

Brief Historical Sketches
 of the
 Rev. George ^{Luckey} ~~Tracy~~ & of the Rev. George ^{Morrison} ~~Morrison~~
 Pastors of the
 Bethel & Chestnut Green Churches in Baltimore & Harford Counties Maryland
 from the year 1784-1857

Charles Agnew Esq.

Sec. of Rev. Historical Soc.

Dear Sir,

I herewith send you several Manuscripts of sermons & sketches
 of sermons, selected from certain papers in my hands, of sayings
 the Rev. George Morrison & of his Predecessor in his last & only charge
 the Rev. George Luckey. ere I proceed to give a brief Memoir of these
 two Gentlemen allow me to prefix what I have to say, with a
 single word touching the church (known upon the records of
 the Baltimore Pres as the Bethel church), which formed the central
 point of their field of labor.

The first building erected for public worship
 was log & was built in the year 1765 at a place called Wode road
 or head of Timbers run, in what was then Baltimore Co. The church
 was organized in the year (1770): the congregation was consti-
 tuted principally of the descendants of emigrants from Ireland & some
 from Scotland. The Rev. John Clarke a member of the first Presbytery of

¹⁰ Among these latter under the colonial government, there was great disposition
 towards the mother country. This sentiment also prevailed among men who
 served as members of the Maryland regiment, during our revolutionary struggles.

Philadelphia, then in connection with the Synod of Phil. & New Jer., was called in the year of their organization to be their first pastor.

This Church enjoyed the Pastoral labors of this Gentleman from the year 1770, until 1783, at which time as appears from the Printed records of the above specified year, he was dismissed from the New-Castle Pres. of which he became a member after his settlement in Maryland, to join the Baltimore Pres. I have no data to show at what time or how he became connected with the New-Castle Pres. His name is found upon their rolls in the year 1772 - Mr Clarke was among the pioneers of Presbyterianism in Western Pennsylvania - some allusion is made to this Gentleman in the April no. of the Princeton Repository 1858. This Congregation which was now without a Pastor in consequence of the removal of the Rev John Clarke to Western Pennsylvania, secured the services of Mr George Incey a licentiate of the New-Castle Pres. This Gentleman forms one of the subjects of these Brief Memoirs.

(1) George Incey from 1784-1820

The Rev-George Incey was born in June 1757 at Oxford Charles Co. Penn. & was a graduate of Princeton College in the year 1772.

Mr Incey was licensed by the New-Castle Pres (probably in the year 1776^{or}3)

He was ordained & installed Pastor of the Methodist Church Aug 29/1785

The Rev Robert Smith preached the sermon upon the occasion of his ordination. He was an able classical scholar & good man

(*) The records of the New-Castle Pres. are somewhat fragmentary & this is owing to the trials growing out of the revolution. It will be observed that the Church at this period was in connection with the one which it afterwards separated.

of his day, though unpretending knew more of the Policy & History, of that Branch of the Church of God to which he belonged than Mr. Lusk. Little remains to testify to this, except what is to be gathered from the Members of the Bethel Church, whose early lives were contemporaneous with his closing years, & such as is to be inferred from the character of the works which jointly constituted his Library.

During the interim between the time of his graduating (in 1772), & of his licensure (in 1775), Mr. Lusk taught a classical school in Va. While in Virginia he resided in the home of Mr. Madison the father of James Madison the distinguished President of the United States. The latter gentleman was a pupil of his during his sojourn in that state. He continued to discharge the duties of the Pastoral charge of Bethel & Centre Churches, from 1784 until 1820, when his health became too frail to endure the labors of incidentals to so onerous a charge. In the month of December 6th, 1823, he departed this life. The wife of Mr. Lusk was a relative of the Hon. James Buchanan President. There are left but few of his linear descendants & the name in the state of Maryland is well nigh extinct. The interim between 1820, when Mr. Lusk ceased to be the Pastor of these Churches & 1824, the period at which the Rev. George Morrison assumed the charge of the Bethel Congregation, was filled up by the Rev. William Finney of Harford Co. as a stated supply. This last named gentleman is still living & as the son of his old friend, it gives me no small degree of pleasure to bear the high respect esteem & affection which my Father entertains for Mr. Finney.

(2) George Morrison From 1824-1837

George Morrison was born Jan 15th 1797, near White Clay Creek at the residence of his father, in New-castle Co, Delaware. His father, Douglas Morrison, was for many years an elder, in the White Clay Creek church, an organization which dates back to the commencement of the 18th century. Douglas Morrison was a farmer in New-castle Co & was the grandson of Hugh Morrison, who emigrated with his family from the north of Ireland to America about the latter part of the 17th century. From Hugh Morrison, have descended the most of the name throughout Delaware, Pennsylvania, the west & south. His mother, was a Douglas. The subject of this notice, when only 17 years of age volunteered, with a company of cavalry to join the United States service in the War of 1812 & 14.

The classical studies of Mr Morrison were pursued under the care of the Rev Mr Russell, of Newark, Delaware. The classical academy over which Mr Russell presided, grew out of the Newark Academy incorporated, under a charter granted in 1769 by the Hon & Richard Penn. for the removal of the school created under the care of the synod of Philadelphia in the year 1741, for the preparatory education of candidates to the Gospel ministry.

His theological course was prosecuted under Dr Samuel Martin, of whose abilities as a profound theologian & scholar, I need add nothing, but simply refer those desiring to learn, to the biographical sketch in Sprague's Annals prepared by the Rev Willm. Linn. - Vol IV page 118. - ⁹¹ During the meeting of the New-castle Pres. at Middle

⁹¹ In this notice mention is made of the funeral sermon preached by Dr Martin upon the occasion of the death of the Rev George Morrison.

October in the Month of April 1823. The Rev George Morrison
 was licensed to preach the Gospel. He was thereupon called
 by the Bethel congregation of Harford Co. to be their Pastor. On
 the 21st of January 1824, he was ordained & installed pastor of said
 Church. The Rev Dr. Samuel Martin preached the sermon. Dr James Magraw
 gave the charge to the Pastor & Rev Robert White the charge to the
 people. During the summer of 1823, the subject of this Memoir mar-
 ried Eliza A. Laid, the daughter of a Baltimore Merchant &
 settled first in Blair, he removed thence to Baltimore & finally in
 1829, he settled upon his farm in Baltimore Co where ^{he} spent his
 days among the people whom he continued to serve in spiritual
 things until his death. During the year 1824. his ecclesiastical
 connection was changed from the New-castle Pres. to the Baltimore
 Presbytery by order of the Synod. From 1824 until 1837, he preached
 largely throughout the two Counties of Baltimore & Harford, even though
 during a portion of this time, he had a large classical school
 under his direction.

The Chestnut Grove Church was organized shortly after
 his death, from a nucleus which had been gathered together at the
 trials of his labors, by preaching in a large room upon his own
 plantation. As his son it becomes me to speak with delicacy
 of the excellencies of his character. I have the impression which
 still abides within these communities of all denominations, throug-
 -out the two Counties to which his labors were chiefly confined,
 & their manifest respect & love of his memory, to testify.

The subject of this Memoir died at his
 residence April 13th 1837, at sweet Air Baltimore Co Maryland.

His body was interred in the Bethel Burying ground & at the special request & desire of his congregation, a monument was created over him by the people of his charge, which bears upon it an inscription, that evinces their love & devotion to their departed Pastor, while the Monument is a Tribute to his Memory⁽¹⁾. Since the death of Mr Morrison there have been four Pastors of the Bethel & Chestnut Grove churches. The Rev Andrew B. Cross. The Rev Dr. Stephen Terhune, now Prof. of oriental & Biblical Literature in the Danville theo. sem. The Rev John P. Carter & the Rev Thomas Smith. Mr Smith is the present Pastor of these two Churches. Am. G. M.

(1) The obituary of the Rev George Morrison & a sketch of his life, together with the sermon preached at his funeral by the Rev Dr Samuel Martin, will be found in the Bethmore Let-ter Magazine for the years 37 & 38 respectively. This was a periodical published in Bethmore & edited by the Rev Dr. P. B. Brock-bridge & the Rev Andrew B. Cross.

This paper was prepared by me while at Bardollane near Lexington Kentucky where I spent my summer with my family in the home of Dr P. B. Brock-bridge. The occasion of doing so, was presented to me by the fact, that there in my possession some Manuscript sermons of the Rev George Lusk & of Mr Tuller, from which I made a small selection & abridgement to place the same together with a brief hist. sketch of those who were their authors, in a directory of the church as incidental parts, at the disposal of the secretary of the Pres. Syn. Society, under the consideration that here were more of this done, by those intimately connected as Members or Pastors of Churches. The material used thereby collected in the rooms of the Hist. Society, in view of which ultimately, an accurate & complete history of the church & those identified with her interests might be written. The Rev George Lusk, the Rev George Morrison & the Rev John Clarke the first Minister of the Bethel Church, are the only Ministers who have ever had charge of the Bethel Church or of the Chestnut Grove & are deceased. A few of the facts I have stated in this letter are somewhat traditionary & not fully authenticated.

Lexington Kentucky
Aug 25/58

George Morrison.