

History of Jackson Grove Methodist Church
Travelers Rest, Greenville County, South Carolina
by Mollie Turner Goodlett, 1932

Contributed by
Martha Epperson

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These handwritten pages detail the first 100 years of history for Jackson Grove Methodist Church as recorded by Mollie Turner Goodlett Cason (1892-1981).

J. H. Major, W. O.

copy

C. W. Miller, Pastor -

By Mollie Turner Goodett.

Aug 21, 1932.

"History of Jackson Grove Methodist Church South -

Traceless Rest Charge, Greenville District, covering a period of one hundred years 1832 - 1932.

The material for a sketch of the said church is very meagre as their records having not been kept or else lost we have been able to gather only a scattered and inaccurate document, Very scant. - Quoting from a pamphlet owned by Mr + Mrs A. Bradley members of the church and written by Rev. Sam Green being at that time circuit pastor of the church - The organization of said church is due to the efforts of Rev. John Husky our very efficient circuit steward - John Husky Gilbreath was so named by his parents out of regard for this Holy and laborious itinerant preacher of the Gospel who passing through all quarters, came to this neighborhood and preached first in the gin house of Rolly Jenkins - Here he found quiet attentive hearers - The seed fell on good ground, resulting in the organization of a church - The Gilbreath family was ready for the word and thanked God for this Holy man - They had been accustomed to hear Methodist preaching before their removal to this neighborhood -

The church was composed of the Gilbreaths, Bradleys, Jenkins, F → Jews and others - From the gin house they moved across the road into a good framed house - Mr Rolly Jenkins gave the land for the church and camp ground - For a number of years large congregations annually attended the camp meetings here and the church was much revived and increased -

Quoting the constitution and by laws of said church for the first 4 years of its organization - The original copy written by Hardie J. Gilbreath being preserved by the Historical Society of Church conference in the Arcade at Wofford College, and a photostat is hanging in the church -

Constitution and by laws for Jackson Grove Camp grounds an act of the Legislature of S. C. passed A. D. 1832 incorporating the Jackson Grove Methodist Church of Greenville -

The Trustees of said Church, or encampment, for the further promotion of morality and good order met on the 5th day of Sept. 1832 and passed the following by-laws: Present: William Jew, Tho. Springfield, Robert Nelson, John Weaver, Rolly Jenkins, Cwon Jenkins, and Hardie J. Calbreath, Trustees of said encampment, and after electing Robert Nelson, President, John Weaver, Vice-president and Hardie J. Calbreath, Secretary, proceeded to business -

Sec. 1st All tents that are now built, or that may hereafter be built, within the bounds of said encampment, when unoccupied shall belong to the trustees of said encampment -

Sec 2- No person who now owns a tent or may hereafter build a tent within the bounds of said encampment shall have liberty to sell, lease or give away said tent, without permission of the trustees -

Sec 3- The trustees shall have liberty to lease any or all unoccupied tents - The money thus arising shall be appropriated to the repairs of said encampment -

Sec 4- Any person retaining or giving, or giving away spirituous liquors within the bounds of said encampment, during camp-meetings or at other times of public worship shall be fined at the discretion of the trustees in a sum not exceeding (\$25⁰⁰) Twenty dollars -

Sec 5th - No cider, beer, ale, or any other merchandise except religious books within bounds of said encampment, during camp-meetings, or at other times of public worship, will be permitted under a fine not exceeding Ten dollars -

Sec - 6. Any person coming within the bounds of said encampment in a state of intoxication, during camp-meetings or at other times of public worship will incur a fine not exceeding five Dollars -

Sec 7- All profane swearing within bounds of said encampment during camp-meetings or at other times of public worship will incur a fine of twenty-one cents for the first offence

Sec 8- For any disorder of any description, during camp-meetings or at other times of public worship a fine will

be levied at the

discretion of the trustees:

Sec. 9. All fines and forfeitures incurred by violation of the foregoing terms will be appropriated to the repairs of said church and

Sec. 10. After the hours of the night when public worship is dismissed from the stand during camp-meetings all negro servants shall desist from their public devotions, retiring to their owners tents. Their being found after that hour gallantly and accom-
istering very plainly stated on original copy. The enclosurement, will subject themselves to correction by the trustees.

Sec. 11. It shall be the duty of the trustees to meet at least once in twelve months, or oftener if necessary, to fill vacancies if any should take place, or revise or repeal any by-law or part thereof, or adopt others if necessary. A majority of the trustees being present shall constitute a quorum to do business. Hardie J. Gilbreath, Secretary, Robert Nelson, President, John Weaver vice-president, adjourned to meet next year. The board of trustees met according to adjournment finding no alterations necessary. They adjourned to meet next year Sept. 1833.

The board of trustees met agreeable to adjournment on the 9th day of Aug. 1833. Present: Robert Nelson, John Weaver, Hardie J. Gilbreath, Polly Jenkins, Owen Jenkins, and William Few. After electing Tho. Hawkins a trustee in place of Wesley Gilbreath proceeded to business. A motion was made to repeal the second section of a by-law passed Sept 5-1832 and carried. Therefore the second section of the by-law passed on that date is repealed. A motion was made to alter and amend the 5th section of a by-law passed Sept 5-1832 and carried. It is therefore amended and shall read as follows:

For any disorder of any description during camp-meetings or other times of public worship a fine will be incurred of a sum not exceeding twenty dollars. The board elected Sam Bennett a trustee in place of Tho. Springfield and adjourned to meet next year 1834.

The board of trustees met agreeable to adjournment, present William Bramlett, Polly Jenkins, Sam Bennett, William Few, Owen Jenkins, Hardie J. Gilbreath, John Weaver, and president

to business The board elected Wesley Elbreath a Trustee in place of Vincent Jenkins deceased and William Smith in place of Thomas Hawkins removed, Then adjourned to meet on the first Friday and Saturday in December next year for the purpose of repairing the fence and cleaning off the Jackson Grove Camp Ground Robert Stewart was appointed a police officer for Jackson Grove Camp Ground for the year 1835.

Quoting from the minutes of the Methodist Conference, The Jackson Grove Church was presumably taken in the Carol District 1834. The Rev. P. W. Cheney pastor, The Rev. Malcolm M^r Pherson presiding Elder; taken in Cokesburg Circuit 1836. James Donnelly pastor. The Rev Henry Bass, presiding Elder; taken in Greenville Circuit 1841. The Rev Sam Green pastor, Nicholas Jolly, presiding Elder. Taken in North Greenville Circuit 1881, L. F. Baily, pastor, S. B. Jones presiding Elder; and in The Travelers Rest charge 1897, The Rev C. B. Furness pastor, The Rev W. C. Power presiding Elder.

In 1907 Mrs John H. Elbreath wife of John Henry Elbreath, mentioned above, and a son of Hardie J. Elbreath, and ever loyal and devoted lovers of her church gave the land for our present church site, which is across the road in front of the first wooden building erected which puts the church back on the same site where the Rolly Jenkins ginhouse was located and services first conducted.

In 1882 Mrs Sarah Ingram another loyal Christian and a member of this church being of considerable wealth left by will at her death a sum of money to be used in erecting a new church here which is the present church as it now stands 40' x 60' being of frame structure with plastered walls and wood ceiling, Gothic shaped stained glass windows and similar front door with an over arched pulpit and Communion rail. The chancel and aisles are carpeted; on the right is a Memorial window respectfully inscribed; Sarah H. Ingram, she gave unto the Lord, 1809-1882. - on the left Sacred to the memory of Rolly Jenkins, His works do follow Him - 1765-1852.

The said church was dedicated the third Sunday in

* See Census of 1850 Greenville, S.C.
1774 Rolly Jenkins born 1774 - 16 years old in 1850
Corning, S.C. 1785 - 16 years old in 1850

Aug. 1907 with appropriate exercises. The Rev. R. F. Bryant, the pastor, offered the prayer of dedication. The Rev. E. P. Taylor, presiding elder, gave the inauguration interpreting the symbolism of the Church in the presence of a large congregation. A gift to the Church that was and still is highly prized is the elegant silver service presented to the Church by the beloved Hardie J. Gilbreath. The Hagon is still used in sacramental services, while the chalice is a gift from the members. Also the piano, Hardie Gilbreath was class leader for 36 years. He was a man of splendid endowment, cultivated to the last by the closest study, an uncompromising lover and defender of truth. He was a man of dignity, yet he had the key to the greatest of all kingdoms, the Kingdom of God - humility. Altho he worshipped here a century ago he is a grand father and great grand father of 90 per cent of the now acting members. Colmer Clark Superintendent of Sunday School is a great grandson, and Ruth Gilbreath, Assistant Superintendent is a great grand daughter. Five of the teachers Sterling Turner, Neva Turner, Ruth Gilbreath, Blanche Gilbreath, are great grandsons and grand daughters while W. A. Neaves is a grandson-in-law. He is also a great grand father of our present 13th Judicial Judge, G. Dewey Oxner. A sixth teacher Mrs Sula Montgomery, a Baptist, had been teaching in said S. S. for 14 years, Jackson Grove.

Though its membership has always been small, has had many prominent men and women affiliated with it, having sent 4 doctors, 4 ministers, a score or more teachers, and many others prominent in business and social life -

Doctors -

D^r Ben Few, who is a son of William Few mentioned above. D^r Few being Superintendent of said S. S. for many years. He loved his Church, moving his home to Greer when he went there to reside. D^r B. F. Goodlett who moved his home to Traveler's Rest as a charter member of the Methodist Church there.

D^r William Bramlett, and D^r John Bramlett.

Ministers -

D^r William Few Ph. D. D. D. president of Duke University, a son of

The Rev. Few above mentioned, who joined the said Church when a boy of eight. The Rev. Robbie Few also a son of Dr. Ken Few.

The Rev. Charlie Mc Cain, Superintendent of said SS. for many years preaching his first sermon in said Church. He is a nephew of The Rev. J. S. Mc Cain - a former pastor and a son of William Mc Cain who was Superintendent of the S.S. and the Rev. Will Bramlett.

Tradition says that the following names have been prominently identified with this Church - Ford, Wilsons, Weavers, Gilbreath, Goodlett, Lindricks, Few, Andree, Jenkins, Walker, Sugraves, Black, Bradley, Garner, Greer, Dickson, Howell, Clark, Lynches, Lynn, Bramlett, Mc Cain, Fowler, Huff, Henson, Bennett, Parker, and others.

Anolis Bradley is our oldest living member, being an octogenarian having been an active member for over a century. The Church roll is now 156. W. A. Neaves is Church Lay reader, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The Stewards are: Holton Gilbreath, Edward Bradley, F. A. Dickson, and J. W. Greer. The Trustees are: A. Bradley, W. A. Neaves, Holton Gilbreath. Chairman of Stewardship Committee, Holton Gilbreath. Presiding Elders and Pastors serving the charge since its organization -

Presiding Elders -

Malcolm McPherson -	1834 -
Henry Bass -	1835-1838
William M. Whitman -	1839-1840
Nicholas Tally -	1841-1844
A. C. Walker -	1845-1846
W. A. Jameswell -	1847-1850
Samuel Lead -	1851-1854
R. J. Boid -	1855-1862 ?
A. C. Walker -	1857-1882-?
W. H. Flemings -	1863-1866
A. B. Stephens -	1867-1870
R. P. Franks -	1871-1874
O. A. Darby -	1875-1878

S. B. Jones -	1879-1882
J. G. Herbert -	1883-1886
A. W. Wilson -	1893-1896
W. S. Power -	1897
R. A. Childs -	1896-1902
E. P. Taylor -	1903-1906
R. E. Duncan -	1907-1910
F. M. Steadman -	1911-1914
W. F. Kilgore -	1915-1918
R. - Turnipseed -	1919-1922
A. H. Brownson -	1923-1926
R. E. Steckhouse -	1927-1930
J. R. J. Major -	1931-1932

Pastors -

John Healey -	1832
P. W. Shemy -	1834
Ira H. Parler -	1835
James Donnelly -	1836
M. C. Mc Kibbin -	1837
William D. Morse -	1838-1839
William Smith -	1840
Sam Green -	1841
J. Tarrant -	1842
William H. Keer -	1843
E. Eddy -	1844
J. J. Gleason -	1845
W. B. Mc Gilvery -	1846
George W. Moore -	1847
John Singer -	1849
John Wallis -	1850
Sam Green -	1851
Samuel Townsend -	1852-1853
W. C. Patterson -	1854
A. B. Stephens -	1855-1856

Pastors 8-

Jacob S. Conner -	1858-
Jackey M. Bradley -	1859-
A. J. Stokes -	1860-
C. A. Leonard -	1861-
J. N. C. M ^o Kiney -	1862-
J. L. Hartwell -	1863-
H. K. Melton -	1864-
A. H. Lester -	1865-
R. L. Oliver -	1866-
J. J. Workman -	1868-1869-
John Atterway -	1870-1871-
S. M. Green -	1872-
John Atterway -	1873-1874-
R. R. Daywell -	1875-1876-
A. W. Jackson -	1877-1880
L. F. Kealy -	1881-
A. B. Carl -	1882-1883-
W. R. Betts -	1884-
A. D. Mann -	1885-
J. R. Mc-Lain -	1886-
Rev. England -	1887-
W. S. Martin -	1888-
Rev. James -	1889-
Rev. Bomer -	1890
W. B. Justice -	1891-1893-
A. G. Walker -	1894-
W. d. Gault -	1895-
B. F. Guess -	1896-
S. B. Burmes -	1897-
J. H. Shackles -	1898-
J. H. Shular -	1899-1900
J. R. Atterway -	1901-
J. R. Soyjourney -	1902-1905-
R. F. Terhaut -	1906-1907
J. R. Waller -	1908-1909-

Pastors -	9	
A. A. Merritt -		1910 -
W. S. Henry -		1911 -
J. D. Bell -		1912 -
J. R. Roof -		1913 - 1914
A. S. Rice -		1915 -
C. P. Carter -		1916 -
W. A. LaMar -		1917 - 1918 -
A. E. Johnson -		1919 -
S. B. White -		1920 -
J. N. Isom -		1921 -
C. R. White -		1922 - 1925 -
W. S. Sanders -		1926 -
J. A. Inabnet -		1927 -
J. E. Strickland -		1928 -
A. H. Banknight -		1929 - 1931 -
C. W. Allen -		1932 -

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