

## AIMWELL CHURCH IN RIDGEWAY TO BE REDEDICATED

1790 ----- 1953

Ridgeway's historic Aimwell Presbyterian Church will be re-dedicated at evening services Nov. 8 th. at 7:30 o'clock. The Rev. Charles C. Turner is the present pastor. The occasion is the completion of the renovation of the house of worship.

The Rev. T. Robert Fulton, pastor of the Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia, will deliver the message. Among the guests who will bring greetings will be:

Mr. R. M. Cooper of Wisacky, Moderator of the Synod of S. C.

Mr. D. W. Robinson of Columbia, Moderator of the Congaree Presbytery

Other expected guests are: Rev. John MacEachern of Columbia and the Rev. R. K. Timmons, both former pastors of the church: the Rev. Harry F. Peterson, Executive Secretary of Congaree Presbytery, and the Rev. A. M. Martin, Executive Secretary of the Synod of South Carolina.

The church was organized in 1790 through the interest of John Rosborough and his wife Ann Cubit, who moved here from the Lebanon section of Fairfield County. Services were held in their home until land on Eedar Creek was given for a church site by Francis Robingson. The present church is the fourth building to serve the congregation. The first one was located, by tradition, out near the present home of John Hood. It was consumed by a grass fire. The members numbered 30 at that time. Then one of logs was built across from the present home of Mrs. N. Z. Crumpton. This was used until 1833, when the frame building was erected in Aimwell cemetery, on land given by Edward Gendron Palmer of Valencia. For a few years this served as the church for the community. Later other churches were established in town.

ALM WELL CHURCH \*\*\*\*\*CONTINUED

Mrs. Herbert Ruff, in one of her articles, gives this description of the church at that time. "On the highway winding from Winnsboro to Ridgeway, there is an old cemetery, and in the center of the grave yard proper, stood an old church, white, four square, with a recessed porch columns. There were two doors opening on the porch, and in the enclosed ends were concealed the steps leading up to the gallery, where the servants sat".

On the first Saturday in January 1840, the semi-centenary of the church was observed. The membership then was 38 and \$63.00 was subscribed for the Board of Publication.

In the year 1842, Harmony Presbytery met at the church for a six day period. The Rev. M. Peden, then pastor, preached the sermon from Malachi 2:7. To Rev. Peden we are indebted for what little we know of the church's early history, as, in an early session book, we find his written account. This church in the cemetery was dedicated under the pastorship of the Rev. G. W. Boggs, Nov. 18, 1859----94 years ago. The date 1859 appears on the baptismal bowl, still in use.

When the present church in town was erected, it was used as a chapel for prayer services. The church in the cemetery was taken down and the material was used again as a church by the colored congregation of Presbyterians on the Smallwood road. A session book dated 1885 states that the session met in the chapel in Ridgeway in that year, hence this site has been used close to 70 years.

In 1889, under the pastorship of the Rev. J. G. Herndon, the 100 th anniversary of the acceptance of the church into the Presbytery of South Carolina was celebrated.

The 150 th. anniversary of the church was celebrated on Aug. 18, 1940 while the Rev. B. H. Franklin was pastor.

AIMWELL CHURCH -----continued

In the last few years the membership has numbered some 70 members. They have contributed liberally of their time, talents and finances to make it a beautiful place for worship. The renovation work has gone forward under the direction of Mr. Tom Moore of Columbia as contractor, and the following committee:

Mr. J. L. Coleman

Mrs. W. C. Edmunds

Mr. George Palmer

Mr. W. H. Kennedy

Mr. H. Logan Crumpton

It is fitting that a service of re-dedication be conducted, remembering a few lines found in an old session book, "The kind hand of Providence has preserved and kept alive this little vine through all these years", ---163 at present.