

The following records of the Teoc Church are compiled from Minutes of the Session by Miss Hattie Price covering the years 1880 to 1936, as they were recorded by Session Clerks, as follows: Elder Charles G. Price, 1880-1897; Lewellyn H. Barrow, 1897-1923; J. D. Hughes 1924 - 1936.

A congregational meeting of the Teoc Church was called in April, 1880 to take steps to procure a minister for the church. Col. A. J. Liddell was called to the chair, and after stating the object of the meeting, it was determined to send a delegate to Presbytery, then about to meet, in an effort to obtain a minister if at all possible. The congregation promising to pay as much as \$250.00 for one Sunday per month to any Stated Supply obtained.

At the meeting of Presbytery, Rev. A. W. Wilson was sent in answer to the call and agreed to preach to the Teoc Church for the year beginning First Sabbath in July, 1880, until First Sabbath in July, 1881, for which services the church paid him \$180.00 for one-fourth of his time.

August 1, 1880 - 1:00 P.M.

The Session met in the church. Those present: A. W. Wilson, Moderator, with Elders, D. L. Redditt and A. J. Liddell, The meeting was opened with prayer. Reading of the Minutes was called for when Colonel Liddell stated that the Session is now



without a Clerk; also without a Record Book. Mr. N. H. McCain, who for many years the most efficient and worthy Clerk of the Session, has been removed from the Church Militant to the Church triumphant, and the Record Book he sent to Presbytery for examination was not returned to him, and is still lost. The Moderator was asked to keep a record of Session Meetings until a Record Book could be obtained, and a Clerk elected to continue with recording the Minutes, preparing a history of the Teoc Church and registering both in the New Record Book. After a free conversation on the condition of the church, the Session ordered a Congregational Meeting the first Sabbath in September for the purpose of electing additional Elders. Mr. Daniel Amyte and his wife were dismissed to unite with the Greenwood Church. Their children were also dismissed with them. Miss Mary Davis was dismissed to an Atlanta Church.

The following persons were on examination received into full membership of the church: Mr. Busby and wife, Mrs. Newton Gray, Irby Redditt, Eddie Redditt, Florence Redditt, Tommie Topp, William Hancock.

The Session was closed with prayer.

A. W. Wilson, Clerk Pro Tem.



November 4, 1880

The Session met in presence of the congregation, ordained and installed Dr. J. W. Young and Charles G. Price, who had been duly elected Elders of the Teoc Church.

R. A. Topp was received on examination into full membership of the church. C. G. Price was elected Clerk of the Session.

Dr. Young was requested to continue to act as Deacon of the Church until a Deacon should be elected.

Closed with Prayer

A. W. Wilson, Clerk, Pro Tem.

April 3rd, 1881

The Session met in the church and was opened with prayer by the Moderator. Present were: A. W. Wilson, Moderator, Elders: A. J. Liddell, D. L. Redditt, J. W. Young and C. G. Price.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

C. G. Price appointed to attend Presbytery Meeting April 13, 1881 at Winona, with Col. A. J. Liddell as alternate. The following narrative was prepared by the Session to be sent to Presbytery:

"The Narrative would state to the Presbytery that Teoc Church has had the regular preaching of the word of God by Rev. A. W. Wilson since last June and that it has been much revived and encouraged. There seems to be a readiness on the part of the church and Session to work for the Master. The attendance generally good. There has been as many as nine accessions to the communion of the church.

Family worship is not generally observed, and the Sabbath is much profaned in the community. There is not the fidelity on the part of God's people to worship Him with their substance as there should be. There is no special effort made to instruct the colored people in religion outside of private example and conversation.



There has been two Union Sabbath Schools during the year within the bounds of the church.

/s/ Chas. G. Price, Clerk."

Rev. Andrew Watson Wilson continued his work with the Teoc Church until his death on March 30, 1882.

We follow with others: "Rev. Wilson's Ministry, and the loss of the first Record Book and how it was lost, the securing of another, the request of the Session for the Moderator to gather all facts relating to the history of the church, and to record them in the New Book."

Rev. Wilson's untimely death prevented his writing the church history. He did obtain the new Record Book, however, it was necessary for his successor, the Rev. A. H. Mecklin, to complete the Church history.

In October 1882 the church was visited by Rev. A. H. Mecklin, Evangelist for Central Mississippi Presbytery. His preaching was with God's blessings, as fourteen persons were added to full communion in the church and five children were baptized.

This was the first meeting after the death of Rev. Wilson.

THE SESSION IN 1883

The Session now consists of David L. Redditt, Colonel A. J. Liddell, Charles G. Price and Dr. J. W. Young.

By special request from the church membership Rev. A. H. Mecklin was given charge of the church's spiritual interests. He preaches to the Teoc Church once each month and the church paid him a salary of \$180.00 per year.

Dr. J. W. Young was a Deacon when he was ordained an Elder and still performs the duties of Deacon, and is the only Deacon the church ever had.

The people have often been without the stated means of Grace, but the Elders have sustained religious interest by the Sabbath School and the Prayer Meetings. When the Evangelist would arrive, he found the people ready for his messages.



We make special mention of Mr. N. A. McCain, recently deceased, as one dear to the memory of all God's people, as one whose Christian virtues and active zeal for the cause of Christ contributes much to the prosperity of the church.

The Elders have all been models in some respects. They not only have Sabbath Schools and Prayer Meetings, but they are with the sick and dying, and ready at the grave to commit the dead to the dust according to the sacred customs of our holy religion.

The membership of the Teoc Church now consists of fifty-three regular Communicants, seventeen baptized children and sixteen baptized adults. The others have moved away without letters of dismissal.

This part of the church history was compiled by Rev. A. H. Mecklin from data given from memory by persons now living.

Elder Chas G. Price, Clerk of the Session, makes notation that the above history was recorded on the Record Book of Teoc Church, April 16, 1883.

During the year 1883 the church grew in grace and several new members were added. The church at this time was in an evangelistic field and Rev. Mecklin had to ride to fill his appointments over one hundred miles to and from Teoc.

March 1st, 1884, the church is again without a minister. The church held a meeting to hear Rev. Mr. Weaver of Tennessee with a view of securing his services for the year 1884, but by some failure in other churches to arrange satisfactorily, we failed to secure his services. Rev. J. H. Alexander preached for us on July 7th, preaching with much acceptance to the church.

July 30, 1884 Rev. T. L. Haman began a series of services in our church, preaching from Wednesday night until the follow-



ing Monday morning, two services each day. Eight persons, all young men and women, were received into the church. At the close of the meeting the church held a congregational meeting. Col. A. J. Liddell was requested to act as Chairman and C. G. Price as Secretary. The object of the meeting was to take action in regard to having the church building re-covered. Mr. J. C. Harris was appointed a committee of one to contract for shingles and nails; also, wagons and teams to haul the necessary material, and to take charge of the work; all male members of the church being expected to meet together and nail the new roof on as soon as the shingles could be put on the ground.

Irby Redditt, Eddie Williford, Dr. Young, Misses Nannie Young, Susie Topp, and Kittie Hughes were appointed a committee to solicit money to pay for shingles and nails. Saturday evening, August 16th, they were to meet at the church for a report. The meeting adjourned. We find from the records that this work was completed during the month of August.

September 27, 1884 Rev. J. L. Barnes began his labors with the Teoc Church as Stated Supply.

October, 1885, J. C. Harris was elected Elder and Mrs. E. A. Liddell was elected Deaconess.

April 25, 1886 a congregational meeting was held at the church for the purpose of having a cistern dug for the use of the congregations assembling there from time to time. C. G. Price was called to the chair. The following committee was appointed to collect money to pay for the cistern: J. W. Topp, J. T. McCain, Mrs. Lizzie Liddell, Mrs. J. C. Harris and Mrs. Henry Williford. Mr. J. C. Harris was appointed a committee of one to employ a suitable person to do the work of building the cistern, once the Committee has completed their work of collecting the money. A report shall be made at the next meeting of the church. August 1st., the Committee reported that the work of digging the cistern had been completed.



August 5, 1888, Rev. Mecklin preached the anniversary sermon at the Teoc Church by appointment of Presbytery. The church raised as an anniversary offering twelve dollars which was given to French Camp School. Rev. Mecklin was presented \$25.00.

During the summer months of 1889 Rev. Robert Price supplied the pulpit.

Rev. J. S. Shaw was called in November, 1889, to serve as stated supply for one year at \$200.00 for one-fourth of his time. The following officers were elected in February 1890: L. H. Barrow, Elder; Chas. A. Redditt, Deacon; Henry Williford, Deacon. These officers were installed April 20, 1890. On August 20, 1890 Rev. J. S. Shaw was called as regular Pastor for the Teoc Church.

During 1889 the church suffered the loss of one of the oldest and most zealous Ruling Elders, Col. A. J. Liddell. A fine tribute of respect is paid to his memory by Dr. J. W. Young and L. H. Barrow. May 1, 1891, Rev. J. S. Shaw moved to Louisiana, leaving the Teoc Church vacant.

August 16, 1891 at a congregational meeting, a call was made for the Pastoral services of Rev. E. W. Ford, which was to be prosecuted at the next meeting of Presbytery, he having begun preaching for the Teoc Church on the 3rd Sabbath of July, 1891. This call was never consummated on account of some irregularity, but the church secured his services as Stated Supply for several years at a salary of \$150.00 per year.

During the 1890's the church began losing many of its officers with their families by dismissals and removals to other churches. The Teoc Church was called upon to part with another aged and beloved elder, David L. Redditt, who died September 23, 1893 at the age of 80 years.



Dr. J. W. Young, Elder, was granted Letter of Dismissal to the Grenada Church in 1890. He served as Elder in that church until his death several years ago.

Dr. W. W. Liddell, ordained Deacon in 1891, was dismissed to Carrollton Church in 1892. Charles G. Price, Elder and Clerk of the Session since 1880, was dismissed to Longview, Texas, in 1897. He later returned to Greenwood and served as Elder in that church for several years. Richard C. Price, Deacon since 1892, was dismissed to the Carrollton Church in 1897.

After Charles G. Price, Clerk of the Session was dismissed to Texas in 1897, Lewellyn H. Barrow (son-in-law of David L. Redditt) was elected Clerk. John S. McCain (son of William McCain, Elder and early member of Teoc Church) and family were dismissed to the Carrollton Church.

John T. McCain, elected Elder in Teoc Church in January, 1894, was also elected Elder in the Carrollton Church, and afterward elected Elder in the Greenwood Church, where he is now serving as Elder.

J. C. Harris, son-in-law of Colonel Greenwood Leflore, returned to Teoc Church from Carrollton with his family and resided at Malmaison, the former home of his wife, Miss Rebecca Leflore. Mr. Harris had previously served as an Elder in the Teoc Church, also in the Carrollton Church, he was reinstated as Elder in this church, which office he held for nearly a quarter century. He was the architect of Malmaison and the Teoc Church. Charles A. Redditt, Deacon, and his family were granted letters of dismissal. Mr. Redditt was elected Deacon in 1890, and died in 1920. Dr. W. J. Redditt returned to Teoc in 1892 and served as a Deacon until his death in 1920.

From a condensed history of Teoc Church written by Lewellyn H. Barrow, Clerk of the Session for Presbytery, the following extract is given:



Rev. Walter Cobb served the church about one year as Stated Supply in 1898 after resignation of Rev. E. W. Ford in 1897. Rev. William Thornburg served as Pastor from 1898 to 1904.

Rev. William C. Underwood was called as Pastor and served from 1904 to December, 1911. Last winter he resigned to accept a call in Alabama, and since that time the church has had no regular preaching. Rev. Overcash from the Charleston, Miss., Church came this summer and preached about ten days. The church made him an offer but he did not accept. He is now in Texas.

Elders ordained at a later date were:

- Lewellyn H. Barrow, ordained 1890.
- John T. McCain, ordained 1894.
- T. H. Redditt and William E. Bledsoe, ordained 1906
- J. H. Williford, ordained 1919
- Richard C. Price, ordained 1892.
- J. D. Hughes, ordained 1934.

DEACONS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Dr. John W. Young, | Prior to 1880 |
| Mrs. E. A. Liddell (Deaconess) | Elected in 1885 |
| Charles A. Redditt | Elected in 1890 |
| J. H. Williford | Elected in 1890 |
| Dr. W. W. Liddell, Jr. | Elected in 1891 |
| William L. Ray, Jr. | Serving in 1915 |
| Dr. W. J. Redditt | Serving in 1915 |
| R. O. Williford | Serving in 1915 |
| J. D. Hughes | Serving in 1915 |
| A. Rush Redditt | Elected in 1925 |
| J. P. McCain | Elected in 1924 |
| C. E. Hoge | Serving in 1936 |
| A. H. Meeks | Serving in 1936 |
| O. O. Bennett | Serving in 1936 |



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

The Women of the Church were active and did a noble part in the work of the church. There was no regular organization as far as the records show.

1913 - 1936

Though many of the older families left the community, a nucleus remained, and with the household at Malmaison (Leflore, Harris, Ray), and the Barrows, Yarboroughs, Donellys, Halseys, Hughes, Willifords, Weeks, Boles and Longs, the work of the church continued and prospered.

In June, 1913, a Congregational Meeting was called for the purpose of selecting a Pastor, and at the next meeting of the Session, August 17th, Rev. P.S. Crane was moderating the meeting and serving the church as Stated Supply, which service continued for three years, then he left to serve as a Missionary in Korea.

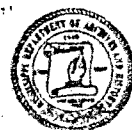
Rev. E. W. Ford, a former Pastor, served the Church as temporary Supply in 1917.

Rev. W. A. Hall was installed as Pastor in December, 1918. Rev. E. W. Ford and Elder George McLean being the Commissioners sent to install him.

An excellent report was sent to Presbytery in April, 1919.

Rev. W. D. Mathis of Pass Christian held a meeting in August of that year. J. H. Williford was made an Elder in 1919.

In August, 1920, Dr. Frazer, President of Bellhaven College, conducted a protracted meeting.



In February, 1921, Rev. W. A. Hall resigned the pastorate, and the Church regretfully accepted the resignation.

In the summer of 1921, Mr. McAtee, a Theological student, was with the Church for three months. Rev. Joseph Rennie of Greenwood held a service in September of that year and the Lord's Supper was observed.

The following year, 1922, Rev. R. S. Harris, a scholarly and scriptural Minister of the Word, came to the Teoc Church and is now in the fourteenth year of his pastorate.

After Mr. L. H. Barrow's death in 1923, the duties of Clerk of the Session were assumed by Elder J. D. Hughes, who has continued to serve until the present time (1936), and given efficient service.

Many fine Evangelistic Meetings have been held during this period with the following ministers assisting the Pastor:

Dr. C. C. Groves
Rev. J. S. Lack
Rev. J. C. Stewart

Dr. J. W. Young
and others.

The church lost by death one of her faithful Deacons, Mr. R. O. Williford, in 1934.

Beautification and improvement of the Church building and grounds have added much to the charm and interest of the place. The piano has superseded the organ and it is a lovely experience to hear the well trained choir and congregation sing the hymns and songs of the Church.

A good Sunday School is maintained with J. D. Hughes as Superintendent.

The officers of the Church in 1936 were as follows:

Rev. R. S. Harris, Pastor: J. H. Williford, P. H. Redditt, J. D. Hughes, Elders; J. P. McCain, A. H. Meeks, C. E. Hoge, Deacons.



This history of the Teoc Church must close with a tragic incident,- the burning of the Church on April 19th, 1936. The story is told by the Clerk of the Session, Mr. J. D. Hughes, in these words:

"On the morning of April 19th, 1936, the Church caught fire and was burned after having stood for eighty years. It was the day of our regular preaching service and Communion Service. The fire was discovered just before the service began.

A desperate effort was made to check the flames, but on account of the scarcity of water, the effort failed. Just had to stand by and see it go down into ashes. It is a great loss to the Community, but plans are being made to rebuild, and it is hoped will soon have a new Church for worship."

The following items were saved from the flames: pulpit, communion table, piano, pews, stove, window frames and doors.

Miss Hattie Price, Historian."

