

# FAIRFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Anniversary Celebration – July 3, 1932

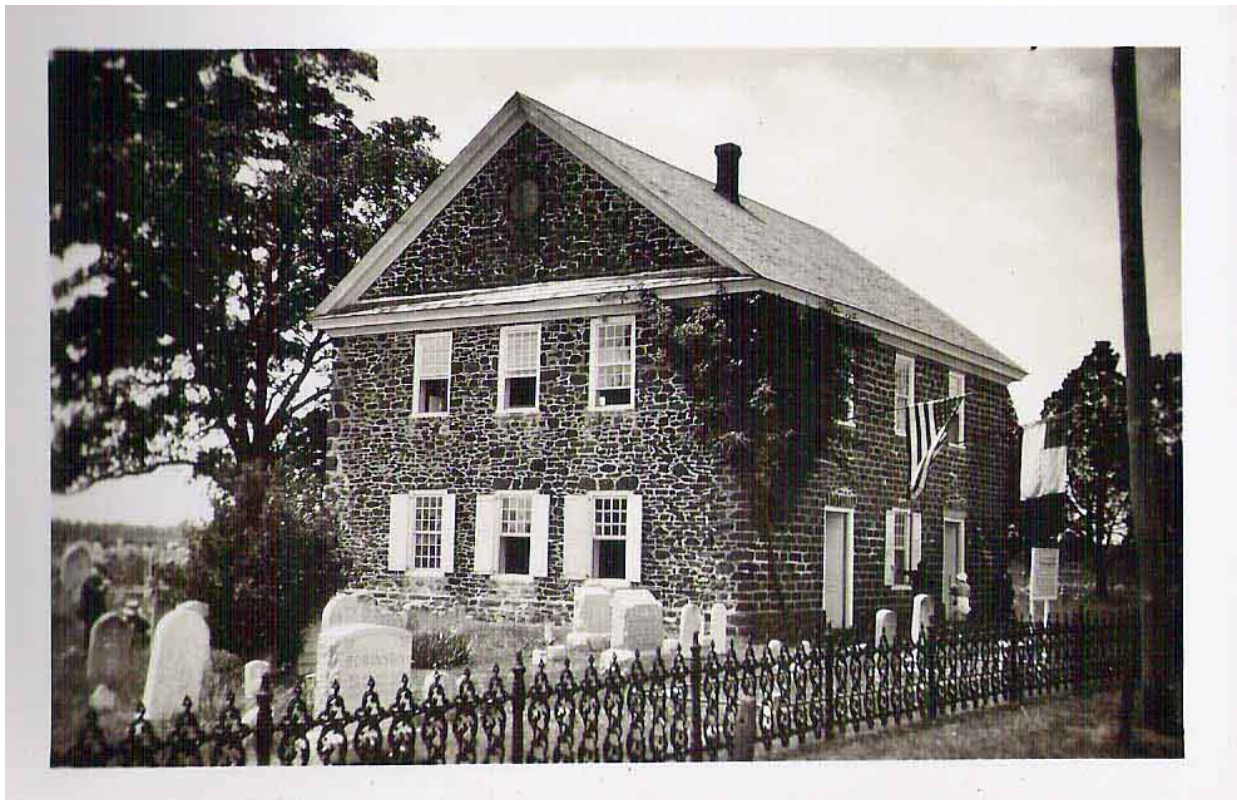
### 152<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Old Stone Church

### 252<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Fairfield Church

Two anniversary dates were frequently celebrated in the history of Fairfield Church, the date for the erection of the Old Stone Church and the date for the organizing of the congregation. Of the two the dates, the Old Stone Church anniversary is the more definite—the church building was clearly put up in the spring and summer of 1780. The founding date of 1680 is more arbitrary as church records prior to 1755 were lost in a fire during that year that burned down the pastor's residence.

Former pastor and church historian, Larry Roff notes, "The exact date of their establishment as a congregation is an elusive detail. It appears that settlers were living here, perhaps as early as 1640. A date in the 1660's would seem more likely. Devout Puritans would never have considered forsaking public worship simply because no church existed in the community. Gathering of the people and erection of a Meeting House would have been one of the first goals of such people. There is no record of church activity until 1692, but it seems impossible to believe that such activity would have been delayed until such a late date. No early document identifies 1680 as the year of organization. Such references do not occur until the late nineteenth century, near the time of the 1880 centennial celebration of the Old Stone Church. One may assume, then, that 1680 was selected as a convenient date marking one hundred years before the building of the Old Stone Church. But such a date is entirely reasonable, if only a convenient guess. If anything, organization may have occurred even before that time. To continue speaking of the Fairfield Presbyterian church as dating from 1680, though not entirely accurate, is certainly permissible."

*The Fairfield Presbyterians, Puritanism in West Jersey from 1680, Pg. 2, Lawrence C. Roff*





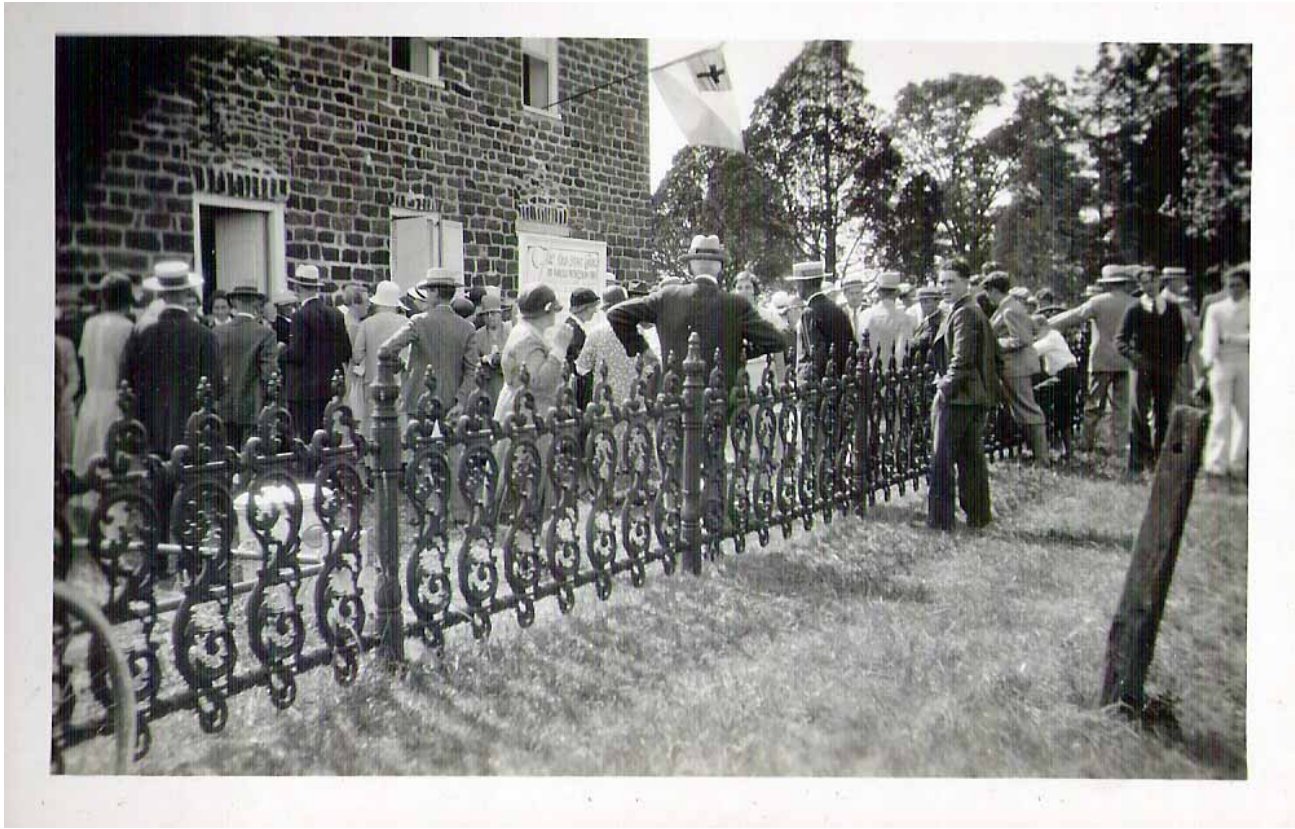
The Rev. Clinton Cook in the Pulpit of the Old Stone Church  
Ushers Thomas Reed and Levi Robbins are below Pastor Cook





L to R. Thomas Reed, Ruell Cook (the pastor's son), Rev. Cook, Levi Robbins





The crowd was a large one,  
In all a blessed day of celebrating God's faithfulness, July 3, 1932.



The view from a farmer's field turned parking lot across Main Street