Nothing's changed at All Saints since '83

Hampton Dunn
ENTERPRISE --- Time was when this little village on the eastern shores of Lake Monroe in Volusia County was a brilliant social center and resort. That was back in the steamboat era when excursions came down the St. Johns River from Jacksonville and St. Augustine.

Amid the gaiety of the times, residents felt the need for a house of worship. In the fashionable Brock House, the leading hotel, a group of Episcopalians met in 1881 and formed a mission under the leadership of the Rev. Samuel Barstow Carpenter, formerly of Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. He served as rector from 1881 to 1884. A prominent layman was Count Frederick DeBary, whose spacious Georgian-style mansion still stands in nearby DeBary. He helped financially with starting All Saints.

The socialites donated $2000 to build the church on property deeded to the diocese by a disillusioned orange grower who’d left Enterprise after ill luck and weather had struck. The builder of the church was a man who had built several churches on the East Coast in the same Gothic style. The stained glass windows were recently restored and other work completed on the altar and furnishings, but all -is as it was in 1883 and nothing has been added or changed.

County Judge Robert H. Wingfield of Volusia, local historian, says All Saints is said to be the oldest church in the county and is recognized as the oldest Episcopal Church in the diocese. He adds a visit to Enterprise is justified just to see unique All Saints.