

Chambers-Wylie Memorial Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

According to *Hammond's Historical Directory of Presbyterian Churches of Greater Philadelphia*, the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was organized in 1798 by the Reformed Presbyterian Church denomination. Samuel B. Wylie served as its pastor from 1803 to 1852. In 1868, the congregation split. Part continued as First Reformed Presbyterian Church, and part left the Reformed Presbyterian denomination and continued as an independent ministry until 1885, when it united with the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America under the name Wylie Memorial Presbyterian Church. Chambers Church was created when members of Ninth Presbyterian Church affirmed their call to the minister John Chambers and took the name First Independent Church of Philadelphia. Chambers-Wylie Memorial Presbyterian Church was created in 1897 through the uniting of the Wylie Memorial Presbyterian Church and Chambers Church/First Independent Church of Philadelphia. In 1948, a trial merger was proposed between the First, Second, and Chambers-Wylie Memorial Presbyterian Churches in Philadelphia. While First and Second united, after the initial trial period the Chambers-Wylie Memorial Presbyterian Church remained separate. The congregation was dissolved in 2000.

A search of our catalogs shows records of the Chambers-Wylie Presbyterian Church and its predecessors deposited in our holdings, some of which contain genealogical information:

Chambers-Wylie Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pa. Records, 1789-1939. 4.50 cubic feet, includes minutes, register, baptisms, manuals, and financial records. (Call Number: Archives 95 1027).

First Reformed Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pa. Records, 1858-1905. Includes session minutes, 1868-1905, and trustees records, (Call number: Archives 03 1127m).

Chambers-Wylie Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pa. Records, 1977-2000. Includes; Session minutes, 1990-1996, Church Register including Baptisms, 1977-2000, and Marriages, 1978-1998, Trustees minutes, 1986-1991. (Call number: Archives 06 0721a).

The society holds the follow records on microfilm which may contain genealogical information:

Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. Presbytery and congregation records microform. reel.2 includes, Philadelphia, Pa. First Reformed Presbyterian Church, 1833-1952. Call number: MF POS. 423 r.1-3.

When the Chambers-Wylie Memorial Presbyterian Church was dissolved in 2000, the records became the property of the Presbytery of Philadelphia. You may contact them directly to discover what records they may have:

Bruce Barstow, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Philadelphia
915 E. Gowen Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19150
(215) 242-1400
FAX: (215) 242-1444
E-mail: office@presbyphl.org

The Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) has microfilmed the First Reformed Presbyterian Church's records, and they are available through the Family History Centers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. To use the microfilm, you may visit their website, www.familysearch.com, and search for a center near you.

It is the policy of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to restrict access to all official records on deposit at the Presbyterian Historical Society that are less than 50 years old. This restriction applies at the national, middle governing body, and congregation level. We administer this restriction in order to protect the rights and privacy of the records' creators/owners and the privacy rights of the individuals mentioned in the records. If researchers want to access official records less than 50 years old, we require that they secure written permission from the records' owners.

Note that the society also holds publications, treasurer's records, correspondence, charters, photographs and miscellaneous records for Chambers-Wylie Memorial Presbyterian Church and predecessors, which do not contain genealogical information.

Sources:

Hammonds, Kenneth A. *Historical Directory of Presbyterian Churches and Presbyteries of Greater Philadelphia : Related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Its Antecedents, 1690-1990*. Philadelphia, PA: Presbyterian Historical Society, 1993.

LHG 12/2009

Presbyterian Historical Society
425 Lombard St.
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215-627-1852
<http://www.history.pcusa.org>