

**HISTORY OF THE BAPTIST  
CHURCH IN MARLBORO  
FROM APRIL 14TH,  
1868, TO APRIL 14TH, 1878**

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History of the Baptist Church in Marlboro from April 14th, 1868, to April 14th, 1878 by J. T. Burhoe

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**J. T. BURHOE**

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MARLBORO:

COOK & TOWNSEND, PRS., MARLBORO ADVERTISER OFFICE.

1878.

*Burd*

W. W. Wilson, Wilson's - Church (W. W. Wilson)

W. W.

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# HISTORY

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*Psalm 44: 3. For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them; but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them."*

The text expresses an important fact respecting Israel's possession of the land of Canaan or Palestine. They had a necessary part to perform in securing the country which they made their own, but they conquered their enemies and entered into their inheritance not by the sharpness of their own sword, nor by the strength of their own arm, but because Jehovah their Deliverer and Leader favored them and wrought mightily with them. The history of Israel in her deliverances and growth and prosperity is a history full of the direct exercise of the power of God in her behalf. And the same fact is even more wonderfully manifest in the history of the church of Christ whether we view it as a connected whole or consider it in its manifold parts. Every true branch of the one great church of Christ is composed of a body of regenerated believers in Christ. They have been made new creatures in Christ Jesus by the powerful working of the Holy Spirit in the heart. It is neither their own sword, nor their own arm that has given them a place in the kingdom of God, but because they have been born into that Kingdom from above by the power of the Holy One of Israel. Churches grow and have prosperity because the promise given by Christ is fulfilled: "Lo I am with you alway even to end of the world." So that the history of the growth of any church, so far as it has real growth and prosperity is a history of the goodness

See also H. C. W. 1917. 75

and mercy and love of God favoring his people. And, my brethren, according to your clear recognition of this fact, and your humble, active reliance upon the strong arm of the Almighty, so will be the measure of your prosperity in the years that are yet before you. I have endeavored to lay hold of the threads of influence which in their working resulted in the formation of this church. We assume the fact that every child has a mother, and it appears that the little Baptist church in Fayville has the best claim to be called the mother of this church. That church, in reporting to the Worcester Association a little prior to the commencement of the Baptist interest here, reported a membership of about 114 and only 62 resident at Southboro, and eleven of the absentees were living in Marlboro, the most of them, if not all, attending service at the Methodist church. These persons as you will see formed the largest part of the nucleus around which has grown this present church. There was some discussion at that session of the Worcester Association relative to starting a Baptist interest here, but no definite action was taken. The matter was discussed however among the few Baptists located in M. and they finally resolved to hold weekly prayer meetings—these to be held from house to house. Prior to the holding of these meetings the matter was precipitated by a rather violent sermon against our distinctive principles preached in one of the churches where most of the Baptists in town were in attendance. They felt that it was a rude assault upon what was dear to them, a part of the truth as it is in Jesus, so they resolved to hold independent meetings where they could give free expression to the truth as they believed it. One of the brethren who heard that sermon feels convinced that it did more to start the Baptist ball in motion than the effort of any one of its warmest friends. The first prayer meeting was held in the house of W. D. Walker, as near as I can learn, some time in July, 1866. These meetings were continued with a good degree of interest for one year and then another forward movement was made. No written record of the prayer meetings was kept, but in July, 1867, there was a somewhat informal Baptist Society organized. I here give a part of the record of its first meeting:

“July 15, 1867. The first business meeting held at the house of M. Dadmun, Church St., to consider the interests of the Baptist cause in this place, and to take some

action in regard to holding services on the Sabbath. After having held prayer meetings for a year past, and feel that we have been blessed in them, we have decided to go a step farther and hold services on the Sabbath. Voted, that we have preaching at 5 o'clock Sabbath evenings for three months. Voted, that we choose officers for the respective duties involved in this work. Voted, that Bro. W. D. Walker attend to the general supervision of affairs and of engaging ministers. Voted, that Bro. C. C. Curtis engage the Sons of Temperance Hall for our use. Voted, that Bro. F. H. Lowell act as Treasurer. That Bro. M. Richards solicit funds for the necessary expenses, and that Bro. E. P. Richardson act as clerk. The meeting was then closed with prayer." And immediately following this record which is the first in the archives of the church I find this notice of the first preaching service. "The first public service held in Sons of Temperance Hall on Sunday July 21st, 1867, at 5 o'clock. Preaching by Rev. D. F. Lamson of Northboro, Mass." Here I wish to insert a little matter relative to the part taken in this work by our State Missionary. Children have fathers as well as mothers, and among the spiritual fathers of this church at its beginning, our venerable Father Fitz ought perhaps to have the first place. He writes thus: "I became acquainted in Marlboro in 1844, while laboring in Feltonville to establish a Baptist interest there. From M. we had some hearers and help. For several years before anything was done to get a Baptist church at Marlboro, the subject was thought of and inquiries made, resulting in the assurance that the time had not yet come for action, and it seemed not likely to come for a generation in the opinion of the Baptists of M. Bro. Lamson and I at length corresponded on the subject and I called at his home in Northboro and talked the matter over with him, and we decided we would wait no longer for the right time, which was constantly receding, but that some thing should be done speedily. This was about the middle of June, 1867. Soon after we met at Marlboro and visited several of the Baptists, and it was finally agreed to have preaching every Sabbath at 5 o'clock, in a hall that could be procured, and that I should come the last day of these three month services, and have meetings during the day and in the evening preaching two or three times as I might prefer. Then we were to consult with reference to the future. Bro. Lamson was to take charge