

A
Brief History
of the
Methodist Church
at
Kabletown



BY E. F. JACOBS
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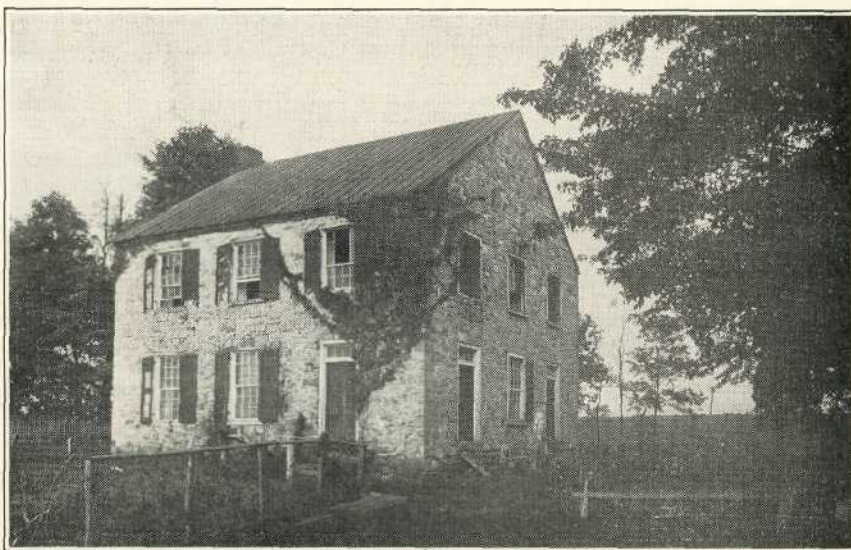
A Brief History of The Methodist Church At Kabletown.

By E. F. Jacobs.

All records that have been found would indicate that the Methodists at Kabletown organized and become a part of Jefferson Circuit in 1861. The stone church which was a Union Church and was used alternately by the Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, and Episcopal congregations. The old stone church is now in ruins but many happy experiences have been had there and many real old time revivals resulting in bringing many into the Church. The old Stone Church so far as I am able to learn was built about the year 1850. Mr. Frank Howell a very old gentleman once told me that as a boy he helped to haul the stone and lime there to build the church which Robert C. Rissler, says was built about 1850 and that prior to the construction of the stone edifice that a log church served the community. I am indebted to Miss Helen Kabe for the following. The old Kabletown Church was built in 1834. (this perhaps was the log church) on land given by Daniel Kabe. (Miss Helen's Great Grandfather) and dedicated to all Protestant Denominations as a Union Church, excluding all Roman Catholics and Mormans. Vestibules were built at the two entrances but a high wind tore them away, and it was decided not to rebuild them. This was the only Church in the Community, and had a very lovely old Pulpit. Miss Helen says she got her information from a very old Gentleman who said that as a boy he had lived at Kabletown and saw the Church built, then later attended Church there for many years. I am indebted to R. C. Rissler for the following: A wedding was held in the old Stone Church during the Civil War in 1864. A Captain in the Confederate Cavalry and a girl of Kabletown were the parties to the ceremony, which was interrupted by the appearance of enemy Cavalry coming from the direction of Charles Town. The groom and his attendants got on their horses and sped away. The bride and groom did not see each other for about one year. The groom in this thrilling episode was Captain W. Hamilton Morrow who was reared near Summit Point. The bride was Julia Wilson, daughter of Aesop Wilson. Captain and Mrs. Morrow lived the greater part of their lives in Louisiana City, Mo., where they died many years ago. Mr. L. B. Shutt writes from Hollywood, Florida, that his family came to Jefferson County in 1842 and the old Church was in use then but without pews. Just rough boards to sit on. The Episcopalians at that time supplied from Wickliffe as there were

a number of Episcopal families in the neighborhood at that time, but the Methodists really used the Church as much as all the others combined.

The Sunday School was operated by the Methodists and quite a large school for there were many large families in the neighborhood. The Kables, Yates, Lloyds, Albins, Risslers, Miltons, Wares, Johnstons, Oyerleys, Jacksons, Langdons and Woodwards. Then later on the Barrs and Kerchevals. They had Sunday School in the gallery in the summer time. Mr. Shutt says there were some very fine Preachers that preached in the old Church. He remembers very well Dr. Hopkins of the Presbyterian Church, Bishop Wilmer of the Episcopal Church, Rev. Benton Shepherd, a Baaptist, and Dr. Eggleston, a very fine Methodist minister. During the Civil War Blazers Co. used the Church while they were in the neighborhood and after the war I think the Church got a claim from the government, which was used to repair the Church. He says I saw an article in an old paper dated in 1867, saying at last they had gotten the Church reroofed and fixed up in good shape.



This is a picture of the old church at about the time it was abandoned to go to the New Church. It too stood on a hill with a good view of the surrounding country. Large Maple trees in the yard made it cool and inviting on a hot day.

Thank the Lord when the Church was built the Kabletown neighborhood was a very busy place. Tho two mills were going night and day. Blacksmiths, wagon makers, cobblers, tailors and about three good stores. The old Furnace and Shannondale

were going strong and employing about 300 people. The Johnston Woolen Mills were employing about 50 men. The river was the only means of outlet from up the valley and the boats bringing down all sorts of raw material. Kabletown was a Church going Community and every one was very loyal and attended all the services. They always had fine entertainments during the Holidays and fine revival services lasting of course as long as interest was shown. The Church was always a good influence and I have heard my Grandfather say, and he was no Churchman, that at one time during the Civil War conditions got so bad in the neighborhood that he appealed to Dr. Eggleston to come and preach and he stirred everybody up so that conditions immediately improved, so ends Mr. Shutts letter.

Following is a list of Methodist Pastors from 1861 until 1919 when the new Church was dedicated.

- 1861—Isaac Bibson, M. G. Balthis
- 1862—No appointment in the minutes.
- 1863—I. Gibson, M. G. Balthis.
- 1864—I. Gibson
- 1865—I. Gibson.
- 1866—Robert Smith
- 1867—John W. Tongue
- 1868—John W. Tongue
- 1869—John W. Tongue, J. T. James
- 1870—J. W. Ewan
- 1871—J. W. Ewan, J. T. Williams
- 1872—William Wade
- 1873—John T. Maxwell
- 1874—F. C. Tebbs
- 1875—Not listed in appointments.
- 1876—James I. Kibler
- 1877—A. M. Cackley
- 1878—A. M. Cackley
- 1879—A. M. Cackley
- 1880—B. S. Highley
- 1881—J. O. Tackett
- 1882—J. O. Tackett
- 1883—J. W. Mitchell
- 1884—S. V. Hilderbrand
- 1885—S. V. Hilderbrand
- 1886—W. K. Marshall
- 1887—C. H. Wood
- 1888—C. H. Wood
- 1889—C. K. Millican
- 1890—C. K. Millican
- 1891—A. A. P. Neel
- 1892—A. A. P. Neel
- 1893—A. A. P. Neel
- 1894—A. A. P. Neel
- 1895—J. H. Wolff

1896—J. H. Wolff
 1897—J. H. Wolff
 1898—J. H. Wolff
 1899—F. A. Strother
 1900—F. A. Strother
 1901—F. A. Strother
 1902—F. A. Strother
 1903—C. Sydenstricker
 1904—C. Sydenstricker
 1905—C. Sydenstricker
 1906—C. Sydenstricker
 1907—F. E. Hammond
 1908—D. A. Beery
 1909—D. A. Beery
 1910—D. F. Eutsler
 1911—D. F. Eutsler
 1912—D. F. Eutsler
 1913—C. H. Cannon
 1914—C. H. Cannon
 1915—C. H. Cannon
 1916—C. H. Cannon
 1917—W. M. Compton
 1918—W. M. Compton
 1919—W. M. Compton



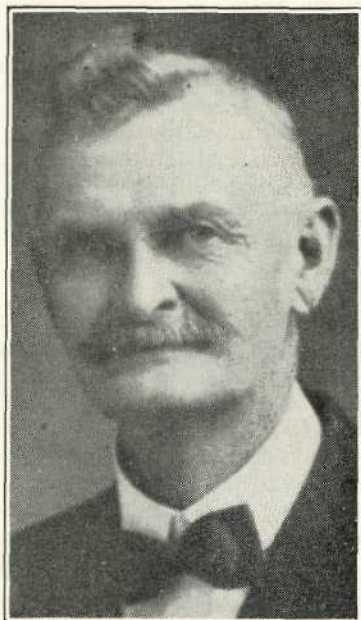
THIS IS THE NEW CHURCH

Dedicated June 1st, 1919. It stands on a hill with a beautiful view of the surrounding country, looking east across the road leading from Myerstown to Kabletown, we see the Blue Ridge Mountains in all their beauty and grandeur.

This list brings us down to the new Church. For a long time our congregation had felt that something should be done. All other denominations had ceased to use the old Church and the building was badly in need of repairs. No one cared to spend the necessary money to make the repairs, unless they could get a clear deed to the property, so for a long time they looked for the deed to the property and could not find one, then when Rev. C. H. Cannon came to us he suggested that we buy ground and build a new Church and there was a building committee appointed and they got busy and a piece of ground was bought from D. W. Hefflebower. Ground was broken about 1915 for a new Church. Mr. Cannon was a hard worker and soon had things going. Mr. Logan B. Shutt donated the rock for the foundation, giving the rock from the walls of the old Johnston's woolen factory. The farmers began hauling the stone, and Mr. Cannon made a hand every day and worked hard in tearing down those old walls and helping to haul the stone. Finally the foundation was completed and they had a corner stone laying. The Masonic Lodge of Charles Town laid the corner stone with appropriate ceremonies. Mr. Cannon had been transferred to another field and we then had as our pastor Rev. W. M. Compton.

There were many obstacles in the way, for it was about the time that the United States entered into the World War No. I. That building committee composed of J. F. Ware, B. F. Ware, T. J. Yates, and L. C. Walter, had a very trying time and I fear we never have appreciated the sacrifice and hard work they did. Then before the building was finished to see the workmen march off to war it was all very discouraging but by perseverance they finally succeeded in getting materials and on June 1st, 1919 the new Church was dedicated and with a large congregation present at each of the three meetings to enlist interest in the services. The committee having the preparations in hand adopted a unique piece of strategy. Formal invitations numbering around 500 were issued and mailed to all parts of the county wherever any one could be found with the slightest interest in the work. The results showed that the plan was a wise one.

Another wise plan, a crayon picture of the new Church was made and covered with cardboard cut up into different sizes representing different sums that totaled the amount of the indebtedness, \$5,000. Our Pastor took charge with two secretaries and in just 47 minutes all of those pieces of cardboard had been pulled off, having secured the full amount in cash and subscriptions. Rev. D. L. Blakemore, Presiding Elder of the Winchester District, preached the morning sermon, Rev. W. H. Best preached the afternoon sermon, and Rev. F. M. Richardson preached the sermon at 8 p. m. The ladies aid of the Kabletown Church made the largest pledge of the morning for \$500. Our Ladies Aid has always been a great help on all occasions, always willing and ready to make any sacrifice for the



J. F. WARE
Member of Building Committee



B. F. WARE
Member of Building Committee



LLOYD C. WALTER
Member of
Building Committee



T. J. YATES
Member of Building Committee

interests of the Church. Following are Pastors who have served in our new Church.

1920—W. M. Compton
1921—O. D. Lambert
1922—O. D. Lambert
1923—O. D. Lambert

1924—O. D. Lambert
 1925—O. D. Lambert
 1926—M. L. Fearnow
 1927—J. W. Beall
 1928—C. E. Kirby
 1929—C. E. Kirby
 1930—C. E. Kirby
 1931—C. E. Kirby
 1932—W. D. Eye
 1933—W. D. Eye
 1934—W. D. Eye
 1935—W. D. Eye
 1936—Homer Welsh
 1937—George Hazel
 1938—George Hazel
 1939—George Hazel
 1940—George Hazel
 1941—George Hazel
 1942—W. D. Dickey
 1943—W. D. Dickey
 1944—Albert Gingrich

Since the dedication of the Church 25 years have brought many experiences and changes. Many of those who were present on that occasion have passed on to rest, while others have come to take their place in the Church and carry on its work. We who have assumed those duties can appreciate what those who have gone before had to do. It will be impossible to give a correct record of all that has been done, for during the pastorate of Rev. O. D. Lambert the Parsonage burned and destroyed all records.

Our Sabbath School has been very active and our Ladies Aid has been a great help at all times. Some changes in the construction have been found necessary and were made resulting in improved conditions. I wish to call attention to the trees on the lawn. When Mr. D. W. Hefflebower sold the land for the Church he reserved the right to buy and plant the trees growing on the lawn, so the trees stand as a monument to his memory. While the Church itself stands as a monument to all those who so faithfully gave of their time and money. When the walls of the Church were being built the workmen on their way to their homes in Charles Town would stop and tell Mr. L. C. Walter when they needed water or other material and Mr. Walter with his Republic truck placed the things needed on the job so they could continue with the work. Rev. W. M. Compton writes of some of his experiences while building the Church. His answer to my letter follows:

"I remember a trip to Hagerstown looking for hardwood flooring. One of our party suggested that because of scarcity of material and high prices that we just put down a rough board floor until after the war, but we persevered until we finally

landed enough material for \$200. which I thought was a bargain. I recall also being there helping to put down the pews. On March 13, 1919, the day my youngest son was born and on November 4, 1942, he sacrificed his life in this war in an airplane crash. Mr. Compton tells of another experience when one Sunday night he drove to Kabletown by horse and sleigh. I spent the night at Bro. Fristoe's to meet the building committee on Monday morning and what a time I had getting home over the snow drifts. I recall sitting in that sleigh on top of a snow drift and watching my hat blowing across the fields. I arrived home about 4:00 p. m., but could not get the horse and sleigh home for several days.

All but one man of that building committee have passed on to their reward, as many others who have served the Church have. Mr. T. J. Yates is the surviving member of that committee. Mr. Yates served many long years as a Steward but has now moved from the community and has been replaced by a younger man. There have been many gone out from our Church to serve in the Army in World War No. 2. The Church has missed them and there was a special service held dedicating a Service Flag to their memory. The Prayers of the Church go out at all times for their safety. There has been seven funerals and two weddings in our Church in the 25 years, when Miss Freida Heck became the bride of Mr. Abner Johnson in 1929 and then to bring our history up to date June 10, 1944, or yesterday when Miss Ethel Clipp became the bride of Mr. Lee Adams.

Now about our Sabbath School which has been very active. The late Mr. J. F. Ware was the first Superintendent, having been Superintendent in the old church. Mr. Ware was succeeded by Mr. Howard Clendenning. He resigned then Mr. Ernest Rowland served until his health caused his resignation. When the present Superintendent, Mr. C. D. Johnson, was appointed. Our Ladies Aid or W. S. C. S. has played a very important part in the life of our Church. They have always been ready to lend a hand in anything needed for our Church and without their help I fear our Church would not have gotten along so well.

