HISTORY OF AHOSKIE BAPTIST **CHURCH**

left the church for some cause. The membership of the Ahos-kie church as reported in 1859 was, white 363 and colored 34.

The first gift by Ahoskie for Home Missions was in 1853. The amount was \$15.00 which was next to the largest gift

made.

The postorate of Rev. John Nowell was noted for the fine laymen in the church, Jesse Barnes was first reported a delegate in 1837. It is said that he and his wife sold their home and farm and gave half the proceeds to Chowan College and half to Wake-Forest College. The farm is now the home place of W. A. Baker on the Aulander highway. Dr. A. Jack



FIFTH SUNDAY SONG SERVICE AT AHOSKIE

a strong man armed and he feared lest he might rise ength and devour him. He expired on the 12th day 1839, in his fifty-sixth year of age. A. J. ASKEW, Chairman."

Thus ends the third pastorate of Ahoskie church-fifty-

CHAPTER II 1860-1889-PERIOD OF WAR AND

1860-1839-PERIOD OF WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

B. D. Williams, 1860-1863
J. M. C. Luke, 1864-1863
John Mitchell, 1869-1871 1886-87
K. R. Savage, 1872-1885
M. T. Williams, 1886-1863
B. B. Williams, 1860-1863
/AR, panics, depressions, etc., may come and go but churches move on. Thus we can truly say of Ahoskie durg the Civil War and the period of reconstruction that followed. Outside conditions do not close churches long, but inside conditions may close them indefinitely.

Rev. B. B. Williams, of Mars Hill in Ber-

definitely.

Rev. B. B. Williams, of Mars Hill in Bertic County, was called to the church as pastor following the death of Rev. John Nowell. When he came to this church the membership was reported as 409. He was with the church 4 years as pastor and left it with 409 members which speaks well for him. He baptized 36 people during his pastorate. Three years of the War had passed and, of course, it was thinning the ranks, making it more difficult to hold the number of members up. Elder Williams served both in the army and as pastor. He

Elder Williams served both in the army and as pastor. He was Lieutenant in Company F, in the 68th N. C. Regiment. He had a deep interest in soldiers. In May 1862, he read his He had a deep interest in soldiers. In May 1862, he read his report on periodicals before the Association and then asked for a collection, which amounted to \$88.00, to pay for Biblical Recorders to distribute among the soldiers. Again at the Association in 1863 he appealed for an offering for the same purpose. This offering amounted to \$332.30, in Confederate money. The pastor's unusual interest in the soldiers may account somewhat for the use of the church grounds and building at times during the war by the soldiers. By the year 1862 conditions were beginning to be hard. This was the only year the church ever failed to be represented at the association. No minute fund was sent with the church letter and many churches failed to send minute fund that year. Elder Williams was an ardent dry. He probably did more during his day to push forward the cause of temperance in the Chowan section than any other preacher. He had a temperance lecture which he called. "The Dark Valley Railroad." This lecture made a deep impression upon many who heard it.

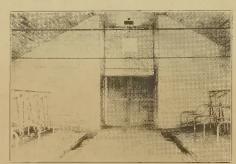
Railroad." This lecture made a deep impression upon many who heard it.

The Ahoskie church was fortunate not only in having a wise pastor as leader for those trying days but in having also some splendid laymen. Dr. A. J. Askew was one of Bertie's outstanding citizens. He was a man of great ability and used his ability for the glory of God. It is said of him that as a physician he never entered an account on a book. He was appointed by his church twenty times as a delegate to the association and was present sixteen times. In 1844 he was elected assistant clerk of the association. He was a liberal supporter of

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