

1834

1934

# First Presbyterian Church

BELVIDERE, NEW JERSEY

## CENTENNIAL *of* ITS ORGANIZATION

ON

*Tuesday, November 25, 1834*



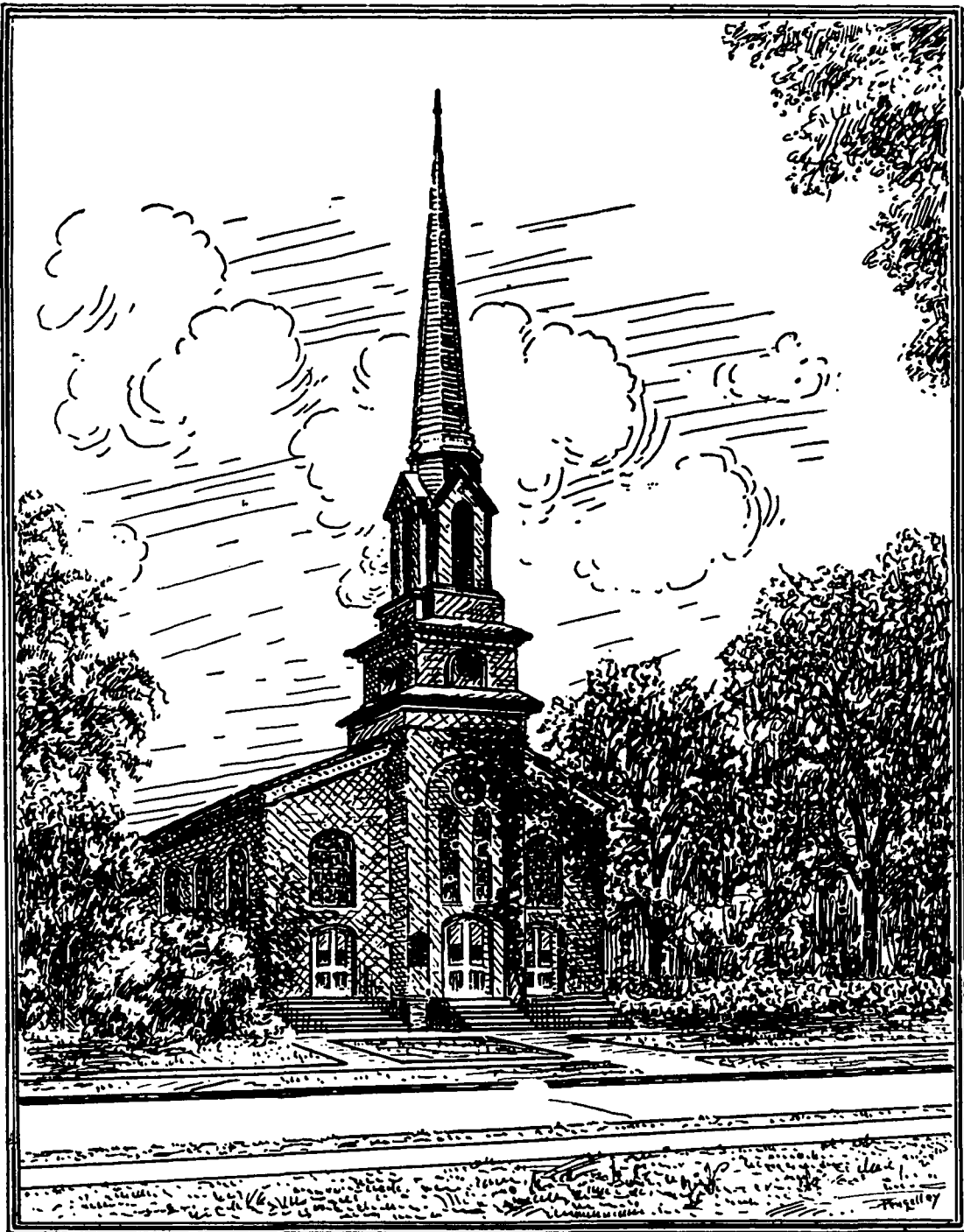
REV. ALEXANDER A. ACTON, *D. Ped.*

*Pastor*

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PRICE FIFTY CENTS





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BELVIDERE,  
NEW JERSEY



## *The Committee*

On the Centennial of the organization the First Presbyterian Church of Belvidere presents this pamphlet as evidence of its labors. Portraits of all but two pastors are shown. Since the names of families heretofore connected with the church were drawn largely from memory some may have been omitted. We did our best. We wish we might have done better.

G. WYCKOFF CUMMINS,  
MISS CHARLOTTE KETCHAM,  
H. R. RICHARDS,  
GEORGE BRANDS,  
A. B. BUSH.

✓ ✓ ✓

The First Presbyterian Church of Belvidere is a member of the Presbytery of Newton, the Synod of New Jersey, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

## ***Ministers***

Rev. Isaac N. Candee .....	1834-1840
Rev. Jas. Clark .....	1840-1850
Rev. Henry Reeves .....	1850-1858
Rev. Wm. Henry Kirk .....	1858-1866
Rev. David Tully, D.D. ....	1866-1872
Rev. Fullerton Reck. Harbaugh .....	1872-1874
Rev. Wm. Alex. Holliday, D.D. ....	1874-1884
Rev. James DeHart Bruen .....	1884-1928
Rev. Robert Stewart .....	1928-1931
Rev. Alexander A. Acton, D. Ped. ....	1931

## *Elders for the Past Century*

Chapman Warner  
Wm. C. Morris  
Geo. R. King  
John M. Sherrerd  
Alex. N. Easton  
David M. Stiger  
Phineas B. Kennedy  
Elias Buttz  
Wm. Hemingway  
Henry McMiller  
Simon F. Wyckoff  
Adrian Lott  
Jehiel G. Shipman  
John Welling  
Adam B. Searles  
Samuel Sherrerd  
Edward Vanuxen  
Josiah Ketcham

Aaron McCammon  
John B. Brookfield  
Geo. M. Shipman  
Frank A. Pierson  
Edmund H. Carhart  
Forman Hawk  
Oscar H. McMurtrie  
Theodore K. Bennett  
H. R. Richards  
Morris S. Faust  
Dr. Wm. C. Albertson  
Hilton Butler  
Wilson Litzenberger  
Archibald B. Bush  
Simon Minsenberger  
Frank Stout  
Luther Miller

1 1 1

## *Clerks of Session*

John M. Sherrerd .....	1834-1871
Samuel Sherrerd .....	1871-1884
Josiah Ketcham .....	1884-1904
Edmund Carhart .....	1904-1924
A. B. Bush .....	1924-1933
Carl R. Widenor .....	1933-



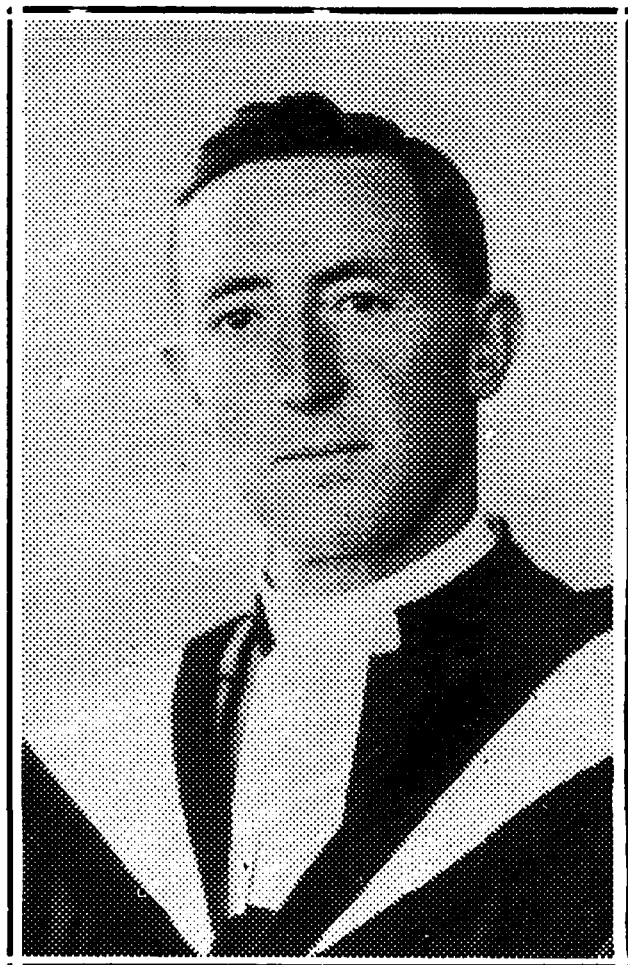
MODERATOR OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REV. WILLIAM CHALMERS  
COVERT, D.D.,

who delivers a message to us  
on Nov. 25, 1934

MODERATOR OF THE  
PRESBYTERY  
OF NEWTON

REV. ALEXANDER A. ACTON,  
D. PED.





## *A Century of Service*

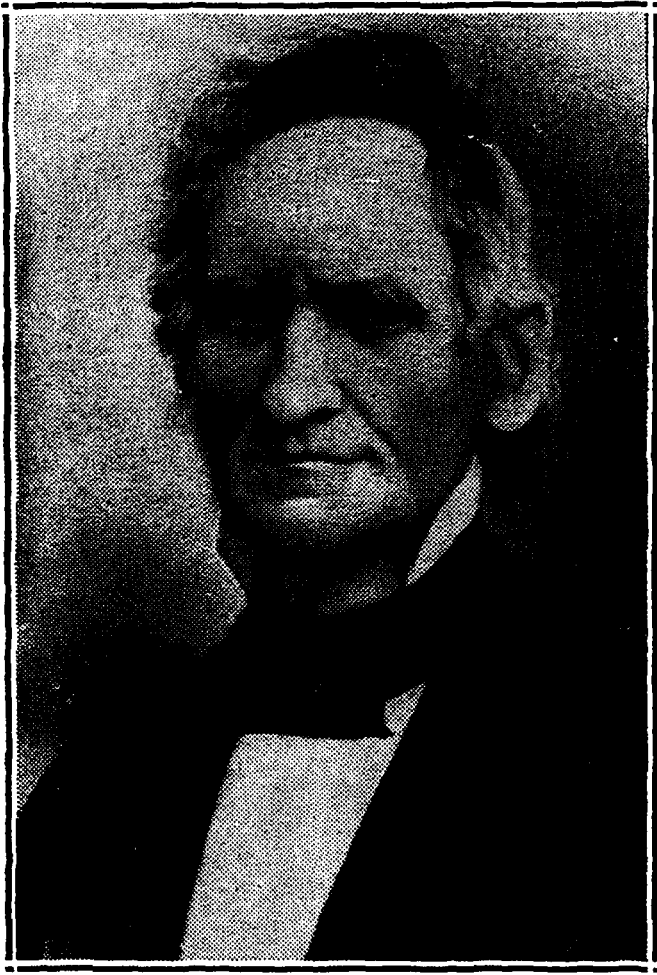
Centennial Address delivered Nov. 18, 1934, by Rev. Alexander A. Acton, D. Ped., Pastor of the Church and Moderator of the Newton Presbytery:

The land upon which the town of Belvidere stands was surveyed in 1716 in part to William Penn and in part to Col. John Alford. The Penn tract came into the possession of Robert Patterson who sold it in 1769 to Adam Hoops, who willed it to his son Major Robert Hoops. He sold that part south of the Pequest to Robert Morris, who deeded it to Mrs. Croxall in 1793, from whom it went to Garret D. Wall. The Alford tract was bought by the McMurtries in 1746.

In 1820, little more than one hundred years ago, there were only twenty-eight houses in Belvidere. In 1824 the County of Warren was separated from that of Sussex by act of the legislature. In 1825 an election was held to determine the county seat. Belvidere won over Hope, Washington, Oxford Furnace, Hackettstown, and Bridgeville. Perhaps the deciding factor in the victory of Belvidere was the fact that Garret D. Wall made a generous offer of the land on which the county buildings now stand, and the spacious park in the centre of the town, together with one thousand dollars toward the expense of the erection of the county buildings. With the selection of Belvidere as the capital of Warren County the little settlement began to grow.

The Scotch-Irish element was very strong numerically in the lower part of the new county, and Presbyterian churches were established at many points. At the first, these scattered congregations were under the care of the Presbytery of New Brunswick. In the minutes of this Presbytery for the year 1739 appears this record: "There came before the Presbytery a supplication for supplies of preaching in Mr. Barber's neighbourhood near Musconnekunk." Later minutes record the establishing of preaching stations at Mansfield Woodhouse, now Washington; Lower Greenwich, now Greenwich; and Oxford. In this church in Oxford the Presbyterians of the whole neighborhood gathered for service on the Lord's Day.

This was the situation in 1825 when Belvidere became the county seat of the new county of Warren. The Presbyterians of Belvidere went to Oxford on the Sabbath day to worship God after the manner of their fathers. We have referred to the fact that after 1824 the little settlement in Belvidere began



JOHN M. SHERRERD

The Founder of this Church,  
a Ruling Elder and Clerk of  
Sessions for thirty-seven years.

to increase rapidly in numbers. Presbyterian families were among the new-comers. Soon the Presbyterian people of Belvidere considered themselves sufficiently strong numerically to undertake the organization of services in the town. In 1826 the Oxford congregation was without a minister. Mr. Ashbridge who had just graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary, came as stated supply. He preached a number of times in Belvidere and visited the Presbyterian families. The first services were held in the Croxall house on Greenwich Street. Later the minister of the Oxford church preached regularly in Belvidere in the afternoon or evening, and the services were held in the Court House. During this early period a Sunday School was organized and prayer meetings were held in the homes of the people.

On January 11th, 1830, a meeting was called to consider the building of a house of worship. More than thirty families were represented. At this gathering it was determined to form a corporation for the purpose of building a church, to be known as "The Presbyterian Church At Belvidere." Seven trustees were appointed. It will be recalled by the members of the church that four years ago the centenary of this event was recognized. It should be remembered that as yet there was no organized congregation, the Presbyterians of Belvidere and vicinity being members of the church at Oxford, now Hazen. At this informal meeting four offers of ground were made. David Carlisle, representing the Wall interests, offered two lots on the west side of the public square; and this offer was accepted. The deed was executed on July 18th, 1831, and contains as a consideration the sum of five hundred dollars. The building was begun in the same month and completed in 1834. This original church cost \$7,000, of which amount \$5800 was raised by subscription and a mortgage taken for the balance.

In a historical sermon preached by the Rev. Dr. Holliday at the fiftieth anniversary services I find a description of the original church. According to Dr. Holliday the old structure was not so wide as this church and only about three-quarters of its present length. It was built of stone, broad-pointed and brushed so that it had a whitewashed look. There was a square frame tower in the front, but this was not finished until six years after the completion of the church proper. The steps leading up to the building were higher than the present steps; and there was but a single door in the centre; but two windows were in the front. At the two corners were

doors leading down into a basement only partly finished and used as a church school on Sunday, and a day school during the week.

The single main door led into a two story lobby, with stairs on either side leading up to a gallery which ran around three sides of the church. From the lobby there were two doors into the auditorium, and the pulpit was at the front and between these doors. There was one centre row of square pews, and two side rows running to the walls of the church. On each side were four long pointed-top windows. The building was heated by stoves with long pipes extending the length of the structure.

On the second day of October, 1834, the members of the Presbyterian church of Oxford (Hazen), residing in Belvidere, met and formulated a request to the Presbytery of Newton to organize a church in Belvidere to be known as the Belvidere Presbyterian Church. Mr. John M. Sherrerd was appointed a commissioner to convey the said request to Presbytery. This commission he fulfilled at a stated meeting of Presbytery held in the Greenwich church on the first Tuesday of October, 1834. The Presbytery adjourned to meet in Belvidere on the 25th day of November, 1834.

At that adjourned meeting of Presbytery, held in the new church, the Rev. Mr. Gray preached, the Rev. Isaac N. Candee acted as Moderator, and there were present with them fourteen ministers and six elders. The Rev. Isaac N. Candee, the Rev. George Junkin and the Rev. John Gray were appointed by Presbytery to conduct the organization. The following were dismissed from the church at Hazen and received as the charter members of the new church in Belvidere: George R. King, Wm. C. Morris, Chapman Warner and John M. Sherrerd, Ruling Elders in the Oxford Presbyterian Church, and with them, John Kennedy, Jr., Mrs. Rebecca Carlisle Kinney, Geo. Green, Mrs. Sally Ann Green, Miss Elizabeth C. Green, Mrs. Sarrah Sherrerd, Mrs. Maria M. Morris, Mrs. Phoebe H. King, James G. Moore, Alexander N. Easton, Mrs. Mary C. Easton, Mrs. Euphemia W. Miller, Mrs. Elizabeth Paul, Mrs. Catherine Matthews, Mrs. Margaret Bartow, Neal Gallagher, Mrs. Mary Ann Gallagher, John C. Guerin, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Guerin, Geo. W. Scranton, Mrs. Ellen Angle, Mrs. Lena Johnston, Miss Louise Bradley, Mrs. Margaret Wilson, Anzia Beach, Mrs. Martha W. Beach, Mrs. Hannah Hull, Bennington F. Randolph, Mrs. Rachael Camp, Mrs. Catharine Beavers, Mrs. Pricilla C. Ken-

nedy, Mrs. Elizabeth F. Randolph, Mrs. Mary Mixsell, Mrs. Ann Innes, Mrs. Sidney McCrea, Peter Snyder, Mrs. Elizabeth Snyder, Mrs. Mary Fisher, Mrs. Mehetabel Lanning, Aaron C. Hoff, Peggy Fell. From the Presbytery of Easton, Mrs. Mary Jane Abernethy.

These communicants having been duly received as members of the Belvidere Presbyterian Church, they elected Geo. R. King, Wm. C. Morris, Chapman Warner and John M. Sherrerd as Ruling Elders and these were installed by the Moderator of Presbytery. Of these four men, all devoted Elders, special mention should be made of John M. Sherrerd who acted as Clerk of Session for many years. He was the guiding spirit in the movement for the establishment of a church and the real founder of Presbyterianism in Belvidere. As Elder, Clerk of Session and Superintendent of the Sunday School he was the main human factor in the affairs of the church for forty years.

On the same day that the church was organized, Nov. 25th, 1834, the Rev. Isaac N. Candee was installed as pastor. He had been minister of the Oxford church since May 12, 1829. During his pastorate he conducted a classical school. In 1840 Dr. Candee accepted an appointment as agent of our Board of Foreign Missions. His ministry ended on April 29th, after a pastorate of less than six years. During this first ministry the total number received into the church was: by letter, 20; by profession, 24. Total communicants, 79.

Congregations of today might well envy the dispatch with which a second minister was secured. On the very day that Presbytery released Mr. Candee, and during a recess, the congregation met and extended a call to the Rev. James Clark. Presbytery then resumed its meeting, placed the call in the hands of Mr. Clark and, upon his acceptance, proceeded to install him as pastor.

Mr. Clark was minister here for a period of ten years. During this time one hundred and eighty-three persons were received into membership, one hundred one by profession, and eighty-two by letter. The manse was bought in 1848 for \$1600, of which sum \$1000 was paid at the time of purchase. On May 28th, 1850, the pastoral relationship was dissolved that Mr. Clark might accept the presidency of Washington College.

It was during the pastorate of the Rev. Jas. Clark that the Second Presbyterian Church of Belvidere was organized.



REV. ISAAC N. CANDEE

1834-1840

Our First Pastor



REV. WM. HENRY KIRK

1858-1866

On July 19th, 1849, one of the county papers contained a notice that the Rev. Edward Allen would preach on the next Sunday evening at the new Academy. In the same paper was printed certain correspondence between Mr. Allen and four members of First Church. These members had invited Mr. Allen to place himself at the head of a movement, the purpose of which was stated in the following language: "A new church organization, a new church edifice on the north side of the Pequest." Mr. Allen accepted the invitation and fourteen persons out of a total membership of one hundred sixty-seven were dismissed by the Session to unite with the new congregation.

Mr. Clark was released by the Presbytery on May 28th, 1850. On Nov. 19th, of the same year, the Rev. Henry Reeves was ordained and installed by Presbytery. Like his two predecessors, he was a graduate of Princeton Seminary. He remained in Belvidere until August 3rd, 1858, leaving First Church to become Principal of a ladies' seminary in Chambersburg, Pa. He was succeeded in the pastorate by the Rev. Wm. Henry Kirk, who was installed by the Presbytery October 29th, 1858.

During the ministry of Mr. Kirk the present church building was erected and the north wing added to the manse. This latter was built by the minister at his own expense. The building committee for the new church consisted of Simon F. Wyckoff, B. B. Cooper, Abraham McMurtrie, Levi S. Johnston, and Dr. S. S. Clark. In the fall of 1859 the congregation left the old church and worshipped in the Court House. The new church together with the lecture room was dedicated August 23rd, 1860, the dedicatory service having been conducted by the venerable Dr. Kirkpatrick of Ringoes. The original cost was \$9000 and the entire amount was raised prior to the dedication. At the conclusion of the pastorate of Mr. Kirk the membership was 182. Mr. Kirk resigned in 1866 and was released by Presbytery on August 10 of that year.

On November 27, 1866, the Rev. David Tully was installed as pastor. After the close of the Civil War the great advance in growth of population and in material resources was under way, and every community felt its influence. This was evident in church life as well as in secular affairs. The congregation grew rapidly. During the ministry of Mr. Tully there were added to the communicant roll 86 by profession and 76 by letter, a total of 162. At the close of his ministry

the membership was 200. In this period, also, we find the organization of the Women's Missionary Society.

On May 26th, 1871, John M. Sherrerd passed to his reward. His services to this congregation had been long and faithful. He was the moving spirit in its organization, had been Clerk of Session from the very foundation of the church on Nov. 25th, 1834, until the day of his death in 1871, a period of 37 years. He was succeeded as Clerk of Session by his son Samuel Sherrerd. Mr. Tully left Belvidere to become minister of First Church, Oswego, N. Y., the pastoral tie having been dissolved on June 9th, 1872.

In 1870 the Old and the New Presbyterians united into one body. The only place in the Presbytery where the two bodies had been represented in the same town was here in Belvidere. When Mr. Tully left in 1872 an attempt was made to bring the two churches together. They were now members of the same body and of the same Presbytery. The Session of First Church felt keenly the need for union, and we find in the minutes of June 10th, 1872, the following letter.

Belvidere, June 10, 1872.

*To the Pastor and Elders of the Second Presbyterian Church of Belvidere:*

Dear Brethren:—The church which we represent is now without a pastor.

The ministers connected with the Presbytery of Newton who were present at its recent meeting in this place were unanimous in urging upon our consideration the propriety of uniting the two Presbyterian churches in Belvidere under one pastor. Our own feelings influence us in this direction, and in order to ascertain your views upon the subject we feel constrained to address this letter to you to inquire whether you are willing upon any terms whatever to negotiate for a union of the two churches above named.

An early reply will greatly oblige

Yours in Christian bonds,

Adrian Lot,  
J. G. Shipman,  
S. Sherrerd,  
C. B. Searles,

Elders of the First Presbyterian Church of Belvidere.

At a joint meeting of the Elders of the Sessions of both churches, it was learned that there were no terms upon which



the Session of the Second Presbyterian Church were willing to negotiate for union.

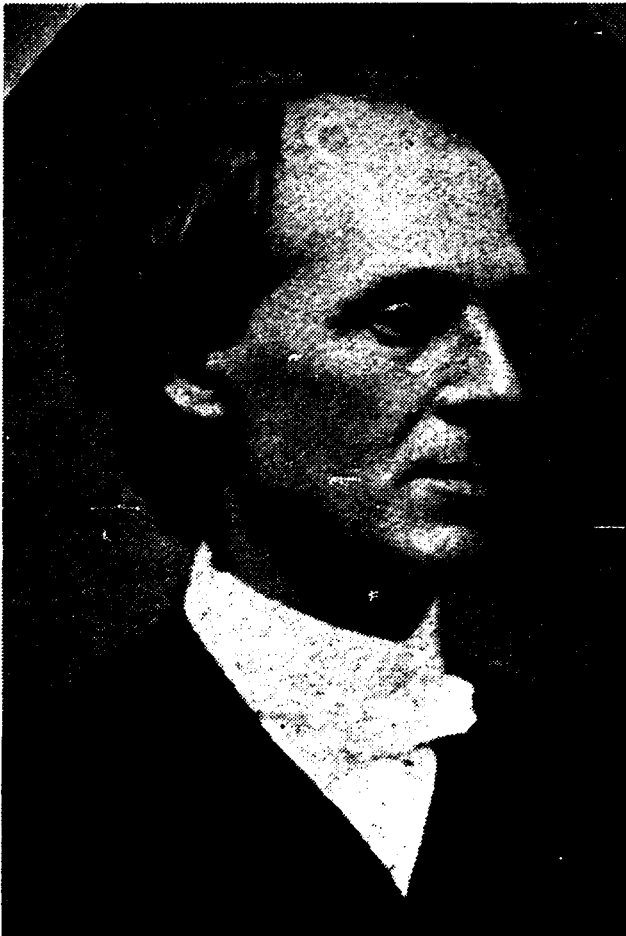
Rev. Fullerton R. Harbaugh was installed as pastor on Dec. 4, 1872. His ministry here was short. He was released by Presbytery, February 19, 1874, to return to a church of which he had formerly been pastor. At this time the total membership was 178.

Rev. Wm. Alex. Holliday was installed June 25, 1874. In 1881-82 extensive repairs to the church were undertaken. We find a very interesting letter from the committee on repairs, signed by the members of the committee, J. 'G. Shipman, Samuel S. Clark, D. W. Kleinhans, A. McCammon, N. R. Currie, Wm. A. Holliday, which is too long to be included here. The letter states the extensive work undertaken and the means of accomplishing it. Some of the items are, repairs to the steeple by a Mr. James Irvin, a steeplebuilder of Philadelphia; a new roof, Mr. Daniel Perry, contractor; the interior decorated by Wm. Healy, of Bridgeport, Conn.; the removal of the pew doors and the breastwork in front of the pews; the removal of the organ from the gallery to the main floor; carpeting the main floor with 36 yards of new carpet; the cushioning of the seats; refurnishing the pulpit. The letter ends with the following interesting item: "We sum up the total improvement of your property at \$3,057. All bills have been paid."

At the time of the celebration of 50 years of congregational life, Rev. Dr. Holliday summed up the statistics of the Church Roll as follows: additions on profession of faith, 365; by letter, 338; total, 703; present membership, 184.

Dr. Holliday was released by the Presbytery in May of 1884. The meeting of Session, June 14, 1884, recording this event, was the last in the handwriting of Mr. Samuel Sherred. Father and son had served the Session faithfully as clerks from the organization of the congregation on Nov. 25, 1834, to June 14, 1884, almost fifty years. At a congregational meeting held June 21, 1884, Rev. James DeHart Bruen was called to the pastorate of First Church. The record of a meeting of Session held immediately before the congregational meeting is the first in the handwriting of Mr. Josiah Ketcham.

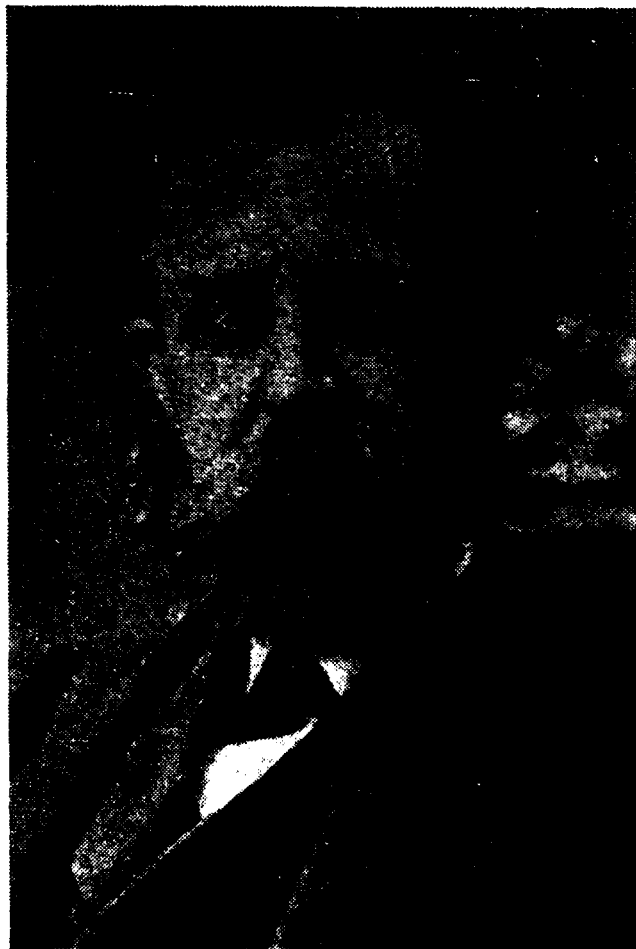
The early part of the ministry of Mr. Bruen was marked by a stirring revival. Especially was this true of the year 1886-1887. A series of revival services was held, beginning with the week of prayer; 99 members were added by profess-



REV. DAVID TULLY, D.D.,  
who lived at Media, Pa., to  
be the oldest Presbyterian min-  
ister in the United States.

1866-1872

REV. FULLERTON R.  
HARBAUGH  
1872-1874



ion of faith and 26 by certificate—a total of 125. That is by far the greatest record in the history of the congregation. The year which stands second in additions to the roll showed accessions of 46. The third greatest year in this respect was last year, 1933-34, with additions totaling 29.

Concerning this year of revival, Mr. Bruen in his farewell sermon said: "The second week (referring to the week following the week of prayer, services having been continued) passed quietly until Friday afternoon. A few girls met in the lecture room. Finally one came to my study and asked me to come to the lecture room. I found them sitting in silence but evidently under deep feeling. That night in the meeting one or two persons rose for prayer and the great revival began. Each of the other churches announced services. No one but the pastors spoke. There was no advertising, no expense, no large choirs, no cards, no machinery. There was more interest among men than among women, more interest among adults than among children. All sorts of people were reached. One night two bartenders remained as inquirers. They left the bar that night forever. The services in all the churches continued every night until April. On Easter Sunday the Methodist Church received 40 members, the Second Church 66 and this church 104. All but 4 or 5 were adults and most of them were heads of families."

It is a very rare thing to find one pastor ministering to the same congregation for 44 years. That was Mr. Bruen's record here. He was a strong man and a fine old soldier of Jesus Christ. Because of infirmity of age, Mr. Bruen asked the Session to call a congregational meeting that the people might unite with him in a request to Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral tie. This meeting of the congregation was held on Dec. 31, 1927. The Presbytery met on Jan. 12, 1928, and the ministry of Mr. Bruen came to an end on the last Sunday of January, 1928.

A few months later the congregation called Rev. Robert Stewart. He remained as minister until July of 1931. During his pastorate, the congregation celebrated the centenary of the calling of a meeting to form a corporation looking to the building of a church. This meeting was held on Jan. 16th, 1830. The system of eldership was also changed to that which is in vogue at the present day. At a congregational meeting held on the 10th of November, 1928, a motion was duly carried that we adopt the rotary system of Elders, and

that the number of Elders be six, two to retire each year, with an interval of one year before eligibility for re-election. In order to facilitate the new order of the eldership, the only remaining elders, Messrs. T. K. Bennett, Forman Hawk and Frank A. Pierson resigned and insisted that an entirely new Board of Session be elected. The elders elected at that meeting were Dr. W. C. Albertson, Hilton Butler, George Brands, Maurice Faust, Wilson Litzenberger and A. B. Bush. Since 1928 there have been added to the roll of Session, H. R. Richards, Frank Stout, Simon Mitzenberger and Luther Miller. Under the present Rotary System of Elders, the Session consists of the following:

Moderator, Rev. A. A. Acton, D. Ped.

Class of 1935—George Brands, Wilson Litzenberger.

Class of 1936—H. R. Richards, Dr. W. C. Albertson.

Class of 1937—A. B. Bush, Luther Miller.

In November of 1931 the present pastor was called and entered upon his ministry on the last Sunday of the month, November, 1931. This centenary service on November 25th of this year is thus at the same time the third anniversary of the beginning of his ministry. His humble prayer is that God may give him strength and grace to carry on the traditions of a faithful and a fruitful ministry.

One hundred years of Service! One hundred years ago this church was organized and started out upon its God given ministry. The years could unfold a wonderful story of faith and service that should make us all very humble at this anniversary season. Many devoted men and women have woven their very life into the history of this church; and it stands today a living testimony to the grace of God in Christ. To those who have lived and loved, served and died here, we sing with the poet:

‘For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
Who Thee, by faith, before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest,  
Halleluiah!

We have a hymn that is expressive of the Church's faith, we sing:

“The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,  
She is His new creation by water and the word;  
From heaven He came and sought her  
To be His Holy Bride,  
With His own blood he bought her,  
And for her life He died.”

May that continue to be the faith of this Church through  
all the ages to come. Let us say with Paul: “One Lord, one  
faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above  
all, and through all, and in you all.”

A. A. A.

‘ ‘ ‘



REV. DR. HOLLIDAY *and* MRS. HOLLIDAY—1874-1884



CHURCH INTERIOR  
1900

## *A Hundred Years Ago*

G. Wyckoff Cummins, Ph.D., M.D.

The spiritual foundation for the First Presbyterian Church of Belvidere, N. J., was being laid for nearly a century in the Old Oxford meeting house, and for a long time before that in the minds and hearts of those staunch Calvinists who had come to America that they might worship God unmolested according to the dictates of their own consciences, which they could not do in the countries from which they came.

No sooner had they settled here than they erected places of worship and called for supplies for preaching. Those early Presbyterians were the first to have a settled pastor of any denomination in what is now Warren County, New Jersey, for their three churches at Oxford, Mansfield-Wood House, and Greenwich.

The Rev. John Rosbrough was installed as pastor of these churches at Greenwich on Dec. 11, 1764. He was a boy of this county, passing his life at Great Meadows until he was fifty years of age. He later became known as the clerical martyr of the Revolution because he was bayoneted in cold blood by Hessian soldiers at Trenton on Jan. 2, 1777, at the battle of Assunpink just one week after the great battle of Trenton.

The Rev. John Rosbrough served the Old Oxford Church from 1764 until 1769 and again in 1770. The material reasons for organizing a church in Belvidere were the increased population and prestige that came with the choice of Belvidere as the county seat of Warren County in 1825 and the disinclination to walk two miles to church. Even the parsonage was in Belvidere. In those early days there were no carriages here and when they went to church on foot at any time between April and November they went barefoot just as nearly everybody did then in summertime, but they carried with them in their hands, their shoes and stockings. These they put on when they came in sight of the church and were only too glad to get them off again on their start for home. For how those feet did rebel at the unusual confinement for two hours or more. I wonder if they slipped them off sometimes during the sermon?

Folks who used to come to the Belvidere church in the eighteen thirties and forties from Oxford way used to stop at the grand old oak tree still standing at Third and Oxford streets to put on their shoes.

Yes, going to church was a case of going a-foot or on horseback except in the winter time, when farm sleds came in very handy. But, oh my! There was no fire in the church when they got there and no place to build any! Presumably the minister was expected to make it warm enough for them without any fire. Even long after the Belvidere church was built the ladies brought along to church foot warmers loaded with glowing charcoal from the fireplace at home and in the evening also a tallow dip for light.

One hundred years ago a tallow candle was quite a stylish light, for commonly at that time many families in Belvidere read their Bibles by the light of a twisted cotton cloth burning on the side of a pie plate half full of grease which was quite like an Eskimo stove today and not unlike the ancient olive oil lamps made of clay. And when they wanted to light their candles there were no matches. At home they used a candle lighter made of a long roll of twisted paper which was first lighted at the fire in the fireplace that was kept going 365 days in the year and 24 hours a day, for it was a real calamity when that fire went entirely out. It necessitated a trip to a neighbor's, there to borrow a live piece of charcoal wrapped in ashes and carried back home on a shovel.

On going to church at night some one had to take along a lighted lantern from which to light the candles.

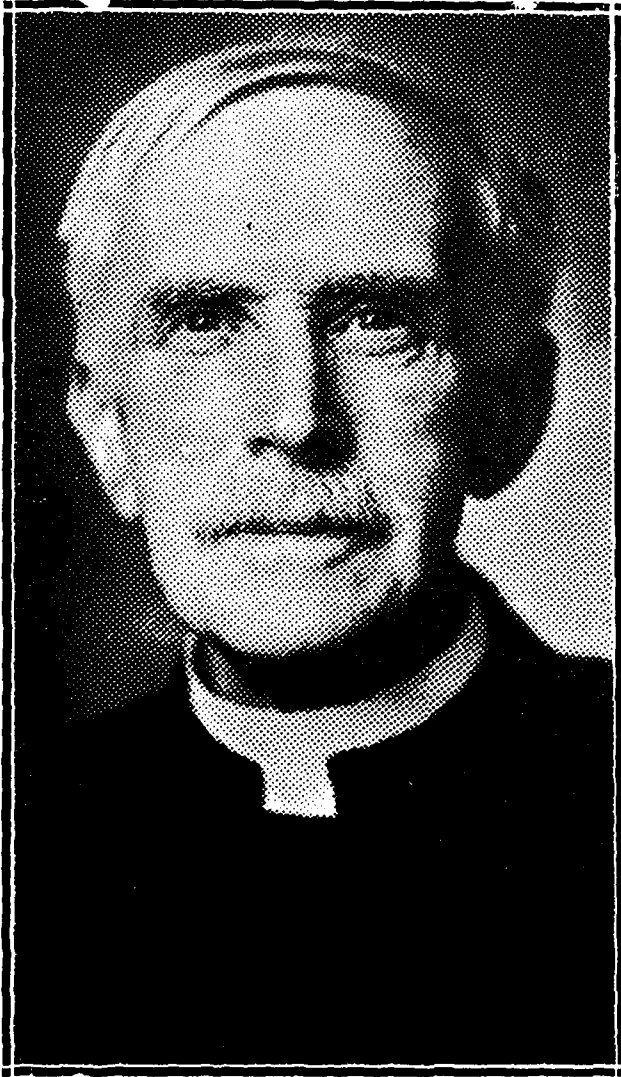
The only church around here that attempted heating in the early days was the Hackettstown Presbyterian. In the centre of the auditorium a container was built of bricks to hold an open fire of charcoal. This was necessarily as suffocating as it was effective.

One hundred years ago musical instruments of any kind in a Presbyterian church were taboo. Nothing but a tuning fork was permitted even for the choir leader or the hymn liner. The hymn liner probably had the only copy of the words and music in a whole township. He would get his pitch from the tuning fork, read a line of music and then they would all sing that line as he led the singing. And so they went through the whole hymn.

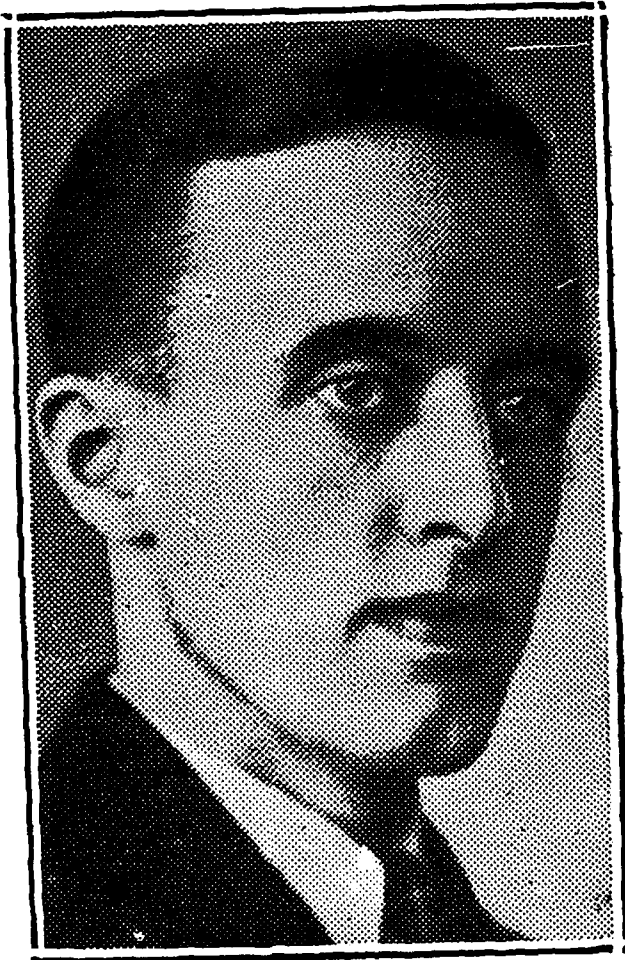


Opposition to musical instruments in the church was active in all but Moravian churches and existed even in the memory of those now living.

Such were some of the conditions under which "The Presbyterian Church of Belvidere" started on its successful career.



REV. J. DEHART BRUEN  
1884-1928



REV. ROBERT STEWART  
1928-1931

## *Items of Interest*

The first Presbyterian Synod in America met in Philadelphia in 1717.

Ministers who have grown out of the First Presbyterian Church in Belvidere are:

James G. Moore	H. H. Wyckoff
William K. Tully	Harry Bruen
J. H. Gulick	Franklin Joiner
John Mitchell	Edmund H. Carhart
J. B. Woodward	Edwin Dodge Hardin
George A. Ries	Gerald Gardner

Two families have been connected with this church for five generations and one of these in two lines of descent: Simon F. Wyckoff, Caleb Wyckoff, James Wyckoff, William Wyckoff and Richard and John Wyckoff; Joseph M. Roseberry, John Roseberry, D. Klein Roseberry, Donald R. Roseberry and June Patricia Roseberry; Joseph M. Roseberry, John Roseberry, Joseph M. Roseberry, Jr., Elizabeth Roseberry Whitmore, and Samuel Alfred Whitmore, 3rd.

When the present church steeple was completed one of the builders, who had been a sailor, gave the people a thrill by lying down on the ball on top of the steeple and making a complete horizontal revolution.

Three of our pastors married young ladies of the congregation.

This church is one of those that have grown out of Sunday Schools connected with the Old Oxford Church.

When the present church was built ten members pledged five hundred dollars each for that purpose.

The first church wedding in the present building was of Miss Mary Robeson and Arthur Smith.

One member, who is 90 years old, first joined this church in 1859—Mrs. William B. Titman. Mrs. Josiah Ketcham and Mrs. Oscar McMurtrie are close to her record in service.



PRESBYTERIAN HOME FOR THE AGED, SYNOD OF  
NEW JERSEY, AT BELVIDERE, N. J.



COUNTY PARK, OPPOSITE THE CHURCH

Memorial windows in the church were placed in 1910 in memory of

Mrs. Rachel Green Blair	Mrs. Aaron McCammon
John Wyckoff	Mrs. Anna M. Bruen
William Blair Titman	Mrs. Rosetta White
Joseph M. Roseberry	

The organist for the original reed organ and the first pipe organ was Charles Stearn. He was followed by Eldridge Wire and he by Miss Caroline Brookfield, who is very faithful and efficient at the new Jardine organ.

Distinguished attendants at this church include the names of David A. DePue, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, who practiced law here at the time of his appointment by Governor Ward; Hon. George M. Robeson, whose home was next door to this church and who was Secretary of the Navy in President Grant's cabinet from 1869 to 1877; Hon. John P. B. Maxwell, member of Congress, who entertained the President of the United States in the home which he built in 1834, the year of the completion of this church. Both buildings are built of blue magnesian limestone from a quarry on the Miller farm one mile due east; the Scranton family after whom the City of Scranton, Pa., is named; Prof. Ernest Shelling, second only to Paderewski as a pianist, who on every program of his recitals anywhere in the world has inscribed the legend "Born in Belvidere, New Jersey," and who as an infant prodigy played on the piano now in the lecture room at the age of four years; Edmund Clarence Steadman, "The Poet Banker," who married Miss Easton of this congregation; the Honorable John I. Blair, New Jersey's wealthiest son, who founded Blair Hall and was noted for his generosity and philanthropy.

## *Family Names*

Allen	Ackerman	Arthur
Albertson	Albo	Anthony
Armstrong	Agens	Acton
Angle	Anderson	Amendt
Abernethy		Andrews
Beasley	Brands	Bellis
Butler	Blair	Baker
Britton	Brookfield	Burd
Bray	Bodine	Burley
Belford	Bartow	Blythe
Baird	Brooks	Buttz
Bradley	Bertron	Boyer
Beach	Bethman	Bennett
Beavers		Bush
Camp	Cortright	Cornell
Cole	Clark	Case
Cummins	Carhart	Casner
Currie	Cooper	Cary
Crane		Cable
Depue	Deshler	Davis
Deremer	Dalrymple	Denee
Drake	De Hart	Dernberger
Dick	Davenport	Duckworth
Easton		Emery
Faust	Fulper	Fulmer
Fell	Fitts	Freeman
Fisher	Fritts	French
Frome	Fleming	Focht
Flummerfelt	Fry	Frederick
Gardner		Green
Gallagher		Gross
Garrison		Guerin

Heckler	Hawk	Hoff
Harris	Hopler	Hull
Hollander	Hartung	Hope
Hutchison	Heffner	Holland
Hixson	Hendershot	Hemingway
Hoagland	Hoff	Hummel
Hayes	Herman	Hicks
Hill	Hopkins	Holstein
Hendrickson		Hedges
	Inness	Johnson
	Jackson	Jones
	James	Joiner
Ketcham	Ketchledge	Kinney
Kelsey	Kruger	Kleinhans
Kern	Kist	Kutzler
King	Kennedy	Keighran
Lantermann	Lott	Laue
Large	Lanning	Learn
Litzenberger	Loman	Lee
Lommasson	Lockard	Leigh
McCammon	Magee	McAllister
Morrow	Mackey	Mason
Mellick	McMurtrie	Mixsell
Mann	Myers	McCrea
McLain	Miller	Morris
Mercer	Matthews	Moore
Minsenberger		Metler
	Nolan	Ott
	Niedermiller	O'Brien
	Naylor	O'Neil
	Nolf	Owen
Peer	Person	Pierson
Paul	Perry	Pearson
Prall		
Robeson	Randolph	Ritter
Richards	Roy	Rosencrans
Ribble	Radle	Runyon
Reimer	Roseberry	Raisner

Samsel	Shipman	Simerson
Stilwell	Salmon	Stewart
Steven	Staples	Seguine
Searles	Schultz	Stetler
Stout	Scott	Snyder
Sherrerd	Stiger	Shoemaker
Scranton		
Taylor		Teeter
Tims		Tiger
Titman		Tomer
		Telfor
Vanuxen		Vanatta
Vetter		Vanness
Widenor	Wyckoff	Weaver
Williams	Walker	Willever
Witte	Warner	Wintermute
White	Wendland	Wright
Wilson	Whitmore	Walters
	Young	



## *Officers*

OF THE CHURCH AND ITS ORGANIZATIONS, 1934

THE SESSION

Rev. A. A. Acton, *D. Ped. Moderator*

Dr. Wm. C. Albertson  
Hilton Butler  
Simon Minsenberger

H. R. Richards  
A. B. Bush  
Frank Stout

*Clerk of Session*  
Carl R. Widenor

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Luther Hummel .....	<i>President</i>
John Denee .....	<i>Vice President</i>
Harold Herman .....	<i>Secretary</i>
Alfred Litzenberger	Joseph Roseberry
Gilbert Belford	Walter Holstein
George Shipman	Oscar Scott

## BOARD OF DEACONS

Ernest Smith	Stanley Gardner	Richard Wyckoff
Earl Learn	Carl Widenor	Thornton Widenor
Pace Hoff	Reeder Emery	Samuel Whitmore

## CHOIR

*Organist* .....Miss Caroline H. Brookfield

Mrs. Alfred Litzenberger	Miss Sarah Schoch
Mrs. Samuel Gardner	Miss Marvel Bray
Mrs. Hilton Butler	Miss Ruth Smith
Mrs. Lloyd Ritter	William K. Learn
Mrs. Fred Laue	A. Clark Hutchison
Mrs. L. Mortung Hartung	Harold Herman
Miss Olga Brands	Harry Duckworth
Howard Mason	Thornton Widenor
Frank Bair	Wayne Davis

Mrs. Frank Burd .....*Pianist*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

*Superintendent* .....Mr. Henry Duckworth  
*Secretary* .....Miss Nellie Mann  
*Treasurer* .....Mr. George Brands  
*Pianist* .....Miss Marvel Bray

### *Staff of Teachers*

Miss Caroline Brookfield	Miss Marvel Bray
Dr. W. C. Albertson	Mrs. A. A. Acton
Mrs. Alfred Litzenberger	Miss Mary Louise Albertson
Mrs. Margaret Schoch	Mr. Clark Hutchison
Miss Sara Schoch	Miss Helen Seguine
Mr. George Brands	Mrs. Harry Duckworth
Mrs. Luther Hummel	Mrs. Helen Smith
Miss Ellen Cary	

Mrs. Keyte Gardner .....*Pianist for the Beginners' Dept.*

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CLASS

Mrs. Luther Hummel .....*President*  
 Mrs. Caroline Amendt .....*Vice President*  
 Mrs. Walter Weaver .....*Secretary*  
 Miss Nellie Mann .....*Treasurer*

## CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY

Miss Hazel Walters .....*President*  
 Miss Shirley Bertron .....*Vice President*  
 Miss Lucy Seguine .....*Secretary*  
 Miss Edna Smith .....*Treasurer*

## WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. John E. Allen .....*President*  
 Miss Charlotte C. Ketcham .....*1st Vice President*  
 Mrs. Wm. Hicks .....*2nd Vice President*  
 Mrs. Frank Dunnfield .....*Corresponding Secretary*  
 Mrs. Alfred Litzenberger .....*Recording Secretary*  
 Miss Nellie Mann .....*Secretary of Literature*  
 Miss Stella McMurtrie .....*Treasurer*

## LADIES AID

Mrs. Clifford Allen .....	<i>President</i>
Mrs. Samuel W. Gardner .....	<i>1st Vice President</i>
Mrs. Melvin C. Davenport .....	<i>2nd Vice President</i>
Miss Marvel Bray .....	<i>Secretary</i>
Mrs. Harry S. Lockard .....	<i>Treasurer</i>

### *Flower Committee*

Miss Ellen P. Cary .....	<i>Chairman</i>
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## MEN'S CLUB

Harry Ackerman .....	<i>President</i>
John Denee .....	<i>Secretary</i>

### *Sexton*

Leonard O. Miller

# A SONG OF NEW JERSEY

Words by G. WYCKOFF CUMMINS, Ph. D., M. D.

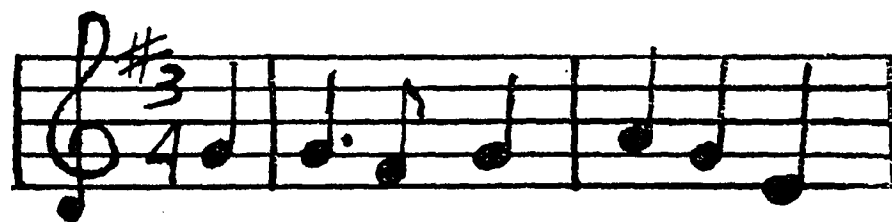
Tune Adapted from the Chorus of The Sidewalks of New York

From the Delaware to the Hudson  
And the Hackensack  
Flowing down to the ocean  
And never coming back;  
From Kittatinny Mountains  
To the sands of old Cape May  
We love the whole State of New  
Jersey better every day.

Hopatcong, Budds Lake  
And the long Green Pond  
Give us the summertime pleasures  
Of which we are so fond .  
We love the Atlantic seashore  
We love the Delaware Bay  
We love the whole State of New  
Jersey better every day.

Philadelphia and New York  
Are her suburbs fair  
But nothing in those little towns  
With Jersey can compare.  
We love her granite mountains  
We love her cities so gay  
We love the whole State of New  
Jersey better every day.

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Belvidere, N. J.



We love the whole State of New



Jersey better every day