

A
HISTORY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church in America,

FROM ITS ORIGIN UNTIL THE YEAR 1760.

WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF ITS EARLY MINISTERS.

BY THE
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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.

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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PHILADELPHIA.

from the King on the Wallkill in Orange county. Eager mentions him among the land-owners in 1721.

He died March 10, 1722, leaving one son, who married* a daughter of Joseph Smith, of Jamaica, and removed to New Jersey, where he was educated and licensed; and whether ever ordained is not ascertained. He resided in Orange county, New York, and, in 1738, married Mary Fitch. He died at Wallkill, at the age of sixty-five, in 1779. His descendants remain there. He† preached at Newtown, Long Island, between 1744 and '46.

McNish gave reasons in 1716 for the absence of his elder. He was attended at synod in 1717, by John Rhodes, and in 1720 by Daniel Smith.

JOHN HAMPTON.

WHETHER he was a native of Scotland or Ireland is unknown. Lord Cornbury speaks of him as "a young Presbyterian minister lately come to settle in Maryland." He made application to Somerset Court to be qualified, in Jan. 1706; the matter was referred to the governor, and he went northward with Makemie, and, having preached at Newtown on Sabbath in "a meeting-house offered to record," was arrested with Makemie and carried before Cornbury. He remained silent until the governor began to make out an order for his commitment, when he demanded a license to preach, according to the Toleration Act. Cornbury refused, and sent him to prison.

He was not indicted, the attorney-general having dropped his name when the matter was laid before the grand jury.

He was called to Snowhill in March, 1707, the salary to be paid x in tobacco. He was "inaugurated" by McNish.

He was long in feeble health, and visited his native country in 1717 for his recovery; and the synod, in the following fall, accepted his demission of the pastoral care of his people, because he could not perform his duty to them "without apparent hazard of his life through bodily indisposition."

He made his will‡ October 28, 1719, and died before February, 1721. His widow (probably his second wife) survived him and her two previous husbands, Colonel Francis Jenkins and Rev. John Henry, and died in 1744.

He also served Pitt's Creek; and the united congregations were

* Macdonald.

† Riker's History of Newtown.

‡ Spence.

represented in 1709 by William Fosset; in 1710, by Benjamin Aidlett,* (Aydelotte;) in 1711, by Adam Spence; in 1714, by Samuel Hopkins; in 1715, by Nathaniel Hopkins; and in 1718, by Edmund Cropper.

JOHN BOYD,

A NATIVE of Scotland, came as a probationer, probably at the solicitation of his countrymen, who, fleeing from persecution, settled in Monmouth between 1680 and '90. Wodrow is said to have corresponded with the Scots in Jersey.

He was ordained by the Presbytery of Philadelphia, December 29, 1706, at the public meeting-house, before a numerous assembly. He had no call, but laboured at Freehold and Middletown. The country around Upper Freehold was, at that time, a wilderness full of savages.†

The people of Freehold wrote to the presbytery, about the settlement of Mr. Boyd, in May, 1708, and the presbytery requested them to consent to his preaching every third Sabbath at Woodbridge. He died in 1708, and his tomb remains to this day, while Makemie and the other ministers, most of them, lie in unknown graves.

JOSEPH SMITH.

IN Connecticut, the ancient barriers of Independency were swept away as by an ice-freshet. The legislature called synods to adjudicate; but every step only led further from the rigid mode of separating the world from all participation in the government and

* The Aydelotte family are still members of our church at Pitt's Creek. Adam Spence, one of the earliest settlers of Snowhill, came from Scotland during the persecution; the late Irving Spence was his descendant, to whom we owe much, for his gathering many interesting materials of our early history. Nathaniel Hopkins stands at the head of the list of elders, indicating his rank in society. Edmund Cropper is mentioned as attending Newcastle Presbytery.

† Morgan Edwards's History of New Jersey. Colonel Morris says that Keith made the first settlement in Freehold; he preached several times when a missionary at Toponemus, in Freehold. The congregation was probably represented by John Gray, in 1708.