

## REV. JOHN FORD 1816-1857

Rev. Ford was born in Monroe, near Morristown in 1787. He was a studious young man and prepared for college with the purpose of entering the ministry. He entered the Senior year at Princeton, graduating in 1812. Then he took charge of Bloomfield Academy and continued the study of Theology and Hebrew. He became the pastor here in 1816. He served the Parish over forty years. On the marble tablet to his memory, his words are quoted "Next to God, I love my people". The marble was the top of the communion table, which was used by him during his pastorate.

Rev. Ford prepared many of his young people for college or business and the ministry. The Synod of New York and New Jersey established the African School for five years at Parsippany under his leadership. He was a linguist, proficient in Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and a fluent speaker in French. Periodically he preached to a French Congregation in Newark. He organized Bible Classes and preached in the neighboring communities and prepared and published a Catechism. During the 1830's the Presbyterian Churches were greatly agitated on doctrinal questions. Rev. Ford's convictions were with the New School Movement and he stood firmly with Barnes and Beecher. Note—On one of the papers in the church file it is written—"Be it Resolved that the conduct of the Rev. John Ford in having the ceremony of baptism administered on himself by immersion in a distant place, without the knowledge of his own church secretly, acted unworthy the Christian pastor; setting an example which if followed by others, would destroy Christian confidence in each other, and tend to distract and divide the Church".

Rev. Ford was married twice, Caroline Darcy, his first wife organized the Female Evangelical Society (The Missionary Society) in 1816, with forty-nine charter members. Soon after the Brick Church was built she passed away. Several years later on Sunday morning after the sermon, he invited the Congregation to remain as there would be a wedding. He stepped down from the pulpit and Miss Jane Howell, Treasurer of the Society for over twenty-five years, arose from her pew, walked down the aisle, and a clergyman who sat in the Amen pew performed their wedding ceremony.

Rev. Ford had four daughters, two of whom married Elders of this Church, Mr. William A. Condit, and Mr. John Ogden from whom the Farrand family are descendants.

Outstanding events during Rev. Ford's pastorate may be read in Chapters, "Parish Meeting of March 10, 1828", "The Third Church". "The Second Parsonage", "The Missionary Society", "The Name of the Church" and "The Ode of Dedication".

### PARISH MEETING, MARCH 10, 1828

The Trustees, Stephen Fairchild, President, Hiram Smith, Jr., John O. Condit and William Gladson called a Parish Meeting to take measures to become incorporated under an act of the legislature of New Jersey inaugurated June 12, 1799 for Religious Societies.

1. "The Throne of Grace having been addressed by Rev. John Ford, John Howell was chosen Moderator and Walter Kirkpatrick, Clerk." The Church for seventy-three years had been known as the "Parish of Parsippany". It was voted now to be incorporated under the name "The Second Presbyterian Congregation of Hanover". (Hanover Township).

2. The new Trustees elected were, Tobias Boudinot, President, Henry Harrison, Hiram Smith, Jr., and Stephen Fairchild. Under the Incorporation Act, the Justice of the Peace, Ebenezer Smith administered the oath of office. Each Trustee sub-