

A History of Fairfield

—By Fitz Hugh McMaster

(Installment 14)

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(The request is repeated to send family history, and corrections or additions to what is being published to Fitz Hugh McMaster, Columbia, S. C.)

THE BETHEL COMMUNITY

Bethel community was so called because of the Methodist Church; the church being so called because of Holy places in early Bible days. The first Bethel church building stood in the Mason section of Bethel community. Near this old church site are many graves, some tombs bearing the names: Carlisle, Harrison and Mason. In the very early days of said community there was another Methodist church nearby, called Serepta, that later was consolidated with Bethel, a new building being erected at a spot about midway between the two old churches. That spot is just back of the new granite structure now being used for worship.

Situated in Bethel community is Crooked Run Baptist church. In the early 1800's, Crooked Run was a Union church, then standing on the Grey state just across from the present Bethel pond. About the middle of the 1800's, Crooked Run Baptist church was built at its present site, and the Union church building was purchased by Billy Trapp, who tore it down and used the timber for building his own home, later owned and lived in by Robert H. Jennings and family, and still later by James Washington Robinson and family. Then it was bought by George Alexander Robinson. In 1905 this building was torn down and the present Robinson home built about twenty feet from the old house site. Several of the old lightwood sills originally used in the old Crooked Run Union church are still in Mr. Robinson's possession.

One of the oldest and most prosperous churches of Bethel community in the very early 1800's was Horeb Presbyterian church. It was situated in the section of said community owned by Watts, Irbys, Manns and Robinsons. Some of the devout members of this church were Ashfords, Trapps, Bookmans, Watts, Robinsons, Tinklers, Lemonds, Browns, Crawfords, Murrys, Moores, Cooks, Chappells, Manns and Hagoods. Horeb church building no longer stands, but there are a few marked graves still in evidence in a thick growth of pines. One of these marked graves is that of "George Christian Logan, pastor of Horeb and Aimwell churches. Born May 24, 1810. Died June 10, 1848. Aged 38 years and 10 days. Grave and serious in his

served in his conversations," etc.

Some of the family burying grounds to be found on different plantations of said community are: Grey, Fridy, Mann, Lyles, Gibson, Ashford, Bookman, Trapp, Black, Mason, Frazier, Beard, Alston, Leitner, Turnipseed, Martin, Calvin and McCants.

George Alexander Robinson, owner of the old R. H. Jennings estate, is the son of the late James Washington and Marguerite Hendrix Robinson. She was descendant of Colonel Alston. Alex had one sister, Jessie, who died many years ago; and a brother, Leonard, who died in 1930. G. Alexander has two living brothers: a twin, William Washington, who married and lives in Arkansas. The other, Sam, is a resident of Monticello.

James Washington Robinson was a grandson of Alexander Robinson of Ridgeway, who immigrated to this county from Ireland. James Washington's father was William Robinson, another settler of Ridgeway. J. Washington Robinson was for many years superintendent of old Pine Grove Sunday school of Upper Cedar Creek.

There were three Robinson brothers who came to this country, Alex, William, and John. John married a Henderson on the way over from Ireland. This couple separated from the other two brothers and went "over the mountain."

In 1900 George Alexander Robinson married Nancy Watt Robinson, a descendant of the said John. Nancy Watt Robinson's maternal great-grandparents were the Kincaids and McMorrises. Her mother was Rebecca Elizabeth Watt who married John William Robinson. These families settled in the part of Fairfield county near Anderson quarry, known as the Brick Church community. Other close ancestors were the Andersons. Nancy Watt Robinson died in 1914 and is buried in Bethel cemetery. She had one sister, Annie Laurie, and two brothers, Venroe and Warren, who now sleep in the Old Brick Church cemetery. Surviving these, is Charlie Alexander Robinson, now resident and retired merchant of Winnsboro. George Alexander Robinson and Nancy Watt Robinson had three daughters: Jessie Marguerite, who married Rupert S. Jackson, of Hendersonville, N. C., in 1926. They have one daughter, Betty Ann, aged 14 years. They are florists of Hendersonville, N. C. Another daughter is Helen Elizabeth, who married Shafter Ottis Taylor, of Lexington, S. C., in 1931. They are now living with her father.

ise, unmarried, lives with and has devoted her life to her father. All three of these daughters were school teachers in the state of South Carolina.

PERRY—Captain Tom Perry married one of Major Hawley Robertson's daughters. Their children were George and Tom, and a number of daughters. George (deceased) married two Sherrell sisters and had six children. A son, Huley, now lives in his father's house. Huley married Catherine Quinby and they had one young son, Tom (deceased) who married Fannie Ruff, daughter of D. G. Ruff. They had one son, Maxcy, who married Annie Adell Hamilton of Union county. They now live in Central, S. C. Phoenix Perry, a daughter of Captain Tom, married Tom Smith. By this union was one daughter, Maggie, who lives in her father's old home with her one son, Max Krutzer. Another daughter of Captain Tom was "Pet," who married J. Butler Burley of Bethel section. They settled in the old Burley home, and later moved to Winnsboro. Several other daughter of Capt. Perry moved from this county in early years.

RUFF—Daniel George Ruff married Sallie Crosby. To this union were seven children: (1) Janie, who married Eber Mason. They had one child, James Marion, who is a member of the Methodist Conference. (2) Daniel Crosby, who married Mary Deleny. Four sons were born to this union; (3) Frances, who married Tom J. Perry. Their son is G. Maxcy; (4) Agnes, who never married, and was a missionary to Cuba; (5) Willie P. married twice (1st) Maude Lyles who bore two sons, (2nd) Ida Bowles of Greenwood. They have four children; (6) Sallie, who married J. Pope Brooks. They had six children, three of whom are married and settled in the Bethel community: (a) Sara Rebecca married H. Burley Shealey of Little Mt., and has one son, Pope Brooks. (b) Joe A. married Marian Center of Winnsboro and they have one daughter, Marian Joan; (c) Pope, Jr., married Alice Wilingham and they have two sons.