

**HISTORY OF THE SCOTCH PLAINS  
BAPTIST CHURCH FROM ITS  
ORGANIZATION ON THE FIFTH OF  
AUGUST 1747 TO ITS ONE HUNDRED  
AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY ON THE  
FIFTH OF AUGUST 1897**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649744299

History of the Scotch Plains Baptist Church from its organization on the fifth of August 1747 to its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary on the fifth of August 1897 by J. H. Parks & James D. Cleaver

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**J. H. PARKS & JAMES D. CLEAVER**

**HISTORY OF THE SCOTCH PLAINS  
BAPTIST CHURCH FROM ITS  
ORGANIZATION ON THE FIFTH OF  
AUGUST 1747 TO ITS ONE HUNDRED  
AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY ON THE  
FIFTH OF AUGUST 1897**





THE SCOTCH PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH:  
ERECTED 1820.

# HISTORY

of the

## Scotch Plains Baptist Church

from its

Organization on the Fifth of August 1747

to its

One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary

on the Fifth of August 1897



Prepared by

Rev. J. H. Parks, D. D. and Judge James D. Cleaver

and published by the Church

Scotch Plains, New Jersey

• 1897 •

The trustees of the Scotch Plains Baptist Church adopted the following Preamble and Resolutions, Feb. 12, 1896:

"Whereas the One hundred and fiftieth Anniversary of the organization of this Church will arrive in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, and will be a period in the history of the Old Church, which ought of right and of gratitude to God, to be marked with suitable and appropriate ceremonies of observance, congratulation and thankfulness;

And. Whereas, in the opinion of this Board, it would be a fitting item of such a celebration to have prepared for permanent preservation a condensed history of the life and prominent events which have marked her career;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that Dr. James H. Parks and Judge James D. Cleaver be, and they are hereby appointed to go over the records of the Church and of this Board from the date of the founding of the Church down to the date of the Anniversary in 1897, and collate and arrange in Chronological order the prominent and interesting events which have come to the Church in her long and eventful career, as the first Standard bearer of religion in this Community—as the Mother of Churches, and as one of the pillars of piety, law, liberty of conscience and civil order for the State.

Resolved, that the paper so prepared shall, when approved by this Board be printed for distribution on the Anniversary day aforesaid; and afterwards, together with the observances of the day be put into a Souvenir volume to be sold to any persons desiring to have them."

The Committee have accordingly endeavored to prepare a reliable History as to facts and dates.

They acknowledge valuable help received from the History of Baptists, by Dr. Armitage, The Baptist Encyclopedia by Dr. Cathcart, The Bi-Centennial of the Piscataway Baptist Church, The One hundred and fiftieth Anniversary of the Hightstown Baptist Church, The Minutes of the Philadelphia, New York and East New Jersey Associations; as well as from the memories of some of the older members of the Scotch Plains Church.



## HISTORY.

There are many human organizations which have so ennobled humanity and exemplified great principles of truth, that their history deserves to be recorded and perpetuated. Though they were originated by human foresight only, yet their existence and usefulness will ever be held in grateful remembrance.

But the Church of Christ is not a human organization. It is one of the Divine institutions among men. It was divinely organized. Its laws and discipline were divinely enacted. Its officers were divinely appointed and its members are divinely qualified. Hence we come to the study of the history of a Christian Church with a peculiar interest. We are tracing the dealings of God with his people. We are scanning the efficiency of a divinely appointed means, to the accomplishment of its end, and we are recording the degree of faithfulness with which the Church has fulfilled its divinely appointed mission.

The Scotch Plains Baptist Church was organized in August, 1747. This entire region at that time was known as the Province of East New Jersey, and was under the dominion of the King of Great Britain. All of its inhabitants were loyal English subjects. The country was sparsely settled. There were no railroads, nor post offices, nor telegraphs—in fact no public means of transportation, nor of conveying intelligence. The surroundings were so different from those with which we are familiar, that we can scarcely realize them.

There were few Baptist Churches at that time in all that is now known, as the whole State of New Jersey, and these were widely separated. One was situated at Middletown, one at Piscataway, one at Cohansey, one at Cape May, one at Hopewell, one at Kingwood and one organized only two years before, at Hightstown.

There were a number of Baptist families living in this immediate vicinity, and identified with the Piscataway Baptist Church. The distance from and inconveniences in reaching their church home, induced them to ask for letters of dismission in order to organize a church at this place. Their application was answered by the following resolution adopted by the parent church at Piscataway.

“Whereas, in the course of Divine Providence there is necessity of a church to be constituted at the Scotch Plains, in the County of Essex, in East New Jersey, and some of the members of the Baptist Church at Piscataway in the County of Middlesex and the Province aforesaid, having their dwellings at and near the said Scotch Plains, and they having made application to us, and obtained a grant for a dismission from us, in order to incorporate themselves into a church; this may certify that William Darby, Recompense Stanbery, John Lambert John Dennis, John Stanbery, Henry Crosby, John Sutton Jr., Isaac Manning, Mary Brodwell, Mary Green, Mary Dennis, Tabitha Sutton, Catherine Manning, Sarah De Camp and Sarah Perce, when they are regularly constituted into a church according to gospel order and given themselves up, in a church fellowship are fully and freely dismissed from our church.”

## THE ORGANIZATION.

Accordingly on the fifth day of August, 1747, these brethren and sisters met and resolved to become and be a Regular Baptist Church. They adopted and signed a solemn covenant. Some of the terms of which were, that they humbly accepted Jesus Christ as High Priest, Lawgiver and Savior. That they trusted implicitly and only in his atoning blood and sovereign grace for Salvation—that they would walk together in all holiness, godliness, humility and brotherly love—that they would watch over one another for good—that they would pray with and for one another and for the church—that they would bear one another's burdens, bear with one another's weaknesses as Christ had enjoined and set the example—that they would strive together for the truth of the gospel, and to observe and guard the ordinances in their purity, and would give according to their ability to maintain the Cause of the Master.

Thus the church was organized by these our honored forefathers upon the true foundation, Jesus Christ himself being the chief Corner Stone, and every distinguishing characteristic of our denomination separately referred to in the Covenant Compact. Surely if any people have reason to rejoice in the inheritance left by the forefathers, we may thank God, that the Constituent members of our Zion occupied no compromising ground, and blew no uncertain blast, concerning either the doctrines or practices of the christian church.

These constituent members have all long since passed away, but many of their descendants and the families they represent are still among us, honored and respected members of the community.