

History of Retreat Presbyterian Church.

(The following very interesting paper, prepared by John W. Shelor, at the request of Piedmont Presbytery, giving the history of one of the oldest Presbyterian churches in this part of the State, will prove interesting and of value to many of our readers. We are glad to be able to give this article to the public as worthy of preservation as an important part of Oconee's history.—Ed. Keowee Courier.)

To Rev. Wm. H. Mills, Historian of Piedmont Presbytery: In accordance with the requirements of Piedmont Presbytery to furnish an historical sketch of Retreat church, I cheerfully submit the following facts:

Tradition says that in the year 1804 Rev. Andrew Brown, a Presbyterian minister, did the first missionary work in Pickens District, now known as Oconee county, and preached in a log house near Mrs. Ward's, on the road leading from Westminster to Oakway, about two miles from Westminster post office. The house was forcibly taken possession of by one who was banished from his home in a neighboring district, and services were held in private houses until one John Oliver Green donated seven acres of land for a Presbyterian church on the site where the Old Westminster Baptist church now stands. A house was built on the grounds and Mr. Brown supplied the congregation for some time, and finally moved to Alabama and died about the year 1820. Mr. —, —, Russell and William Dickson, the father of Andrew, David and Simpson Dickson, served as elders and kept the organization alive. John Verner, the forefather of the Verner family; John Ferguson and Asa Smithson, the father of David Smithson, were members.

On the 6th of March, 1836, Leonard Towers, Josiah Perkins and James Johns, Sr., the father of Dr. James and Samuel H. Johns, "did voluntarily and freely give a plot of land jointly, on branch of Choctaw Creek, waters of Tugaloo River, on the Pendleton road," amount of ground not stated, "for the purpose of building a meeting house thereon to encourage and promote the Christian religion, and the ministers of the Gospel of Christ that are of regular standing in their own society are made welcome to preach in said house, and also to be occupied as a Sunday school house." It is not definitely known when the house was built, but in 1844 there was an old house in which worship was conducted. We find no written record of services in the church, but Mrs. Emily C. S. Verner, the only survivor of the original members of the organization, says that in that year the Rev. Joseph Hillhouse supplied the church for two years, and was in turn followed by his son, Joseph B., for two more years, during which time he taught a school nearby. At this time the house was old and the pulpit was very high, approached by a flight of steps enclosed with a door, and nearby was the communion table, which were always used in the communion service. We cannot ascertain whether "tokens" were ever used in this church or no. Rev. Wm. McWhorter served the church from time to time until 1857, when the regular organization of the present church was effected. Leonard Towers, James Johns, Sr., and Dr. T. S. Miller gave and added to the lot above spoken of, for a Presbyterian church to the amount of four acres, on which the present house was built and the cemetery located, and Leonard Towers, Joseph R. Shelor and Ebenezer P. Verner were named as trustees. The church was regularly incorporated under the laws of the State as an Old School Presbyterian Church on the 8th day of December, 1858. Many churches of the different denominations all over the State were included in the Act.

After the removal of Mr. Brown we have been unable to find any records of any service in this community.

In the year 1834 Dr. Howe, in his History of Presbyterianism in South Carolina, says: "The Westminster church was organized by Rev. Benjamin D. Dupree with 22 members, and was supplied consecutively by him until A. D. 1839, and by his wisdom and executive ability and the divine grace of God increased her membership to 44, but, dissensions arising within, and on account of a close proximity to Richland church, her name was dropped from the roll of South Carolina Presbytery." In the year 1841 a majority of her members united with Richland church, which was also organized by Mr. Dupree, and was the mother church of Retreat.

On the 5th day of April, 1851, the following members, mostly from Richland church, were organized into Retreat church, by the Rev. Wm. McWhorter by consent of South Carolina Presbytery, viz.: John Verner and wife, Rebecca Verner; Simpson Dickson and wife, Sabret Dickson; Mrs. Violet Smithson, Mrs. Sarah Towers, Mrs. Kirtel Lee, Miss Margaret Fullerton, Miss Louisa Fullerton, Samuel J. Verner and wife, Melinda Verner; Joseph R. Shelor and wife, Rebecca Shelor; James Brownlee and wife; Lemuel H. Verner, Miss Hepsy Terrell, Mrs. Mary Baldwin and Mrs. Emily C. S. Verner. Simpson Dickson was re-elected an elder, L. H. Verner was also elected an elder, and S. J. Verner was elected a deacon. The above constituted the organization of the church.

This house we now worship in was built in the year 1855. Messrs. Wm. and Thos. Bibb, both now living in Westminster, were the architects, and Elder Ebenezer P. Verner was chairman of the building committee. The original cost was about \$1,250, and the building is well preserved at this time owing to the hue material used and the excellent workmanship in its construction.

The original record book having been lost, we have no authentic record until 1856, when Rev. Wm. P. Greedy, from Charleston Presbytery, served the church until the fall of 1860, and was followed by the Rev. Wm. McWhorter, who served the church faithfully until 1868. Rev. J. O. Lindsey, D. D., of the Associate Reform church, supplied the church for one year. Then followed Dr. McNeil Turner, who remained one year with us, and then Rev. Ezekiel F. Hyde supplied the church until the fall of 1873, when Rev. Wm. McWhorter supplied the church until April 1st, 1878. The records are very meagre from 1860 up to this date and many points of interest are unrecorded.

On April 1st, 1878, Rev. Hugh Strong, assisted by Rev. J. R. Riley, supplied the church and labored with us until the 29th of March, 1885, when he was summoned to worship with his fathers. He was a faithful and consecrated minister, and was much loved by his people. During the summer of 1885 Wm. G. McDonald, a theological student of the Presbytery of Eastern Texas, supplied the church.

On the 6th of September, 1885, a call was made for the pastoral services of Rev. Robt. McK. Kirkpatrick, of North Alabama Presbytery. The call was accepted by him, and he was installed as the first pastor of the church on the 29th of May, 1886. This most successful pastorate was terminated by his death on August 6, 1888. He was a most Godly man and loved by all who knew him. From this time regular service was held by the elders until, in May, 1889, we secured the service of W. O. Groce, a student from the seminary, for the summer months. In 1890 Licentiate J. E. Mebane, of Mecklenburg Presbytery, (North Carolina), supplied the church until November 1st, when Rev. J. L. Cook, evangelist of South Carolina Presbytery, labored with us until February 1st, 1891. On June 1st we secured the services of Licentiate W. D. Brannen, of Enoree Presbytery, who remained about six months with us.

On May 17, 1892, Licentiate Newton Smith, of Enoree Presbytery, began his labors here and served the church one year as stated supply, and on April 30, 1893, was installed pastor of the church, and continued in that capacity until February 2, 1896, when the pastoral relations were severed and he removed to North Alabama Presbytery.

On the 13th of May, 1896, the church secured the services of Rev. W. T. Matthews as stated supply, who remained with us until November 1st, 1897, when he accepted the chancellorship of the Presbyterian College of South Carolina. We reluctantly accepted his resignation, but there was virtually an agreement that his service would terminate with the improvement of his health.

The church services were conducted regularly by the elders until April 1st, 1898, when we secured Licentiate Jos. T. Dendy for four months during his summer vacation at the seminary.

On April 20, 1899, Rev. S. L. Wilson began his work with us and remained with us until July 1st 1901, and was regularly dismissed to Arlington, Va., by Presbytery. On August 1st Rev. S. P. Verner supplied the church until he was called, in November, to take part in the work of Tuscaloosa Institute.

On the 1st of April, 1902, Rev. J. C. Shive began his work as stated supply, but in October of that year, the health of his wife giving away,

he carried her to Hot Springs and remained until June 1st. The church was closed during his absence on account of the physical inability of the writer of this sketch to attend to such duties for six months. After Mr. Shive's return he served us faithfully until he was called to another field in the Presbytery in September, 1903.

Another vacancy occurred until March 6th, 1904, when Rev. J. J. Harrell came to our relief. A call for his pastoral services for one-fourth of his time was made at the April meeting of Presbytery at Hodges and accepted by him. He was regularly installed as pastor on the first Sabbath in July. Rev. John G. Law preached and propounded the constitutional questions, Rev. W. S. Hamiter charged the pastor, and Elder John W. Todd charged the people. His services were attended with much good, but the pleasant relations were severed on November 1st, 1908, by his resignation, which was reluctantly accepted and approved by Presbytery.

The church was vacant again until April 1, 1909, when a call was made out for Rev. M. E. Peabody for one-fourth of his time and accepted by him in Presbytery at Easley. In July he was regularly installed as pastor. Rev. John G. Law, D. D., again was called upon to install him. Dr. Law preached the sermon, propounded the constitutional questions and charged the pastor; Elder M. S. Stribbling charged the people.

This present pastor brings us to this date, and it affords the writer much pleasure to say this church has been most signally blessed in securing such an able and consecrated ministry as we have recorded here, and we give all the praise to God, who has so abundantly blessed our church.

We now revert to the eldership. At the organization of the church we find Simpson Dickson and L. H. Verner, the only elders mentioned, but at the first recorded meeting of the session there are present Simpson Dickson, L. H. Verner, Wm. Steele and Patrick J. Miller. We will not attempt to explain these irregular records, but pass them by in the most charitable way. In August, 1856, E. P. Verner was elected, ordained and installed an elder.

In 1870 Elders Wm. Steele and Patrick Miller were regularly dismissed by letter, and David E. Smithson was duly elected and installed as elder. In June, 1876, Samuel H. Johns and B. H. Cross were duly elected and installed elders. In May, 1878, Elder Simpson Dickson passed to his reward.

John W. Shelor was elected to the eldership on the 6th of June, 1881, and regularly installed. Elder B. H. Cross was dismissed to Westminster church to take part in the organization of that church in June, 1881. Elder E. P. Verner was called to worship with his fathers on the 27th of June, 1891. Wm. H. Sheldon, Samuel Hunter and James A. Wylie were elected elders on the 21st of April, 1895, and properly inducted into office.

On the 2d of February, 1896, Elder David E. Smithson passed to his reward. He was faithful to his duties and was never absent from church whilst able to go. Elder Samuel H. Johns was dismissed to Westminster church in 1896. Elder Samuel Hunter died at the home of his daughter in Florida on the 17th of November, 1906. Elder L. H. Verner departed this life on November 5, 1908. He was the founder and one of the original members of the church. He was zealous, of good works, and a faithful witness for Christ. Elders C. H. Miller and N. S. Dickson were elected and installed on December 4th, 1904, and Elder Miller was dismissed to Westminster church in 1908. The board of elders consists of John W. Shelor, C. S., J. A. Wylie and N. S. Dickson.

Next in order come the deacons. Samuel J. Verner was elected deacon at the organization and died in the year 1864. He was a faithful officer. I can glean very little information of Deacons L. D. Boldin and Bratton Dickson. The record does not show when and where they were dismissed. Both were men of high moral qualities and are spoken of well by those who knew them. Sloan Dickson was elected in 1870 a deacon and dismissed to Westminster church to take part in the organization of that church. Wm. H. Sheldon was elected deacon in 1870 and advanced to the eldership in 1895. Wm. L. Verner was duly elected and installed deacon on June 5th, 1881, and regularly dismissed to Walhalla church. Clifton H. Miller, on the 5th day of June, 1881, was elected deacon and was a most efficient officer as treasurer of the board of deacons, and on December 4, 1904, was called by the church to fill the office of ruling elder, and was regularly dismissed to Westminster church. On April 21, 1895, James A. Dickson, D. Payson

Verner and Charles F. Blakeley were duly elected and installed deacons. James Dickson moved with his family to Oklahoma and was regularly dismissed by letter to the Presbyterian church wherever God in his providence called him. On February 14, 1908, D. Payson Verner was suddenly called from his earthly labors to worship with his fathers, and then, on the 20th of August, 1909, Charles F. Blakeley, after an illness of a few days, was called to meet his brother deacon who had gone on a short time before, thus emphasizing the importance of the divine injunction, "Be ye ready, for ye know not the day nor the hour when the Master calleth for thee." On December 4, 1904, D. Ryland Shelor and Stephen Hunter were duly elected deacons and they constitute the board of deacons at this time.

During the pastorate of Rev. R. M. Kirkpatrick Retreat and Westminster determined to build a manse for the pastor. W. J. Stribbling generously gave the building lot, and then, by private subscription, enough money was raised to put up the house. Retreat bearing the major part of the cost, but afterwards Westminster, as she developed her strength, bore her full share of one-half interest. The house was built first on — street, some distance from the church, and in the course of events it was deemed wise to exchange for an improved lot and building adjoining the church, which was more convenient for the pastor.

In the progress of time many changes have occurred. Westminster has grown strong and Retreat has become weak by the constant removal and dismissal of her members to the Westminster church. For this cause, and to secure pastoral service for the venerable and aged church, and at the same time not to be dependent upon Presbytery for help, Retreat determined to sell her half interest to the Westminster church upon conditions that Westminster should not interfere with the group established by Presbytery until the exhaustion of the amount promised for her one-half interest of the manse. This arrangement will redound to the interest of both churches and will secure to Retreat the preached word for several years.

The church consists now of 35 members, including three elders and two deacons. Two families have recently moved to Westminster to educate their children, which lessens the future prospects of the church. Other families in the near future will move from her bounds, still reducing her numbers, and whilst it is sad to see her walls deserted and her pews vacant, God has promised to be with the few who are faithful to him and will grant many blessings to those who worship Him in the spirit of righteousness and truth.

I have now discharged a pleasant duty imposed upon me by Presbytery. I have not attempted to enlarge or make this paper verbose, but simply confined myself to facts. This duty performed is the labor of love I cheerfully give to my dear old church, and in its probability will be my last work of service to her. I have spent many pleasant days within her walls:—

"I love Thy church, O God! her walls before Thee stand;
For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given till toils and cares shall end."
Soon I shall bid farewell to her and the many happy scenes of my youth and cast my lot with new Presbyterian friends and will endeavor to spend the remainder of my days profitably to myself and a light to others to guide them in the way of eternal life.

John W. Shelor, C. S.

When a cold becomes settled in the system, it will take several days' remedy to cure it, and the best remedy to use is Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It will cure quicker than any other, and also leaves the system in a natural and healthy condition. Sold by Seneca Pharmacy; L. C. Martin, Clemson College.

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HON. J. M. SULLIVAN IS DEAD.
Passed Away in Columbia, Succumbing to Attack of Paralysis.
(Columbia Record, Nov. 2.)
Hon. James Mattison Sullivan, of the South Carolina Railroad Commission, died this morning at 9 o'clock at his home in this city of paralysis, with which he was stricken October 17th. Mr. Sullivan was 55 years old. He had done faithful, intelligent service for his city, his county and his State, and throughout his career had shown that his ideal of a public official's duty was unusually high.

It had been realized from the first that Mr. Sullivan's illness was serious. Hope of recovery was held, however, and in the last two or three days there had been some improvement in his condition. Toward the last he lapsed into unconsciousness. Gathered at the residence when the end came were Mrs. Sullivan, her sisters, the Misses Vance and Jessie DuBose, of Atlanta; G. C. Sullivan, J. M. Sullivan, Jr., Jacob W. Sullivan, and Miss Alethea Sullivan, of Anderson, with the three youngest children, Vance, Jessie and an infant. One daughter, Mrs. Nina Sullivan Smathers, wife of Dr. Smathers, of Anderson, was ill and unable to come to Columbia. Two of Mr. Sullivan's brothers, N. B. and W. W. Sullivan, of Anderson, were here Sunday, but had gone home, believing the patient would recover.

Sketch of His Life.
James Mattison Sullivan was born at Anderson, September 8, 1855. He was a son of Capt. N. K. and Emily Sullivan. His father was one of the pioneer merchants of the Piedmont and a prominent business man in Anderson, Pendleton, Walhalla and Pickens, and served with distinction in Orr's Regiment from the beginning to the end of the War Between the States. At the close of the war Capt. Sullivan began business in Anderson and was so occupied at the time of his death, in 1881.

James M. Sullivan was educated in the common schools of his native county and was for several years a student of Prof. W. J. Ligon, one of the most successful teachers of his day. He also had the advantages of a brief collegiate course at Davidson College, North Carolina, where, owing to want of funds, he could not remain to graduate.

At the age of 19 Mr. Sullivan began the mercantile business in Anderson, which vocation he pursued uninterruptedly until 1897, when he retired, having built up and established, with his brothers, a large trade in hardware and machinery. The firm, the Sullivan Hardware Company, was recognized as one of the largest and most successful of its kind in the State.

Mr. Sullivan held no public office until his election as a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1895. The following year he was elected to the House of Representatives. He served one term in this body and in the succeeding election he was chosen, without opposition, State Senator, serving as such the full term of four years.

He declined to allow the use of his name for re-election and was at once elected mayor of Anderson. He held this office for two consecutive terms, retiring in August, 1906. For two years after retiring from the mayoralty, Mr. Sullivan was agent at Anderson for the Charleston and Western Carolina Railroad.

Less than a week previous to the opening of the State campaign in June, 1906, he announced himself a candidate for Railroad Commissioner in the Democratic primary. Although the fifth and last man to enter the race, Mr. Sullivan was nominated by a handsome majority and subsequently elected, and served as a member of the Commission up to his death.

Mr. Sullivan was married May 16, 1877, to Miss Mary A. Wannamaker, of Orangeburg, who died some years ago, leaving five children. Mr. Sullivan's second marriage was to Miss Harriet DuBose, of Atlanta, who survives him, with three children. The family residence was removed to Columbia in September, 1909.

Law as to Succession.
Mr. Sullivan's unexpired term will be filled by a commissioner, the appointment of whom is now devolved by law upon Governor M. F. Ansel. Mr. Sullivan was elected four years ago and would have remained in office for two years and about two months longer, the term being six years.

1,000 Bales Sold at 17 3/4.
New Orleans, Nov. 3.—A New Orleans cotton firm yesterday paid 17 3/4 cents a pound for one thousand bales of cotton produced on the State convict farms in Mississippi. The deal involves more than \$90,000, and is the highest price recorded for spot cotton this season. The Mississippi Delta cotton is more valuable than the ordinary short staple cotton.

SCHOOL LIBRARY GETS A LIFT.
Thirty Volumes Donated by the Boston Lend-a-Hand Society.

The Walhalla Graded School has received a valuable addition to its library in the form of a donation. The gift was made by the Lend-a-Hand Society of Boston, through its president, Miss Sarah Brigham. The volumes are:
Playtime Stories and Pictures.
Fireside Stories for Little People.
Our Darling.
Joe's Jack O'Lantern.
The Orchard Camp.
Miss Chick's Turkey.
Little Sunshine's Holiday. Mullock.
The Jolly Rover. Trowbridge.
A Start in Life. Trowbridge.
The Pocket Rifle. Trowbridge.
Green Mountain Boys. Thompson.
Black Rock. Connor.
Under the Liberty Tree. Otis.
When Israel Putnam Served the King. Otis.
Aunt Martha's Corner Cupboard. Kirby.
George Washington. Scudder.
Black Beauty. Sewell.
Swiss Family Robinson. Wyls.
Robinson Crusoe. Defoe.
Beautiful Joe. Saunders.
Queen Elizabeth. Abbott.
William, the Conqueror. Abbott.
Mary, Queen of Scots. Abbott.
Little Prudy. May.
Captain Horace. May.
Cousin Grace. May.
Story Book. May.
Dotty Dimple. May.
Sister Susy. May.
Friends and Helpers. Eddy.

Many school children suffer from constipation, which is often the cause of seeming stupidity at lessons. Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets are an ideal medicine to give a child, for they are mild and gentle in their effect, and will cure even chronic constipation. Sold by Dr. J. W. Bell, Walhalla; C. W. Wickliffe, West Union.

MACON PAPER BURNED OUT.
Linotype Operator, Raymond Clay, Cremated—Loss \$100,000.

Macon, Ga., Nov. 3.—Fire breaking out in the rear of the building at 6 o'clock this evening destroyed the plant of the Macon Telegraph, carrying with it some of the files of the paper nearly a hundred years old. Raymond Clay, a linotype operator, lost his life in the fire. His body, discovered at 7:30 o'clock, was lying in a closet, where he had gone, apparently in an effort to escape. He was here only a week, coming from Knoxville and Atlanta. He was said to have been unacquainted with the building, and lost his life in a futile attempt to get out. Other operators in the make-up rooms were forced out rapidly, and no one thought to look for the man in the excitement. In the effort to locate him, fellow machine men went back into the smoking ruins and found his body burned almost beyond recognition. He was past assistance when found. He was a young man and unmarried.

The entire force of the paper was driven from their posts of duty, hardly realizing how rapidly the fire was spreading. The loss will be close to \$100,000. The building was a two-story structure and well insured.

The blaze came from waste paper in the distributing room in the rear. From the start the fire shot upward, fanned by a high wind, and when the department reached the scene much headway had already been gained.

"My child was burned terribly about the face, neck and chest. I applied Dr. Thomas' Eclectic Oil. The pain ceased and the child sank into a restful sleep."—Mrs. Nancy M. Hanson, Hamburg, N. Y.

T. B. Fraser, Esq., of Sumter, will be a candidate for Associate Justice of the State Supreme Court in case the constitutional amendment providing for an additional justice is adopted.

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