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# 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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PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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PHILADELPHIA:

JOSEPH M. WILSON,

No. 27 SOUTH TENTH STREET, BELOW CHESTNUT ST.

1857.

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Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1857, by  
JOSEPH M. WILSON,  
in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of  
Pennsylvania.

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PHILADELPHIA.

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Youghiogeny. In April, he assembled the people, and reasoned the case with them. There were one hundred and fifty families on the Youghiogeny.

Dr. Martin said, "He was a good preacher; sound in his theology."

He died in August, 1779.

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### JAMES SCUGAL,

A MEMBER of the Presbytery of Paisley, having received a call from the Old-Side portion of Snow Hill and the Ferry, in Worcester county, Maryland, (it had been sent to him with the concurrence of Newcastle Presbytery,) came to this country in 1743. He produced sufficient testimonials of his piety, prudence, learning, soundness in the faith, and blameless conversation.

"The place called the Ferry" is mentioned by Davies as the scene of a remarkable work of grace, at the time of his entrance on the ministry.

Scougal died in 1746.

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### CHARLES McKNIGHT

WAS taken up by New Brunswick Presbytery, June 23, 1741, and was licensed probably in the fall. In the next May, the Forks of Delaware and Greenwich, in Warren county, New Jersey, asked for him, as did also Staten Island and Basking-ridge. In August, Amboy supplicated for his services, and Greenwich and Forks renewed their request. Staten Island and Basking-ridge called him in October, and he was ordained, October 12, 1742, at the same time with Finley and Youngs. He was installed, October 16, 1744, at Cranberry and Allentown. Allentown asked supplies in 1738; Cranberry, at the same time, by their commissioner, John Chambers, asked advice, being troubled about a proposal to build their meeting-house in common with the Church of England.

Whitefield preached several times, both at Crosswicks and Allentown, on weekdays.

McKnight was dismissed from Cranberry in October, 1756, and Burden's Town obtained one-fourth of his time in 1758. He was called, May 28, 1766, to Middletown Point and Shrewsbury; and, in the fall, Trenton asked for him. He was dismissed from Allentown in October, and accepted the call to Middletown Point, Shark River, and Shrewsbury, April 21, 1767.

He was seized by the British, and his church was burned. He died, soon after his release, in 1778.

In 1789, Morgan Edwards said of the Presbyterian church at the Point, "The place which knew it knows it no more." It was rebuilt by a lottery, and was only rarely used by the Presbyterians till 1820. Shrewsbury remained vacant till 1812; and Shark River has long been surrendered to other denominations.

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## JOHN BLAIR,

A BROTHER of Samuel Blair, was born in Ireland, in 1720, and was educated at the Log College, and licensed by the New-Side Presbytery of Newcastle at its earliest sessions. He was ordained, December 27, 1742, pastor of Middle Spring, Rocky Spring, and Big Spring, in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. These places had been served by Thomas Craighead; the first two being then called Upper and the third Lower Hopewell. They divided on the rupture, Hopewell having supplicated the conjunct presbyteries in 1741, and Campbell and Rowland having been sent to them. Blair gave two-thirds of his time to Big Spring, and divided the remainder between the others.

He visited Virginia soon after Robinson. "Truly\* he came to us in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. Former impressions were ripened, and new ones made on many hearts. One night, a whole houseful of people was quite overcome by the power of the word, particularly of one pungent sentence; they would hardly sit or stand, or keep their feelings under any proper restraint. So general was the concern during his stay, and so ignorant were we of the dangers of apostasy, that we pleased our-

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\* Samuel Morris.