

with a mule. This encouraged the slaves to stay in the area with which they were familiar. These freed slaves started their own church and community which is now the Canaan area. Descendants of theirs still live in Canaan.

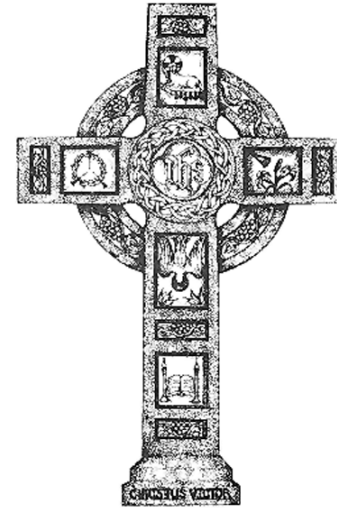
At one point during the war, James' unit was positioned close to his farm which allowed him to come home and work. While he was there Union soldiers arrived, suspected where he was, and went to the farm to search him out. Seeing the crisis at hand, Mary Jane, with the help of the other women present, dressed James in woman's clothing and snuck him out the back door. He safely returned to his unit and continued fighting. When the fighting was over, he was able to return to the farm he and his wife had valiantly fought to preserve.

Shortly after this time a tornado hit their farm. A quick-thinking caregiver grasped up the Frierson's infant child who was playing on the living room floor, and ran for the nearest protection, an old hollow tree. Holding the child to her, she squeezed her way into the tree, saving herself and the child from certain destruction as the tornado completely devastated the house. This child was Amelia, who would become Hal and Jack Morgan's grandmother.

In later years Amelia went on to marry James Lanus who, as mentioned in the earlier article, built the pulpit which continues to stand in Zion's sanctuary today.



Pulpit built by James Lanus, husband of Amelia Frierson



ZION

Bicentennial
Est-1807

RECOLLECTIONS

*Another conversation about
The Morgan Family
by Penny Shoup*

Once she started digging into her papers and relatives' memories, Audrey Morgan, wife of Hal Morgan, has been a wellspring of information. Audrey is a Zion descendant through marriage, but in a double way, as in the case of many Zion descendants. Audrey's first husband was Maury D. Armstrong, Jr., who was also a descendant. He and Hal actually descended from the same line that started with original settler James Armstrong. Audrey and Maury had a son, Maury Franklin Armstrong, who was married to Ginger Couch. Franklin and Ginger had three children, Holly, Hynie, and Maury Franklin, Jr. Maury and his wife Shawn carry on the family legacy of church membership. Maury has served as deacon as well as lending a hand whenever needed. Shawn served faithfully as church secretary and works with the children of the church in various capacities. Their three children, Benjamin Hal, Porter, and Audrey Emma Claire brighten the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, another generation of the Armstrong lineage.



*Our Storyteller,
Audrey Morgan*

Ginger Couch is a sister to Jimmy Couch, whose family also attends Zion. Jimmy, along with his wife Kate, live in the house built by the brother of the first pastor of Zion Church. It turns out Jimmy and Kate did not know about Zion Church when they moved into their house nor did they realize who had built it. Through

ZION RECOLLECTIONS

During this bicentennial year,
Zion Recollections
has been created
to share interesting stories
about some of our church families.

what can only be seen as God's providential leading, they found Zion Church and raised their family of five sons and one daughter. Jimmy and Kate continue to be involved in Zion Church and school, heart and soul. He is a church elder and faithfully teaches an adult Sunday School class. She also teaches Sunday School and willingly helps out wherever needed. Four of their six children, along with five grandchildren, continue to attend Zion Church.

Ginger also has a twin brother, Wally Couch, who along with his wife Karan are members of Zion Church. As Zion's church secretary, Karan is the welcoming voice you hear whenever you call the church office and is also the one who has faithfully printed these Zion Recollection bulletin inserts. Sorry, I am diverting into the present Zion which is wonderfully fascinating, but for a future article.



Hal and Audrey Morgan, Maury, Hynie, and Holly Armstrong

Going back to the original pioneers, Audrey added information that was handed down to her about original settler George Dickey, who was one of Franklin's ancestors. You may recall, Zion purchased a portion of Nathaniel Greene's Revolutionary War land grant for their settlement in 1807. George Dickey was the volunteer

who carried the payment for this property, money in gold, all the way to where the Nathaniel Greene's heirs lived on the Georgia - Florida line. Traveling on horseback with the gold in his saddlebags sounded like a good idea to everyone at the time, but after he left, the settlers began to have second thoughts. That was a lot of gold to trust to the care of one person on a long, perilous journey. To the pioneers' relief, George made it to the heirs and completed the transaction, but not without the help of his trusty fiddle. He used the fiddle in the evenings to keep himself company, but it also had a soothing effect to the Indians he encountered. This historic fiddle was handed down and rested in the Dickey/McFall/Armstrong home, but unfortunately was lost in a house fire several years ago.

Audrey had another story to attest to the feisty and determined spirit of the Zion ancestors. When James Armstrong Frierson, great grandfather to Hal and Jack Morgan, went off to fight in the civil war, he had a debt on his farm. Hoping the Friersons would be unable to make payment, their neighbor wanted to take over their land when the note came due. However, James's wife, Mary Jane Dooley Frierson, was determined to keep their land, so she opened a boarding house in Columbia on the corner of 8th Street and South Main.

During the war Mary Jane worked hard, and took in boarders until she was able to pay off the loan. When the fighting ended, the neighbor sold part of his land across from the Friersons to the government. The government parceled the land out in 20-acre increments, giving each slave family a parcel of the land along



Mary Jane Dooley Frierson, Amelia Frierson Lanius, Mary, Elizabeth (Jack's and Hal's mother), Sarah