MacDUFFIE, JULIUS FORD, Rock Spring, N. C.—Born, Marion County, S. C.; Stud. W.F.C.; Lic. 1881, Ord. '88, Robinson Ch., N. C.; P. Sandy Level, Bethesda, Robinson Grove, Mt. Hermon, '88-91; Robinson Grove, Bethesda, Mt. Hermon, East Durham, '91-93; East Durham, Mt. Adair, Mt. Hermon, Mt. Moriah, '93-95; Mt. Hermon, Mt. Moriah, Betheden, Cane Creek, Piney Grove, '95-97; Cane Creek, Berry's Grove, Mt. Moriah, Mt. Hermon, '97-99; S. Ephesus, Mars Hill; Cor. Sec. Ministerial Relief Board, '95---.

BAPTIST MINISTERIAL DIRECTORY
GEORGE W. LASHER, EDITOR
PAGE: 457

(copied as printed).
Dear Bro. Alderman:—Please excuse me for delay. I have thought about filling out blanks for you, but have been pressed with one thing and another that I have defied it much longer than I intended.

If you have no use for what I have written on back of this, you can toss it in the waste basket and send me another blank and will fill it out without writing anything on the other side.

What I have said in this is in brief. Much more I could say, but thought this would be sufficient for a sketch of my poor un worthy life, if that was what you want.

I have nearly all the Minutes of the Mt. Zion Asso. since 1879.
I have all of the Minutes from the organization of the Asso. but they are partly in book form, which I could lend. Ask if you would retain them, if you think they would serve you in any way. Now the copies I have of my own from 79, I would let you keep them if you want them for future reference.

I also have Dr. Curfey's "History of the Sandy Creek Asso." I believe you told me you had a copy of it.

Any other way I can serve you, command me, I would be glad to help you in any way.

Fraternally,

J. T. Mackenzie

Charlottesville, Va., Nov. 2, 1925.
NAME: McDuffie, J. F.

DATA: Photograph

SOURCE: Mt. Zion Bapt. Assoc. minutes, 1915, p. 3

206.9756/M66moZ
Give (for the printer) your full name: Julius Ford MacDuffie

Date of birth—month, day, year: October 2nd, 1856, 1-2-9-1949

Your father’s name: L. E. Caruthers MacDuffie

Your mother’s maiden name: Elizabeth Ford

Where you were educated: Wake Forest College, N.C.

Degrees received and the source: Did not take a degree. Never failed.


When and where you were married: Durham, Co., Oak Grove Township, 1879.

Give wife’s maiden name in full: Elmina Jane Holloway

Give date of her birth—month, day, year: October 1st, about the date of 1848.

Her parents’ names: William Com and Edith Lassie Holloway

(If a second marriage, give like information): 1st Marriage: Ella Chiles Daughter of Clay Chiles and Julia Pigford Chiles.

Where have been your activities?: In the Mount Zion Association, in Durham and Orange Counties, Lyceum, Sunday School Association, and your church work.

Positions of honor and trust you have held: (Moderator, Trustee, Etc.): Moderator, Missionaries, 14 Years, Camp Lea, Mims Relief Board, 50 Years, have built and repaired church buildings in Mt. Zion A.M.E.

You are the author of: (Books, Monographs, Special Articles, Etc.): Some Thoughts

Kindly give reference to any write-up, or other articles commendatory of your work which might aid in the preparation of a personal sketch: Served Mt. Herman Ch. 26 Years, Mt. Moriah Ch. 19, Epworth, 20, Cross Roads, 23, Comming 16. Crown All of Mt. G.

Give on back of this sheet any further information; nationality, remoted ancestry, names of children, foreign travel, industrial engagements and other items of interest.

The information here sought is for use in the preparation of a Biographical Work of the North Carolina Baptist leaders. We hope no name will be omitted.

A personal sketch written by yourself or some friend will be greatly appreciated. Fill and send this blank now; the sketch may come later.

Mail to:

J. T. ALDERMAN, Chairman,
Henderson, N. C.
I was born in Marion Co., S. C. Came with my Uncle Rev. Rufus Ford to Wake Forest, while he was a Student there. We were from the same Co. and went to Academia school at Forestville. Dr. R. H. Lewis was teacher. This was about the date 1874, I attended school at Forestville & Mr. Left there and attended school at Dayton Academy in Wake Co., taught by Rev. John L. Norris. I attended his School 3 yrs and then taught School for a few months in Wake Co. Then I went to Wake Forest College, went to W. D. there for 4 yrs, W. Timberlake, father of Robert E. W. Timberlake, and joined the U. S. C. and took one Lady (Susie) in College, I remained at W. F. during 1876 & 77. Teaching in order to be able to get out. This was the reason I concluded to give up the influence of the College, and start a farm, and was married in May 1877 & Miss Nolloway. I did all I could to drown the thought of preaching, teaching, marrying, and working in Jones School. But the thought of being a preacher, of course, not be forgotten, and tried to justify myself by taking care of the farm and maintaining the home and maintenance of my wife and father-in-law. When I was about 21 yrs old, my father died, and the old father died the 31st day of Dec., 1881. I offered for six years, though not in the Ministry Continually trying to put up a good work and work to teach the State, why I should not? After this I removed to Wake Forest in Jan., 1882. I remained there two years, when my health failed, and Dr. Taylor then Pres. of W. F. urged me to go back home, and I thought school over 10 years, and was ordained, and have been teaching in Durham and Orange Counties two lines.

God has been exceptionally good to me. I have never been without all the work I could, have had good health, and many, many good and kind friends. Am now in my Seventy year, still with full time work, and hope to continue as long as the Lord wills. I have worked hard, and I have been faithful, and I have been able to do what was done, and have been for the building of the Kingdom on earth, To Him be all the glory. I have a right for what He has done for me.
undertakes to affect the human race in its way of living, religion must educate the race.

Therefore, Christianity, being one of the religions of the earth, must educate in Christian truth her children—and so far as possible, her neighbors' children to the ends of the earth. Hence this body, being Christian, does insist that all the known facts of all life be taught in our homes, our churches, and our schools, in the light of our Lord who is revealed in Jesus Christ.

Within the meaning of the foregoing statements the Baptist educational institutions of North Carolina, we believe, merit our full support.

Respectfully submitted,

R. P. Ellington.

32. Historian J. F. McDuffie, by request, deferred the reading of the History of West Durham Baptist Church and yielded his time to W. E. Stanley, who, in turn, asked J. F. Adams to read his prepared paper on the life of Brother J. F. McDuffie in the Mount Zion Association.

AN APPRECIATION OF THE REVEREND J. F. MCDUFFIE

By W. E. STANLEY

Someone has said that, "The proper study of man is man himself." In the case of Rev. J. F. McDuffie, the subject of this sketch, one studies not only one man, but more than a half century of contemporary history in the several counties in which he has lived and labored. This history covers growth and development of several phases of our common culture. Brother McDuffie touched the moral, civic, and educational channels of our life as well as his major contribution in the field of religion.

Reverend J. F. McDuffie was born in Marion County, S. C., October 2, 1856. This was just five years before the first gun of the Civil War was fired at Fort Sumter. One readily gathers something of the crisis into which this young life was projected. But with the true pride and patriotism of his breed and time he would not surrender to the seeming obstacles thrown across his pathway.

Finding it difficult to secure a common school education in the immediate vicinity of his birth and childhood, Mr. McDuffie fared forth to North Carolina in search of opportunity and education. At the present location of the Olive Branch Baptist Church near Durham, he found a private school where it was possible for him to attend. For nine months he studied here. His next schooling was received at Forestville, just two miles from Wake Forest College. The Forestville private school was under the direction of Dr. Lewis, who was active in preparing young men for college. After some time at the Forestville School, Mr. McDuffie entered Wake Forest College.

The first experience at Wake Forest was unique in character in that the young man only had one class. He had to work, but wanted the advantage of the then powerful literary societies. It was necessary to be registered in order to belong to the society of his choice, so he matriculated and joined the debating society. It is said that his experiences here were notable.
As a student at Wake Forest, Mr. McDuffie worked for a number of firms whose names still hold traditional force in the college community. He clerked in the post office for Dr. Richard Timberlake; later he clerked for the Allen-Dixons, and Purefoys, all of which are landmarks to any Wake Forest man.

After a short period of time at Wake Forest young McDuffie left the college to keep from preaching the gospel. But for lack of soul rest he returned to resume his studies. However, while running from the call of Christ he married Miss Ella Holloway, who stood by him faithfully until 1907, when she died.

Upon his return to Wake Forest young McDuffie went to President Charles E. Taylor, and asked advice as to the proper course of study. Dr. Taylor replied, "Take the backbone of education: Latin, Greek, and mathematics." Then for two and a half years the young student applied himself diligently to the task of finishing his education. But when almost through the college his health failed and he was compelled to leave school.

Upon leaving college Mr. McDuffie taught school. However, he finally surrendered to the Captain of his salvation to preach the Gospel, and was ordained to the ministry at Roberson Grove Baptist Church, to which church he was called to be pastor. Soon after the call to the pastorate of the Roberson Grove church three other churches sought his services. Since that time he has served from four to seven churches continuously until his health failed three years ago.

The first appearance of Rev. J. F. McDuffie in the Mount Zion Baptist Association was in 1879. At the meeting of the Association in 1880 he went as a delegate from the Roberson Grove Church. The Association met with the Mt. Gilead Church in Chatham County.

Only the records of heaven can compute correctly the contribution that our beloved veteran of the Cross has made to the Kingdom of God. For a period of sixty years he has yielded himself faithfully in the fight for the right, in season and out of season. No moral cause or civic righteousness has lacked for his genuine and whole-hearted support. One year more persons made profession and united with the churches which Brother McDuffie served than united with all the other churches in the Association. This is an example of how God can use a person that wholly surrenders his or her life to Him.

Brother McDuffie was primarily a preacher of the power of the Gospel. But he also recognized the need of the handmaiden of the church—the school. Hence he gave himself to the twofold task of preaching and teaching. During his colorful career he built two academies: one at Orange Grove near Cane Creek Baptist Church, and another at Calvander near Bethel Baptist Church. These schools have made an unusual contribution to the life and culture of their respective communities as well as to the regions beyond their immediate area. They bore the stamp and character of their founder, Rev. J. F. McDuffie.

During his long and eventful ministry Pastor McDuffie has served twenty-five of the fifty-four Baptist churches of the Mount Zion Baptist Association. He remained pastor of one of these congregations for a period of twenty-six years; two of them, twenty-one years; one nineteen years, and the others from two to eight years. Fifteen of these churches have been built or repaired during his active pastorate. Five have been organized and built. They are Pine Grove (now Gorman, West Hillsboro, McDuffie Memorial, Efland (formerly Rock Spring),
Robertson Grove (formerly Calvary). Ten have been built and repaired since the organization. They are, Bethesda, Cane Creek, Carrboro, Cross Roads, Ebenezer, Mt. Ada, Mt. Herman, Mt. Moriah, Angier Avenue, and West Durham.

There is no human standard by which the religious values of the ministry of this man of God may be measured. His contribution to the contemporary stream of life moves on into the channels of the River of Life that moves on before the Throne of God. He, and we, shall live by it, and behold it in the light of the measures of eternal life through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord, in the days to come.

Brother McDuffie has not kept any records of his activities through the years. By conservative estimate he has baptized between 1,500 and 2,000 people, and the number of funerals he has conducted doubtless surpass that of any living brother in this section of North Carolina.

The ministry of Brother McDuffie has not been confined to the Mount Zion Baptist Association by any means. He was pastor of two churches outside of this Association. Then, too, he was for thirteen years Corresponding Secretary of the Ministerial Relief Board when it was located in Durham. He has also written many articles for the religious and secular press. And his evangelistic efforts have gone beyond our borders in other fields.

Brother McDuffie has always been modest in the midst of men concerning himself but as bold as a lion concerning his Christ and the common cause of Christianity. He very meekly says, “All of this has been done by the grace of God. I deserve no merit for it, for I am nothing but a poor sinner saved by grace. To His great, good and holy name be all the praise and honor now and forever.”

As a teacher Brother McDuffie enjoyed the call of the classroom. For more than thirty-five years he taught the youth of this community. He enjoyed teaching English a little more than any of the subjects taught in his time. He continued his labors in this field up until just a few years ago. His great joy remains in the success of the young men and women whom he has instructed in the days gone. The young ministers and teachers whom he has counselled and given spiritual and practical guidance are his pride and joy in the evening of the setting sun.

As a citizen his counsel and cooperation have often been sought in the practical problems of his day and generation. He has been the friend to any man who wanted to do the right, and was Barnabas to many a young Paul.

The Mount Zion Baptist Association will always be deeply indebted to Brother McDuffie for his efforts to preserve the integrity and historical values of its activities through the years. In the ages to come his contributions will become more valuable and sacred as well. Only time and eternity will estimate this service of love through the years.

Reverend J. F. McDuffie has always been an uncompromising soldier of the Cross of Christ. He believes and preaches the Bible as the Word of God, with sufficient message to save the world. He was a reformer in the days when reformation was needed. He preached the doctrines of the Faith at great personal sacrifice and under persecution. To us he gives the heritage of his labors and struggles. As the end approaches he is a stalwart soldier who can
die in the Faith with the fortitude of a true follower of the Lamb of God. For he sees nothing but triumph for his Lord, and all those who follow Him. His only personal regret is that he could not have done it all better, he says. But it is the consensus of opinion that his Lord will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Ministers may come, and ministers may go, but Brother McDuffie moves on among us with majestic sweep, peace and poise which betray the fact of the "peace of God which passeth all understanding." Having lost his last wife two years ago he has that consolation in Christ Jesus, which he has faithfully proclaimed to others, to sustain him in the shadows. Although he was eighty-two years old October the second, he still preaches and plans to preach right on as opportunity affords him the pleasure.

Certainly no man has made as varied and valued contribution to the Mount Zion Association as has Brother McDuffie. We pause at the close of this association year to pay our respect to this valued and valiant victorious servant of God. We hail you as our beloved, and blessed man of God. We praise you for your loyal labors in the vineyard of the Lord. We love you as a brother in Christ. We salute you as the conquering courageous cross-bearing Christian who has contributed nobly to our community, our country, and to Christianity at large. This is not good-bye, but simply saying that we love you and God bless you.

HISTORY OF THE WEST DURHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

About 1893, shortly after the establishment of the Erwin Cotton Mills in West Durham, the First Baptist Church of Durham secured a lot on what is now Ninth Street, erected a building, and established a mission. This mission became the West Durham Baptist Church on October 21, 1894. Three ministers participated in the organization meeting, Rev. J. F. McDuffie, Rev. Geo. L. Dowell, and Dr. W. C. Tyree. Only seventeen members were enrolled as charter members. They were, according to the church records: Horah Sykes, M. H. Melvin, A. C. Melvin, S. W. Melvin, C. M. Melvin, D. M. Melvin, P. W. Melvin, B. J. Smith, Florence Cashwell, Annie Cashwell, R. H. Dickerson, J. H. Dickerson, O. P. Dickerson, V. C. Dickerson, A. Rye, W. P. Eakes, E. M. Nicholls. Rev. J. F. McDuffie was chosen pastor for one year. The church grew rapidly, and we find that the first candidates for baptism were received in November, 1894. They were Miss Nettie Sykes and Miss Theotis Cheek.

The minutes of the various conferences of the church held in 1895 disclose a number of interesting items. In January, A. W. Cheek and R. H. Dickerson were ordained deacons. Brother Cheek continued to serve the church as deacon until his death in August 1922. In January, also, J. P. Sykes was elected janitor at a salary of $3.50 per month. This seems a small salary, but in May a committee reported that fifty dollars per year could be raised for pastor’s salary. The report of the committee was accepted. In October the following pledges to the Association were recorded: Education, $3,000; Foreign Missions, $3,000; Ministerial Relief, $5,000; State Missions, $5,500.

On a Sunday night in October, 1895, the church began a revival with no help but the pastor. After the services closed the pastor was taken ill and resigned, having several days each month and redi-
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History of Angier Avenue Baptist Church.
Photograph of J. F. MacDuffie.