



HISTORY

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Church

IN

AMERICA:

WITH SKETCHES OF ALL HER MINISTRY, CONGREGATIONS,  
MISSIONS, INSTITUTIONS, PUBLICATIONS, Etc.,  
AND EMBELLISHED WITH OVER  
FIFTY PORTRAITS AND  
ENGRAVINGS.

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BY

W. MELANCTHON GLASGOW,  
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and strong constitution; a vigorous and well-cultivated mind; and was a fearless, practical and forcible preacher of the gospel. He was bold to denounce sin in every form, yet anxious to restore the repenting wanderer to his privileges in the Church. He manifested a true missionary spirit; encouraging the young to confess Christ, and the old to prepare for the change that awaits mankind. He was a kind pastor, peaceful and cheerful in his disposition, prayerful in his labor of love, and thoroughly devoted to the distinctive principles of the Church.

JOHN CUTHBERTSON:

Was born near Ayr, Ayrshire, Scotland, April 3, 1718.\* He was reared in the strictest manner by a pious parentage, who were exemplary members of the persecuted Church of Scotland. He received his early training, preparatory to entering upon the work of the ministry, from private instructors. He studied theology under the Rev. John McMillan, who, with Rev. Thomas Nairn and ruling elders, constituted the Reformed Presbytery of Scotland, August 1, 1743, by which court he was licensed, May 16, 1745. He was ordained *sine titulo* by the same court, at Braehead, May 18, 1747, and labored among the scattered societies of Scotland. He was Moderator of the Reformed Presbytery in 1750, at which time, with Rev. Thomas Cameron, he was sent as a missionary to the scattered societies of Covenanters in Ireland. In the spring of 1751, he was sent as a missionary to the Covenanters in America, and landed at New Castle, Delaware,

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\* Principal items from his own diary.

August 5, 1751, having been forty-six days at sea from Derry Loch. He was the first Covenanter minister who came to America, and settled in Middle Octorara, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the scene of most of his labors, although he made extended missionary tours upon horseback through New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and all parts of Pennsylvania as far west as the Ohio river. In the winter of 1773, he was joined by Revs. Matthew Linn and Alexander Dobbin, and they organized the Reformed Presbytery of America, at Paxtang, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, March 10, 1774. He was then assigned to the Middle Octorara charge, although he exercised a superintending control over all the societies. With some others, July 2, 1777, he swore allegiance to the cause of the Colonies, and cast in his lot with those who were struggling to cast off the British yoke in America. In the following September, without consulting or informing the Reformed Presbytery in Scotland, he began the conferences with the Associate Church, which, after five years of agitation, culminated in the union of these two branches, forming the Associate Reformed Church. The articles were signed at Pequea, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, June 13, 1782, and the Synod was constituted in Philadelphia, November 1, 1782. Many of the private members of the Covenanter Church went with the ministers, the faithful remnant resorting to the society meetings, and for eight years or more were left without a minister. Mr. Cuthbertson continued in charge of the Octorara congregation until his release, March 20, 1783,

when he took charge of the Associate Reformed congregation of Lower Chanceford, York County, Pennsylvania, where he labored until his death, March 10, 1791. The cause and circumstances of his death are unknown. He was buried in the Lower Octorara graveyard connected with the church where Alexander Craighead preached. His gravestone bears the following inscription: "Here lies the body of the Rev. John Cuthbertson, who, after a labor of about forty years in the ministry of the Gospel among the Dissenting Covenanters of America, departed this life, 10th of March, 1791, in the 75th year of his age. Psalm 112:6, The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance." There are two mistakes in this inscription. He was a Covenanter minister but thirty years; and he says more than once in his diary that he was born April 3, 1718, making him nearly seventy-three years of age. He married Miss Sally Moore, near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 25, 1756. He endured many hardships as a pioneer missionary. According to his diary, during the thirty-nine years he was engaged in active service, he preached on two thousand four hundred and fifty-two days; baptized one thousand eight hundred and six children; married two hundred and forty couples; rode on horseback seventy thousand miles, or nearly equal to three times around the world. And this travelling was done in those days when there were no roads or bridges. Blazed trees marked the pathway, and horse and rider swam the swollen streams. He rode through the unbroken forests, past the lair of the wild beast and the wigwam of the savage; under

the hot sun, through the pelting rain or drifting snow, and often without the necessities of life. For all this work, however, he was peculiarly adapted and providentially sustained. From the texts recorded in his diary, it is evident that he was a forcible evangelical preacher, and a man of deep convictions and fervent piety. As was too frequently the custom in those days, however, he indulged occasionally too freely in the glass, and at one time he was suspended for four weeks for intemperance, and received a rebuke from the Presbytery.

**WILLIAM McCONNELL DAUERTY:**

Son of William J. and Margaret (Cowan) Dauerty, was born near New Texas, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, May 11, 1847. He received his preparatory education in the Wilkinsburgh Academy, Newell Institute, Western University of Pennsylvania, and graduated from the College of New Jersey, Princeton, in 1874. He studied theology in the Allegheny Seminary, and was licensed by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, April 9, 1878. He preached for three years in the vacancies, and engaged in clerical work in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was chosen to fill the chair of Latin and Greek in Curry Institute and Union Business College, Pittsburgh, November 10, 1883, which position he now occupies. He married Miss Rida A. Mullen, of Baltimore, Maryland, December 31, 1885. He is Superintendent of the Chinese School, and an officer in the Pittsburgh Covenanter congregation.

**JAMES MILLIGAN DICKSON, D. D.:**

Son of Robert and Janet (Lenny) Dickson, was born in Ryegate, Caledonia County, Vermont, February