

**HISTORICAL ADDRESS.—RE-OPENING OF ST. PETERS A. M. E. ZION CHURCH, NEW BERN, N. C., OCT. 1, 1922.**

By Hon. W. W. Lawrence, LL. D.

Worthy mistress of ceremonies, presiding elder, pastor and members of St. Peters A. M. E. Zion church,—greetings:

It affords me one of the great pleasures of my life to be assigned the pleasant duty of delivering the historical address on this occasion, the re-opening of the old mother church in this south land. We congratulate all the members and friends, both white and colored who have made it possible for this beautiful interior of our church, making it second to none in Zion connection. We can all unite with Emerson in singing:

"Walk about Zion and go round about her,  
Tell all her towers, tell the towers thereof;  
Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider well her palaces  
That ye may tell it to the generations following;  
For this God is our God forever,  
He will be our Guide, even unto death.  
Praise ye the Lord, praise ye, the Lord for evermore."  
Then again when he sings:  
"The Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort her waste places,  
And make her like Eden, like the garden of the Lord.  
Joy and gladness shall be found therein.  
Thanksgiving and the voice of melody;  
Joy and peace shall dwell in thee;  
Zion City of our God, Joy and peace shall dwell in thee."

On the 20th day of January, 1864, Rev. James Walker Hood, our late senior bishop, came to this city, he having been assigned to this work by Bishop J. J. Clinton, D. D., who was in charge of this mission field. This was during the civil war, and in the wake of Generals Burnside and Sherman's armies. At that time he found us worshipping in old Andrew chapel with the white congregation, they holding service in the morning, and we holding service in the afternoon, the same having been carried on for more than 40 years before that time. Bishop Hood succeeded in getting us to unite with the A. M. E. Zion connection. The M. E. church (white) however, entered their protest, and with the white bishop endeavored to hold this which consisted of St. Andrew chapel and the parsonage on New Street near the Frog pond. The case finally went before General Burnside, who was in charge of the military forces at New Bern. When the decision was handed down through the military channel it was in our favor, stating that in as much as both the white people and the colored people had worshipped in St. Andrew chapel for a number of years prior to the war and as the white people had moved their place of worship and the colored people had continued to worship there, that they were the lawful owners. This decision held good but the whites continued the legal battle for this property until after we had built this St. Peters church, and after I was elected trustee, a proposition came to our board, that since they had assisted us in building our church and we had no further use of St. Andrew chapel as a place of worship, and in order to be in a position to sell and give a good and clear title if we would sign a quit claim deed to them for St. Andrew chapel, they would sign the same to us for the parsonage property which was done, and we both sold the property, and both congregations were benefitted. Rev. W. H. Thurber finished our new church and it was dedicated in 1865. General Conference was held in 1888 at which time Revs. C. C. Petty and C. R. Harris were elected bishops after that famous speech of Dr. J. C. Price was made which carried the General Conference by storm, and caused the election of these two bishops. Rev. C. H. Smith was our pastor at that time and placed the seats in the gallery and made other improvements in order to entertain the General Conference.

Rev. W. H. Thurber was reappointed to St. Peters church and

served us well. He was the president of the E. N. C. Oriental Fair Association and your humble servant was secretary, and we succeeded in getting an appropriation of \$600.00 each year. He died while serving us and was followed by Rev. H. C. Phillips during whose administration Dr. J. C. Price, president of Livingstone College, and also Prof. J. L. Battle of the same college, died. However, he was in the mail service at the time of his death. Rev. R. S. Rives followed Rev. Phillips and built our parsonage in 3 months being assisted by your humble servant who superintended the work. Rev. Rives was followed by Rev. J. H. Love, D. D. During his administration the present center tower of the church was planned and built, he having drawn the designs. He served us for four years. During his administration Rev. Dr. Wm. Howard Day, general secretary, and Prof. Nobles at Livingstone College, died. Rev. Love was replaced by Rev. S. B. Gaskill, who served us faithfully one year and was followed by Rev. J. Harvey Anderson, who had a successful rally raising \$2,000.00, and in this rally your humble servant won a silk hat. He raised the highest amount—\$200. Dr. Anderson completed the lecture room and paid the church out of debt which amounted to \$2,800.00, and did much constructive work. He was followed by Rev. B. F. Wheeler, D. D., who was a great theologian and financier, and who had been a strong candidate for the office of bishop, but failed in being elected, and no doubt, this contributed to his premature death, which occurred during his first year of pastoring our church. Rev. Richard Sawyer filled out his unexpired term. Rev. W. H. Chambers, D. D., was appointed the next year and served for two years. He also was a great theologian and evangelist. He held several good revivals. He was followed by Rev. R. A. Carroll, D. D., who served us for two years, and at that time we needed a strong and brave man, as the 7th Day Adventists were trying to take our membership. However, he was master of the situation. He was the first to attempt to rebuild St. Peters, and he purchased a car load of bricks, and finally became discouraged. He was followed by Rev. C. D. Hazel, D. D., who undertook to lead us to the promised land or a brick church, and with Bishop Walters' and a strong board of trustees by his side he succeeded in landing us into a brick edifice. We say, all honor to Dr. Hazel. He was followed by Rev. W. H. Reddick, who, with the ushers' board, lowered the concrete floor in the lecture room and also built the steps. He was followed by Rev. W. H. Wetherspoon, D. D., who was a great preacher and who installed the \$3,000.00 pipe organ. He also had a great rally in which your humble servant raised \$400.00 and was presented with a \$35.00 watch chain. He was succeeded by Rev. K. T. Thompson, D. D., who is a great financier and has nearly doubled our collections, put in a \$2,000 heating plant, remodeled our church and it is now a place of beauty, the work having been done by F. E. Anderson, a trustee and contractor; R. L. Gardner, a leading carpenter, and other workmen of our race of whom we are proud.

Now we sing:  
"Heavenly dwelling rich thy treasure,  
Oh! How sweet thy hallowed peace,  
These are blessings without number  
Every sorrow here shall cease.  
Heavenly dwelling, may we meet thee,  
May we join the happy throng,  
Then our voices there shall greet thee,  
Then we'll sing the rapturous song,  
of Moses and the Lamb."

New Bern, N. C.

**NOTICE.**  
Please serve this notice through your paper as an inquiry.  
If anyone knows the whereabouts of Rev. G. W. McMillan or any of his people, please do me the kindness of writing Rev. B. N. Hennig, ham, at 417 Chess Street, Coraopolis Pa. The writer is a nephew of Rev. McMillan.  
Signed: E. McMillan.

**RESOLUTIONS FROM STATE ST. A. M. E. ZION CHURCH.**

Whereas: It is an accepted fact that the next General Conference of the A. M. E. Zion connection, when assembled in Indianapolis, Ind., in May 1924, will elect one or more men to the office of bishop; and,  
Whereas: These men must be ministers of the gospel, consecrated in character, ripe with experience, mel- low in charity, holding the confidence of their colleagues, and possessing unusual piety. Coupled with these qualities should be a high degree of scholarship, a thorough knowledge of theological training, and convincing forcefulness as a preacher. Along with these characteristics should be blended strong ability along financial lines, plus the power to lead and direct men in their church activities, and,

Whereas: State Street church of the city of Mobile, Ala., has a man at the present time as its pastor, who is the symbol of all the virtues above enumerated, and having implicit faith and confidence in him as a man and Christian, therefore, be it,

Resolved: That we, the officers and members of State Street church herewith assembled in a business meeting at the church, on this date, do endorse and recommend to the forthcoming General Conference the Rev. W. D. Speight, D. D., for the office of bishop. Be it further,

Resolved: That we do pledge to work and pray incessantly for the realization of these resolutions. Be it further,

Resolved: That we do petition the ministerial and lay delegates of the West Alabama conference, and all the conferences of the state of Alabama, of the Zion connection to cooperate to elevate this native Alabamian to the position which he so richly deserves.

Mobile, Ala.

**JOTTINGS FROM GRIFTON CIRCUIT, GRIFTON, N. C.**

By Rev. D. J. McDowell, Pastor.

Dear Editor:  
Success was enjoyed in celebrating the 27th anniversary of Zion Temple A. M. E. Zion church, which began November 6th to 12th—with seven preachers, seven sermons for seven nights, with seven queens and each member of the church to pay \$1.27. Drs. A. J. Kelly, J. E. Holder, S. R. Walker, E. F. Rollins, S. T. Moyle (white), C. W. Brown and Rev. H. Hopkins preached strong sermons to the delight of all. We

raised \$213.68 and added three to the church.

The public collection was \$9.09. God be praised for our success. Miss Beulah Raspberry was crowned queen. We have a loyal set of members on the Grifton circuit.

Tarboro, N. C.

**BRO. GEO. HENDERSON PASSES AWAY.**

By A. B. Moseley.

Scarcely had the echo of Bishop Kyles in reappointing us to the pastoral charge of the Cleveland circuit died away when we were called to Cedar Grove church to perform the last sad rites over Bro. George Henderson, who departed this life Tuesday, November 21st., 1922.

Young Henderson was only a lad of 18 summers, yet noted for his firmness of purpose and largeness of heart. He was a very quiet and modest young man. He was a member of Cedar Grove A. M. E. Zion church and Sunday School, also a member of the usher board of the same church.

His funeral was conducted from the above named church on Thursday, November 23rd by the pastor. He was very popular in the community in which he lived, which was greatly evidenced by the large number who attended his funeral.

He leaves a mother, two sisters, one brother, a grandfather and grandmother and a stepfather to mourn their loss.

Salisbury, N. C.

**NOTICE.**

If you want your minutes on time always deposit a part of the money. You are aware that we must meet expenses. If this is done there will be no delay in the completion of the work. In preparing the copy for the minutes be sure and write on only one side of the paper.

A. M. E. Zion Publishing House.

**NOTICE.—THE HEART OF THE LESSON.**

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**SOUTHERN RAILWAY SCHEDULE.**

Passenger Train Schedules. Arrival and departure of Passenger trains, Charlotte, N. C.

Lv.	No.	Between	No.	Ar.
3:22a	27	Atlanta-B'gham	30	12:55a
1:05a	30	Wash.-New Y'k	29	3:15a
7:25p	32	Wash.-New Y'k	31	7:10a
7:40a	15	Atlanta-Danville	43	11:30p
5:00p	5	Columbia	36	5:00a
2:00p	12	Taylorsville	37	10:30a
8:10p	38	Wash.-New York	37	10:30a
9:10p	138	Wash.-New York	137	5:20a
6:30p	12	R'mond-Nor'k	11	10:15a
9:02p	35	B'gham-N. O'l'ns	36	10:35a
10:45a	113	C'rbia-Chals'n	114	12:35p
5:20a	10	Winston-Salem	9	12:45p
4:30p	45	W'ville-W'mins'r	46	1:20p
3:00p	46	G'boro-Danville	45	4:10p
7:20a	31	C'rbia-A'g'sta	32	7:20a
8:20a	16	Taylorsville	15	3:00p
10:12a	36	New York-Wash	35	3:25p
9:25a	137	Atlanta	138	5:05p
10:37a	37	Atlanta-N. O'l'ns	38	5:05p
4:25a	44	G'boro-Danville	43	8:00p
11:30a	14	Salisbury, Winst'n-Barber, Moore-ville	13	4:50p
		Norfolk-Richm'd	11	10:15a
		Atlanta	16	5:00p

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