

Along the Way

By Emily Killette

June is the 146th anniversary of the Kenansville Baptist Church, it was established in 1837 as a branch from Beaver Dam Baptist Church in Magnolia, wrote L.A. Beasley in the article "100 Years of the Kenansville Baptist Church" published in the June 14, 1937 issue of the Duplin Times.

America was founded on the basis of religious and educational freedom for all citizens. Even though Baptist were not the first to establish churches and homes in the Duplin area there are now seven Baptist churches within the county more than 100 years old. Phillip Mulkey was the first Baptist preacher to visit the Duplin area, he was followed by the Reverend William Goodman who established Bear Marsh Church in 1763. But, the oldest church established in Duplin, now a part of Sampson County, is Wells Chapel. Wells Chapel originally known as Bulltail was organized by the Rev. John Newton in 1755.

Bear Marsh is the oldest Duplin County church and following the founder William Goodman as pastor were Charles Hines and Francis Oliver. As the Bear Marsh Church grew new congregations began to establish in different parts of Duplin under the direction of the Reverend Silas Cart, Job Thippen and William Wells. During 1809 eight Baptist congregations were located in Kenansville and included a total membership of 382 people, these churches were: Bear Marsh, Nahunga, Concord, Island Creek, Muddy Creek, Limestone, Prospect and Burn Coat.

From the original Wells Chapel Church came the organization of Concord in 1807. The congregation of Concord later sent-out a delegation in 1835 to form Beaver Dam Baptist Church which is now Magnolia. Two years later, 1837, the congregation of Beaver Dam piloted a delegation of eight people who formed the Kenansville Baptist Church. The delegation included, Elder Benajah Carroll, Mary E. Carroll, D.C. Moore, James Carroll, Elizabeth Carroll, Stephen Herring and Nancy Herring. During the organization

meeting of the Kenansville Baptist Church in June of 1837 held in the Lodge building, Elders G.W. Hufham and Benajah Carroll were elected pastors. The following meeting in September of 1837, Stephen Herring and D.C. Moore were appointed deacons and James Carroll and D.C. Moore selected as delegates to the Goshen Association.

Pastors of the Kenansville Baptist Church during the first 100 years were: Benajah Carroll and G.W. Hufham, 1837-42; Robert McNabb, 1842-49; G.W. Hufham, 1849-50; G.W. Wallace, 1850-59; B.F. Marable, 1859-60; J.D. Hufham, 1860-61; J.N. Stallings, 1861-76; G.S. Best, 1876-77; J.N. Stallings, 1878-79; W.M. Kennedy, 1880-81; J.T. Albritton 1882-83; J.H. Gillespie, 1884; T.J. Baker, 1885; R.C. Sandlin, 1886-88; W.E. Crocker, 1890-91; C.F. Hopper, 1891-92; W.L. Bilbro, 1893-98; J.D. Larkins, 1898-1900; W.L. Bilbro, 1901-02; W.N. Johnson, 1902-05; C.M. Rock, 1905-07; W.P. Campbell, 1908; J.H. Booth, 1910-12; F.K. Pool, 1912; W.A. Elam, 1916-17; P.A. Hicks, 1917; D.E. Hill, 1919-20; A.L. Brown, 1921-27; L. Israel, 1928; G.W. Rollins, 1928-30; and R.C. Foster, 1930-37.

At the publication of the "100 Years of the Kenansville Baptist Church" in 1937, Joel Whaley, J.A. Gavin, Jr., P.J. Dobson, F.W. McGowen, H.M. West and W.M. Brinson were serving as deacons and W.B. Murray as treasurer and Mrs. F.W. McGowen as clerk.

The seven churches more than 100 years of age in 1937 were, Bear Marsh, Concord, Magnolia, Kenansville, Johnson's, Hallsville and Island Creek. Bear Marsh was organized in 1763. Island Creek was organized by the Reverend Jacob Williams about 1800. Jacob Williams was the father of Ann Williams who married Dr. Stephen Graham of Kenansville. Limestone Church now known as Hallsville was organized in 1804 by the Reverend Silas Carter. And, Nahunga known today as Johnson's Baptist Church was established in 1807.

E.E. Smith Jr. High Honor Roll

The following students made the Honor Roll this last reporting period:

Seventh grade: Richard Brown, Carolyn Wilson-all A. Gigi Ammar, Christy Battle, Karen Becton, Tammie Bland, Melanie Brock, Carlos Caraway, Terrence Graham, Donna Hall, Angela Hill, Curtis Hooks, Edward Jarman, Vickie Knowles, Tammy Newkirk, Truman Raines, Melton Sanders, Dacia Smith, Brandye Williams-B average.

Eighth grade: Karen Cecil, Kim Hall, Bryan Williams-A average, Stephen Blanchard, Terry Carroll, William Chestnutt, Carlette Smith, Kim Smith, Wendy Williams-B average.

Ninth grade: Michael Brinson, Darla Brock, Doris Williams, Tonya Newkirk-A average, Garry Brinson, Mark Craft, Sharon Dobson, Thevesa Fennell, Robert Graham, Deborah Mathis, Jeffrey Houston, Walter Hatcher, Cathleen Troublefield-B average.



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