1-1-1960

Apalachicola church pounded in 1839

Hampton Dunn

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/flstud_pub

Part of the American Studies Commons, and the Community-based Research Commons

Scholar Commons Citation
http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/flstud_pub/2839

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Digital Collection - Florida Studies Center at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Collection - Florida Studies Center Publications by an authorized administrator of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.
APALACHICOLA CHURCH POUNDED IN 1839

By HAMPTON DUNN

APALACHICOLA --- As a structure, the present day First United Methodist Church of Apalachicola is not such an old landmark, but as an institution, it certainly is. The Church began when the Rev. Peter Askew was appointed in 1839 to St. Joseph and Apalachicola Mission.

Founded during the hectic territorial days of the state, the church has survived many calamities and is going strong more than a century and a quarter later.

The attractive white frame church sits beside U.S. 98 in this seaport town. This building was erected after the big fire of May 20, 1900, which virtually wiped out everything in town including the Methodist Church. The original building was erected in 1843.

That fire destroyed 60 buildings on the waterfront. Escaping destruction was the lovely Trinity Episcopal Church, built in 1838, which still stands and is truly a landmark, one due to its age, that often overshadows the more recent Methodist Church.

The Reverend Mr. Askew was appointed to the Mission by the Alabama-West Florida Conference in 1839, only 15 years after Apalachicola was founded as a trading post under the name of Cottonton. The early minister lived in St. Joseph and rode horseback some 30 miles twice a month to serve Apalachicola.

The tough assignment was reflected in entries in the preacher's diary. For instance: "Last Sabbath we had a collection taken. I wished for some money as I was near out. Expecting to board my horse at the tavern, I wished for some change, but missed out. As yet the stewards have not given me anything and I am nearly out." Again: "Lost a few minutes in bed and mending my pantaloons for I have but one pair, and when anything is the matter I have to sit without and mend." Another: "I have gone to the mission at Apalachicola on Saturday and returned Monday morning. They charged me $6 at the Mansion House for a day and a half for myself and horse, and this time there was so much cursing and noise that I could not rest well until they got down and quiet. I was a little fearful they would break into the room.. This is, in its present garb a cruel place, even the hostler was drunk."