

TOWN OF BLYTHEWOOD, S. C.

A LITTLE INFORMATION ON SEVERAL AREAS IN BLYTHEWOOD, PAST AND PRESENT , THAT I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING INVOLVED TO A MINOR DEGREE.

SANDY LEVEL BAPTIST CHURCH

THE TOWN OF BLYTHEWOOD

BLYTHEWOOD POST OFFICE

OLD BLYTHEWOOD SCHOOL

BLYTHEWOOD MASONIC LODGE AFM

SOUTHERN RAILWAY INVOLMENT

H. B. McLean Sr.

August 22, 1992.

*Jim T. Frankie*  
*8/26/92*

X

# WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL LOAN AND EXCHANGE BANK BUILDING

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

LAWRENCE M. PINCKNEY  
STATE ADMINISTRATOR

Box 205, University  
Columbia, S. C.  
December 18, 1937

Mr. <sup>HB</sup> McLean, Clerk  
Sandy Level Baptist Church  
Plythwood, S. C.

Dear Mr. McLean:

Enclosed is a memorandum receipt for the volume of Sandy Level Church minutes I obtained from you yesterday, on which has been specified our agreement to give the church an unbound carbon copy of the book at the time of returning the original to you. As discussed with you, I have indicated also that if the church wishes, it may deposit the original book permanently at the University (with the privilege of having it returned for display purposes on anniversary occasions, etc.) and receive instead a bound typed copy.

On finding that the first part of this volume contains a record of old Twenty-five Mile Creek Church, I was interested to look it up in South Carolina Baptists 1670-1905, by Leah Townsend, to see what I might find about its establishment - you having mentioned its having been said that Sandy Level was established about 1785. I found the following, which may interest you, and which I quote from that book:

"Mr. Reese seems to have caught the spirit of Mr. Mulkey: 'his natural eloquence, and command of the passions of his hearers were extraordinary.' He and his assistants extended their efforts through a wide stretch of territory to such good effect that in 1772 there were branches established at Wateree Creek, Twenty-five Mile Creek, Amelia and Four Holes...."

In a footnote after this statement, Miss Townsend states:

"On this /a grant of 100 acres of land to Bryan McLendon on the head of Twenty-five Mile Creek in 1767/ a meeting house was erected in 1768, 'about twenty miles below Wynnsboro and 25 miles from Camden'; though long a branch of Congaree, Twenty-five Mile Creek Church was dismissed from Wateree Creek Church at the time of its constitution and admission to Charleston Association in 1807; it removed its seat of worship in 1841, and by 1843 was known as Sandy Level Church, which still exists."

Miss Townsend, by the way, has done a very thorough job of tracing the origin of early Baptist churches throughout the state. Her book, printed in 1935, sells for \$3.50, and may be obtained through the Florence Printing Company, Florence, S. C., if you should be interested to read it.

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## WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL LOAN AND EXCHANGE BANK BUILDING  
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LAWRENCE M. PINCKNEY  
STATE ADMINISTRATOR

In it, she gives the names of members of practically every Baptist church in the state that was established before 1800, and a brief sketch of ministers and church leaders before that time.

I would appreciate it very much if you would drop me a card giving me your initials, since we always make a title page for books we copy on which we give the name and address of the person in whose possession the original book was at the time of copying. I have lost the slip of paper on which I wrote your initials at the time Mr. Willis referred me to you for the book.

Actual copying of the Sandy Level record will not begin for about a month or six weeks; but the work of reading it will be started soon, so that when copying is started it may go with reasonable speed and accuracy.

Yours very sincerely,



Flora B. Surles, Supervisor  
Statewide Historical Project  
(Sponsored by University of S.C.)

MEMORANDUM OF MANUSCRIPT RECORDS

University, S. C. December 17 1937

RECEIVED FROM Mr. HB McLean, Church Clerk

the following records pertaining to Sandy Level Baptist Church which belong to (or are in custody of) Mr. HB McLean of St., Blythewood, S. C.:

Table with 3 columns: TITLE, DATES, and CONDITION. Row 1: Minutes, Sandy Level Baptist Church (1st 68 pages, record of '25 Mile Creek Church), 1817-1908, Bad (1st 3 pages shattered - rest of book in fair condition).

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ABOVE MANUSCRIPT RECORDS ARE:

- 1. LOANED ONLY FOR COPYING ( X ) OWNER TO HAVE CARBON COPY UNBOUND
2. PERMANENTLY DEPOSITED ( ) OWNER TO HAVE COPY BOUND
( Check 1. or 2. )

REMARKS: Church may, if it wishes, receive a bound typed copy, and place original book on permanent deposit at the University; otherwise to receive back the original with an unbound (carbon) copy.

CAROLINIANA COMMITTEE, UNIVERSITY OF S. C. By Flora [Signature]

(Do not write below this line)

RECEIVED FOR COPYING BY PROJECT UNIT : RECEIVED ORIGINAL MSS AND COPIES
Supervisor : FROM PROJECT SUPERVISOR
Date ; 193 : Date , 193
Signed:
COPYING COMPLETED , 193 :

Received from Caroliniana Committee, University of S. C.
Signed:
Date , 193

N. B. OWNER TO HAVE SECOND CARBON COPY WHEN RECORDS LOANED ONLY FOR COPYING

**WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION**

NATIONAL LOAN AND EXCHANGE BANK BUILDING  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

LAWRENCE M. PINCKNEY  
STATE ADMINISTRATOR

Box 205, University  
Columbia, S. C.  
August 26, 1938

Mr. H. B. McLean, Clerk  
Sandy Level Baptist Church  
Blythewood, S. C.

Dear Mr. McLean:

This will be your authority to assure the members of Sandy Level Baptist Church that should they not be willing to deposit at the University the original record book of which a typewritten, cloth bound copy was left with you on Wednesday, the original book will be returned to you, with an unbound carbon copy which will cost the church nothing whatever.

As I have discussed with you, there are two reasons why the University would like to have the original record book:

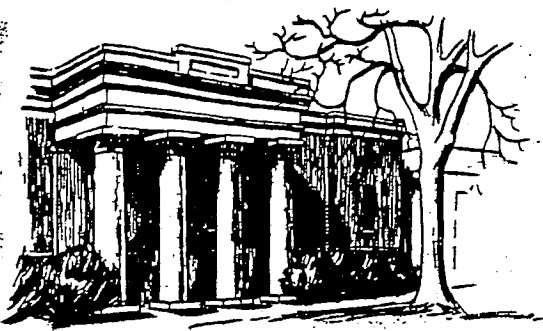
1. From the standpoint of history, and for the purposes of history, the original book is worth more to the University than any number of copies of the book could be - for it is the genuine and authentic record; therefore, the best record possible to be used as the basis of historical writing or consultation.

2. The University has a fireproof, ventilated building in which to store original record books of this character, thereby offering an almost 100% insurance against their loss by fire or other natural hazard to which they are inevitably subjected in non-fireproof homes, or in buildings not constructed with the care of books in mind.

On the other hand, the copy left with you will serve every practical purpose of the church, and is far more easily read than the original book. You have the ribbon copy - not a carbon copy, the ribbon copy being far more durable than a carbon copy. The copy is on good, strong paper and is well and durably bound.

It should also be understood that in depositing the original record at the University, the church will have the privilege of borrowing it back if at any time - say for a centennial celebration, or other ceremonial occasion, it may be desired to display it among the members. The church has nothing to lose, therefore, and much to gain by placing the book where it will be safely cared for - and meantime, it has a useful copy that will not easily wear out.

Yours very sincerely,  
*Flora S. Surles*  
Flora S. Surles, Supervisor  
Statewide Historical Project



University  
South Caroliniana Society

Columbia  
October 15, 1938

Mr. H. B. McLean  
Blythewood, South Carolina

Dear Mr. McLean:

Miss Flora B. Surles has delivered the volume of Sandy Level Baptist Church records, 1817-1908, for permanent deposit in the South Carolina Collection of the University library subject to the terms of the agreement she made with you.

For the University I am writing to confirm this agreement, and to thank you and the church for entrusting this record to us for safe-keeping. I assure you that we prize it as one of the valuable items in the library, and will take every care of it. The book will be kept in the fireproof quarters of the library, and as Miss Surles stated, shall be subject to call by the church for special occasions when the officers or members may wish to see it, and shall then be returned for safekeeping. The bound typewritten copy furnished by Miss Surles will serve the ordinary needs of the church.

The University South Caroliniana Society was founded in 1937 to aid the University in its work of gathering and preserving South Carolina books, pamphlets, newspapers, plantation and store account books, and through the dues paid by members and by their efforts many items have been placed in the library. The officers of the Society are glad to offer the church a membership in the Society for five years, with exemption from dues in consideration of this deposit. The membership could be in the name of the church, or of some officer, the logical one being yourself, the Clerk. Reports would be sent regularly to the designated representative who would be invited to the complimentary annual dinner given by the University to the Society. As Miss Surles probably wrote, acceptance would impose no obligation save an interest in the work of preserving South Carolina records and saying the work that might rescue some valuable papers from the trash pile or from a fire-trap of a building.

At the end of the five-year period the membership could be allowed to lapse, or could be continued by gift of old papers, or by payment of the annual dues, five dollars. By this mail I am sending a copy of the 1937 Report of the Society which will give an idea of our work.

Cordially yours,

*R. L. Meriwether*  
R. L. Meriwether, Secretary  
University South Caroliniana Society

SANDY LEVEL BAPTIST CHURCH  
ITS EARLY YEARS.

We know that the mother church of Sandy Level Baptist Church was the Twenty Five Mile Creek Church.

In the history of Kings "Early Back Country Churches", there was a church named "The Congaree Church" located about 15 miles east of Columbia, S. C., that was very active in the 1770's. It states that in 1772 the church had established branches at Wateree Creek, Twenty Five Mile Creek, Amelia and at Four Holes. They all remained with the parent church for a certain period of years.

Bryan McLendon was given a Royal Grant of 100 acres of land in 1767 at the head waters of 25 mile creek. He was also given in 1772 an additional Royal Grant of 200 acres, adjoining the 1767 grant. The land in both grants described as vacant land, located in Craven County in the area of the head waters of 25 mile creek. Location of grants, about 20 miles below Winnsborough and 25 miles from Camden.

This information would place the land grants about two miles northeast of Blythewood, probably in the vicinity of what we know as the Sandfield Church area.

Bryan McLendon was said to have given the site on his 100 acre grant where a house of worship was erected in 1768.

No information on the exact location where the house of worship was built, or who built it. Mr. McLendon who gave the land was probably involved.

On the 1772 plat (enclosed) is a symbol that appears to be a building in one corner of the 100 acre grant. This could be the original site of Twenty Five Mile Creek Church.

The Charleston Association shows Twenty Five Mile Creek Church organized in 1807, became Sandy Level Baptist Church in 1843.

Sandy Level is fortunate in having an old record book of Minutes and church related information dating from July 5, 1817 to October 1907. First as Twenty Five Mile Creek Church and as Sandy Level from 1843. Minutes 1807 to 1817 missing from the old record church book. Some pages in beginning of record book missing and some partially torn. Probably from dry rot.

List of members 25 mile creek church October 17~~th~~ 1840 contains the names of 50 whites and 5 blacks.

There was division in the church in 1840 regarding associations and benevolent institutions. Minutes states as Bro. Asa Bell (pastor) has publicly declared a nonfellowship with associations and benevolent institutions of the day, and also objects to Bro. Charles Broom as moderator, saying that he is not of the same faith as himself. He Bro. Bell being our pastor, we hold these as charges VS him.

June 6, 1840 in business meeting, the following resolution adopted. VIZ--Resolved that a difference of opinions are among us on the subject of the lawfulness of associations and other benevolent organizations of the church, and as our pastor (Bell) is found among the minority of the church, we will not use our power of excluding them but will peaceably divide. Those who are in favor of those bodies forming a church of themselves--and those opposed to them, doing as may seem to them best. Vote on the division was as follows: Favor of those bodies 14, Against those bodies 6 (including pastor).

June 20, 1840, it was moved and seconded that as a separation has taken place in the church, that the members present be requested to extend notices and request absent members to attend our next church meeting, that it may be known whither they go with us or against the church and their names be enrolled accordingly. (Carried)

July 18, 1840. The Covenant of the Primitive Baptist was read for the information of any present. It was also moved that a protracted meeting be held in August and that ministering brethren from other churches to be invited, and there be efforts during the meeting to organize the church, at least to know and enroll the names of those members who may go with us versus the church.

By August 15, 1840 fourteen additional members had voted to join the new church group, making a total to separate 28 versus six to remain with the church.

It was moved and seconded on June 6, 1840 that the first Sabbath in each month be given to the minority as that has been the regular monthly preaching time of the pastor at this church, and further moved that the third Sabbath in each month be the day of preaching for the majority. Find no information as to when this preaching schedule ended.

During the 1840's there were a number of Primitive Baptist in the area. Records indicate that Sandfield Church was known as the church of the primitives. Very Likely some members in Twenty Five mile church were inclined toward the primitives, as the covenant of the Primitives was read in the church on July 18, 1840. Since the primitives did not believe in associations and other benevolent organizations, may have contributed to the separation in the church.



When the church was named Sandy Level Church on October 14, 1843, we do not know the location of the church building when it was so named. Find no record of it being at or near our present church location.

Sandy Level Church membership September 18, 1853 lists names of 55 whites and 7 blacks--total 62.

The Sanctuary of our present church was built and dedicated in 1856, on a four acre tract of land purchased from C. B. and Margaret A. Williamson, cost forty dollars. Deed dated August 19, 1856 contains a reversion clause, if said four acres should cease to be used as a place of public worship, it shall revert to original owners or to their descendents. (Fairfield County Book of Deeds U. U. pages 609-611.)

October 18, 1856 in business session the church passed the following Resolution: Whereas the Sandy Level Baptist church have secured a new house of worship, therefore be it resolved that we the Sandy Level Baptist church give to the Sandfield Settlement our old house of worship, reserving the seats on the following conditions. First that, it shall belong to the the Baptist Denomination exclusively and second that, they shall not attempt to organize a church without the consent of this church. That they move the house by Cristmas next. That they let us know by our next meeting whether they accept our offer or not.

November 15, 1856--Resolved that the old house remain as it is until our next meeting, at which time it shall be disposed of, unless applied for by the Sandfield Settlement.

January 17, 1857--Moved that the disposition of the old church be deferred to some future date.

On the first Sabbath December 1856, The new house of worship being completed, was dedicated. In one part of the service was the following:- The giver of all good has blessed us with signal prosperity, and the wants of our increasing membership were more than the dilapidations of the structure in which we were accustomed to worship during the past years, have demanded the erection of a house of God. This necessity has been supplied.

According to the above information with reference to the old house of worship, we assume that it evidently was not a very desirable building. Still no information on the actual location of the building. Since the church offered it to the Sandfield Settlement (three miles from Sandy Level) seems to indicate that the old church building was probably in that area. Could have been the same building at the location where the June 1840 separation occurred.

We know from old church minutes that a Sandfield Church (Primitive Baptist) was in the general area during the early years of Twenty Five Mile and Sandy Level churches.

No information on Sandfield settlement accepting the offer of the old church building, nor of its final disposition.

August 10, 1858--"Blunt" belonging to S. W. Bookhart was appointed Watchman over the colored members of the church.

October 17, 1858--"Rains" was received by letter from the Twenty Five mile church, dated October 14, 1843. This was fifteen years from the time letter was granted. It was customary in early years to give withdrawing members their church letters, if they were in good and regular standing. They were supposed to present the church letter to the next church they united with. Evidently some were a little slow in doing so.

January 15, 1859--'Twas proposed that the rule requiring the quarterly payment of 25 cents into the treasury of the church by each male member was postponed. In August it was changed to the following: That a public collection be taken quarterly for the establishment of a church fund, each member being expected to contribute as he may feel to be his duty. The fund to be used to meet the incidental expenses of the church.

October 15, 1859--Pastors salary increased to \$600.00 for two Sabbaths monthly for the year 1860.

October 17, 1857. The church took up the matter of securing Pastoral services for the ensuing year. The incumbent Elder A. K. Durham had considered to remain, provided the church would procure a house for his occupancy. This appearing so impracticable upon reflection, he resigned his charge. No one however moved the acceptance. and a reconsideration was effected. It was then moved that R. K. Hartin, A. W. McLelland and T. Turket be appointed a committee to devise a plan to keep our present Pastor on the proposed terms.

Nov. 1, 1857--The committee appointed to procure a place of residence for the Pastor reported that they had concluded to build a Parsonage near the meeting house and that Dr. S. W. Bookhart had agreed with them to complete the dwelling for five hundred dollars, about three hundred of said amount having already been subscribed.

May 15, 1858.--The Building Committee for the parsonage reported that the house as contracted for by the Clerk was about completed, and a move was made that it be received. This was agreed to.

The old parsonage evidently built on Bookhart property was still standing until about 1930 when it was torn down. At that time it was in bad condition.

No information on its occupancy over the years.

In June 1859 Pastor Elder J. T. Zealy, Mrs. Susan Zealy and servant girl "Rose" was received into the fellowship of the church by letter from The Columbia Church.

Twenty Five mile church evidently was still in service in May 1863 as a letter was issued in that month to a Sandy Level member to join that church.

On April 1, 1863 Rev. A. K. Durham presented the matter of sending "The Confederate Baptist" to the Army and solicited contributions for that purpose. A total of Seventy Nine dollars received. The Confederate Baptist evidently was a baptist publication of some kind. It would be interesting if we could secure an old copy of it.

There were difficult periods in the area and in the church during the Civil War years (1861-1865). On February 20, 1865 troops of the Northern Army came through Blythewood (DOKO at that time). Their main intent being to destroy the Railroad and its facilities between Columbia and Blackstock, S.C. There seemed to have been no general destruction otherwise in the area. Perhaps because the conflict was about over. (April 1865).

From records we know the names of eighteen of our members, actuated by a spirit of loyal patriotism, having nobly responded to the call of their Country for its defense. (There may have been others not recorded). Of the eighteen we know of, eight gave their lives for the Southern Cause, either in battles or in Camps.

In 1861 there were 55 blacks on membership roll in Sandy Level. They were the property of 14 members who owned one or more of them. They were listed on church roll by their given names, such as Toney, Henney, Sofy, Adam etc. Church roll also named their owners.

Following gaining their freedom by the Emancipation Act, the majority of the black members left the church. In June 1868 twenty blacks remained on church roll. At that time they had both a given and a surname, and was listed as such on the church roll.

In June 1869 a committee of 4 were appointed to look after the colored membership, and to ascertain the cause of their continued absences. The committee to report at next meeting. In July 1869 the report of the committee on colored membership was received and the committee discharged. The committee reported that they were clearly of the opinion that most, if not all the negro members intended to leave the church and organize themselves into a church with others at a point some miles east of this place. Their continued absences could not be excusable, but allowance being made for ignorance. It was resolved to wait for further developments before taking action on the matter.

The only follow up information that I find is, that in making annual report to the Fairfield Association in September 1870, it was agreed by a motion that the colored persons who had expressed a desire to remain with the church to be reported as members.

In looking back over the church years, there are many un-answered questions. There is also much that we know (thanks to good records), and also much that we do not know. I believe we are on safe ground in believing that Sandy Level's "ROOTS" go back 224 years to the House of Worship erected in 1768 on the 1767 McLendon Land Grant.

#### THE SANDFIELD SETTLEMENT

The Sandfield Baptist location (est. 1 ac.) that we are aware of is at the junction of Sandfield and Russ Brown roads, about two miles northeast of Blythewood. Its cemetery with about 35 graves still at that location with occasional burials of deceased people who have family connections buried there.

The Sandfield Baptist church building, after being vacant for a number of years, was torn down and removed from the premises in the 1930's. The Fairfield Baptist Association indicates that Twenty Five Mile Creek Church became Sandfield Baptist Church in 1874 and went off its roll between 1911 and 1913.

Adjoining the Sandfield Church location was, until a few years ago a 99 acre tract of undivided land. The location description of this 100 acre tract of land, bordering on one side by a stream flowing into 25 mile creek, is similar to that of the 1767 McLendon grant of 100 acres. From old records we know that Mr. McLendon gave the land on the 1767 grant for a house of worship. This and the property location seems to indicate that the 100 acre Sandfield area location might be that if the 1767 McLendon grant.

H. B. McLean, Sr.  
August 10, 1992.

MEMBERS OF SANDY LEVEL BAPTIST CHURCH  
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE SOUTHERN  
CAUSE IN THE CIVIL WAR 1861--1865.

S. Y. HOOD           Died in Camps.  
J. T. BONEY         Died October 6, 1862 in Camps.  
D. T. BLIZZARD     Died 1864 in Camps.  
BENJAMIN HAYS     Died February 1863 at Ginnea Station, Va.  
JOSEPH DOUGLASS   Killed at Fredricksburg battle December 13, 1862.  
                    Wound received at Sharpsburg.  
JAMES J. DOUGLASS Died October 18, 1862 from wound received at  
                    Sharpsburg /M.D./ at Culpeper.  
Henry ROBERTSON   Died May 1863 in Camps.  
W. P. WYRICK       Died July 26, 1863 in the Army.

THE ABOVE LISTED AS SHOWN IN CHURCH MINUTES.

JANUARY TO JULY 1865

During this period of the church seemed quite sad and depressed. .  
Our Country having been invaded by the Northern Army and measurably  
desolated, the facilities for attending preaching dimenished and  
the hope of securing the Independence of the Confederate States  
apparently blasted. All seems to be gloom and despondency, with we  
fear, some doubt and fears of an alarming character. The faith of  
some seems to waiver, and integrity and christian constancy to be on  
the wane. The Southern cause seemed to be a good one, their demands  
simple and just. They asked but "to be let alone!" To be overpowered  
under the circumstances and to be able to see nothing in the future,  
promising only degradation, anarchy and ruin furnishes the excuse  
for this state of affairs.

Our prayers should be for more faith for confidence in God and  
submission to his dispensations, for the sprit of him who could  
"Kiss the rod that smote him, or trust in God that he slay him".

(Old record church book)

*Sandy Level Baptist Church*

*Blythebrook, South Carolina 29016*

DEDICATION OF PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING-1st SABBATH DEC. 1856.

The new house of Worship, being completed, was dedicated on this day by the Pastor, assisted by several visiting Ministers., viz-E. T. Winkler, DD, I. T. Zealy, W. B. Elkin, T. D. Guinn.

The Dedication Sermon was preached by Rev. E.T.Winkler /D.D./ of the First Baptist Church of Charleston. The afternoon sermon by Rev. I. T. Zealy of Columbia. The act of Dedication was performed by Rev. A. K. Durham (Pastor). The services were remarkably interesting, and highly gratifying to the large congregation assembled to witness them.

We herewith submit a copy of the Dedication Act-Brethern and Friends:

A most interesting and grateful occasion in the history of our Church, has this day summoned us together. The giver of all good has blessed us with signal prosperity; and the wants of our increasing membership were more than the dilapidations of the structure in which we were accustomed to worship during past years have demanded the erection of a house of God--This necessity has been supplied.

The liberal contributions and unfaltering zeal of this community in a cause so sacred have resulted in the erection of the edifice now for the first time opened to the worship of the Most High.

It would be a pleasurable duty on my part to indicate more particularly the contributors to this object, and especially of one honored friend, (Marginal note: "Dr. S. W. Bookhart \$500.00 five hundred dollars for the building, and \$200.00 for painting) who, although not a member of our Church, has shown a generous interest in the enterprise, well worthy the relation, who once ministered in our midst, and now stands beside his Father's throne in Heaven, but the modesty of him to whom I refer, and the solemnity of the occasion alike forbid that I should give vent to those grateful recollections. For as the Pastor of this Church, the representative of you all, I am now to pronounce the act of which this Church is set apart to its intended service.

Accordingly I do now dedicate this house of worship to the Triune God. the Father-God, and Holy Sprit--The Father, to whom belongeth all might, majesty and Dominion; And yet, who hath loved the World, that hesent his only begotten Son to die that whosoever believed in him might not perish but have everlasting life--The Son, who by the tremendous mystery of his passion, hath delivered his people from death and hell; and hath merited and won the inheritance of eternal glory.

Sandy Level Baptist Church

Wrightwood, South Carolina 29016

The Holy Sprit-that works mightly in the hearts of the Redeemed and prepares them for the perfect blessedness of Heaven--I dedicate this house to the proclamation of free and Sovereign grace, which the authority of the Father, the love of his Son, and the communion of the Spirit have revealed and sanctioned.

I dedicate this house to a pure and spiritual worship; ever may it be the home of an Evangelical Ministry, and a converted membership, ever may its Sabbath throngs maintain the principles Church independence, and the sentiments of Christian fraternity.

And here may the word of God be honored with implicit faith, and the ordinances of the Sanctuary receive a dutiful observance, and the reverence of God's worshipers and the liberty of his sons abide.

O. Father Almighty, God of the Universe, Author and Revelation, Dweller in the Tabernacle of Zion, we bring our offering unto thee; Accept the lowly grateful tribute, for it is thine, of thine own, we have received, and of thine own we have given thee, fill it with thy presence; Create within it, the scenes of Penticost, Yea, dwell within our hearts thou blessed God, and in Eternity, as here, we will ascribe to thee all honor, and glory, and blessings. Amen.

A. K. Durham-Pastor.

Samuel W. Bookhart (Acting)  
Church Clerk.

Transcribed from church minutes of  
first Sunday December 1856.

H. B. McLean, Sr.  
Church Clerk.  
January 1980.

SOUTH-CAROLINA.

GEORGE the Third by the Grace of GOD, of GREAT-BRITAIN, FRANCE and IRELAND, KING, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING: KNOW YE, THAT WE of our special Grace, certain Knowledge and mere Motion, have given and granted, and by these Presents, for us, our heirs and successors, DO GIVE AND GRANT unto

*Bryan M. Glendon his*  
heirs and assigns, a plantation or tract of land containing *One hundred Acres Situate in Lowndes County, on the head of Twenty five Miles back of the Waters, bounding all sides on vacant Land*

And hath such shape, form and marks, as appear by a plat thereof, hereunto annexed: Together with all woods, under-woods, timber and timber-trees, lakes, ponds, fishings, waters, water-courses, profit commodities, appurtenances and hereditaments whatsoever, thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining: Together with privilege of hunting, hawking and fowling in and upon the same, and all mines and minerals whatsoever; saving and reserving, nevertheless, to us, our heirs and successors, all white pine-trees, if any there should be found growing thereon: And also saving and reserving, nevertheless, to us, our heirs and successors, one tenth-part of mines of gold and silver only: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the said tract of

*One hundred* acres of land and all and singular other the premises hereby granted unto the said *Bryan M. Glendon his* heirs and assigns for ever, in free and common soccage, the said

*Bryan M. Glendon his* heirs and assigns yielding and paying therefor unto us, our heirs and successors, or to our Receiver-General for the time being, or to his Deputy or Deputies for the time being, yearly, that is to say, on the twenty-fifth day of March, in every year, at the rate of three shillings sterling, or four shillings proclamation money, for every hundred acres, and so in proportion according to the number of acres, contained herein; the same to commence at the expiration of *Two* years from the date hereof. *Provided always*, and this present Grant is upon condition, nevertheless, that the said

*Bryan M. Glendon his* heirs or assigns, shall and do yearly, and every year, after the date of these presents, clear and cultivate at the rate of *three* acres for every hundred acres of land, and so in proportion according to the number of acres herein contained; AND ALSO shall and do enter a minute, or docket of these our letters patent in the office of our Auditor-General for the time being, in our said Province, within *Six* months from the date hereof; AND upon condition, that if the said rent, hereby reserved, shall happen to be in arrear and unpaid for the space of *three* years from the time it shall become due, and no distress can be found on the said lands, tenements and hereditaments hereby granted; or if the said

*Bryan M. Glendon his* heirs or assigns shall neglect to clear and cultivate yearly and every year, at the rate of *three* acres for every hundred acres of land, and so in proportion, according to the number of acres herein contained, or if a minute or docket of these our letters patent, shall not be entered in the office of our Auditor-General for the time being, in our said Province, within *Six* months from the date hereof, that then and in any of these cases, this present Grant shall cease, and determine and be utterly void; and the said lands tenements and hereditaments hereby granted, and every part and parcel thereof, shall revert to us, our heirs and successors, as fully and absolutely, as if the same had never been granted.

Given under the Great Seal of our said Province.

WITNESS *The Hon. Wm. Bull Esquire*  
*Lieutenant*  
Governor and Commander in chief in and over our said Province of South-Carolina, this

*Tenth* Day of *January*

Anno Dom. 1777 in the *Eleventh* Year of our Reign.

*William Bull* (L. M. S.)

Signed by his

*Honor the Lieutenant*

Governor in Council

And hath therunto a plat thereof annexed, representing the same, certified by

*John Bremer Deputy*  
Surveyor-General.  
*2<sup>d</sup> October 1777*

*John Wooden pro. c. c.*



James Mather, executor of the will of James Mather, to be registered in the Auditor's Office, S.C. as a plantation or tract of land containing two hundred acres, situated in the county of ... on the north side of the Wateree River. Bounded N.E. on ... James Mather's and vacant lands, S.E. on Jonathan Hill's and vacant lands, S.W. and S.E. on Humphrey Barnett's lands and the Wateree River, and on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 1771 to the Minorants at the quit rent of 3/4 ster. or 4/4 Proc. Mary 7, 1000 acres, to commence two years from the date. See receipts of the health returns set his hands the 21<sup>st</sup> day of Feb'y, 1771.

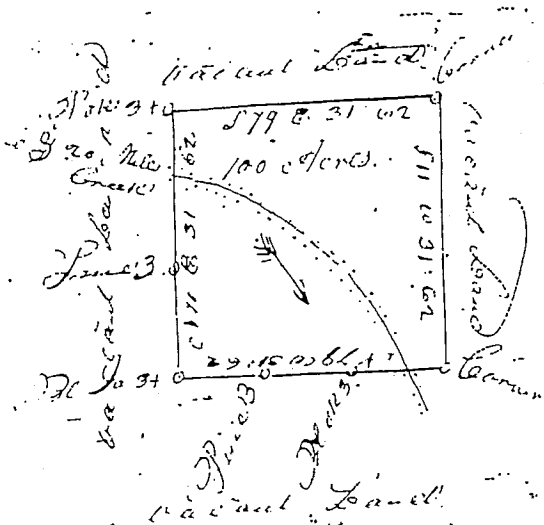
James Mather, D.D.

James Mather, executor of the will of James Mather, to be registered in the Auditor's Office, S.C. as a plantation or tract of land containing two hundred acres, situated in the county of ... on the north side of the Wateree River. Bounded N.E. on ... James Mather's and vacant lands, S.E. on Jonathan Hill's and vacant lands, S.W. and S.E. on Humphrey Barnett's lands and the Wateree River, and on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 1771 to the Minorants at the quit rent of 3/4 ster. or 4/4 Proc. Mary 7, 1000 acres, to commence two years from the date. See receipts of the health returns set his hands the 21<sup>st</sup> day of Feb'y, 1771.

James Mather, D.D.

1767

1767  
PLAT

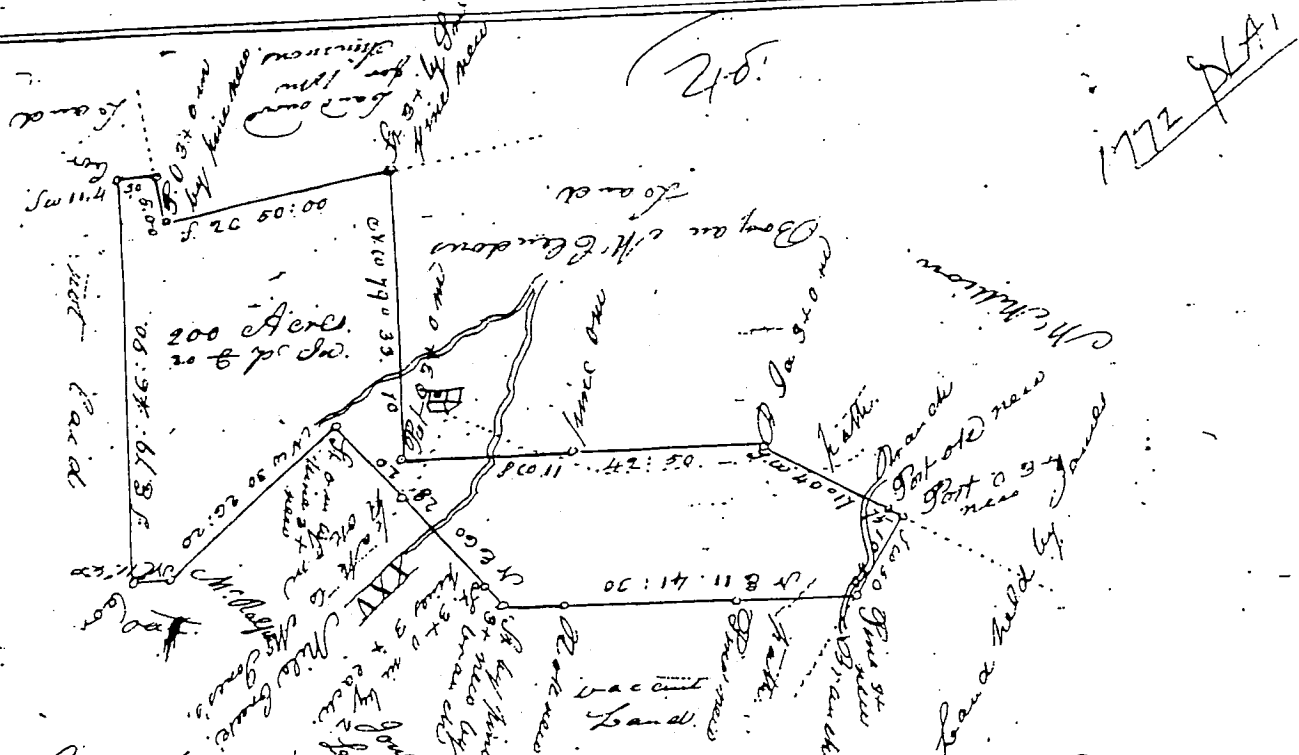


South Carolina

Warrant to a person directed  
 by John Trump, Esq. Depy S. G. C.  
 dated the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Sep<sup>r</sup> 1767,  
 I have a demised and laid  
 out unto Bayow McEllen a  
 tract of land containing one  
 hundred acres, situate lying and  
 being in Colleton County, on the

head of this in 20 Miles Creek, of the waters of Rutledge  
 and bounding on all sides by vacant land: And that  
 the shape form and marks as the above delineated  
 be as represented.

Certified by me this 22<sup>o</sup> day of Sep<sup>r</sup> 1767.  
 J. Francis Bissett, D.S.  
 ord. Co. 2<sup>o</sup> Oct. 1770.

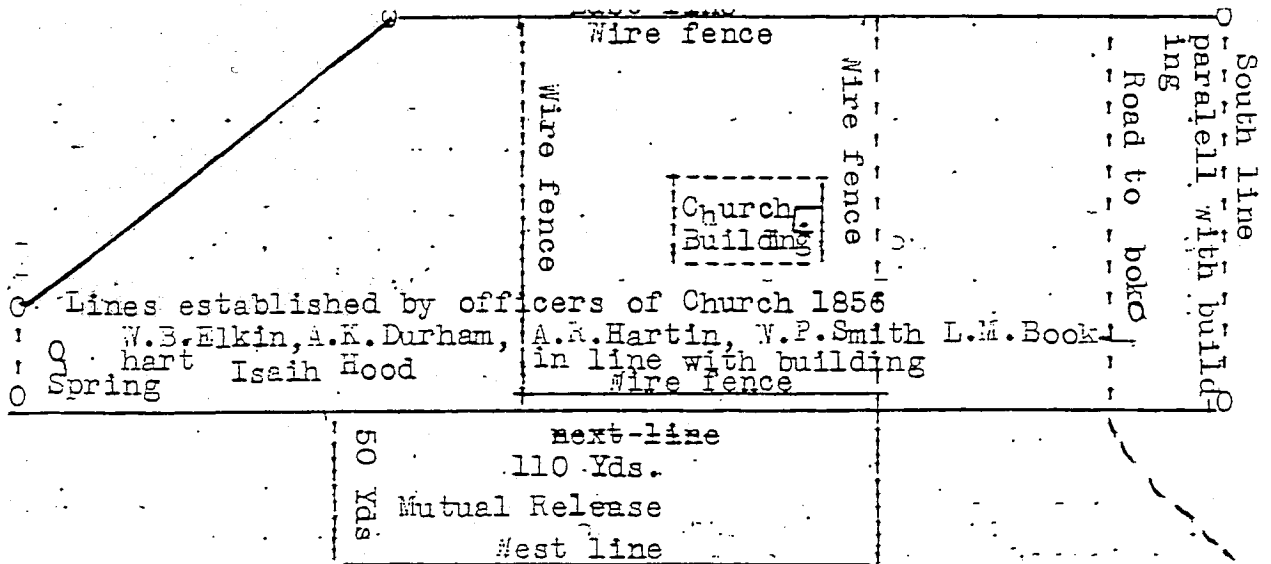


South Carolina.

Pursuant to a precept from John Brannon Esq. D.S.G. dated the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Decr 1772, I have surveyed and laid out unto Bryan McClelland a plantation or tract of land containing two hundred acres, situated on Six miles Twenty Mile Creek, being the waters of the waters River, in Craven County, Barnwelling, N.C. on vacant land, N.W. part on vacant land and part on M<sup>r</sup> Ralph James's land, S.W. part on land held by James McMillion, and part on Bryan McClelland's land, S.E. part on McMillion's land, part on D. McClelland's land and part on land surveyed for M<sup>r</sup> Simmons. I have set such form and marks as the above plat represents. Surveyed the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Decr A.D. 1772 P<sup>r</sup> Philip Pearson, D.S.



BUILT 1856 ON THIS FOUR ACRE LOT.



-this Indenture, made between S. W. Bookhart, Alfred Dunn, John Wooten, Levi Marsh, W. W. Cloud, F. E. Hood, J. M. Watts, officers of Sandy Level Church & C. E. Bookhart, Witnesseth; that the S.d S. W. Bookhart, Alfred Dunn, John Wooten, L. A. Marsh, W. W. Cloud F. E. Hood, J. M. Watts, doth by these remise, release & forever quitelaim unto the s.d L. E. Bookhart all & all manner of actions, suits, cause & causes of actions, controversies, agreements or promises & all claims of any nature or character whatever in law or equity & c...

See Record C. C. Winnsbom, S. C.

Sandy Level B. C. May 17. th 1856.

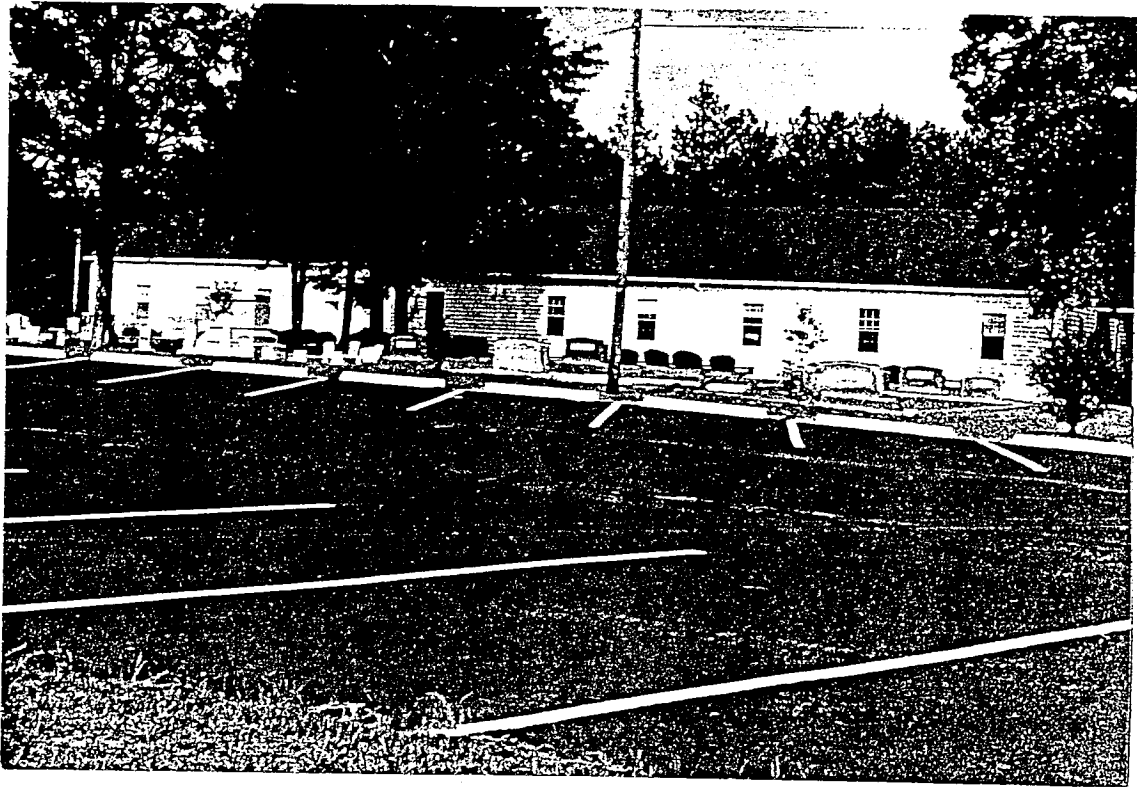
After Preaching by bro. A. K. Durham The Church organized



SANDY LEVEL CHURCH SANCTUARY BUILT 1856



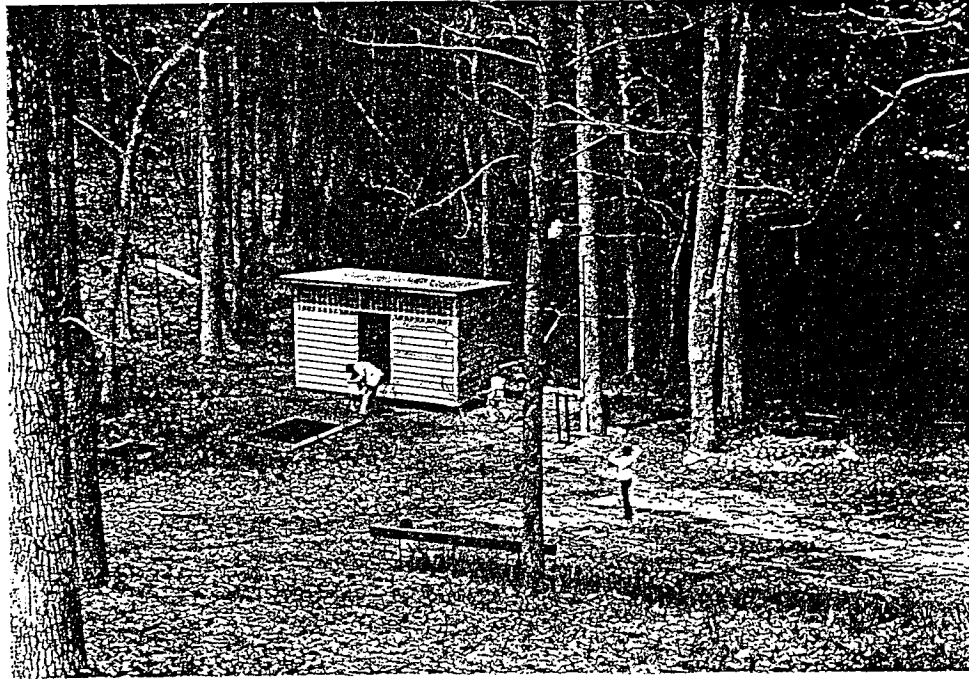
EDUCATIONAL ADDITION REAR OF SANCTUARY COMPLETED 1953



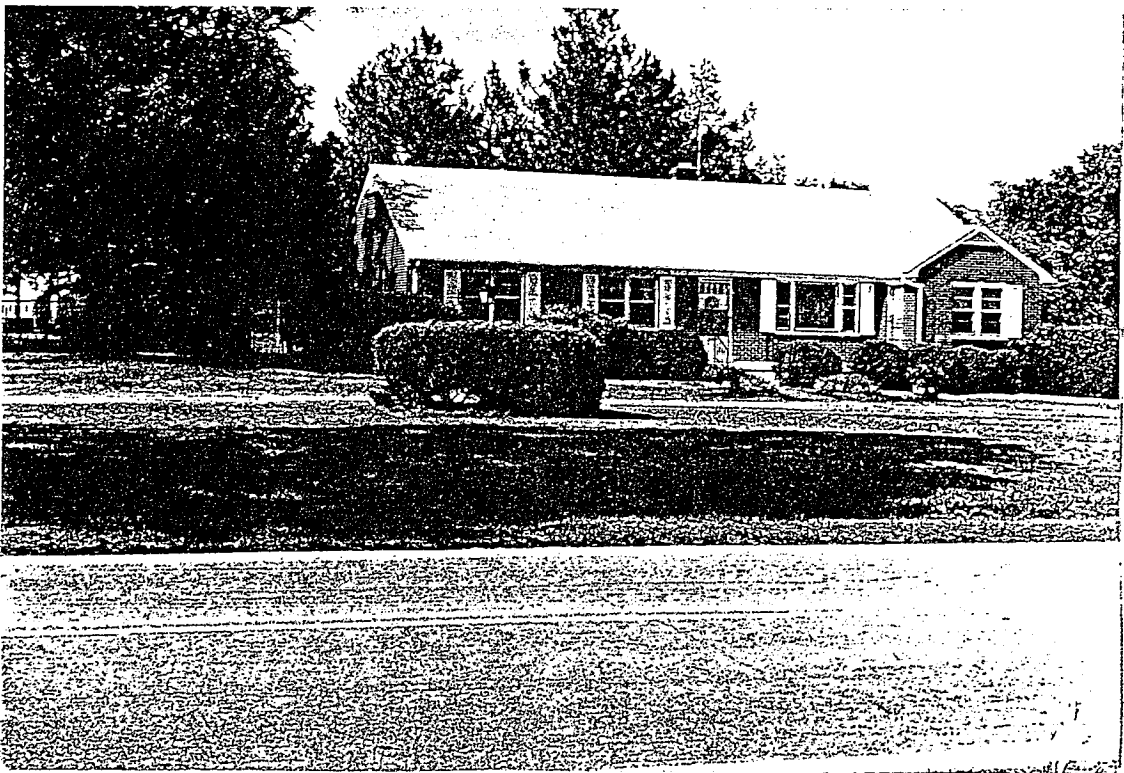
NEW EDUCATIONAL BUILDING 1984 (WEST SIDE)



NEW EDUCATIONAL BUILDING 1984 (NORTH SIDE)



SANDY LEVEL'S OUTDOOR BAPTISMAL POOL RESTORATION APRIL 1984



SANDY LEVEL'S PARSONAGE BUILT 1955.

## Sandy Level Baptist Church

Blythewood, South Carolina 29016

### CHURCH RECORDS

On January 1, 1936, Sandy Level Church records consisted mainly of one record book, containing the listing of 260 members. No indication of when or by what method they united with the church. Next entry in this book was on January 8, 1936, minutes of a meeting of the Board of Deacons, by Sanders Swygert, Church Clerk--Rev. A. L. Willis, Pastor.

In 1937 information was received from some of our elder members of the alleged existance of an old church record book. Some contacts were made, and I as church clerk made a trip to Ellore, S. C. to visit the Bookhart family. During this visit I was given the old record book containing minutes of Twenty Five Mile Creek Church and Sandy Level Church for the period 1817 to 1908. Written on flyleaf of book "Church Organized 1785". Name of church changed on October 14, 1843 to Sandy Level Baptist Church.

This is a most valuable book, containing in detail the history of the activities of the church for the period 1817-1908, such as minutes, membership, pastors, etc. Due to its historical value of early S. C. churches, the condition and age of book, [first 3 pages shattered, rest of book in fair condition] it was delivered on December 17, 1937, by order of the church, to the Historical Section of the South Carolina Library, University of S. C. for permanent deposit.

The church was given a bound typed copy for its use, with the privilege of having original book returned for display purposes on anniversary occasions, etc. The last recorded minutes in this book was in September 1908. From that date to January 8, 1936, a period of 27 years and 4 months, we have no records of our church activities, viz membership, officers, pastors, minutes, etc.

Over the years, as a matter of necessity, church clerks have kept their records in their homes, delivering them to their successors in office. One of the disadvantages of this policy, is that it is conducive for some records to be lost, mis-placed or destroyed by fire. Examples of this was the loss of the old record book for 25 years before recovery, and the 27 year 4 month period of still missing records.

It would greatly benefit the church, if any of our members could furnish any information regarding this period [1908-1936] such as pastors, clerks, minutes, etc. Perhaps some of the missing records are in some old trunk, attic, or filed away and forgotten.

At the present time the church is renting safety deposit box No. 66, Bank of Fairfield in Blythewood, S. C. Size of box 10 by 10 by 24 inches. Church Clerk and Church Treasurer each has a key and authorized to enter box.

As of October 1, 1982, the following records are in this lock box:

Photo-Stat copy secured from the S. C. Dep't of Archives and History, of the original Deed dated August 19, 1856, conveying four acres to Sandy Level Church, by Margaret A. Williamson and C. B. Williamson. Fairfield County Book of Deeds U. U. pages 609-611. The church building is located on this tract.



*Sandy Level Baptist Church*  
*Blythewood, South Carolina 29016*

Williamson deed continued.

This Deed contains a clause -"If said four acres should cease to be used as a place of public worship, it shall revert to original owners or their descendants".

Photo-Stat copy [secured as above] of a Deed dated April 15, 1907, regarding some property changes located in front of church near paved road. At one time there was an old dirt road and a fence between the church and Blythewood road.

Deed for 100 acres, Lucy A. Douglas to S. L. Church, dated May 23, 1885. Reference to this property is in old minutes book, page 146, M.S. 229, January 21, 1885. This property was given as a "Lasting Memento of her love for this church and the cause of Christ". →  
We do not know the exact location of this property, it is said to be in the area north of the old Muller property. This property was later sold by the Trustees of S. L. Ch., money deposited in a Columbia, S.C. Bank, most of it lost when bank failed. We do not know when, why, or to whom sold, nor amount realized from the sale. Last recorded information on this property was in October 1907 when L. T. Locklier was appointed Trustee of the property vice W. J. Brown, resigned. Information on sale probably in lost records.

Deed 6.14 acre from Terrain Inc. Sept. 22, 1976.

Deed 1.50 acre from East Highlands Company March 29, 1962.

Deed J. R. Creech on Blythewood Road, April 10, 1962, conveying strip of land, 29 ft. by 196.5 ft., by 19 ft., between the 1.50 acre East Highlands tract and Blythewood Road.

Deed Derieux family dated July 28, 1954, ap. 1.50 acre for Parsonage, measures on North 190 ft., East 331.5 ft. on Boney Road, South 274 ft. on Blythewood Road and on West 300 feet.

Deed Thomas B. Black dated October 31, 1940 for 0.93 acre additional property East side of old church property.

Deed Janie M. West for 0.97 acre dated October 3, 1939, measures approximately 60 feet along the 727 foot western border. This Deed was the result of a cross-deed agreement between the church and Mrs. West, in exchange for 0.93 acre deeded the church in 1888 by a Mrs. Nelson, a relative of Mrs. West. Mrs. Nelsons deed was for a plot of land 120 ft. by 330 ft, in the vicinity of present Methodist Cemetery.

Letter of information dated March 27, 1972 for \$1,000.00 Endowment fund to Baptist Foundation, by Mrs. Bessie Hawley Van-Exem, as a memorial to her six brothers. Interest to go to Furman University Scholarship Fund for a worthy student. Sandy Level to receive credit for the gift.

Pulpit Bible presented to church Dec. 1, 1856 by Dr. Samuel W. Bookhart. Used when church was dedicated. Also a Pulpit Bible presented to church Sept 13, 1898 by John G. Mobley.

Various land plats and a Topographic Map of church property.

Present acreage of church property 13.47 acres in addition to parsonage lot.

November 16, 1982.

RE: LUCY H. DOUGLAS TRUST FUND

DEACONS,  
Sandy Level.

On May 23, 1885 Mrs. Lucy H. Douglas executed a deed conveying to Sandy Level Church 100 acres of land for the sum of one dollar and other considerations. Two of these considerations, as follows:

In consideration of the love which I have for Sandy Level Church and the cause of christ and by the expressed desire of my deceased husband and son, and also in consideration of one dollar to me paid by (Trustees at that time).

In trust \_\_\_\_\_ to and for the sole and separate use, benefit and \_\_\_\_\_ of Sandy Level Church. The rent, issues and profits and proceeds arising therefrom, whither from sale or lease of said lands, or the principal arising from sale, to be held as a permanent fund. The profits from rent or lease or the interest accruing from principal should said trustees deem a change of investment beneficial to be applied to the pastor's salary or any necessary expenses or benefits (directly or otherwise fittingly).

This tract of land is located on Persimmon Fork Branch Creek at bottom of hill north of the old Muller house.

It was sold by the church on September 21, 1909 to W. S. Sharp for the sum of \$500.00. The money from sale (I am informed) was put in a Columbia, S. C. in interest account. The bank failed in the 1920's. Amount finally recovered from bank not known. We have no church records for that period.

In June 1955 what remained of the original fund was \$251.00 on deposit in one of the Savings and Loan Ass'n in Columbia. You will note from the enclosed copy of church minutes of June 5, 1955 that this sum was used to help defray cost of parsonage completion.

There was some question as to the use of the fund for this purpose, and if used, it should be restored to the Lucy H. Douglas Trust, therefore I signed a note as per copy enclosed.

There is a question in my mind as to what the church should do in regards to this fund. Is not the church morally obligated to restore the fund (or whats left of it) to conform to the terms of Mrs. Douglas's desires and her covenant deed?

Original deed and note in Church safety box at bank.

You might want to take some action on the above subject.

H. B. McLean, Sr.

4 enclosures.

The 2 blank spaces are for words in deed that I was not sure of.

As information: This land was later sold by Freeman Sharp Sr. to Fred Muller and was part and parcel of the Muller tract when it was sold.

Book--S. C. Baptist--1670--1805 by Leah Townsend, we find the following information, "A grant of 100 acres of land to Bryan McLendon on the head waters of Twenty Five Mile Creek, in year 1767, about 20 miles south of Winnsboro, and 25 miles west of Camden, a meeting house was erected in 1768, later being known as the Twenty Five Mile Church."

We do not know the exact location, but believe it to be about 2 miles northeast of Blythewood. You will recall that in 1767 we were under the colonial rule of the English Kings. The declaration of independence of the USA being signed July 4, 1776.

Flyleaf of old record book shows Twenty Five Mile Church organized in 1785. The name of Twenty Five Mile Church was changed on October 14, 1843 to Sandy Level Church. At that time records indicate that there were 2 meeting places, one at Sandfield and one at Taylors old field. The original part of Sandy Level was built in 1856, on 4 acre plot purchased from C. B. Williamson and Mrs Margaret A. Williamson (cost \$40.00) Deed dated Aug. 19, 1856, contains restriction "If said 4 acres should cease to be used as a place of public worship, it shall revert to original owners or their descendants."

The church was built of heart pine lumber, planned by hand, put together with hand made nails and lightwood pegs. Cost \$2300.00. Dr. S. W. Bookhart contributed \$700.00. The church was dedicated on the first sabbath December 1856. The pulpit bible used was contributed by Dr. Bookhart. We still have it in Bank Safety box, also a pulpit bible given to the church by John G. Mobley September 13, 1898.

Records indicate that between the years 1823 and 1835, Twenty Five Mile church had branches at Concord on Sawneys Creek, at Jackson Creek, at Cedar Creek, at Sand Hill old field and at Bear Creek. The mother church attended meetings in these branches, and kept certain records of their activities.

Blacks were members through the years, last ones leaving about 1873. Church membership May 1861--151 whites--55 blacks. In June 1868 21 blacks remained on roll. In 1859 Pastor J. T. Zealy and his wife owned a servant girl whose name was "Rose".

Sunday School dep't rear of church built 1952-1953.

New educational bldg built 1984.

Church parsonage built in 1955 on 1.50 acre lot deeded to church on July 28, 1954 by Thomas Derieux and family. (The 1.50 ac. lot given to Church)

Present acreage where church located 13.47 acres. This includes the original Williamson tract, plus additional land given to the church by Thomas B. Black, Mrs. Janie Smith West, East Highlands Company, Mr. James R. Creech and the 6.14 acres purchased September 22, 1976 from Terrain Inc. at a cost of \$18,560.00--this being \$3022.80 per acre.

By a Deed dated May 23, 1885, Mrs. Lucy H. Douglas conveyed 100 acres to Sandy Level Church for the sum of one dollar and other considerations, her love for the church and the expressed desire of her deceased husband and son.

This tract of land located about two miles west of S. L. Church on Persimmon Fork Branch Creek, at bottom of hill north of old Muller home.

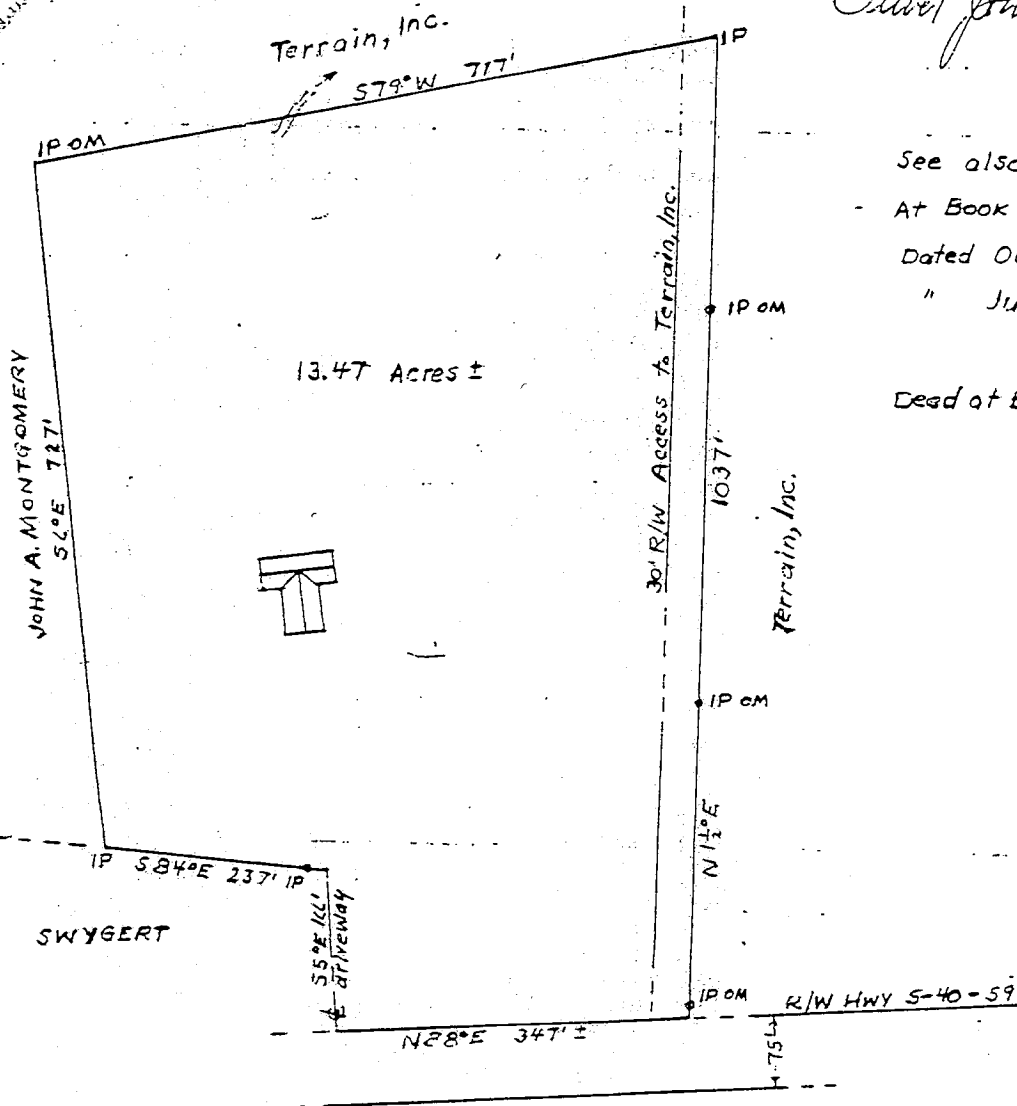
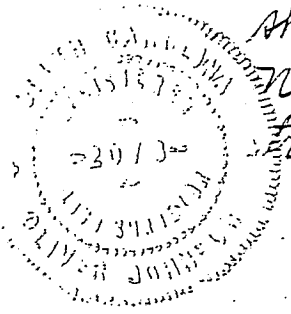
S. L. Trustees sold this land on September 21, 1909 to W. S. Sharpe for the sum of Five Hundred dollars. Most of this money lost due to Bank failure in the late 1920's. This tract of land in later years part of Fred Muller property.

Sandy Level Cemetery according to a study made of cemetery grounds by Lacy and Annie Lee Ratliff, 6240 Walton Road, Columbia, S. C. 29203, who also compiled a list showing names and other information on grave stones. Grave sites indicated by rocks etc also shown. Compiled list contains names and grave sites of 643 persons.

H. B. McLean, Sr.  
October 8, 1989.

I hereby certify that this plat depicts only existing parcels or lots of land which were platted and recorded in the office of Mesne Conveyance prior to the survey upon which this plat is based, having substantially the same shape and dimensions as shown hereon, and that no new divisions creating new or different lots or tracts were made in preparing this plat or appear hereon

Oliver Johnson R.L.S.



See also Plats:

- At Book 19 page 226

Dated Oct. 5 1938

" July 31 1976

Dead at Book 324 page 103.

Plat Book X-9467  
 8-9-77

Property of Sandy Level Baptist Church, Blythewood, S.C.

" 200'

Surveyed Apr. 5 1977

by Oliver Johnson

4-6-77

R.L.S. 2078