

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.