

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH, ST STEPHEN, SC
Being a Continuation of Dalcho's Account
Established 1754
(See Dalcho, p. 328)

After the resignation of the Rev. James Conner in 1802, services were almost entirely discontinued at the parish church. In fact, the people having largely moved away from the neighborhood, it fell into disrepair. A chapel was erected about ten miles west of the Church where services were held. Soon after the beginning of the century, the people from a sense of loyalty put the old Church into thorough repair. Efforts were made from time to time, notably in 1828 and 1833 to reopen the Church but with success only occasionally until the Rev. P F Stevens opened it for regular services in 1870 as we shall see. In the meantime since 1794 Pineville had become a popular summer resort for the people of St. Stephen's and of Upper St. John's – an academy and library were built there. The beginning of Church life in Pineville came soon after the turn of the century when Mr. Baker from New Hampshire, the head of the academy, conducted lay services at the old chapel two miles to the northwest of the village. Later the chapel in the village was built, being completed in 1810. The Rev. Charles Blair Snowden after having succeeded Mr. Baker as lay reader for a time, and having been ordained, took charge. He also ministered at Black Oak Church (Middle St. John's) and at the Rocks Church (Upper St. John's). All three of these churches were originally chapels of ease, the first of St. Stephen's parish, the two latter of St John's. Berkeley. All three continued united under the card of the same minister until 1655 when Trinity, black Oak, became an independent parish. In 1819 Mr. Snowden was succeeded by the Rev. David Irving Campbell who also had acted as a lay reader while a candidate for Holy Orders. He served until 1840. The Rev. J. W. Miles officiated from November, 1841, until the following January. The Rev. Cranmore Wallace held some services in 1842, then in December of this year Rev. William Dehon, son of the second Bishop of the diocese, began a notable ministry in this field, serving all three churches, besides five or six chapels erected by planters on their plantations for 1,800 Negroes to whom Mr. Dehon ministered; 300 of these were communicants. The religious tone of the parish rose at this time. St. Stephen's, Pineville, was consecrated by Bishop Gadsden in 1845, when it was admitted into union with the Church in the diocese, having previously resisted cooperation with the diocese.

Mr. Dehon had for his assistant first the Rev. C. P. Gadsden (1845-1853), then Rev. R. P. Johnson (1853-1854). Occasional services were held in old St. Stephen's. Trinity, Black Oak, in 1855 after about a half century destroyed the trinity of churches, becoming an independent parish with the Rev. J. J. Sams as its rector. The Rev. J. Hamilton was then assisting Mr. Dehon among the Negroes at this time in St. Stephen's. Mr. Dehon resigned in 1859, being succeeded by Mr. Johnson, who was assisted first by the Rev. LeGrande Guerry and then by the Rev. W. W. Patrick. In 1864, the original trinity of churches was further broken when St. Stephen's and Epiphany were separately admitted into union with the Convention after an association of sixty-odd years. Mr. Johnson retained Epiphany and for some time St. Stephen's had no rector though Mr. Johnson continued to supply services. In December 1867, St Stephen's again became associated with Trinity, Black Oak with the Rev. P. F. Stevens as rector. On assuming charge he found the Church very reduced as to whites, the effect of the war: casualties, destruction of the village of Pineville by U. S. troops, and consequent dispersion of the people. There was still a large field of work open among the Negroes. Mr. Stevens resigned both churches in 1870 in order to give himself to the work of reopening old St. Stephen's. He removed his residence to that vicinity and single handed had the Church repaired at a cost of \$874.28 and opened a school. The elaborate repairs are described in the *Monthly Record* of September 1871, with the thanks of the vestry which he called on for only \$10.00. However he did not entirely desert Pineville and Black Oak, continuing to supply all three churches. The services in the old parish Church were begun in the summer of this year, 1870. The bishop in 1872 reported 99 presented for confirmation by Mr. Stevens—95 of these "persons of color". The rev. J. V. Welch was Mr. Steven's assistant at this time. Mr. Stevens resigned in 1873. He carried with him the sincere thanks of the congregation for his great service. The parish became "dormant" now as a parish through the war's depletion of its strength. However it now passes under the care of the rector of the epiphany, the Rev. Nathaniel B Fuller, who also had the charge of Redeemer mission for Negroes near Pineville. Thus was the old association of the two churches renewed. The Rev. W. O. Prentiss had the charge in 1876. Mr. Welch continued as missionary in the parish. Services were now held in the old parish Church. At Pineville, and at Redeemer. For some years until he left the parish in 1884 Mr. J. S. Walton rendered a fine service as superintendent of the Sunday School. At this time there were 34 communicants.

After serving the parish as missionary for many years, Mr. Welsh was succeeded by the Rev. H. H. Phelps, rector of St. John's Berkeley, in 1889, giving a monthly service at the parish Church, and also at Redeemer in the afternoon. A lay reader also served here. Mr. Phelps went to East Carolina in 1891, leaving the parish vacant. The Rev. H. M. Jarvis had charge in 1893-94. In 1894 Mr. L. G. Harmon was appointed lay reader for the parish, holding many services during the vacancy for many years, both at St. Stephen's and Redeemer. The parish Church was re-shingled in this year. In 1899 the wardens were: W. Mazyck Porcher and L. G. Harmon, and the treasurer, Edward B Marion. In 1901 Rev. Andrew E. Cornish was missionary to this parish. Then followed the Rev. J. H. Brown from Pinopolis, for two or three years. Mr. J. K. Gourdin was treasurer at the time. The Rev. A. E. Cornish had charge again in 1907 for a short time. At this time Mr. F. M. Shipman began his services as warden which lasted for many years. The rev. R. W. Barnwell held monthly services in the chapel in Pineville for a time.

In this year, the Rev. Harold Thomas took charge of St. Stephen's, St Stephens, reorganizing it as a mission. In 1912 he reported ten families and twenty-five communicants, including Pineville; repairs and improvements \$176.90; Sunday School 35. In the meantime in the fall of 1912, the Rev. Henry c. Mazyck took charge of the chapel in Pineville. When Mr. Thomas resigned St. Stephen's, St. Stephens, in 1916 he was succeeded for a year by the Rev. H. D. Bull. The next year Mr. Mazyck took charge of this Church with Pineville, continuing in charge of both churches until he left the diocese in May 1920. In 1921 the Rev. A. P. Magwood held services in the parish church for a time. There was no regular minister in this field now until the Rev. J. E. H. Galbraith began services in 1929, and the next year by the Rev. F. W. Ambler. There were no services during these years at the parish Church.

In October, 1932, the Rev. E. B. Guerry as missionary reopened the old church at St. Stephens, the congregation of Pineville uniting. The present altar was then installed, made of walnut from the Cain's Somerset Plantation. Mr. E. B. Marion was secretary and treasurer, and the warden was Mr. W. S Shipman. Mr. Guerry continued his charge until February, 1935. During this period through Mr. Guerry's activity repairs to the amount of about \$600.00 were made on the old parish Church. Simons and Lapham of Charleston generously superintended the redecoration of the interior. In 1935 St. Stephen's was placed under the care of the associate mission for a while, under the Rev. d. N. Peebles. The rev. T. F. Walsh had charge for six months. In 1936, then Rev. D. M. Hobart. Work was conducted actively at the old Church until Mr. Hobart resigned early in 1940; the Rev. William Moultrie Moore succeeded in June following and continued until July, 1942. Under Mr. Moore the chapel in Pineville which had fallen into disrepair was put into good condition, a new sanctuary being constructed and services resumed there as well as at the parish Church. The Rev. William H. Hanckel was next in charge. At this time, 1943, the warden and treasurer was Edward St. J. Marion. Mr. Hanckel resigned in the fall of 1944. The Rev. L. A. Taylor followed in charge for a while, then the Rev. DeSaussure P. Moore (1947-1949) The Rev. J. Q. Crumbly officiated 1950-52. Mr. E. St. J. Marion after years of service as warden and treasurer died in May 1947. The old church was again repaired in 1949. Extensive renovations of the parish Church have taken place in the following years as this sketch shows: 1808, 1870, 1934, and the last. More recently begun under the Rev. Hallie D. Warren, and even more complete restoration has been accomplished.



*The above is transcribed exactly as written, pages 403 to 406 inclusive, in Bishop Albert Sidney Thomas book,
A Historical Account of the Episcopal Church in South Carolina.*

A Brief Biography of Bishop follows,
which is on the dustcover of the book.

A Historical Account of the Episcopal Church In South Carolina 1820 - 1957

By Albert Sidney Thomas
Retired Bishop of South Carolina



Rev. Albert Sidney Thomas was in a very real sense born to write about the Episcopal Church in South Carolina. His father, John Peyre Thomas, Jr. and his mother, Mary Caroline Gibbes, were members of families long identified with the Church in South Carolina; among his ancestors were two missionaries from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the Rev. Samuel Thomas, first missionary to Carolina, and the Rev. Thomas Hassell, for 35 years rector of St. Thomas' and St. Denis' Parish.

Born in Columbia (*Feb 06, 1873*) eight years after Sherman's troops burned the capital city, he was reared in Trinity Church and was lay reader and superintendent of the Sunday School of Good Shepherd, Columbia, from 1895 to 1897. He was graduated from The Citadel in 1892; he taught in the public schools of Columbia for several years and studied at the South Carolina College and the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee. He was graduated from General Theological Seminary in New York in 1900.

In the 28 years before he became the IX Bishop of South Carolina, he served charges in Darlington, Marion, Society Hill, Hartsville, Mullins, Cheraw, Bennettsville, Columbia (Good Shepherd) and St. Michael's, Charleston from 1921. He served for sixteen years as Bishop of South Carolina.

His retirement in 1944 by no means meant the end of his activities; he began to assemble the book which he had been contemplating for many years. It took him many years because of painstaking devotion to accuracy and, even more so, because he remained so active in so many facets of Church life. This is a case in which the author has produced a book with which he has lived for a long and productive lifetime. Bishop Thomas died Oct 08, 1967 in Columbia, SC; age 94 years, 8 months, 2 days.

