



*Yours truly
Allen H. Brown*

JOURNAL

OF THE

Presbyterian Historical Society

VOL. IV.

JUNE, 1908.

No. 6.

ALLEN HENRY BROWN:

1820-1907.

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The Rev. Allen H. Brown, D. D., was born in the city of New York, September 23d, 1820. He was the son of Silas and Olivia Brown. He was prepared for college in the notable school of William Forrest, in New York, studied in both the University of New York and Columbia College, and was graduated by the latter in 1839. He entered Princeton Seminary in 1840, and was graduated by that institution in 1843. He took a fourth year course in both the college and seminary. He was licensed by the Presbytery of New York of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. on April 19th, 1842. Toward the end of his seminary course the Rev. R. S. Cook, Secretary of the American Tract Society, brought to his attention certain regions of New Jersey that were in large measure destitute of religious literature and religious privileges, and asked him to go as the agent of the society to those regions to carry the excellent literature of the society to the people. Feeling that this was the call of God for his services and work, he agreed to go. He went traveling, as he himself says in his autobiography, "from the beautiful hills of Sussex, in Warren County, to the sands of Atlantic and Cape May Counties." His heart was drawn out to the people among whom he went, and he felt that this work of

bringing help and hope to them was a blessed one. This was in the years 1844, 1845, and in the summer of 1847. In the winter of 1846-7 he was providentially sent to supply the Presbyterian Church of May's Landing. He undertook the supply with the understanding that he was to resume the work for the Tract Society in the spring. In the autumn of that year, 1847, he returned to May's Landing, and was ordained as evangelist by the Presbytery of West Jersey on January 5th, 1848. He had now entered upon the particular work for which God had fitted him, that of a missionary to take the Gospel of Christ to the neglected villages and towns on the coast that bordered the sandy beaches of New Jersey, to lay foundations of churches, not only in these towns and villages, but also on the beaches that were at that time great stretches of a waste, bleak, sandy desert, with here and there twisted dwarf cedars; to assist the people in their efforts to build houses of worship, and also to stimulate them to obtain better educational facilities for the young people. He was a wise, loving and patient counselor and guide, and little churches sprang up, and schoolhouses were repaired and built; and superior teachers were obtained, some from Princeton College, some from Holyoke Seminary, the compensation of many of them made adequate out of his own funds.

Until 1854 he continued also to supply the church at May's Landing. He was the Missionary of the Presbytery of West Jersey from 1854 to 1862, and was endorsed as Missionary Agent of the Presbytery of Monmouth in September, 1861. In 1862 he became stated supply of May's Landing and Tuckahoe, and continued until 1872, excepting the year 1864. In the early part of his work at May's Landing he was principal of the Parochial School also, and while the Parochial School continued its existence he was deeply interested in its success. He was at the same time deeply interested in Parochial Schools at Estelville, Leeds' Point, Oceanville, Absecon, Somers' Point and Tuckerton. The Synod of New Jersey appointed him Synodical Missionary in 1873. This position he held until the adoption of the plan of Synodical Home Missions in 1887, when he became the Presbyterial Mission-

ary of the Presbyteries of West Jersey and Monmouth. In 1888 he resigned his position as Presbyterial Missionary of Monmouth Presbytery, continuing his work as Presbyterial Missionary of West Jersey Presbytery until 1900, when on account of advanced age he resigned that position.

Numerous churches and church buildings along our sea coast and in the territory adjoining, in what was called "The Pines," are the evidences of his good workmanship, either as founder and builder, or as adviser and helper. Some of these churches are now strong, vigorous, and reaching out the hand of help to others, notably at Atlantic City, where there are five Presbyterian churches, at Cape May City, at Ocean City, Asbury Park, Long Branch, Pleasantville, Had-donfield, Hammonton, Elmer and Woodstown. Others are just beginning their mature life, and the rest are making their way up to maturity. Some will soon reach that point, and all are ministering to the spiritual needs of hundreds and thousands. Some of the church edifices are large and commodious, and in every case the houses of worship are neat and well adapted to their purpose. Parsonages have also been built in many places through his influence, advice and help.

The whole number of churches in New Jersey organized and assisted by Dr. Brown is not less than thirty-five, with a present membership of over four thousand two hundred. No one can tell how much the State owes him for his efforts to obtain for the eastern side of New Jersey, in Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington, Atlantic, and Cape May Counties, better educational opportunities and facilities for the young. In an address made to him at a meeting of the Presbytery of West Jersey in the eightieth year of his life and the fifty-fourth of his connection with the Presbytery, it was said:

"It is not often that a man, brought up in a home of affluence and comfort, with its pleasant refinements, its elevated companionships and its social culture, a man gifted by the Lord with superior mental abilities, cultivated and strengthened by a thorough collegiate and seminary training, turns his back on refinement and culture and ease and wealth, and, catching the sound of a cry from the wilderness,

goes thither and makes his home there, putting up cheerfully and willingly with all deprivations to minister to the inhabitants in their spiritual destitution, and endeavor by his preaching and influence to develop them into a higher life. You came to The Pines, a *terra incognita* at that time to the people of North Jersey, to whom the very name was suggestive of terror and peril and degradation. You carried to the people the blessed word of God, the great refiner of human life; you used your influence and your money, until that money was swept away from you during the period of the Civil War, for their betterment; you brought teachers of culture and refinement to the little schoolhouses scattered through The Pines; you visited the people in their homes and talked with them and read from the sacred Scriptures to them and prayed with them; you stood by them in their hours of sorrow, ministering to them the comforts of the blessed gospel; you went with them to the quiet sleeping place of the dead to lay there the bodies of beloved ones, worn out in life's hard struggle, and pointed the heart-broken mourning ones to the Resurrection and the Life; you have tried to be a true apostle of Christ to the people among whom you chose to cast your lot, and we believe, nay, we know, that through the grace of God you have succeeded. Many a one has risen to call you blessed, many a star shall glisten in your crown in the day when the great Lord, your Christ and our Christ, shall place it on your head."

Dr. Brown conducted also careful and indefatigable researches and inquiries respecting the origin and early history of the churches in South Jersey, and the life and labors of the men who ministered to them. Among his published works are: *A Pioneer in South Jersey, An Outline History of the Presbyterian Church in West or South Jersey, The Character and Employments of the Early Settlers of New Jersey, Historical Sketch of the Synod of New Jersey*, and several minor publications.

He was a member of The Presbyterian Historical Society, and he was a member of its Executive Council until 1907, when the inabilities of old age compelled him to retire. He was also a member of the New Jersey Historical Society. He served for many years as Chairman of the Historical Committee of the Synod of New Jersey, and by his labors and enthusiasm did a great deal to awaken historical interest within the bounds of the Synod. The John Boyd Monument, near Freehold, is due to his interest in the early

history of the Presbyterian Church, and for the sake of preserving the rapidly disappearing tombstone of John Boyd he had it removed to the rooms of The Presbyterian Historical Society, and supported in an oak frame.

Because of his eminence and success as an evangelist of the Church, and because of his great service in rescuing from oblivion the names and work, and toil and sacrifices, of the foundation builders of the Presbyterian Church in South Jersey, the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on him by Princeton University on June 14th, 1905.

He was the first President of the Trustees of the Presbytery of West Jersey, and continued in that office until 1904. He was connected with the Atlantic County Bible Society for more than fifty years, and for many years was its President. He was Moderator of the Synod of New Jersey in 1885, and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of West Jersey from 1852 to 1865.

On August 12th, 1852, he was married to Miss Martha A. Dodge, a graduate of Holyoke, and a highly gifted woman, both intellectually and spiritually. Her work ended before her husband's. She entered the world beyond in 1885. Surviving them are three children, a son and two daughters. Dr. Brown died at Montclair, N. J., on November 5th, 1907. Funeral services were held at the residence of his son, in Montclair, on November 7th, 1907, and his remains were interred at Stamford, Conn.

This memoir may properly close with the Minute adopted by the Council of The Presbyterian Historical Society at their first meeting subsequent to Dr. Brown's death, as follows;

"It is with deep sorrow that this Society is obliged to record the death of Rev. Allen H. Brown, D. D., one of its most faithful, industrious, and zealous members, a preacher of righteousness and mercy for more than sixty years. He was a true Christian, loyal and devoted to his Lord and Master and to the Church of that Lord. As a minister of Christ, he preached the gospel simply, earnestly, lovingly, unfolding its truths so plainly that the humblest could understand, always winning the attention of those to whom he preached.

"In his intercourse with the people he was always kind, courteous, affable, and sympathetic, and won their warm friendship and confidence and love.

“He never forgot the debt we owe to the men of the former times, the men who in those days of poverty and hardship and toil laid the foundations of our Presbyterian Church in South Jersey, the men who walked the rough roads of the early days or rode from hamlet to hamlet, from town to town, on horseback or in wagons, twenty, thirty, forty miles a day, often through swamp and forest, preaching three or four times during the day to the scattered flocks, men of whom the world was not worthy. Nor did he forget the men and women who came together, little bands of earnest Christians, to form congregations for the worship of God and for the maintenance of His honor, and to be centers of spiritual influence in their communities. His researches and investigations into the work and life of those ministers and churches were very careful and painstaking, and he has added much to our knowledge of those early days. He has been one of the elect members, who have ‘considered the days of old, the years of ancient times,’ and felt that he was called upon to tell of God’s doings among the fathers and the mothers in those ancient times, ‘showing to the generations to come the praises of the Lord and His strength and His wonderful works that He hath done.’

“To his family we extend our deepest sympathy in their bereavement, and pray that the God of all grace and compassion will place around them His great arms of love and comfort them as He only can.”