

Fairfield's Trapp Was ^{NH} 1st Certified Teacher ^{4/6/77}

Saturday, April 9, will mark the one hundred and seventh anniversary of the first teacher's certificate issued in South Carolina. The recipient was a Fairfield

County man, Chappell Oscar Trapp, whose descendants still live here in the county.

Trapp's certificate, which bears the number 1, is on file in the South

Caroliniana Library, along with other documents relative to this anniversary.

The certificate certifies that "Mr. C. O. Trapp, of Fairfield County, S.C., having furnished acceptable evidence of good Moral Character, and having passed a satisfactory examination as to his competency to teach, is hereby authorized and qualified to teach in the Common and Public Schools of this State. This Certificate to continue valid for the term of two years from the date thereof, unless sooner revoked."

It is dated April 9, 1870, and signed by the state superintendent of education J. H. Jillson.

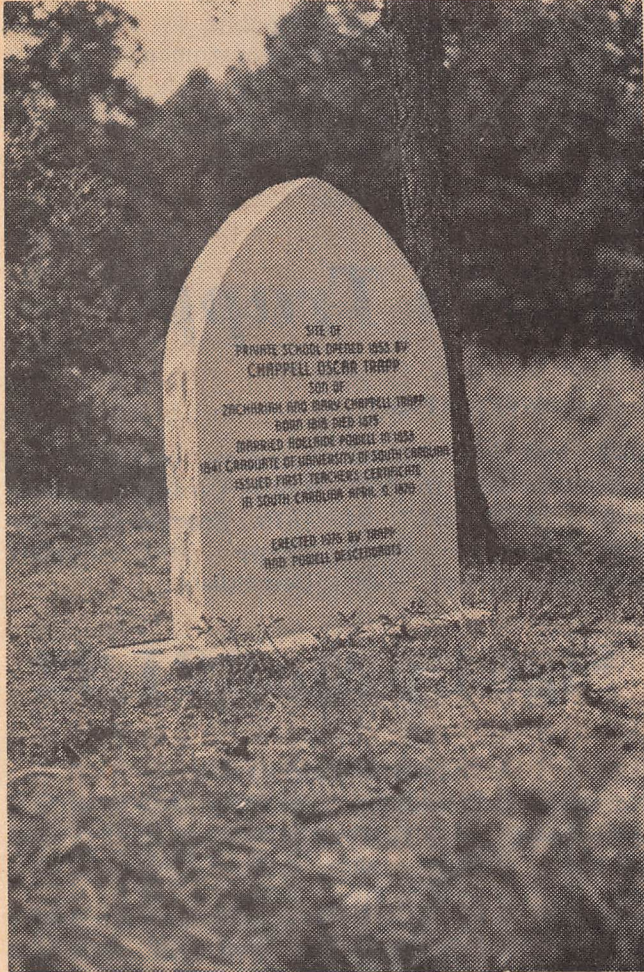
After completing his education at South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina) in 1841, Chappell Oscar Trapp taught in a private school in Columbia for twelve years, until 1853, at which time he returned to Fairfield County.

He married Adelaide Powell upon his return home, and began his own private school that same year.

This excerpt from The State of May 30, 1955, says, "The certificate issued by the State of

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Trapp Marker

This historical marker was erected on the site of a private school opened by Chappell Oscar Trapp, recipient of the first teacher's certificate issued in South Carolina.