

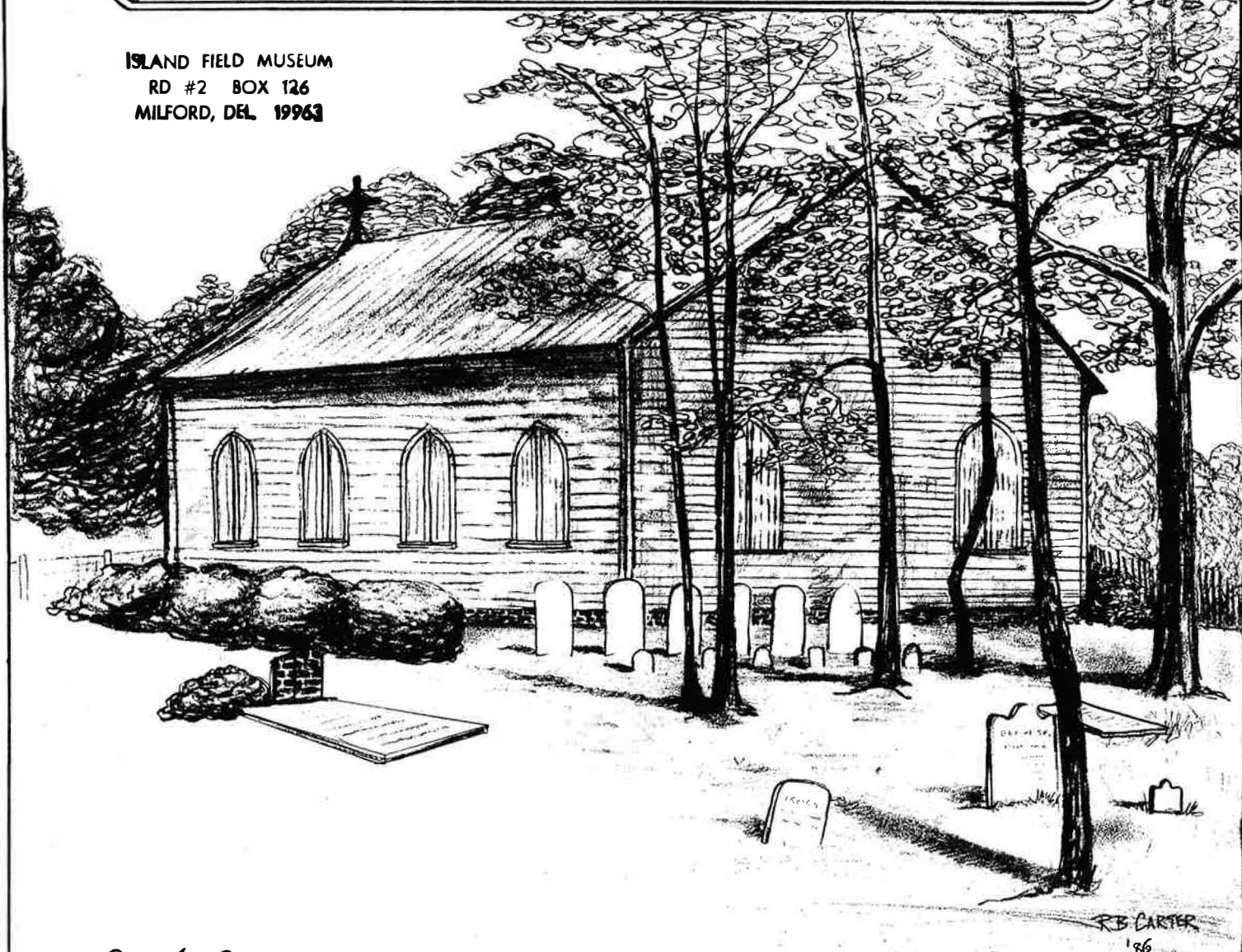
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# THE ARCHEOLOG

PUBLICATION of the SUSSEX SOCIETY of ARCHEOLOGY and HISTORY

ISLAND FIELD MUSEUM  
RD #2 BOX 126  
MILFORD, DEL 19963



*Sidelights on Episcopal Church History:*  
**THE REV WILLIAM SKELLY**  
*of Christ Church, Broad Creek Hd.*  
**THE REV LEWIS W. WELLS:**  
*Excerpts from his journals 1896 - 1900*

FALL - WINTER  
1985 - 1986

\$5.00

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The cover illustration is a pencil drawing by Richard B. Carter showing the  
tombstone of The Reverend William Skelly in the graveyard of Old Christ Church,  
Broad Creek Hundred, Delaware.

Donated by Alfred Littel  
5/89

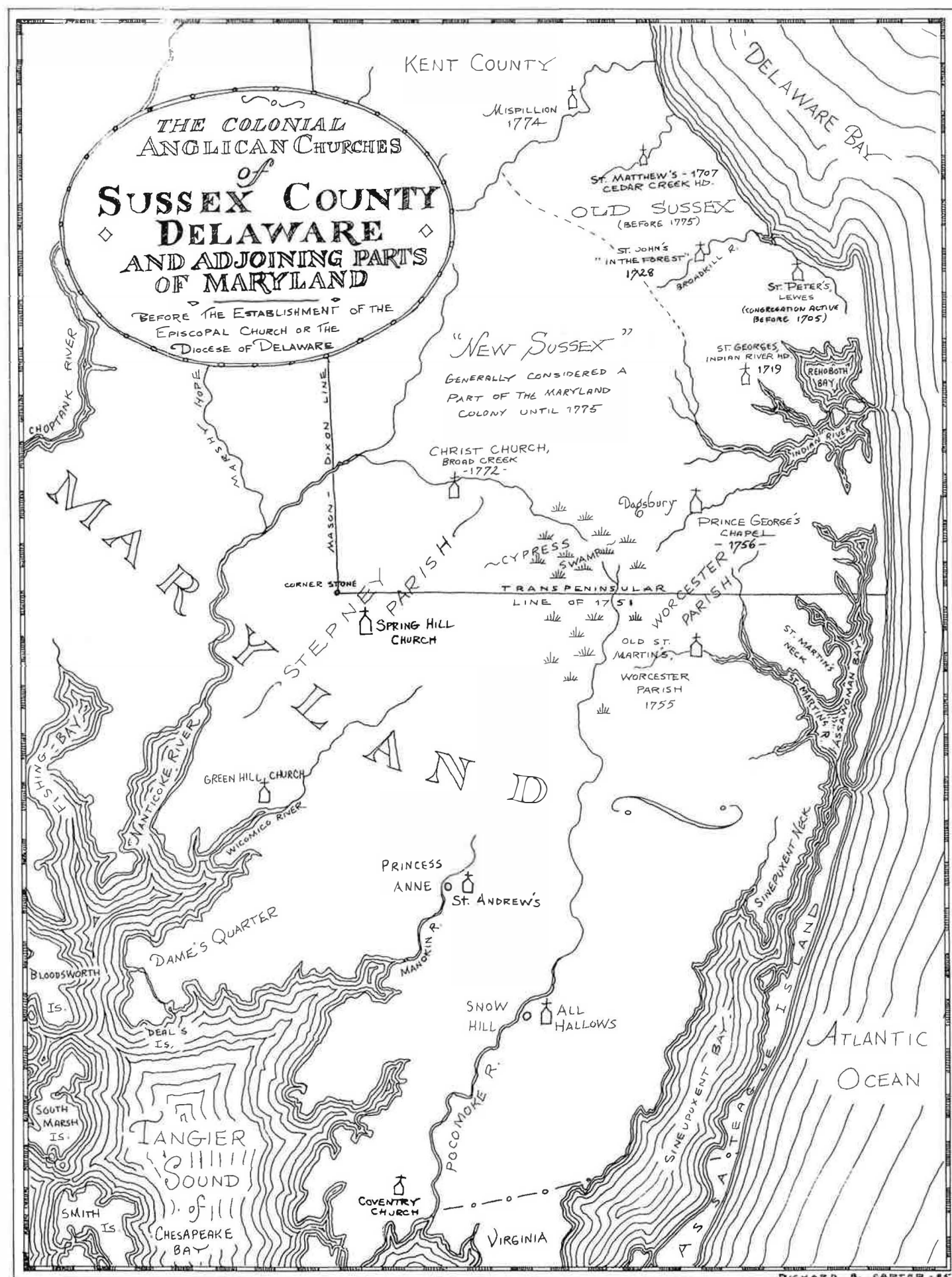
THE ARCHEOLOG  
WINTER 1985-6

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CATHERINE C. MAULL  
CHARLES L. W. STEIN

In 1985, the forty parishes and missions of the Episcopal Church  
celebrated the 200th Anniversary of The Diocese of Delaware which  
includes Old Christ Church near Laurel, St. Mark's Church of  
Millsboro, and St. George's Chapel in Dagsboro, all in Sussex County.



# WILLIAM SKELLY

It is recorded that in 1770, the inhabitants living in the area of the headwaters of Broad Creek, petitioned the Maryland Assembly to provide money for the purpose of erecting a house of worship for them. At this time, this area was a part of Worcester County, formed out of Somerset County in Maryland in 1742. In 1751, the Transpeninsula Line between Maryland and Pennsylvania had been surveyed; it was agreed upon in 1760 by Lord Baltimore and Lord Penn. In 1764, the Mason-Dixon Survey Line was completed. However, it was not until April 8, 1775 that a proclamation regarding the boundary lines was published by the Governor of the three lower counties of the Province of Pennsylvania now known as Delaware. This was followed by an Act of the Delaware Legislature on September 2, 1775 which confirmed the new boundary lines.

An Act of the Maryland Assembly was passed in 1770 levying eighty thousand pounds of tobacco on the inhabitants of Stepney Parish, Maryland for the purpose of enabling the vestry to purchase land and erect a Chapel of Ease. In 1772, Old Christ Church, Broad Creek and the land on which it was erected was deeded to Stepney Parish by Robert Houston who built the church. Final payment is noted as is the sale of one half acre site, part of a parcel of land called "chance" and recorded in the deed in Worcester County, Maryland dated September 25, 1772. Since the Church of England was the official church of Maryland at that time, taxes were collected and administered through Stepney Parish, Maryland. The Reverend John Scott was in charge of Christ Church, Broad Creek from 1772-1775 when it became a part of Delaware.

From 1780-1786, Old Christ Church was in charge of William Skelly, a lay reader. He was recommended by the Reverend J. Bowles and the vestry of Broad Creek Church. He was ordered a deacon on July 2, 1786 and ordained priest, July 3, 1786 by the first Episcopal Bishop in the United States, The Reverend Samuel Seabury of Connecticut. William Skelly was the 17th priest to be ordained in the Episcopal Church of the United States and the second in Delaware. It should be noted that he must have been a man of great courage and devout convictions to accept this ordination at a time when the Church of England was almost defunct. He continued as rector of Old Christ Church until 1794.

Early records record him as being associated with Stepney Parish and Worcester Parish and Cedar Creek in Maryland also Saint Mary's (1704 in Seaford area), Prince Georges (1706 - Dagsboro), St. Peter's (1708 - Lewes) in Delaware. It was customary to go to each church once in six weeks and served upon voluntary subscriptions on an annual agreement. Early vestry minutes of St. Peter's in Lewes record that he was hired not only to conduct the services but also to do carpentry work on the church building.

The Protestant Episcopal Church in Delaware held a meeting in Dover on December 2, 1791 for the purpose of framing and enacting a constitution and promoting good government among the churches in the state. One of the five clergymen in the Diocese who attended this meeting was the Reverend William Skelly of Christ Church, Broad Creek near Laurel. He was one of a committee of six who wrote the constitution of the church in Delaware which was approved at this session. William Skelly took an active part in Delaware church affairs. He attended church meetings and conventions in Maryland as well as Delaware.



KNOW all Men by these PRESENTS, That WE  
*George Wailes & Thomas Moore of Sussex*  
*County of State of Delaware*

are firmly held and bound unto his Excellency *Thomas Collins* Esquire, President and Commander in Chief of the Delaware State, in the Sum of *one* Hundred Pounds good and lawful Money of America, to be paid to the said *Thomas Collins* Esquire or his Successors: To the which Payment well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves jointly and severally for and in the whole; our Heirs, Executors and Administrators, firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals, Dated the *twentieth* Day of *January* in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and *eighty eight*

THE CONDITION of this OBLIGATION is such, That if there shall not hereafter appear any lawful Let or impediment, by Reason of any Precontract, Consanguinity, Affinity, or any other just Cause whatsoever, but that the abovementioned *William Skelly* & *Sarah Harte Wailes*

may lawfully marry; and that there is not any Suit depending before any Judge Ecclesiastical or Civil, for or concerning any such Precontract; and also if the said Parties, and each of them, are of the Ages following, to wit, Female of Eighteen, and Male of twenty-one Years, and are not under the Tuition of his or her Parents, or have the full Consent of his or her Parents or Guardians respectively to the said Marriage; and if they or either of them are not indented Servants; and do and shall save harmless and keep indemnified the above-named *Thomas Collins*

Esquire, and his Successors, for and concerning the Premises; and shall likewise save harmless and keep indemnified the Clergyman, or Minister, who shall join the said Parties in Matrimony, for, or by Reason of his so doing; then this Obligation to be void, and of none Effect; or else to stand and remain in full Force and Virtue.

Sealed and delivered  
in the Prefence of

*George Wailes*  
*Thomas Moore*  
*Richard Moore*

Sussex Marriage Record of William Skelly and Sarah H. Wailes. (The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware).

This Indenture made this seventh day of December in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Seven Between John Gordy & Sarah Gordy of the one part and the said William Skelly of the other part both of Sussex County in the State of Delaware, Witnesseth that the said *John Gordy & Sarah his wife* for and in consideration of the sum of Five Hundred & Thirty *three* Dollars to them in hand paid by the said William Skelly before the signing sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof the said John Gordy & his wife Sarah hereby doth acknowledge and of every part thereof doth acquit and discharge the said *Wm Skelly* his heirs Executors and administrators the said John Gordy & his wife both given granted bargained sold aliened and confirmed and by these presents doth give grant bargain sell alien and confirm unto the said William Skelly his heirs and assigns for ever all our land lying on the South west side of Broad Creek by the name of *Agges Chance* enlarge Beginning at a White Oak & running from thence N 23 3/4 W 36 perches then S 62 1/4 W 19 1/2 perches then S 55 1/4 W 5 1/2 perches then S 23 3/4 W 11 1/4 perches then S 30 1/4 E 2 1/2 perches then S 20 1/4 W 2 1/4 perches then S 80 3/4 W 13 perches then N 15 1/4 W 14 perches then South 60 1/4 W 112 perches then S 7 1/4 W 48 perches then S 15 1/4 E 183 1/2 perches then ~~S 79 1/4 E~~ 65 perches then S 65 1/4 E 180 perches to the beginning Containing Two hundred and twelve Acres be the same more or less to have and to hold the aforesaid granted and bargained premises with the appurtenances thereto belonging to him the said *Wm Skelly* his heirs and assigns for ever to the only proper use benefit and behoof of the said *Wm Skelly* his heirs and assigns for ever and the said John Gordy and his wife Sally for them selves their heirs and administrators doth hereby covenant and agree to and with the said *Wm Skelly* his heirs Executors administrators and assigns that they the said John Gordy & his wife Sally shall warrant and for ever defend the aforesaid granted and bargained premises with the appurtenances thereto belonging against all and every person and persons claiming by from or under them their heirs Executors and administrators In Witness whereof we have set our hands and affixed our seal the day and year first above written.

signed sealed & delivered  
in the presence of

*John Gordy*  
*Sarah Gordy*  
*Robert R. Bell*

*John Gordy*  
*Sarah Gordy*

A Record of Land Transfer to William Skelly. (Collection of Robert R. Bell).

The Account of William B. Cooper Esquire, and Sarah D. Skelly Administrators of all and singular the goods, chattels and credits which were of the Reverend William Skelly late of Sussex County deceased, as well as all and singular the said deceased's property which came to their or either of their hands or possession, as of their sundry payments and disbursements out of the same as follows to wit:

The said Accountants charge themselves with all and singular the goods and chattels of said deceased as Mr. Anthony Combs to the sum of \$1000.00  
The said Accountants charge themselves with all and singular the goods and chattels of said deceased as Mr. Anthony Combs to the sum of \$1000.00  
The said Accountants charge themselves with all and singular the goods and chattels of said deceased as Mr. Anthony Combs to the sum of \$1000.00

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The said Accountants charge themselves with all and singular the goods and chattels of said deceased as Mr. Anthony Combs to the sum of \$1000.00

Sussex Probate Will of William Skelly.

11. paid for the goods of said deceased as Mr. Anthony Combs to the sum of \$1000.00  
12. paid for the goods of said deceased as Mr. Anthony Combs to the sum of \$1000.00  
13. paid for the goods of said deceased as Mr. Anthony Combs to the sum of \$1000.00  
14. paid for the goods of said deceased as Mr. Anthony Combs to the sum of \$1000.00  
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24. paid for the goods of said deceased as Mr. Anthony Combs to the sum of \$1000.00  
25. paid for the goods of said deceased as Mr. Anthony Combs to the sum of \$1000.00  
26. paid for the goods of said deceased as Mr. Anthony Combs to the sum of \$1000.00  
27. paid for the goods of said deceased as Mr. Anthony Combs to the sum of \$1000.00  
28. paid for the goods of said deceased as Mr. Anthony Combs to the sum of \$1000.00  
29. paid for the goods of said deceased as Mr. Anthony Combs to the sum of \$1000.00

The above Decd. was exhibited to the Register the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 1812.

Anthony Cooper  
Sarah Skelly  
Examined and signed

He married Sarah Harte Wailes on January 29, 1788. "Figg's Chance Enlarged", 212 acres of land near Bethel in Delaware, was purchased by William Skelly on December 7, 1807 for the amount of five hundred and thirty dollars from John and Sarah Gordy. In 1807, his daughter Lavina married William Bell, son of Captain Nathaniel Bell of Bermuda amd Bethel, Delaware. When the Reverend Skelly died in 1808, he was buried in a Bell Family Cemetery on the banks of Broad Creek about one mile from Bethel. His grave, plus the graves of other family members, remained undisturbed for over 150 years. In 1984, because of river erosion and the advancement of civilization, this family burial plot was excavated and six skeletons, head stones, foot stones were reinterred in the graveyard of Old Christ Church. It seemed most appropriate that the Reverend Skelly and his family be reburied near the church where he served as the first priest when the church became a part of the Delaware Diocese.

Early settlers in America had a need for burial markers. Thus, gravesites illustrate the efforts of the colonial craftsmen. The earliest stones were inscribed with the name of the deceased, relationship to the spouse or parent, birth and death date. By the middle of the 17th century simple designs began to appear such as a skull, hourglass, leaf design, crossed bones, pilasters or arches. Years following the Revolutionary War, the tombstone carver used on tombstones the draped urn, monuments, and the weeping willow tree.

The stone cutter became the carvers of gravestones and were usually local artisans. However, since no stone is available in William Skelly's area, the family grave markers were most likely imported from other more northern areas. The six gray stone markers of the Skelly family are engraved with the individual's name, vital statistics as well as interpretations of the symbolic allegaries of the weeping willow tree and the monument. This suggests the recognition of the affluent or important family in the community.

There is a similarity in the weeping willow tree design in William Skelly's 1808 stone, the Sarah Skelly's stone 1830, and the Levin Bell's stone, 1845.\* The footstones are unadorned except for initials. The weeping willow tree and the monument were dominant symbols used not only on tombstones but were also used in mourning pictures which could be water color paint on paper or silk and combination of paint and sometimes needle work. The willow tree, stylized or abstract, has been accepted as a symbol of bereavement.

\*Note: A bible belonging to Levin Bell was presented to the Bethel Historical Society Collection in 1986 by Robert R. Bell of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. He is a direct descendant of The Reverend William Skelly.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Joanne Mattern - Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware

Jeff Layfield and Mark S. Rhodes, students at Delmar High School. Instructor - William L. Pedersen. Locating the marriage bond and probate record of William Skelly.

Robert R. Bell - Interviews on family geneology and review of personal collection.

Howard E. Hardesty - Interviews concerning restoration of old grave markers and the reinterment process.



Old Christ Church, Broad Creek, built in 1771-2. Photograph by Mimi Graves.

#### MOVING THE BELL FAMILY CEMETERY

THE CEMETERY WAS LOCATED ON THE NORTH BANK OF BROAD CREEK ABOUT HALFWAY DOWNRIVER FROM WHAT IS NOW BETHEL AND THE NANTICOKE RIVER. BROAD CREEK FLOWS INTO THE NANTICOKE AND SUBSEQUENTLY INTO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY.

THE LOCATION HAD ONCE BEEN A HOMESTEAD AND FARM. ALL THE BUILDINGS WERE GONE AND NO EFFORT WAS MADE AT THE TIME TO FIND THEIR EXACT LOCATION. FROM THE LAY OF THE LAND AND THE POSITION OF THE RIVER, IT WAS JUDGED THAT THE BUILDINGS HAD TO BE WITHIN 200 FEET OF THE CEMETERY. THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE THERE IS DEEP WATER DIRECTLY OFF THE BANK.

ON THE ACCOMPANYING PLOT MAP THERE ARE 5 GRAVES SHOWN. A SIXTH GRAVE IS OFF TO ITSELF AND IS NOT DRAWN IN. ALL GRAVES WERE EAST TO WEST AND OUT OF ALIGNMENT, AS SHOWN. TREES, 6"-8" IN DIAMETER, AND THEIR ROOTS WERE EVERYWHERE. THE GRAVES ARE NUMBERED ON THE PLOT MAP AS THEY WERE REBURIED IN THE GRAVEYARD OF OLD CHRIST CHURCH, NEXT TO FORMER GOVERNOR MITCHELL'S GRAVE. THE HEADSTONES AND FOOTSTONES WERE ALSO TRANSFERRED AND PLACED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ORDER. (WHICH IS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)

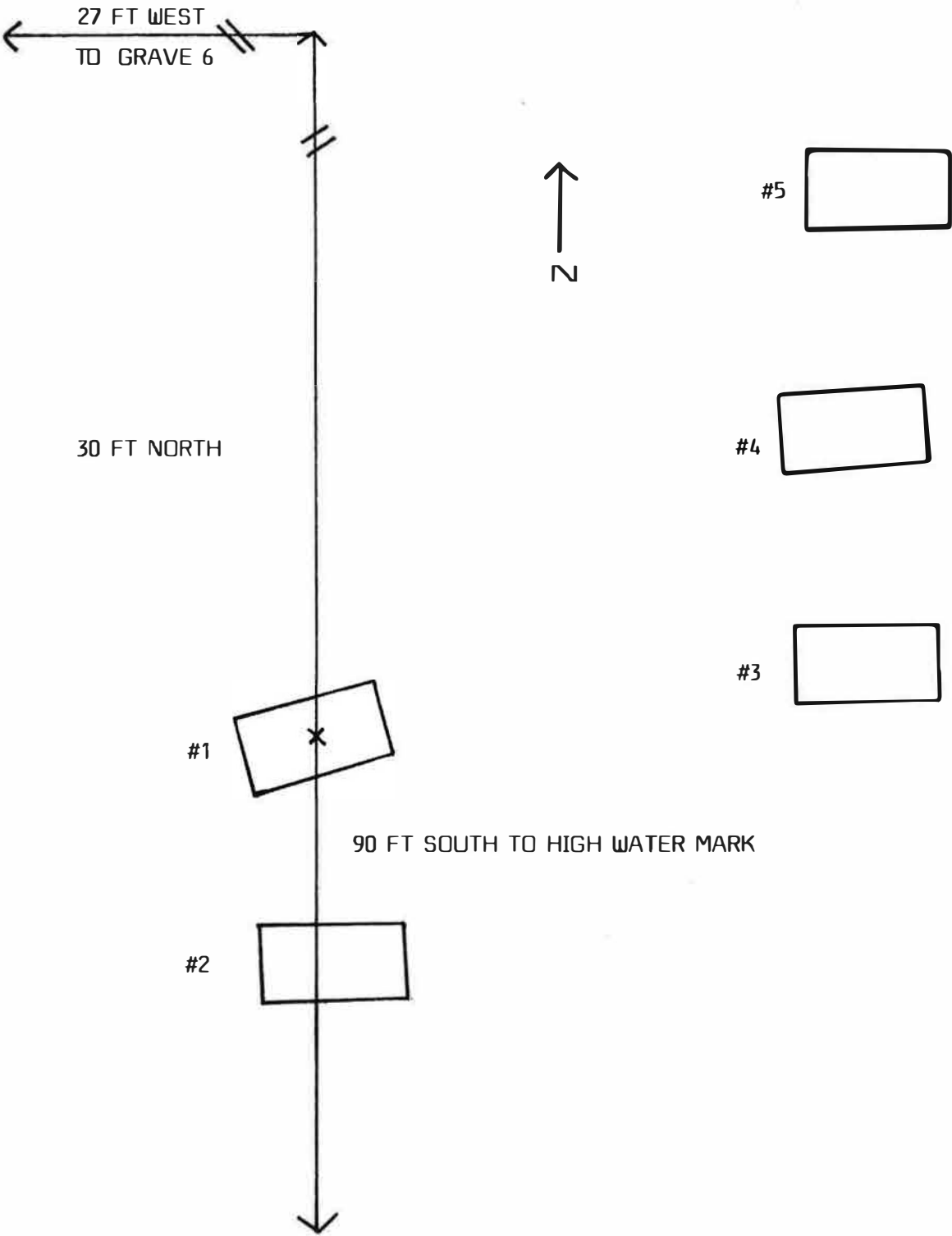
- 1) REVEREND WILLIAM SKELLY, 2) SARAH SKELLY (WIFE), 3) WILLIAM S. BELL,
- 4) LEVENIA BELL, 5) LEVIN S. BELL AND 6) PURTYMAN CANNON [sic]

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS RECORDED DURING THE EXCAVATION BY FLORENCE PEDERSEN (MANY THANKS ARE DUE!).

	<u>TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTION</u>	<u>REMAINS</u>
1)	IN MEMORY OF REV WILLIAM SKELLY DIED JANUARY 25, 1808 AGED 50 YEARS	80% OF SKELETON 90% OF SKULL WITH TEETH COFFIN NAILS COFFIN WOOD - OAK(?)
2)	IN MEMORY OF SARAH SKELLY DIED JUNE 28, 1830 AGED 60 YEARS	SKULL AND SKELETON BONES OAK(?) COFFIN FRAGMENTS COFFIN NAILS
3)	WILLIAM S. BELL DIED OCTR 15, 1871 AGED 61 YRS 6 MOS 5 DAYS DIED IN THE FULL ASSURANCE OF HOPE. REQUESTING HIS FAMILY TO MEET HIM IN HEAVEN	SKULL AND SKELETON BONES COFFIN HANDLES IN METAL METAL COFFIN ORNAMENTS COFFIN AND SKELETON IN BRICK VAULT
4)	IN MEMORY OF LEVENIA BELL DIED MAY 5, 1866 AGED ABOUT 74 YEARS	SKULL INTACT WITH PERFORATION ON ONE SIDE SKELETON BONES
5)	IN MEMORY OF LEVIN S. BELL DIED FEDY 19, 1845 AGED 26 YEARS	SKULL WITH UPPER TEETH SKELETON BONES
6)	IN MEMORY OF PURTYMAN CANNON DIED MARCH 29, 1829 AGED 45 YEARS HE IS NOT DEAD- BUT ASLEEP	SKULL AND SKELETON BONES

MOVING THE BELL FAMILY CEMETERY  
PLOT MAP

ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE FROM THE CENTER  
OF REV. WILLIAM S. SKELLY'S GRAVE







Reverend Skelly's headstone in the original burial site.



William Pedersen and Robert Bell begin the excavation.



The skeleton of the Reverend Skelly.



Removing the bones for packing and reburial.

THE REVEREND WILLIAM SKELLY  
MEMORIAL SERVICE

On the sunny Sunday of September 23, 1984 at 2:30 p. m. at Old Christ Church, Broad Creek Hundred, Delaware, a Memorial Service was held for the Reverend William Skelly and his family. Richard A. Givens II arranged a concert presented by the Concert Choir of St. Andrew's School in Middletown, Delaware. Selections included "O Come Ye Servants of the Lord" by Christopher Tye, "Let All Things Now Living" by Katherine K. Davis, "Early Will I Seek Thee" by Thomas Weelkes and "Create In Me A Clean Heart, O God" by Healy Willan. The organist and choir master was Marc Cheban.

The Reverend Nicholas Albanese, Rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Laurel, Delaware officiated; H. Alan Schweitzer served as the Lay Reader. The Right Reverend William Hawley Clark, 8th Bishop of Delaware participated in the service and also dedicated the Old Christ Christ Memorial Plaque. Mrs. Dorothea Ellis prepared the printed programs. After remarks by Mr. Edward L. Fowler, president-elect of Old Christ Church League, refreshments were served outdoors by Mr. Fowler and Norma Jean Fowler.

Flowers at the gravesite were given by Mr. & Mrs. Barry Cooper of Laurel who observed their tenth wedding anniversary by renewing their marriage vows at Old Christ Church just prior to the Memorial Service. The Reverend Ronald J. Owens of Christ United Methodist Church, Laurel, Delaware performed the ceremony.

Narcissus were transplanted from the original Skelly burial site and replanted between the headstones and the footstones of the new grave site. All bulbs were growing in the spring of 1985.



Rear view of Old Christ Church as photographed by the Frantas in 1982.



Drawings of the tombstones at the Skelly burial site.

#### SKELLY PROJECT - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Photograph by "The State Register" at the Memorial Service for the Reverend William Skelly on September 3, 1984 at Old Christ Church. Standing at the new Skelly family gravesite are (left to right) George R. Calhoun, the Right Reverend William H. Clark, The Reverend Nicholas Albanese, Madeline Dunn, Ned Fowler, Juliet Calhoun, Meril L. Dunn, and the Skelly family descendant Robert R. Bell.

When excavating this site for the purpose of removing the body for reburial, the following procedure was necessary. Permission to move the body was granted by a member of the family of the deceased. The owner of the burial plot or cemetery granted permission to excavate. Application for the project and inquiry about the payment of a possible fee was made to The State Registrar of Vital Statistics. Duly licensed undertakers were consulted and were present for the disinterment and reinterment of the remains. Permission was granted by the church for reburial in the churchyard. Because the grave site involved a person of historic interest, the State Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation was contacted.

Those who assisted in the excavation and the reinterment associated with the Skelly project are:

Robert R. Bell - a direct descendant of William Skelly

H. Clay Davis - attorney and Leslie Davis

Homer L. Disharoon, Jr. - Funeral Director

Howard E. Hardesty - Funeral Director

George R. Calhoun - Past Chairman of Old Christ Church League and Juliet Calhoun

Fay Stocum and Alice Guerrant - archaeologists from the Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

William L. Pedersen - excavated and hand crafted the six pine boxes for the remains of the six members of the Skelly family who were reinterred

Florence Pedersen was the recorder.

Francis J. Lewis

Ronald Jenkins

Warren H. Callaway

James Johnson

Meril L. Dunn - Treasurer

Percy L. Johnson

Roland P. Brown

Natson Tribbit

Madeline Arnold Dunn - Chairman of the Skelly Project, Secretary of Old Christ Church League President, Sussex Society of Archaeology and History



# THE JOURNALS OF LEWIS WHEELER WELLS

## Turn-of-the-Century Sussex County Through The Eyes Of An Episcopal Clergyman

Edited and Annotated By Richard B. Carter

\* \* \*

A glimpse into the world of a late 19th century Episcopal minister in Sussex County is presented in the following pages in the form of excerpts from the journals of the Rev. Lewis Wheeler Wells, who served as Rector of St. Mark's, Millsboro from 1888 until his death at the age of 68 in 1923. The picture of Wells and of the society in which he lived in Sussex County are in some ways richer and more varied than the curiously two-dimensional image we sometimes have of 19th century ministers and their world. That this "window into the past" is available to us is due to a somewhat curious sequence of events.

I grew up in Millsboro and was from earliest childhood a member of the church Wells served, though my childhood didn't begin until nearly a quarter of a century after Rev. Wells' death. A marble tablet set into one wall of the church sanctuary memorializes Rev. Wells, who served as rector for more than twice as long as any other minister in the parish's 138-year history. He had had a profound influence on the parish in a number of ways and during my childhood there were still many in the congregation who had known him (and even today there are a few). So I'd heard stories about him.

For one thing, he was reputed to have been wealthy and largely supported himself through an independent income, which seemed quite unusual. For another, what is today the St. Mark's rectory, a huge and very attractive old victorian gothic house next door to the church, was Wells's private home and was given to the parish by his two brothers after his death. I also heard that he was very interested in the education of local young people and had helped to provide opportunities they might not otherwise have received, that he used to travel out in the country to minister to the religious needs of the often rough and poor people who worked in the "coalings" (those sites around the town where charcoal was made in the 19th and early 20th centuries). Then there was the curious story that he had a weather station behind his house. So Rev. Wells was a distinct personage in my mind from childhood.

In the early 1970's I had an opportunity to examine much of his extensive library, which had remained in storage in the rectory attic for half a century after his death. For a would-be bibliophile the experience was extraordinary. Wells's library was astonishing in its variety, richness and depth. Much of it was, of course, the obligatory 19th century clergyman's library of sermons, religious tracts and studies of various pressing theological issues of the day. But there was also an unbelievably extensive collection of works in foreign languages. He owned books in at least two dozen languages. Though in some instances there were only one or two representative works, which he probably collected as curiosities (like Hawaiian, Chinese, Japanese and various American Indian languages), he had large collections of works in other exotic tongues. Among these were Hindustani, Sanskrit, Hebrew, Syraic, Arabic, Persian, hieroglyphics and an assortment of modern European languages - and, of course, Latin and Greek which were basic equipment for any educated person of a century ago.

Rev. Wells also owned books on engineering, higher mathematics, soils and geology, chemistry, history, American Indians and an extensive musical library. There was an old 10th edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica (which he mentions in one journal entry having had to lug home from the

station one hot day in 1896). I also discovered a number of U.S. Weather Bureau publications including one in which wells was listed as the official weather observer in Millsboro.

This experience began to give me a real sense of the man. Thus one can perhaps imagine my excitement when in 1982, again removing books from the rectory attic for storage in the parish house library, I encountered two handwritten volumes which proved to be daily journals kept by Rev. Wells for two different periods around the turn of the century. The largest begins on July Fourth, 1896 and runs to December 31, 1900. The smaller begins in October, 1903 and runs until December 31, 1904. Suddenly here was Rev. Wells himself speaking from nearly 90 years before!

It was quickly clear that the journals were by no means conscious literary productions. He obviously made no effort to achieve artistic effects. They were simply basic, sometimes terse accounts of his daily life - of people he saw, of places he visited, of what his wife was doing, of the life of the parish and the ills and joys of parishoners, of what was going on around him. When the first journal begins, Rev. Wells is a few weeks short of his 41st birthday. When the last one ends, he is 49. They cover, then, much of the middle years not only of his life but of his ministry at St. Mark's. It is clear from references he makes in the

journals that he began a journal in 1869 as a growing up in the town a suburb of the old industrial city of learned that Rev. Wells until 1919, four years gradually worsening possible for him to ultimately went blind. Wells, who still lives last journal which from 1915 to 1919. last journal is mostly personal matters like last illness and his What happened to the of 50 years of them, for 10 years worth. Wells's two brothers death (he and his or that another rel- can only hope that

turn up since they would represent a local historical resource of considerable importance. Of course, I feel fortunate to have found those which did survive.

When Rev. Wells became rector of St. Mark's in 1888, he was 33 years old. He was born to an old Connecticut family in 1855, the oldest of three brothers. The family apparently owned a considerable amount of valuable property in and around Bridgeport which had grown greatly in value with the development of that city in the mid-19th century. By Rev. Wells's time their holdings gave the family sufficient income so that all three brothers and their parents were at least in comfortable circumstances, though not really wealthy. This made it possible for Wells to serve St. Mark's and the tiny "Trinity Chapel" which stood near the head of Long Neck, east of Millsboro. Neither congregation could afford to pay him more than a pittance.

The Wells brothers attended "Day's School" according to references in the journals. This may have been the then-well-known New York boarding school



THE REV. LEWIS W. WELLS  
As he appeared in the  
early 1890's.

keeping a daily 14-year-old boy of Stratford, Conn., Long Island Sound Bridgeport. I later continued his journals before his death, when eyesight made it im- continue them. He A relative of Mrs. in Millsboro, owns his covers the four years I am told that this concerned with sad, his wife's lingering own declining health. other journals? Out I've accounted only It is possible that took them after his wife had no children) ative took them. One they might some day





The Wells home next to St. Mark's in Millsboro.

of the same name. Upon graduation, Wells attended General Theological Seminary in New York City, from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1879. In 1884 he also received a Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree from G.T.S. In 1879 and 1880 he served as priest-in-charge of the Coit Memorial Chapel in Stratford. In 1880 and 1881 he served a small chapel in Bridgeport. From 1881 to 1887 (during part of which time he also did post-graduate work at G.T.S.) he did "general supply" work, filling in where needed in the Diocese of New York and the Diocese of Delaware. In 1882 he was at Delphi in New York State where he apparently became friendly with the Rev. James C. Kerr, an older priest who later accepted a call in Delaware. It appears to have been this friendship which brought Wells to Delaware, though this is not certain.

I know nothing of his supply work in Delaware before he accepted a call to St. Mark's, but at some point in this period he met in Georgetown Miss Sarah Ann Groves ("Sallie"), a young native of Mechanicsburg, Pa., then living with her cousin in Georgetown. The two fell in love and were married in 1888, which probably had a lot to do with Wells's decision to settle in Millsboro. Sallie's cousin was Mrs. Margaret Jane Baker Messick, wife of Dr. John W. Messick, a Georgetown dentist and Civil War veteran, and the Messick family continued to be probably the Wells's closest friends in Sussex County.

The parish to which Wells came was 41 years old in 1888, having been established in 1847 as a kind of successor to the old Episcopal congregation at Prince George's Chapel in Dagsboro, which had been established in 1755 or before and had about died out by the early 1840's. St. Mark's was a small parish but had the largest congregation of the several Episcopal churches in the area. These included the aforementioned Trinity Chapel, Long Neck; Grace Chapel, which stood near Lamb's School on the road from Prince George's to Baltimore Mills (later Omar) and was largely defunct by the 1890's; and St. John's, Little Hill (also known as "Greenville") which was in south central Sussex between Lowe's Crossroads and Pepperbox. All these churches had been served by Wells's predecessor at Millsboro, the Rev. William R. Ellis, a Little Creek Hundred native who was a mainstay of the Episcopal Church in Sussex from the late 1860's until his death in 1887. Ellis built the original part of the house the Wells's later occupied. They first rented the house from Ellis's family, then purchased it in the late 1890's.



SARAH ANN GROVES WELLS

("Sallie")

As she appeared  
about 1895

The Town of Millsboro had a population of perhaps 350 persons during the period covered by these journals. It had grown up in the late 1700's around the head of the Indian River and was by this time a railroad center for the surrounding region, extending in the east to Long Neck, in the north to Zoar and Mount Joy and in the southwest to Gumboro and Whitesville. Rev. Wells was very much interested in trains and frequently listed the serial numbers of the engines passing through town and even the numbers of the cars he rode on. His journals give a very good sense of the great importance to local commerce and community life of the railroads in those days before the automobile and the "Good Roads Movement." The daily trains were the link with the outside world and it is surprising how much of that outside world passed through the town in the form of visitors, travelling salesmen, medicine shows, politicians, the U.S. Mail, travelling tradesmen and much else.

The Wellses clearly had a rather pleasant existence. They both loved music and taught it and played themselves at every opportunity. They drew and painted. They gardened. They were mainstays in the local "literary society" and were forever helping to organize amateur musicals and theatricals. Rev. Wells had his weather station and his library. He and his wife went for walks in the country and visited around town many evenings. They went to summer resorts on the ocean and the Indian River. Wells was interested in any number of pursuits including bicycling, marksmanship and even blowing up stumps with black powder, at which he was a leading local practitioner. He kept close watch on the doings of other denominations in town and in such interesting religious visitors as the Wilmington rabbi who occasionally came to town to attend to the spiritual needs of Millsboro's prominent Jewish family, the Ablemans.

Rev. Wells's primary interest, of course, was the church and the needs of his parish family. I have not tended to focus on this in choosing the journal excerpts presented here, but this aspect of his life shows through clearly in the journals themselves.

\* \* \*

NOTE: In the following excerpts, I have not always chosen to include the entire entry for a particular day. I indicate omissions with three dots . . . I have also added explanatory footnotes where I felt they were useful.

Richard B. Carter, 1985

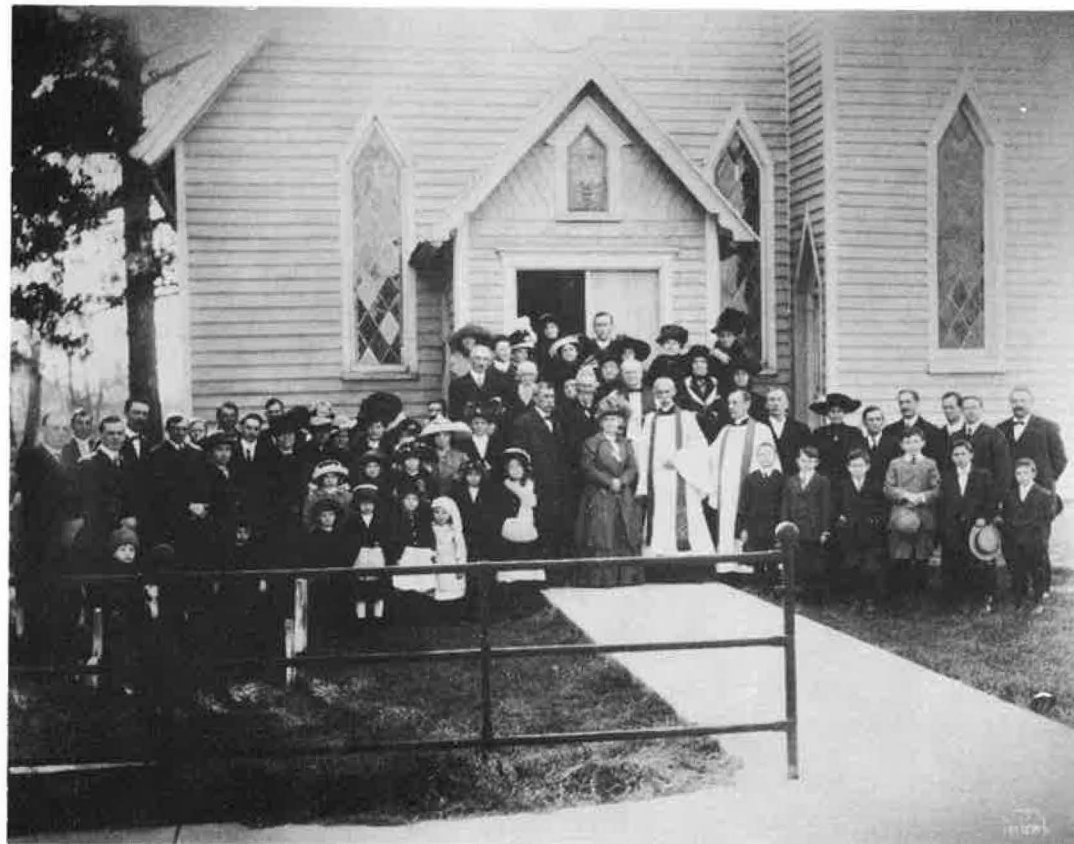
PART SECOND OF A JOURNAL  
FOR THE YEAR 1896  
COMMENCING WITH SATURDAY, JULY FOURTH

Saturday, July 4th

Somewhat hazy and at times signs of showers in the southwest. Quite a strong southerly wind. Many went to Oak Orchard. The train was 30 minutes late at noon. Loaned Mr. George Morris [Owner of the local livery stable] \$8.33. Can't understand how he is so short of money. The Methodist Protestant Church began services in Mrs. Thoroughgood's hall over by her place, the old Wright-Waples place, on last Sunday. Artemus Betts officiates.

The Baptists will have about finished repairing their church and will hold a dedication Sunday, June 12. The work of laying the foundation for the new M.E. Church began this week (1) . . . Bought one-half pound of powder

- (1) At this time the Methodist Episcopal Church (M.E.) was the town's leading church. The "M.E.'s" had recently sold their old church building to a newly-established Baptist congregation, which moved the building to a new site along Washington Street. The Methodists were building a newer, larger building at their site on the corner of Main and Church Sts. This newer church burned in the early 1900's and was replaced by still another church, which now serves in much altered form as the Millsboro Public Library.



View of a special service held at St. Mark's on Dec. 12, 1913 in honor of Rev. Wells's 25th Anniversary as rector there.

but did not get time to use any, either in my Sharps .52 or in the old heavy muzzle loader (about .38). Mrs. Atkins, Ethel and Blaine called with Mrs. Joshua Atkins and her little girl. (2)

V SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY [July 5th] (89 degrees - 72 degrees 1" R)

Had S.S. [Sunday School] with a small attendance. Only nine out to service. Had the Holy Communion with seven communicants. It came on to rain so we gave up the evening service. . .

Monday, July 6th (87 degrees - 70 degrees .79" R)

Cloudy with showers in the afternoon. Not so warm as yesterday but still close. Swept out the wood house; hoed beans and cleared some of the accumulations in the coal house. Sallie has been doctoring Tommie the Cat who is very sick. Did a little practicing with clarinet and flagiolet. Emma Baker began this morning on two weeks trial [as a maid] at 75 cents.

Wednesday, July 8th

Cloudy, heavy rain early and quite a rain from 9 a.m. Wind NE and growing colder (7 a.m. 66 degrees - 8 a.m. 64 degrees). Began to pick Old Homestead beans today. Practiced a little on the violin. Mr. Geo. Tunnell called while I was away to the Guild [the St. Mark's ladies' group, which met monthly] yesterday. He finds the clarinet sounds all right now but I made some mistakes in the writing of a diagram of fingering the scale. Wrote a long letter correcting mistakes and adding new points. Harry Holland was here after dinner. [He] had a flute and ocarina. We practiced a little.

Thursday, July 9th

. . . Went to the station at 3:30 p.m. for a package from Wanamaker. Tommie the Cat had a sinking spell at noon and we did not think he would live until night. Gave him lard, milk and catnip tea in the evening. . . Received a card from the Bishop. . . Hear the School Commissioners propose putting in Mr. Ellis as principal and Carrie Lingo as primary teacher [Gardiner L. Ellis, a close friend of Wells's, was one of the sons of the late Rev. Ellis and at this time worked as a school teacher. Carrie Lingo was a member of a family which belonged to St. Mark's]. The foundation of the M.E. Church is progressing. The [Democratic National] Convention at Chicago appears to be fully decided for "Free Silver" to oppose the "Gold Standard" of the Republicans. Fitzgerald of Ill. and Tillman of South Carolina are leading spirits. Pattison of Penna. has a strong force at his back, but he will fail. Russell of Mass. makes quite a show but carries little weight.

Friday, July 10th

. . . Harry Holland came around. He showed me some points in riding the Wheel. (3) Mr. [William Jennings] Bryan of Nebraska was nominated for President by the Democratic Party at Chicago. . . Sallie put up some black-berry jelly, jam and simple canned berries. Tommie the Cat is improving. The boys have organized a brass band and think of hiring Prof. Prosko to teach them. His terms are \$5.00 and expenses for two lessons a week. . .

2. "Blaine" is William Blaine Atkins, who later became a prominent Millsboro businessman and dentist. His uncle Joshua Atkins was a local farmer and musician.
3. Wells had just acquired a new bicycle, which he called his "wheel", and he was learning to ride it with the help of more experienced friends.

Saturday, August 1st

. . . We packed our grip and made a large bundle to take with us. Took the train at 3:29 p.m. for Georgetown (Engine 147). Found the air quite cool in the shade. Will Messick showed me his office and fittings - he has a large stock of medicines and some valuable instruments. (4) His office is small but very neat. We took the evening train down to Rehoboth. It was more than one hour late. Mr. Speakman got on at Lewes. (5) We went to the Hotel Henlopen, which is kept by Messrs. Smith and Ford of Dover. . . the air was cool and it was very pleasant on the porch. I was on the Henlopen porch in 1885. Went down from Geo'town with Kerr and the men he had placing the organ in the church. (6) Had an old wood-burning balloon pipe engine of the old Breakwater Railroad. It was in June just before the P.W. & B.R.R. purchased the road. (7)

IX SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY [August 2nd]

. . . Was up early and went around to the church - All Saints. Had early communion with about 20 in ch. and 15 communicants. Mr. Speakman and his boy assisted at the service. He had a children's service or S.S. at 9:30 a.m. Sallie and I went to the 10:30 service. It was a shortened form of the Morning Prayer with the Holy Communion - my part was to celebrate and preach. After dinner Mr. Speakman took me around to see his friend, Mr. Ruddell of Balto. and Mr. and Mrs. Dick. We also stopped in to see some of Mr. Horn's people. (8) He [Rev. Speakman] had Evening Prayer and I took the Absolution and Benediction. An oldish and a young man (both were German) gave some nice selections on piano and violin in the evening. They were both well-trained musicians . . . Wish to work up the pizzicato after the style of the Rehoboth violinist.

Monday, August 3rd

. . . Took the hack for the train. Noticed the canal as we came away. (9) We went to the bank in Georgetown. Also stopped into Vincents for some silver novelty. . .

Tuesday, August 11th

. . . I painted for Seymour Downes a name for his boat. He sent a board by Mr. Burton. The name was MARGURITE, WARWICK. (10)

4. Will Messick was a young medical doctor in Lewes, the son of the Wells's close friend, Dr. John W. Messick of Georgetown.
5. The Rev. Henry Draper Speakman, a N.J. native, had run an Episcopal mission for black youngsters in Wilmington beginning in 1891. In 1893 he was ordained to the ministry. When his health began to fail in 1895, Bishop Coleman reassigned him to the newly erected All Saints Church in Rehoboth, thinking a dose of salt air would be beneficial. He lived in Lewes and in the summer he was assisted by vacationing Episcopal ministers from around the Diocese.
6. The Rev. James C. Kerr, onetime rector of Christ Ch., Milford, was the man who introduced Wells to the Diocese of Delaware. He died in 1895.
7. The Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore R.R. purchased the old Junction & Breakwater Line running from Georgetown to Rehoboth, in 1885. The P.W. & B.R.R. was itself later absorbed by the Pennsylvania R.R.
8. The Horn family then operated a famous Rehoboth amusement pier, "Horn's Pavillion."
9. Work had just begun on the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal, which wasn't completed until about 1912.
10. Seymour Downes lived at Downes Landing on the Indian River near Warwick.

Saturday, August 15th

(80 degrees - 71 degrees)

. . . Our hens are laying very well of late and we have three hens sitting. Peach season is on the wane but they still run an extra freight up. The down freight is very light nowadays. Fodder saving is very near. Camp-meeting at Carey's begins today. (11)

XII SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY [August 23]

(93 degrees - 70 degrees)

. . . Very hot and sultry. The OLD SCHOOL BAPTISTS held service morning and afternoon. They had services yesterday afternoon and evening. Sallie and I went at ten o'clock. Service began about 10:15 a.m. Order of Service: Hymn, short prayer, hymn, sermon, collection hymn, benediction. The preacher was from Accomac Co., Va. (from his remarks it appeared so). Text 1 S.Pet. 1. 3-4. Worship toward God for electing us to lively hope by the resurrection finds its realization as an inheritance reserved in Heaven. None seek grace but those "moved" or "called" by the spirit. Two classes of believers among all shades of opinion: those who believe in God and those who really believe in something standing between them and God, e.g. good works, mercy, charity and the like, when they should go straight to the Lord. A lively hope, no falling from Grace, but holding on. cf. S. Paul's thesis in the flesh, "my Grace is sufficient for thee", Once in grace, always in grace. mention common criticism on it. Examples of so-called "falls" only show they never were in grace. O.S. Baptists great sticklers for "experimental piety" no schooling can grasp by art[ificial] scriptural truth. "Reserved in Heaven", Resort to hereafter, now have a foretaste - just enough to keep our courage up . . . There were three ministers at the O.S. Baptist Ch. They had another sermon at 2:30 p.m. Many came from a distance to attend. They have \$350. to raise to clear off their debt. Carey's Camp ends today. Mr. Millard Johnson and family went to Rehoboth to attend camp. (12)

Tuesday, August 25th

(78 degrees - 62 degrees)

. . . The school house near Phillips Hill was damaged by certain parties the other night. It is thought they were of the party opposed to moving the building this side of Mr. Joh. Atkins. Had quite a talk with a Mr. Atkins, Joshua Atkins's cousin. (He is tilling corn for Myers Betts.) We called at Mr. George W.D. Johnson's in the evening. Misses Annie and Emma Fosque are still visiting them. Many young people went to a watermelon party to Shipley Phillips's in the evening. (13) Mr. Cannon Ellis's boys had an accident at the end of our lane. Their horse shied so suddenly as to overturn their covered wagon. The wheels were more or less mashed.

Thursday, August 27th

. . . An excursion to Ocean City, a ten-car train, stopped here a little after ten o'clock and a thirteen-car train went thro' just about eleven. We made some unfermented wine. Sallie picked over a bushel (nearly a bushel and a half) of dry beans. . . Mr. Frame made us a present of two watermelons. (14)

11. At this time there were over 50 summer camp-meetings in Delaware. Carey's Camp, which still flourishes southwest of Millsboro, started about 1886.
12. This refers to the Methodist camp-meeting in Rehoboth Beach's oak grove.
13. Shipley Phillips, a member of St. Mark's, lived in a large house at Phillips Hill and operated a general store there (both house and store are still standing).
14. Mr. Paynter Frame, also a parishoner and a prominent local farmer, was a leading authority on the cultivation of watermelons and was known in Delaware as "the watermelon king."

Tuesday, Sept. 8th

(73 degrees - 56 degrees)

. . . Quite a number went to see the patent medicine show in Blackstone's yard [*Dr. Ernest Blackstone was the local pharmacist*]. It is Sayman's Remedy and Concert Co. of St. Louis, Missouri. They sell herb- tonic, soap, salve and liniment. One of the showmen does very good work copying photos in oils. Samples are on sight at the hotel. He also decorates watch fobs with ornamental devices. They had a big attendance in the evening. One man did some good acts on the flying trapeze. . . Ordered of Houston and White 9 tons of coal for ourselves and one for the church @ \$6.40 per ton delivered. Tried a test for sugar in urine in a sample given me by Dr. Jones.

Friday, Sept. 18th

. . . Went to the mill for a dollar's worth of meal (2 1/2 Bus. @ 40¢). Received a number of Republican speeches thro' the mail. Sent to Ditson's for Schumann's Study After Paganini for the piano (Opus 3). Practiced some on the violin on page 118, J.S. Bach's Sonata in C Minor, the adagio movement after the presto.

Monday, Sept. 21st

(72 degrees - 45 degrees)

. . . Nine cars went up as an excursion train to Dover where Bryan the Democrat Nominee will speak. [*He refers here to William Jennings Bryan, then making the first of his three runs for the Presidency*]

Saturday, Sept. 26th

(77 degrees - 51 degrees)

Quite a crowd in town. Work going on at the Old Store, electing delegates to Tuesday's meeting for the formation of the County ticket. (15)

Tuesday, Sept. 29th

. . . We took the train for Georgetown. Two extra cars. Many were going to see Main's Circus. They had a good procession with camels, an elephant, and a lion on top of a cage. Steam Calliope. They exhibited on Ewing's Lot where Robin's Show held forth in 1886. Dr. [*John Messick*] and I went out to see the great single high summersault. They had a 60 ft. ladder with a step on top from which a man made a fall with one turn onto a netting ten feet from the ground. A fine sight. Fine work stake driving by six or eight men with heavy hammers, each man striking in rotation. Very rapid work done in putting up tents and arranging things for the exhibition. Dr. and I went to look at the political meeting at the Courthouse. They did not nominate Custis Burton, but a brother-in-law of W.H. Boyce. (16) The society has broken ground for the new M.E. Ch. It will stand across the alley from the old ch. on McFee's land. To cost about \$10,000 . . . Saw Mr. Geo. Wilson about his terms for painting and graining. He charges \$2.50 per day and board when away from home. . . They have a man at Messick's crossing to flag people when trains are coming. He is a man that lost his hand some time ago. He was so drunk today they had to relieve him for a few hours. (17)

15. At this time the official "voting grounds" for Millsboro were at Burton's Old Store, a short distance southwest of the town.

16. W.H. Boyce was a Georgetown lawyer who later became a judge and a one-term congressman.

17. Messick's Crossing was the main railroad crossing on East Market St. in Georgetown where Dr. Messick's home and office was located. The building is still standing and now serves as the office of the Sussex County Legal Aid Society.

XIX SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY [*October 11th*] (57 degrees - 50 degrees 1.08"R)

. . . Read quite a good article on Cardinal Newman and for the first time came across that celebrated piece headed "Nemesis". Found it in the CENTURY for June, 1882. A good article in the May number, 1882, on Cardinal Manning. Alley [*Jacob A. Burton, a local merchant and one of Wells's best friends*] tells us a tugboat went down off Fenwick's Island last Tuesday without much warning. Curtis Waggamon, brother of B. Frank; Mr. Lingo, father of Mr. "D." Lingo, and others from Sussex went down with the boat. The bark they were towing had to cut loose the lead line to save being swamped. Reports of a violent storm all along the coast. Three men drowned at Lewes while the life saving crew were working to save them. Just as a line was sent to a mast on the wrecked vessel, the mast gave way and they were lost.

Monday, October 19th

. . . The Addicks Republicans had a meeting here today. The Laurel Band came to play for them. They had a fine team of six horses. They went on to Frankford. . . (18)

Wednesday, October 21st

(70 degrees - 45 degrees)

. . . Went with Mr. Burton down by the branch where the old Burton house stood. Saw cypress root knots, of which Mr. McKim said they used to make well buckets and measures. (19) Mr. Burton's well is lined with a cypress curb made of lengths about 3 feet long and more in diameter. He has some fine bald cedar (cypress) trees by the branch. . .

Saturday, October 24th

(60 degrees - 43 degrees .18"R)

. . . We went to hear the Higgins Republicans. Saw Robert H. Richards [*later a prominent Wilmington attorney*]. Michael Byrne was chief speaker [*Byrne later shifted his allegiance to the opposing faction amidst much hue and cry about treachery*]. Candidates J.C. Higgins (Governor) and Robert G. Houston (Representative) made remarks. The Geo'town Band were along. Abbott was with them. They went on to Frankford. (20) . . . Gardiner Ellis had quite an adventure one night coming from Laurel. A drunken man with a gun made him drive a long distance. (21) . . .

18. and 20. A great schism broke out in the Delaware Republican Party in the mid-1890's over the efforts of the financier J. Edward Addicks to "buy" a U.S. Senate seat from Delaware (U.S. Senators were still elected by joint sessions of the General Assembly in those days). In 1896, the state G.O.P. broke into two separate parties, the "Addicks Republicans" which took the name "Union Republicans," and the "Higgins Republicans" which took the name "Regular Republicans." The Higgins faction was named for two of its leaders, former U.S. Senator Anthony Higgins and his brother, John Clark Higgins, who ran on the Regular ticket for governor in 1896. Robert G. Houston, then a young Georgetown attorney and editor of the SUSSEX REPUBLICAN (later the SUSSEX COUNTIAN), ran on the Regular ticket for Congress. Both lost (though Houston later served four terms in Congress). The breach wasn't healed until 1906 and it once caused Delaware to go for two years with no U.S. Senators at all.

19. Old Rev. John Linn McKim was the senior Episcopal priest in the Diocese. He had served in Sussex County churches since the 1840's. Born in 1813, he taught Greek at Delaware College during its first year of existence. McKim also served as U.S. Consul in an English city for five years from 1889 to 1894. By this time he was living in retirement in Georgetown.

21. Such incidents were not entirely unheard of, but crime wasn't common.



Tuesday, Nov. 3rd

Clear and quite warm. Many were disappointed about the election. It appears the Higgins men put up a job on the Addicks men by selling out to the Democrats. They wrangled over the appointment of voters' assistant and thus caused there to be no election. I went out about four o'clock [to the voting grounds southwest of town]. Quite a number of stands [selling such delicacies as oyster fritters, cider, ham, cakes and pies] but not the usual interest in eating. . .

Wednesday, Nov. 4th

. . . Report says McKinley has been elected, having received nearly double the number of electoral votes Bryan received. In Delaware Tunnell [Lewes merchant Ebe Tunnell, the Democratic candidate for Governor] and the Democratic ticket were elected and McKinley's electors were elected. It is generally admitted Higgins sold out the state [Republican] ticket in order to secure the electors. . .

Monday, Nov. 16th

(69 degrees - 41 degrees)

. . . Wrote to Frank asking a loan to bridge me over the present church expenses. (22) Sallie is working at some flower painting [with a new set of oil paints she'd just received by mail]. Received a card from the Bishop asking me to come to Milford on urgent business. Decided to go. Asked Gardiner Ellis to go also as a delegate.

Tuesday, Nov. 17th

(73 degrees - 43 degrees)

. . . Gardiner and I took the new train up at 1:39 p.m. We have coming Monday a mixed train up every day but Sunday at 1:39, returning in the evening at 7:40 p.m. Miss Helen McKim [daughter of Christ Ch., Milford Rector, J. Leighton McKim and granddaughter of Rev. Jonathan Linn McKim] met us at the station and directed us to Mrs. Bogart's. In the evening after services I was quartered at Mrs. Gilman's (next house). At the missionary meeting I was to speak second on why men should go to church. Mr. Smith of Laurel began by treating why men do not go to church. Mr. Taylor of Lewes closed by telling how to bring men into the church.

Wednesday, Nov. 18th

(76 degrees - 44 degrees)

. . . Had an electric light in my room all night and could not turn it off. It was out of order. Gardiner came after me and we took a walk down by the creek. Some good, flat scenery. Saw men building a scow of about 25 x 70 feet. There is quite a sawing and planing mill along the creek. Two or three schooners [were under construction]. Went to the opening of the teacher's institute at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Ellis played "America." Rev. Martindale made a prayer and Mr. Bernstein gave the opening address. . . Dr. Winship of Boston told how much it cost to determine the length of a degree on the earth; also talked of the bearing of wheat upon the advance of a nation. Gardiner and I went to Ch. at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Bond of Dover preached on "They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and in the breaking of bread and in prayers." . . . The Bishop kept me talking so long at Mrs. Rudebash's I had no time to get my supper. Speakman and Taylor came down on the train I took. Reached home before 8:00. Found Frank had written and sent me the needful.

22. Wells had recently paid to have St. Mark's raised up and a new brick foundation put underneath it. Thus he was short of money and needed a loan from his brother.

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNAL FOR THE YEAR 1897

Saturday, Jan. 9th

(41 degrees - 18 degrees)

Mrs. J.E.M. Burton brought us two bushels of potatoes the other day and some buckwheat flour and a pound of butter today. Mr. Robert Showell called on his way down home from a gunning visit at the White House. (23) The Lit. Society met here in the evening to talk about getting up a drama for Washington's Birthday. They decided to have "East Lyme" and "Ten Nights in a Bar-room." . . .

Thursday, Jan. 21st

(55 degrees - 40 degrees)

. . . They had a cornerstone laying at the M.E. Ch. - Rev'd's. Terry, Grise, Brewington and Eiswald. They do not close the box until next week. Met. Gov. Stockley on the street. [former Governor Charles C. Stockley, a onetime Millsboro merchant now living in Georgetown - the man for whom the village of Stockley was named] . . . The M.E. Ch. had a festival at the hall in the evening.

Sunday, March 14th

. . . Bp. Coleman preaches at Geo'town and Milton today. Much excitement over a murder in Milton said to have been done by a Mr. Gordy who lives near Milton. Gordy was caught near Georgetown trying to get away. Many went up to Geo'town today hoping to see the man. . .

Saturday, March 20th

. . . Sallie and I went to the Prosho concert. He played some fine things: "Sounds from Homer," "Mocking Bird," "Organ Imitation." Mr. Edward Todd did comedy work and showed much skill on the banjo, ocarina, musette, flagolet-piccolo and other novelties in the tin flute order. The Geo'town band came down and played certain pieces. Mr. Showell sent us some salt meat, hams, shoulders, etc., etc.

Monday, May 17th

(64 degrees - 52 degrees)

. . . Met the Bishop at the train. He took dinner with us. Did not leave until nearly 4 o'clock for Trinity and he slept from Jesse Workman's to the Chas. Collins place, having been up so much of late that he was obliged to make up sleep. We stopped at Chas. Lingo's. Good turn out at service. We reached home at 11:30 p.m. He stopped at Mr. J.C. Ellis's. Very cool riding. (24). . . He is sick with the bilious.

Wednesday, May 19th

(75 degrees - 56 degrees)

. . . Walked out to see the Bp. He is much better. He tells me C.H.B. Turner formerly of New Castle, now Dean of Nashville Cathedral, has asked to be his chaplain on his visit to the Lambeth Conference. (25) They leave June 12th and return about Sept. 12th. . .

- 
23. Robert Showell was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dale Showell of Worcester County, Md. Mrs. Showell, born Mary Catherine Burton, had inherited the old Burton family plantation, White House Farm, in 1883. Robert Showell was married to the daughter of Gov. John Letcher, Civil War Governor of Virginia. His son, Sam H. Showell, still owns White House Farm.
  24. Wells was taking the Bishop on his annual visitation to Trinity Chapel, Long Neck, which Wells served in addition to Millsboro. The Bishop often stayed with Episcopal families in Millsboro on his visits.
  25. Bishop Coleman was attending the Anglican Lambeth Conference in England that summer. C.H.B. Turner later served as Rector of St. Peter's, Lewes.

Friday, June 11th

Clear and very pleasant. Quite a cool breeze. Commencing very early trains were going to Georgetown to see the execution of James M. Gordy of whom the papers have had so much to say. I went to the train with Mrs. Kerr [widow of the Rev. James C. Kerr and a close friend of the Wellses]. She will stop off at Geo'town to see Dr. Messick. According to reports about 100 witnessed the execution. The drop went at 10:27 a.m. Death in 11 1/2 minutes by strangulation. . . Prof. Fresenins died in Wiesbaden of apoplexy at age 79.

BAPTISMS AT TRINITY, June 13th, 1897 - At Evening Service

Madge Nova, born June 10, 1894	Children of	William H. Jarmon
Virginia Mary, born Dec. 17, 1895		Ellen Mary Trader
Alfred Lee, born Jan. 25, 1895	Child of	John E. M. Burton Jusephine Dodd
Emma Hettie, born Mar. 4, 1892	Child of	John Robert Warrington Lily M. Lynch

III SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY [July 4th] (84 degrees - 64 degrees)

. . . A few were out to evening service. People do not appear inclined to attend Ch. very regularly of late. One of the Jews I met at the hotel in '88 (Samuel Hankins) was at church. The brother of Maritz was with him.

Monday, July 5th (88 degrees - 64 degrees)

. . . Many went to Sandy Landing. Manaen Hurdle had difficulty getting his refreshment van down there. They were stalled at the second run toward Dagsboro (near Mr. Truitt's place). (26)

XI SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY [August 28th] (83 degrees - 58 degrees)

. . . Had Sunday School with a small attendance. People are still hunting after Sunday amusements. Some went to Milton to take the excursion on the Queenstown Railroad lately built. (27) It's a two hour run from Milton.

Monday, August 29th (90 degrees - 64 degrees)

. . . Was up early picking grapes. Went with Mr. Ellis to Charles West's place where we used his cider mill. Pressed out between 11 and 12 gallons of juice. Reached home after 3 o'clock. Put in 50 lbs. of sugar and 8 gallons of water. Mr. Jno. A. Lingo has invited us to spend a day or two at their cottage at Oak Orchard. They are spending the week at the shore. . .

26. Sandy Landing is near the point where Vines Creek and Pepper's Creek join the Indian River and in the 19th and early 20th centuries it was a favorite gathering spot on the Fourth of July (or the 5th in years where the Fourth was a Sunday). Among the attractions were mobile food wagons selling delicacies of the season such as that Manaen Hurdle was trying to get to Sandy Landing when he had trouble. In some years there were over a thousand people there (and, of course, politicians never missed it).
27. The Queenstown Railroad connected Lewes with Queenstown on the Chesapeake Bay side of the Delmarva Peninsula by way of Milton. It was connected to several popular amusement parks on the bayside. At the Lewes end the railroad's terminus was the famous iron pier.

Wednesday, Sept. 1

(81 degrees - 56 degrees)

. . . We went to Oak Orchard reaching there about 10:15 a.m. Found things very pleasant, large porches and a good breeze. Met Miss Duval and Edward Mustard, John Johnson, Misses Hurdle (Burton Prettyman's granddaughters) Mary Carter and Laura Joseph (sister of Frank Joseph), Mrs. D.D. Lingo of Dagsboro and her mother, Mrs. (Short) Lingo, Mrs. Lida Burton, wife of Wm. Burton son of Wm.Cord. Kate Houston and her father were down. Mr. Houston went fishing down to Massey's early this morning. Mr. Eiswald was on hand with his boat and gave the company a sail. Mosquitoes were troublesome in the evening. Sallie and Mrs. Lingo went up to see Collins boathouse in the morning. The girls made several hauls with a small seine. They gave us the fish and crabs they caught.

Thursday, Sept. 16th

(85 degrees - 55 degrees)

. . . In the afternoon two peddlers - Syrians, a woman and her brother from Phila. - called. We bought a few things. They are R. Catholics. She speaks Greek and Arabic. He can read Arabic very well. Tried him on [my] Arabic St. Matthew's and selections from the Koran in Lansing's Arabic Manual. We gave them a night's lodging and breakfast and supper. He wrote a little Arabic on pages 21 and 33 [of Wells's Journal]. He had a Mass Book in Arabic and also showed some knowledge of the liturgy of the R.C. Church..

Monday, Sept. 20th

(70 degrees - 54 degrees)

. . . Rabbi Rautch came down to circumsise a child at Abel Ableman's this noon. Many went to see the ceremony. I called at the Rabbi's after supper. He sang many selections for me. (28)

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNAL FOR THE YEAR 1898

Monday, Feb. 14th

. . . I went out to blast the trunk of a big oak at the Old Store. The tree stood between the new store on the corner and the wagon shop on the right side of the road - the tree must have been over one hundred years old. I estimated rings at 120. Burst the log with 1 lb. powder in a 24 in. hole made with an 1 1/2 inch auger - Had to put off finishing on account of a lack of powder.

Monday, March 28th

. . . The M.P. people are putting up a bell tower. The tower part is for a wood house. It is about 25 ft. high. They have a fair-size bell 7#. Received a letter from Uncle William from Lawrence, Kansas. He says that Alice is of a notion of going to Paris in 1900.

28. Abel Ableman was a properous Millsboro merchant, farmer and landowner who had come to the town some years before as an immigrant from Eastern Europe. He had made his start locally as an itinerant peddler living near Shaft Ox Corner but had prospered greatly since then. The Ablemans were among the few Jewish families in the area. Though they remained staunch in their faith this meant having to have a rabbi travel down from northern Delaware. Interestingly the Ablemans participated fully in most of the life of the community. In later years several of the Ableman children were music students of the Wellses. Rev. Wells was especially fond of young Benjamin Ableman. Rev. Wells, being avidly interested in Hebrew, never missed a chance to hear chants used by the Rabbi.

GOOD FRIDAY [April 8th]

(59 degrees - 31 degrees)

. . . Shipley Phillips died about 11 a.m. He had the lock-jaw, having stepped on a nail more than a week ago (Wed. a week). Had not taken much account of the hurt. Tetanus set in Tuesday afternoon, and altho' he appeared to get better in some respects, he was taken with a spasm that struck a vital part at last. I rode out with Capt. [Theodore] Burton in the evening before service.

Tuesday, May 17th

(74 degrees - 55 degrees)

. . . The U.S. Fish Comm. put a quantity of young shad in the river. . .

[On Wednesday, Sept. 28th, the Wellses went to Lewes to attend Dr. Will Messick's wedding. They spent the night there before the wedding.]

Thursday, Sept. 29th

Clear and warm. We were up early and took breakfast at the Virden House [a leading local hotel]. Dr. [John A. Messick] and I went out to the pier (Maull's) and went with Mr. Burbage on his naphtha launch. (29) He takes mail and orders to vessels. We visited the ship HEINRICH of Bremerhaven, the steamer ESKDALE of Glasgow and went aboard. Took her captain on, then went to the VENUS and took her captain. Went to the OLG0, a German bark whose captain died of scurvy near Cape of Good Hope. Then went to the OBI of London, which had just arrived. Reached the pier about noon. The wedding was at the church at 2:15. We all took the train at 3:11 p.m. Will and his bride went to Phila. We came home on the evening train. . . .

Thursday, Oct. 20th

(66 degrees - 41 degrees)

. . . About 1:30 p.m. the staging gave way on the front of H.L. Barker's new house, precipitating both Mr. Burton and Mr. Dryden. Mr. Dryden's end did not give way so much but that he seized the window casing and saved himself. Mr. Burton fell 25 feet landing on his head and shoulder. He was badly injured and did not come to. I called to see Mr. Goslee. He is quite ill with some diabetic trouble. Stopped to see Mr. Burton on returning. Sent a telegram to Capt. Henry Burton of Woodbury, N.J., asking him to tell George and Mary to come home. (30)

Friday, Oct. 21st

(66 degrees - 44 degrees, .40 R)

. . . Was over to help Alley with his father at different times. Dr. Jones has no hope of recovery . . . Mr. Burton died at 4:15 p.m. He was born in 1844. I wrote for the family the funeral notices they sent away (14 letters). Mr. Hickman is in charge [Harbeson Hickman, the local undertaker].

Tuesday, Oct. 25th

(70 degrees - 42 degrees)

Frank came on the evening train. He rode his wheel from Clayton to Georgetown, then took the train. Many have gone to the Peace Jubilee in Phila. About 198,000 people went there today, so the papers estimate. . . (31)

29. A naphtha launch was a refinement of the older steam launches. It used a process in which naphtha (a gasoline-like substance) was heated and vaporized. The launches closely resembled steam launches.

30. William E. Burton, a merchant and builder, was the father of J. Alley and George Burton, who was then a New Jersey resident. He was a member of St. Mark's Church and a close friend of the Wellses.

31. The Rev. Frank Wells, Lewis Wells's younger brother, was then serving Trinity Episcopal Church in Clayton. Still a batchelor, he'd ridden his bicycle from Kent County to Georgetown.

Monday, October 31st

(54 degrees - 39 degrees)

Clear and cooler. Genie [Wells's brother, Eugene, was visiting] and I took a walk down the R.R. We went below the second bridge close to Houston's Switch where a car is standing, to the corner of a little oak thicket on the left hand. Reached there about 9:30 a.m. Harriet was here [Harriet was the maid]. Genie helped Sallie with her plants. We took the rifle to a place over the R.R. where R.I. Houston has a black-berry patch to shoot. Made some fair shots. Mr. Houston came by & talked a little. Mr. Tilghman Waggamon came along and tried a few shots. We called at Godwin's but found no one at home.

Tuesday, November 8th

Clear and very pleasant. We were up early so Sallie could take the train for Georgetown. Worked around the house until after 10 o'clock when Alley and I went out to the Pole Dam to vote. (32) The voting was done in Mr. Chas. Godfrey's house. We reached home about 12:30 p.m. . . I went to see Mrs. Sockriter who is quite sick. Sallie came home on the evening train. She says Aunt Hettie is very poorly. Rumor says Penna. and N.Y. have gone Republican.

Thursday, November 10th, (73 degrees - 59 degrees) RETURN DAY

Cloudy with a sprinkle. We went to Georgetown. Many on the train. About four passenger cars. Walked around the square & out near the "Y". (33) Saw what little parade they had & went to see Mr. McKim. He talked much of old times at Carlisle. (34) He says Rev. Plummer of the west would like to get into this diocese . . . Quite a number of stands along the court house. The judges are reviewing the election returns in order to decide certain contested districts. We came down on the evening train.

SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT (November 20th)

(54 degrees - 37 1/2 degrees)

Clear and much colder. Had a fair attendance at Sunday School. About 26 in church in the morning. Not so many in the P.M. Alley and I took a walk up to Burton's Mill, came back by the R.R. Noticed a board marked "Risdon's Smut Machine, Patt'd. May 3rd, 1855." We noticed the boundaries of the land going with the old mill. Wrote to Genie and wrote to Leuck & Bruchan for Perry's Sanskrit Primer.

Thursday, December 21st

(60 degrees - 37 1/2 degrees)

Cloudy with high winds. No signs of clearing until evening. Had a little practice in the evening. My turkey flew away while I was attempting to catch it. Fred Burton took his team and we went for holly and Xmas trees.

32. The "Pole Dam" was at Ingram's Pond northwest of Millsboro. Mr. Charles Godfrey then owned and operated the grist mill there. He later moved into Millsboro and took over the "Head of the River" mill at Millsboro Pond.

33. The "Y" is the area on the east side of Georgetown where the railroad lines running to Lewes and down to Millsboro and below branch off, forming a "Y" shape in the track. The Rev. John Linn McKim lived near there.

34. Early in his career before becoming an Episcopal minister, Rev. McKim had been a student and then a teacher at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa.

CHRISTMAS DAY (Sunday, December 25th) (40 1/2 Degrees - 29 Degrees)

Cloudy for the most part with signs of snow. Had a small attendance at church and Sunday school. Gardiner Ellis took me to Trinity. He went on to see Mr. Thomas Burton who is quite sick. I walked down with Mr. J.E.M. Burton almost to his house before I met Gardiner. Reached home before 6 o'clock. Had evening service with a few out. We did not take the tree down today.

Monday, December 26th (41 Degrees - 29 Degrees)

Clear with north wind working southwest. Wrote to Frank asking him to dinner tomorrow. Bought a 14 1/4 lb. turkey at Houston's. Our turkey did not turn up. I went out to Chas. Hastings' but he had none to sell.

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNAL FOR THE YEAR 1899

*(Late January and early February were extremely cold with several minor snow storms. On Friday, February 10th, L.W.W. notes that the high for the day was 4 degrees while the low was ten below! It was ten below again the next day and snow began in the evening of the eleventh.)*

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY (February 12th) (15 Degrees - 6 Degrees)

Cloudy. Wind N. Snowing all day (fine snow). Made no attempt to hold service. Alley Burton was over awhile. Two Engines and a car went up about 12 Midnight to clear the track. They went down about 7 p.m. More wind late in the evening.

Monday, February 13th (12 Degrees - 8 Degrees)

Cloudy, wind rather strong North. Snowing all day. Drifts 4 feet deep and fully 18 inches on an average. Had hard work getting about. Our pump has been frozen since Friday a.m. No trains moving. 4 Engines are stuck at Nassau where they generally have trouble. I helped Alley put his pigs in his barn stable. Wind became strong after dark.

Tuesday, February 14th (21 1/2 Degrees - 5 Degrees)

Lena Dodd died. Age ?

Clear; Wind brisk westerly. Snow badly drifted. Altogether there must be 24 inches on a level. First (I) clambered around to feed hens without making paths. Very heavy work getting about. Many have gone digging for the railroad at ten cents per hour. Sawed wood, made paths, and kept fires agoing. Mrs. Asahel Dodd died about 4 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY (February 15th) (38 Degrees - Minus 10 Degrees)

Clear and extremely cold but warming up during the day. Went to the station to see the work train come up about 10 a.m. Small Engine 80 in the lead. Engine 69 next. Engine 19 last. They had no snow plow. They made Milford sometime and returned through here about 9 p.m. 4 Engines were fast at Nassau yesterday. Helped Alley move the cook stove in the house and set it up in place of their coal stove which we took out. His coal has given out.

Thursday, February 16th

Cloudy with SE Wind changing to NE. Rain from 11 a.m. Two Engines took up the a.m. train about 9 a.m. Down train came about 1 o'clock and brought mail and papers. There appear to have been at least 18 inches of snow in this last storm, and that it was equally deep all over the country east of the Alleghenies. Severe cold reached Florida. The center of lowest temperature went not farther north than Phila. . .

Saturday, February 25th

. . . Benny Ableman has come home from N.Y. where he has been attending an Hebrew School. Roads are getting to be passable.

Saturday, March 4th

. . . Mr. Nathan Messick's double team became frightened at the band and, tearing up a post at Houston's [store] came up the alley and plunged thro' our garden fence. Many of Sallie's rose bushes are about ruined.

Thursday, April 20th

. . . Mr. Jno. A. Lingo has his house moved back to make room for a front 16 x 30 ft. Jno. Barr of Geo'town does the moving. He uses rollers instead of sliding upon ways . . .

Friday, May 5th

. . . Mr. Thos. Ellis wishes me to blast an oak stump at his place.

Saturday, May 6th

. . . Went out to Thos. Ellis's about 1 p.m. We all went to the stump. It stood near Mr. Robert Houston's place on the old state road. Put in 1/2 lbs. of powder. The hole was about 14 in. deep bored with a 1 1/2 inch auger. . .

Saturday, May 20th

. . . They have a signal post at the station to use instead of a flag.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (June 25th)

. . . The center of the village of Laurel was burned out yesterday. The fire broke out in a pool room about 1 a.m. Saturday. Both hotels and 70 houses burned. Steam fire engines came from Salisbury, Pocomoke and Wilmington. . .

Wednesday, June 28th (87 Degrees)

Clear and very warm. No signs of rain. We had to water the flowers again. Mr. William Carey had some trouble moving his house boat from his place (Old Store) to the Old Landing. They had to get Mr. Isaac Harmon's heavy trucks on which he moves his steam mill. Mr. Carey will tow his house boat with his steamer. Mr. Tidball [the local band director] was here to say the band will practice every night this week to get ready for the 4th. Mr. Abbott was down Tuesday to ask Mr. Tidball to go with the Geo'town band to Chincoteague on the 4th (he will not go). I put wire netting on the screen door to the kitchen.



Monday, July 3rd

(92 Degrees)

Clear and very hot. Dr. [his friend, Dr. John Messick] came up from Oak Orchard in his launch. Seymour Downs runs the boat. Eddie Morris was along. They were after gasoline. All staid to dinner. They have trouble getting tangled in the grass below the Cupola and at the "Oak." Joe Donaway undertook to mow the grass and lily stems. Mrs. Morris is sick at the Perry's and the baby is also sick.

Tuesday, July 4th

Cloudy at times with signs of showers. The band went to Oak Orchard for the day. Carey took a load down in his boat. He and Dr. Messick carried people across the river to Sandy Landing. Alley and Gardiner went down in the afternoon. . .

Saturday, July 15th

Clear but clouded over toward night with a sprinkle in the evening. Made drawings on the Sunday School blackboard. Wiped off the seats and put the books in order. Fred Burton sent me word that he wished me to go to Oak Orchard in the evening. I went once to the store to see him. He told me that he wished to be married at Mr. Jno. A. Lingo's cottage in the evening. He had but an hour ago told his father. I went after a team and managed to leave here at 6:40 p.m. Found the Lingos out sailing - Fred and Nellie did not get down until about 9 o'clock. I came home at 9:40 p.m. and reached here at 11:30 p.m. Capt. Burton and the others are much put out at the action of Fred. . .

Wednesday, August 9th

Wind S.W. and partly cloudy. Many people went by, en route for Oak Orchard - they will spend the night there. We called at Mr. Frame's in the evening and he treated us to watermelon.

BIG THURSDAY (August 10th)

(84 Degrees - 70 Degrees)

Partly cloudy. Very sultry. Many went down to Oak Orchard. There were many boats and an immense crowd of people. Some rascal was working off counterfit half-dollars. . . (35)

Saturday, September 2nd

. . . The G.A.R. meets in Phila. next week. Dr. and Mrs. Messick intend going up. (36)

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35. *Big Thursday was a traditional holiday in Kent and Sussex Counties which had its origins in 1852 when a new state ban on tonging oysters between May 1 and August 10 was lifted. The residents of the two counties had been used to eating oysters all year long and they gathered to celebrate the occasion. The day had become by the 1890's as popular a holiday as July 4th at Oak Orchard.*

36. *The organization for Union Army veterans of the Civil War was known as the "Grand Army of the Republic" (G.A.R.)*

## THE ANNUAL SERVICE AT PRINCE GEORGE'S CHAPEL, DAGSBORO

As It Appeared About 1900

By Richard Carter

Prince George's Chapel at Dagsboro in southeastern Sussex County is pictured in this drawing as it appeared during one of the annual services held there in about 1900. These services began to be held about 1890, about half a century after the chapel ceased being active, and continued for many years thereafter. Technically, Prince George's is the oldest standing church structure in Sussex County, having been erected in 1755. But in all fairness it should share that distinction with Christ Church - Broad Creek, which wasn't built until 1772, because Prince George's has been extensively restored and Christ Church possesses substantially more of its "original fabric."

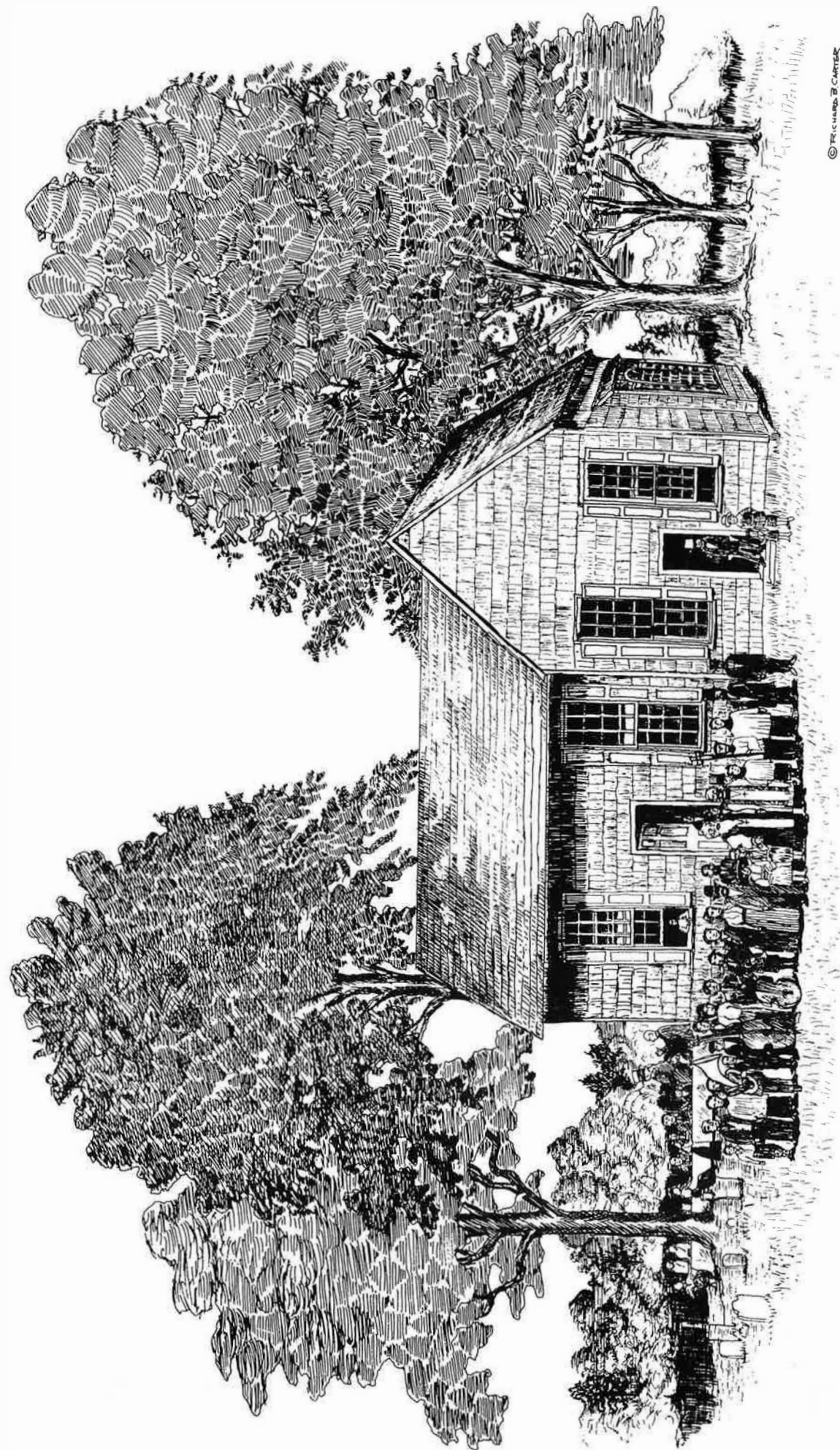
The two churches share several significant parallels. Both were built as Anglican churches before the Revolution and became Episcopal churches with the establishment of the Protestant Episcopal Church after the war. Both were "chapels of ease" for outlying portions of huge colonial parishes which had their principal churches elsewhere. Both were located in Maryland when they were built, only to have the colonial boundaries change, thereby placing them in Delaware. Both were among the founding congregations of the Diocese of Delaware when it was established two centuries ago this year. Both suffered the fate of having the population which had given rise to them shift its location with the passage of time, thus leaving them without the numbers to sustain active parish or mission status. Both became more or less inactive well before the Civil War.

When Prince George's was built everything south of the Indian River and west of what is now the center of Sussex was considered a part of Maryland. Prince George's was part of Worcester Parish and was built at the same time as Old St. Martin's, also in Worcester Parish some ten miles to the south (which also still stands, just south of the village of Showell, Md.). With the formal establishment of the new state boundaries and the disorganization of the Anglican church in America as a result of the Revolution, Prince George's separated from Worcester Parish. Representatives from the congregation were in attendance at the first diocesan convention of the Diocese of Delaware at Dover a few years later.

As time passed, the local Episcopal population dwindled as the area was hit by successive waves of early Methodist fervor, particularly because there was a perennial shortage of Episcopal ministers. These factors coupled with a shift in population to the villages of Frankford and Millsboro to leave Prince George's without enough membership to remain active. It had closed by the 1840's. In 1848 a new Episcopal church was established four miles north at Millsboro and this is generally considered the successor to Prince George's. Through the rest of the nineteenth century the old heart pine chapel sank slowly into decay.

Sussex, like the rest of America, experienced an upsurge of interest in local history in the late 19th century on the heels of the 1876 centennial. Local Episcopalians began to take more of an interest in the old church and set to work to save it. The rector at Millsboro, the Rev. Lewis Wheeler Wells, and the Second Bishop of Delaware, the Rev. Leighton Coleman, organized annual services there in the 1890's. These services often featured prominent speakers on historical subjects and luncheons, which were held under the trees in the churchyard after the worship service. On a few memorable occasions music was provided by "the Bishop's Band" from St. Peter's Church, Lewes. The band members would camp out in the churchyard the night before.

This sketch shows Prince George's as it appeared then, sheathed in weathered hand-hewn cypress shingles from the nearby Great Cypress swamp. As it was later restored, the chapel looks different, with horizontal wood siding and other small changes. The chapel is now owned by the State of Delaware.



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THE ANNUAL SERVICE AT PRINCE GEORGE'S CHAPEL  
— DARGBORO, 1900 —

#### IN MEMORIAM

CATHARINE C. MAULL

Catharine C. Maull, age 98, of Lewes, Delaware, was a direct descendant of John Maull, a sea farer who settled in Lewes in 1713. After attending the Lewes Private School, she graduated from Millersville State Normal School in Pennsylvania. She retired in 1945 after 23 years as a supervisor with The Bell Telephone Laboratories in New York City. She was well known as a ballroom dancing instructor in both New York and Delaware. On her return to Lewes, she became the curator of the Zwaanendael Museum for eight years and served many years on the Vestry of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. She was an active member of the Rehoboth Art League and also a member of the Col. David Hall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was a charter member and officer of the Sussex Society of Archaeology and History.

CHARLES L. W. STEIN

Charles L. W. Stein, age 78, of Seaford, Delaware was the son of Samuel Joseph Stein for whom Stein Highway was named. After graduating from Seaford High School, he graduated from the University of Delaware and later attended Sorbonne University in Paris, France and also the University of Nacy in Nacy, France. He was employed by E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Co. living abroad for many years in Belgium, France, Switzerland and Cyprus.

He was a member of the Sussex Society of Archaeology and History and contributed many articles which he wrote on archaeology and history for publication in "The Archeolog."