

Letter of the Editor
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 for 140 continuous years. This building is perhaps the oldest Baptist Church in Fairfield & 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 \$2,000 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 found 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 ~~probably~~ 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, rods must be put through the building to halt the walls' spreading, and the roof must be recovered 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. 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 this week here June 7-11 6:30-9 PM
This building is to be bulldozed Mon. next being June 14, if a significant amount has 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 above services. Be sure to make the check clearly payable to Crooked Run Church Moving Fund, otherwise it would go into the regular church expenses. Should not enough money be collected, the checks will be returned by mail. Of course all contributions are tax deductible as are all tithes. Should you wish to know the day to day progress of this fund, call James W. Green Rt. 3, Box 44-i Winnsboro 635-9236 or the pastor, Rev. Terry L. Brooks 2312 Cunningham Rd. Columbia 798-0141.

Should no one come forward wanting to move the building for their uses, then ~~providing~~ the funds are raised, 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 dining room for church use and family reunions, and perhaps other uses.

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. The 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 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 Primative 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 century minutes are burned. Only two churches of any demomination 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 extant. 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 Souther -----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	year of birth
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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	41	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	1813
	Abraham McGraw	48	M			Fairfield	1700
	Susanna "	43	F			"	1791
324/324	Edward Andrews	34	M	Planter	2580	Fairfield	1804
	Martha L. "	34	F			"	1804
	Martha L. "	8	F			"	1830
	Sarah K. "	7	F			"	1831
	Edward "	2	M			"	1835
	Thomas T. "		M			"	1836
	James W. "		M			"	1840
	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.

Year they were first mentioned 1834 - 1924

Abram 1924	Isenhower 1896
Andrews 1838	Jackson 1871
Arledge 1893	Jover 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)
Barley 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
Bookter's servants 1863	Matthews 1896
Bradford 1883	McCant 1844
Brasington 1921	McDowell 1894
Bray 1924	McGraw 1838
Briscoe 1891	McKinon 1924
Brooks 1838	McKinstry 1883
Broom 1839	Mellichamps 1873
Broom's servant 1834	Motts 1883
Brooths 1871	Nesbit 1904
Brown 1871	Nickles 1846
Brown's servant 1839	Only 1838
Busby 1871	Perry 1842
Carroll 1899	Pittman 1889
Cartledge 1856	Porter 1840
Castles 1863	Powell 1866
Center 1844	Puler 1911
Chalmers 1907	Rabb 1891
Chappell 1864	Richardson 1904
Clark 1871	Roberts 1883
Connors 1895	Robertson 1883
Coogler 1905	Robinson 1903
Coon (Kohn & Coon) 1871	Rose 1871
Corpening 1912	Russel
Corley 1868	Rutland 1924
Crossland 1866	Scrugs 1853
Curlee 1871	Sharpe 1921
Danfort 1857	Souter 1838
Davis 1838	Smith 1863
Delinger 1883	Stanton 1838
Dirieux 1914	Starnes 1863
Dove 1871	Steel 1905
Duncan 1839	Taylor 1834
Dupree 1856	Tennant 1883
Durham 1871	Thomas 1866
Edwards 1910	Tims 1883
Elkins 1858	Tizer 1914
Entzminger 1834	Trapp 1837
Evans 1844	Turnipseed 1838
Ezell 1893	Vann 1852
Fant 1839	Watkins 1907
Farrow 1903	Watt 1871
Foster 1909	Web 1924
Frazier 1838	Wheldon/Whildon 1838
Freeman 1838	Wilkins 1903
Furman (James) 1844	Williamson's servant 1839
Geiger 1892	Willingham 1913
Gibson 1841	Wooten 1894
Gilbert 1860	Wright 1838
Glen 1854	Yarbrough 1838
Goldsmith 1903	Zealy 1859
Grenn 1860	
Griffin 1871	
Hammon 1838	
Hartin 1851	
Hawthorn 1873	
Hendrix 1852	
Hill 1851	
Hinnant 1869	
Hobson 1907	
Hood 1907	
Howell 1858	
Huggins 1883	
Hughes 1871	

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, U.S.C., Columbia, S.C. and at Furman U., Greenville, S.C. and at Historical Commission SBC, 127 Ninth Ave., North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234. The rest of the minutes are to be microfilmed soon. The minutes for the 1950's and 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 three locations mentioned above.

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