

Beeker, S. J.

NCCF Spray Baptist Church

DAN VALLEY

Historical sketch. Photograph of S. J.
Beeker, p. 21.



NAME

Rev. S. J. Becker

b.
d.

Ancestry

Married

b.

d.

Ancestry

Record

Liberty - Booneville 1910

Duke - (Died while at Duke)

Liberty (Dariusson Co) Liberty B/A 1899

See

File No.

(Over)

Beeker, S J
p. Liberty B/C, Davidson C_O., LIBERTY 1897

E WHITE
1913-1917

in Petersburg, Virginia,
W. and Sarah F. White.
nie Louise Devesberry.
ace, and five daughters:
n, Margaret, Constance,
ted in the public schools
n work in YMCA's. His
r, First Baptist Church;
rch, Danville, Virginia.
Association at Stuart,
(1896-1898) followed by
ill Creek in the same
99-1901, he served in
d Roxboro. He returned
1917. His last residence
ed as pastor at Birwyn,
hes prior to his death on



SQUIRE JOSEPH BEEKER

Pastor 1901 - 1903

Squire Joseph Beeker was born March 11, 1869, in Davie County, North Carolina. He received his A.B. degree in 1897 from Wake Forest College and graduated from Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania in 1906. He was married to Lottie King of Leaksville, North Carolina, June 24, 1908. They had one daughter, Mabel, who now resides in Nashville, Tennessee. He served as pastor of Fork Baptist Church in Davie County 1896-1899; principal of Moravian Falls Academy 1899-1900; evangelist-pastor of Leaksville Baptist Church 1901-1903; in Yadkin Association 1900-1902; Palerno, New Jersey 1904-1906; Pitcarin, Pennsylvania 1906-1907; and Spray, North Carolina 1907-1912. He served for two years as principal of Leaksville-Spray Institute after which he moved to Kannapolis where he served as pastor 1914-1915 before moving to Duke (now Erwin) where he was pastor during 1917-1918. He died October 21, 1918, at Duke, North Carolina.

First Baptist Church,
Kannapolis, N. C. -
Our first 75 years
BY: Bill Workman

286.17567/W89



Rev. S. J. Beeker

He Filled The Church

Our history files have little to say about our fourth minister, the Rev. S.J. Beeker.

There is a clipping from the Kannapolis column in the March 4, 1914 issue of the *Concord Times* that reported:

"Rev. S.J. Beeker, the new pastor of the Baptist Church, arrived Saturday evening and preached Sunday morning and night to a large congregation who were anxious to form the acquaintance of the new pastor, although he is not an entire stranger here. Mrs. Beeker, who will arrive here this week, will be no stranger either, as she has a number of friends here already. Mr. and Mrs. Beeker are welcomed by the entire community."

The *Concord Tribune* reported in the Kannapolis news column in the March 30, 1916 issue:

"Rev. S.J. Beeker of the Baptist Church here has resigned and will go to another field of service."

Most of what we learned about the Rev. Mr. Beeker comes from Mrs. W.H. Riddle's memory.

"Certainly, I remember him," Mrs. Riddle recalled. "He lived with my family (the J.W. Johnsons) about a month until his family arrived."

She added:

"He was a good preacher — he baptized me. The church (which had a seating capacity of 500) was full at most services and the overflow went to the Sunday School rooms along the back of the sanctuary. And he held many revivals."

The Rev. Mr. Becker had good rapport with young people, too.

"He worked with us a lot," Mrs. Riddle recalled. "His daughter, Mable, was about our age, and he encouraged her to skate because he wanted her to have big feet. Skating was the big thing in those years, when Kannapolis was beginning to get a few sidewalks, especially in the center of town."

The minister invited evangelists and missionaries to speak in our church.

The *Concord Times* reported in its Kannapolis column on April 8, 1915:

"Evangelist Fred Day of Winston-Salem will begin a series of meetings at the Baptist Church week after next. Mr. Day's reputation as a great Christian worker is known far away from his home and no doubt he will receive the hearty cooperation of Kannapolis in his work here."

And on February 28, 1916, that newspaper reported:

"Miss Mary Mullis, a young lady from North Charlotte who has given herself to missionary work in China delivered two very interesting lectures in the Baptist Church here (Kannapolis) Sunday at 11 o'clock and 7 o'clock. Miss Mullis expects to leave for China in a short while."



Kannapolis's Main St. Had a Parking Problem Even Then.

BEYOND THE EAST GATE: A HISTORY OF FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH, ERWIN, N. C., 1903-1983

(285.175636)



THE REVEREND SQUIRE JOSEPH BEEKER
1917-1918

Squire Joseph Beeker was born March 11, 1869, on a farm in Davie County, North Carolina. He attended Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, and Wake Forest College and graduated in 1897, having studied under Dr. Poteat and Dr. Sledd. He was ordained in 1896, at his home church, Jerusalem Baptist Church, Davie County, North Carolina. He was married to Miss Lottie King on June 24, 1908, at the First Baptist Church of Leaksville, now Eden, North Carolina. They have a daughter, Mabel King Beeker, living in Nashville, Tennessee. The Reverend Beeker served for two years as principal of Leaksville-Spray Institute, a College Preparatory School, and was named President of this institute in 1911. He was Pastor of Spray Baptist Church, Leaksville Baptist Church, and several other churches in that area, before coming to Duke. He died October 25, 1918, at Good Hope Hospital, Duke, North Carolina, and is buried in the cemetery of the Jerusalem Baptist Church, where he received his early Christian training and was baptized and ordained. After the death of the Reverend Beeker, his wife and daughter went to live with the Kings, Mrs. Beeker's parents. Mabel, now retired, is still very much involved in the teaching mission of her church, Belmont Heights Baptist

Church in Nashville. Space does not permit repeating the beautiful account of her work with International Students in the Friendship International House, sponsored by her church. She has "adopted" a Vietnamese student Phuong Nguyen, and his family, who are in Nashville, a war displaced family. She refers to him as her "Vietnamese grandson," and tells of his great progress in the Christian Faith, and at present writing (August, 1982), he sings in the youth choir at Belmont Church.

The Reverend S. J. Beeker was called as Pastor of Duke Baptist Church in 1917, and served until his death in Good Hope Hospital, October 25, 1918. The Reverend Beeker was very active in church and community work and was highly regarded. Born on a farm, he never got over the love of seeing things grow; he had a garden and a beehive in the back yard of the Duke Pastorium. His daughter, Mabel King Baker, shared two accounts of his hobbies; besides gardening and raising bees for honey, he was also a carpenter. Miss King still has some articles of furniture he made for their home. She gives us this account of his death: "It was during the terrible influenza epidemic, in the fall of 1918. My father had gone to take two children orphaned by the flu, to the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage. On the way back home he had to change a tire in a heavy downpour of cold rain. Soaked to the skin, he was sick with flu by the time he got home, and developed double pneumonia. Good Hope Hospital was filled up and mother nursed him until she, and I, too, came down with the flu. Then there came to our door a man whom my father had helped in some special way, saying he had no family to miss him and wanted to take care of my father. A few days later, mother and daddy were admitted to the hospital; too late for daddy, he died October 25th. I went to stay with a friend, where I recovered. The blessed man who volunteered to help us did not have flu, we were told.

THE REVEREND

The Reverend A. J. Porter (Duke County) N.C. August 18, 1871. Mr. Porter and Margaret Porter and Margaret and Ashe Pole Ins. Seminary, Louisville, also a Baptist Minister. He was licensed to preach at the Baptist Church, W. served the following ministry, November coming to Duke: P. Roads, Bethel, P. locksville, Trenton Antioch, Hub, and he was serving who home in Bonlee, N. who was born Dec. no children. Mr. Po community, August She was a pianist a She died Dec. 2, Cemetery, Lumber

BEEKER, SQUIRE JOSEPH; b. Davie Co., N. C., Mar. 11, 1869;
A.B. 97, Wake Forest Co.; grad. 06, Crozer T.S.; Ord. July 29,
95, Jerusalem, N. C.; pas. Fork ch., Davie Co., N. C., 96-99;
prin. Moravian Falls Acad. 99-00; evang., Yadkin Assn., N. C.,
00-02; pas. Leaksville 02-04; Palermo, N. J., 04-06; Pitcairn,
Pa., 06-07; Spray, N. C., 07-12; tea. 11-14; pas. Kannapolis,
N. C., 14-15; Duke 17-18; d. Oct. 21, 18, Duke, N. C.

B/207/C88p

ALPHABETIC BIOGRAPHICAL CATALOG, THE CROZER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, 1855-1933

Compiled by: Frank Grant Lewis

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RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

At a meeting of the Board of Deacon's of the Duke Baptist Church, the following memorial was unanimously adopted. Resolved,

That in the death of the Rev. S. J. Beeker on October 21st this church and community has suffered a great loss, and the individual members of the church a personal grief.

Elected pastor of the church, Rev. Mr. Beeker has ever been a wise and courageous pastor, active and interested in the welfare of the church. He served it untiringly, looking to its extension at home and abroad. His wide acquaintance gave him a keen knowledge of men, and his learning made his advice of much worth, while ready and eager to use the enthusiasm of his members.

He never failed to set an example himself in doctrine and works, so as a man he was respected, as a pastor he was loved, as a friend he was cherished. We hereby record our loss in the death of our pastor and our esteem and regard for him.

Resolved that a copy of this memorial and resolution be entered on the record of the church, and a copy be sent to the Biblical Recorder and to his family.

Signed by

BOARD OF DEACONS,
DUKE BAPTIST CHURCH.

BIBLICAL RECORDER, Nov. 27, 1918, p. 21:2

Library Suggestions

Sir:

Your recent editorial regarding preachers' libraries was timely and interesting, and something about which more might well be said. Baptist ministers are not well known for the quality of their libraries, to put it mildly.

One correspondent wrote to suggest a second volume (the first being a Bible) for the preachers' library: a concordance. May I suggest a third: A Bible dictionary. The *Interpreters Dictionary* of the Bible in four volumes seems adequate, and a commentary set (though all volumes may not be of equal value) is the *Interpreters Bible* in 12 volumes.

This is about the best thing to date, giving both KJ and RSV versions with exegesis and commentary on all the books of the Bible. Barclays' volumes (16 in number) on the NT would come in mighty handy. Add the above

volumes and you have 34 in all. I wonder what would constitute 100 basic volumes for a preacher's library. Any suggestions?

—Charles W. Duling
Hertford, N. C.

Historical Help Sought

Sir:

First Baptist Church of China Grove (Rowan Assoc.), organized in 1888, is organizing a history room in connection with its centennial year. Persons having information about the church, its pastors or members are invited to write pastor Edward H. Daniel, China Grove, N. C. 28023. Especially needed is identification of the following persons who served as pastor: Stallings, Bennet, Beeker, Marley, F. W. Frye, G. L. Hodge, David Lee, George Burch, Caldwell.

—Ira L. Baker
China Grove, N. C.



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BEEKER, Squire Joseph, Moravian Falls, N. C.--Born, Jerusalem, N. C.;
Stud. Augusta Sem., W.F.C., N. C., B.A., '97; Ord. '96, Jerusalem My. Bap. Ch.,
N. C.; P. Fork, '96-99; Liberty, '97-98; Advance, N. C., '97-98.

BAPTIST MINISTERIAL DIRECTORY

Page: 62

By: G. W. Lasher (B/920/L33)

TO THE MEMORY OF REV. S. J. BEEKER.

Rev. S. J. Beeker, pastor of Duke, Friendship and Sherwood churches in this Association, Moderator of the Association and Union Meeting, has passed away since our last meeting. He was greatly loved and honored by our people and we sorely miss him in our gatherings. He was also Moderator of the Monthly Pastor's Conference. Everywhere he was the courteous Christian gentleman, the devout and able leader so much needed in our day. We record here our love for him and pray that our God may comfort and sustain his consecrated companion and child.

Brother Beeker fell a victim to the Influenza at Duke, but his devotions to his Lord and His cause will be a continued call to us who are left to be faithful unto death as was he.

LITTLE RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION MINUTES, 1918, p. 6

106 Stevens Street
China Grove, N. C. 28023
Dec. 28, 1983

Rev. Colie E. Rock, Pastor
First Baptist Church Erwin
South 12th St.
Erwin, N. C. 28339

Dear Mr. Rock:

Thank you for your kind letter to our pastor, the Rev. Edward H. Daniel, in response to my letter in The Biblical Recorder requesting information on former pastors.

You included a reprint of biographical information on the late Rev. S. J. Beeker, who, we feel is indeed a former pastor, though our research is not yet complete. (Alas, poor church-keeping records). We would, therefore, be most grateful for the $3\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ " picture, just in case, if you can spare it. If, eventually, we may find that we are in error, we would, of course, return it.

Again may I thank you in behalf of our Church for your interest and help.

Most gratefully,

Ira L. Baker, Chairman,

History Committee

Reply +
Picture sent
1-3-84