

Naomi Taylor

Reporter

Negro material

History of Second Baptist Church

Prior to 1859 there was only one church of color in Springfield, North Street A.M.E. Church. J.Allen Long who had come to Springfield in the early part of 1859, and James Mercer Clayton and Randolph House who had come from Virginia but later from Philadelphia with a white family by the name of Warder. These men had previously worshiped in a Baptist Church and were eager to organize a Baptist Church in Springfield; as a result a movement was started for a colored Baptist Church. It was customary for church business meetings to be held on Saturday night in those days. The word announcing the first meeting which was held on a Saturday evening in August, 1859. A small group of Baptist believers met at the home of Randolph House on Sycamore Street between Main and High Street near the railroad.

Those assembled at this first meeting was John Jackson, Wm. Page, and wife Martha, J.Allen Long, J.M. Clayton, Robert Taylor, Henry Graham, Francis and Lucy Scott. Rev. Wallace Shelby of Cincinnati, O., (known as the father of the Union Anti-Slavery Baptist Association of Ohio, and later known as the Western Union Baptist Association - the word anti-slavery being dropped in passing years on the account of the abolishment of slavery.) was present at the meeting, Rev. O.L. Moss of Urbana, O., Isaac Toney of Xenia, O., Elder S. Sullivan and Bryant also of Xenia, O., and Rev. Henry Williams of Urbana, O.

The organization was compleated and the following were elected as officers of the church. Deacons--J.M.Clayton,Randolph House, and J.Allen Long.--Trustees Randolph House,Robt. Taylor and J.M.Clayton. Clark Henty Roberts,assistant James Warring,who was a teacher in the public school.

After the organization was formed the meetings were held in the homes of the members,until the congregation grew so large that a place more accomdati- was sought (The court House situation at Limestone and Columbia was secured for services ;this served for about a year),during which time the pulpit was filled by different minis ters. Rev, L.B.Moss of Urbana came more often than any other minister,giving his services free except for a place to sleep and meals when he was serving the church.

In 1864 the first resident pastor was called. Rev. Darbis who came to the city and remained a few days as the guest of Mr. Long,was called to accept the charge of the colored Baptist Church. His salary was \$20.a month . At this time services were held in Black's Hall,afterwards known as Traper's corner, located on the S.W. corner of Main and Mountain ave.

A successful revival was held and thirty seven new members came into the church . The members began looking for a permanent place of location.

Some of Springfields leading business men :P.P.Mast, James Johnson ,Benj. Warder,J.Crothers and Wm.Whiteley,formed a board of advisors to help select a location and to build a church. Alocatin was decided upon and a church was built at Clark and Plesant Sts., the building being of brick,and 30 by 40 feet, costing about \$1,500. Many members gave freely of their earnings and with the help of citizens of the white race who gave their support the church was soon paid out of debt.

In Dec.1865 the church sponcered a three day fair which was a great fin-

ancial success.

In April 1865 the Sunday School was organized and Robert Taylor made superintendent, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Long conducted classes in the Sunday School.

In 1883 the old church was sold and the present location on S. Wittenberg Av. was purchased and the church edifice was built, in the pastorate of Rev. P.H. Williams, the liquidation of indebtedness was through Rev. E.W.B. Curry. The beautiful pipe organ was a partial gift of Andrew Carnegie, the organ costing \$2,500.

In 1897 the church organization became divided and a group of members withdrew and organized St. John Baptist Church located on W. Pleasant St. between Center and Fountain.

Many of the members of Second Church has gone out in the world and made commendable records, among them are (Elmer Spyglass) prominent as an opera singer (Lois B. Depp) concertist, Miss. Cora Cole, and (James Rankins) who was prominent in musical activities of the church and is a member of Hall Johnson's choir of New York city, (the Hall Johnson choir is popular over the radio, Mr. Burton Curry, Alonzo Moss and Prather Houser in the Y.M.C.A. work; Miss. Albetine Ford and Miss. Cora Cole, Mrs. Lydia Harris in the Y.W.C.A. work; Captain Charles Frye, in military field and in the Y.M.C.A. having charge of "Y" work at Camp Sherman during the World's War. Captain Chas. Ecton, a veteran of the Spanish American War, and the Insurrection in the Phillipines, and in France, he has seen 42 years in the army. During the World's War he was military instructor at Camp Sherman for several months before he was sent overseas. Col. Charles W. Filmore formerly of Second Baptist Church has gained distinction in the military world and business world, residing now in New York city.

Dr. Russell Swayne now in Chicago raised to the rank of first Lieutenant, and was attached to the 92nd Division Dental Corps, he was promoted to the rank of captain he is now on the Reserve List.

In the history of Second Baptist Church there has been twenty-two resident ministers.

From the time of founding 1859 until 1864 the church was visited by different ministers. In 1864 the first resident minister Rev. Geo. Darbis, was called, from that time the pastorate has been by the following ministers.

1859 to 1864, Rev. L.B. Moss, Rev. G.W. Bryant, Rev. James Shewcraft, and Rev. Henry Williams, (white).

1864----- Rev. Geo. Darbis

1865----- "

1866----- "

1867----- "

1869----- and 1868 Rev. John Allen

1870----- Rev. Richard Mendel

1871----- John Powell

1872----- J.C. Carey

1873----- "

1874----- "

1875----- no pastor

1876----- " "

1877----- Jesse Meek

1878----- no pastor

1911-----to 1919--R.T. Frye

1920-to 1930 E.W.B. Curry

1930 to present C.N.Harris

Theory

Mr. Charles D. Swayne who compiled the notes which have been used became a member of the Second Baptist Church in 1873 under the pastorate of Rev.J.C. Carey . Mr. Swayne died in Chicago in 1934.

Other notes of present day interest of Second Baptist Church will be added.
Ref. Notes of C.D. Swayne

Nov. 5, 1937

Mr. Arthur Mingo,

Clark St., Springfield, Ohio.

Dear sir:-- In the matter of the Church
Records Survey being made of all churches
in Clark County, Ohio, the following
data regarding the Second Baptist Church
at 615 S. Wittenberg is still lacking:--

What records are still in existence
where they are, and what years each book covers.
that is:-- Minutes Vol. 1, covers what year to what year
and where is the book. So on to the current volume.

Same for Financial records if separate from
the Church minutes.

What books of registry of members,
deaths, births, marriages, etc., are in existence,
where are they, and what years are included in each
volume.

Then who and where can a history
of the church be found so we can have a copy for
the Warder Library as well as our files?

Please confer with Mr. Geo. Fleming and
W. S. Smith, as I have been hounding Mr. Smith all
summer, but you older members naturally know
more about the early records and facts than he.

Hoping to have the desired information
rather soon, I am,

Very truly

Worker

Office 2nd Fl. Chamber of Commerce Bldg.
Historical Records

envelope enclosed

2nd Baptist (Smith)

Geo Fleming

= History
unpublished -

1052 So. 4th St.

Arthur Mingo ch. clerk
Clark St.
~~History~~

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2nd Baptist
Remade