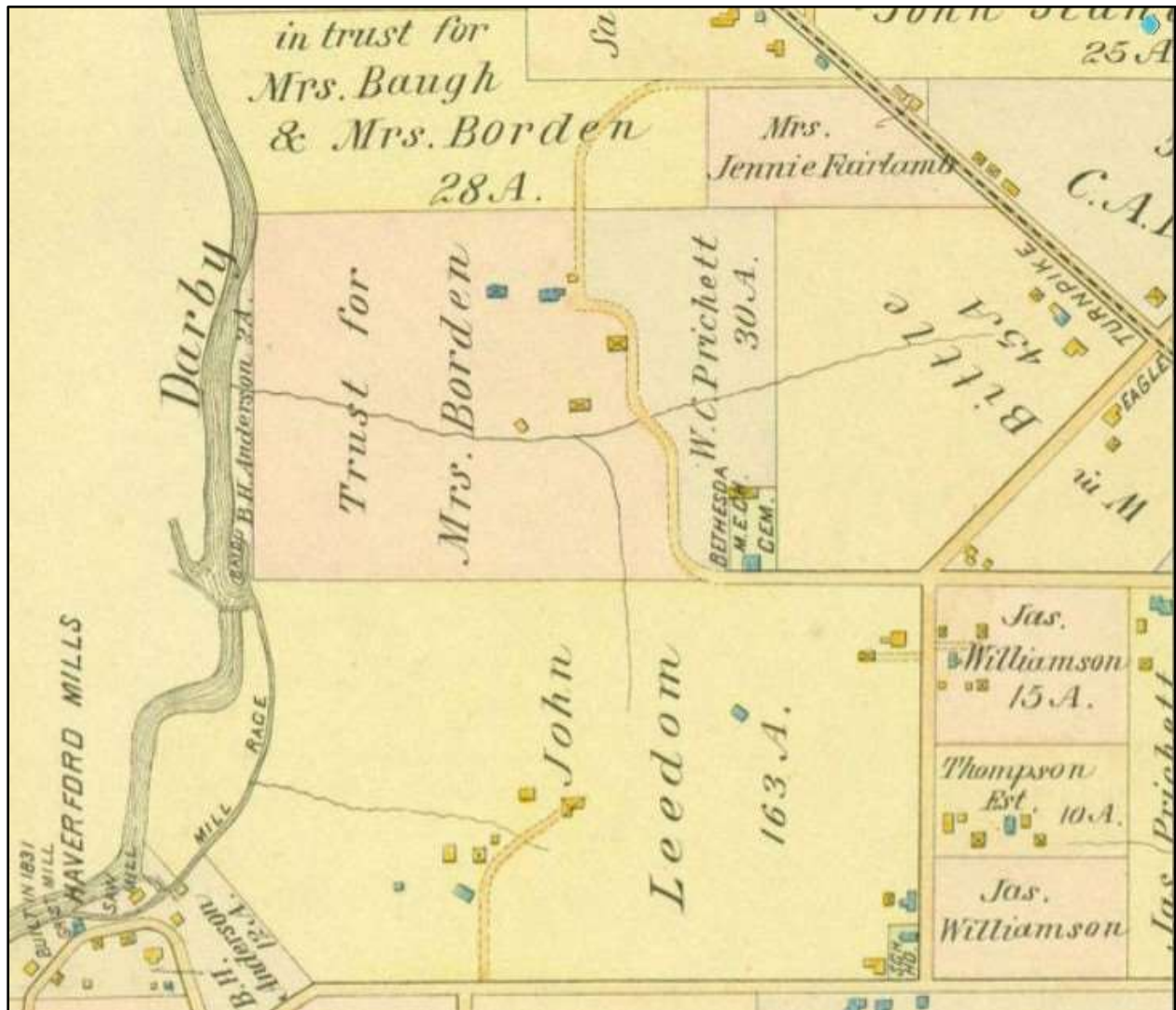




BETHESDA CHURCH AND SURROUNDINGS IN HAVERFORD

By Richard D. Kerr

[The following text is excerpted from *Rural Pennsylvania in the Vicinity of Philadelphia* by Rev. S. F. (Samuel Fitch) Hotchkin, M. A., published in 1897 by George W. Jenkins & Co. in Philadelphia, with additional comments in square brackets.]



Bethesda M. E. Church and its surroundings, as described below, as seen in an 1897 atlas map detail.

On the Leedom's Mill Road [now Manoa Road southwest of West Chester Pike], near Manoa, lives John Leedom, on the Lewis Davis farm, which was purchased by Joseph B. Leedom, his father. The pleasant mansion was erected in 1878. The farm around Bethesda Church now belongs [1897] to Mrs. Borden

and William Prichett. It was formerly owned by Mrs. Delaney, the great-grandmother of Mrs. Borden. Mrs. Lydia Delaney gave the land on which Bethesda Church stands, and she is buried in the churchyard. Mrs. Mary McClure, the mother of Mrs. Thomas Prichett, lies next to her own mother, Mrs. Delaney, and her marble shaft contains the blessed words, "Looking unto Jesus." John F. Taylor's monument is near. John Gracey, who was a leader in the parish, is buried under the church's shadow. Bushrod, Horton, and Alexander Kimball, his brothers-in-law, were co-workers with him.

Rev. Mr. Hartman is the pastor of the church. Bethesda Methodist Episcopal Church dates its organization in A. D. 1831, when Rev. William Crider was pastor. The building arose in 1832, and it was much enlarged in 1871. The above date may refer to the first building. The inscription on the church states that it was built in 1862, and rebuilt in 1871. A beautiful avenue of maple trees runs along the church lane from Leedom's Mill Road. The old Delaney mansion rises in quiet and dignified stateliness beyond the church, reminding the beholder of old times.

Mrs. Borden's mother, Mrs. Thomas Prichett, gave an addition to the church land. The Flounders farm joined the Delaney place. George Williamson's farm is opposite that of John Leedom, and James Prichett's place lies between that property and Manoa Post-office.

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