

THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. CHARLES A. BENDER

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Bender was built around the year 1790 by John Stouffer, brother of Abraham Stouffer founder of Stoufferstown.

John and Abraham Stouffer were the sons of Daniel Stouffer who came from Switzerland and settled in Chester County near Valley Forge.

Abraham Stouffer, on horseback, came here with money in his saddlebags, and purchased the land from the head of the Falling Spring to the Coldbrook Farm. He built the "Old Mill" at Stoufferstown in 1792.

The Stouffers built and lived in many of the fine old homes along the Falling Spring. For example, The Cump home was built by the Stouffers and was later used as a Law school. The Frank Walker home was also built by Daniel Stouffer.

The Stouffers were Millers by trade and started three (3) flour mills and (1) one paper mill along the Falling Spring.

It was from this farm that Daniel Stouffer started the first dairy wagons in Chambersburg. He also kept fresh cow's milk for baby use only.

Some of those who lived in this house were:

John Stouffer

Daniel Stouffer

Adam Stouffer - moved in 1876

Jacob Zug

Charles Gipe

Harry Sellers

Mr. & Mrs. Sweigert

Charles A. Bender

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The stone part of this house was built first and the brick part was added many years later.

The sign at the Stoufferstown line states that Stoufferstown was founded by Daniel Stouffer and it was he who built the "Old Mill" but in the Stouffer genealogy it states clearly that it was Abraham Stouffer who came to Stoufferstown and bought the land and settled in 1773 and built the "Old Mill" in 1792.

CONOCOCHIEGUE DISTRICT

Chambersburg, Pa.

Copy of the Proof Sheet of
THE VALLEY SPIRIT

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For The 26th of May, A. D., 1869

THE HISTORY
of the

Ceremonies connected with the Deposit made in the
Corner Stone of the Central Presbyterian Church
of Chambersburg, May 25th, 1869

The Rev. J. A. Crawford, Pastor of the Falling Spring Church,
after Invocation, read the following portions of Scripture viz: Ezra,
3d chapter 8, 9, 10 and 11 verses, the 1st and 2d verses of 127th
Psalm, also 132d Psalm from the 8-18, after which the following ad-
dress was delivered by the Pastor, Rev. I. N. Hays:

THE PASTOR'S ADDRESS.

Respected Parishioners and other friends of the Central Presbyterian
Church: We have met this morning for the first time as a congregation
on what is to us already hallowed ground. Scarcely had we been
brought together as a congregation, when all minds, as if moved by a
common impulse, were led to look to this as the most desirable spot
for our future spiritual home.

A church which expects to throw open its doors to all classes, both
rich and poor, and to which strangers are always invited and will al-
ways be made welcome, should not be inconveniently located, or diffi-
cult of access.

What man of the world, wishing to drive a thriving business, would
select as his location an out of the way street, or alley, or an in-
accessible grove? Upon the prominence and inviting character of his
location, perhaps more than any single circumstance, will depend the
number and character of his customers.

Just so it is with churches. The one most conveniently located,
(other things being equal) will always have the crowd and enjoy the
greatest prosperity.

For this reason, I have had my mind directed to this very spot for
years, as a most desirable location for an influential and powerful
church in this town, believing that as a location I have never seen
one more to be desired, and I rejoice that on it, this day, I am
permitted to see a most massive foundation laid for what will be per-
haps the largest church edifice in our beautiful valley, and certainly
the largest within our Presbytery, and I pray God that I may not only
see its walls carried on to successful completion, but its pews soon
filled with devout and earnest worshipers.

My friends, in reviewing the past nine months of our existence as a
congregation, we have abundant reason for devout gratitude to God for
the cheer he has given us in the past and most solid ground for trust-
ful confidence in regard to the future.

Our success thus far has been all that the most sanguine could ex-
pect or desire. Our congregations have been uniformly comparatively
large, far beyond our expectations, and often unusually solemn and
attentive. Our Sabbath School, commencing eight months ago with but
four pupils, now numbers over one hundred in regular attendance.

Our actual Membership within the same time has almost doubled, being
originally twenty eight, reaching now over fifty.

We have procured a charter for our church from the Court, and this property is now held by a regularly incorporated board of trustees.

Through the energy of our building committee, we have procured a most excellent plan for our church building and actual subscriptions to aid in its erection to about twenty five thousand dollars.

In regard to the contributions made by our own congregation, they have all been generous and noble, and, considering our means, I think I have never known them surpassed, either in the amount contributed or in the whole heartedness with which it has been done.

In regard to the liberal help we have received from our friends outside of our congregation, it has been not only generous but invaluable, deserving, as it does receive, our most hearty thanks.

Of all the contributions received there are two however which deserve special mention.

Miss Elizabeth Clark, one of our own number, and the first to be called away by death, left us in her Will almost her entire estate, amounting to between two and three thousand dollars, thus associating her name and memory, most honorably, with the origin and prosperity of our church.

Miss Sarah Wilson, a lady to whom God has not only given great wealth, but a most noble and benevolent Christian heart, has given us the munificent sum of five thousand dollars. May she long live to enjoy the luxury of her large-hearted benevolence, and when her sun does set, may it set without a single cloud to rise upon an immortal day.

And now, my friends, having so much to cheer and encourage us in regard to the past, may we not look hopefully into the future.

It is true, much remains yet to be done. It will require perhaps near ten thousand dollars, in addition to our present subscriptions, to complete entire this noble edifice, and it must all be paid to the last cent before it can be dedicated to the service of Almighty God. We cannot give away that which in no sense we possess. But has not God come to our help in every past emergency, and if we do our whole duty will he not be just as much an all-sufficient helper in the future?

Our Sabbath School, too, must be greatly enlarged, and a large working church be built up with the least possible delay. But who doubts of our ultimate success if we are only true to ourselves and loyal to Christ?

I have seen the hand of God so clearly in almost every step of our onward progress, and have such an abiding conviction that he means to build us up and use us for his own glory, that our ultimate success seems to me a thing almost of the present.

And now that we have met to deposit in this corner-stone the records of our brief but encouraging history, together with the names of the founders, present officers, and contributors in the Church, and for the erection of this building, what remains for us to do whilst standing upon this foundation where we expect so soon to worship, but to lift up our hearts in devout gratitude to Almighty God for past favors, and trustfully confide in him in regard to the future, to renew our covenant one with another to put forth with all our might the last tittle of our energy and influence, to rear these walls and prepare this house to be set apart for the worship of Him, "in whose presence there is fullness of joy and at whose right hand there are pleasures forevermore."

To this end shall we lift up our banners and gird ourselves for the work which God in his Providence has laid upon our shoulders.

"For Zion's sake will we not hold our peace and for Jerusalem's sake will we not rest until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth."

We now proceed to make a deposit which, whilst it identifies our names with the origin and progress of this work, will be looked upon by those who may open it in after years with profoundest interest. But between the sealing up and the opening of this treasure, what untold events in all human probability must transpire! A whole generation will have been swept away by the hand of death. Not one perhaps of the multitude that now throng these streets will be here to tell the story of this morning's doings. Gone, all will have gone. Hands yet unborn will break the seal. Eyes yet unopened will look with wonder upon the old fashioned copper box, and the scarcely legible old fashioned hieroglyphics, and tongues yet unloosed will ask, who were those who once were known by these long forgotten names? Their names and countenances are as unknown to us now as ours will be to them then, but whoever they may be, may the mantle of the holiest of us all fall upon them and may they have devout hearts and burning tongues to feel the inspiration, and tell of the wondrous love of Jesus.

At the close of the address, the Pastor deposited in the Corner Stone a Copper Box, very securely fastened and made air-tight, containing the following interesting historical relics, etc. viz:

A copy of the above address -- a brief history of the church up to this time, to which is added a complete list of the original petitioners asking for the organization--the present officers and members of the church, the names of the generous contributors to the building of the church and of the pupils present in the Sabbath School, all of which will be found below but the names of the Sabbath School children. In addition to the above, the box contained a copy of the Confession of Faith and of the Hymn Book used by the congregation. Copies of all the newspapers of the borough, and of the daily papers of Philadelphia and New York, circulating in Chambersburg, together with the names of the Editors and Employees of the Valley Spirit and Franklin Repository printing offices. Copies of the constitution and By-laws of the Temperance, Beneficial, Benevolent and other institutions of the borough--impressions of the Seals of the different courts of the county. The coin, and paper money of the United States now in circulation from one cent up to \$1.00. The Government Stamps--Postage and Revenue.

The box having been deposited, the Rev. James F. Kennedy led in prayer, after which the congregation joined in singing the old version of the one hundredth Psalm to Old Hundred.

The following resolutions, which were adopted at a Congregational meeting at the house of the Pastor on the evening of the 24th inst., were then read by J. C. Austin:

Resolved, 1st. That this congregation recognizes the special providence of God in the prosperity and success which have hitherto attended our efforts and devoutly invokes the continuation of His favors and benedictions.

Resolved, 2d. That we cherish with tender and grateful recollections the memory of our departed sister, Miss Elizabeth E. Clark who in her last Will adopted this Church as her own child and made it her heir.

Resolved, 3d. That we request the Pastor of our church, to tender to Miss Sarah Wilson our sincere and hearty thanks for her very liberal gift so cheerfully bestowed, with our earnest prayer that she may be rewarded a thousand fold in rich spiritual blessings.

Resolved, 4th. That we take a special pleasure in tendering our thanks to all who have contributed to our prosperity whether in sympathy, voluntary labor, or monied contributions. All have done nobly but no contributions are more gratefully acknowledged than those, however small, which have come from those least able to make them.

Resolved, 5th. That we tender our most hearty thanks to the editors of the Valley Spirit and the Franklin Repository, for voluntarily offering to publish in full the proceedings and historical records connected with this, to us, interesting occasion, and request them to give us their names and the names of those employed in the issuing of their papers, so as to be entered upon and deposited with our other records.

The exercises were then closed by singing the long metre Doxology and pronouncing the Apostolic benediction.

A Brief Historical Sketch of the Central Presbyterian Church of Chambersburg.

This congregation owes its existence under God, chiefly to the crowded condition of the old Falling Spring Church, and an earnest desire on the part of its originators to provide abundance of room for all, rich and poor, who hold to the doctrines, and prefer the order and forms of worship approved of in the Presbyterian Church.

Hence, in response to a petition signed by thirteen persons, as follows; to wit: J. C. Austin, J. A. Reside, H. L. Reed, E. D. Reid, Mrs. E. D. Reid, A. H. McCulloh, Miss Alice E. McCulloh, Miss Mary E. McCulloh, W. Blair Gilmore, I. H. McCauley, Joseph McClure, J. R. Orr, John L. Grier, the Presbytery of Carlisle, at its adjourned meeting held at Duncannon, on the 9th day of June 1868, appointed Rev. Thomas Creigh, D.D., Rev. W. A. West, and Elder J. E. McLanahan, a committee "to consider and, if the way be clear, organize a Church in accordance with the prayer of the petitioners."

This committee met in the Falling Spring Church on the 15th day of August, 1868 and after singing the Eighty-second Psalm, 2d part, and prayer, and a full consideration of all the facts in the case, proceeded to organize a church which was afterwards called the Central Presbyterian Church of Chambersburg.

Twenty-eight persons presented certificates from the Old Falling Spring Church, and after having promised and covenanted to walk together in Church fellowship, proceeded to the election of ruling Elders which resulted in the unanimous choice of James A. Reside, and James C. Austin. These persons were ordained and installed into office the next day by prayer and the laying on of hands of the Ministers and Elders present, the Session of the old Church participating.

On the first Sabbath of September (the 6th) the Sabbath School was organized with four pupils, viz: Preston R. Austin, Alma Cassel, Edith Boyle, Susan Elliott. A superintendent and other officers and teachers were selected.

The Session held its first meeting in the Court House--used for the time being as a place of worship--on the 19th day of September 1868, at which time Preston R. Austin was received into the communion of this Church, being the first person received upon the profession of his faith in Christ, and on the following day the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered by the Rev. William Alexander.

At a congregational meeting held September 28th, 1868, the Rev. I. N. Hays of Middlespring, was unanimously elected Pastor and promised, for the present, One Thousand Dollars a year, to be paid in regular quarterly payments. At the same time, the following persons were elected to act temporarily as trustees, being all the adult male members of the Church, viz: James A. Reside, Jacob Fetter, H. L. Reed, W. Hopkins, Wm. Clark, H. H. Elliott, H. Auld and J. C. Austin.

The Rev. I. N. Hays having accepted the call presented to him, was installed as Pastor on the eleventh day of December, A.D. 1868, Rev. S. S. Mitchell preaching the sermon, Rev. T. Creigh, D.D., delivering the charge to the Pastor, and the Rev. J. W. Wightman to the people.

At a congregational meeting held January 18th, 1869, it was resolved "that under a sense of duty, and with a sincere desire to glorify God, and relying upon his all sufficient aid, we feel called upon to undertake, and, if possible, complete within the present year, a house of worship to be dedicated to the worship of Almighty God." Messrs. J. C. Austin, J. A. Reside and Col. O. N. Lull, were appointed a committee to procure a plan etc. On the 22nd day of February 1869, the plan submitted by the committee was unanimously accepted and adopted, and the same committee was requested to act as a building committee, to open subscriptions at once and push forward the building of the Church with all possible energy.

On the 18th day of January, 1869, a charter for the church was procured from the Court of Common Pleas of Franklin County, and on the first Monday of May, (the 3d) eight trustees were elected.

Names of Members at the Organization.

Wm. Hopkins, Mrs. Sarah Hopkins, Miss Eliza Durborow, Miss Martha Durborow, Mrs. Mary Cassel, Mrs. Annie E. Cassel, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Reid, Miss Annie Reid, Henry H. Elliott, Jacob Fetter, James C. Austin, Hugh Auld, James A. Reside, Mrs. Mary M. Reside, Miss Alice E. McCulloh, Mrs. Emma Elliott, Mrs. Maria Fetter, Miss Minnie R. Fetter, Miss Elizabeth J. Clark, Henry L. Reed, Mrs. Charlotte Reed, Wm. Clark, Mrs. Sarah Clark, Mrs. Maggie Orr, Miss Carrie V. Reside, Miss Beckie A. Austin, Mrs. S. E. Austin, Miss Mary E. McCulloh.

Chambersburg, Pa.

THE HOME OF DR. AND MRS. HERMAN A. GILDA

102 N. MAIN STREET

CHAMBERSBURG, PA. 17707

The property on which this house stands is recorded as having been sold in 1786 by
 NWCORNER OF LINCOLN WAY EAST AND THIRD STS
 Jeremiah Talbot, High Sheriff of Franklin Co., to Joseph McKenny (or McCarney), and by him

on October 30, 1809 to the Reverend David Denny for a consideration of 40 pounds. What is now the Wolfinger property was acquired by Mr. Denny by deed of April 4, 1804, and in Volume 18 of the Deed Book, is recorded a deed for what is now the King property. The Reverend Mr. Denny, who was pastor of the Presbyterian Church of the Falling Spring from 1800 to 1838, evidently lived in the original house. Cooper, in Recollections of Chambersburg, describes it as follows: "The old stone mansion of the venerable Reverend Dr. Denny, located near the western corner of his lot, though showing signs that its heavy walls were giving away, was still inhabited by him in 1833. But about that time he, or his son John F. Denny, built a new brick residence east of the old stone house and a short distance back from the line of the pavement. The new house was built about where an old log house, inhabited by a shoemaker, had stood. There was no building on that side of the street or road till Messersmith's farm was reached for many years after Denny's new house was built." An interesting book of records is in the possession of Dr. and Mrs. Gilda. It contains the photostatic record of marriages performed by the Reverend Denny at Path Valley and Falling Spring between the years 1794 and 1844. One marriage of particular interest which was performed in this house is that of William Foster to Eliza Tomlinson on November 14, 1807. They were the parents of Stephen Foster.

Mr. Denny died in December 1845, leaving the house and real estate to his daughters, the Misses Margaret and Alice Denny. It was owned by them and their descendants, until sold to the Cumberland Valley Railroad in 1901. The Reverend B. S. Schneck in his book, The Burning of Chambersburg, says, "Facing the west from the Franklin railroad, the first building to the right is the residence of the Misses Denny, in a somewhat isolated position. This stands in its freshness and beauty, solitary and alone. Passing down two squares to the centre of the town, not one building and only two or three stables or barns remain on either side of this street of private residences----." There is a story that this house was spared because the Misses Denny were daughters of a minister, but Dr. Schneck does not mention it, nor does there seem to be any other written confirmation.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Riddle resided here for some years at the end of the nineteenth century before the east wing of the house was added, which was some time after its purchase by the railroad. In 1926, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Kennedy, who had been occupying the house, purchased the property from the Pennsylvania Railroad, title having been transferred in 1919 from the C.V.R.R.Co. Dr. and Mrs. Gilda, the present owners, have lived here since 1940.

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THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. HARRY D. HARVIE

315 Lincoln Way EAST

John McDowell Sharpe between 1855 and 1858 built this house. During the burning of Chambersburg in 1864, this house was one of the few homes in town spared by the Confederates. Its location was on the edge of town. This was the year after the Battle of Gettysburg. Residents were given care and shelter here and the sick were cared for in this home.

Upon the death of J. McD. Sharpe, an attorney, in 1883, this property passed to his widow, Emma King Sharpe, under his will.

The house was occupied by Mrs. Sharpe, her two sisters and her son Walter King Sharpe, until the death of Mrs. Sharpe about 1892. Mr. Sharpe, his wife Helen McKeegan Sharpe, and two children, Winifred and John McD. Sharpe, lived here until it was sold following Mr. Sharpe's death, to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Harvie in 1934. Mrs. Sharpe's great interest was gardening, and she designed and planted beautiful gardens around the house and collected fine specimens for her rock garden on the west side of the house.

Excerpt from letter to Dr. Sarah I. Morris

"The name Chambersburg recalled parts of a poem in some magazine of my childhood that so caught my fancy as to make me learn it:

"'Twas the time when the Rebel raiders
Under Early's mad command
O'er the border made their dashing raid
To the north of Maryland,
And Chambersburg, unransomed,
In smoldering ruins slept,
While up the vale, like a fiery gale,
The Rebel raiders swept.
And a squad of gray-clad horsemen
Came thundering o'er the bridge
Where peaceful cows in the meadows browse,
At the foot of the great Blue Ridge."

Well, the Captain stood outside the Widow Brown's door and ordered his men to scatter and forage.

"Then he called, 'Halloo, within there.'
A gentle, fair-haired dame
Across the floor to the open door
In gracious answer came.
'Here, stable my horse, you woman,'
(The soldier's tones were rude.)
Then bestir yourself and from yonder shelf
Set down your store of food.'"

But he got more than he bargained for!

"For her guest she set the table
And motioned him to his place
With a gesture proud - then gently bowed
And quietly asked a grace -
'If thine enemy hunger, feed him.
I obey, dear Christ,' she said.
A creeping blush, with its scarlet flush,
O'er the face of the leader spread.
He rose: 'You have said it, Madam.
Standing within your door is the Southern foe,
But as forth they go they shall trouble
not you, nor yours.'"

However, dear old Brindle was among the loot that the laughing soldiers carried off!

Then ten years old, barefoot Jamie dashed after them, spotted the cow, rode up to the Captain and demanded that he keep his word and return Brindle. And as the boy and cow turned home -

"The rollicking Rebel raiders
Forgot themselves somehow,
And three cheers gave for the hero brave,
And three for the brindle cow!"