

Crooked Run Church--Destroyed/Saved?

Sir:

Crooked Run Baptist Church holds services in a meeting house which it built between Feb. & July 1836. On July 28th of this year, the church would have held services here continuously for 140 years. This building is perhaps the oldest Baptist church in Fairfield and the 3rd oldest church building in Fairfield. The Crooked Run congregation under the name Cedar Creek seems to be as old as Little River congregation under the name Gibson's Meeting House.

The Crooked Run building has experienced damage over the years. This damage is on the order of under \$2000 and must be fixed if the building is to continue to exist.

The church is presently feeling the need to grow. Feeling the pinch of rising building costs, it has found it necessary to build on the level site of the 1836 building and join itself to the existing Sunday School building. Since it is having trouble financing this new building, the church decided that it can not afford to keep its historic building. Within a few days, funds must be found to move it, or someone who wants to move it for their own use. If not, this historic building will be lost forever to the bulldozer. If significant progress has not been made by Monday next, being June 14, then it will be too late for this meeting house.

Moving of the structure will cost \$3200. However before this can be done, an additional \$2,000 must be found to build pillars on which to sit it, to put rods through the building to halt the walls' spreading, and to recover the roof where the classrooms' gable covered the meeting house. Should the classrooms be left attached, it will cost more to move. It is unpainted, but this no doubt will have to wait.

Church services are always public and the public is invited to see our church for what may well be the last time. Even your presence will give us an idea as to whether the public feels this building should be saved. The church is located on S.C. Rt. 269 in Fairfield County 1½ miles from the Richland Co. line. Church services are as follows:

Sunday School ---- 10 AM Sun. Church Training ----6:30 PM Sun.
 Morning Worship -- 11 AM Sun. Mid-week Prayer Service-7:30 PM Wed.
 Vacation Bible School is being held here this week: June 7-11
 6:30 - 9:00 PM. Sat. June 12 the men of the church will be working at the church, so it will be open then.

This building is to be bulldozed Mon. next, being June 14, if significant funds have not been raised.

The church has set up a fund entitled "Crooked Run Church Moving Fund". If you would like to contribute to the moving and saving of this historic building, please make your checks payable to that fund and mail it to Crooked Run Baptist Church Rt. 3, Box 83A Winnsboro, S.C. 29180 or bring it to one of the

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Rt. 3, Box 83A Winnsboro, S.C. 29180 or bring it to one of the
above services. Be sure to make the check clearly payable to
Crooked Run Church Moving Fund, elsewise it would go into the
regular church expenses. Those contributing should include their
mailing addresses so that, in case insufficient funds are raised,
their checks may be returned. Of course all contributions are
tax deductible as are all tithes. A granite marker will be erected
listing those who felt so deeply about this as to give \$200 or
more. Should anyone have questions or want to know the day to
day progress of this fund, call James W. Green, III Rt. 3, Box
44-i Winnsboro, 635-9236 or the pastor, Rev. Terry L. Brooks
2312 Cunningham Road Columbia 798-0141. After June 13 (Sun.)
one should call first before sending money, in order to see
if significant funds came in so as to cause the church to wait
on the demolition. Please remember that there are no mail de-
liveries on Sunday, so try to mail before 5 PM Friday, so it
will be received in the Sat. delivery. If not, please phone us
telling us of your action.

Should no one come forward wanting to move the building for
their own uses, then providing the funds are raised, the Crooked
Run congregation would like to keep it on their property and hope
to use and maintain it as a repository of local church history,
a church library, a dinning room for the church and family re-
unions, and perhaps other perposes.

FUTHER AS TO THE BUILDING'S WORTH

The building is of simple meeting house style, with wooden pegs holding it together throughout. The sills are one foot square and run the length (49') and width (33½') of the building in one piece. Their corners are joined by mortise and tenon joints. Wall studs marked with roman numerals rest on the sills at points where the sills are marked with the same numerals. The sills are of heart pine, however the floor joists are split logs a half foot in diameter. Therefore, the joists are too small to be heart pine. The building was granite veneered in 1944, but this has just been removed, exposing the weather boarding. About 1926, two classrooms and a hall were added to one side of this meeting house. The floor was covered over with a new floor and one window was made into a door when the classrooms were added. Of the three original doors, two are Christian. Each of the three doors is in the middle of a different wall, so only the wall behind the pulpit is doorless. Since 1944 a window directly behind the pulpit has been sealed. The "slave gallery" was removed long ago, but its location can still be clearly seen. The wall and ceiling are of wide planks which was the style when built. The building is attractive. The overall appearance is the same as the "Old Brick Church"--Ebenezer ARP Church except that Ebenezer is brick and has a higher ceiling to accommodate a slave gallery as a balcony. While, Crooked Run is a wood frame building with a lower ceiling having a "slave gallery" on the same level as the rest of the congregation.

Crooked Run has shared pastors with 25 Mile Creek Baptist Church (now called Sandy Level Baptist) in Blythewood and Little River Baptist Church & probably others. Prior to 1836 when the present building was built, it seems that the church shared the Cedar Creek Meeting House with the Cedar Creek Methodist Church at the mouth of Little Cedar Creek in north Richland County. About 1840 the pastor of Crooked Run and 25 Mile Creek, Asa Bell, took parts of the congregations of these churches and set up Crooked Run

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 1840 the pastor of Crooked Run and 25 Mile Creek, Asa Bell, took
 parts of the congregations of these churches and set up Crooked Run
 Baptist Church which continued until 1853. They shared the same
 Meeting House. In 1845 and 1846 James C. Furman, president of Furman
 University, was pastor of Crooked Run. Crooked Run's minutes are
 extant 1834-1924. Also, Crooked Run Primitive Bapt. minutes are
 extant 1840 - 1853.

It seems that Crooked Run Bapt. Church building is perhaps
 the oldest Baptist Church building in Fairfield with the possible
 exception of Rocky Creek Baptist Church. That church's 19th cent-
 ury minutes are burned. Only two churches of any denomination claim
 their buildings are older than Crooked Run's. They are Ebenezer ARP
 and Concord Presby. Church. The early minutes of Ebenezer are lost.

The earliest extant church roll of Crooked Run is dated 1838
 and was taken from pages 399 and 402 of the previous book. That
 would have been Cedar Creek Baptist minutes. That book is not ex-
 tant. This 1838 roll served until 1866 when they made a new roll.
 It is as follows:

John Turnipseed -----Dead	Rachel Only ---Dismissed 15th
Mary Yarbrough ----Died 18th April	May 1839
1838 in the 70th year of her age	Amy Freeman -----Dead
Nancy Turnipseed -----Dead	Jacob Bony Jr. -----Dismissed
Christiana Stanton -----Dismissed	19th May 1838

John Yarbrough Senr. --Dead	Susana McGraw -----Dismissed
John Yarbrough Jr. ----Dead	Novr. 17th 1838
Lucretia Bell -----Dismissed	Nancy Frazier -- Dead still living
Vincent Bell -----Dismissed	Mary Yarbrough -----Baptized
Edward Yarbrough -----Dismissed	18th July 1838
Elizabeth Yarbrough ---Dismissed	Julia Bony -----Baptized
Sophia Bell -----Dismissed	18th July 1838
Mrs. Elizabeth Yarbrough	Catharine Frazier ----Baptized
Elizabeth Souter -----Dismissed	22nd July 1838
19th May 1838	Daniel Sedrunk -----Baptized
Marshal McGraw -----Dismissed	19th August 1838 & Dismissed
Jemima? McGraw -----Dismissed	16th March 1839
? Beard -----Dead	Nathan Lyls -----Baptized
Lizy Lyles -----Alive	19th August 1838 Dead
Peter J. Yarbrough ----Dismissed	Edward Andrews -----Baptized
Mary Yarbrough --Dismissed Dead	August 18th 1839 Alive Dead
Abraham McGraw -----Dismissed	Martha Andrews -----Baptized
Novr. 17th 1838	August 18th 1839 Alive

Several of these families have been found in the 1850 census, and I here give their age in 1838 when this roll was made and the year of their birth. M stands for Male. F stands for Female.

enumer- ator's number	age in 1838	sex	occupation	property value	place of birth	of year of birth
The following households were in Fairfield County in 1850						
302/302	Nathan T. Lyles	26	M	Planter	4500	Fairfield 1812
	Elizabeth T. "	20	F			Lexington 1818
	Francis R. "	3	F			Fairfield 1835
	Elizabeth M. "		F			" 1839
	James T. "		M			" 1841
	Benj. F. "		M			" 1846
	Thomas Marshall	51	M	Planter		N.C. 1797
	Selinda Russel	7	F			Lexington 1831
303/303	John Yarbrough	38	M	Planter	500	Chester 1800
	Elizabeth "	34	F			" 1804
	William "	3	M			Fairfield 1835
	John T. "		M			" 1840
	Elizabeth "		F			" 1848
	Jason "	3	M			" 1835
321/321	Marshal McGraw	46	M	Preacher		Fairfield 1792
	Jemima "	48	F	P. Bap.		" 1790
	John B. "	6	M			" 1832
	Samuel Crawford	10	M	Planter		Ireland 1833
	Abraham McGraw	48	M			Fairfield 1790
	Susanna "	43	F			" 1797
324/324	Edward Andrews	34	M	Planter	2580	Fairfield 1800
	Martha L. "	34	F			" 1804
	Martha L. "	8	F			" 1830
	Sarah K. "	7	F			" 1831
	Edward "	2	M			" 1831

	Benj. F.	"	M			"	1846
	Thomas Marshall	51	M	Planter		N.C.	1797
	Selinda Russel	7	F			Lexington	1831
303/303	John Yarbrough	38	M	Planter	500	Chester	1800
	Elizabeth "	34	F			"	1804
	William "	3	M			Fairfield	1835
	John T. "		M			"	1840
	Elizabeth "		F			"	1848
	Jason "	3	M			"	1835
321/321	Marshal McGraw	46	M	Preacher		Fairfield	1792
	Jemima "	48	F	P. Bap.		"	1790
	John B. "	6	M			"	1802
	Samuel Crawford	10	M	Planter		Ireland	1808
	Abraham McGraw	48	M			Fairfield	1790
	Susanna "	43	F			"	1797
324/324	Edward Andrews	34	M	Planter	2580	Fairfield	1800
	Martha L. "	34	F			"	1804
	Martha L. "	8	F			"	1800
	Sarah K. "	7	F			"	1801
	Edward "	2	M			"	1800
	Thomas T. "		M			"	1800
	James W. "		M			"	1800
	Judson B. "		M			"	1843
	John L. "		M			"	1845
	Edward A. Gibson	23	M	Physician		"	1815

The following households were in Richland County in 1850.

57/766	Jacob Boney	32	M	Labour			1806
	Elizabeth "	23	F				1815
	John T. "		M				1841
	Martha E. "		F				1843
	Frances "		F				1845
	Mary "		F				1847
	Jemimah "		F				1848

Peter and John Entzminger were members of Cedar Creek Bapt. In fact, John is the church clerk from the the begining of the extant minutes until the last day that the Baptist met at Cedar Creek. On that day, June 18, 1836, Peter and John Entzminger were "granted letters of dismissal". This is why their names were not copied from the earlier roll on to this 1838 roll. I found John Entzminger in Richland County in 1850, but in checking the index to S.C. 1850 census I could not find Peter. Either he was dead or had moved to another state or the index is in error or the census e-numerator missed him. This is true of all the rest of those on the 1838 roll which are not shown above.

/689	John Entzminger	49	M	Planter	2000	S.C.	1789
	Margaret "	47	F			"	1791

A search of other censuses and of deeds and wills would no doubt reveal information on the others on the roll. For a list of surnames appearing in the church minutes, contact the church.

A List of Some of the Families connected with Crooked Run Baptist Church and the
Year they were first mentioned 1834 - 1924

Abram	1924	Isenhower	1896
Andrews	1838	Jackson	1871
Arledge	1883	Jeter	1904
Asford	1871	Johnson	1910
Asford's servant	1843	Jones	1871
Ashford	1883	Kennedy	1924
Awl	1871	Kirkland's servant	1834
Ayens	1883	Kitchins	1859
Bailey	1904	Kohn	1904 (see Coon)
Barber	1907	Koon	(see Coon)
Darley	1840	Lawson	1866
Barron	1883	Lee	1871
Beard	1838	Lyles	1838
Beckham	1896	Mahon	1869
Bell	1838	Manly	1897
Bony	1838	Mann	1866 Mann's servant 1839
Beckman	1861	Mason	1883
Dookter's servants	1863	Matthews	1896
Bradford	1883	McCant	1844
Brasington	1921	McDowell	1894
Bray	1924	McGraw	1838
Briscoe	1891	McKinion	1924
Brooks	1838	McKinstry	1883
Broom	1839	Mellichamps	1873
Broom's servant	1834	Motts	1883
Brooths	1871	Nesbit	1904
Brown	1871 Brown's servant 1839	Nickles	1846
Busby	1871	Only	1838
Carroll	1899	Perry	1842
Cartledge	1856	Pittman	1889
Castles	1863	Porter	1840
Center	1844	Powell	1866
Chalmers	1907	Puler	1911
Chappell	1864	Rabb	1891
Clark	1871	Richardson	1904
Connors	1895	Roberts	1883
Coogler	1905	Robertson	1883
Coon (Kohn & Koon)	1871	Robinson	1903
Corpening	1912	Rose	1871
Corley	1868	Russel	
Crossland	1866	Rutland	1924
Curlee	1871	Scrugs	1853
Danfort	1857	Sharpe	1921
Davis	1838	Souter	1838
Delinger	1883	Smith	1863
Dirieux	1914	Stanton	1838
Dove	1871	Starnes	1883
Duncan	1839	Steel	1905
Dupree	1856	Taylor	1834
Durham	1871	Tennant	1883

Center 1844
 Chalmers 1907
 Chappell 1864
 Clark 1871
 Connors 1895
 Coogler 1905
 Coon (Kohn & Koon) 1871
 Corpening 1912
 Corley 1868
 Crossland 1866
 Curlee 1871
 Danfort 1857
 Davis 1838
 Delinger 1883
 Dirieux 1914
 Dove 1871
 Duncan 1839
 Dupree 1856
 Durham 1871
 Edwards 1910
 Elkins 1858
 Entzminger 1834
 Evans 1844
 Ezell 1893
 Fant 1839
 Farrow 1903
 Foster 1909
 Frazier 1838
 Freeman 1838
 Furman (James) 1844
 Geiger 1892
 Gibson 1841
 Gilbert 1860
 Glen 1854
 Goldsmith 1903
 Grenn 1860
 Griffin 1871
 Hammon 1838
 Hartin 1851
 Hawthorn 1873
 Hendrix 1852
 Hill 1851
 Hinnant 1869
 Hobson 1907
 Hood 1907
 Howell 1858
 Huggins 1833
 Hughes 1871

Powell 1866
 Puler 1911
 Rabb 1891
 Richardson 1904
 Roberts 1883
 Robertson 1883
 Robinson 1903
 Rose 1871
 Russel
 Rutland 1924
 Scrugs 1853
 Sharpe 1921
 Souter 1838
 Smith 1863
 Stanton 1838
 Starnes 1883
 Steel 1905
 Taylor 1834
 Tennant 1883
 Thomas 1866
 Tims 1883
 Tizer 1914
 Trapp 1837
 Turnipseed 1838
 Vann 1852
 Watkins 1907
 Watt 1871
 Web 1924
 Wheldon/Whildon 1838
 Wilkins 1903
 Williamson's servant 1839
 Willingham 1913
 Wooten 1894
 Wright 1838
 Yarbrough 1838
 Zealy 1859

This list was transcribed by James W. Green, III, by scanning. There is not a complete set of minutes in existence for 1834 - 1924. The minutes for 1834 to about 1872 or 1884 are on microfilm at South Caroliniana Library, USC, Columbia, S.C. and at Furman U., Greenville, S.C. and at Historical Commission SDC, 127 Ninth Ave., North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234. The rest of the minutes are to be microfilmed soon. The minutes for the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's and some scattered minutes from the rest of the 1900's have already been microfilmed with the 1834-1872 minutes and are found on film in the 3 above locations.