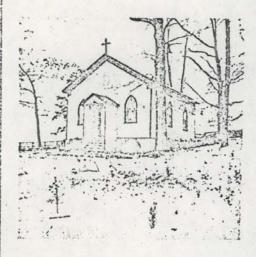
## Grace Chapel



## Brince William County Birginia -

As time passes many land-marks disappear and eventually are wholly forgotten. Grace Chapel, better known as Ewell's Chapel, located near Hickory Grove, in Prince William County, it is feared, may, through some unforseen circumstances, fall into this catagory and be remembered only as a former place

worship.
It is the purpose of this brief article to preserve,
It is the purpose of the past history of this modest
if possible, some of the past history of this modest
House of God.

Grace Chapel is located at the entrance of "Edge Hill", home of the Ewell family for many genera-tions, on the Carolina Road and just off the present State Route 15. The building is of frame construction and is, at the present time, in a good state of preservation.

preservation.

The lot on which the Chapel stands was donated by Squire Jesse Ewell, Jr., and his wife Ellen M. Ewell, and was conveyed to Alfred Ball, Alexander Compton, John Lewis, Benjamin T. Chinn and William H. Dogan, Trustees, upon the following trust:

That they shall cause to be built thereon a house fer public worship and religious instruc-tion to be known by the name of Rescol Chapel for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and when not in use by the ministers of said Church the same shall be free for the use of say other Christian sect or church, excepting such only as may be especially prohibited by the aforesaid trustees or a majority of them." The deed provided for the perpetuation of trustees

in the following language: "When any one or more of the said trustees shall die or temove from said county it shall be the duty of the minister who, for the time being is authorized by the said Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to have the personal charge of the same, to call a meeting of the remaining trustees, who shall appoint, with the concurrence of the said minister, one or more persons to fill

the place or places of him or them whose office has been vacated, so as to keep the number of five trustees ferever."

The conveyance from which the foregoing excerpts are taken bears date of August 10th, 1847, and is recorded in Prince William County Clerk's Office in Liber No. 19, Folios 415-416. The deed was acknowledged by Jesse Ewell, Jr., and Ellen M. Ewell before James D. Tennelle and George G. Tyler, Justices of the Peace. Mrs. Ewell acknowledged the deed separately and apart from her husband, as was the law in those days.

No record can be found of the ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, who held ser-vices in Rescol Chapel; nor is the exact date of its acquisition by the Episcopal denomination known. The Rev. John Ambler was Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Haymarket, from 1875 to 1881, and it was probably during his Rectorship, or that of his successor, the Rev. Arthur P. Gray, that the Chapel was purchased from the Methodist Church and

the name changed from "Rescol" to "Grace" Chapel. It was during this same period that a cross was erected on top of the building and the gallery, which had originally been provided for occupancy by mem-

bers of the Negro race, was removed.

Through the years the Chapel lot and building

have never been encumbered with debt.

The desendents of Jesse Ewell, Jr., were of the Episcopal faith, and this, coupled with the fact that the land on which the Chapel was erected came from the original Ewell estate, led them to take an active interest in its affairs. It has been largely through their efforts that the premises have been preserved in their present good condition. In addition to their interest in the preservation of the property, they have contributed valuable furnishings to Grace

The altar cross, candlesticks and vases were given to the Chapel by Miss May Ewell in memory of the departed members of the family. She later presented the Chapel a levely paten in memory of her sister, Mildred, who predeceased her.

The chairs and altar were given by Miss Eleanor Ewell, daughter of Dr. Jesse Ewell.

The pews were a gift from Mrs. Louise Keith, whose first husband, the Rev. Childs, was the first Rector of St. Albans, Washington, D. C. The original Chapel lot was added to by the pur-

chase of a small parcel of land from Charles Vermillion and the entire area was fenced by John Ewell,

The organ was purchased by the Episcopal congregation, and Mrs. Margaret Wilson, wife of Edward Wilson, possibly was the fr-st organist. Miss Muldred Ewell was the last.

Miss Alice Maude Ewell, who wrote an interesting history of St. Paul's, Haymarket, was a faithful worker in keeping interest in the Chapel alive.

of this large, Christian family, children of the late John S. Ewell, but two survive, Miss Charlotte Ewell and Miss Jennie Ewell. It can truly be said of both the living and the dead, "Well done thou good and faithful servants."

Edward Wilson, Thomas O. Taylor, Tarleton Thomas and William Parker Wilson served the Chapel as Undoubtedly there were many more but

no record of their names can be found.

There is no complete record of the ministers who have served Grace Chapel, but is is certain that the

receding of par I wall a limit dillicities	ou silete.
Rev. John Ambler	1875-1881
Rev. Arthur P. Gr y	1881-1888
Rev. Thomton Byrd Turner	1889-1892
Rev. Maurice Eagle	1913-1915
kev. Robert White	1915-1916
Rev. Thomas M. Browne	1919-1922
Rev. J. A. H. Bomberger	1923-1924
Rev. W. A. Seeger	1926-1928
Rev. W. F. Carpenter	1928-1950
The present Rector of St. Paul's	

is the Rev. George Stokes,

William Public

The following named couples were married in the

Chapel:
Miss Isabella Tyler to Mr. Robert Moore
Miss Frances Edmonia Ewell to Mr. Edward

Miss Jean Gardner to Mr. Francis Christopher

Wilson.

Also one colored couple; Phoebe Magruder to Charles Murray. Phoebe was the daughter of "Uncle" Washington and "Aunt" Mary Magruder.

Grace Chapel has served as a temporary home for at least one family. Near the end of the War between the States a family by the name of Owens were evicted from their home and, having no other place to go, sought shelter in the building. While living there a son, Charles, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Owens.

The Chapel has also witnessed tragedy. On one of Mosby's raids a sniper fired from a tree killing a soldier whose body was buried near-by. During this skirmish Capt. Ballard, of Mosby's command, was wounded, the injury necessitating the amputation of one leg. Capt. Ballard survived the wound, however, and lived for many years, a resident of Fairfax

Of the persons mentioned in this booklet there are Of the persons mentioned in this booklet there are but seven known to be living: Miss Charlotte Ewell, Miss Jennie Ewell, Rev. W. F. Carpenter, Rev. Thomas M. Browne, Rev. George Stokes and Mr. and Mrs. Francis C. Wilson.

The writer realizes that there must have been many other persons intimately connected with Grace Chapel. However, as no records exist, their names are not known.

Acknowledgement is made to Miss Charlotte Ewell and to Mrs. Selina Taylor Wilson for their help in assemblying of such facts as could be had.

EDMONIA TAYLOR SINCLAIR

William Public Library