

An Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South-Carolina
 From the first settlement of the province to The War of the Revolution;
 With notices of the present state of the Church in each parish;
 And some account of the early civil history of Carolina.

By Frederick Dalcho ~ South Carolina ~ 1820 ~ 613 pages

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CHAPTER XV

St. Stephen's Parish

THIS Parish was taken from St. James', Santee, and was usually called English Santee. It was established by Act of Assembly, May 11, 1754. The boundaries were " the broad road leading from Strawberry to the ferry, commonly known by the name of Skrine's ferry, where the parish line crosses the said road, and from thence along the present broad road leading to the said ferry, till the said road reaches a post with three notches on it, being the mark of a boundary between the plantation of John Gendron, Esq. and the plantation where the said Skrine's ferry was kept as aforesaid, and from thence to continue the same course in a direct line to Santee river, and all the lands which are situate on the west side of the line hereby directed to be made, shall be a distinct Parish."

The Chapel of Ease to St. James' Church, fell within the limits of the new Parish, and was declared to be the Parish Church of St. Stephen's. The Rector, or Minister was to be chosen as in other Parishes, and allowed a Salary of £100, Proclamation Money. He was to enjoy all the Privileges of other Parish Ministers, and be subject to the same Rules. The Rev. Alexander Keith, A. M. who had been Assistant Minister at St. Philip's Church, Charles- Town, was the first Rector of this Parish. The Church in which he officiated, had formerly been a Chapel of Ease to St. James'. It was built of wood, but was old, and unfit for use, as well from its ruinous condition, as from its insufficiency for the number of worshippers. The inhabitants, therefore, petitioned for a new Parish Church ; and an Act was accordingly passed May 19, 1762, appointing John Pamor, Charles Cantey, Philip Porcher, Joseph Pamor, Peter Sinkler; Peter Porcher, Thomas Cooper, Rene Peyre and Samuel Cordes, Commissioners to receive subscriptions; to build the Church on any part of the Land in St. .Stephen, then used for a Churchyard, and to dispose of the Pews.

The Church is one of the handsomest Country Churches in So. Ca. and would be no mean ornament to Charleston. It is built of brick, and neatly finished. It stands on the main River road, about twelve and a half miles from the Santee Canal, The N. and S. sides are ornamented with six Doric Pilasters, and each end with four of the same Order. Upon a brick at the South side is inscribed A. Howard, Ser. 1767; and on another, F. Vittepontoux, Ser, 7, 1767; the names of the Architects. At the East end is a large sashed Window, and the usual Tables of the commandments, &c.

At the West end is a large Gallery, pewed. There are 45 Pews on the ground floor, which is tiled. It has a handsome mahogany Pulpit; on the front panels, are the Initials I. H. S. The ceiling is finished in the same style as that of St. Michael's, in Charleston. Mr. Keith left the Province in 1773, and was succeeded by the Rev. Alexander Finlay, who continued here until his death in 1783. He was succeeded by the Rev. John Hurt, who remained in this cure until 1786. After his removal, Mr. Joseph S. Thompson, who had been for many years a tutor in the Parish, read the service of the Church for two years. The Rev. James O'Farrel removed into this Parish from St. Matthew's, in April 1789, and continued to officiate for two years, when he returned to his former residence.

The Church remained vacant until 1797, when the Rev. James Connor was elected Rector. He resigned in 1802. The Church being again vacant, the Clergy of the city visited it occasionally. In 1809, Mr. Charles Blair Snowden, officiated as a Lay-Reader, and being Ordained the following spring, was elected Minister of the Parish. He officiated at the Church in Pineville, and the upper and middle St. John's. Mr. Snowden resigned in 1817. Mr. David Irving Campbell, while preparing for Orders, officiated as a Lay-Reader, in 1818, at the Church in Pineville. He was Ordained Deacon, Jan. 6, 1819, by Bishop Bowen of this Diocese, and was elected the Minister of the three Churches. Pineville is a healthy summer retreat for the inhabitants of St. Stephen's. It was settled in 1794 by six families. The number increased yearly, and now, [1819,] the village contains 26 houses, and an Academy built in 1805. The number of white inhabitants vary annually, between 160 and 182.

The children at the Academy and private schools, are between 50 and 60, and since the commencement of the former in 1806, but eight of its members have died, and four of these in the present year. Since the first settlement of the village, there have been 244 children born, of whom 162 are now living; the others died under five years of age. The Parish Church was completely repaired a few years ago; but it has neither Incumbent nor congregation. Nor is it probable that it will soon have either. The lands in its neighbourhood are either worn out, or subject to such dangerous freshets,* that the country round the Church is abandoned. But it was painful to the inhabitants, and too many who had formerly lived here, to see a noble edifice falling into ruins, where a large congregation had once worshipped. In honour of Him, whose Temple it is, they had it completely repaired at an expense of \$800. Around it are a number of tombstones that cover the remains of some of the most respectable inhabitants of the country. The family of the Gaillards lie here interred. The Communion Plate consists of a Chalice and Paten, on which is engraved For St. Stephen's Polish 1759. The Church was Incorporated, Feb. 29, 1788. The Journals of the Vestry are lost. In 1819, St. Stephen's contained 440 white inhabitants. (* See Ramsay's So. Ca. II. 312)



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Frederick Dalcho ~ a brief biography

Frederick Dalcho, physician, born in London, England, in October 1770 was presented for baptism by his parents John Frederick and Euphemia Dalcho at the Church of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, in the Borough of Holborn, London, England; died in Charleston, South Carolina, 24 November 1836. John Frederick Dalcho was a military man and an officer under Frederick the Great. He was wounded in the, Seven Year's War and died at age 58 on August 26, 1779 while in retirement living in England. Frederick Dalcho's mother was of Prussian descent and was born Euphemia Wiesenthal, daughter of Johann Mattheus Wiesenthal. She passed away on November 22, 1812 at the age of 81. Both of Frederick Dalcho's parents are buried in the churchyard at the German Evangelical Church of St. Marie in-the-Savoy located in London.

After his father's death Frederick came to Baltimore, Maryland, at the invitation of his uncle, who had removed to that place a few years before. Here he received a classical education, and then studied medicine, giving special attention to botany. He then entered the medical department, of the army, and was stationed at Fort Johnson, Charleston harbor, but, in consequence of some difficulty with his brother officers, resigned in 1799, and practiced in Charleston, where he was active in establishing the botanical garden. December 25th 1805, Dr. Edward Jenkins married Dr. Dalcho and Miss Mary Elizabeth Threadcraft at St. Philip's Church. They were childless throughout their marriage.

About 1807 he left his practice and became one of the editors of the Charleston "Courier," a daily Federal newspaper. He began to be interested in theological studies in 1811, was ordained deacon in the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1814, and priest in 1818. On 23 February 1819, he became assistant minister of St. Michael's Church, Charleston, where he remained until his death. A monument, erected to his memory by the vestry, stands near the south door of the Church. Dr. Dalcho published "The Evidence of the Divinity of Our Saviour" (1820) and an Historical Account of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina" (1820); and "Ahiman Rezon," for the use of freemasons (1822). <http://famousamericans.net/frederickdalcho/>

