

CLERICAL ACTS OF REV. JOHN D. MCCOLLOUGH

Unfortunately, records kept by clergymen in the Piedmont from the last century (or even early this century) are a rare find for genealogists. One of the most geographically comprehensive records for the Piedmont is that kept by Dr. John DeWitt McCollough an Episcopal priest who founded most of the Episcopal churches in the upstate that were established prior to 1900.

Rev. McCollough was born December 8, 1822 at Society Hill, Darlington County, S. C. He came to the upstate when he was elected principal of the Glenn Spring Academy in January 1848. That same year he was ordained a deacon. On July 28, 1850, he was ordained a priest. He spent the rest of his life (with the exception of his service as a Confederate chaplain) in the upstate. His death occurred in Walhalla, Oconee County, S. C. on January 23, 1902. At that time, he was pastor of a mission congregation there. He is buried at the Church of the Advent, Spartanburg, S. C. which he founded.

The records presented here are from a small manuscript volume at the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, s. C. entitled "Record of Clerical acts by Jno. D. McCollough of South Carolina, who was made a Deacon in the Church of God in Trinity Church, Columbia by the Rt. Rev. C. E. Gadsden on the 21st day of June A.D. 1848. Presented for orders by the Rev. P. J. Shands[.]" This volume is 122 pages in length and covers the years 1848 through 1865 inclusive. If he kept records for subsequent years, their whereabouts are unknown. In addition to the records of a genealogical nature presented in this and future issues, he kept a detailed record of all services he conducted which is only of use to a biographer. There are four basic types of records presented here:

1. Baptisms. In general these were performed before a congregation. However, in emergencies they could be performed in private. In such a situation, it had to be acknowledged before the local congregation. McCollough included both baptisms and receptions in his record.
2. Confirmations. Confirmation in the Episcopal Church is performed only by a bishop. This ceremony endows the recipient with the Holy Spirit and makes them full members of the church. McCollough lists those whom he presented to the bishop for confirmation and the location.
3. Marriages. It is interesting that on several occasions he violated South Carolina law and married slave couples.
4. Burials. The Episcopal rite for the burial of the dead is reserved to baptized Christians "who have not laid violent hands upon themselves." However, a priest may, when necessary, conduct a funeral for anyone with a reduction of ceremonies. This is an "informal" burial. Dr. McCollough recorded two such funerals.

BAPTISMS

- 1849
- No. 1 April 1st Palm Sunday
In M[ale] Academy, Spartanburg C.H. So.Ca.
Catherine Elisabeth
Born, Dec. 6th, 1848
Parents, Wm., & Amelia Irwin
Sponsors, The Parents, & Miss C. Irwin
- No. 2 April 22d 2d S[unday] after Easter
In M[ale] Academy S[partanburg] C.H. S.C.
Henry Ashford
Born May 25th, 1848 ["May" is written over "April"]
Parents, George & Anne Smith
Sponsors, Clement, & P.F. Stevens, & Mrs. Dr. Kennedy
- No. 3 April 22d 2d S. after Easter
In M[ale] Academy S[partanburg] C.H. So. Ca.
Lionel Henry Kennedy
Born Jan 19th, 1849
Parents, Geo. W.H., & Clementine Legg
Sponsors The mother &.
- On the same occasion
"Recieved(sic.) into the congregation of Xt's flock,"
& certified the congregation of the Baptism of Thomas
Alexander, privately [baptized], by Rev. T.J.
Arthur.
Born [blank]
Parents. Wm. & Amelia Irwin
- Also certified, as above, the Baptism by the Rev. M.H.
Lane, of Clementina Georgiana
Born Sep. 14th, 1843
& George
Born March 30th 1846
Parents, Geo. W.H., & Clementina Legg
- No. 4 April 29th 3d S[unday] after Easter
In Calvary Ch. Glenn Springs, S.C.
Reuben
Born Dec. 1847
Parents, Lewis & Sucky--my servants
Sponsors, The Parents, & myself
- No.5 June 29th Fest[ival] of St. Peter
In Calvary Ch. Glenn Sp[rings] So. Ca.
John Winsmith--Adult
Witness Maurice A. Moore

- No. 6 July 22d [1849] 7th S[unday] after Trinity
 In Calvary Ch. Glenn Springs S.C.
 Selina Eliza
 Born April 20th 1840
 Parents, Maurice A., & Sophonisba Moore
 Sponsors, The Parents, & H.B. M'Collough
- 1850
- No.7 Nov. 10th 24th S. after Trinity
 In Calvary Ch. Glenn Sp. So. Ca.
 James
 Born Feb 1st 1850
 Parents, Lewis & Sucky-my servants,
 Sponsors, The Parents & myself
- 1851
- No. 8 Feb. 21st
 In F[emale] Academy Spartanburg C.H., S.C.
 Nancy Raylin Mills-Adult
 Witnesses Misses M. & A. Otterson
- No. 9 Feb 21st
 In F. Academy S.C.H. So. Ca.
 Mary Susan Mills-Adult
 Witnesses Misses M. & A. Otterson
- No. 10 Feb 21st
 In F. Academy S.C.H. So. Ca.
 Sallie Hattan Otterson-Adult
 Witnesses Misses M. & A. Otterson
- No. 11 Feb. 21st
 In F. Academy S.C.H. So. Ca.
 Melissa Gordon Otterson-Adult
 Witnesses Misses M. & A. Otterson
- No. 12 Feb. 21st
 In F. Academy S.C.H. So. Ca.
 Nancy Susan Otterson Adult
 Witnesses Misses M. & A. Otterson
- No. 13 May 25th 5th S. after Easter
 In F. Academy S.C.H. So. Ca.
 James Maud
 Born April 1st 1849
 Parents J.M. & E.A. Elford
 Sponsors, The Father, J.W. Murphy, Miss C. Hood
- No. 14 May 25th 5th S. after Easter
 In F. Academy S.C.H. So. Ca.
 John Blassingame
 Born Oct 4th 1850
 Parents J.M. & E.A. Elford
 Sponsors same as above

- No. 15 May 25th [1851] 5th S. after Easter
 'In F. Academy S.C.H. So. Ca.
 Helen Kennedy
 Born July 10th 1850
 Parents, George & Anne Smith
 Sponsors, Dr. L.C. Kennedy, Mrs. H. Kennedy & Miss Mary
 Stevens
- No. 16 Sep. 13th
 In Chapel of Ch. of the Advent S[partanburg] C.H.
 Elizabeth Anavilla Elford-Adult
 Witnesses J.M. Elford, & Mrs. M. Murphy
- No. 17 Sep.13th
 In same place as above
 Mary Patterson-Adult
 Witness Mrs. M. Murphy
- No. 18 Sep. 13th
 In same place as above
 Sarah Ann Elizabeth Wallace, Adult
 Witnesses, Mrs. N.R. Mills, & Miss A. Otterson
- No. 19 Sep 13th
 On a sick bed in Spartanburg So. Ca.
 Harriet, adult svt. of Mrs. Kennedy
 Witnesses Mrs. M.A.J. Kennedy, Miss Mary Kennedy, Miss
 Lionella Kennedy
- 1852
- No. 20 March 21st 4th S. in Lent
 Residence of Wm. B. Wilson, Yorkville, So. Ca.
 Orrah Minerva Wilson-Adult
 Witness Wm. B. Wilson
- No. 21 March 21st 4th S. in Lent
 same place as above
 Mary McLure Dunovant-Adult
 Witness Wm. B. Wilson
- No. 22 March 21st 4th S. in Lent
 Same place as above
 Arrah Adelia
 Born April 5th 1842
 Parents A.Q. & M.M. Dunovant
 Sponsors The mother & Wm. B. Wilson
- No. 23 March 21st 4th S. in Lent
 Same place as above
 William
 Born March 20th 1845
 Parents A.Q. & M.M. Dunovant
 Sponsors Wm. B. Wilson & The mother

- No. 24 March 21st [1852) 4th S. in Lent
 Same place as above
 Mary
 Born Nov. 20th 1847
 Parents & Sponsors same as above
- No. 25 March 21st 4th S. in Lent
 Same place as above
 Susan Avery
 Born Feb. 20th 1851
 Parents & Sponsors same as above
- No. 26 March 21st 4th S. in Lent
 Same place as above
 James McLure Lowry Adult
 Witness Wm. B. Wilson
- No. 27 March 21st 4th S. in Lent
 Same place as above
 Samuel Cosmore
 Born Dec. 23d 1844
 Parents James M. & Louisa Lowry
 Sponsors, The Parents, & Wm. B. Wilson
- No. 28 March 21st 4th S. in Lent
 Residence of Wm. B. Wilson, Yorkville So. Ca.
 Mary Avery
 Born March 13th 1846
 Parents, James M., & Louisa Lowry
 Sponsors, The Parents, & Wm. B. Wilson
- No. 29 March 21st 4th S. in Lent
 Same place as above
 James Ernest
 Born Feb. 23d 1849
 Parents & Sponsors, same as above
- No. 30 March 21st 4th S. in Lent
 Same place as above
 Susan Frances
 Born Nov. 18th 1850
 Parents & Sponsors, same as above
- No. 31 March 21st 4th S. in Lent
 Same place as above
 William Blackburn born Jan. 12th 1850
 Parents, Wm. B., & A.M. Wilson
 Sponsors, The Parents
- No. 32 March 21st 4th S. in Lent
 Same place as above
 Susan Lowry
 Born Augst 3d 1851
 Parents & Sponsors same as above

- No. 33 Oct. 24th [1852]
 In chapel of Ch. of the Advent S[partanburg] C.H.
 Mildred Emily Thomson, Adult
 Witness Mary S. Mills
- No. 34 Nov. 22d
 Residence of Dr. Otterson, Limestone Spr. S.C.
 Ida Narcissa
 Born Sep 24th 1852
 Parents H.D.K. & A.A. Cabaniss
 Sponsors The Parents, & S.H. Otterson
- 1853
- No. 35 May 31st
 Residence of Dr. L.C. Kennedy Spartanburg So. Ca.
 Fanny
 Aged about 13 years-a Svt. of George Smith
 Sponsor Mrs. H.F. Kennedy
- No. 36 May 31st
 Same place as above
 Margaret Maria child Svt. of Dr. Kennedy
 Sponsor same as above
- No. 37 May 31st
 Same place - as above
 James (child, a Svt. of Dr. Kennedy [])
 Sponsor as above
- No. 38 May 31st
 Same place as above
 Caroline (child) Svt. of Dr. Kennedy
 Sponsor as above
- No. 39 May 31st
 Same place as above
 Mary Ann (child) Svt. of Dr. K.
 Sponsor as above
- No. 40 [November 27] Adv[en]t Sunday
 In chapel of Ch. of the Advent Spartanburg S.C.
 Eliza Heron
 Born Oct. 5th 1853
 Parents [Rev.] Jno. D. & H.B. McCollough
 Sponsors W.B. Seary, M.S. Hart, & The Mother
- 1854
- No. 41 [April 16] Easter Day
 In Chapel of Ch. of the Advt. S[partanburg] C.H.
 Mary Amelia
 Born Nov. 21st 1853
 Parents J.W., & C. McLure
 Sponsors, The Parents, & Mrs. T.N. Dawkins

- No. 42 [April 18, 1854] Easter Tuesday
 In Chapel of Ch. of the Adv[en]t S[partanburg] C.H.
 Joseph Tooker
 Born April 12th 1853
 Parents D.D. & H. Rosa
 Sponsors, The Father, C. Tooker, Anne Tooker
- No. 43 Sep. 25th
 In a private house, Spartanburg So. Ca.
 Parents E.M. & Jane Broughton
 [Editor's Note: The space for the child's name is left
 blank in this entry and no sponsors are listed.]
- No. 44 Fest. of St. Mark;
 In chapel of Ch. of The Advent S.C.H.
 Lionella Frederica
 Parents, Geo. W.H., & Clementina S. Legg
 Sponsors, D.D. Rosa, Mrs. H.L. Kennedy, & the Mother
- No. 45 21st S. after Trinity Nov. 5th
 In St. John's School Chapel S.C.H.
 Ralph Kennedy
 Born Sep. 1st 1854
 Parents, Jason H., & Jane M. Carson
 Sponsors. The Parents
- 1855
- No. 46 Septuagesmia [Sunday] Feb. 4th
 In private House, Spartanburg C.H. So. Ca.
 a Servsnt of Mrs. A.J. Kennedy
- No. 47 March [blank]
 In private House S.C.H.
 William Clifford (infant, a servant of Mrs. A.J.
 Kennedy[])
- No. 48 Easter April 8th
 In Presbyterian M.H. Unionville s.C.
 Liliias K.
 Born [blank]
 Parents John & Rachel Flannigan
 Sponsors. [blank]
- No. 49 July 8th
 In Presbyterian M.H. Unionville S.C.
 Eliza
 Born May 10th, 1855 [?]
 Parents, J.W., & C. McLure
 Sponsors. The Parents & Mrs. E. (Latshaw?)
- No. 50 Aug. 5th 9th S. After Trinity
 In St. John's School Chapel
 Ella Rosa Chaplin-Adult
 Sponsors J.D. & H.B. McCollough

- No. 61 July 24th [1857]
In St. John's Ch. Winsboro
Elvira Elisabeth (Rebb.) Adult
Witness, Mrs. H.B. McCollough
- No. 62 Aug. 1st
In St. John's ch. Winsboro
John Dargan Strother, Adult
Witnesses, Rev. J. Obear, & Miss M. Dunovant
- No. 63 Augst 1st
In St. John's ch. Winsboro
Catherine Leslie Strother, Adult
Witnesses, Rev. J. Obear, & Miss M. Dunovant
- No. 64 same time & place
Mary Pope Strother--Adult
Witnesses, same as above
- No. 65 same time & place
Harriet Helen Oneal Strother, Adult
Witnesses, same as above
- No. 66 Sep. 20th 15th S. after Trinity
In St. John's ch. Winsboro
Mary Stark
Born July 30th 1857
Parents, [Rev.] J.D. & H.B. McCollough
Sponsors, Rev. P.J. Shands, Mrs. J.R. Thomson, Miss
C.M. Reid
- No. 67 Oct. 11th 18th S. after Trinity
In St. Stephen's ch., Ridgeway
Johnny
Adult, Svt. of E.G. Palmer
- No. 68 same time & place
Romeo
Adult, Svt. of E.G. Palmer
- No. 69 same time & place
Lina
Adult, Svt. of E.G. Palmer
- No. 70 Oct. 14th
In private house, Winnsboro
John Woodward
Born May 10th 1857
Parents, Dr. W.W., & Mrs. M. Aiken
- No. 71 Nov. 1st Fest. of All Saints
In private House--Roseland
Martha Dwight
Born, Oct. 14.th 1857

Parents, Rev. J.J., & Mrs. E. Roberts
Sponsors, [blank]

1858

- No. 72 Feb. 17th Ash Wednesday
In St. John's ch. Winsboro
Anna Margaret Chaplin, Adult.
Witness, Mrs. E. E. Rabb
- No. 73 April 18th 2nd S. after Easter
In place of worship at Roseland
Isaac Adult--Svt. of T. S. Dubose
Witnesses, Claus, & Job. " " " "
- No. 74 April 18th
Same place
Samuel Svt. of T. S. Dubose
- No. 75 Daphne, Born Oct. 1857, " " "
- No. 76 January Age about 1 yr. " " "
- No. 77 Anson " " "
- No. 78 Susanna "about 1 yr & 4 months " "
- No. 79 willis Age about 2 yrs. Svt. of T. S. Dubose
- No. 80 Minus " " "
- No. 81 Edward " 1 yr " " "
- No. 82 James " 1 yr " " "
- No. 83 William " 1 yr " " "
- No. 84 Manuel " 3 yrs " " "
- No. 85 Martha " 2 yrs " " "
- No. 86 Boston born in Aug 1857, " " "
- No. 87 Peter " " "
- Sponsors for all the above
Claus, Job, Sucky, Svts " "
- No. 88 April 25th 3d S. after Easter
In St. John's ch. Winsboro
Henrietta aged about 7 years
- No. 89 Mary Ellen " " 6 "
- No. 90 James " " 4 "
- No. 91 William " " 3 "
- The above children of a Servant of Mrs. Cummings--who acted as Sponsor
- No. 92 May 1st Fest. of St. Phillip & St. J[ames]
In St. John's ch. Winsboro
Edward
Born [blank]
Parents, Dr. W. W. & Mrs. M. Aiken
Sponsors, D. Wyatt Aikin(sic.), Mrs. H. K. Aiken
- On the same occasion, "recieve[d] into the congregation of xt's [i Ia. Christ's] flock", & certified the congregation of-the Baptism of John Woodward done by me, Oct. 14th 1857. The same Sponsors, as above[.]