

A
HISTORY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church in America,

FROM ITS ORIGIN UNTIL THE YEAR 1760.

WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF ITS EARLY MINISTERS.

BY THE
REV. RICHARD WEBSTER,
LATE PASTOR OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MAUCH CHUNK, PA.

WITH
A Memoir of the Author,
BY THE REV. C. VAN RENSSELAER, D.D.

AND
An Historical Introduction,
BY THE REV. WILLIAM BLACKWOOD, D.D.

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

JOHN BOYD,

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

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

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

JOSEPH SMITH.

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

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

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