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**BAPTISTS OF
DELAWARE**

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(1826-1908)**

The churches of this State may be divided into the early and later, or anti-mission and mission. The Welsh Tract Church was the first in the colony. It was formed in Wales, and settled in Delaware in 1703. Their principles soon spread. In 1778, Eld. Elijah Baker, and in 1779, Eld. Philip Hughes, came from Virginia, preaching together the Word. There was a great quickening among the Baptists, and many were converted and baptized, and several churches were constituted. In this work these ministers received the hearty co-operation of the Baptist pastors and churches.

The first Baptist church in Wilmington was formed mainly thru the efforts of Thomas Ainger, a Presbyterian, from Philadelphia, who became eventually a Baptist, and the pastor of the church. His wife was a Baptist. He maintained family worship, and Messrs. Flee-son and Boggs, Baptist ministers, preached by his invitation in his house. Eld. Philip Hughes preached in the town school-house and in the Presbyterian church. Several were baptized, and finally sixteen were constituted into a church. Their meeting house still stands on King Street.

The following is a list of the early churches, with the date of organization: Welsh Tract, New Castle County, 1701; Sounds, Sussex County, 1779; Broadcreek, Sussex County, 1781; Mount Moriah, Kent County, 1781; Brynzion, Kent County, 1781; Mispillion, Kent County, 1783; Gravelleybranch, Sussex County, 1785; First Wilmington, 1785; Bethel, New Castle County, 1786. Bethel, in Sussex County, Littlecreek, and Millsborough were of more recent date, and, with the Sounds and Broadcreek churches, belonged to the Salisbury Association, which was

formed in 1782, composed mostly of churches in Maryland, and has since become anti-mission. The other churches were at first connected with the Philadelphia Association, but withdrew with good feeling on both sides, to form the Delaware Association, which was organized in 1795. It was soon joined by several churches in Pennsylvania. Since 1856 it has taken the name of the Delaware Old-School Baptist Association. In 1801 it was composed of five churches, with 293 members; in 1825, of nine churches, with 596 members; and in 1879, of seven churches, with 197 members.

Of the churches in this State belonging to the Delaware and the Salisbury Associations, six remain, with a total membership of 200. The Sounds, Mispillion, Gravelleybranch, Bethel, in New Castle County; Bethel, in Sussex County; and the Millsborough churches have ceased to exist. The minutes of the Delaware Association show that at one time both missions and missionary societies were approved of by that body. The Baptist Publication (then Tract) and the Home and Foreign Mission Societies and their work met with favor in the churches. It was not until after 1830 that a change took place in the Delaware Association and in the churches connected with it. They became anti-mission and anti-effort, which change led to the formation of the Second Church, Wilmington, upon an avowed missionary basis.

Among the many Baptist ministers of this period who were born, or converted, or ordained, or employed in the State were Eld. Enoch Morgan, Eld. John Davis, Eld. Jenkin Jones, Eld. David Jones, A.M., Eld. Abel Morgan, A.M., Eld. Morgan Edwards, A.M., Eld. Thomas J. Kitts, Eld. Joseph H. Kennard, D.D., and Eld. Daniel Dodge.

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The following is a list of the later churches, with the date of organization: Second, Wilmington, 1835; Dover, 1852; German, Wilmington, 1856; Delaware Avenue, Wilmington, 1865; Plymouth, 1867; Lincoln, 1869; Zion, Vernon, 1871; Wyoming, 1872; Magnolia, 1873; Milford, 1873; Elm Street, Wilmington, 1873; Shiloh (African), Wilmington, 1876; New Castle, 1876; Bethany, 1878. The old First was resuscitated for awhile, but it and the Elm Street disbanded to form the Bethany and occupy the Elm Street chapel. A few old members hold on at King Street. The Lincoln Church disbanded to form the Milford, and the Plymouth to form the Magnolia.

In 1869 the Wyoming Institute was purchased. A Baptist City Mission was formed in 1870 among the Wilmington churches, which bought a lot, built thereon the Elm Street Chapel, which property they deeded to the Bethany church. In 1878, the Delaware Baptist Union was formed in the Second church, Wilmington. It is composed of eight churches in Delaware Co., Pa., and eleven in Delaware State. The objects of the "Union" are the promotion of fraternity among the churches composing it and the evangelization of the field. The Baptist churches not only of Delaware (except the Old School), but also those of the "Union," are connected with the Philadelphia Association.

The number of missionary Baptist churches in the State is 11, with a membership of 1924, and 2183 teachers and scholars in 14 Sabbath-schools. The benevolent contributions of the churches for 1879, for work at home and abroad, amounted to over \$20,000. (BAPTIST ENCYCLOPEDIA, Vol. I, Ed. 1880, pp. 324-325).