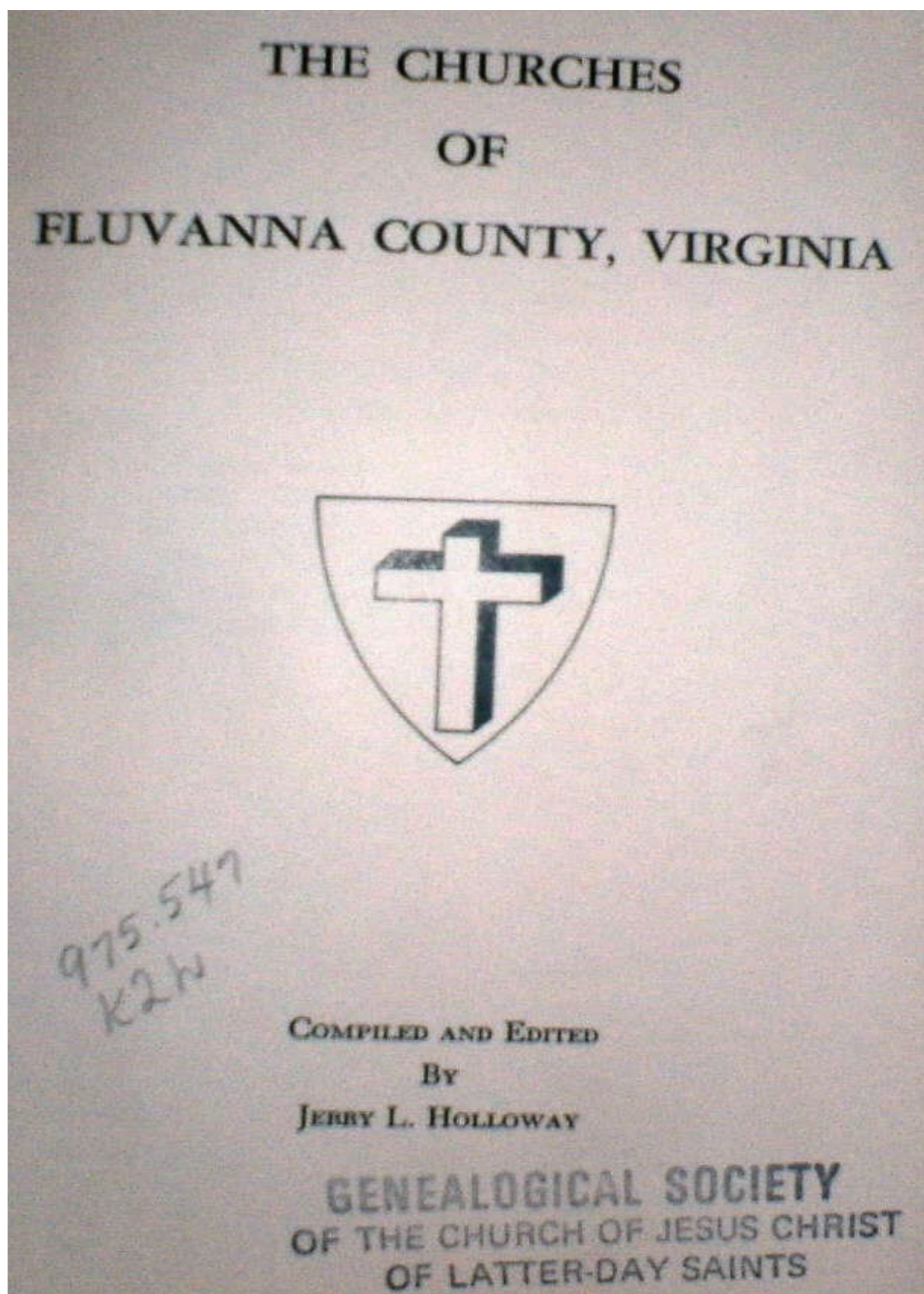
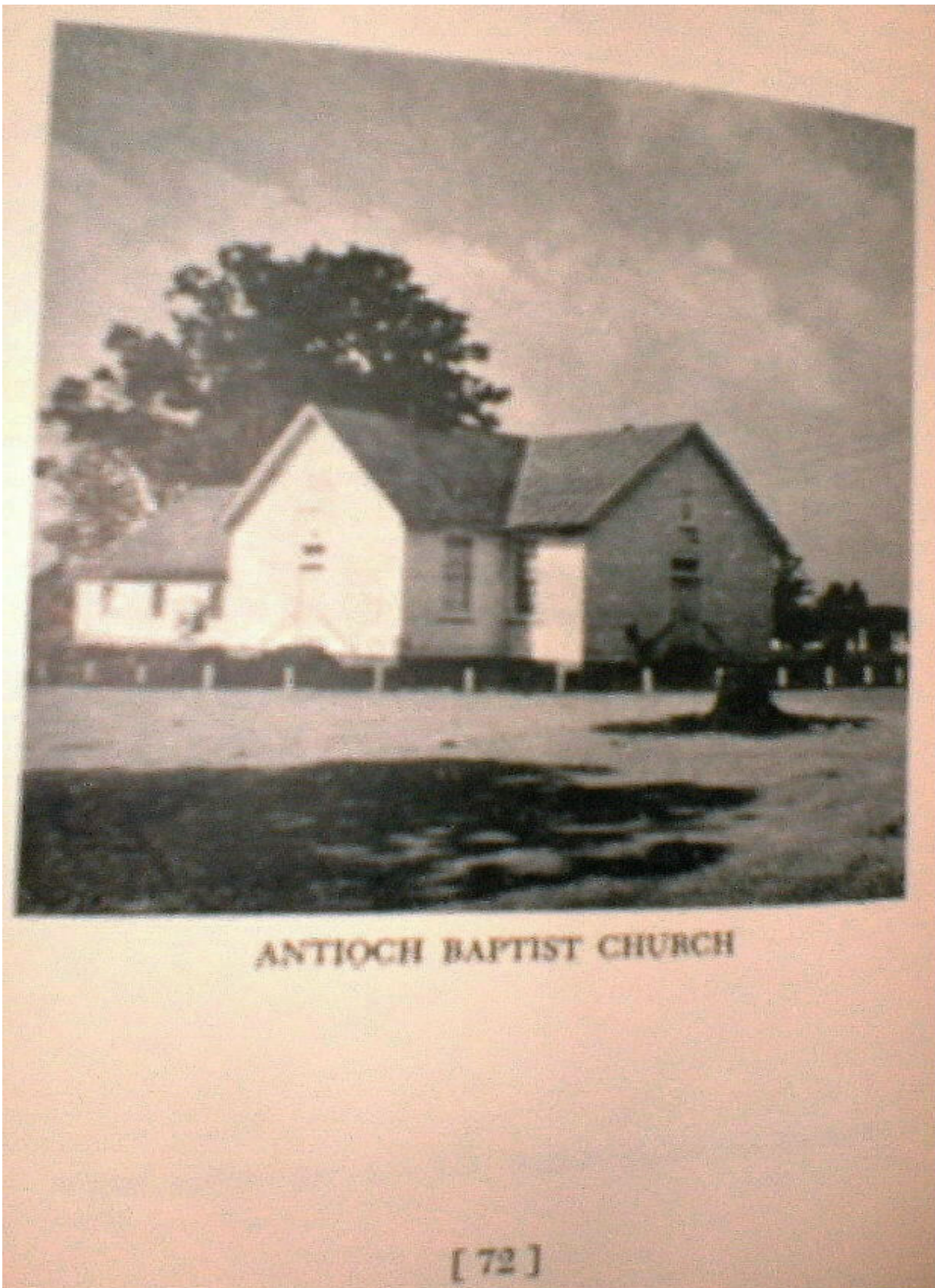


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ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH

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ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH

Antioch Baptist Church is one of many old churches in this vicinity that has played a strong and vital part in the lives of the families who have made their homes near its grounds. Years ago, when settlers first came to build homes and establish families, one of the first things they did was to establish a place of worship. As communities spread out and sprang up too far from a church, another one closer by was built.

In the early church book we read:

"Whereas R. A. Kent, John T. Kent, Jesse R. Hughes, Joseph C. Scruggs, William I. Hughes, T. C. Jones, T. H. Wood and others, determined after due and prayerful consideration, believing it likely to promote the glory of God, to receive by letter from the several churches of which they have heretofore been members, and constitute a new church to be known as Antioch Baptist Church, in the county of Fluvanna, State of Virginia, did on the 15th day of November, 1858, call Elders James Kent, V. T. Settle, and P. C. Hoge to sit as a Presbytery to consider and to decide as to the propriety of such a step. These, after an impartial examination of the facts and circumstances, decided to proceed with the organization, having first called the said Elder Kent to the chair, and appointed Elder Settle as secretary. Whereupon the presbytery proceeded to receive and number the applicants, to extend the right hand of fellowship to all who were thus received, and then on motion to elect John T. Kent, Robert A. Kent, Jesse R. Hughes, Joseph C.

Scruggs, W. L. Hughes and T. C. Jones as deacons and N. E. Scruggs as Clerk of the church."

On November 15, 1858 John H. and Mary H. Burgess, husband and wife, deeded five acres of land to church trustees John T. Kent, William H. Sadler and W. L. Hughes. The deed states, "land on which there is now a new Baptist Church." There is also a statement which tells us there was a "School House on the Southwest Corner of said land."

The first report made by the church to the Albemarle Association in 1859 states that the church had 46 members and 62 enrolled in Sunday school but there is no record of just how many of these were charter members. Nor do we know how many of these were colored members. We do know that there were colored members for many years. In 1872 there were two letters granted to colored persons and as late as 1891 one colored member is reported in the associational letter.

Since we do not have the first church book, there are no complete lists of the clerks of the church in those early days. We do know, however, that Robert A. Kent was clerk in 1859. During 1872 to 1878 (and possibly earlier) John P. Sadler served as clerk of the church. Then followed in order Robert Radzi Sadler, 1873 to 1879; John R. Omohundro, 1879 to 1883; W. J. Sadler, 1883 to 1890; A. E. T. Scruggs, 1890 to 1892; J. H. Phillips, 1892 to 1923. Of course, there have been several later clerks of the church, ending with Fred Lockwood who is serving at the present time.

The first pastor was the Reverend Peter C. Hoge who served the congregation from 1858 until 1876. Greatly beloved by the church this devout man was instrumental in leading many to Christ. He was a preacher of real power. As we look down the roll of those baptized under his ministry we find the names of James Brainard Kent, John Kent, John Branham, Anderson Branham, James H. Sadler, J. C. Jones, James Hughes, Adam Harrison, Jane Sadler, Hugh Sadler, and scores of others whose influence was felt in this community. Mr. Hoge baptized the only two members of this church who went directly from the mem-

bership of this church into the ministry, namely Radzi Sadler Kent, later Mrs. William Trainham of Richmond, from whose that same Richmond home went out a minister, Reverend C. Wirt Trainham. From R. E. Chambers.

The minutes of the church during the early years show a more strict interpretation of proper behavior than is made now. Many a recalcitrant member was banned from the church for such improprieties as dancing or following pleasurable activities on the Sabbath, later to be re-instated on repentance and promises of better behavior.

In 1901 the old church gave way to the present white frame building, or rather the central part of it. This new building, dedicated in 1902 during the pastorate of Reverend George F. Cook, was built with J. E. Sadler as chief carpenter. Morton Sadler donated the glass transom above the door.

The two wings built to house Sunday school rooms were added between 1910 and 1911. Additional Sunday school rooms were added to the rear of the church in 1954. Antioch went on a "full-time" basis in 1963 with the Reverend John E. Mann, Sr. becoming the first "full-time" pastor. At this time the church completed a modern parsonage.

Present officers are: Active Deacons—Otis Smith, Chairman, John Rittenhouse, Bobby Jones, Artie Gunn, Rosco Duncan, Allen Ward, and Gordon Hockett, Church Clerk, Fred Lockwood; Treasurer, Mrs. Vivian Turner; Sunday school Superintendent, Bobby Jones; Trustees, Earl Perkins, S. R. Carroll, and Chat Johnson; Woman's Missionary Society President, Mrs. John E. Mann, Sr. Past deacons are Willie Winks, Fred Lockwood and Charlie Scott.

The following have served as pastors of Antioch Baptist Church:

Peter C. Hoge	1858-1876
A. G. Loving	March 1877-Aug. 1877 (left to attend college)

William Fisher	Sept. 1877-May 1878 (supply pastor)
A. G. Loving	June 1878-Sept. 1878
Dr. George H. Snead	1878-1885
J. J. White	1885-1899
George F. Cooke	Jan. 1900-Sept. 1903
J. R. Daniel	Nov. 1903-1906
Dr. George H. Snead	1906-1908 (Interim Pastor)
L. H. Walton	1908-Nov. 1922
H. Lee Scott	1924-1926
O. E. Northern	1927-1945
C. A. Morgan	1945-1951
John P. Elliott	Apr. 1, 1952-July 1, 1961
Bobby W. Moss	1961-1963
John E. Mann, Sr.	1963-

The cemetery beside the church dates far back in its history but it was neglected for a long time before the first annual Homecoming in 1940 when contributions went toward restoring it. It is now a well-kept and attractive plot, kept up by the Homecoming Day offerings and the hard work of several of the members.

The constant loyalty of its members through the years is a tribute both to the church and to the little farming community in the heart of which it stands.

The main source for the above article was A History of Antioch Baptist Church compiled and delivered by Vergilia P. Sadler at the First Annual Homecoming on June 30, 1940.