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## REGISTER OF ST. JOHN-IN-THE-WILDERNESS, FLAT ROCK

Transcribed by ELISE PINCKNEY \*

In searching out agreeable summering places in the mid-1820's, South Carolina planters established a community at Flat Rock, the first summer resort in western North Carolina. Escaping the hot-weather unpleasantness of the fertile low country plantations, the early Flat Rock settlers built elaborate summer homes in the mountains and supported them with the generous revenues of their South Carolina lands.

The mountainous territory between Greenville and Knoxville was generally called The Wilderness, and the pioneer Episcopal church in that area was appropriately called St. John-in-the-Wilderness.<sup>1</sup> By 1827 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baring<sup>2</sup> had initiated the Flat Rock colony by settling "Mountain Lodge" in the fashion of an extensive English estate. They soon built a small wooden chapel where family and servants could worship, but the site of this building has never been definitely established. After this first chapel was destroyed by fire, St. John's was built atop a hill less than a mile from the main dwelling. In 1833 Bishop L. S. Ives of the diocese of North Carolina described it as "A beautiful edifice of brick."

In 1836 the church at Flat Rock was transferred by Mr. Baring to Bishop Ives, who passed it on to the newly formed congregation. At a meeting on August 28, 1836, the first vestrymen were elected: Charles Baring, Thomas Lowndes, Daniel Blake, John Parker, Rutledge Parker, Rawlins Lowndes, William P. Lowndes, and Adolphus Tudor, Secretary.

Eighteen families are listed in the church record for 1847, and the following year two others were added. About this same time the first mention appears of books purchased for the church library. Since there were substantial orders recorded in the next several years, the library which the church developed must have amounted to several hundred volumes.

\* Miss Pinckney, a Charlestonian who summers in Flat Rock, has contributed a number of articles to historical periodicals. She is currently editing letters of Eliza Lucas Pinckney for publication by this Society.

<sup>1</sup> Through the years the name has been variously written: "St. John in the Wilderness," "St. John's in the Wilderness," and "St. John's-in-the-Wilderness."

<sup>2</sup> Charles Baring was of the well-known English banking family. His wife Susan, after a colorful career in London society, had married, in 1794, young James Heyward, who died soon after. The annuity she received from his rice-growing lands in South Carolina amounted to a fine fortune for the Barings to enjoy.

The growing congregation called for more spacious quarters, and St. John-in-the-Wilderness was enlarged in 1852 according to a design by E. C. Jones, a Charleston architect. The square bell tower rises well above the high-pitched roof and tops most of the trees in the sloping graveyard. A gallery at the lower end of the church provided pews for the servants who attended service, and there was also a burial ground for them on the church property. The gallery was removed about 1880 at the time a new organ was installed.

Mr. and Mrs. Baring had built a charming rectory for their private chaplain, the Rev. T. S. W. Mott, but apparently the church never owned this property. In 1853 a small piece of land near the church was purchased for the rectory, which has recently been converted to a parish house.

St. John's, like many another church, has reflected the changes in prosperity of its members. The report on the alms for 1865 is covered by this unhappy note: "No alms were taken up at the Communion this year. The destruction of the Confederacy and its currency left most of the Parishioners almost penniless."

Until recently it has been the practice of the church to remain open four months each summer with a rotation of vacationing ministers for each month. Now St. John's has taken on new dimensions as a year-round parish church with the Rev. Walter Roberts as rector.

Picturesque in its prominent location beside U. S. Highway 25, St. John-in-the-Wilderness occasions two historic markers on the roadside: one outlines the history of the church itself, and the other commemorates C. G. Memminger, Secretary of the Confederate Treasury, whose grave is in the churchyard.

The title page of the first volume of the register reads as follows: "The Parochial Register of the Church of St. John in the Wilderness, Flat Rock. Henderson County. N.C. Begun Anno Domini 1847." This volume contains the records through 1923. The burial entries have been copied in full, others only through 1900.

#### BAPTISMS

Baptisms in 1840. By Rev. T. S. W. Mott.<sup>3</sup>

Aug. 30. William Bryson. (Adult) Witnesses, Mr. Baring and Mr. Parker.

Mary Jane	} Parents acting as Sponsors.
Martha Louisa	
Walter Mott	

<sup>3</sup> Entries prior to 1847 appear in the handwriting of the Rev. C. C. Pinckney, Jr., with a note appended: "The above is copied from a list of Baptisms sent me by Rev. S. W. Mott, during the period of his Rectorship of the Church.—C. C. Pinckney, Jr. 1849."

Sept. 6. Margaret King, Daughter of Mitchel and Elizabeth King. Born 21 March, 1840. Sponsors, Margaret C. King, Susan M. Parker & Henry C. King.

## 1841

[no date] Emma Frederica, Daughter Frederick & Henrietta Rutledge. Born May 10, 1841. Sponsors, W. Ogilby, Septima Fogg & Mrs. Henry Rutledge.

July 31. Daniel Francis, Son David & Emma M. Blake. Born April 30, 1841. Sponsors, Wm. Ogilby, Francis Blake & Elizabeth P. Rutledge.

Aug. 15. Henry Yeomans, Son of Thomas S. W. & Susan A. Mott. Born June 1, 10 o'clock P. M. 1841. Sponsors, The Parents. Baptism by B[ishop] Ives.

Aug. 15. Mitchell King, Son of Dr. M. C. & Elizabeth King. Born June 1841. Sponsors, The Parents & Mitchell King, Sen. By B[ishop] Ives.

## 1842

Sept. 18. Harriett Rutledge, Daughter John L. & Mary E. Toomer. Born Aug. 21, 1841.

Sept. 19. Fany Caroline Helen, Daughter of Daniel & Emma Blake. Born Aug. 13, 1842.

Emma Maria, Daughter of Walter & Ann S. Blake. Born May 12, 1842.

Walter, Son of Walter & Ann S. Blake. Born Aug. 14, 1840.

Sept. 21. Serwick Edmonston, Born May 2, 1837.

Thomas Banet, Born Sept. 8, 1839

Maria Adeline, Born Sept. 8, 1839

Robert, Born May 30, 1841

Children Mr. & Mrs.  
Pearson.

March 11. Arthur Pinckney. Born Mar. 11, 1833

Mary Eliza. Born Feb. 21, 1835

Phoebe Jane. Born April 30, 1838

Otis Prentice. Born Feb. 22, 1840

John William. Born Mar. 4, 1842

Children of John Mills &  
Eliza C. Graham.  
Sponsors, Mother & Susan  
A. Mott.

## 1847

Sept 26. Baptised George & Peg (Colored) Adults. Servants of A. H. Seabrook of Beaufort, So. Car. By C. C. Pinckney, Jr., Rector.

## 1848

July 26 Baptised Elizabeth Ann, Daughter of Rev. C. C. Pinckney & Hesse H. Pinckney. Born Feb. 16. Sponsors, D. Ed. Barnwell, Miss E. Dawson, Miss M. Barnwell.

July 26 Baptised Richard Ion, Son of Richard & Susan Lowndes. Born Dec. 13, 1847. Sponsors, Parents & Mrs. Kinlock.

Aug. 13. Baptised Elizabeth Dean, Adult. Wife of W. S. Brown. Witnesses, Mr. & Mrs. Pinckney, Sen.

Josephine

Fanny Holland

Jacob Kirby

Pamela

Children of W. S. & Elizabeth D. Brown

Sponsors W. Spencer Brown, Mrs. M. Brown & Miss Harriet Holland, all of Philadelphia.

Oct. 6. Alexander, Son of Charles & Constance R. Baring. Born at Walterboro' June 25. Sponsors, Parents. By C. C. Pinckney, Jr.

1849

Aug. 22. Baptised Emily Rutledge, Daughter of Richard & Susan Lowndes. Born. April 11, 1849. Sponsors, The Parents.

1850

July 28. Baptised Maria Henrietta, Daughter of C. C. Pinckney & Hesse H. Pinckney. Born Mar. 3. Sponsors, C. C. Pinckney, Sr., Miss M. H. Pinckney & Miss M. Barnwell.

Baptised Ann Elliott, Daughter of Andrew & Mary B. Johnston. Born May 9. Sponsors, Parents & Miss A. Elliott.

Sept. 10. Baptised Reginald Edmund, Son of Walter & Ann S. Blake of Combahee, S. C. Born 22 May 1849. Sponsors, Mother, E. Molyneux & Dan Blake.

1851

Sept. 1. Mary Elliott, daughter of Andrew and Mary B. Johnstone. Born July 11, 1851. Sponsors, The Parents.

Eliza Selina, daughter of F. W. and E. B. Johnstone. Born March 23, 1851. Sponsors, The Parents.

Archibald Hamilton, son of A. H. and Phoebe Caroline Seabrook. Born July 10, 1851. Sponsors, Rev. C. E. Leverett, Julia E. Seabrook.

1852

Oct. 31. George Edward, son of Edward and Julia Reed. Born August 25, 1852. Sponsors, Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Martin, Rev. Arthur Wigfall and Miss L. B. Blocker.

1853

Jany. 30. Catharine Macka, daughter of J. A. and M. E. Huger. Born Nov. 13, 1852. Sponsors, Parents & Miss Cartherine N. C. Stiles.

Emma Elliott, daughter of Andrew and M. B. Johnstone. Born Nov. 14, 1852. Sponsors, Parents & Mrs. F. W. Johnstone.

1854

July 10. Martha, daughter of William & Pigeon, servants of Dr. M. C. King. Aged 1 month. Sponsors, Rebecca & Martha, servants of Dr. King.

Sept. 17. Frances Elliott, daughter of Andrew and Mary Barnwell Johnstone. Born Feb. 24, 1854. Sponsors, Parents.

Sept. 17. Isabel Frazier, daughter of Wm. O. & Alice S. Johnstone. Born June 19, 1854. Sponsors, Parents and Miss Jane M. Frazier.

Louis Simons, son of Francis W. & Eleanor B. Johnstone. Born Nov. 15, 1853. Sponsors, Parents.

N. B. The above named three children were baptized with water from the river Jordan.

#### 1855

Oct. 30. Susan, daughter of Henry C. & Caroline Farmer. Sponsors, The Mother and Mrs. Kinloch.

Mary Graham, daughter of the above. Sponsors, the Mother and Mrs. J. G. Drayton.

Ann Eliza, daughter of the above. Sponsors, the Mother and Mrs. Singleton.

Matthew Singleton, son of the above. Sponsors, C. G. Memminger, Rev. J. G. Drayton and Mrs. Singleton.

#### 1856

Aug. 16 William Aiken, son of Richard H. & Susan M. Lowndes. Born April 20, 1856. Sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Aiken.

Aug. 6. Miles Brewton, son of Daniel Heyward and Rebecca Motte Hamilton. Born April 10, 1856. Sponsors, Mary Hamilton, Jr. and Richard H. Lowndes.

Archibald Hamilton, son of A. H. and Phoebe Caroline Seabrook. Born April 11, 1856. Sponsors, Rev. C. C. Pinckney, Cotesworth Pinckney Seabrook and Mary Elliott Pinckney.

#### 1857

Nov. 1. Ambrosio Jose, son of Ambrosio Jose and Harriett Rutledge Elliott Gonzales. Born May 21, 1857. Sponsors, Miguel de Aldama, Benigno Gener and Hilaria Font de Aldama.

#### 1858

Oct. 17. Alexander, son of Edw & Julia Reed. Born Feb. 12, 1857. Sponsors, Rev. J. G. Drayton, A. H. Seabrook and Mrs. A. H. Lowndes.

#### 1860

Aug. 16. Laura Caroline, daughter of Leander & Emily Jane Garren. Born June 11, 1860. Sponsors, Miss Arsene Trenholm.

Sept 16. George Kirkwood, son of A. Campbell & Mary Lee King. Born August 7, 1860. Sponsors, George Kirkwood King, Josiah J. Evans and Mrs. Thomas Sloo.

Nov. 4. Julia, daughter of Edw. and Julia Reed. Born Oct. 5, 1860. Sponsors, Dr. M. LaBorde, Mrs. M. C. King and Miss Mary C. Pinckney.

1861

June 28. Mary Jane, daughter of George & Margaret Cartwright. Born April 27, 1861. Sponsors, Thomas Stirling & Anne Gallagher.

1862

June 7. Joseph Thomas, servant of John R. Jones. Born Feb. 7, 1862. Baptised in extremis.

Aug. 31. Thomas, son of Simpy & Diana. Aged 3 months.

Edmund, son of Sam & Maria. Aged 5 weeks.

Sponsors, Mothers and Ruth. The above are all servants of Henry A. Middleton.

Sept. 3. James Coleman, son of Robert Trimble and Marie Eloise Ford. Born at Louisville, Ky., July 13, 1861. Sponsors, The parents.

Sept. 21. Sarah Jane, daughter of George and Margaret Cartwright. Aged three weeks. (Baptised by Rev. Mr. Mallet at Mr. Andrew Johnstone's.)

Kate, daughter of Laurence and Grace. Aged 3 months.

Caroline, daughter of Jackson and Silvia. Aged 9 months.

West, son of West and Hettie. Aged 1 year.

[N. B.] The above are servants of Mr. Andrew Johnstone and the baptisms were performed by Rev. Mr. Mallet of the Church of England.

Nov. 8. Eliza Campbell, daughter of Alexander Campbell and Mary Lee King. Born Oct. 19, 1862. Sponsors, Dr. M. C. King, Mrs. Ellen M. Campbell and Mrs. Henrietta Williman. Baptized at home.

Nov. 9. John Middleton, son of M. C. and E. M. King. Parents, Sponsors.

1863

Jany. 25. Baptised at the residence of Daniel E. Huger his wife Caroline Proctor Huger and their daughter Isabella Izard Middleton. Parents, Sponsors.

May 5. Baptised at the residence of Mr. Schoolbred. Eliza Hayne, daughter of [blank]

May 18. Henrietta Campbell, daughter of A. B. and Henrietta C. Williman. Born May 9, 1863.

Aug. 27. Katherine Miller, daughter of David and K. B. Williams. Born Dec. 27, 1860. Sponsors, Mrs. A. D. Slocomb and the Mother.

Nov. 8. Casar and Maria, servants of R. I. Middleton. (adults) Witnesses, Prince, servant of C. C. Pinckney, and Cis, servant of Rev. J. G. Drayton.<sup>4</sup>

Nov. 22. Venus, servant of R. I. Middleton. (adult) Witnesses, Prince and Cis.

<sup>4</sup> He had built a summer home, "Ravenswood," at Flat Rock about 1860, and probably served the church from 1862 to 1868, as the entries in the Register for these years appear to be in his handwriting.



1864

- July 3. Adam, servant of Rev. J. G. Drayton. (Adult) Witnesses, Robinson, servant of Rev. J. G. D., and [blank] servant of Charles Baring.
- Aug. 5. Simon, servant of Jas. R. Pringle. 11 months. Baptised at home (sick).
- Aug. 22. Christopher Gustavus Memminger. Born Aug. 10, 1864. Parents, Robert Withers Memminger, Susan Memminger. Sponsors, C. G. Memminger, Jun., Edmund Mazyck, Miss Charlotte Mazyck.
- Oct. 24. Francis Lightfoot Lee Campbell. Born May 21, 1864. Parents, Francis Lee Campbell, Ellen Milliken Campbell. Sponsors, Dr. M. C. King, Mrs. Alexander Morrison and Miss Louisa P. King.
- Oct. 24. Josiah James Evans King. Born Sept. 20, 1864. Parents, Alexander Campbell King and Mary Lee King. Sponsors, Mrs. William H. Evans, Mrs. Thos. C. Evans & Miss Louisa P. King.
- Oct. 30. Susan and Molly (servants of Dr. Means).  
 Hannah, Grace and Eliza (do, Estate of A. Johnstone).  
 Edward and Jacob ("Mrs. Singleton).
- [N. B.] The above children were baptised by Rev. Dr. Hanckel at my request. J. D.
- Nov. 6. Abram and Billy, Sons of Casar and Venus, [and]  
 William, son of Andrew, servants of R. I. Middleton.  
 Amanda, daughter of Bella [and]  
 Pino, son of Ann, servants of R. H. Lowndes.  
 Elizabeth, daughter of William, servant of Thos. Bennett.  
 Tina, daughter of Morris and Mary, servant of E. L. Trenholm.
- Nov. 20. Sarah, daughter of Hesse, 7 years  
 Seymour and Lee, children of Harriett, 4 and 2 years, servants of Mrs. Ed. Reed.  
 Rosy, daughter of Becy [and]  
 Richard, son of Richard and Peggy, servants of Dr. M. C. King.

1865

- Sept. 28. Elizabeth Middleton Mazyck. Born Sept 8, 1865. Parents, Philip Mazyck and Margaret C. Mazyck. Sponsors, William St. Julien Mazyck, Arabella Mazyck, Frances Motte King.

1866

- June 10. William Mazyck Memminger. Born March 7, 1866. Parents, Robert Withers Memminger, Susan Memminger. Sponsors, Philip P. Mazyck, Robert Withers Memminger & Mrs. Ann S. Lucas.
- Oct. 14. Edward George Trenholm. Born, August 11, 1866. Parents, Edward L. Trenholm, Jun., Jane Gorden Trenholm. Sponsors, Rev. C. C. Pinckney, C. G. Memminger, Sen., Mrs. Anna J. Mayrant, Miss A. S. Trenholm.

(To be continued)

MARRIAGE AND DEATH NOTICES FROM THE CITY GAZETTE  
OF CHARLESTON, 1826

Compiled by INEZ H. GRIFFIN

*(Continued from January)*

Died at residence of Maj. Jos. Mickle in Kershaw Dist., S. C., on 8th Mr. Samuel Breed, aged 78. Revolutionary soldier until May 1780, he was taken prisoner at surrender of Fort Moultrie and paroled with Maj. Eli Kershaw and others to Camden, where he continued a citizen until within a few years. Having lost his wife and numerous family, all except a grandson, he lived among his friends in the country.—Died at Norfolk on 9th, Mr. Peter G. Titreville, aged 45.—In Phila. on 7th Mr. John M'Cormack, aged 38; on 6th Mr. John Albert, aged 75; Mr. Edward S. Paxson, aged 19; Mr. Francis Bacon, bookbinder.—In Washington on 3d inst John Hutchison of Loudoun County, Va. aged 71. (Thursday, November 16.)

Another patriot of Revolution no more.—Died at his plantation in M'Intosh Co., Ga. near place of his birth on 12th Gen. John M'Intosh, aged about 70. Gen. M'Intosh was an officer in the Georgia Line under the Continental establishment in 1775. . . . In 1814 he was again found in defence of his country, commanded the Georgia Division which went to Pensacola. (Friday, November 17.)

Died—In Augusta, Ga. on 13th Capt. Joshua B. Hartford, native of Dover (NH) in the 29th year of his age.—On his plantation in the Parish of Piaquemine, La., on the 12th of Oct. Mr. Wm. Bailey, aged 37, native of S. C.—At Washington City, on the 29th Daniel N. Brinsmade, Esq. aged 75. Public man in his state for many years, returned as member of Legislature of Conn. 44 times, Justice of Peace 34 years, ten years of the Judges of the County Court, 34 years he was town clerk and 29 years selectman of his native town. . . . Conn. *Journal*. (Saturday, November 18.)

Married: On Wednesday Eve. 22d inst. by the Rev. Mr. Munds, Mr. J. J. Truax, to Miss Maria L. Stevens, all of this city. (Friday, November 24.)