

History of the Monocacy Church of the Brethren

The new church at Rocky Ridge was built in 1853 and dedicated on Christmas Day. The Dedicatory Sermon was preached by Elder D.P. Saylor. The building committee consisted of Isaac Pfoutz, Jacob Ecker and John Weybright. Reuben Ecker was the contractor and builder.

On October 25, 1853, William and Hanna Krise donated 1 1/2 acres, 15 perches to John Weybright, Jacob Ecker and Isaac Pfoutz. They were officially called Trustees of the German

Baptist Society. Note that it was not unusual for property to be deeded to persons rather than the church. On December 3, 1855, the Monocacy Church was organized from the Beaver Dam Congregation with Elder D.P. Saylor in church and Daniel Boyer as the helper minister. The Deacons of the church were John Weybright and Augustus Willar. The membership of the church consisted of 26 men and 53 women. Considering the size of the church house, this was a large congregation. In 1856, the church building was extended 25 feet to the west, with the new part containing a basement.

On August 3, 1856, Peter Fogle became the first recorded baptism in the new congregation. After this an average of one new member each month was added for several years, increasing the total membership to 160 in ten years.

In 1860, a vote was taken to install lamps in the church, however; the majority in favor was only five, so the matter was postponed for nearly a year. An agreement was finally reached and the lamps were installed.

On April 23, 1861, the church voted to organize a Sunday School, to be held in the new partition in the west end of the church. Elder George Hoover was appointed to secure the teachers. Sunday School would begin at 9:00 A. M., prior to the worship service.

On February 6, 1862, the common school building at Oak Hill was deeded to the Brethren for the purpose and privilege of having Sunday Services. There had been an unpaid debt of \$34.00, on the building and the Brethren paid off the debt to acquire the property.

In 1872 a lot was purchased by the Brethren in Detour, and a building was erected for holding common school and church services.

On August 25, 1876, the Monocacy Church was incorporated under the name of German Baptist Brethren. The following Trustees were elected: John Weybright, Jacob Ecker, Joshuam Dotterer, William H. Renner, Richard Chessman and Thomas J. Kolb. By virtue of his office, the Elder was an added member. The church property was then deeded to incorporate the Body by Trustees in Trust John Weybright, Jacob Ecker and Isaac Pfoutz.

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On April 2, 1877, William and Hanna Krise deeded an additional 2 1/2 acres of land to the Monocacy Church for the price of \$90.00. (Note: The Krise farm was owned and operated in later years by Elder E.P. Schildt).

Daniel P. Saylor - A Man of Courage and Vision

Daniel P. Saylor born on June 23, 1811 at Red Levels near Beaver Dam was the fourth generation in the line of the Saylor family in America. His great-grandfather came from Switzerland and settled in Lancaster County Pennsylvania. He was baptized by Michael Pfoutz and became a member of the Conestoga Church. He later moved into a log hut at Beaver Dam in Frederick County, Maryland that had been built the previous fall. Daniel P Saylor's grandfather, Elder Daniel Saylor was a minister and missionary and did much to build the church districts from Conestoga District to the Blackwater District in Virginia. He was very mechanical, with nothing he could not fix. His wife was Mary S. Simmons, who lived from 1773 to 1861. They were members of the Beaver Dam Brethren Church.

Daniel's wife Sara was the daughter of Richard Root. She had been the widow of Samuel Smith, with whom Daniel had worked in the Root Mill which they had leased. Daniel and Sara married in 1833. This brilliant and godly woman, while never becoming a member of the Brethren Church had much to do with the shaping of the life and career of her husband. To them were born three children: Mary, Margaret and Anna.

There was deep joy in the hearts of many when on August 20, 1837, Daniel entered the stream on the David Stitley farm near the Beaver Dam Church and was baptized by Elder John Garber. After finally yielding his life to the Spirit of God, there came forth a man of great power. He must have shown promise even at this early age, for three years later he was called to the ministry.

Daniel Saylor walked not only with men in the common walks of life, whom he understood well, but also with men who occupied the highest places in the political life of the nation. Among them were **Presidents Franklin Pierce, Millard Fillmore and Abraham Lincoln.**

There were numerous conferences with Lincoln, some of which brought much criticism upon the head of Elder Saylor. It must be remembered that in those days the Brethren looked with disfavor upon voting. They were also nonresistant in opposition to many of the war policies of the government. Saylor was an advisor to Lincoln regarding the planning for a place for the Brethren in the war.