

# LONG CANE CHURCH

A short, historical sketch of Upper Long Cane Church, compiled by A. T. Mellwain and read before the Abbeville County Missionary Institute, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 1919.

In the year 1756 the first Presbyterian settlement was made in what is now Abbeville County, and in 1758 there were 20 or 30 families of Presbyterians in this settlement, and it was their purpose to organize a Presbyterian Church but they were not successful in this as they were surrounded by many dangers, at one time they were attacked by the Cherokee Indians who killed 22 persons and carried away 14 prisoners.

About 1763 this station was visited occasionally by different ministers who preached to them under a tree or in some log cabin. In fact, the first houses of worship were log cabins. In 1768 the Rev. Mr. McCreary was called to supply these congregations, but they did not succeed at this time in forming a permanent organization.

At that time there were five missionary stations or associations, and from 1770 until 1772 they were supplied occasionally by ministers sent down by the Synod of New York and Philadelphia. About 1772 Rev. John Harris was sent by the Presbytery of Orange to supply the stations which he did very acceptably until 1779, when he was released because of bodily infirmities.

Soon after the Revolutionary war the people organized four congregations, Upper Long Cane, Lower Long Cane, (afterward changed to Hope-well), Bull Town, (changed to Rocky River) and Saluda (changed to Greenville, now called Greenvale.) In 1784 Saluda and Upper Long Cane sent commissions to Orange Presbytery to ask for supplies. They succeeded in securing the services of the Rev. Robert Hall, who supplied these churches during the summer.

In the fall of 1785 he was installed pastor and served until 1791. The Elders of the church at this time were, Andrew Pickens, John McCord, Andrew Hamilton, Hugh Reid and Edward Pharr. After this, these churches were vacant about two

years when the Rev. Robert Wilson accepted calls to both churches and served them as pastor until 1797, when he was dismissed from the pastoral care of both churches because of financial troubles. He then accepted a call to Upper Long Cane for three-fourths of his time and served until 1805.

During the interval between 1805 and 1809 the church was supplied occasionally by different ministers, among whom are mentioned, the Rev. Dr. Montgomery and the Rev. Thos. Williamson.

In 1809 Rev. W. H. Barr received and accepted a call and was installed pastor of Long Cane Church on the 27th day of Dec. 1809, the number of communicants at this time was about 120.

In 1813 the building of a new house of worship was commenced, which was probably not completed until 1817. This is a long time compared with the way buildings are erected now, but we are told that all of the framing was hewn out by hand and that the flooring, ceiling and weather-boarding was sawed by hand. Probably this building is the one mentioned, if so the frame of the present building is about one hundred years old.

Rev. W. H. Barr, D. D., died on the 9th day of January, 1843, having served as pastor most acceptably for 33 years. He was buried in the cemetery nearby. A monument stands there to his memory. We are not told who erected it.

The old records of the church were lost or probably destroyed, therefore, we do not know who the officers were at this time. The property of the church was in charge of a board of trustees, who at this time were, William Leslie, George Bowie, Hugh Reid, Matthew Wilson and James Wardlaw.

In Sept. 1843 the Rev. D. McNeill Turner, D. D., was installed pastor and served until Jan. 1852. During the vacancy which followed the church was supplied by the Rev. A. D. Montgomery and the Rev. Robert Logan. In May, 1855 the Rev. Thomas A. Hoyt was installed pastor and

served until Oct. 1859. After this the church was vacant one year, when in October 1860, Dr. Turner was again called and installed pastor and served until May, 1868. About this time the Abbeville church was organized. The membership was 230 white, and 115 colored. Total 350. Sixty of the white members were dismissed to unite with the Abbeville church. Others were dismissed from time to time and the colored people, having quit attending, there were left about 130 names on the roll at Long Cane. The Elders who remained were, Leroy C. Wilson and William Gordon, Deacons, James C. Stevenson, R. W. Crawford and A. E. Leslie.

In the fall of 1868 the Rev. J. O. Lindsay, D. D., was installed pastor and served until April 1873. The Rev. W. F. Pearson then supplied the pulpit for six months, when he was called and installed pastor in October, 1874. He resigned in Oct. 1892.

In 1884, during Mr. Pearson's pastorate, the centennial of this church was celebrated. The Rev. B. M. Palmer, D. D., had been invited to preach the centennial sermon, and on the day appointed a large crowd assembled in the grove nearby, where a stand had been erected and seats provided for more than 1,000 people. After a few preliminary remarks by the pastor the opening prayer was offered by the Rev. J. L. Martin of the Abbeville Church.

A Historical Sketch, prepared by W. A. Templeton at the request of the pastor, was read by him. Dr. Palmer then read the 47th chapter of Ezekiel and took for his text the last clause of the 9th verse of this chapter, "and every thing shall live whither the river cometh."

The record states that "for one hour and three quarters he held that vast audience, even the grove, spell-bound to the close of his sermon."

The closing prayer was offered by the Rev. H. T. Sloan of the A. R. P. church and the Rev. J. O. Lindsay, D. D., pronounced the benediction, which closed the centennial services.

In Nov. 1893, the Rev. S. L. Wilson was installed pastor and served until Aug. 1896. He was succeeded

by the Rev. J. F. McKinnon in January, 1897, who served until December, 1902. The Rev. J. C. Shive was pastor from June 1903 until July, 1907. During Mr. Shive's pastorate, the Rev. Charles Friend supplied the pulpit for a few months, during the pastors absence. The Rev. F. W. Gregg was pastor from October, 1907 until June, 1909.

Rev. R. E. Telford was installed in December, 1909 and served until August, 1915. After this the church was vacant about one year, during which time the pulpit was supplied by different ministers, but most of the time by the Rev. H. D. Corbett, who was a student in the graduating class in Columbia Theological Seminary, at which time he received and accepted a call and was installed pastor in July 1916.

This pastorate still continues and the church is prospering under his ministry, the membership at this time is 315.

It has been suggested that in connection with this sketch of the church something should be said about the cemetery. We have no history of the cemetery, but it is thought that a graveyard was started here before the church building was erected, and doubtless this determined the location of the church, and probably it was used as a burying ground soon after the Revolutionary war.

Originally the cemetery was under the care of the trustees of the church. In 1896 the property of the cemetery was, by the vote of the congregation, transferred to the Upper Long Cane and Abbeville Cemetery Associations "to remain under their control as long as the cemetery be kept in good and slightly condition or until the dissolution of the Associations, when its care shall be assumed by the trustees."

Under the care of these associations it was put in good condition, as substantial fence was put around it, additional land was secured, a house was erected and a sexton employed.

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to do is to have young trees a little larger than a pencil. Any kind of apple seed will do to plant to grow these trees, which should be planted during the fall.

Any time until the 15th of March, these trees can be grafted. Cut the little trees off about six inches above the ground, pulling the knife upward and making a smooth slope or slant about one and one-half inches

long. Split straight down the pith for about an inch. Then take a limb of the current year's growth from any tree of a good variety, and cut just the reverse of the above, so that the two pieces will fit together. It would take a picture to show exactly how that is done. Wrap this well with grass or wax card. In two years the trees are ready to plant in the orchard.

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