

BX
8960
.P7

BX
8960
.P7

The PRESBYTERIAN SURVEY



OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES



A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET ON PENSACOLA BAY, FLA.

The General Assembly meets in Pensacola in May. There are many places of interest in this historical old city. Photo used by permission.



Publish
EXECUTIVE AGENCIES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

MAY,

RICHMOND,

CHARLOTTEVILLE VA
BOX 215
MRS R G BURNET

1926

The PRESBYTERIAN SURVEY

Vol. XVI

MAY, 1926

No. 5

General Assembly Meets in Pensacola May 20-27

The Presbyterian Church in Pensacola

Since the General Assembly meets in Pensacola this year, that city will be the center of Presbyterian thought, prayer, and action during May. We are glad to publish in this issue of the Survey, articles regarding the work of the Presbyterian churches in Pensacola, and also a few items giving a brief history of the city. See Publication Department and learn about the fine Teacher Training work that has been conducted in both the First Church and the McIlwaine Memorial.—*Editor.*

SETTLED entirely by Spanish colonists, Pensacola was in early days almost wholly a Roman Catholic town, but soon after the beginning of the 19th Century Protestants of various ecclesiastical affiliation began moving into the city, and various places of worship were instituted.

The little group of Presbyterians grew large enough to clamour for a church of their own, and the First Presbyterian Church was organized by a commission appointed for this purpose by the Presbytery of South Alabama in April, 1847. The first pastor of the church was Rev. Peter Donan, and the original elders were O. M. Avery and Angus E. Nickolson, and a third elder, Lemuel Sparrow, was soon added.

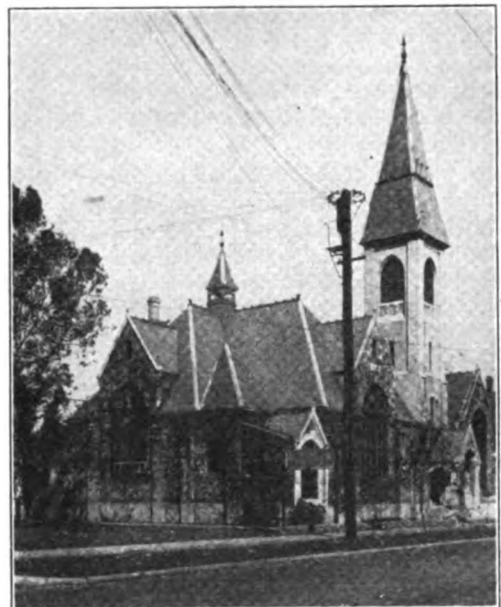
During 1856 Rev. P. J. Sparrow, D. D., was sent as a home mission worker to the Presbyterian churches of Pensacola and Bagdad, which charge he served in a faithful and successful manner until the evacuation of

Pensacola by the Confederate troops in the early part of 1862. The last meeting of the session before the evacuation is dated December 22, 1861. The first meeting of the session after the close of the war was November 12, 1866, when Rev. W. A. Carter presided. Mr. Carter was installed pastor a month later, and continued to serve the church until 1880.

Under the pastorate of Rev. Lynn R. Walker from 1902 to 1904, the Stoddard Avenue Sunday school was begun as a mission of the First Church, and during the pastorate of Rev. Julian S. Sibley (extending from August 1, 1905, to October 1, 1911), this mission Sunday school work prospered so greatly that the congregation decided to erect a building in the East Hill section of the city with a view of organizing there another church. William Fisher, an elder of the First Church, had bequeathed \$2,500 to the First Church for the purpose of building the contemplated church on



Rev. Charles Haddon Nabers, Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, Fla.



First Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, Fla.



Rev. J. E. Guthrie, Pastor McIlwain Memorial Church, Pensacola, Fla.

the condition that the First Church contribute an equal sum. This condition of Mr. Fisher's will being complied with, the building was erected, and in February, 1910, the Knox Presbyterian Church (now the McIlwain Memorial Church) was organized. With this organization there were included seventy members from the First Church, and this transfer of members was made in real Christian fellowship and design. The spirit of brotherly love and fellowship which began in that day has continued until at the present time there are no two churches in the same city where more cordial relations are maintained than between the First and the McIlwain Memorial Congregations.

The present pastor of the First Church, Rev. Charles Haddon Nabers, D. D., came to Pensacola in October, 1923, from the First Presbyterian Church of Camden, Ark. From that time until April 1, 1926, 243 new members have been received into the congregation, the Church school has grown both in enrollment and efficiency, and the congregation has contributed the amount of \$78,000 for church purposes.

The Rev. J. E. Guthrie is pastor of the McIlwaine Memorial Church, and is doing a splendid piece of work. Both of these churches have made a phenomenal record in the promotion of Leadership Training.

**"A task without a vision makes a drudge;
A vision without a task makes a visionary;
A vision and a task make a missionary."**

High Lights in Pensacola History

CHARLES HADDON NABERS, D. D.

PENSACOLA BAY was discovered in October, 1528, by a Spanish adventurer, one Panfilo de Narvaez, who landed on Santa Rosa Island.

The next recorded visit of white men was made by Moldonado, commander of De Soto's fleet.

Nearly twenty years elapsed before the bay was again visited. In 1559 a fleet under Don Tristram de Luna entered the bay with the object of founding a settlement to "secure gold, enlarge the territory of Spain," and to spread the Christian religion among the Indians. This expedition consisted of 1,500 soldiers with many priests. A town was founded—in all probability at or near where Fort Barrancas now stands.

This settlement was not at all successful and was finally abandoned in 1562, the colony returning to Cuba and Mexico.

Afterwards the bay was visited at various times by Spanish explorers. Friendly relations existed between the Spanish and French settlements on the Gulf Coast until 1719, when France declared war on Spain. From that time until 1781, Pensacola was held at various times by the Spanish, the French and the British.

On March 19, 1781, Pensacola, then held by the British, was attacked by a large fleet of Spanish ships under Don Hernando de Galvez, governor of Louisiana.

It fell on May 9th, and Fort Barrancas became Spanish territory.

Under Spanish rule, Fort Barrancas was rebuilt, between 1781 and 1796. This time the fort was built of brick and stone and is the present semi-circular stone fort below the square American Fort. Apparently at this time Fort Arrinnado was constructed. This was a brick fort on Santa Rosa Island about opposite the point of land on which the Navy Yard is located. The exact location of its ruins has not been determined, as they are now under water.

In 1814, both of these forts, as well as Pensacola, were surrendered to a small British force without a struggle, the British using Pensacola as a base to incite the Indians to uprising against the American forces. Consequently, an American force under General Andrew Jackson was sent against Pensacola. The town was captured on the 6th of November, 1814, and the British, in evacuating Fort San Carlos, spiked the guns and blew up the fort.

After the war of 1812 Pensacola and Fort San Carlos were returned to the Spanish, who apparently repaired the Fort and put it in good condition. Florida was always a seat of Seminole Indian uprisings, however and in May, 1818, Jackson was again before Fort San

Carlos demanding its surrender. This the Spanish commander refused, and it was not until after a bombardment that the Fort surrendered to Jackson on May 27. When the Seminole Indians were somewhat quieted in 1819, Fort San Carlos and Pensacola were returned to the Spanish, and did not pass finally into the hands of the American troops until Florida was formally ceded to the United States in 1821. Then, on July 17, 1821, Fort San Carlos was turned over to the Fourth U. S. Artillery with appropriate ceremonies.

Old Fort Pickens was built between 1833 and 1842, Fort McRae, now almost completely demolished was constructed between 1839 and 1844, and about this time the brick fort and redoubt at Fort Barrancas.

During the Civil War the forts now included in the Coast Defenses of Pensacola was held in part by both the Union and the Confederate forces, the Union forces holding the fortifications on Santa Rosa Island, consisting of Fort Pickens and its defenses, while the Confederates held Forts Barrancas and McRae.

Several attempts were made by the Confederates to capture Santa Rosa Island, but despite night attacks, etc., the position was courageously defended and on the 8th day of May, 1862, the Confederate forces abandoned Pensacola. Fort Pickens was the only Army Post within the limits of the Confederate States over which the Stars and Stripes flew during the Civil War.

At the present time the U. S. Government maintains in Pensacola the largest Naval Air Station in the world, and all naval air defenses of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, are directed from this station.

During the summer season the Army force at Fort Barrancas is largely augmented by hundreds of high school and college students who come here for R. O. T. C. and C. M. T. C. training. While the General As-



Plaza Ferdinand, the scene of the Transfer of Florida to the United States by the Spaniards.

sembly is in session the annual target practice at Fort Pickens with the ten and twelve inch coast defense guns will be held. This can be viewed by any commissioner who desires.



Ruins of old Fort San Carlos, built in 1696.