

A
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.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

PHILADELPHIA:
JOSEPH M. WILSON,
No. 27 SOUTH TENTH STREET, BELOW CHESTNUT ST.
1857.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1857, by
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JOHN MILLER*

WAS born in Boston, December 4, 1722, his parents having come from Scotland in 1710. He experienced the power of religion under the ministry of Dr. Sewall, and studied theology with Mr. Webb. He began to labour in Kent county, Delaware, in 1747 or '48, and was ordained at Boston, in April, 1749. He took charge of Duck Creek, and gathered the congregation in Dover. One of Whitefield's letters is dated Dover, May 8, 1747; and it is likely that through his suggestion the Boston ministers engaged Miller to enter on this field.

He was married, November 23, 1751, to Margaret, daughter of Allonby Millington, Esq., of Talbot county, Maryland.

He joined the Old-Side Presbytery of Newcastle, after May, 1756, having until then formed no ecclesiastical connection in the peninsula. It may naturally be supposed, that the settlement of Matthew Wilson decided him to join that presbytery, in preference to the New-Side body. In 1758, the Presbytery of Lewes was formed of the brethren of both sides; and it seems to have been a happily-united and harmonious body.

He visited Accomac county, and appeared before Lancaster Presbytery to represent the destitution of the Eastern Shore, and the prospect of building up our interest; and they ordained Samuel Blair, Jr., and sent him thither.

He died in July, 1791, and was buried at Dover. His eldest son, John, entered the Revolutionary army as a surgeon, and died February 28, 1777, aged twenty-five. Mrs. Miller died November 22, 1789, aged sixty. His son Edward Miller, M.D. was a distinguished physician in New York. His congregation at Duck Creek (now Smyrna) built a handsome church† after his death, and tried to secure the pastoral services of his son Dr. Samuel Miller. *later of Union Theological Seminary*

It was the unhappiness of the congregations after his death to engage the services of a heretical teacher, and they dwindled and almost became extinct. The Brick Church‡ remained closed for a number of years, until Mrs. Leah Morris—a daughter of Mr. Winder, who had been brought, by means of the labours of Dr. Rodgers while a licentiate, to embrace the Confession of our church, and who became a pious man and a ruling elder at Wicomico—removed in her widowhood to reside with her son Dr. W. W.

* American Biographical Dictionary.

† MS. Letter of Dr. Samuel Martin, of Chanceford, Rhode Island.

‡ Memoir of Mrs. Morris: in Dr. Green's Christian Advocate.

Morris, at Dover. At first she secured occasional supplies to preach in the court-house, and in May, 1825, the church was again opened for public worship. She died February 2, 1826.

WILLIAM McKENNAN

X WAS probably a native of Drawyers, Delaware. He was licensed by Newcastle Presbytery before May, 1752, and was sent by the Synod of Philadelphia to supply North and South Mountain, Timber Grove, North River, and Cook's Creek, and at John Hinson's, in Virginia. He spent seven or eight months in the South.

Before May, 1756, he was settled at Wilmington and Red Clay: he resigned the former in 1794, and continued in the charge of the latter till his death.

Dr. Martin says, he was venerable for his years and his piety.

Governor McKinley,* who after the battle of Brandywine was taken prisoner by the British in his own house at Wilmington, left property to him by will.

MATTHEW WILSON

X WAS born in New London, Chester county, Pennsylvania, January 15, 1731, and was educated under Alison and McDowell. He was licensed, by Newcastle Presbytery, before May, 1754, and was employed to teach the languages in the synod's school at Newark, McDowell taking the other branches. He was ordained, before May, 1755, pastor of Lewes and Cool Spring, Delaware; and he was sent, for three months in the following spring, to Virginia.

In 1768, John Harris, who had served the New-Side congregations, left them, and the fractions united, and Wilson added Indian River to his charge. Though most steadfastly attached to the Old Side, he had a great dislike of the Scottish ecclesiastical system; and he had a favourite plan of church government, which he twice presented to the synod.

* Rev. George Foote: History of Drawyers.