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Jenkins, Charles Augustus (1908 – 1911)

Pastors of First Baptist Shelby

2-13-1964

Correspondence w. Biography of Charles Augustus Jenkins - February 13, 1964 - Charlotte Thurston Modlin

Charlotte Thurston Modlin

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A-J Cannon Court Apartments
Greensboro, North Carolina
February 13, 1964

Mr. R. Hubbard Hamrick
930 West Wendover Street
Shelby, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Hamrick:

Enclosed is a "little history" of my
grandfather's life. You may not want
to use it as it is written but may
use the facts I have given.

Most sincerely,
Charlotte J. Modlin

CHARLES AUGUSTUS JENKINS

1908-1911

22 - pastor

Charles Augustus Jenkins, the son of Rosalie Carter and Malanetha A. Jenkins, was born on January 20, 1850, at Yazoo City, Mississippi. When he was four years old his mother died from yellow fever and her body was entombed in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Years ago the Times Democrat of New Orleans published a series of articles entitled "Corner in Ancestors." One of these series was called "The Jenkins Family." A sketch of the Coats of Arms was included.

Rosalie Carter must have made a deep impression upon her son, even though he was only four when she died and he was reared by his father; for when he was college age he went to Virginia, from whence came his mother's ancestors, and entered the University of Virginia, from which he was graduated.

It was while at the University that he took the step that changed his life. He left the high Episcopal Church and joined the Baptist Church. This was considered a disgraceful act by his family! However, in spite of his family's vociferous protests, young Charles disgraced them even more--he was ordained a Baptist minister!

Into the background of this young preacher were woven the threads of some of the great people who had founded a nation and who were proud of their ancestry. His maternal grandfather was George Washington Carter of Virginia. George Washington Carter's sister, Anne Hill Carter, was the wife of Light Horse Harry Lee and mother of Robert E. Lee. George Washington Carter's wife was Mary B. Wormley, whose ~~father was an Admiral in His Majesty's fleet.~~ *who came from an outstanding family of Virginia*

George Washington Carter's ancestors were Bettie Washington Lewis, sister of George Washington, whose husband, Fielding Lewis,

played a prominent part in the American Revolution. Another outstanding ancestor was John Carter, known as King Carter, and supposedly the largest land owner in Virginia.

While attending the University of Virginia, Charles met Lily Cocke, daughter of John Cocke. John Cocke's cousin, Charles Cocke, founded Hollins College. The Cocke home, Cassino, was located in Albermarle County, ^{fourteen (14)} ~~eighteen~~ miles from Charlottesville. Charles and Lillie were married Wednesday, July 2, 1873. After their marriage, they moved to North Carolina. To this union eight children were born.

Warsaw, North Carolina, was the young preacher's first pastorate. Other pastorates included: Louisburg, Statesville, Goldsboro, New Brunswick, New Jersey, Oxford, Chapel Hill, Newbern and back to Goldsboro. His last active pastorate was in Shelby which terminated in 1911. It was while he was in Shelby that his health began to fail.

One of his daughters, Jessie, married D. J. Thurston, of Clayton; and it was to this small town that the Rev. and Mrs. Charles Augustus Jenkins went for retirement. Here in Clayton, fifteen miles from Raleigh, they built a lovely six room house. Their rose garden, grape vineyard, beautiful lawn, and rare vegetables were known and acclaimed far and wide.

This retirement was short-lived because an active, growing country Church, Mt. Morrah, located five miles from Clayton in a bustling, growing community, badly needed a pastor. Charles Jenkins accepted the call and served faithfully for years. Later on, he and his wife went to Hampton, Virginia where another daughter, Carey, and a son, Shirely, lived. He went for the purpose of help-

ing in the war effort as World War I was then being fought. Again the Jenkins built another house, which they sold after the war. They then returned to Clayton.

It was now the beginning of 1919 and this couple, in their sixties, were to build yet another house and find another pastorate in need. Every week end for several years Mr. Jenkins went to Zebulon, a town twenty five miles from Clayton, to preach on Sunday. It was during this time that the Zebulon Baptist Church built a beautiful edifice.

While standing in the pulpit one Sunday morning, April 9, 1922, a messenger arrived to tell him that his wife had suddenly passed away. Five years later, the illness that caused his retirement from Shelby struck with all of its force; and in February 1927, after a brief illness, he died.

The Rev. O. L. Stringfield, a friend of fifty years, preached the funeral Service. His text was from II Timothy 4: verses seven and eight. Truly, this friend of long standing had seen Charles Augustus Jenkins fight a good fight. After joining the Baptist Church he did not return to New Orleans and his family. With his young wife by his side, he unflinchingly preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and at times, when needed, he went into the school room and taught. He was the author of several books and at times he preached in Churches in New York City.

Yes, Charles Augustus Jenkins , whose Washington Coat of Arms carries the ducal crown of Great Britain, gave his all for the Christ, and he never doubted that "There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day." (II Timothy 4:8)