

# HISTORY OF SANDY GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From Manuscript Written by the Late  
REV. DAVID FAIRLEY, D. D.

Continued from Last Week)

### Names of the Trustees

John C. Currie, Angus Ray, Neill McK. Blue, Duncan J. Patterson, L. A. Blue, Samuel J. Cameron, Murdock Campbell, Alex B. Cameron and Neill A. McFadyen.

### My Pastorate At Sandy Grove Church, 1916-1923

Eugene Alexander

It would be impossible, should it be desirable, for one to reduce to writing all the impressions and facts about this pastorate of seven years. There are, however, many facts that may be of interest to the present generation of those whose memories are still green with the events of the days gone by and whose hopes have always been unfulfilling, as well as those who follow after us. To the writer it is with mixed pleasure and gratitude that that period of his life is recalled.

In June of 1916 the pastorate was begun with fear and trembling although there was a hospitality and friendly spirit which is peculiar to Sandy Grove Church. Throughout the seven years there were few times, if any, that there was not a handshake from everyone present, nor was there ever a stranger or visitor who on departing felt slighted. The people were Scotch, loyal, sincere, dependable and cordial. It was easy to make friends with a people like this, although they were reserved in word and deed. There was a sincerity and cordiality in this people that is unsurpassed in any people with whom the writer has come in contact, and his lot so far has been in pleasant places. Although not a huntsman by nature, nor a good shot, it was a most pleasant recreation to go "deer driving" over the old hills and streams with the Camerons and Blues and Rays. It was a good day's work to follow Mr. Sam Cameron, age seventy-five, from sun-up till two or three o'clock on a deer hunt. Another deer hunter of no mean reputation was Mr. David J. Ray, who used "Old Never Miss" with unerring accuracy. "Old Never Miss" was a 42-inch barrel muzzle loader. And those hunts were not always fruitless, as the rugs on our floor will testify. In fact, a turkey hunt with Mr. H. J. Rogers, or a bird hunt with Ed Alex or John Cameron or any of those good hunters in that section was a treat.

The old Sandy Grove Church, built by Peter Monroe in 1852 and '54, was in poor repair. With the exception of an occasional supply, and a student supply in the summer of 1915, the church had been without a pastor since the death of the beloved Dr. David Fairley, in 1912. Never shall the writer forget the first services held in this church. Built after the style of all the churches of that period, the pulpit was high and lifted up, and located at the front of the auditorium between the two front doors. This arrangement caused the congregation to get a good view of the minister, as well as all who were entering the church, quite a distraction if there were many late arrivals. One great advantage to this arrangement of a church was that the audience filled in from the front, and they watched the minister. The space used by the colored people of the olden days was in the extreme rear, with a side door entrance. The building was of the finest heart pine timber, a square box shape with pyramid shaped roof.

The officers of the church were: Elders N. S. Blue, D. J. Gillis, M. A. Patterson, A. C. Monroe, deacons, S. J. Cameron, M. A. Gillis, D. N. Leslie and Vance Ray. To this number were added in 1917: Elders S. J. Cameron and H. J. Rogers; deacons A. B. Cameron and E. W. Cameron. These officers were unusually faithful in discharging their duties and attending the services of the sanctuary. It seemed strange that there was little interest in Sunday school in this church. There were, however, comparatively few children in the congregation. The only explanation found was in the great distances many of the people had to travel to get to the church. The roads were the ordinary sand rut variety. A high compliment to the desire for public worship on the part of some of the families was that they would start early and walk five to seven miles to the church, summer or winter.

Late in the winter of 1916-17 a

movement was begun to repair and remodel the church, which met with a hearty response, not only from the membership of the church, but among the former members of Sandy Grove, living in other places, as far away as Alabama, Florida and Georgia. The pulpit was erected at the other end of the building, with less elevation, new windows were placed and a small vestibule with a steeple was added at the front. The seats were rearranged and flues and stoves added, and a new roof was put on. This work was done under the direction of the late Mr. C. E. Brown, son-in-law of M. A. Gillis and a member of the church. After these improvements were completed and paid for the church was painted inside and out. It is a neat, attractive house of worship with seating capacity of about 250. The cost of these improvements was over \$1,300. Today it stands as a landmark amid the round pine timber that has been preserved on the ten acres of land that the church once owned. It can be seen from a great distance in all directions; from several points on the State Highway No. 70, Aberdeen to Raeford it is visible. A very clear view of it can be had from this highway where it passes the State Sanatorium. It is a shrine in the hearts and minds of a devoted and loyal people that are now scattered, not only over North Carolina, but over many states in this great nation. Some of those who first worshiped God at this old church are now citizens of Virginia, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and Oklahoma.

During the winter of 1923 a heavy double strand wire fence was erected around the cemetery. It is on steel posts set in concrete bases. This, with the simple white markers that were placed at the head and foot of every unmarked grave, adds to the appearance of the sacred old bivouac of the dead. Fifty-seven graves had tombstones, and markers were placed at ninety-one, so there are a hundred and forty-eight graves marked, and so far as is known there is not one unmarked. Perhaps there are few church cemeteries in the state where all the graves are so well marked. The cemetery is protected as never before; the graves are permanently

(To Be Continued)

North Carolina farmers spend too much money on fertilizer not to use the kind suitable for their crops and soils, say agronomy workers.

FOR SALE—One 5-room dwelling and 14 lots. Size 50x150 feet. Price reasonable. Apply to Box 38, Lakeview, N. C. 26-2

NOTICE OF SALE Undre and by virtue of the powers of sale contained in a certain deed of trusts executed and delivered by Henry G. Fry, and Eulala Fry, his wife, to G. H. Humber, Trustee, recorded in Book 31, page 380, and to B. C. Wallace, Trustee, recorded in Book 42, page 364, Office of Register of Deeds of Moore County, the undersigned Trustees, will on the 26th day of April 1926, at 12 O'clock, Noon, at the Court House Door of Moore County, expose to sale to the highest bidder for cash, all those three (3) certain lots or parcels of land lying and being in the County of Moore, State of North Carolina, and in Carthage Township, bounded as follows, to-wit:

First Tract; In Carthage Township, Moore County, N. C., adjoining the lands of W. C. Hough and others, and bounded as follows: Beginning at a stake formerly Neill McCrummens' but now W. C. Houghs' corner running thence N. 4 E. 210 ft. to a stake in the center of the road; thence N. 70 W. 105 ft. to a stake; thence S. 4 W. 210 ft. to a stake in the edge of the road; thence S. 70 E. 105 ft. to the first station, containing, one-half (1-2) acre, more or less.

Second Tract; Adjoining above tract; Beginning at South West corner with a pine knot for the corner; thence running 140 ft. with Florence Boyds' line cornering South-West side of Vass clayed road; thence running back with the Vass clayed road 234 ft. cornering at W. H. Frys' line South-West side of the Vass clayed road; thence running back the said Fry line 180 ft. cornering at commencing corner on Florence Boyds' line, containing, an half (1-2) acre, more or less.

Third Tract; Adjoining above tract. Beginning at Frys' corner in the Sand-clay road leading to Vass, and runs thence as said road South 33 E. chains to a stake and black jack pointers; thence N. 89 W. 9 chains to a stake in the Pinehurst Sand Clay road and black jack pointers; thence with said Pinehurst Sand Clay road N. 23 E. 5.25 chains to his home lot

corner; thence as the line of said home lot to the beginning, containing, three (3) acres, more or less. The above described tract of land being a part of Lot No. 105 of the Tyson

Lands, conveyed by W. G. Jennings, and wife, Annie H. Jennings, to Sam Brame, April 24th, 1920. This March 26th, 1926. B. C. WALLACE,

Trustee. G. H. HUMBER, Trustee. HOYLE & HOYLE, Attorneys. 26-2-9-16A

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## Pinehurst Warehouses, Inc.

Pinehurst, :-: North Carolina

**A STARTLING INNOVATION—  
SELLING TRACTORS BY CARLOADS!**

So far as we know the Pinehurst Warehouses have introduced an innovation that is certainly new anywhere in our section. In the last week we have made two sales of McCormick-Deering Tractors in car lots to individuals.

Each car contained six tractors, and each car went to one farm.

One of these cars went to Jesse Page at Eagle Springs.

The other to D. M. Buchanan, the Farm Development Co., at Marston.

The shipment from the factory at Chicago included four cars of tractors. A big sign on each car announced that the cars contained McCormick-Deering Tractors for the Pinehurst Warehouses, Pinehurst, N. C.

Besides the two cars sold to individual as soon as they arrived other sales followed at once, and the deliveries had not been completed before it was necessary to order more tractors.

The McCormick-Deering Tractor has captured this country.

It is the tractor that suits the Sandhills orchard and other operators.

The McCormick-Deering is sold by the Pinehurst Warehouses. And while this is the first time a solid car load of these tractors has been sold in this section other buyers have bought from two to four of the tractors at separate times, and still buy more.

The tractor is a farm necessity, and the McCormick-Deering is the tractor.

**The Pinehurst Warehouses, Inc.  
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