

# SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

CARLA MICHAELS

REC'D 24 JAN 2018

BY YZPU

Salem Baptist Church History of Early Members

Carla Jordan Michaels

16 June 2017

The first members of Salem Baptist Church appear in minutes dated September 1840. These members are as follows:

## Reverend Stephen Senter

Stephen Senter was born about 1783 in Cumberland Co, NC. He married Anna Blalock on 22 Sep 1803 in Cumberland Co. He bought land in Cumberland County and, based on census records, appears to have maintained his homestead there through the years. In later years, his property was considered to be in Harnett County as a result of that county's formation from part of Cumberland in 1853. There is no information on where he may have received training for the ministry, although he is listed in the 1850 census as a Baptist Minister and in the 1860 census as a minister MB (perhaps Missionary Baptist?) Various newspaper articles recount his activities as a camp minister, his appointments as missionary to the Raleigh Association both before and after his time at Salem, and moderator of the Raleigh Baptist Association on several occasions. His ministry spanned a wide area including the Goshen Association and preaching in Sampson County. His death occurred before October 31, 1866 when a newspaper article of this date from The Biblical Recorder notes that resolutions were adopted regarding his and P W Dowd's deaths which had occurred since the previous Raleigh Association meeting. Few other details have been uncovered about his life.

## John and Penny Babb Crocker

It appears that both John and Penny Babb Crocker were born and died in Wake County. John Crocker's parents have not been discovered. Penelope "Penny" Babb Crocker (born about 1795) appears to be the daughter of Revolutionary War Soldier Christopher Babb of Nansemond County VA who lived to collect a Revolutionary War Pension until 1834. At the time of his application in 1832, he was 92 years old. John Crocker married Penny Babb in Wake County, NC on 20 Dec 1814. He purchased 100 acres in 1823 (Wake Deed Book 5 Page 520) and lived in the vicinity of the Babb and Canada families. John died in 1853, leaving his widow Penny and several children. No burial information was located or the date of death of Penny, although sons of John and Penny are buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh NC.

## Delia Yates

Interestingly, there were two Delia Yateses living in Wake County at around the same time. They also were born around the same time, making research challenging. However, it is clear that Delia Yates of western Wake County is the daughter of Jesse and Miley (Milly, Milea) Harwood Yates. Delia was born about 1819 and lived in the home of her parents her entire life as a single female. She is named in the estate papers of her father as Delia Yates along with her mother, Miley Yates and brothers Hinton, Hilliard, and Merritt Yates and other sisters. The other Delia Yates (born about 1820) married Simeon Goodwin and lived her life in the Swift Creek area of Wake County and is buried at Inwood Baptist Church Cemetery. Her parentage has not been determined.

#### Anderson and Julia Ann Smith Yates

Anderson Yates (also known as William Anderson Yates) was born in Wake Co, NC around 1809. His wife, Julia Ann Smith, daughter of Richard Smith, was born around the same time. There has been some discussion about Anderson's proper name. The first record naming him specifically is the 17 Jan 1831 marriage bond naming William Yates and Julian Smith and signed William A Yates, an early clue to the middle name. An Autumn Term 1831 Petition of Sale of Land of Richard Smith, deceased lists "Julia Smith daughter of Richard Smith intermarried with Anderson Yates". Grantee deeds of 4 Sep 1835 and 1 Jan 1836 and an 1840 Wake County, NC census list him as Anderson Yates. Based on the above details, it is clear that all these references denote the name William Anderson Yates.

To reiterate, Anderson and Julia Ann married in Wake Co on 17 Jan 1831. Anderson bought land in 1835 and 1836 in the Wake County, NC vicinity. It is unclear when the couple left Wake Co, but the 1840 Wake County Census shows Anderson Yates (age 20-30) a female (age 20 – 30) and several children under age 10 in the household. By the 1850 census, the family of Anderson and Julia A Yates is enumerated in Henderson Co, TN with a number of children. The youngest child, Henry, age 3, is noted as being born in TN. Therefore, they must have arrived after 1840, and before 1847. (There are no Grantor deeds for Anderson Yates for this general time period- there is an Anderson Yates recording deeds in Wake Co from 1898 to 1912).

In the 1860 census, three of the younger children (Mary H, James C. and Henry Yates) are found in the household of Kendrick and Burchett Johnston. Burchett Johnston has been discovered to be the sister of Julia Ann Smith Yates. Both women were named in the estate papers of Richard Smith, as noted above; along with Julia who was listed as "Julia Smith, daughter of Richard Smith who intermarried with Anderson Yates", Burchett is listed as married to Kinderick Johnston. It is unclear what happened to Anderson and Julia Ann Yates in TN. It has been proposed that both parents died and the younger children returned to family in Wake County. Records are unavailable online to determine if estate or probate records exist in Henderson County TN. Burial information in this county has not been located. Further research should include tracing the children who returned to North Carolina, as well as the children who remained in Tennessee and searching for estate/probate records in both states for William Anderson Yates.

Note: Henry D. Yates is easily traced in Wake County, married to Mary Ivey. On the marriage certificate, his parents are listed as above (Anderson and Julia A Yates), and analyzing land sales may uncover his selling land that he possibly inherited upon his father's death. Searching Salem Baptist Church records may uncover him and/or other siblings in adulthood.

#### Gideon Canada

There is little information on Gideon Canada (or Canady) and his family. What we do know is that Gideon married Salley Castleberry on 4 Apr 1831 in Wake Co, NC. He has not been located in the 1840 census, but the 1850, 1860, and 1870 census records show him and Salley (or Sarah) as living in Orange Co, NC, working as a farmer. These census records indicate that he was born about 1810, with Salley/Sarah being a few years older, born about 1804. They were the parents of a number of children. Gideon served at the age of 48 in the Civil War. Death and burial information has not been located. It is possible that Salley/Sarah is the sister of Henry Castleberry discussed below.

The next group of members joining Salem Baptist Church occurred in October 1840.

### Henry and Martha Castleberry

Henry Castleberry was the son of David and Rosanna Harwood Castleberry of Orange Co, NC. Henry was possibly the brother of Salley/Sarah Castleberry who married Gideon Canada. Since census records indicate that Gideon and Salley/Sarah live most of their lives in Orange Co, NC, the connection with David Castleberry of Orange Co, and thus Henry Castleberry would make sense. Henry, born between 1800 and 1810, married Patsey (a nickname for Martha) Harwood on 19 Jan 1830 in Wake Co, NC. This may have been a second marriage for Henry. The 1830 census shows Henry Castleberry living in Wake Co with a female born between 1810-1815. This fits with the 1830 wedding and no children. In 1840 Henry and family were living in the vicinity of Burtis and Abel Upchurch, John Castleberry, Jordan Holleman, P W Dowd and William Canada, all familiar names in either the church or the community. In 1845, Henry Castleberry was the executor of the estate of John Harwood, exact identity unknown at this point. After that we lose the trail of Henry and Salley/Sarah's life. Perhaps there will be indications of other events in the minutes of the church.

Elder P W Dowd