

Clear Creek - 1858
Apr

Mecklenburg

1850 -

1851 -

1852 -

1853 -

1854 -

1855 -

1856 -

1857 -

✓ 1858 - Const. April.

1859 -

1860 -

1861 -

1862 -

1863 -

1864 -

1865 -

1866 -

✓ 1867 - Charter members of Rocky River (P) firm —

(cont Rec Sec (P))

✓ 1868 - 2nd Sessn Rocky River (P) met with.

1869 -

✓ 1870 -

✓ 1871 -

✓ 1872 -

1873 -

✓ 1874 -

Church's \$5,000 for burial plot of former member 'out of line'

By KEN GARFIELD
 Staff Writer

Doris Plummer believes it's wrong for Clear Creek Baptist Church to charge \$5,000 for burying Evelyn Eudy in its cemetery just because she left the congregation years ago.

The Rev. Richard Porter said his rural Mecklenburg church doubled its nonmember burial fee to guarantee enough space for members whose time has come.

"The idea of such a thing!" Plummer, a longtime friend of Eudy, said Monday. "I could understand someone coming off the street and wanting a free grave. It's just the principle of the thing. Naturally she wanted to be buried beside her husband."

Porter has no problem with Evelyn Eudy's wish to be buried beside her husband, A.D. Eudy Jr., in the church cemetery off Ferguson Road near the Cabarrus-Mecklenburg-Union county lines.

But since the late couple had changed churches long before their deaths, there's that \$5,000 nonmember burial fee to be paid. Even if the deceased once belonged to the church and had her gravestone marker already in place.

"If you're not a member of this church and you want to be buried in this cemetery, that's what it would cost," said Porter. "The idea was to bury our members ...



Plummer



Eudy

We're not trying to be arbitrary or hurtful."

By most estimates, there probably aren't more than a couple dozen church cemeteries in Mecklenburg County, and those in business are virtually free from government supervision.

Plummer, a retired office worker, cared for Eudy up until her death from cancer on April 21. Eudy (pronounced OO-dy) was 84, hadn't worked in nearly 20 years and didn't have much to her name. But she did have a spot picked out next to her husband in the cemetery of the church where they once belonged. He died in 1977.

"Her marker was already up with her name and birth date," said Plummer, 75. "All it lacked was her death date."

But since the Eudys left in 1977 to join a church closer to their home, it didn't matter they had attended Clear Creek for several years. Or that four members of the

Eudy family — before Evelyn Eudy — are buried there.

The church levied the \$5,000 fee, initially paid by Hartsell Funeral Home in Midland in Cabarrus County. Plummer, who is closing out Eudy's estate, plans to pay back the fee from the sale of the Eudy home.

N.C. Cemetery Commission Administrator William Gladden, whose agency oversees for-profit cemeteries, said average grave space should go for around \$600. "Five thousand dollars," he said, "ought to be a whole funeral."

But Porter defends his congregation of more than 300 members for trying to guarantee space in a cemetery not big enough to accommodate outsiders who might want in.

With only two dissenting votes, said Porter, the congregation voted last October to double the nonmember burial fee to \$5,000. At the same time, the inactive member fee was raised from \$500 to \$2,500.

"The church is a body of believers who worship here, who care for the facility, who over the years have cared for the cemetery," said Porter. "It's a restrictive cemetery. It's a church family."

Porter said the simple fact is Evelyn Eudy did not belong to the family.

"It comes to the bottom line," he said. "She was not a member of our church."

Carolina

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SOUTHEAST NEWS
INDIAN TRAIL, N. C.

AUG - 6 - 80

Rev. Simpson to preach at Clear Creek

Rev. John Hoyle Simpson will preach at the Clear Creek Baptist Church in eastern Mecklenburg County at the 11 am worship service on Sunday, August 24.

Rev. Simpson, 77, is a former pastor of the church and also served neighboring Arlington Baptist Church. He and his wife, the former Miss Annie Ruth Moore, now make their home in Salisbury.

Rev. Simpson is a native of the Goose Creek township of Union County, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vance Simpson. He moved with his family to Concord after his father's death in 1916 and he grew to adulthood there.

Simpson was ordained into full gospel ministry on December 14, 1941, but had been licensed to preach for nearly 20 years prior to that, holding revivals and doing evangelistic work.

He came to Clear Creek Baptist Church as pastor in the autumn of 1945 and served for nearly seven years before leaving in August of 1952. During that time he led the church in a complete remodeling program during the late 1940's. He became pastor of the Arlington Baptist Church in 1947 and also left there in 1952.

That church also completed a construction program during that time when they added educational additions to the church.

Since Simpson retired from the Oakland Heights Baptist Church in Salisbury on February 12, 1978, he and his wife have joined the First Baptist Church in that city where they remain active members.

He still does supply



preaching when the need arises and Oakland Heights Church named him their Pastor Emeritus on March 27, 1977 in appreciation for his seven and a half years as their pastor and in recognition for his 56 years in the ministry at that time. //

CHURCHES IN NORTH CAROLINA

As named by Morgan Edwards, John Asplund, G. W. Paschal or others

1. Name*** Deary Creek Date of Constitution 1858 MIN

Indian Trail - Midland

2. Name _____ If changed. Date of change _____

3. Location. Name of County when Constituted Mecklenburg 1763

4. Location. Name of County at present time Mecklenburg

5. Name of Association with which originally affiliated _____

Name in 1960

Mecklenburg 1886

6. Type of Church; General Baptist, _____ Particular, _____

Separate, _____ Regular, _____ Other, _____

7. Is the church by either name listed in Convention Annual in 1959 or 1960?

yes

(See Notes Other Side)

Carolina

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SOUTHEAST NEWS
INDIAN TRAIL, N. C.

JAN 12-83

291 A5 7
JANUARY 12, 1983 THE SOUTHEAST NEWS PAGE 5

Clear Creek honors Rev., Mrs. Benton

A congregation dinner held November 14 at Clear Creek Baptist Church honored Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Nance Benton as their pastorate came to a close.

Reverend Benton was pastor of Clear Creek since August 5, 1979 and his resignation became effective November 17, 1982. He has accepted the pastorate of Elkhardt Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., and began his ministry there November 28.

To show their love and appreciation for the past three years under his leadership, the Clear Creek congregation presented the Bentons with a bedspread, complete set of bed linens and bath towels. They also received other gifts from individual members and classes within the church.

The Bentons had as their special guests for the dinner his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Nance Benton of Charlotte; and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Laverne Holland Rickenbaker, Jr., also of Charlotte.

Mrs. Benton is the former Cynthia Ann Rickenbaker. They have a three-year-old son, Luke Andrew.

Reverend Benton came to Clear Creek, Mecklenburg County's second oldest Baptist congregation, organized in 1858, after graduation in 1979 from Southern Baptist



Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Benton and son Luke Andrew

Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He was ordained into the full gospel ministry August 12, 1979 at his home church, First Baptist Church of Charlotte.

He is a 1970 graduate of East Mecklenburg High School and a 1976 graduate of the University of North

Carolina at Charlotte.

During his pastorate at Clear Creek, he helped develop more programs for the children and youth. In January 1981 he headed a group from the church and community on a tour of Israel. //

Carolina

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SOUTHEAST NEWS
MATTHEWS, N. C.

JUL 20-83

Clear Creek Church is 125 years old

Clear Creek Baptist Church located in eastern Mecklenburg County near the Union and Cabarrus County lines, will observe the 125th anniversary of its organization on Sunday, July 24th with the beginning of their annual summer revival at the 11 am worship service following by the traditional dinner on the grounds and homecoming celebration. The Rev. Eugene Lee Hale, pastor of the church since January, 1983 will lead the revival services that follow during the week beginning at 7:30 pm nightly.

Clear Creek Baptist Church is the second oldest Baptist congregation in Mecklenburg County, the oldest outside of the Charlotte city limits. (First Baptist in Charlotte was founded in 1832.). The church was founded in April, 1858 by Rev. E.C. Williams who served as its first pastor. The new congregation first met under brush arbors on land donated by Lewis Ferguson who has moved his family to this community from the Back Creek community in Lancaster County, South Carolina. Many of the Clear Creek families with ancestral ties to the church and community can trace their origins back to South Carolina communities.

Clear Creek Church was the center of Baptist beginnings in this area and it was here in October, 1885 that the Mecklenburg-Cabarrus Baptist Association was organized in a joint meeting of churches from both counties.

In May 1860 a Sunday School was

organized under the leadership of Rev. William and the church began to develop into a more missionary minded church. In the year 1870, Richard Dixon Robinson moved his family to the community from Kernshaw County, South Carolina and became the church's first known song leader. Descendants from his family have been involved in the church's music ministry since then. Singing schools were conducted at the church under the leadership of a Mr. Cull and George James.

The first organ was purchase in 1890 and among the first organists were MRs. Queen McManus Garland, Laura Garland, and Mrs. Margaret McManus Bivens. During the early 1920's the Woman's Missionary Union was organized under the leadership of Mrs. Carrie Biggers McManus and a strong program has been carried on the Baptist training Union was organized in 1948 under the leadership of then pastor, Rev. John Hoyle Simpson, assisted by a representative of the Mecklenburg Baptist Association. A tape ministry began in 1981 by Rev. Gordon Nance Benton.

Some of the earliest known families associated with the church are: Ferguson Pigg; Biggers; Williams; Reeder; McManus; Hinson; Helms; Robinson; Kerr; Hough; Long; Small; Mullis. Descendants of many of these families remain among the active membership of the church today.

Clear Creek - 1858
- APR

Meck

Mecklenburg Co.

✓ 1875 - Rock River @

✓ 1876 - Rock River met with.

✓ 1877 -

✓ 1878 -

✓ 1879 -

✓ 1880 -

✓ 1881 -

✓ 1882 -

✓ 1883 -

✓ 1884 -

✓ 1885 - Rock River disvalued

✓ 1886 - Answer made for Rocky River @. Char. mrs. Meck [Calhoun]

✓ 1887 -

✓ 1888 -

1889 - not listed

✓ 1890 -

✓ 1891 -

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- ✓1905 -
- ✓1906 -
- ✓1907 -
- ✓1908 - *Assn met*
- ✓1909 -
- ✓1910 -
- ✓1911 -
- ✓1912 - *no report*
- ✓1913 -
- ✓1914 -
- ✓1915 -
- ✓1916 -
- ✓1917 -
- ✓1918 - *no statistics*
- ✓1919 -
- ✓1920 -
- ✓1921 -
- ✓1922 -
- ✓1923 -
- ✓1924 -

Clear Creek

Mecklenburg Co.

1925 - not listed

✓1926 -

✓1927 -

✓1928 -

✓1929 -

✓1930 -

✓1931 -

✓1932 - *Assess met.*

✓1933 -

✓1934 -

✓1935 -

✓1936 -

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✓1940 -

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✓1949 - *Assess met.*

Clear Creek

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Clear Creek

Mecklenburg Co.

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