

Along The Way



By Emily Killete

Many times people of today never realize how much history is within our county. One way to become familiar with Duplin's history is to know a little about the organization of its churches.

The history of Bear Marsh Baptist Church was published in the July 3, 1941 issue of THE DUPLIN TIMES. And, from that history Duplin citizens read that Bear Marsh Church was established while the 13 colonies were still property of Great Britain!

The history was prepared from records supplied THE DUPLIN TIMES by Bear Marsh Church clerk J.B. Williams in 1941, just prior to homecoming services that year. The following article is the history of Bear Marsh as published in the July 3, 1941 issue of THE DUPLIN TIMES.

History of Old Bear Marsh Church
In 1736, before the United States was and while the 13 colonies were still the property of Great Britain, settlers in the northern part of what is now Duplin County were more interested in the welfare of their souls and the spiritual well-being of their children than they were in the antics of King George III of England. And, so Bear Marsh Church was established.

Thirteen years before the Declaration of Independence was written these hardy colonists declared their own right to worship God as they pleased, and under the leadership of John Nobles and Jeremiah Rhame, they set about to insure a religious atmosphere for their little community, and, from their efforts has sprung several of the leading Baptist churches in eastern North Carolina.

The first building was erected about one mile from where the present church now stands, on land that is now the property of Mrs. Charles A. Byrd. It was the only place of worship in many miles of the community until it burned down in 1790.

Having determined to have a church in their midst the families of the community were not long in deciding to build another building, and in 1794, the second church was built, this one being located just across the road from the present building.

It was in this building that the Eastern Association met for the first time with Bear Marsh, in the year 1834, and from which meeting several of the leading Baptist churches were formed.

But once again the carelessness of some person cost the community their most prized possession when in 1850 the second church was destroyed by fire. And, it was not until 1857 that the present church was built.

Erected on the crest of a good-sized hill, for this section of the country, the church is now surrounded by age-old trees and a cemetery where many years the dead of the community have found their last earthly resting place.

The work of building the present church was done by Kit James, Enoch and Ned Hines, all white, and Bill Allen, colored. As was the custom in those times when persons were working more than a mile or two from their home, they boarded with persons living near their work.

In view of the fact that many of the persons living in the section were prosperous landowners and had negro slaves, a gallery was built in the church the last time for the use of the slaves. This was torn out in 1895 and the second story ceiled.

From the time this building was completed until about 1900 some of the more prominent persons connected with the church were J.R. Oliver, Ben Oliver, J.R. Walker, J.T. Albritton, D.B. Brown, J.E. Swinson and W.H. Brown, all of whom have descendants still worshipping at the church.

Some of the outstanding pastors to

pastor Rev. Thomas N. Cooper.

The Eastern Association has met with Bear Marsh six times since the first meeting in 1834. The years of the meetings were 1834, 1841, 1850, 1858, 1867, 1912 and 1938. However, the church is planning to be the host to the association for this year's meeting.

Looking back over the activity of the church, the records reveal in 1875 "that a great man of God, Dr. A.C. Dixon led a revival in our church and 100 members were added to the church." Another outstanding work was done in the church under

the pastorate of Rev. J.M. Ducan, who served the church from 1918 until 1926. It was during this interim that a baptismal pool was built in the church and a Sunday School department was added. R. Ducan is now pastor of the Baptist Church at Murfreesboro.

Bear Marsh Church is the seventh oldest church in North Carolina, and the second oldest in the Eastern Association. It has at present a membership of 400 in the church and a Sunday School enrollment of 175. Active organizations are the Women's Missionary Union, the

Young Women's Auxiliary, the Roy Ambassadors and the Girl's

Auxiliary and the Sunbeams all help to give the community a well-rounded religious life.

Kenansville Jaycees

Sponsor Hot Dog Wagon

The Kenansville Jaycees will be having a Hot Dog Wagon in the Jackson's IGA parking lot on Thursday, March 29. Hot dogs and Pepsis will be served from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Proceeds from the project will be used to support Jaycee projects in the Kenansville community. Please support the Jaycees in this project as they work to support the community.

WHALEY'S

OPEN 'TIL 8 p.m. FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

SUPER MARKET

Monk Whaley, Owner
Ph. 298-3646

PRICES EFFECTIVE
MARCH 29, 30 & 31

BEULAVILLE

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMP CUSTOMERS

We reserve the right to limit quantity

FROSTY MORN
HOT DOGS

99¢

BONELESS STEW BEEF

\$1.89
LB.

FROSTY MORN
BACON

12 OZ.

\$1.19

BEALE'S COUNTRY HAM

\$1.39
LB.

FRESH FROZEN SHRIMP

1 LB. **\$2.99**

BONELESS RIB EYE STEAK

\$3.69
LB.

BONELESS CHUCK ROAST

\$1.69
LB.

BANQUET SALISBURY STEAK DINNER

\$1.69
2 LB.

KRAFT 1000 ISLAND, FRENCH & CATALINA DRESSING

16 OZ. **\$1.29**

\$3.69
LB.

\$1.69
LB.

KRAFT 12 OZ SLICED CHEESE

\$1.49

'MISTER SALTY' BAG PRETZELS

89¢

KELLOGG'S FROSTED FLAKES

\$1.89
20 OZ.

SEVEN-UP & DIET SEVEN-UP

2 LITER **89¢**

CHATHAM CHUNX DOG FOOD

50 LB. **\$7.29**

BLUE BONNET MARGARINE

1 LB. **59¢**

\$1.89
20 OZ.

89¢

YELLOW & GOLDEN PILLSBURY PLUS CAKE MIX

79¢

TEXAS PETE CHILI SAUCE

10 OZ. **3/\$1**

PALMOLIVE DISH DETERGENT

22 OZ. **99¢**

PEPSI, PEPSI FREE & MT. DEW

2 LITER **99¢**

FRESH STRAWBERRIES

69¢
PINT

HUNT'S CATSUP

32 OZ. **99¢**

BUTTER-ME-NOT BISCUITS

9.5 OZ. **2/89¢**

LEMON FRESHENED BORAX FAB

GT. SIZE **\$1.69**

TUBE ROSE FLOUR

5 LB. **69¢**

DUPLIN TIMES - PROGRESS SENTINEL
Published Weekly by
DUPLIN PUBLISHING CO., INC.
Ike Riddick, Publisher
P.O. Box 68
Kenansville, NC 28349

Second Class Postage Paid at
Kenansville, NC 28349

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES
Single Copy 11 Cents
In Duplin and adjoining Counties
6 Mos. — \$1.83 1 Yr. — \$3.66
Outside of Duplin and Adjoining Counties
6 Mos. — \$2.35 1 Yr. — \$4.70
Outside North Carolina
\$5.50 per year

EASTPARK CINEMA 1-2-3
Multi-Cinema

Held Over - Third Week
Shows 6:45, 9, Sun. 1:45, 4, 6:45 & 9
TANK
James Garner Rated PG

Starts Friday
Shows 7, 9, Sun., 2, 4, 7 & 9
UNFAITHFULLY YOURS
Dudley Moore
Rated R

Held Over - Second Week
Shows 7 & 9, Sun., 2, 4, 7 & 9
ICE PIRATES
See a totally spaced environment
Rated PG

Sat. 3 p.m. Bargain Matinee. All Shows. \$2. Adm. per person