

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY OF HARLOWE, NORTH CAROLINA AND THE HARLOWE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1829-1974

Prepared as part of the celebration of 100 years at the same church site.

October 26, 1974

by: REV. EDGAR F. SEYMOUR

History is simply painting a picture of the past, in words, for the enlightenment of the future. No attempt will be made to completely present all of things past in this narrative. It is enough that you would come to know how Harlowe came into being, and that in its early history the Methodist Circuit Rider passed, and left an indelible mark on this community. This is not simply a record of cold facts, although all effort has been made to keep it factual. It is more than facts, for the township of Harlowe was and is a place deeply respected by those who reside there for its warmth and fellowship. Here in Harlowe people were born, knew sorrow and joy, felt cold and heat, struggled with the elements, sometimes for their very survival, and later enjoyed the rest they had found, there were moments of anger, and in the midst of their anger grew unity, as together these people banded into groups to accomplish their dreams. They knew war and peace, and in times of war they lost much materially, and in time of peace they went back to the plow, to the forests, to the streams, and they rebuilt again. In the middle of all of their goings and comings, present at the birth and death was the Harlowe United Methodist Church. It shared their lives, for better and for worse. Harlowe is on Route 101, in Carteret County, North Carolina. This is its story, and the story of the church which for its members, and for those who did not choose to join, was the center of the world of society as well as a place of worship. Our story begins before the church building was constructed, for knowing how it began is important too.

As Queen Ann's reign was nearing its end a colony was settled and named "North Carolina". It extended from the Virginia border to the Cape Fear River, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

North Carolina's first division was a precinct called Bath, and there a town, also named Bath, was to become its first capital. In 1705 this precinct was divided into three counties, these were first known as Wickham, Archdale and Pamlico, but in about seven years later the names were changed to Hyde, Craven, and Beaufort.

In 1722 the county of Carteret was formed from a part of Craven, and was named for Sir John Carteret, Earl of Granville. Carteret County is bordered on one side by the Atlantic Ocean, and its County seat is the city of Beaufort.

Beaufort, first called Fishtown, was the earliest settlement, and for some time few ventured inland. The first to be drawn further inland were the fishermen and the hunters. The demand for salted fish and furs sent many in search of these items for barter. We then must assume that the first white men to see this spot, where later the township of Harlowe was located, were those who came not to settle, nor in search of a place to live, but those who came seeking material wealth. To he who first visioned a cleared spot of land, a house of his own, and a place suitable to bear and raise a family, all early towns owe their existence. Those who first came and attempted settlement were to face many dangers. The wilderness itself contained formidable hazards of the elements of nature, but added to this were those indians, who at first were friendly, but later made war on the settlers. The indians grew more and more concerned about the game in the woods, and the fish in the streams being taken in such quantities. In 1711 five tribes gathered near the mouth of the Pamlico River, here they held a counsel, and a war dance, then they launched an attack on the settlers.

Two of these tribes are remembered today, for their names are the names of nearby places. The Coree indians lived along the shore of a large sound, and today we call that sound, Core Sound. Another tribe, the Neuse, lived in two villages in that part of Merriman township where a river now called Neuse joins with Adams Creek. The Tuscarora Massacre wiped out most of the homes, killing the people, and for a time stopped further attempts to settle further inland.

But the needs of man keep calling to him to go further away from the place of his birth as families grow and the land is insufficient. So it was with these early settlers. The stout-hearted began again about 1722 to settle in earnest that promising land away from the sea. About the time that Carteret County came into being settlement was making good progress.

Some settlements held only people of one national origin. Carteret County was not one of these. Those who settled this county were from many origins, and these included the Scotch-Irish, they were to bring the first organized or formal system of education, the Huguenots came here by way of the West Indies, then there were Germans, possibly some of the same families that colonized, with the Swiss, Craven County, and New Bern. The basic colony was of course English. The Quakers, a religious group, not a people of another national origin, were to distinguish themselves in this early settlement. Although the Quakers were earlier established in Albermarle precinct most of those to settle here came from Rhode Island, and they settled along the north side of the Newport River.

The English, at first without any clerical leadership, were the first to construct a church building. St. John's Parish in Beaufort, was built in 1724. The first Quaker Meeting House was built, on the site now occupied by the Tuttle Grove United Methodist Church, in 1733. Those who worshiped on that site were known as the Core Sound Monthly Meeting. They were to leave a long felt influence on this area. They were industrious and persevering. The family names remain behind although the Monthly Meeting Records were closed about 1841. All of the Quakers migrated between the years 1801 and 1840. We do not know why, and some accounts simply say they got "western fever" and moved on. Examination of the meeting house records show that they followed a familiar pattern of "eldering," and that many were disowned for "marrying out of unity." (marrying outside the Friends), or for joining the Methodist Society. Those who were disowned remained here, and the names once Quaker now are found in this area.

Just when the first Methodist Circuit Rider arrived in Harlowe is unknown, but we do know the circumstances that brought the first preacher to North Carolina. The Conference Journal for 1875 contains a report from the Committee on the centennial. A committee having been appointed to propose a plan of celebration to be observed in 1876 reported that year to the Annual Conference as follows: "On the 21st day of March, 1776, at a Conference held in the city of Baltimore, a circuit, called the "Carolina Circuit" was organized, embracing an indefinite extent of territory and allowing the preacher in charge large liberty for this effort in spreading "Spiritual holiness" throughout this hitherto unoccupied field. What a wide expanse is here presented for the matured thought of the developed Methodism of 1876. There was one solitary preacher, a stranger to every citizen of the State, belonging to a people who were unknown to all

that dwelt in this vast extent of territory; even the name of the founder, under God, of this form of Christian faith and worship had never penetrated this remote region--all external surroundings were unpromising--and that herald of the Cross, with his horse, saddlebags, Bible and hymn-books, trusting with a firm and unwavering faith in the God that had redeemed and pardoned him through the blood of his Son, came pioneering this unexplored realm, and carrying the "glad tidings" of the personal salvation that he had experienced in his own consciousness, to those that sat in "the region of darkness and shadow of death."

And so it was one solitary preacher that first came to bring a message to the Carolinas. We do not know just what year Methodism came to Harlowe, but we do know that the Harlowe United Methodist Church constructed its first place of worship in the year 1834. On the 22nd day of April, 1834 the land was deeded to the Trustees by Mary Hardisty and John Hardisty. The consideration was fifty cents. The deed reads in part "unto the said William R. Rew Sr., Joshua Taylor, and Richard Rew, William B. Bell and Jacob Taylor and their successors in office forever in trust that they shall build or cause to be erected and built thereon a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America according to the rules and discipline which from time to time may be agreed upon and adopted by the ministers and Preachers of said Church at the general Conference." The signatures of Asa Conner for John Hardisty of Alabama, and that of Mary Hardisty were witnessed by Jon Stanton and Wallace Dickerson. The deed was recorded by the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions June term 1835. It was registered 11 July 1835 by G. Rumley, Clerk of the Court.

The first church building, located directly across the road from where the present property of the heirs of Simon Journey Conner joins the property of the Bratchers, served for forty years.

The residents of this area did not always call it Harlowe. Prior to 1712 or 1713 it was called "Haulover" and this name was to be used until the 1830's as well as the name "Harlowe." On January 22nd, 1712 Captain Christopher Dawson had sold a tract of land lying on the head of Fralys Creek, which creek issues out of the Newport River, in the county of Bath, province of North Carolina, to John Harlow. (Book 2, page 695, Craven Co. Records). The first maps viewed were produced long before this date, and these maps show no creek named "Fralys", but do later show a creek named Harlow. It must then be assumed that John Harlow renamed the creek, or that it became known because he owned that portion of it at the head of the creek. Prior to and after the date of this transaction this part of Carteret County was in Bath County, and in 1712 it became part of Craven County, and in 1722 became a part of Carteret County, where it remains today.

Methodism had grown from the days of the Circuit Rider, and in 1833 the District returned to its former name of the "New Bern District" so we find in 1834 when the church was formed that it was on the Trent Circuit, of the New Bern District, of the Virginia Conference. In 1834 J. Reid was the Presiding Elder, and Rowland G. Bass the pastor. Bass was appointed to the Trent Circuit in 1833 and appointments ran from harvest to harvest, or approximately from November, to November. We know little about this first Pastor-in-charge. Rev. James Reid served as the Presiding Elder of the New Bern District from 1833 thru 1836, and again in 1867-72.

Rev. Reid was a dynamic leader in the North Carolina Conference, pre-eminently a man of ability and weight among citizens, and a man of God in the Church. In the summer of 1872 he was elected Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of North Carolina, but died before entering upon the duties of this office.

The year 1834 brought another change to Harlowe. That was the year that the Clubfoot and Harlow's Creek Canal reached a new low in tolls, and this was the end of it as a commercial project.

CLUBFOOT AND HARLOW'S CREEK CANAL

The North Carolina Historical Review for 1948, Volume XXV, Number 1, in an account by Clifford Reginald Hinshaw gives us a good picture of the part that the Canal played in the history of Harlowe.

As early as 1766 "An Act for Joining the Navigation of Old Topsail Inlet to Neuse River by Cutting a Navigable Canal from the Head of Harlow's Creek to Clubfoot's Creek" was passed. Clubfoot Creek a tributary of the Neuse River, while Harlow's Creek flowed into the harbor at Beaufort. By this act certain citizens were appointed commissioners with authority to lay off and design a canal to connect these two creeks. They were empowered to receive subscriptions, to construct the waterway, and to act as overseers of the project. Nothing was accomplished, however, and in 1783 the General Assembly passed another act, appointing John Benners, John Jones, Christopher Neale, John Easton, Enock Ward, Dedrick Gibbler, and William Bourden as commissioners. By this act the canal could pass through the land of any person or persons provided payment was made to the owner for consequent damages. The canal was also declared to be for public use and free from tolls. The following year Enock Ward, Spyers Singleton, and Christopher Neale were empowered to construct the canal and, contrary to the provisions of the previous act, were allowed to collect tolls if the project was completed within a seven-year period. Tolls were to be fixed each year between the first and tenth of January and advertised at each end of the canal. In 1795, with the canal still incomplete, an additional act was passed. The new law provided for a company with a capital stock of \$10,000., divided into 100 shares of \$100. each. It further stipulated that the company must have two-thirds of the necessary subscriptions before becoming incorporated, officers must be elected, the canal built, and locks and other safeguards to navigation constructed. Land through which the waterway would run was condemned and the canal was declared a public highway, free from taxation. The toll rates were limited to a yearly income of not more than twenty-five per cent of the cost of construction and maintenance of the canal. Two years later an amendment was passed allowing an increase of \$1,000. in the capital stock and extending the charter from sixty to ninety-five years. Although sufficient subscriptions for incorporation had been secured, the canal progressed slowly. Practically all of the work had been done by, or under the direction of, William McClure. After his death his interest in the company was transferred to his daughter Hannah, the wife of William Gaston. She, in turn, left her shares to her husband and infant children. Construction was suspended following McClure's death; in 1813, however, a reorganization act was passed providing for a capital stock of 132 shares valued at \$100.00 each. William Gaston, and his children, because of McClure's contributions, were granted a fourth of the stock. Each subscriber was allowed one vote for each share of stock up to five, and a vote for every three shares above five.

According to this act the canal was to be built from Clubfoot Creek to Harlow's Creek, and was to have a width of fourteen feet and a depth of four feet at ordinary tide water. Four sidings, sixty feet long and twelve feet wide, were provided to increase the width, thus allowing vessels to pass each other. Drainage ditches were also to be dug parallel to the canal to prevent surface water from washing the banks. The entire project had to be completed within five years.

The Board of Internal Improvements, following its formation in 1819 and the hiring of Hamilton Fulton, desired to take over the Clubfoot and Harlow's Creek Canal as one of its projects. Fulton surveyed the canal in 1820 and reported to the Board that there was no necessity for any alteration of the line as previously laid out by William McClure. As the waters of Clubfoot Creek were higher than those of Harlow's Creek he thought it expedient to build a lock to prevent the current from overflowing and injuring the banks. Construction on this lock and completion would necessitate an expenditure of \$25,000. Work on the canal was started again in the spring of 1821, but incessant rains greatly retarded progress. The company directors, deciding against the employment of contractors, hired a superintendent and a number of hands. Fulton's plan was followed with the exception of the lock construction, which they built without sidewalls, using instead the banks of the canal. This proved impracticable and work on the lock was suspended.

When the company's capital proved inadequate, in 1821, an act was passed opening the books for new subscriptions and increasing the number of shares to 240. The Board of Internal Improvements, by the act of 1821, gained control of the planning, and direction of the project, and the state subscribed to an additional fifty shares of stock. The work proceeded so slowly that by 1822 only one-third of the total length of three miles had been completed. A year later Fulton estimated that about three-fifths of the total length had been excavated, and that the expenditure of another \$10,000. would enable the company to complete the canal.

An examination by a committee of the Board of Internal Improvements in 1827 revealed that an excavation of 180 yards and the removal of earth caved in from the banks would make the canal navigable. The cave-in was thought to be the result of too free admission of the waters of the Neuse River and Clubfoot Creek. The committee, therefore, recommended the erection of a guard lock at the northern outlet of the canal to control the flow of water.

Although small vessels now began to use the waterway and tolls were collected, the canal was not yet a useful commercial artery. To supply the means for making it such, the state in 1828 made a loan of \$6,000. This brought the total advanced by the state to \$38,000. Over a period of six years, from 1827 to 1833, the total tolls collected amounted to only \$2,722.05.

The Clubfoot and Harlow's Creek Canal attracted little attention from the state after 1830, and interest in the project seems to have vanished. In 1832 the Board of Internal Improvements reported, in connection with the expediency of planning a water communication from Beaufort to New Bern in place of a railroad, that the Clubfoot and Harlow's Creek Canal was not adequate for the needs of trade. The Company reported to the Board of Internal Improvements in 1832 that \$48,471. had been spent in construction of the canal and that \$400. was still due.

As obstacles to navigation continued to increase, the tolls decreased, reaching a low of \$210.51 in 1834. This poor condition led to the opinion that, even if the canal were improved it would still not be able to repay the state loans, and therefore foreclosure was ordered in 1844.

Three years later an act of the General Assembly empowered the Board of Internal Improvements, which had taken over the canal to lease the entire works for a period not exceeding twenty years. If the canal were sold, the purchasers were to be declared incorporated as the Clubfoot and Harlow's Creek Canal Company. The canal was neither leased or purchased, and in 1849 an act was passed to incorporate a company to operate it. A new company was not incorporated however, and the state held its interest in the canal until 1872. At that time the New Bern and Beaufort Canal Company was formed and the state's interest in the Clubfoot and Harlow's Creek Canal was transferred to the new organization.

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE CREATED

At the conclusion of their annual meeting in 1837 the Virginia Conference divided itself into two conferences, and the second was named the North Carolina Conference. Included in this conference was the New Bern District, which had extended from Raleigh to the sea at the time this account began, and now was approximately its present size. Nine ministers and a Presiding Elder served the District. There were five districts in the first North Carolina Conference. The Raleigh, New Bern, and the Roanoke, Danville and the Saulsbury Districts comprised the Conference. There were 15,312 white members and 3896 colored members. At this conference the districts were rearranged creating the following: New Bern, Raleigh, Washington, Danville, Saulsbury and Greensborough Districts. 56 pastors served in both capacities as Presiding Elders and as Pastors-in-charge. Three more constituted the conference but they were agents of colleges. The conference held its first Annual Conference Session at Greensborough in January, 1838.

REVEREND HENRY GRAY

Many pastors showed unusual enterprise, and many were categorically great evangelists, none however, surpassed the zeal and gift of the Rev. Henry Gray. He served for six years as a local preacher and in 1838 he became a member of the conference. In December 1844 he was appointed to the Trent Circuit, and Harlowe was a part of that circuit, and he continued to serve here during 1845-6. For the years he was pastor of the Trent Circuit he reported 1000 converts. This was not unusual for him. In the twenty years he served the active ministry before he was superannuated he converted five thousand persons. He was to continue doing great things even after he was superannuated and he lived 85 years.

THE CIVIL WAR YEARS

The Civil War years disrupted the South, and the churches and preachers became part of this era, for it was recorded that the preachers were called on to write sermons that would incite the people. These sermons were published from private funds and were widely circulated and did have their effect on the thinking of these times. 1861 saw little change in the form of the Conference, but by 1863 there were not enough ministers to fill the appointments. Military appointments were recorded as a part of the Raleigh District.

In 1863 they appointed the following:

Chaplain-Twelfth Regiment, North Carolina Troops, Jeffrey H. Robbins.
Chaplain-Twenty-second Regiment, North Carolina Troops, Franklin H. Wood.
Chaplain-Thirtieth Regiment, North Carolina Troops, Alexander D. Betts.
Chaplain-Forty-fourth Regiment, North Carolina Troops, Richard S. Webb.
Chaplain-Forty-eighth Regiment, North Carolina Troops, Calvin Plyler.
Chaplain-Thirty-second Regiment, North Carolina Troops, W. B. Richardson.
Chaplain-Seventh Confederate Calvary, John D. Buie.
Chaplain-Hoke's Brigade, J. J. Hines.
Chaplain-Clingman's Brigade, J. B. Alford,
Chaplain-Lane's Brigade, to be supplied.

These and other appointments left the New Bern District virtually stripped and they reported that year that New Bern, Centenary, and Andrews Chapel, the New Bern Circuit, Beaufort's Purvis Chapel, Straits, Cape Look-out, Morehead City were all without appointments. The only appointments were Trent Circuit...William F. Clegg, Beaufort-Ann Street...John Jones, Kinston and Lenoir...Nathan A. Hooker and Jones Mission...William M. Walsh, Snow Hill...Joseph Wheeler, Wilson...James W. Wheeler, Goldsboro...Adolphus W. Mangum, Everittsville...Dugan C. Johnson and G. W. Deems, Smithfield...L.S. Burkhead, and Contentnea...B. B. Culbreth. The coastal area was left with local preachers serving the churches. The members of the conference had gone to war.

The following year the minutes of the North Carolina Conference were all but missing. The editor noted "The minutes do not state where and when the Conference was held, or who presided; only the following questions and answers were given" Among these questions the appointments listed two new Missions to be supplied, and eight of the former sixteen charges dropped. The Trent Circuit, on which our church was usually shown, was no longer listed at all. The nearest appointment, and the only one on the eastern seaboard portion of the New Bern District was John Jones at Beaufort. In the year 1865 when question 21 was asked "Where are the preachers stationed" no answer was given. From our records it is established that W. M. Jordon served us that year, but what his appointment was is not known.

EMELINE JAMISON PIGOTT

Out of the Civil War era came a name, Emeline Pigott, not one recorded in history books, but one well known in this area. Emeline Jamison Pigott, daughter of Eliza and Dennis Pigott was born in Harlowe on December 15, 1836. The family home, then at a location west of 20th street across Calico Creek in Morehead, was used to care for sick soldiers following the seizure of Fort Macon by the Confederate Troops at the beginning of the Civil War, it took on the look of a hospital, and there she, Emeline Pigott, cared for many soldiers. Later, following the capture of New Bern, she nursed the sick and wounded at Kinston and later at Concord. As the war progressed she offered her services to the Confederate Government as a secret service agent. She was given the task of bearing important messages, which she carried on her person under her clothing. She was often in danger. During one of her missions she fled the Federal Troops and sought safety in the Gideon Bell house near the Clubfoot-Harlowe Canal, hiding in the garrett while the troops searched for her. She, and her brother-in-law, Rufus Bell ran a regular messenger service. Mail was secreted under logs, in well known trees, and at other points. They also carried both food and medication as needed. Finally she was arrested and confined in New Bern. Many efforts were made to secure her release, she even resorted to telling traitors that she would divulge their acts if tried, and managed to have them intervene for her release, but by the the time she was freed the war was over.

Miss Emeline Pigott made her home in Morehead from that day until her death in 1919 at the age of 82.

SECOND CHURCH BUILDING CONSTRUCTED

Beginning in the Reconstruction period and for many years after the names of Gideon C. Bell and his brother Rufus, were to appear often. In 1872 Gideon C. Bell was our delegate (one of four from the District) from the New Bern District to the Conference, and later his brother held this honored post. Under the able guidance of Rev. James Mahoney, who was assigned to the newly formed Carteret Circuit in 1874, a new church building was constructed. Gideon C. Bell joined by his wife Eliza Bell conveyed to the church a parcel of land on which the new church was to be constructed. This is where our present building stands. Their indenture dated 28 November, 1874 is recorded in Book 5, page 199 of the Carteret County records, and was deeded to Rufus W. Bell, Gideon C. Bell Daniel B. Dickinson, Jonathan Stanton, Robert W. Weeks, and Burton M. Hardesty as Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church-South at Harlowe Creek, North Carolina.

It says "for and in consideration of the love we bare for the cause of Christ, and from and earnest desire to promote his heritage on earth do give and grant and by these present convey unto" The original church building constructed forty years earlier is not mentioned in any records, but the second building is now a part of the present structure.

Rev. James Mahoney, pastor in 1874, was born in Sumpter County, S.C. on August 12th, 1812. It may be said of him that "from his youth he knew the scriptures" He professed religion at the age of 16 years, and began from that hour a consecrated service to his Lord. He was licensed to exhort when quite a young man, and after a few years of excellent service as an exhorter, he was licensed to preach, and made full proof of his ministry as a local preacher, as the Lord gave him time and opportunity. For eleven years he was proof reader and local editor on the staff of the Southern Christian Advocate. In 1853 he moved to Wilmington, N.C. where he lived for 12 years, during which time he gave full proof of his ministry as a local preacher and supply. Thence he moved, in 1865, to Green County, N.C., where he proved himself most useful to all the churches within reach of home. In 1869 he joined the North Carolina Conference at New Bern, N.C. He was appointed to the work at Harlowe (Carteret Circuit) in 1874. James Mahoney was a man of prayer, and a man of faith. He had a firm trust in Divine providence and believed his steps were ordered by the Lord. He was thoroughly concentrated to the itinerate ministry; and when it was suggested at the Conference that on account of his age he had better take a superannuated relation, he protested, saying "No let me have another assignment; I want to die with all harness on." God granted his wish. Appointed that year to Pamlico Circuit, he expired in this office.

The first year following the completion of the church building must have been a wonderful year in Harlowe, for the following excerpts from the North Carolina Advocate indicate how many were involved in the work locally. In the issue for June 16, 1875 they reported "The Newbern District Conference lately held at Mount Olive by resolution directed the Presiding Elder to call, at his own selection of time and place, a Sabbath School Convention." He called this meeting for Thursday morning before the 2nd Sabbath of July. And in our District the Sunday School was born.

Gideon C. Bell, of Harlowe, was one of the leaders who attended that Convention, and his tombstone in Harlowe Cemetary bears this epitaph, "Founder and Superintendent of Harlowe Sabbath School"

The issue of the Advocate for October 6, 1875 reported as follows: "Rev. Jas. Mahoney writing under date of Sep. 22nd says: 'The Good Lord continues to pour out his spirit and bless us with revivals of religion, on the Carteret Circuit, I spent the two past weeks, preaching alternately at South River and Adams Creek Churches. The congregations were not large at either place, at any time during the meeting, owing to sickness more or less in every family. Yet, we had the presence and the aid of the Holy Spirit. I have not seen, at any time, or place, a greater disposition manifested on the part of the people, to attend church, than was there, and although there were only 8 adults added to the church, t'was a great revival of religion. The whole church, the most of whom had lapsed into a cold and backsliden state, was aroused, stirred, refreshed, and built up, and promised to repent and lead a new-life, following the commandments of God.

Very many members of both churches communions gave evidence of the blessings that they had received, and the renewal of their spiritual strength during the meeting, by rising to their feet in "Love Feast" I had no ministerial aid, a good brother (Peter Carraway) an exhorter, rendered good service."

The Christian Advocate for May 26th, 1875 reported under the headline "New Berne District Conference 93rd session at Mt. Olive. 'The following brethren were elected delegates to the next ensuing session of the N.C. Conference: A. Thompson, W.F. Kornegay, Willie Arendell, Rufus Bell. Rev. J. B. Webb and Thos. D. Gay were elected alternates." Rev. Jas. Mahoney served this area for the conference years 1874-5 and the Presiding Elder for 1873-6 was Rev. E. A. Yates.

ALEXANDER DAVIS BETTS

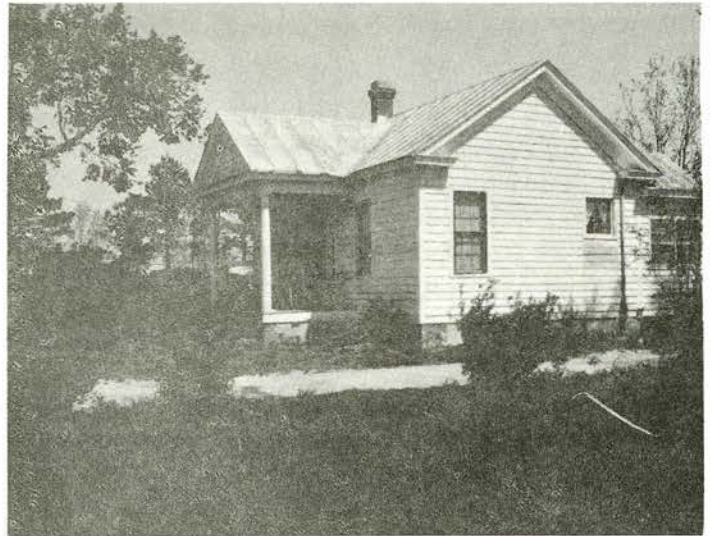
Although it would be to long a narrative to include much about the many pastors and laymen who have served this church and area. It seems best to list something about a few of them. That the reader might be acquainted with the caliber and devotion of the leadership from the past. One of the most colorful accounts is that of Alexander D. Betts, or as he was affectionately know "Uncle Betts" He was a very unusual man. He was an army chaplain in the early 1860's and a pastor in civil life until advancing years forced him to lay down the activities of his beloved office. He was the son of William and Temperance Utley Betts, and was born in Cumberland (now Harnett) County, N.C. on August 25, 1832. He was educated at Summersville Academy and the University of North Carolina from which he received his A.B., A.M., and D.D.



He was converted at Chapel Hill, N.C. on October 15, 1853, and was licensed to preach in 1855, admitted on trial into the North Carolina Conference in 1856. The year our conference shows so many appointments to be Chaplain to the Confederate Army the name of A. D. Betts was one of those shown as appointed Chaplain. General Lee spoke of him as a model chaplain. He walked for hours at a time that some footsore, or sick or wounded soldier might ride his horse. He visited and prayed with the prisoners. To friend and foe alike he carried the message of God. To the end of his life he was thanked by people back home for his kindness to their men who were soldiers, and for the letters he wrote, telling them when their men were sick or wounded or dead, and many of these men claimed him as their spiritual father. He was filled with the spirit; for in those trying days he records the fact that he was in "perfect peace" He writes of seven days in the saddle from Chapel Hill to Richmond as the happiest days of his life. He says; "When I knelt at sunset in the woods and prayed for the chaplains, the soldiers, my country and my family my soul was so happy." In war, as in peace, he knew Him in whom he had believed. He was a patriot as well as a Christian. When Lee surrendered he went, as ordered, to the Federal Headquarters and was paroled near Chapel Hill, N.C. He was superannuated in 1908, but his work was not ended. He was 77 years old at the time. From the day of his superannuation he regarded himself free to work in a larger parish. He never got in anyone's way, but he went into many charges, preached, visited the people; especially visited in schools and prisons--and everywhere Uncle Betts was regarded as a real benediction. This man, pre-eminently of single aim in life, and that the highest aim, has certainly added something to the total of human achievement. (condensed from his memorial in the Conference Journal for 1919)

HARLOW'S CREEK ACADEMY

The Civil war displaced many people in the South, and some decided to work in the area they found themselves in at the close of hostilities. Among these was W. T. R. Bell. He had been taken into the home of Rufus W. Bell of Harlowe, and Rufus proposed to him the need for a proper local school. At first W. T. R. Bell was a tutor in the home of Rufus Bell, then other children were admitted to his classes and the teaching room was moved to the Harlowe Sunday School house which had been built about 1834. In 1865-6 a building was set aside for a full time school to be known as Harlow's Creek Academy, and W. T. R. Bell was its first principal. The building used for a school is at the present time the home of Gordon and Cora Becton. (see illustration on the right)



Children of these trying times found getting any kind of education a real challenge, and this Academy offered much that was not otherwise available and some of the children traveled by boat, coming to Harlowe on Monday and returning to their homes on Friday...they were boarded locally during the week.

TEACHERS-HARLOW'S CREEK ACADEMY

E. Janie Bell, or Eliza Jane Bell as she was christened when born to Rufus W. Bell and his wife Abigail F. Pigott in 1850, never went by her christened name, but preferred to be known as E. Janie Bell. She attended the Academy and later was one of its teachers.

Her essay at graduation was entitled "The Influence of Music"

We do not know what her age was at the time the picture on the right was taken....



The writer know little more about Miss Lura Best than she was listed as a teacher in the directory of 1883. This picture (on the left) and the picture of E. Janie Bell are from the collection of Mrs. Mary Davis of Harlowe. We are grateful for opportunity to include these and other of her pictures in this booklet about Harlowe.

CAPTAIN W. T. R. BELL

Captain W. T. R. Bell was born in Accomac County, Virginia, September 1, 1843. His parents were George H. and Margaret R. Bell. His early education was acquired at Bradfords Neck Academy in his home county, and at the age of nine years he entered a boarding school at Locustville in his native county. Soon after he started school his mother died, and two years later his father, but he remained in the school until the age of thirteen, when he entered Hampton Military Academy, Hampton, Va. He continued at the academy until 1861, when he left the senior class because of the war between the states, and he joined the Confederate Army. He enlisted in the Richmond Light Infantry Blues, Wise Legion. The first year of the war he was detached as a drill master, and while he was away the Wise Legion was taken as prisoners. He was commissioned Lieutenant in the Confederate States Army in 1862. After service at Camp Lee he was breveted Captain and given command of F Company, 9th Regiment, Armistead's Brigade, and he served as Commanding Officer in most of its engagements. He was wounded at Gettysberg, and early in 1865 was sent on special service and met Gen. Sheridan's advance with detachments of cavalry. He followed that General in his efforts to reach Lynchburg, in which he failed. Captain Bell was with the army at the surrender at Appomatox Court House.

After he returned from the war, Captain Bell entered the University of Virginia in October, 1865, where he studied before entering the service of Rufus W. Bell as tutor.

"MISS" MADIE BELL

When Morehead City celebrated Madie Bell Day a newspaper account quoted an interview by the News-Times reporter in 1950. This account is reproduced in part to let you know more about the school situation here in the 1800's. Madie Bell was born at Harlowe the only child of James E. and Mittie Becton Bell. As Madie came of school age she attended the school which was conducted only three months of the year, but her father would hire a teacher to come to the community to instruct the children and the parents would pay their proportional share of the cost, thus enabling the youngsters to receive schooling longer than just three months. Boatmen on the Harlowe canal would carry her back and forth letting her off right at her door. The canal ran along the rear of the Bell homestead.

THE PICNICS HELD ANNUALLY FOR MANY YEARS.

No account of the history would be complete without including something about the annual picnics observed for many years. People from near and far gathered for the annual event. They came by boat from Morehead City, Beaufort and New Bern. And others came in buggies, carts and wagons. They brought table goodies in baskets and boxes and the tables were laden with country cured hams, barbequed beef and pigs, and there was an infinite variety of frosted cakes and homemade pies. The Sunday School was the sponsor of these all day events and their committees provided heaping dishes of ice cream, or a pint of lemon ade for a nickle. This event was usually held in July and it is said that Jack Taylor used to start building the merry-go-round about April to make sure it was ready. He made it from gum poles that were the base for swinging the seats, and Billy Becton, who did all the community blacksmith work, made cuffs to go around the poles supporting the arms of the merry-go-round. Two men were hired to run the merry-go-round, and they took turns pushing it round and round. Some remember that they saved their pennies all year long so they could participate on this special day that was not equalled by any other event locally. One list of supplies shows that in addition to the large amount of lemons and ice cream ingredients needed that they purchased eight hundred cigars for the event, so from this and the description of the tables estimated to be five hundred feet long we can assume that this was not a small event, but that large crowds attended. The picnic was part of an era in which people took time to enjoy each others company, and passed news from person to person, instead of relying on TV. We have been told that the canal was filled with boats, and that as the day waned the ice cream and lemonade gone, then children began to talk about what they were going to do next year when the picnic was held.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Harlowe was one Sunday School that was started with the best available at the time of materials and instruction. Gideon C. Bell as a delegate to the first Sunday School Convention was in a position to establish the newest programs here at Harlowe. But just starting is never enough, over the years many fine persons have taught in this Sunday School, or led in the music of the School. We have only part of the record, that from 1908, but the record is excellent. At one time the Sunday School met at both Harlowe and Core Creek, but at the turn of the century, about 1905, Rev. W. A. Piland insisted that the Sunday School should meet in the church, and from that day the classes at Core Creek were discontinued. Just prior to his arrival Rev. C. C. Brothers had been holding "preaching" at the Academy, so the church was not being used, Rev. Piland also moved the services to the church building.

Over the years the leadership of our Sunday School has been led by many fine Sunday School Superintendents. Some of these served for exceptionally long periods. The first was Gideon C. Bell, and then followed Rufus W. Bell, J. R. Bell (30 years), E. D. Hardesty, W. A. Weeks, H. L. Hardesty, Dr. C. N. Mason, E. D. Hardesty for a second term (2 terms totaled 12 years), J. Raymond Ball (24 years), John Ives, Vincent Becton, and John Ives for a second term. For many years this Sunday School had a library of over 500 volumes. Every effort was made to bring enlightenment to the community.

IN CONCLUSION

This account of a portion of this history of Harlowe, and the Harlowe United Methodist Church was prepared as a part of the celebration of 100 years at the same location of the building that serves the Harlowe Methodists. At some later date we will compile a more complete history. But for this precious moment it is enough to say that people, and what they did, made the history. People and their involvement in ideals, dreams, and hopes are the history of any place, time, or organization. What happens here in the days ahead will be the history of Harlowe passed to the future. Today begins the history of the next 100 years. What will that history show? You who attended today will be those whom history will tell about.

CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF PREACHERS AND EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE HARLOWE CHURCH

In this listing certain abbreviations will be used: PE Presiding Elder, PC Pastor in Charge, AP Appointed Pastor, DS District Superintendent.

1829 Virginia Conference, Neuse District, Trent Circuit

Moses Brock, PE Wilson Barclift and V. Eskridge PC

1830 Joseph Carson PE Alfred Norman PC

1831 Joseph Carson PE William Anderson and Daniel Culbreth PC

1832 Joseph Carson PE James Pervis pastor in charge.

1833 The name of the District was originally New Bern District and it was changed to Neuse District. In 1833 the original name was restored.

J. Reid PE, Rowland G. Bass PC

1834 Church land deeded and first church constructed. This building served for forty years before it was abandoned and a new church built.

James Reed PE, Curtis Hooks PC

1835 James Reid PE, B. R. Newcomb PC, Curtis Hooks was supernumery

1836 James Reid PE, J. Lear, PC

1837 James Reid PE, R. C. Maynard PC, Benjamin Newcomb, PA

G. W. Langhorn baptized a member of the church in 1837, he was pastor of the New Bern Station at the time. Also in that year John E. Edwards baptized a member of the church, he was pastor of the Raleigh Circuit at the time.

For R. C. Maynard this was his first appointment after becoming a member of the conference.

At the close of the conference in 1836 the Virginia Conference divided itself into two parts. In 1837 the portion to the south met as the North Carolina Conference.

1837 North Carolina Conference, New Bern District, Trent Circuit

1838 James Jamison PE, Philip Anderson PC.

1839 North Carolina Conference, New Bern District, Trent and Newport Circuit

B. T. Blake PE J. A. Miller PC.

J. E. Edwards baptized at the church but was PC at Beaufort

1840 Robert J. Carson PE Samuel Pierce PC

1841 William E. Pell PE, Daniel Culbreth PC.

1842 David P. Nicholson PE Wm. M. Walsh PC

1843 David P. Nicholson PE Wm. M. Walsh and E. E. Freeman AP's

1844 North Carolina Conference, New Bern District, Trent Circuit

David P. Nicholson PE, Henry Gray PC, one to be supplied.

1845 Wm. Compton PE, Henry Gray PC

1846 Wm. Compton PE, Nathan A. Hooker and Stephen J. Ellis PAs

- 1847 William Closs PE, Wash S. Chaffin PC
- 1848 William Closs PE, Absolom Owen and Charles K. Parker, Pastors in Charge
- 1849 J. L. Fisher, PE A. H. Johnson, PC.
- 1850 D. B. Nicholson PE Paul J. Carraway PC
- 1851 D. B. Nicholson PE H. H. Gibbons PC
- 1852 D. B. Nicholson PE John M. Gunn PC
- 1853 D. B. Nicholson PE Arthur F. Harris PC
- 1854 Ira T. Wyche PE William F. Clegg PC
- 1855 Ira T. Wyche PE P. W. Yarrell PC
- 1856 Ira T. Wyche PE Samuel B. Dozier PC
- 1857 Ira T. Wyche PE Isham H. Hill PC
- 1858 William Closs PE John Jones PC
- 1859 N.C. Conference met at Beaufort December 14-21, 1859
William Closs PE Thomas L. Tripplett PC
- 1860 William Closs PE Edward A. Wilson and Pierce W. Yarnell Pastors in Charge
- 1861 C. F. Deems PE William F. Clegg Appointments for 1862-63 were the same.
- 1863 Because of the Civil War many appointments from our Distreict simply showed "to be supplied" however, there followed a list of those serving in the Chaplaincy, eleven of the ministers from this district had gone to war. Among these was Alexander D. Betts, chaplain to the Thirtieth Regiment.
- 1864 No place or presiding officer was shown for the answer to where was the conference held and who presided, but the minutes were turned in and showed only one appointment in this area. James Jones to Beaufort, Charles F. Deems to be Presiding Elder of the New Bern District.
- 1865 When question 21 was asked in 1865 no answer was given. Local records were a little more help. W. M. Jordan served the church that year, but it is not known if he was the appointed pastor.
- 1866 C. F. Deems PE. R. A. Willis was pastor at New Bern and W. A. Smith on the Trent Circuit, both helped locally.
- 1867-70 William F. Clegg was PC in all these years, no PE shown, and in 1869 John Jcnes also served.
- 1871 John H. Gwyn PC.
- 1872 J. P. Moore PE, Ed H. Howland P. C. This year Gideon C. Bell was one of the four delegates from the District to the Annual Conference.
- 1873 E. A. Yates PE N. A. Hooker PC
- 1874 A new Circuit was created called the "Carteret Circuit" And Harlowe was on this new Circuit. E. A. Yates was PE and James Mahoney PC. Gideon C. Bell transferred land to the church for construction of a new church building.

- 1875 E. A. Yates PE James Mahoney PC
Rufus W. Bell was one of four delegates to the Annual Conference from the
New Bern District
- 1876 E. A. Yates PE N. M. Journey PC
- 1877 William Closs PE N. M. Journey PC.
- 1878
- 80 William Closs PE James E. Bristowe PC
- 1881 J. E. Mann PE William H. Puckett
- 1882 J. E. Mann PE A. D. Betts PC F. S. Becton LP
- 1883 J. E. Mann PE W. J. Crawson PC F. S. Becton LP
- 1884 J. E. Bann PE James R. Betts PC F. S. Becton Local Pastor elected Deacon
- 1885 J. T. Harris PE William H. Puckett PC. Puckett had left the conference
and now reappears as a local preacher with residence at Newport.
- 1886 J. T. Harris PE William H. Puckett (now and elder)
- 1887 J. T. Harris PE James G. Johnson
- 1888-9 R. A. Willis PE N. M. Journey PC (lived in Beaufort)
- 1890 W. S. Rone PE T. C. Lovin PC
- 1891 W. S. Rone PE J. G. Nelson PC
- 1892 F. D. Swindell PE George W. Starling PC
- 1893-4 F. D. Swindell PE Phillip Greening PC
- 1895 F. D. Swindell PE J. T. Abernathy PC
- 1896 W. S. Rone PE J. T. Abernathy PC
- 1897 W. S. Rone PE George T. Simmons PC
- 1898 W. S. Rone PE C. C. Brothers PC
- 1900-
- 1903 F. D. Swindell PE J. H. M. Giles PC
- 1904-
- 1905 E. H. Davis PE W. A. Piland PC
- 1906 M. Bradshaw PE W. A. Piland PC
- 1907-8 R. F. Bumpass PE D. A. Futrell PC
- 1909-
- 1910 R. F. Bumpass PE J. P. Pate PC
- 1911 J. E. Underwood PE C. O. DuRant PC E. D. Hardesty was delegate that year.
- 1912-
- 1913 J. E. Underwood PE F. T. Fulcher PC.
- 1914 J. B. Hurley PE W. B. Humble PC
- 1915-6 J. B. Hurley PE C. H. Caviness PC.

The following churches were on the Carteret Circuit this year: Wildwood,
Newport, Havelock, Adams Creek, Merriman, Harlowe, Tuttles Grove, South
River, Core Creek, Riverdale.

- 1917-8 J. B. Hurley PE C. H. Caviness PC
- 1919 Harlowe Circuit created. The Journal for 1919 reports the following: "Take Harlowe, Tuttles Grove, Core Creek, Oak Grove, Adams Creek and Merriman from the Carteret Circuit creating a new charge to be called the Harlowe Circuit. J. H. Shamburger was PE and Guy Hamilton was the pastor.
- 1920 F. M. Shamburger PE E. B. Troy PC
- 1921 F. M. Shamburger PE J. M. Carraway PC
- 1922 F. M. Shamburger PE W. T. Cheek, PC
- Each charge that builds a joint parsonage has to divide their interest when the charge is sub-divided or otherwise changed. On March 23, 1922 an agreement was reached between Dr. C. N. Mason representing the new charge and C. E. Harrington representing the Newport Charge and Charles S. Wallace, arbitrator that the Newport Charge should pay Harlowe the sum of \$825.00 for their interest in the parsonage at Newport.
- 1923 J. C. Wooten PE W. T. Cheek PC (R. A. Bruton baptized in the church)
- 1924 J. C. Wooten PE J. C. Carter PC. Carter (from S.C. conference) died in office. P. O. Lee finished out the term. P. O. Lee was a recent graduate of a seminary
- 1925 Newport and Harlowe Circuit created The two circuits were combined and the Wildwood church discontinued.
- J. C. Wooten PE H. L. Davis PC (also 1926)
- 1927-8 Walter Patton PE W. G. Pratt PC
- 1929 Straits-Harlowe Charge formed. The 1928 Journal states. Take Marrison, Oak Grove, Harlowe and Tuttles Grove from the Newport-Harlowe Circuit and put with Tabernacle and Harkers Island. Rename the work Straits-Harlowe. Walter Patten PE E. L. Stark PC. Stark did not serve, or did not finish the year for some reason. Byron B. Shankle finished the year.
- 1930 Walter Patten PE J. C. Harmon PC.
- 1931 J. H. McCracken PE F. B. Brandenburg PC.
- 1932-4 T. M. Grant PE F. B. Brandenburg PC
- 1935 T. M. Grant PE J. L. Joyce PC.
- 1936-7 E. H. Hillman DS J. L. Joyce Pastor
- 1938 E. H. Hillman DS C. S. Boggs, Pastor
- 1939-40 J. A. Russell DS C. S. Boggs pastor
- 1941-43 J. A. Russell DS John R. Poe, pastor
- 1944 J. A. Russell DS J. M. Joliff pastor
- 1945-47 B. B. Slaughter DS J. M. Joliff pastor
- The Sanctuary was dedicated on October 19, 1947
- 1948-50 J. M. Joliff pastor
- 1951 Wm W. Clark pastor

- 1952-3 J. H. Waldrop, Jr. Pastor
- 1954-6 R. R. Blankenhorn, Pastor
- 1957-8 J. G. Lupton, Pastor
- 1959-62 Jack M. Hunter
- 1963-6 L. Graham Royall
- 1967-70 Edgar F. Seymour
- 1971 Walter Gaskin
- 1972 John Olive
- 1973-4 Earl Evans