

Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference Archives and History
Report to Northeastern Jurisdiction
May 11, 2021

As with everyone else, the pandemic of 2020 disrupted many of our plans. 250th Anniversary celebrations for two churches (Philadelphia: Historic St. George's and Bethel Hills) had to be postponed.

St. George's will be recognizing its milestone this year, however, along with the British Methodist Connection. Celebrations across the Atlantic in Salisbury and Bristol in September will commemorate Asbury's departure for North America and on the weekend of either October 16-17 or 23-24 there will be a series of events in Philadelphia commemorating his arrival.

Along with the rest of our conference we wrestle with the legacy of slavery. We were in contact with the University of Pennsylvania when they determined to remove a statue of George Whitefield in consideration of his active support of the establishment of slavery in Georgia, where he had established an orphanage. We have also obtained a study by Dr. Lawrence Morris confirming that Jacob Albright did not hold anyone in slavery, which was a question asked by a student at our conference-related Albright College. This can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/toL8G-JcgNU>.

One aspect of the shutdowns that proved helpful to us was that it provided a window of time during which we were able to make progress on sorting a backlog of conference records that had been unexpectedly delivered to the archives following a consolidation of districts and of district offices. There is still a good way to go, but we have made some headway.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. Mark Young