

Africo-American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John

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BLAZERS AND CHIPS

By Rev. Wm. L. Metz, D. D.
(By order of Atlantic Synod).

Article IV.

Sumter County is an old Presbyterian County. It was Presbyterian before it was Sumter County, but Sumter District. Therefore, Presbyterian Negroes were not difficult to find when Dr. Matthew Miller—even those among he labored seem to know very little about Dr. Miller—came to Sumter County about the time Rev. Loomis began his labors in Chester and about York County. We owe our large Presbyterian following in Sumter and Clarendon Counties to the activity of Dr. Miller, Miss Kate Morehead, and Rev. C. S. West, who was once a trustee of Biddle University. The writer feels quite safe in asserting that the Presbyterian Negro who will be nothing else if he cannot be a Presbyterian or find a Presbyterian church somewhere is a Sumter or Clarendon County Presbyterian Negro, the product of Dr. Miller, Miss Morehead or Rev. West. The writer has made contact with all kinds of Negro Presbyterians as to their stability, but the most stable are of the two counties mentioned. What few colored Presbyterian congregations we have in the State of Florida were started by some Negroes from one of these counties who migrated in quest of employment in the orange or pineapple groves, or as laborers in lumber camps or such work. In Fort Pierce we have a newly organized Presbyterian church by the name of Good Will, which is named for Good Will in Sumter County. The members of Good Will in Fort Pierce were originally members of old Good Will in Sumter County. Our church at St. Augustine owes its beginning to Sumter County Presbyterians, the writer is informed. One Presbyterian minister who was born in Sumter County said to the writer: "If Presbytery drives me out of the door of the Presbyterian Church, I will return by the way of the window and take my seat as an humble member."

Ebenezer and Good Will churches are products of Colonial Presbyterian efforts, but saved by Dr. Miller, Miss Morehead, Rev. West and a few good women from the North in the 60's and 70's.

The writer is sorry that he has not hitherto been able to get faces of these pioneers, who blazed the way in these counties for Negro Presbyterians that they might not lose their way.

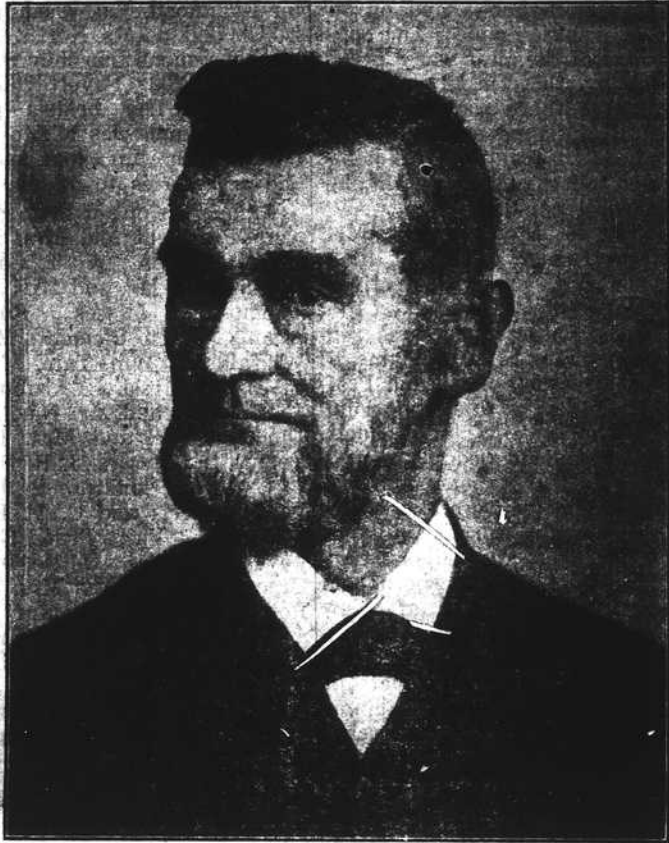
Some of the chips of these blazers were the late R. H. Richardson, Rev. J. C. Simmons, Rev. A. J. Jefferson and Rev. M. J. Jackson; and the Greggs are chips of the chips of these pioneers, like Mary Jane McLeod Bethune, who is President of Bethune-Cookman College at Daytona, Fla., and who is also President of the Women's National Federation. She is of the class of '94 of Scotia Seminary, Concord, N. C.

The "Black Border" was not passed by and left to perish, but was saved to our Church by the Second Presbyterian church in Charleston, known by some as Flinn's church, having been organized by this man over a century ago. Dr. John L. Girardeau preached to the Negroes of Charleston under the Session of Flinn's church until he was persuaded to give up his Negro congregation to teach in Columbia Seminary. It was not difficult to find a Negro Presbyterian after the Civil War, anywhere in Charleston County; therefore Rev. Patton, Rev. E. J. Adams and Rev. Grove found few obstacles in the way of their efforts to establish our work in historic Charleston.

Rev. Thomas A. Grove organized and built Olivet church in Charleston, on Beaufain Street,

whose pastor is Rev. Dr. J. R. Pearson. Dr. Grove had charge of Wallingford Academy, which was one of our strongest schools in that day, among the Negroes of the coastal part of South Carolina.

Some of the best colored business and professional men of Charleston had their foundations laid in Wallingford Acad-



THE REV. THOMAS A. GROVE

emy. It is interesting to know that students leaving this school to enter college always made advanced classes. The first man to make the Freshman class on entering Biddle was the product of Wallingford Academy, the late Rev. Adam Frayer, who died July, 1916, and who served our churches in James Island, Wadmalaw Island, Edisto Island, and at one time our Walterboro field.

Rev. J. A. Rollins, D. D., and the late Rev. Walter Blake Middleton entered the Senior Preparatory class when they went to Biddle in October, 1888, from Wallingford.

It is a great pity that this school has suffered for thirty years for the lack of funds. It could be a power in the County of Charleston with sufficient financial support.



THE REV. JOSEPH WILLIAMS

One of the first among the pioneers after the Civil War was the Rev. Joseph Williams, who was originally of the West Indies. He was a slave in Bibb County, Georgia, but was above the average in intelli-

gence. He and David Laney, the father of Miss Lucy Laney, were appointed by the Session of the white Presbyterian church of Macon, Ga., to exhort the colored people and to advise them morally and spiritually. This was the beginning of the colored Presbyterian work in Georgia. It may be information to many of the younger members of our Southern work to know that Rev. David Laney pastored our church at Macon, after Rev. Joseph Williams, for quite a number of years for one hundred dollars per annum. He rode to church every Sabbath on his

horse; and the little girl who would hitch his horse for him as he would dismount told the writer a few days ago—she now lives in Charleston with my group in years—that it was her greatest delight to take Rev. Laney's horse and hitch him every Sabbath morning.

Rev. Laney's daughter, Miss Lucy Laney, is a very conspicuous chip of her father, who was a blazer even in the days of slavery. The writer feels almost doubly sure that few of his or of the other group know that Miss Lucy Laney was a regular Sabbath school teacher to white children in that historic Presbyterian church in Augusta, Ga. The writer calls it historic, because in this church in Augusta, the Church divided into what is now known as the Presbyterian Church, U. S., or

Southern Presbyterian Church, and the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. Miss Laney taught white children whose parents favored separation—and slavery and the Negro's freedom were incidents in the Civil War that



DR. JOHN L. GIRARDEAU.

were much larger than the measure—and resigned as teacher of her own volition.

It may not be out of place to say that our Assembly met in Augusta, Ga., in 1861 with Dr. Benjamin Palmer, of New Orleans, as Moderator. He and J. H. Thornwell were the leaders of thought in the Southern section of the Presbyterian Church at that time. Dr. Palmer's father lived in Walterboro in the days of American slavery, and was opposed to slavery. He said if a man would have slaves around him, he should give them their freedom after seven years. His father was also a great Presbyterian preacher, and was very active among Negroes in moral and spiritual uplift after the Civil War. He organized our churches at Walterboro and Neyles Cross Road, Colleton County, S. C. He named the church at Walterboro Hope Well, because, he said, it hopes to do well; and the one at Neyles Cross Road he named Aim Well, because, he said, it aims to do well.

This old apostle's house-servant girl still lives in Walterboro, S. C., and attends the Presbyterian church, of which she is a most faithful member, regularly. She had a daughter to graduate at Scotia Seminary years ago.

PRESBYTERY OF McCLELLAND.

The Fall meeting of McClelland Presbytery convened with Westminster Presbyterian church, the Rev. B. H. McFadden, Stated Supply, Spartanburg, S. C., September 1 and 2. The Rev. L. E. Ginn, the retiring Moderator, preached a most excellent and timely opening sermon from Heb. 2: 8.

The Rev. J. M. Johnson, D. D., was chosen Moderator and Rev. H. Y. Kennedy was made clerk pro tem.

The Rev. W. A. C. Kelly, of the Metropolitan A. M. E. Zion church, Spartanburg, extended most cordial words of welcome for the churches of his city, and Prof. C. B. Johnson made the response for the Presbytery.

The name of Rev. D. S. Collier was added to the roll on a letter of dismissal from the Presbytery of Birmingham to the Presbytery of McClelland.

The Presbytery listened with great interest to the reports from the chairmen of committees on the work of the various Boards of the Church.

Revs. C. J. Baker, D. D., Presbytery of Birmingham, G. W. Long, D. D., Presbytery of Fairfield, N. Bell, Presbytery of Catawba, P. A. Flack, Presbytery of Rogersville, W. A. C. Kelly, Palmetto A. M. E. Zion Conference, and R. Kennedy, of the Spartanburg Baptist Association, were accorded seats as corresponding members.

Drs. C. J. Baker, G. W. Long

(Continued on page 4)

HOLBROOK ST. CHURCH, DANVILLE, VA.

By Miss E. V. Gunn.

Beavers-Swanson Nuptials.

The marriage of Miss Betty Crews Swanson to Mr. W. E. Beavers, Jr., which occurred September 8th, at eight o'clock, in the palatial residence of Mr. B. J. Swanson, 642 Stewart St., was one of the outstanding events of the season. It was picturesque, charming and socially important; it was everything that could appeal to the taste of Danville society. The beautiful home of old Colonial style, with its spacious rooms, was bedecked in all the splendor that lends pomp to such an occasion. In the living room there was a beautiful canopy of cut flowers, ribbons and palms, from the top of which was suspended a huge, white bell, shedding forth soft, pink light, under which the ceremony took place. Pink and white were the color scheme of the decorations.

Mrs. Watkins Thompson, in beautiful black satin, received the guests.

Miss Betty Crews Swanson is the charming daughter of Mr. B. J. Swanson, and a graduate of Virginia Seminary and College. Mr. W. E. Beavers, Jr., is proprietor of Beavers' Shoe Repairing Shop; Secretary-Treasurer of the People's Mutual Building and Loan Association, a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University and member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Just before the ceremony Mrs. Emma Brandon Kohn sweetly sang "At Dawning," accompanied by Mrs. Thos. B. Hargrave at the piano.

To the strains of Lohengrin's Bridal March, the wedding party entered in the following order: Little Gregory H. Swanson with the ring in the center of a large white rose, wearing a little Fauntleroy suit.

Miss Annie Lee Swanson, sister of the bride, in pear taffeta bouffant style with a large flower of silver entwined with taffeta, silver slippers, and carrying a bouquet of pink roses and fern with a large tulle bow.

Miss Irma Beavers, sister of the groom, wearing a pink taffeta, bouffant style, trimmed with rhinestones, and slippers of silver, carrying pink roses and ferns.

Mr. C. B. Adams, attired in full dress suit.

Miss Josephine G. Swanson, a sister of the bride, as maid of honor, wore a gown of rose tulle over taffeta, made bouffant style and trimmed with silver flowers and ribbon, and slippers of silver, carrying pink roses and ferns.

Little Misses Mollie O., Doris and Catherine L. Swanson as flower girls, wore peach crepe de chine dresses trimmed with peach satin ribbon and

white slippers and socks. They scattered petals for the bride.

Miss Bettie Crews Swanson, in a gown of white tulle with a Princess Ann lace bodice, made over bridal crepe, the skirt edged with silver lace bouffant style, leaning on the arm of her father, Mr. B. J. Swanson; who gave her in marriage. She wore white satin slippers and carried a huge bouquet of bridal roses and lilies of the valley and ferns. Her long bridal veil was held by little Miss Margaret O. Swanson; who wore old rose taffeta, white slippers and socks.

The bride was met before the canopy by the groom, Mr. W. E. Beavers, Jr., and his best man, Mr. Koyeton Beavers, both attired in full dress suits.

The ceremony was performed by Rev. W. T. Hall, of Lynchburg, former pastor of High St. Baptist church, of this city, assisted by Rev. Thomas Hargrave, pastor of Holbrook St. Presbyterian church.

Following the ceremony the guests were served punch, ice cream and cake. Mrs. Daisy Clark, in Grecian rose crepe de chine and Mrs. Lucy E. Hannon in rose pink taffeta, trimmed with gold lace and wearing gold slippers, presided at the punch bowl.

In the bridal chamber the presents were displayed. It looked more like the interior of a Fifth Avenue shop where every kind of article de luxe was heaped in plenty. There were beautiful gifts of gold and silver, and linen enough to smother the pretty bride.

The newly weds left Danville the same night for a honeymoon to New York and other Northern cities.

Mrs. George T. Langston, of Suffolk, Va.; Mrs. Mollie B. Williams, of New York City; Mrs. Mamie Beavers Holland, of New York City, were the out-of-town guests for the occasion.

Mr. C. B. Adams Entertains

On Wednesday evening some of Danville's leading business and professional men were invited to a stag in honor of Mr. W. E. Beavers, Jr., who was to forsake "single blessedness" on Thursday, the 8th. Those attending were Dr. C. S. Cowan, Attorney L. E. Knight, Jr.; Mr. W. C. Martin, Cashier of Danville's Savings Bank and Trust Co.; Mr. J. W. Yancey, Dr. Geo. W. Robinson, Mr. U. S. Cunningham, Mr. W. E. Beavers, Jr.; Mr. Koyeton Beavers, Mr. Harry Hall, Mr. W. J. Ivey, Mr. Maynard Falden, Mr. B. O. Henderson, Mr. W. D. Stroud, Mr. Milton Sanders, Washington, D. C.; and Mr. Isaac C. Hunt. A light lunch and punch were served, buffet style. All were highly pleased with the hospitality of Mr. Adams' home.

Thursday morning, Mr. and Mrs. Beavers, the parents of the groom, entertained the bridal party at breakfast. Those present were: Miss Betty Crews Swanson, the honored guest, Mr. W. E. Beavers, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Martin, Mrs. Mollie B. Williams, Misses Josephine and Annie Lee Swanson, Mr. C. B. Adams, Rev. and Mrs. Thomas B. Hargrave, Mr. Koyeton Beavers, Miss Irma Beavers. The color scheme was green and yellow.

Sunday morning, our pastor, Rev. Thos. B. Hargrave, preached a wonderful sermon, subject, "The Secret of a Happy Home."

The radio club is progressing rapidly. Forty little folks gathered at the manse Monday evening at 7 o'clock to listen to bed time stories.

Sunday evening at 8:30 o'clock a pleasing program was rendered, under the auspices of Mrs. Van Hattchett and Mrs. T. B. Hargrave.

Mrs. Hargrave presided at the piano and Mrs. Van Hattchett was mistress of ceremonies. Mrs. Ida Allen, who has been very ill for several months, was able to be in her pew Sunday morning.