

THE REVEREND JAMES JENKINS

1764----- 1847

James Jenkins was one of the most prominent preachers of his day. Dr. Chreitzberg, in his book "Early Methodism in the Carolinas", described him as an "Elijah or a John the Baptist of the early church, by eminence one of the most heroic founders of Methodism in the entire state." He was tall, erect with an independent bearing and cast iron expressions of features. He made an indelible impression on all who saw him. His style of preaching was very plain and simple. He had but one purpose and that was to rebuke sin and urge the necessity of vital Godliness. Even in his old age when he was almost blind, his thin, long white hair and his fearlessness in proclaiming the truth made his hearers feel deeply.

James Jenkins was born in Marion County, South Carolina in 1764. He was admitted into the Methodist Conference on Feb. 14, 1792 along with Coleman Carlisle. His first appointment was Cherokee Circuit, a six weeks circuit, 300 miles in circumference. There were a few log churches but religious services were held most often in homes. His salary that year was \$20.00

In 1794 he was ordained by Bishop Asbury and appointed to Santee Circuit. In 1795 he was appointed to Edisto Circuit, which began in the Dutch Fork Section above Columbia and took in parts of Fairfield, Newberry, Chester and Union Counties.

Mr. Jenkins advanced rapidly and by the year 1801, we find him Presiding Elder of the whole state. In 1802, the state was divided into two districts, Saluda under George Doughler and Camden under James Jenkins, where he remained until 1805. In that year, he took the superannuate relation, because of poor health (and no wonder) - For the next six years, he lived on his farm near Camden, farmed for a living and preached when invited. --

In 1808 he was invited to preach in Winnsboro and out of this visit was born First Church, Winnsboro. He always had a special fondness for people of Winnsboro and called the Buchanan "His Spiritual Children."

On June 24, 1847, Mr. Jenkins closed his earthly ministry, and entered his eternal home. His body rests in the Old Quaker Cemetery, in Camden, S.C.

Nowhere could we find a better description of Methodism, in Winnsboro than is given by Mr. Jenkins himself and of the building of that first church than are found in the accurate records kept by Capt. John Buchanan. Prior to the erection of this first church, preaching services were held in the courthouse. Mr. Jenkins came to Winnsboro upon the invitation of Capt. and Mrs. John Buchanan and we know that on one occasion Mr. Jenkins preached in the home of the Buchanans.