

SCOTCH PLAINS

if the case proved stubborn, to "cite" him to the next meeting. That they were faithful to the responsibility placed upon them is shown by the following deplorable incident, copied from the minutes: "The Committee requested to report this meeting of Business what progress they have made in the business assigned to them, say that the charges against Sarah —— the wife of —— in drinking to excess is too well supported to be denied—and that there appeared no probability of reformation in her conduct—which being considered—it was voted she be excommunicated, and that the sentence of her exclusion be publically declared after divine service next day of preparation."

In 1782, it was decided, "That the Communion be held as they formerly were (viz) on the second Sabbath every two Months and No Respect to be Paid to christmas more than any other day." The Puritan influence of our forefathers was still a power in the community!

The first minister, Reverend Benjamin Miller, probably lived during the greater part of his pastorate on his own farm; as is shown by the terms of his will, made in 1765,—though not proved until 1781—in which he leaves his home farm to his son, Benjamin.

However, in 1775, the Trustees purchased of the heirs of William Darby, 15 acres which, thereafter, constituted the "parsonage farm." The will of William Darby, proved in 1775, directed his executors to sell his homestead; and, as he devised his other properties to his sons, it seems very probable that the present parsonage-house stands on the site of the old home of the first Ruling Elder, William Darby.