



On This Site in 1784

First Methodist Church

NE Corner of Broad and Academy

The First Methodist Church of Trenton has the honor of being the first established in New Jersey and probably the third in the whole country, ranking next only after the John Street Church in New York City and St. George's Church in Philadelphia.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church, known as the “Mother Church” by Trenton Methodists, came into existence in the year 1771, with the organization of a class meeting by Joseph Toy. In 1772 the Trenton Society, consisting of nineteen members, secured subscriptions from a hundred and twenty-two persons for the erection of a meeting house. The subscription list bears the date November 25, 1772, and the total amount raised was 213 pounds. A lot was purchased at the northeast corner of what is now Broad and Academy Streets, on which a frame building thirty by thirty-five feet was erected in 1773. Among the nineteen original members appears the name of John Fitch, the inventor of the steamboat. The total cost of this “Preaching House” was 193 pounds 6 shillings 2d.



John Fitch

The original frame meeting house was replaced in 1806 with a brick church which was located on the same site and was called “Bethesda.” It was sold in 1838 to the Orthodox Friends and was used by them until 1858. The Methodists removed to the site of the present church on South Broad Street and erected a brick building which was dedicated September 9, 1838, and called the “Trenton M.E. Church,” perhaps better known for many years as the “Greene Street Church,” from the name the street then bore.

To learn more about Trenton in 1784 and the events celebrating the 54 days Trenton was our nation’s capital, visit our website at: www.trenton1784.org.