


A Century of Methodism in Lunenburg.



In the month of July, 1814, according to a record made at the time, which came into the possession of this circuit a few years ago, the Methodist Church was organized in the Town of Lunenburg. The record is in the handwriting of Mr. George Orth, a German school teacher, who had been converted under Methodist preaching in some part of the Province, had been expelled in consequence from the Lutheran Church, and had commenced preaching, evidently with some effect, in the town and neighboring settlements. The official record of Mr. Orth's expulsion from the Lutheran Church in June, 1812, states that he, with George Philip Rothenhauser, Peter Mauser and Christopher Lohnes were expelled on the grounds that they were blasphemers who had slandered the priesthood of the church here, tried to bring scorn upon the church and congregation, were disturbers of the peace and brotherly love between pastor and congregation and between the congregation and officers of the church, and were in opposition to the recognized doctrines and public worship of God, and were ringleaders and instigators of rebellion. They probably tried to conduct prayer meetings without the sanction of the pastor. Rev. Ferdinand Conrad Temme, Ph. D., who expelled them, was a German Lutheran Minister, who had been in this county for only four years, having spent twenty-one years as a minister of the state church in Germany and as master of a private school for young noblemen.

The first board of "trustees or guardians" of the new Methodist church (Mr. Orth gives them both titles, in the alternative, and they probably served as a quarterly official board as well as a board of trustees) was composed of the following persons: Jacob Hamme (or Hamge), Peter Lohnes, Friederick Meder, Friederick Lohnes, Martin Pentz and Philip Winter. The Steward was