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# HISTORY

OF THE

## Presbyterian Church in America,

FROM ITS ORIGIN UNTIL THE YEAR 1760.

WITH

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF ITS EARLY MINISTERS.

BY THE

REV. RICHARD WEBSTER,

LATE PASTOR OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MAUCH CHUNK, PA.

WITH

*A Memoir of the Author,*

BY THE REV. C. VAN RENSSELAER, D.D.

AND

*An Historical Introduction,*

BY THE REV. WILLIAM BLACKWOOD, D.D.

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PHILADELPHIA:

JOSEPH M. WILSON,

No. 27 SOUTH TENTH STREET, BELOW CHESTNUT ST.

1857.

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Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1857, by  
JOSEPH M. WILSON,  
in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of  
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Greenman spent a part of his time at "Aloes Creek:" there was a church at Logtown, on Lower Alloway's Creek, in 1750; it has been extinct for many years.

He gave one-fourth of his time to Penn's Neck, (probably Qu-hawken:) it first appears in 1747, asking supplies of New Brunswick Presbytery, and it had for a time a pastor; but it is now forsaken.

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## JOHN BROWN

WAS born in Ireland, and graduated at Nassau Hall in 1749; was licensed by Newcastle Presbytery, and sent to the Valley of Virginia. In August, 1753, he was called\* to Timber Ridge and Providence, the commissioners of the congregations being Archibald Alexander and Andrew Steel. He was ordained at Fagg's Manor, on Thursday, October 11, 1753. Davies preached from Acts xx. 28, "with a good deal of inaccuracy and confusion, though with some tender sense of the subject. I have hardly ever thought myself in so solemn a posture as when invoking the God of heaven, with my hand on the head of the candidate. May the Lord be his support under the burden of that office which he has assumed, I doubt not, with very honest and generous intentions!" He speaks of him, in 1754, as a youth of piety, prudence, and zeal.

McAden was with him at Timber Ridge, on the first Sabbath in July, 1755,—a day of fasting on account of murders by Indians: "there was great attention and solemnity."

It was under a sermon preached by Brown, from Psalm vii. 12,— "If the wicked turn not,"—that the Rev. Dr. McWhorter, in early youth, was impressed and led to the Saviour.

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\* The call is preserved, with its long list of signers, and is worthy of preservation:—"We being, for these many years past, in very destitute circumstances for want of the ordinances of the gospel stately among us, many of us under distressing spiritual languishments, and multitudes perishing in our sins for want of the bread of life broken among us; our Sabbaths wasted in melancholy silence at home, or sadly broken and profaned by the more thoughtless among us; our hearts and hands discouraged, and our spirits broken, with our mournful condition and repeated disappointments of relief in this particular. In these afflicting circumstances, which human language cannot paint, we have had the happiness, by the good providence of God, of enjoying a share of your labours to our abundant satisfaction; and, being universally well satisfied with your ministerial abilities in general, and the peculiar agreeableness of your qualifications to us in particular, as a gospel minister, we entreat you to have compassion on us, and accept this our call and invitation to the pastoral care of our immortal souls."

Brown married the daughter of John Preston, a native of Ireland, who settled at Tinkling Spring, Virginia, and became the ancestor of a long, honourable line of Prestons, Browns, Breckenridges, McDowells, and Marshalls.

He resigned the care of Timber Ridge\* in 1776, and removed, in 1797, to Kentucky. He died in 1803, aged seventy-five; his wife died in 1802, aged seventy-three. His eldest daughter married the Rev. Thomas B. Craighead, of Tennessee. His eldest son, John, was three times elected a member of the United States Senate, from Kentucky; he married the only sister of the Rev. Dr. John M. Mason, and died in 1837, aged eighty. His third son, James, was the first Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, a member of the United States Senate for many years from Louisiana, and, for six years, minister to the Court of France. His fourth son, Samuel, was an eminent physician and a Professor in the Transylvania Medical School.

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## ELIPHALET BALL

GRADUATED at Yale in 1748. On the resignation of Sackett, in 1753, Bedford had leave of Suffolk Presbytery to go to the Congregational Associations for a candidate: at a *pro re nata* meeting, December 11, 1753, they presented Ball as their choice. For an exegesis, they gave him "An Christus pro omnibus mortuus sit?" They met at Bedford, December 31, and the next day examined him, and heard him preach from Romans iii. 28. When Sackett came, they resumed the examination for his sake. On the 2d of January, 1754, Mr. Silliman prayed, Joseph Parke preached from 1 Timothy iv. 6, Prime presided, Sackett gave the right hand, and Dagget exhorted the people.

In May, 1757, they met a week earlier than usual, because of complaints made against him, and adjourned to meet at Bedford-on-the-Main. He was charged with using his neighbours' fowls which frequented his barn; with imprudent levity and unguarded airiness of deportment; with setting aside the elders, and managing contrary to the Presbyterian mode; and, while professing not to act

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\* It was called Timber Ridge, or Timber Grove, because it was the only wooded tract in 1737, in that district,—the Valley being overgrown by the pea-vine, the annual fires keeping down the shoots from the vigorous roots, until, on the retirement of the Indians, the white man saw the open country transformed into a forest.—Dr. Foote.