Wayne County, NC - Churches

File contributed for use in USGenWeb Archives by
Cathy Blow <crblow@pdcn.net>

Reprinted with permission of the News-Argus and cannot be reproduced
without permission.

Goldsboro News-Argus
Anniversary Series
Friday, April 26, 1985

Nahunta Friends Has Rich Heritage

By EVELYN CRAWFORD

In its quiet country setting, the Monthly Meeting called Nahunta Friends Church is located 10 miles north of Goldsboro facing N.C. 581. Enrollment numbers 183 and the pastor is Jack Caughron, who has served the meeting since 1966.

It was back in 1748 that Nahunta Meeting appears to have had its beginnings at Lower Falling Creek, probably located near the present town of Kinston. Time passed and by 1772 most Friends in this area had 'removed' so the meeting was directed to be held at Richard Cox's near Upper Falling Creek. Records show that later the same year it was held at Great Contentnea, five miles northeast of Fremont. From this time the Falling Creek Monthly Meeting disappears and Great Contentnea, later Contentnea Monthly Meeting, takes its place.

By 1851, a number of Contentnea Friends had moved into the Nahunta Community and meetings for worship were begun in a home near where the Nahunta Friends Church is now located. This led to the setting up of a Preparative Meeting with business sessions being alternated between Contentnea and Nahunta. After 1856 all business sessions were held at Nahunta, and Contentnea Meeting was laid down. Thus Nahunta became a Monthly Meeting sometime prior to 1863 and meetings for worship and business were held in a vacant house near Peacock's Cross Roads. It was while meeting in this house that a First Day School was started, which was the first Sunday School organized in Wayne County.

Another meeting house was desired and a location was selected near Macajah Pike's place. The Civil War caused a delay in this matter; but land was finally deeded and given by Matthew Pike in 1866, and for over 15 years Friends met there.

Then in 1881, a committee was appointed to secure funds, select a sight and to build a meeting house. Nathan T. and Mary Edgerton deeded as a gift, a two-acre lot where the present building now stands. The original building was completed late in 1881.

One can hardly recognize the present church house as the same one of 1882. It started as a rectangular building consisting of one large room. At the entrance was a center porch flanked by two storage rooms, one used for firewood, the other for books, records, fans and such like items. Inside, a partition, about the height of the pews, divided the meeting room. Men sat on one side and women on the other. Heat was provided by a large wood heater on each side in the front of the room. Since that time, many changes have been wrought through the efforts of dedicated people, both lay and clergy.

During the Revolutionary War period, Chalkley Albertson was a resident minister of Contentnea Monthly Meeting and later other resident ministers labored faithfully. Contentnea-Nahunta has also been blessed with a number of visiting ministers. However, records place Nahunta's first pastor as S. Louisa Bridgers in 1900.

Nahunta Friends Church, 1985, is rich in heritage of the love and labor of many persons who, placing trust in God, have served faithfully.

==========

USGENWEB NOTICE: In keeping with our policy of providing free information on the Internet, data may be used by non-commercial entities, as long as this message remains on all copied material. The electronic pages may NOT be reproduced in any format for profit or for presentation by other persons or organizations.

Persons or organizations desiring to use this material for purposes other than stated above must obtain the written consent of the file contributor, and contact the listed USGenWeb archivist with proof of this consent. The submitter has given permission to the USGenWeb Archives to store the file permanently for free access.

==========