

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida, That from and after the approval of this act, the Presbyterian congregation at Jacksonville, in East Florida, shall be incorporated and be a body politic, by the name and style of the Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, and by that name shall be capable and liable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended, and to have, hold, possess, and enjoy real and personal estate; \* \* \*

Section 2. Be it further enacted, That for the better government of said incorporation, O. Congar, O. M. Dorman, Harrison R. Blanchard, Stephen Eddy, and L. D. Miller, be, and they are hereby appointed Trustees of "The Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville", \* \* \*

Section 3. Be it further enacted, That all the white members of said church shall be deemed qualified electors at any and every election for trustees of said church. \* \* \*

The Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville was actually formed December 29, 1843, when five male members duly banded themselves together in connection with the Presbytery of Georgia, Rev. Mr. Baird being present with them as a delegate from that body. Obadiah Congar and William B. Barton were elected and ordained elders. On the Sabbath day following, being the 31st of December, 1843, the significant and touching rite of the Lord's Supper was administered and one new member was added to the Church by examination.<sup>5</sup>

In the following year (1844) the Baptists having decided to build in another locality (West LaVilla) offered their chapel at the northeast corner of Duval and Newnan Streets for sale. Captain Congar and two others purchased it. "We bought it", says Captain Congar, "to keep it from falling into the hands of some worldly persons for speculative purposes". This chapel was used by the Presbyterians as a meeting house for two years. Their first pastor, Rev. A. B. Burke, preached to them there, but only for several months as lack of funds made it impossible to retain him. Owing to the cost of upkeep the Presbyterians were compelled to dispose of the property and they sold it to the Methodists in 1846. Soon afterward, Captain Congar set about raising funds to build a small session house on a plot of ground belonging to himself (at the southeast corner of Ocean and Monroe Streets) for the purpose of holding prayer meetings and other religious services when they should have a minister. He solicited funds from friends and relatives in the North and began the