

Philadelphia, and "ye said Presbyterian Profession of ye township aforesaid; conveying 72 poles of land" (giving boundaries) "for a meeting-house and graveyard, for ye use of ye said Presbyterian Profession of ye township aforesaid," adding:—

"Now this indenture witnesseth by ye said Matthias Rittenhausen and Elizabeth his wife, for and in consideration of one silver half crown current money of England to them in hand paid, by ye said Presbyterian Profession, that they do hereby convey and confirm, etc., etc."

Rev. Dr. Thomas Murphy, in his excellent work called "The Presbytery of the Log College," published by the Presbyterian Board about three years ago, says:—

"It is certain that in Norriton we have the very first trace of a Presbyterian enterprise within our bounds. A trustworthy tradition affirms that a plot of ground was purchased for a graveyard, forerunner of a church, in the year 1678, no less than twenty-seven years before the founding of the Presbytery. It also appears that a Welshman, named David Evans, was preaching in that region before 1705.

"It comes to light with certainty that in 1714 there was stated preaching in this church by the Rev. Malachi Jones, who at that time became the pastor of Abington. He must, therefore, while pastor of the latter church, have also supplied that of Norriton.

"The church of Providence (or Lower Providence, as it was then named) was founded sixteen years afterward, in 1730; and the strange plan was adopted of holding services in Norriton during the winter season, and in Providence during the summer."

Unfortunately, the written records of the old Norriton church have been long lost; but Dr. Collins, accepting the above statement, regards it as conclusive evidence that the Norriton church had been maintained as a place of worship, for at least thirty or forty years, before the founding of the Providence church.

