

CE-182

Circa 1812

Site of Leeds Church

Public

B

Leeds

Now only a fieldstone marker within a stone wall and a nineteenth century cemetery remain from Leeds Church, a structure built under the direction of the Reverend John Wilson. In the late nineteenth century the church building was accompanied by a blacksmith shop, wagon shop, store, and school, as well as the Harlan Brothers Paper Mill that spread along the Little Elk Creek.

Leeds Church (Site) (Ruins)

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MS - 4/13/70

Plaque -

In memory of
 the Rev. John Wilson
 who gave the village of Leeds
 its name and built here in
 1812 the first Leeds Church.
 Within these walls his
 daughter Sarah organized
 in 1816 the First Sunday
 School in Maryland outside
 of Baltimore City.

Plaque - this memorial erected through the generosity of
 Ernest A. Howard

Original stone walls remain approximately
 3 feet high -
 surrounded by grave yard -
 with stone wall on 2 sides of yard.

see Forman, H.C. Tidewater Maryland ... p. 89

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MINISTERS WHO SERVED LEEDS
METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

From 1873 to 1939

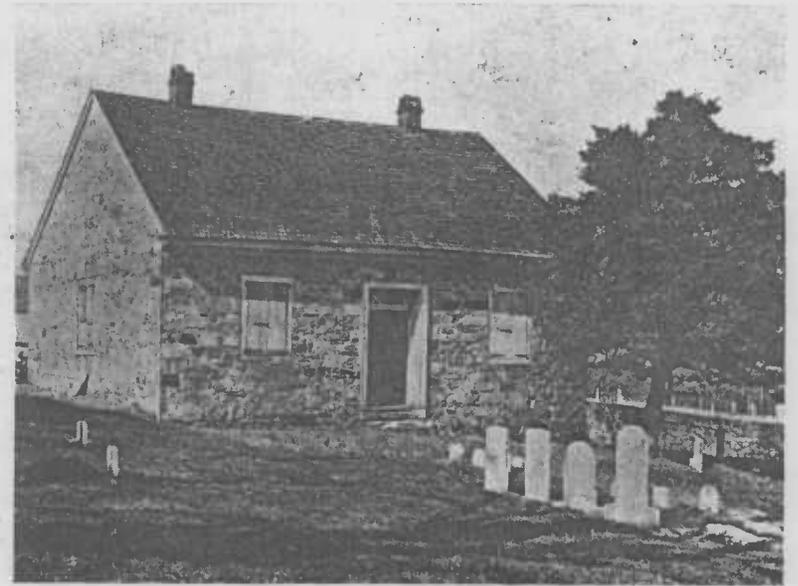
- JACOB MATHIAS YINGLING1873-1874
- JAMES THOMPSON1875-1877
- CHARLES THEODORE COHELL1878-1881
- DAVID ANTHONY SHERMER1882-1884
- CHARLES SMITH ARNETT1885-1886
- WILLIAM DUNCAN LITSINGER1887-1888
- JOHN BAYLEY JONES1889-1892
- FRANK HENING MULLINEAUX1893-1895
- AUGUSTUS WEBSTER MATHER1896-1898
- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN JESTER1899-1901
- EDWARD P. PERRY1901-1902
- JAMES THOMAS LASSELL, D.D.1903-1904
- PHILLIP WAXTER CROSBY1905-1906
- EDGAR A. SEXSMITH, D.D.1907-1908
- CHARLES E. McCULLOUGH1909-1910
- J. F. WOODEN1911
- CHARLES E. DRYDEN1912-1913
- THOMAS C. JONES1914-1915
- SILAS BALDWIN TREADWAY, D.D.1916-1917
- ALVIN B. DUPUY1918-1919
- V. A. MILLER1920
- ZIBA ADAMS1921
- ROBERT W. SUTCLIFFE1922
- FRANK SHAW CAIN1923-1924
- CHARLES PRICE NOWLIN1925-1926
- J. TRACEY FENBY1927
- KARL H. WAREHEIM1928
- CLARENCE LESLIE DAWSON1929-1930
- GILBERT E. TURNER1931-1933
- FRANK A. HOLLAND1934-1939

Dedication

OF MEMORIAL TO

THE REV. JOHN WILSON
BUILDER OF STONE CHURCH

At New Leeds 1812



OLD CHURCH-YARD
LEEDS, MARYLAND

Sunday, November 7, 1954

1:45 p.m

NEW LEEDS STONE CHURCH

This historic stone church, long a familiar landmark in the old cemetery at New Leeds, Maryland, was built under the leadership of John Wilson in the year 1812. Mr. Wilson came to America at the solicitation of the Cecil Manufacturing Company to manage a woolen factory which Colonel Henry Hollingsworth and other shareholders had erected on the bank of Little Elk Creek 200 yards below the bridge now spanning that stream at the railroad crossing.

To the village which developed in the vicinity of the factory he gave the name of New Leeds in honor of his native city of Leeds, England.

John Wilson served as pastor of an independent church until his death in 1830, when he was succeeded by his youngest son, the Rev. John G. Wilson, who served until 1839. In that year the congregation became affiliated with the newly formed Methodist Protestant denomination and continued in that relation until unification of the Methodist Church in 1939.

The building was used for religious worship for 75 years and when the present Leeds church was dedicated on February 3, 1889, the old one was abandoned to the ravages of time. The historical import of this stone structure rests on the fact that within its walls Mr. Wilson's daughter, Sarah, organized in 1816 a Sunday School, which was the first in the State of Maryland outside of Baltimore City.

The remains of the Rev. John Wilson and of his wife, Hannah, repose in unmarked graves in the New Leeds church-yard.

ORDER OF SERVICES

- I. INVOCATION
- II. RESPONSIVE READING
THE REV. PERRY O. HILL,
Pastor, Cecil United Parish
- III. INTRODUCTION
WILLIAM T. MAHONEY, CHAIRMAN
- IV. ADDRESS — "John Wilson, the Builder"
ERNEST A. HOWARD
- V. UNVEILING OF MONUMENT
MISS RUTH ANN PYLE,
*Great-great-great-granddaughter
of John Wilson*
- VI. GREETINGS FROM THE HON. H. S. VICK,
LORD MAYOR OF LEEDS, ENGLAND
MISS ANNA GILPIN DENNEY,
*Great-great-great-granddaughter
of Henry Hollingsworth*
- VII. PRESENTATION
- VIII. ACCEPTANCE
ROBERT J. McCAULEY,
for the Board of Trustees, Leeds Church
- IX. DEDICATION
MR. HILL
- X. DOXOLOGY
- XI. BENEDICTION

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CECIL COUNTY

135 EAST MAIN STREET
ELKTON, MARYLAND

February 21, 1966

Dear Mrs. McCool:

As you are interested in the history of New Leeds I will give you some notes to add to your file.

On June 17, 1874, Judge James McCauley made the following entry in his diary:

"William Campbell died at New Leeds about six o'clock this morning. He was in his 70th year.

I recollect him when I was a school boy. He was then an apprentice to Robert McCann at shoemaking. In 1833 when I came to New Leeds he had built a stone house at the corner and was living in it.

He married Jane B. Davidson, who was a daughter of William and Letitia Davidson, who lived on the property now occupied by David Gregson. He leaves four children: Robert, who resides in Wilmington, Caleb Jackson, who has always lived with his father, Wilhelmina, who married Torbert Scarborough, and Mary Louisa, wife of John McCauley.

His funeral was held in the old church yard at New Leeds and was conducted by the Rev. Joseph Miller."

David Gregson lived near Elk Forge, which is now Elk Mills. Caleb Jackson Campbell, who lived in the stone house after his father's death, was born July 8, 1842, and died October 11, 1918. His sister, Mary Louisa McCauley, was born January 4, 1840, and died Jan. 6, 1912.

William Campbell had a younger brother, John, who was born at New Leeds on Sept. 2, 1809, and two sisters, Mary, who married Isaac Holt, and Ellen, who married Robinson Gallaher.

Their father was John Campbell, who came to this country from Ireland and bought land from the Cecil Manufacturing Company which owned a large tract of land along Little Elk Creek and built a factory there in 1794.

John Campbell (the son) was a farmer and lived in the stone house above the old cemetery now owned by Margaret Rees. He died on December 29, 1886, and is buried in Cherry Hill cemetery with his wife, Martha M. Campbell.

Isaac Holt was my great-great uncle and Robinson Gallaher was Wilbur Campbell's grand-father.

The lot on which the old school house ^{in the cemetery} stood was from a tract known as "Frisby's Venture". Its sale by John Wilson to three trustees on January 21, 1822 is recorded in Liber JS #19, folio 443.

Sincerely,

E. Howard

Leeds Church

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The Leeds Church was built in 1812 by Rev. Wilson who was also a woolen miller. The church was made of local stone. The outside dimensions were 35' long and 30' deep with 18" thick walls. There were two windows in the front and two in the rear with one in each end. The windows had upper and lower sash 4 panes wide and 3 panes high which were protected by wooden shutters. The roof had shingles with inside end chimneys. The pulpit stood against the rear wall.

The present remains of this church still stand. In 1954 the lower part of the original walls were stabilized and had a concrete cap put on them. They are now only 3' high. A cement floor was put in in place of the original wood floor and a monument dedicated to Rev. Wilson now stands in the center of the original building.

The existing remains are surrounded by the old cemetery which in turn has a low stone wall encompassing it. Some local residents have some of the pews from the church.

The New Leeds Church as already stated in the Description was built in 1812 by the Rev. John Wilson. Rev. Wilson was brought to this country from Leeds, England to help in the milling enterprise known as the Cecil Manufacturing Company. While manager of this mill cloth manufactured was used to make a suit for President Jefferson. Rev. Wilson was a preacher of the society known as "Independents" for whom the church was built. In 1816 his daughter, Sarah, organized the first Sunday School in the state of Maryland outside of the city of Baltimore in this building. In 1839 the congregation under the leadership of John, Jr. became affiliated with the Methodist Protestant Conference. Services were held in the building until a new church was dedicated in 1889. After this the church fell into disrepair. The remains of Rev. Wilson his wife and several of his daughters lie in unmarked graves in the graveyard.



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Leeds Church (Site)

SW Elevation

G. Henry 4/85 - Negatives at MHT



CE-182

LEEDS CHURCH (site)

George Lutz, photographer (1978)



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CE-182

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SITE OF
LEEDS CHURCH 4/70 - MDR