



Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society

(Incorporated, State of New Jersey, 1916)

Rev. Albert N. Rogers, President

Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson, Treasurer

Miss Evalois St. John, Librarian

Seventh Day Baptist Building, 510 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey
June 5, 1968

William T. Voyce
3123 Bowdoin Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

Dear Mr. Voyce:

Your letter of May 29, addressed to the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference has been handed to this society.

In 1852, the Seventh Day Baptists began the publication of a Quarterly known as The Seventh Day Baptist Memorial. It ran for three years - 1852-53-54, and recorded much valuable historical and biographical matter relating to the early history of Seventh Day Baptists. However, there is but one reference to be found in which the term "Church of God" is used in reference to a particular Seventh Day Baptist Church, and that is found to be an error.

On page 121, Vol. 2, No. 3, in a history of the Piscataway Church, the writer makes the statement that the first record in the old church book after the Articles of Faith is as follows:

"The church of God keeping the commandment of God and the faith of Jesus Christ, living in Piscataway and Hopewell . . ."
etc.

The original records are in our archives. I enclose a photo-copy of the ~~the~~ portion referred to, and also include their statement of belief or articles of faith as well as this first record. You will note that in this copy of the original the term used is The Church of Christ. This church was organized in 1705.

The record book of the Shrewsbury Church is also in our archives. The very first page of the record book is very faded and discolored making it impossible for me to make a photo-copy. The exact date of the organization is not known. It was, we are certain before the end of 1745. Sept. 6, 1789, the body of the church "removed from Shrewsbury in order to settle in the state of Virginia." The next date recorded in the book is "ay 3, 1792, after the church had settled at New Salem, Harrison County, Virginia. (Now known as Salem, W. Va.)"

I do enclose a photo-copy of a page from the old records which bears the date 1774. You will note it starts thus --

"The Church of Christ in Shrewsbury and Middletown in the observance of God's Holy Sanctified Sabbath first agreed to the of the Sixth Month 1774"

Twenty-two articles of Faith follow this statement. Our latest issue of the Seventh Day Baptist Yearbook - 1967 - reads thus --
Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church. Con. 1745, at
Shrewsbury, N.J.; 1792 at Salem, W. Va.

I enclose copies of letters taken from the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial of January 1852, and July 1852. In these you will find the distinctive phrase used is The Church of Christ. These letters from England are dated 1668 and 1680.

" The Church of Christ meeting in Bell Lane, London
to a remanent of the Lord's Sabbath-keepers, in ~~and~~ about
Newport, New England. . . ."
26th day of March 1668.

"The Church of Christ, meeting together on the Lord's holy Sabbath, sendeth greeting to the Church of Christ keeping the Sabbath on Rhode Island."

Signed in behalf of the Church, East Smithfield,
London, December 21, 1680

A great dis-service was done to both Seventh Day Baptists and Seventh Day Adventists by an Elder A.N. Dugger who now resides in Jerusalem. As you must know he was formerly a member of the denomination known as The Church of God (Adventist), with headquarters in Stanberry, Mo. In fact the U.S. Census of Religious Bodies 1926 carries the history, doctrine of this order which a footnote states was revised and approved by Elder A.N. Dugger, of the Church of God Publishing House. In 1934 (or 1933) Mr. Dugger and others separated from this group - Church of God (Adventist) - and established a new order - The Church of God (Seventh Day) - with headquarters at Salem, W. Va. In the U.S. Census of Religious Bodies 1936, one finds a history of this new order prepared - as the government states by Mr. Dugger. For the history of this group he deliberately "lifted" the history of the Seventh Day Baptists, added some Seventh Day Adventist history, and called it the History of the Church of God (Seventh Day). Because this pamphlet is put out by the U.S. Government - through its Census Bureau - researchers and students of Church history have accepted his facts as true. One finds the more of this "lifted" history in the book - History of the True Church - by A.N. Dugger and C.O. Dodd, published in 1936.

If you have never seen a copy of this 1936 Census report prepared by Mr. Dugger, I can furnish you with a photo-copy of same.

Sincerely yours,

Evalou St John
Librarian