of moral worth. The weather is warm and some come without coats. They all stand in the long prayers and some hard working men grow drowsy and stand awhile during the sermon to keep themselves awake. The Communion—a great occasion—two sermons on Friday, one on Saturday, two on Sabbath and one on Monday." The last was the action sermon. "Those four days' meetings I liked."

In 1876 a historical sermon was preached by the pastor, the Rev. Henry Graham Finney, being the Centennial Year of the Nation. He said: "I cannot tell in what year the Sabbath school was organized but, from what one of our old members tells me of her recollection, it may have been 40 years ago or more. It has never been large, never attended by nearly all the children of the church, the homes of too many of the families being too far from the church for their attendance. For many years a number of the church members and many of their children and youth of the families of the congregation, living near Center Church, were connected with a union Sabbath school held in that church; as at present some of our members are at work and our young people are scholars in the Union Sabbath school at Pottsgrove"—there was then no Church at Pottsgrove.

It would appear the Sabbath schools at these points all began about ninety years ago or more. Mooresburg started about ninety-seven years ago.

The Rev. Daniel M. Barber began to minister, as a stated supply, in 1840. The old minute book of the Session of that period is preserved. The record of the first Session meeting bears the date May 9, 1840. This book covers the period of twenty years. The elders present at the start were John Irland, James McMahan and James F. Murray. Mr. Murray was chosen secretary. Mr. Barber supplied until October, 1847; the Rev. Mr. Hudson to April 13, 1850.

Mr. Barber was installed pastor at Chillisquaque and Mooresburg May 13, 1851. Chillisquaque gave him \$300. At that time Robert Simington also was an elder.

In 1814 Thomas Hood served three churches on \$600 salary. In 1851 the highest salary was paid by the Mahoning Church, Danville, \$800. Mr. Barber preached for a faction at Jersey Shore during 1848-'50. Mr. John H. Grier was, at the same time, preaching for the other part of the congregation.

June 12, 1817, Pleasant Valley Sunday school was organized by John Irland and James Sanderson.

The Chillisquaque Church Roll of 1840 is as follows: Robert Irland, Elizabeth Irland, Mary Davis, Maria Davis, David Irland, Elmer Irland, Sarah Ann Irland, Eliza Ann Irland, John Hurlocker, Mary Hurlocker, James L. Irland, Thomas L. Irland, Ellen Irland, Thomas Hullihen, James Murray, Rebecca Hullihen, Abigail Hullihen, Mary Hullihen, Jennie Robbins, Amelia Murray, Samuel Hibler, Elizabeth Hibler, Osee Hibler, Margaret Murray, Mary Murray, Eleanor Murray, Jane Auten, Nancy Morgan, Samuel Miller, John M. Irland, Anida Irland, Catherine Miller, William Durham, Mary Durham, William Kramer, Hannah Kramer, Sarah Giffin, Margaret Giffin, Nancy Giffin, Mary Giffin, John Giffin, Samuel McMahan, Jane McMahan, William McMahan, Sarah McMahan, Mary McMahan, James McMahan, Jr., Mary McMahan, James McMahan, Jr., Margaret McMahan, han, James Strawbridge, Charlotte Strawbridge, Ann Strawbridge, Ann Murray, Mary Murdock, Isabel Gray, Sarah Jordon, John McMahan, Mary Fisher, William Dale, Elmer Dale, Richard Wilson, Mary Wilson, Margaret Wilson, Sarah Wilson, Joseph Wilson, Agnes Wilson, William Wilson, Elizabeth Wilson, John Wilson, Letty Wilson, Abraham Cole, Sarah Cole, Robert E. Auten, Nancy Auten, Elizabeth Simington, John Simington, Joseph Kerr, Jane Kerr, Mary Kerr, John Brown, Margaret Brown, Mary Shedd, Catherine Montgomery, Rebecca Blair, James D. Wilson, Mary Wilson, Jane Campbell, Mary Wilson, Margaret McClure, Eliza Henry, Mary Ann Murdock, Sarah Ann Wilson, Charlotte Jane Wilson, Margaret E. Wilson, Mary S. Wilson, John Brown, Jr. Additions:—1841—Jeremiah Smith, Elizabeth Smith, Margaret McCoy, Margaret Irland, Mary Miller, Samuel McMahan, Eliza M. McMahan, Ann Strawbridge, Robert Montgomery, Jane Auten, Ann Clark, Jeremiah Smith, Sarah Burns, Isabel McCoy, Elizabeth Smith, Mary Ann Gray, David B. Montgomery, Elizabeth Montgomery, Jane Miller, Margaret Durham, Martha Wilson, Eliza Wilson, Absalom Cole, Charlotte Wilson, John Henry, Nancy Wilson, Maria Shedd, William Murray, Jane Murray, Frederick Aughenbach, William Taggart, Margaret McMahan, Eliza Baldwin, Charles Critz, Hester McCalister, Mary Morgan, Eleanor Irland.

1842—Margaret Smith, Ann Irland, Amanda Irland, Thomas Vansant.

1845—Rachel Wilson, Jane Friest, Elizabeth Friest, Eliza Friest, Rebecca Friest, Abner Robbins, Thomas Lyons, Elizabeth Fox.

1846—William D. Vanhorn, John McMahan, Elizabeth Durham, Isabella Shedd, Ann Nesbit, Susan A. E. Nesbit, Nancy W. Nesbit, Caroline Buddman, Fleming Nesbit.

1847—Letty Wycoff, Julia A. McMahan, Rachel Follmer, Ann Elizabeth Grier, Robert McCormick, Robert McMahan, Sarah Ann Morgan, Jane McMahan, Mary McMahan; 1848—Elizabeth McMahan.

1850—Eleanor Nesbit, Samuel McNinch, Mary McNinch, Jacob Shires, Margaret Vanhorn. 1851—Caroline Taggart, Jane Morgan, Jane Auten.

1852—Catherine Bond, Harriet Bond, Sarah Jane Huff, Mary Fisher, Mary Durham, Adam Fox, Charles Huff, James Vanhorn, James Durham, Hester Blair, Rebecca M. Nesbit, Catherine M. Nesbit, James McGinness, Christianna Giffin, Catherine Davis, Elizabeth Wilson.

1853—Mary Rogers, Sarah Rogers, Mary A. Davis, Eliza A. Wilson, Mary J. Wilson.

1854—Mary Ann Blair, Mrs. Montgomery, Mary J. Montgomery, Benjamin Simington, Ann Simington, Margaret Simington, Rebecca Augden, Rebecca Davis, Susan S. Berger, Sarah Jane Fox, Anna Bell McMahan.

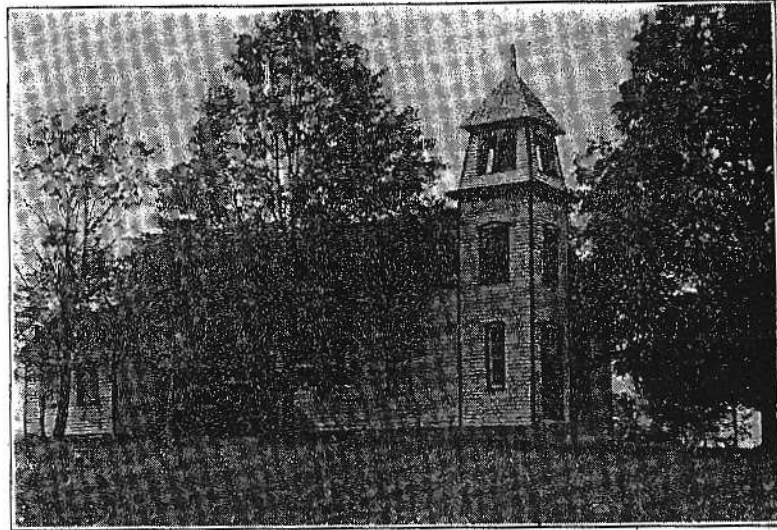
1858—Abigail Billmire, Sarah McMahan, Jane Mary Giffin, Margaret Auten, Hetty Auten, Mary W. Auten, John K. Shedd, James O. Giffin, John C. Montgomery, Mrs. Blue, Hugh R. Montgomery, Sarah Montgomery, Isaac Blue, Mary L. Kerr, Elizabeth Ellen Simington, Clarinda Murray, Margaret Barber.

28 added in '41; 18 in '52; 17 in '54. Number on Roll 1840—101.

May 31, 1852, Elders elected—Thomas Irland, Samuel McNinch, Samuel McMahan, Jr.

The Brick Church building was erected in 1853 and dedicated January 19, 1854. This edifice, considerably larger than the former, measured 60x45, and stood a little north. The earlier churches were about 30x40. The Follmer Church, built a few years later, is the exact counterpart of the brick Chillisquaque. A marble, from the wall, is in the pillar of the gate at main entrance to grounds with this inscription: "Chillisquaque Presbyterian Church, O. S. 1853."

From 1837 to 1870, the Presbyterian Church was divided into two known as the Old and New School Presbyterians. Hence the letters "O. S." The minutes of this old session book are well preserved and were well kept. Some notes are here copied: June 5, 1840, baptized David Mitchell, infant of James D. and Mary Wilson; William McCleary, infant of James and Mary McMahan. June 6, Daniel Barber, infant of Sam. and Catherine Miller. Session met. Present, D. M. Barber, moderator; elders: Jas. McMahan and Jas. F. Murray. Added Margaret McCoy, Margaret Irland, Mary Miller, Samuel McMahan, Eliza McMahan. June 7, Communion. Ministers present: D. M. Barber, pastor; John Bryson and William R. Smith assisted. 119 communed. Sept. 6, raised collection to aid the Assembly's Board of Education, \$148. Sept. 20, Session met. Present D. M. Barber. John Irland was appointed to attend Presbytery in Milton, 2nd Tues. in Oct. Oct. 11, Jas. F. Murray was appointed to attend the sitting of Synod at Danville, the 21st inst. Feb. 28, 1841. It was agreed to hold a series of religious services in the Union Church. (Center). June 6, '41, 157 communed. June 7, the Agent for the Assembly's Board of Domestic Missions presented the claims of the Board when the congregation raised \$50. Nov. 21, 118 communed. Nov. 22, Rev. W. M. Hall, agent for the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, laid the claims of the Board before the congregation and raised for its support \$37.



The Church at Mooresburg



The Manse at Pottsgrove

ship, in 1789. His wife was Dina Spencer. Their son Lazarus came at the same time. Lazarus was born September 9, 1751. He married Elizabeth Ocheltree as his second wife. He was an only child. He was a pensioner for his service in the Revolution, 1st Lieut. Chester County troops. These Finneys and their wives and family are buried under the Lewisburg Presbyterian Church. Lazarus is my greatgrandfather and lived to be 82 years of age. Of a large family my grandfather, Robert Finney, was a son of the second wife. My grandmother Finney was Eleanor Graham, the daughter of Henry Graham, a Covenanter and a veteran of the Revolution who rests at Warrior Run. He joined with the Presbyterians in the call of Bryson. His father, John Graham, came from Ireland and located in Dauphin County, where he died. Henry Graham had a sister Esther who married James Bryson, John Bryson's older brother. They are buried at Warrior Run. The mother of the Bryson men was Esther Quigley. John Graham was born in 1706; died March 22, 1780. His wife was Eleanor Quigley. They had six children of whom Esther was next the youngest and Henry the youngest. Henry Graham was born June 6, 1757 and died May 4, 1846. His wife was Elizabeth Ferguson, born September 16, 1768. They had eight children. The eldest, John, was a minister. Henry was drafted when 18 years old. The Graham farm near Turbotville was known as the Spring Hill farm. My grandfather bought it at \$56 per acre in 1839. He was the executor of his father-in-law's estate and lived there from the time my father was about nine years old. Robert Finney retired in April, 1866, and lived in McEwensville until his death. He was born June 25, 1794; died September 4, 1870; being Sabbath, at 7 o'clock in the evening. There were eight children. The farm was sold to Mr. Menges for \$201 per acre. Mr. Stahl had owned it before Graham and Menges was related to Stahl.

Henry Graham and Robert Finney were elders of the Covenanter Church at Milton. Henry Graham had three grandsons in the ministry. Robert Finney, my great-great-grandfather, was a cousin of Thomas McKean. The latter was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The name Robert Finney is among the signers of the call to Chillisquaque made out to John Bryson. While he lived across the river, yet certain reasons may have led him to connect here. I find no trace of his connection with Buffalo. The old graveyard at Lewisburg antedated the church. It was probably a Covenanter influence which occasioned the church at McEwensville. All these early churches and families were closely related both in their coming from the lower counties and in their doings here. Five of Lincoln's electors in 1860, Pollock, Taggart, Colvin, Kirkpatrick, Hull, were all students in the school conducted at Milton by Mr. Kirkpatrick. Governor Pollock was one of the best men. Gov. Curtin also went to this academy.

"Billy" Sunday says: "I used to live in Pennsylvania and of the many wonderful things for which this wonderful State is noted, not the least is the fact that most always she has had godly men for Governors, and one of the most magnificent examples of godly piety that ever honored this State was Governor Pollock. When he was Governor a young man was sentenced to die for murder and there was a strong effort to have him pardoned, but the Governor said he could not, but he went to his cell and pointed him to Christ and helped him to be ready to die, opening God's Word to him and praying with him, the prisoner not knowing who it was who talked with him." The faith of this noble Christian statesman is enshrined in the words,

"In God we trust," on our coins, which he placed there when he had charge of the mint at Philadelphia.
 "Have faith in God."

Major James McMahan was a trustee of the church. His youngest son was Samuel, who married Jane Reed, daughter of William Reed, the veteran. They had eleven children. One of them, Margaret, married John Giffin, who was an elder of the church. The Giffins had five children, of whom one is Mrs. Charles H. Park. Another child of Samuel McMahan bore his father's name. Samuel McMahan, Jr., Esq., the author of the History of the McMahan family, was born July 24, 1818. He was baptized in infancy and received into the communion of the church under the ministry of Mr. Bryson. He has left description of the two-story log church built after the Revolution, first as a one-story structure and then later raised for a gallery, which ran around on three sides. The pulpit was large enough to seat three ministers. The stairs to the elevated pulpit were narrow but substantial. There was a hand rail. About halfway up was the Clerk's seat. Mr. McMahan exclaims at the mention of the singing of the whole congregation, the clerk standing before the congregation and the people in the gallery as well taking part. There was no instrument or choir. In his boyhood, the precentor was John Simington. About 1832 a new stairway was placed inside and the whole building was repaired, plastered and made much more comfortable. The pews were high-backs, made of yellow pine. During the summer months the pastor gave two sermons. The first, perhaps, an hour long; then an intermission of half an hour, during which the families would eat a lunch prepared and brought with them, and then they would reassemble in the house and hear another abbreviated sermon. The congregation would then go home and spend the evening studying the Catechism, and by that excellent discipline were indoctrinated and trained. The old building was standing and used until the new one, the brick, was ready.

The great oaks and the spring at the foot of the hill were, no doubt, great attractions for all at the noon hour, when the social spirit would find expression. One can imagine some gallant youth serving the multitudes with a cup of cold water as they trooped down in a procession.

John McMahan, the brother of the Major, married Jane Murray, daughter of John Murray. They had nine children. One son, William, was a physician, who married, first, Sarah Simington, who lived a few months and died of

consumption. He then married Effie Kerr. They had a number of children, all dying young. "Aunt Effie" was the last person buried in the old cemetery. She survived her husband many years, being in her 97th year when called away in 1909. Dr. McMahan died in 1854, in his 54th year.

Of the family of James Montgomery, who located here early in the last century, Daniel W. married Margaret Curry. He was a physician and located in Orangeville. Another of the family of James Montgomery, Hugh, married Sarah Moll. Their son James is a physician at Bloomsburg.

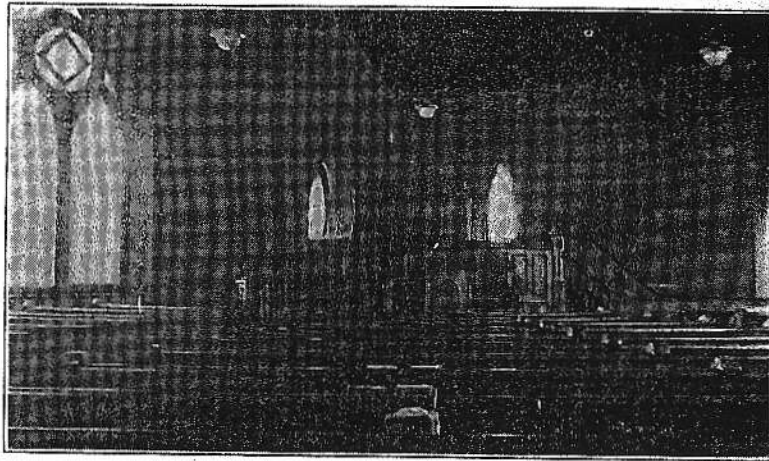
Of the family of John Clark, Revolutionary veteran, there was a son, John, of the War of 1812, and one of the family of John, Jr., Robert Finney Clark, was an attorney at Bloomsburg.

Of the family of Robert Curry of the Revolution, William married Jane Moore. Their eldest son was James, who became associate justice of court. His wife was Christianna Yorks. Her father, Lieut. Samuel Yorks, was in the War of 1812, and her grandfather, William Yorks, in the Revolution as an officer. Of their children, a daughter, Mary Ellen, married a physician, Dr. Faulds. Judge Curry's son William married the second wife, Helen Lowrie, a younger sister of the Rev. Mr. Park's first wife. There was a brother, Newell Lowrie (Lowry), a prominent minister. Judge Curry's sister Margaret married Dr. Daniel Montgomery, as stated, who lived at Orangeville.

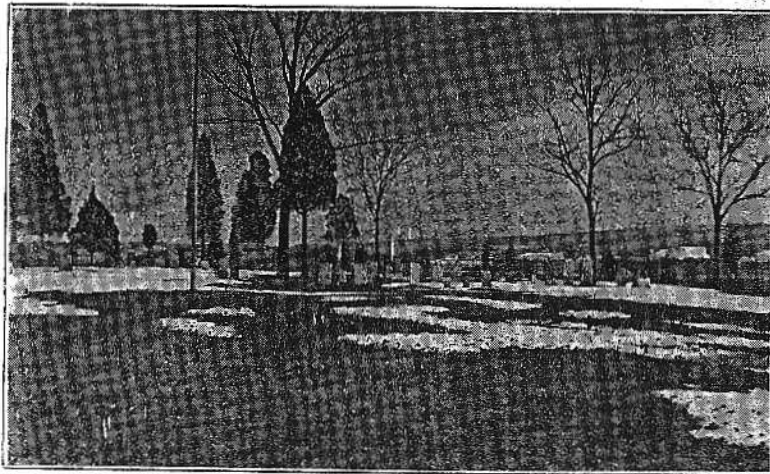
The old Center schoolhouse was erected in 1823 on land given by James Strawbridge. He was the son of the veteran, Thomas Strawbridge. Of the family of James, there was a son, James Dale Strawbridge, who was a physician and surgeon of note. He had a remarkable record in the Civil War. His mother was Mary Dale. The Dale home was at the cross-roads, a mile east of the creek.

Of the family of Simon Cole, Captain in the Revolution, there is no record. Samuel Lowrie, one of eight brothers, with a sister, came from Scotland. He lived from 1800 to 1857. His wife was Helen Cole. She died in 1886, in her 80th year. The Cole land was a mile north of Mooresburg. There is a private plot there having tombstones with the inscriptions, Absalom Cole, died 1847, and Sarah Cole, born May 25, 1780, died August 22, 1873.

Of the family of James Bryson and his wife, Esther Graham, there is a long list of professional men and women. Their son, William Bryson, had a daughter, Priscilla,



Interior of the Church at Pottsgrove



The Original Site at Chillisquaque

father Holmes was the Surveyor for William Penn in the laying out of Philadelphia and vicinity.

The original Springer came to Delaware about 1636 and took up the land where Wilmington now stands. It was a Swedish settlement and he was a Swede. Many families have come and gone from this community and the record of many is obliterated. When I united with the church, at eleven years and six months, there were also some adults—James Y. McGinness and his wife Deborah, and her brother, William Stout, and also Frank Welliver. The latter was a schoolmate of mine. They all lived in Williamsport at the time of my father's death and were at the funeral. Quite a considerable number have come in from other denominations and help keep up the church.

In May, 1920, the Woman's Missionary Society celebrated the 100th Anniversary of its origin. It was the Jubilee of the Woman's Board, and some of the delegates were with us, among them Mrs. Arthur B. Herr, of Watkins, N. Y., and Miss Regina Hoffa, of Lewisburg. There was manifested a deep interest. The required amount was raised and appropriated and the pastor was made a life member. In "The Churches of the Valley," by Nevin, 1852, the record of the Upper West Conococheague Presbyterian Church at Mercersburg is narrated, a church, which was in existence as early as 1738, while Dr. King came to the pastorate in 1769, the same year in which our Chillisquaque Valley was opened for the purchase of claims, the Cumberland Valley having received its full share of the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians a generation earlier, that great pioneer church having flourished under Dr. King, who was there forty-two years, until ill health forced him out of service in 1811. At all events, Dr. Nevin states that the Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1825, and adds, "It is worthy of note that probably there is not another Society of the kind within the bounds of the Synod which has been in existence so long a time." He was not aware that five years earlier the Chillisquaque Valley had such a society started in May, while the Presbytery had started the Union organization yet earlier by two years. Those forward-looking young men, Bryson, who had been a student under King, and Junkin, fresh from the school of Dr. Mason in New York, had stolen a march on the Synod in that significant way. On the other hand, our valley was not far behind in another great movement begun in that period. The Sunday school at Mercersburg dates from 1815

rural church. The schools and industries of the towns produce a sharp competition for the country people to meet. The farmer's help is attracted to the public works and the youth go to the towns and the money that comes back to us from the large centers is not much. We get \$100, but give them our people as well as our business and our hard-earned cash. The Rural High School must be equipped to the standard or go under, and it is a life and death struggle all the time for the church. The banks, wealth and leadership of the cities and towns have grown upon our resources as much as anything. The farmer has to make a big investment and the returns are meager. The problem, however, is our opportunity. We ask no favors. It is, however, a labor of love and the reward is great.

The rotary system has been in use for the Elders as well as Trustees. Jonathan Stahl served as Elder for a time. Death has been busy in the ranks of the Session of late years. The rolls of the churches are appended. Also the inscriptions of the old Chillisquaque Cemetery are included in this Church History. They will be found at the end, with other lists.

THE CLOSING WORD

It has seemed a sacred duty to tell this story which is that of a living thing which took root with the very first things in the coming of the fathers who planted that of which we gather the fruit. Of which development from the beginning thus described the flourishing twin churches of the Chillisquaque Valley are a living monument by the grace of God. From the first land purchase to the present valued estate there is no rival for the place we occupy today. The descendants of James Bryson, the brother of John, are with us today. One of our very youngest is named after the very great uncle, John Bryson.

The survival of this old church at the cross-roads is of great interest. Records and genealogies touch me at several points. What my father longed for I have lived to see fulfilled and help on a little. One great comfort to me is to have my own mother spared to share my joy. My father and mother were up here at the old Spring Hill Farm at my grandfather's on their honeymoon when occurred the Battle of Gettysburg, where my father was pastor. My mother's home was near. His church was used as a hospital. They were at the platform when Lincoln made his

immortal speech at the Dedication of the Monument, and that evening a meeting was held in my father's church, when Lincoln sat in one of the pews. The contact with one of the world's greatest cannot be without effect. The great issues of our nation come stealing in on one to spur to greater effort.

Let us go hence.

Finis.

THE INSCRIPTIONS ON THE TOMBSTONES IN THE OLD CHURCHYARD

	Died	Age
Auten, Mary Ann, wife of Robert, born 1788		
Auter, Henry	1849	39 years
Black, John	1833	75 years
Black, Hannah, wife of John	1847	76 years
Black, Robert, son of James and Mary	1848	1 year
Bond, Benjamin	1838	74 years
Bond, Charles	1853	54 years
Bond, Margaret, wife of Charles	1840	41 years
Boudeman, James P.	1842	37 years
Boudeman, Jane, wife of James P.	1842	34 years
Boudeman, Emily, daughter of James P. and Jane	1843	4 years
Boudeman, Joseph, son of James P. and Jane	1843	2 years
Boudeman, Caroline, daughter of J. and J.	1848	16 years
Boudeman, John Calvin, son of J. and J.	1858	20 years
Brown, John	1868	68 years
Burns, Sarah	1890	74 years
Butler, Robert	1856	53 years
Butler, Martha, child of Robert	1834	1 year
Butler, Mary D., child of Robert	1837	1 mo.
Butler, Hannah, child of Robert	1846	6 days
Butler, Sarah, child of Robert	1850	
Butler, Effy, child of Robert	1857	2 mos.
Carter, William	1853	80 years
Carter, William	1830	31 years
Clark, Jane, wife of Alexander	1860	30 years
Cornelison, Charles B., son of Wm. and J. H.	1856	3 years
Cruisen, John, Esq.,	1796	36 years
Dale, John, Esq.	1841	33 years
Dale, Robert Maclay, son of John and Ann	1839	11 mos.
Dale, William	1857	82 years
Dale, Elizabeth, wife of William		
Dale, Agnes, daughter of Wm. and Elizabeth	1822	3 years
Davis, Philip	1820	80 years
Davis, Rebecca, wife of Philip	1802	65 years
Davis, William	1834	64 years
Davis, Mary, wife of William	1863	82 years
Davis, Eliza, daughter of Wm. and Mary	1814	8 years
Davis, Precilla	1841	54 years

Davis, Alfred	1856	14 years
Davis, David	1873	68 years
Davis, Maria, Bella, wife of David	1888	71 years
Davis, Hannah McWilliams	1896	69 years
Davison, Agnes	1800	72 years
Durham, William	1865	76 years
Durham, Jane H., daughter of Wm. and M.	1855	31 years
Durham, Lucinda, daughter of Wm. and M.	1831	10 mos.
Durham, Wm. A., son of Wm. and M.	1838	1 year
Durham, Matthew, son of Wm. and M.	1839	4 years
Emry, William	1826	75 years
Emry, Hannah, wife of Wm.	1834	
Emry, Peter	1831	52 years
Emry, Agnes, wife of Peter	1838	56 years
Eustis, Susan, wife of Samuel	1856	70 years
Forsman, Kezia	1831	71 years
Forsman, Julia Ann, daughter of James D. and Rebecca	1831	17 years
Forster, John	1823	43 years
Forster, Elizabeth, wife of John	1810	28 years
Freest, William	1854	52 years
Freeze, Elizabeth	1867	98 years
Geddis, James	1826	57 years
Giffin, James	1838	71 years
Giffin, Sarah, wife of James	1849	42 years
Giffin, James, son of James and Sarah	1811	1 mo.
Giffin, Nancy	1860	60 years
Giffin, Robert A.	1833	82 years
Hammond, David, Esq.	1801	54 years
Hammond, Jane, wife of David	1816	54 years
Harvey, William	1839	75 years
Harvey, Sarah, wife of William	1839	79 years
Henderson, Elizabeth	1842	
Hibler, Samuel	1842	80 years
Hibler, Osee, wife of Samuel	1852	82 years
Hibler, Samuel, son of S. and O.	1805	4 years
Hibler, Samuel, Platt	1842	37 years
Irland, David, Sr.	1827	89 years
Irland, Leonora, wife of David	1799	60 years
Irland, John	1852	79 years
Irland, Margaret, wife of John	1859	77 years
Irland, David M., son of John and Margaret	1829	17 years
Irland, Robert	1845	83 years
Irland, Mary, wife of Robert	1808	37 years
Irland, Elizabeth, wife of Robert	1845	64 years
Irland, Ann	1836	68 years
Irland, Eleanor M.	1811	3 years
Irland, Elizabeth	1823	19 years
Johnston, Margaret, wife of James Johnston and daughter of John & Margaret Wilson		
Kerr, Joseph	1856	85 years
Kerr, Jane, wife of Joseph	1854	79 years
Kerr, Robert H.	1875	75 years
Kerr, Hannah Murray, wife of Robert H.	1864	65 years
Kerr, Malinda, daughter of R. H. and H.	1833	2 years
Kerr, Elizabeth L., daughter of Jas. H. and Catherine	1840	5 years
Kerr, Nancy	1831	28 years

Kerr, Margaret M.	1831	23 years
Kerr, Daniel T.	1886	82 years
Kerr, Mary Giffin, wife of D. T.	1896	88 years
Laird, Jane, wife of Moses	1863	80 years
Lunger, Hanna, wife of John	1830	60 years
Lyons, Thomas	1837	68 years
Lyons, Mary, wife of Thomas	1847	72 years
Lyons, Margaret, daughter of Thomas and Mary	1846	40 years
Montgomery, John, Paradise Farm	1792	52 years
Montgomery, Christianna, wife of John	1824	80 years
Montgomery, William	1828	60 years
Montgomery, Rachel, wife of Wm.	1806	26 years
Montgomery, David, son of John and Christianna of Paradise Farm, grandson of Robert and Sarah who emigrated from Ireland Co., Armagh 1737	1859	92 years
Montgomery, Agnes, wife of David	1853	76 years
Montgomery, Robert, son of David & Agnes	1828	14 years
Montgomery, James, Esq.	1836	70 years
Montgomery, Sarah, wife of James	1827	49 years
Montgomery, Catherine, wife of James	1856	66 years
Montgomery, John C., son of James and Catherine		
Montgomery, James, son of James and Sarah	1827	28 years
Montgomery, Jane, wife of James Montgomery, Jr.	1826	21 years
Montgomery, William, son of James & Sarah	1826	21 years
Montgomery, Margaret J., daughter of J. and Catherine	1842	7 years
Montgomery, Samuel, son of J. and S.	1826	25 years
Montgomery, Anna daughter of J. and S.	1829	6 years
Montgomery, Nathaniel, son of J. and S.	1824	22 years
Madden, Joseph	1856	32 years
Maus, Sarah, wife of Joseph	1812	33 years
Miller, Henry	1826	54 years
Miller, Mary, wife of Henry	1863	82 years
Miller, Susan Y., wife of James N.	1855	27 years
Miller, Sarah G., daughter of J. and S.	1854	3 years
Miller, Mary Ann R., daughter of J. and S.	1849	6 mos.
Moodie, Robert Cathon, son of James & Jane	1807	11 mos.
Murray, James	1817	80 years
Murray, Ann	1846	90 years
Murray, Thomas	1828	62 years
Murray, Jane	1846	79 years
Murray, John	1848	60 years
Murray, Mary, wife of John	1845	51 years
Murray, Thomas, Jr.	1827	53 years
Murray, Charity, wife of Thos. Jr.	1850	77 years
Murray, Margaret, daughter of Thomas and Charity	1811	6 mos.
Murray, Thomas, son of Wm. and Nancy	1828	3 years
Murray, James R.	1845	20 years
Murray, Sarah Ann	1852	22 years
Murray, Margaret, daughter of W. and J. S.	1849	13 years
Murray, John	1834	69 years
Murray, Margaret	1850	84 years
Murray, Rebecca	1800	1 year

Murray, Rebecca	1802	1 year
Murray, Thos.	1811	3 mos.
Murray, Eleanor	1884	75 years
McBride, Cynthia Ann, wife of Abner	1852	30 years
McBride, Peter, son of A. and C.	1846	11 days
McCormick, William	1830	56 years
McCormick, Margaret, wife of William	1853	76 years
McCormick, William, son of W. and M.	1814	16 mos.
McFalls, Daniel S.	1874	53 years
McFalls, Margaret G., wife of Daniel	1856	41 years
McFauls, Catherine, daughter of Henry and Mary Ann	1831	8 mos.
McNinch, Mary H., wife of Samuel	1833	35 years
McElrath, James	1829	18 years
McKnight, William	17—	
McKnight, Elizabeth	17—	
McKnight, James	1823	70 years
McKnight, Elizabeth Gillan	1807	40 years
McKnight, William	1828	39 years
McKnight, Susanna Boyer	1873	75 years
McKnight, Elizabeth	1833	13 years
McMahan, J.	1823	
McMahan, Mary, wife of Major J.	1818	79 years
McMahan, Samuel	1854	74 years
McMahan, children (2) of S. and J.		
T. M.		
McMahan, John	1802	46 years
McMahan, Jane, wife of John	1807	44 years
McMahan, Hannah, daughter of John & Jane	1810	17 years
McMahan, Samuel, son of John and Jane	1815	12 years
McMahan, Sarah, daughter of S. and J.	1817	1 year
McMahan, Thos. R.	1826	6 mos.
McMahan, James	1871	88 years
McMahan, Margaret, his wife	1842	51 years
McMahan, John, son of James and Margaret	1815	17 mos.
McMahan, Jane, daughter of James and Margaret	1817	13 mos.
McMahan, William, son of James and Margaret	1819	16 mos.
McMahan, Margaret, daughter of James and Margaret	1823	20 mos.
McMahan, Lucinda	1825	3 mos.
McMahan, Thomas, son of John and Jane	1823	27 years
McMahan, Anna B., daughter of James and Margaret	1885	51 years
McMahan, Benjamin, Valley Township, Columbia County	1863	69 years
McMahan, Esther, J., wife of Benj.	1876	70 years
McMahan, Mary Jane, daughter of B. & E. J.	1847	16 years
McMahan, Esther, daughter of B. and E. J.	1844	3 years
McMahan, Hannah, daughter of B. and E. J.	1851	8 years
McMahan, Mary	1839	41 years
McMahan, William, Doctor of Medicine	1854	53 years
McMahan, Sarah, wife of Dr. McMahan	1838	26 years
McMahan, Effie S. Kerr, wife of Dr. McMahan	1909	96 years
McMahan, Jane K., daughter of Dr. Wm. and Effie	1837	14 years
McMahan, Joseph Addison, son of W. and E.	1850	1 year

McMahan, John Calvin, son of Wm. and Effie	1847	3 mos.
McWilliams, William	1819	80 years
McWilliams, Sarah, wife of William	1806	62 years
McWilliams, Thomas	1833	57 years
McWilliams, Eliza	1883	81 years
McWilliams, Sarah N.	1852	41 years
McWilliams, Jane G.	1820	7 years
McWilliams, Maria	1848	37 years
McWilliams, John	1849	65 years
McWilliams, grandfather		
McWilliams, Maria		
McWilliams, Sarah		
McWilliams, Jacob R., son of J. C. and S.		
McWilliams, Jane		
McWilliams, Jacob B.	1861	12 years
Newcomer, Rebecca, daughter of Wm. and Mary Davis, and wife of Andrew N.	1831	
Newcomer, infant daughter of A. and R.		3 days
Reed, Sarah, wife of Robert Reed	1846	39 years
Reed, William, Esq.	1831	75 years
Reed, Mary, wife of William	1831	69 years
Rishel, William H.	1844	32 years
Rissel, Henry	1830	44 years
Rodenbach, Anna, wife of Peter	1819	80 years
Rogers, Mary, wife of John	1854	45 years
Rogers, Eleanor, daughter of John and Mary	1857	22 years
Russel, Robert, son of Wm. and Ruth	1835	22 years
Sanderson, Ezekiel	1808	35 years
Sanderson, Mary, daughter of Jas. P. and Margaret	1821	9 mos.
Sechler, Thomas Davis	1881	5 days
Shaw, William	1811	63 years
Shannon, Henry	1853	75 years
Shannon, Elizabeth Gillespie, wife of Henry	1863	81 years
Sheddan, James	1811	73 years
Sheddan, Mary, wife of James	1813	61 years
Sheddan, Mary	1872	85 years
Sheddan, William	1839	53 years
Sheddan, Sarah, wife of William	1813	29 years
Sheddan, Anna	1829	42 years
Sheddan, James	1831	22 years
Sheddan, A. Russel	1854	33 years
Sheddan, Maria S.	1857	35 years
Sheddan, William	1853	21 years
Simington, Robert	1841	83 years
Simington, Elizabeth, wife of Robert	1847	75 years
Simington, Peter	1840	47 years
Smith, Jeremiah	1851	86 years
Smith, Samuel Jasper, son of Daniel and Cassandra	1810	3 years
Smith, David	1810	44 years
Smith, Anabella, wife of John	1834	32 years
Taggart, William	1853	79 years
Thomas, Elizabeth	1824	40 years
Wallis, John, Esq.	1810	35 years
Wallis, Lydia, wife of Samuel	1812	68 years
Williamson, Amy	1860	41 years

Wolfinger, Clara Alice, daughter of Wm. G. and Sarah	1841	9 mos.
Wolfinger, Emily, daughter of Wm. G. and Sarah	1850	2 years
Wood, Thomas, Doctor of Medicine	1826	46 years
Wood, Clarinda, daughter of Thos. and Eliza	1825	2 years
Vandling, John	1847	76 years
M. M. V.		
Vandling, Catherine, wife of John	1821	49 years
Vandling, Jacob	1821	6 years
Vandling, Elizabeth	1821	9 years
Vandling, William	1821	14 years
Vanhorn, John Miller, son of James and Margaret	1852	1 year
Vanhorn, Charles Newton, son of J. and M.	1852	4 years
Vanhorn, Margaret M., wife of Wm. D.	1863	48 years
Wilson, John	1826	78 years
Wilson, Margaret, wife of John	1829	78 years
Wilson, Mary, daughter of John & Margaret	1858	
Wilson, Catherine, daughter of J. and M.	1854	
Wilson, Nathaniel	1826	46 years
Wilson, Sarah, wife of Nathaniel	1832	51 years
Wilson, Richard	1846	58 years
Wilson, Mary, wife of Richard	1857	70 years
Wilson, Charity Murray, daughter of R. & M.	1827	10 mos.
Wilson, Mary, daughter of R. and M.	1818	1 year
Wilson, Eleanor, daughter of R. and M.	1816	3 years
Wilson, Nathaniel, son of R. and M.	1812	2 years
Wilson, Elizabeth	1866	82 years
Wilson, William, husband of Elizabeth	1852	69 years
Wilson, William	1846	58 years
Wilson, Joseph	1815	72 years
Wilson, Mary, wife of Joseph	1820	65 years
Wilson, William, son of J. and L.	1830	4 years
Wilson, Margaret, daughter of J. and L.	1836	1 mo.
Wilson, Mary, wife of James	1840	31 years
Wilson, Nancy, wife of James	1843	26 years
Wilson, James D.	1877	67 years
Wilson, Rachel, wife of James D.	1902	81 years

One hundred and fifty rough stone markers with no inscriptions.

Among the unmarked graves are:

Curry, Nancy, wife of James Curry and daughter of John and Margaret Wilson.

Lunger, Ezekiel, veteran of Black Hawk War.

Sawyer, seven of family, of which family was the mother of the late William Robinson and Mrs. Effie Umpstead. (7 stones with no inscriptions).

Strawbridge, Thomas and his wife, Margaret Montgomery, sister of General William Montgomery of Danville.

Many of the pioneers and veterans of the Colonial era are without any names or dates upon the tombstones. Many more are without a mark even.

The Veterans in Old Chillisquaque Are

Of 1776—Philip Davis, Thomas Strawbridge, William McWilliams, William Shaw, John Wilson, Robert Simington, James Mc-

Mahan, John McMahan, James Murray, William Reed, William McKnight, James McKnight, David Hammond.

Of 1812—William McKnight, Richard Wilson, and of Black Hawk War, Ezekiel Lunger. Peter Simington is said to have served in 1812.

It is probable that John and William Murray and William Fisher, Robert Moodie, Thos. Hewitt, all original members here and veterans of record, are buried here. William Murray had died by 1805. It is hoped to erect a fitting monument to the veterans and pioneers and martyrs of the Colony. This should include numbers of our Valley who sleep in the abandoned cemeteries, such as Northumberland, Lewisburg, Milton and Danville or in unknown graves on battlefields or at Valley Forge.

The grave stones without inscription include the Indian graves in the southeast corner.

One hundred and fifteen of the marked graves are of those who were born by the beginning of the last Century. The oldest was Elizabeth Freeze, 98. Only two past ninety. The second being our old friend, "Aunt Effie" McMahan, 96. About the first money I earned was 25c for digging her garden.

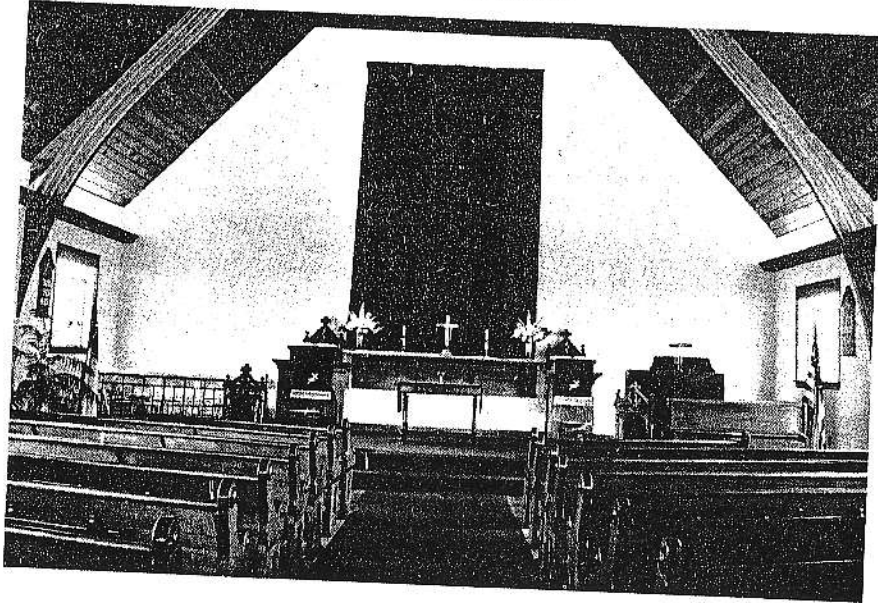
The earliest births of any were David Ireland, 1736; Ann Murray in 1737; James Sheddan, 1738; Major McMahan, probably as early as his wife, who was born in 1739, as was also Ann Rodenbach. Others as early or earlier are without record.

The first deaths recorded are those of the McKnights, 1779. Mrs. McKnight was Elizabeth McCormick, I believe, and was born in 1749. I think her husband was quite her senior. However, we know when the Indians finished them. John Montgomery of Paradise died 1792, struck by a falling tree in opening the road to Derry. John Cruisen died 1796. The wife of David Ireland, Sr., Leonora, died 1799.

The number of graves with inscriptions is two hundred and eighty-three. The old Chillisquaque Cemetery is without a peer in Northern Pennsylvania, and when properly cared for is a monument in itself. An increased endowment would make a most beautiful place to visit for the people who love to think. It stands at a suitable place among the rich towns of our twin Susquehanna Valleys and accessible from all highways, and a vast number of people will in future years come to see the place where rest the men and women of the early days. The history of which we have been speaking at some length centers here. Come and see.

Burying in the old cemetery practically ended about the time of the close of the Civil War. A stranger who came back ill, and was cared for at Pottsgrove, was buried, though a soldier, soon after on the hill below the present line. The exact place and the name are forgotten. Only about ten have been buried in the old ground in the last fifty years.

Two physicians have helped to render sacred this



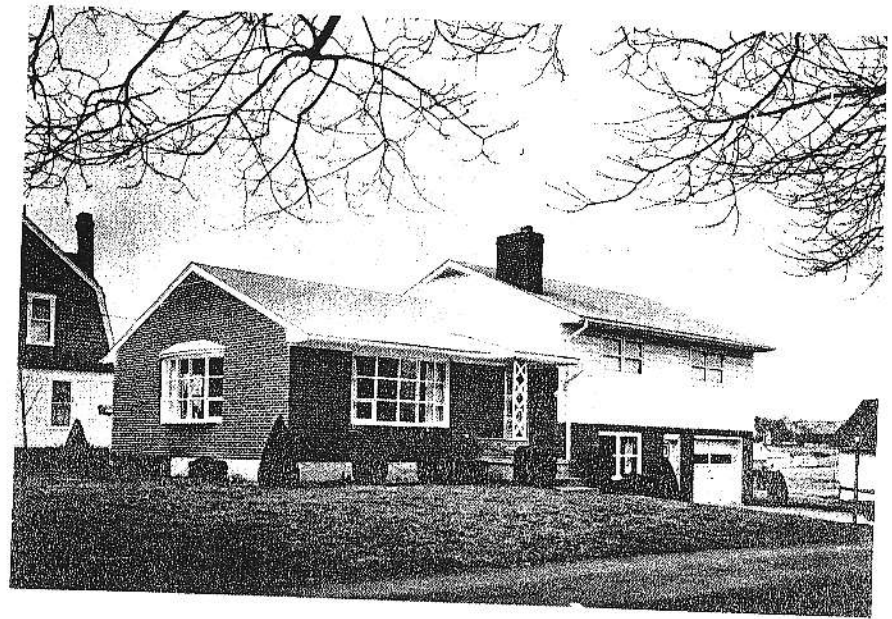
Interior of Mooresburg Presbyterian Church



Exterior of Mooresburg Presbyterian Church



Interior of Chillisquaque Presbyterian Church



Present Manse Located in Pottsgrove, Pa.

