

NORTH OF THE BROAD RIVER

The Land and the People

Volume One

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NORTH OF THE BROAD RIVER

The Land and the People

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Crooked Run Primitive Baptist Church

Below the old Stephen Smith homestead (old Doctor Lever home) Little and Big Cedar Creek join to form Cedar Creek. This combined creek flows for a couple of miles and joins Broad River near the old Southern Railroad station of Montgomery.

On a rocky hill just below the junction of Cedar Creek with Broad River, there is a small graveyard. Only two graves in this graveyard are marked: Sarah C. Bell, wife of Asa Bell, died September 5, 1845, aged 38 years, 7 months; John Bell, son of Asa Bell, died October 4, 1845, aged 11 years. These marked graves and two or more unmarked graves occupy the southwest corner of an area approximately 60 by 100 feet that was marked off by a shallow ditch. This ditch was probably considerably deeper at one time and served as a drainage ditch. It is postulated that this area might at one time had a small church or home near this graveyard. At about the time of these burials, there was a schism in the Baptist Church and Asa Bell was a leading figure in this dissension.

On February 1, 1840, a minority left the Salem Covenant of the Baptist Church at the mouth of Little Cedar (sic) Creek and came out of her as a Primitive Baptist Church. Under this date, there is entered in the church minutes a statement of the beliefs of this group, and the intention of organizing itself into the Crooked Run Baptist Church. This group declared a dissoctation from the "regular Baptists" of the parent church, Twenty-five Mile (later Sandy Level) Baptist Church. The following members of Twenty-five Mile Church declared their intention of going with the new church; and on March 7, 1840, were taken into the new church:

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- 1- Vincent Bell, excluded September 11, 1845.
- 2-Marshall McGraw.
- 3-Amy Freeman, dismissed January 11, 1845.
- 4-Julia Boney, deceased November 1850.
- 5-Jamima McGraw, died October 6, 1854.
- 6-Sophia Bell, discharged by letter September 11, 1847.
- 7-Lucretia Bell, dismissed January 13, 1847.
- 8-Nancy Turnipseed, dismissed by letter September 11, 1848.
- 9- Christener Stanton
- 10- Arthur McGraw, died January 2, 1849.
- 11- John Turnipseed, died May 19, 1841.
- 12- Sarah Bell, baptized June 14, 1840, died September 5, 1845.
- 13-Jonathan Mickle, restored September 12, 1840, dismissed by letter 1841.
- 14-Eliza Monts, baptized May 9, 1841.
- 15-John Mickle, baptized July 11, 1840, dismissed by letter 1847.
- 16- Lydia Stone, disavowal of New School, dismissal by letter on April 11, 1843.
- 17-John Andrews, dismissed by letter , December 10, 1843.
- 18- Jamima McGraw, baptized August 13, 1843.

Twenty-nine Negro slaves joined this church, the largest number belonging to Captain Bookter.

This dissenting group was denied entry into the church (Twenty-five Mile Baptist Church) and at first held its meetings on the steps of the church. Business meetings, with minutes, were held each month. Often these meetings were on Saturday and Sunday unless bad weather intervened.

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The meetings usually included preaching and "exertations" (exhortations). Asa Bell acted as preacher; Vincent Bell was a deacon with a license to preach; M. McGraw was the clerk with a license to preach and to lead the exhortations. The congregation was in correspondence with Ararat on Twenty-five Mile Creek, and together these churches attempted to raise five dollars in an abortive attempt to establish a Primitive Baptist Church near Aiken. The last minutes of the Crooked Run Primitive Baptist Church were written on Saturday, April 30, 1853, by William Nelson as clerk and Daniel Wootan as moderator. Several lines were skipped and this note made:¹ "By death and removal the Crooked Run Church was broken down!"

The relationship of the Crooked Run Primitive Baptist Church and the present Crooked Run Baptist Church cannot be established- and probably there was no relationship except in name. On the front of the present Crooked Run Baptist Church is this plaque: "Organized at Crane Creek and moved here from Cedar Creek on September 28, 1836. This building erected 1826 and known as the Meeting House in Hendrix Old Field. Remodeled in stone in 1944!"

Fitz Hugh McMaster gives this account: the Rev. John Nicholas Martin, an early German Lutheran minister, preached overmost of Fairfield County and established Auf der Morven, an interdenominational meeting house in the southwestern part of the county, later the site of the present Crooked Run Church.²

1- MS Minutes of Crooked Run Primitive Baptist Church, South Caroliniana Library.

2- Fitz Hugh McMaster, History of Fairfield County, P.74

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According to Dr. Joe M.King, Cedar Creek Baptist Church was organized about 1826, and first appeared in the minutes of the Bethel Association in 1830. It became Crooked Run Baptist Church and was dismissed to the Salem Association where it first appeared in the minutes in 1845. The Salem Association ceased to exist in 1863, and Crooked Run Baptist Church was transferred to the Fairfield Association where it remains until the present
3
time

Cedar Creek Baptist Church was organized under the Twenty-Five Mile Baptist Church (later Sandy Level) and first appeared in the minutes of the Twenty-five Mile Church on October 30, 1824, when " 50 cents taken out of the fund of the Branch at Cedar Creek" for the minutes of the Charleston Association to be held at Society Hill. A dollar was taken out of this fund to help defray the expenses of the delegates to this meeting. In the minutes of the Twenty-five Mile Baptist Church for Saturday July 1 1826, is the notation : " Agreed that our pastor is at liberty to receive members baptized at the New Meeting House on the Waters of Crane Creek" On Saturday, April 5, 1826, there was a minute to the effect that there was "received through the deacon a part of the proceeds of the Cedar Creek Church" On Friday, January 3, 1829, a letter was received from the Cedar Creek Church asking for a "dismissal from the Mother Church". This request was granted and the clerk was ordered to prepare a grant. On June 30, 1838, Elizabeth Souter; and on November 2, 1838, Jacob Boney transferred by letter from Crooked Run Baptist Church to Twenty-five Mile Baptist Church. This is conclusive evidence that Crooked Run Baptist Church had received its permanent name prior to that date in June 1838.

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On June 6, 1840, there was a minute in the Twenty-five Mile Baptist Church records to the effect that Brother (Asa) Bell (the pastor) had publicly declared himself " a nonfellowship with associations and other benevolent institutions of the day, and objected to Brother Broom as Moderator, saying that he was not of the same faith with himself." This resulted in the schism in the church with Asa Bell, Matthew Wootan, Victor Neely, Henry Price, Patience Wilson and Marie Raines, constituting a minority, withdrew from the church. Opportunities were given for the members to declare themselves on June 20, 1840, and on August 15, 1840, for the majority or minority.

The name was changed from Twenty-five Mile Baptist Church to Sandy Level Baptist Church on October 14, 1843. Twenty-five Mile Church was organized in 1785. Asco (Asa) Bell's name first appeared in the somewhat fragmentary minutes of the church on July 15, 1817, and apparently he served the church as moderator and minister until the schism in 1840. It will be remembered that he became the minister for the Crooked Run Primitive Baptist Church in that year.⁴

Undoubtedly Asa and Vincent Bell were relatives - brothers or father and son. Vincent Bell was the son-in-law of Nancy Turnipseed, and on October 21, 1841, she conveyed to him \$1 and all of her personal property in exchange for the promise that he would provide her with lodging and board for the duration of her life. This Nancy Turnipseed was probably the widow of John Turnipseed who had died on May 19, 1841.⁵

4- MS Minutes of Twenty-five Mile Baptist Church, South Caroliniana Library.
F.D.Bm Bk NN, P.486.

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The Hamiters

The old Hamiter place was located near where South Carolina Highway 215 North crosses Cedar Creek. Much of the old Hamiter place lies above the bridge and is now owned by Dr. Jean LaBorde.

On Friday, September 17, 1736, the Royal Governor of South Carolina, in Council, signed a grant for 300 acres of land and a lot in the township and town of Orangeburgh for Jacob Hammeter (Hamiter).⁶ On July 16, 1773, 150 acres of land was laid out for John (Jacob?) Hammeter north of Cedar Creek, Broad River: bound SW on land of the Rev. John Frederick Dowbber (DuBard) and on vacant land; SE on Cedar Creek and Herman Kinsler's land; and⁷ all other sides by vacant land.

The genealogy of the Hamiter family as compiled by Fannie Lever:

(John?) Jacob Hamiter married -----?

Issue:

Jacob married -----?

Adam Frderick married Barbary Turnipseed.

Margarette married Daniel Ruff.

Mary Eve married Stephen Smith (jr)

ADAM F. HAMITER, son of Jacob Hamiter, married Barbary Turnipseed.

Issue:

Polly married Felix Turnipseed.

Nancy married George Turnipseed.

Betsy married William DuBard.

Sucky married Daniel Gradick

6-C.J. September 17, 1736.

7- C.P. Vol. 15, P. 274.

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Neighbors on Persimmon Fork

love, affection and for \$10 paid by his daughter Rachel Burge (Rachel Perry?) gave her the Negro boy named Hampton. After her death he is to go to Joseph and Eliza Perry.

According to the tax returns for Fairfield District for 1822, Buckner Haigood had 300 acres of land and eleven slaves.

Buckner Haigood joined Twenry-five Mile Baptist Church, later Sandy Run Baptist Church, on September 6, 1823. He remained an active member of that church for nearly forty years, and served as a delegate to the Baptist Association meetings on several occasions, and as a deacon. When the great schism took place in the church that resulted in the formation of the Crooked Run Primitive Baptist Church in 1840, he remained loyal to the mother church. We don't know the relationship of Buckner Haigood and Martha Haigood who joined Twenty-five Mile Baptist in 1832; or Hester Haigood who was carried as a member for a number of years.

LEWIS HAIGOOD JR., son of the elder Lewis Haigood, sold James Craig 116 acres of land on Morris Creek for 29 pounds, sterling, on November 20, 1815. An unusual provision in this sale, and one which is not clear, was that Frances Haigood, widow of Henry Haigood, to have the right to live on this land and to cultivate it. This land was part of 2000 acres that had been granted to Lawrence(?) Porcher on November 20, 1795: bound northwest on the land of William Deleny; southwest on William Bell; southeast on Henry Owen; and northeast on Daniel William. Little else is known of Lewis Haigood Jr.

18- F.D.B, Bk EE, P.115, 1823; Bk DD, P.348, P. 1823.

19-MS Return of Taxable Property for Fairfield and other Districts for 1822.

20-MS Minutes Twenty-Five Mile Baptist Church (Sandy Run Baptist Church).

21- F.D.B., Bk X, P.68.

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