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YANCEYVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
YANCEYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

The Yanceyville Baptist Church was erected about 1840 on a lot donated by Col. Thomas Graves, of Georgia, who was probably a former resident of our county. The first trustees were Thomas W. Graves, Jeremiah Graves, Phillip Hodnett, and Calvin Graves, and the deed bears date of 1839.

Unfortunately, the minute book giving the activities of the church prior to 1897 has been lost, and what I may say relative to matters at that time is information gotten from older members of the church.

Just previous to the erection of the church building where it now stands, the members were connected with the church known as the Country Line Church situated on the public road about one-half mile from Graves' Old Mill site. At that time in Baptist Church history, heated arguments and discussions were indulged in regarding church doctrine and policies as it affected missionary work, ministerial education, and other minor things. So our little Baptist Church of Country Line had its share of the controversies, and its members decided that it was best to divide, as did most other churches of our faith. Whether the separation was a wise move, I cannot say, for members of all churches now disagree to a more or less degree regarding missions and ministerial education, as the amounts they give for these objects indicate.

Prior to the Civil War, and one of its earliest pastors, Mr. Tobey, a very able preacher and scholarly gentlemen, held this charge. His wife was buried in the cemetery of the church in Yanceyville. Mr. Mason, who was pastor in 1860, and some years after served the church for several years, married and baptized most of the parents of the present generation. He baptized both white and colored, and both races belonged to the same church.

The church was originally built with a gallery on both sides and in the rear supported by columns, and the colored members of the church, who were all slaves, worshipped up there. During communion services they were served with the bread and wine after the white members had partaken.

During the pasorate of Mr. Murchison, from 1911-1918, the galleries were taken down, and the building was remodeled, and a large Sunday School room was erected which about doubled the seating capacity. There is a baptistry under the pulpit in which the ordinance of baptism is administered.

Rev. F. H. Jones, who was a much beloved pastor, served this church for a number of years after Mr. Mason. Rev. J. J. James, a cultured and scholarly gentlemen, lived near here and preached often in the church during my early childhood. He came here from Raleigh and was at one time editor and owner of the Biblical Recorder. Then followed as pastors in succession as near as I can remember: Jr. R. Jones, Chappell, C. A. G. Thomas, S. B. Wilson, O. A. Keller, D. W. Overby, M. C. Murchison, J. A. Hackney, R. W. Prevost, and then our present pastor, C. W. Hood.

There have been many noble and useful laymen who have belonged to this church since its formation. Knowing that I would omit some fine Christian characters, I will not try to enumerate them, but I shall mention one who, I think should always be included when faithful, loyal members are named, that is B. Lownes, who was a blind carriage maker. He was superintendent of the Sunday School for a number of years, and employed a boy to lead him to church on Sunday.