

From the time of the Rev. John Stephenson the preaching was in cottages at Mangrove Bay, Ely's Harbour and at Captain Jeremiah Bell's in Southampton. The great spiritual awakening stirred the people to "rise and build". The corner-stone of the church was laid on the 23rd of October, 1861, by Mrs. F.W. Moore, wife of the circuit superintendent. Much regret was voiced because temporary indisposition prevented Mr. Ryan from attending this important service.

The erection of the church was carried on with vigour and it was soon opened for divine worship. The congregation was composed of both coloured and white members. Of the latter there was a number of important men both from Somerset and Southampton. Some elect ladies from Southampton used to walk regularly to Somerset to help in the Sunday School and other departments of the work of the church. Prominent mention in this service is made of Miss Hetty Bell.

Somerset was not the only place that was inspired to build. Thus far, Tucker's Town was without a sanctuary. The Rev. William Ryan (R) organized the people and led them in the building activities. He got the men to give the proceeds of a day's fishing toward the building fund. The women worked and held an old fashioned tea-meeting which augmented the funds materially. In December 1861 the corner-stone was well and truly laid by Mr. Henry Hallett, the contractor and builder. His grand children, Mr. Henry Hallett, headmaster of Saltus Grammar School, Dr. Marjorie Hallett, a former headmistress of the Bermuda High School for Girls, and the work of the late Dr.; the Hon. C.R. Hollis Hallett, M.L.C., and Assistant Chief Justice, (1966), with other members of this notable family, keep the name fragrant in Bermuda by their large contributions to the educational and social welfare services.

While the church in Tucker's Town was in course of construction, an incident occurred that gives eloquent testimony to the courtesy and courage that was developed in the natives of the Island by the Methodist teaching. Mr. Samuel Trott, one of the officials of the Society, for some years rowed the minister across Castle Harbour in his cedar boat. One Sunday afternoon he was taking the minister from Tucker's Town to Bailey's Bay. A heavy squall of wind and rain overtook them. When it cleared they saw a yacht in trouble on a reef. Mr. Trott rowed up to it and found that the occupants were His Excellency, The Governor, his Lady, son and A.D.C. Though the Governor had been noted for his opposition to the Methodists, and Mr. Trott's boat was very small, he ran the risk, took them on board and landed them safely ashore. When he stepped ashore His Excellency said, "Trott, tomorrow call at the Government House and I will give you five pounds for your trouble and bravery." Mr. Trott courteously replied, "Your Excellency, I require nothing for doing my duty. Indeed it has been the greatest pleasure of my life to serve you, but we are building a little Methodist Chapel in Tucker's Town, where I live, and if it pleases Your Excellency I will gladly receive your gift for the building fund." The good nature and honesty of Mr. Trott so impressed the Governor that, though strongly averse to the extension of Methodism, he said, "All right good fellow; I would rather you keep what I give you, but do as you please with it".

In view of the expanding work and the pressing needs the Quarterly Official Board in this year applied to the Conference to send an active young man for a year as an experiment, and pledged that he would not be an additional expense to the Conference funds. But young ministers were scarce and there was none to send. The church was also

added, and the entrance to the sanctuary improved by the addition of a commodious vestibule.

St. David's Island.

A small building to accommodate the Methodist Class on St. David's Island was provided in 1858. This was inadequate, and in 1867 a larger building, of stone, was erected and dedicated as a Methodist Chapel. It was in connection with this building project that Mrs. Stephen Brangman was humourously referred to at the dedication service as "the Bishop of St. David's".

A main consideration in providing this Chapel was difficulty of transportation between St. David's Island and St. George's in bad weather. Later this difficulty was largely removed with the building of the Severn Bridge, connecting St. David's Island with the mainland.

The American Bases Agreement in World War II set aside a large portion of St. David's Island for inclusion in the U.S.A. Defence Base now generally known as Kindley Field. This removed an important section of the congregation.

Tucker's Town.

A Methodist Class was organized at Tucker's Town in 1835. By 1861 a small but comfortable Chapel, of stone, had been built and dedicated. Because of its isolated position a graveyard was provided nearby. This Methodist Chapel continued successfully for many years, until in 1923, most of its congregation moved to adjacent Smith's Parish. For further record see "Marsden Memorial Church", Smith's Parish.

Hamilton Parish

The first established Methodist preaching place in Hamilton Parish was at Bailey's Bay. The year 1816 saw a small Chapel built and dedicated there. By 1860 this had been enlarged to meet increasing needs. In 1866 the old building was demolished and a new and still larger building erected on the old site plus a piece of land to the eastward donated by Edward Burrows Seon. It was simply known as the Bailey's Bay Methodist Chapel.

It is of interest to record that the construction of the new and larger building at Bailey's Bay in 1866, was largely made possible by generous assistance given by Moseph John Outerbridge, and that in recognition thereof the Trustees deeded to him and his heirs certain pews in the new Chapel, to wit:

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| Second pew from front in centre row | | in perpetuity |
| First and second pews in right | " | until redeemed |
| Third and Fourth pews in centre | " | " " |
| First and second pews in left | " | " " |

The six so listed pews could be redeemed at any time at one hundred pounds each, and if the building was ever sold Mr. Outerbridge, or his estate, was to receive six hundred pounds or such part thereof consistent with the number of unredeemed pews. There is no record of any of the pews being redeemed, nor of any claim being made by Mr. Outerbridge's estate when the building eventually was sold.