

erection of the building about the first of the year, 1847. In February, 1847, it was under roof and the "glass in"; it was completed in March following. This was a plain one-story wooden building and seated about 60 persons. The other denominations were invited to use it and several of them did, and it was later used for school purposes also. Just before his death in 1848, Captain Congar deeded this property to the Presbyterian Church.^g

Captain Obadiah Congar was a pious sea-captain, born near Newark, N. J., in 1768, retired, settled at St. Augustine in 1831, and moved to Jacksonville in 1838, where he resided until his death in 1848. He died while on a visit to his old home in New Jersey and is buried there.^h The Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville was established and largely maintained in the pioneer years through his efforts and zeal.

In 1854 Miss Phoebe Swart gave \$100 to start a fund for building a church. Rev. A. W. Sproull, pastor at that time, visited the Churches in the South for the purpose of soliciting funds and he collected considerable money in this way.^h The church was completed in 1855, and dedicated in November of that year.ⁱ Its location was on the corner just west of the conference house. This church went safely through the war. From the close of the war to July, 1866, it was used by the U. S. Government for purposes connected with the Freedmen's Bureau.^j

After the War Between the States serious dissensions arose among the members of the congregation. The pastors from the North who occupied the pulpit attempted to change the ecclesiastical relation of the Church from the Presbytery of Florida to which it was then attached, to that of Philadelphia of the Northern Assembly. This movement was opposed by the Southern element of the Church and when it prevailed nine members withdrew on March 6, 1867, elected new officers and continued to exist as the original Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville. The church and other property were held by the Northern members.^k

The little band of nine members soon increased to sixteen and on June 30, 1867, Rev. W. B. Telford preached to them in the Methodist church, then called St. Paul's. After worshipping in Hoeg's hall for some time the Southern congregation purchased a lot at the southeast corner of Monroe and Newnan Streets where in the latter part of 1870 they erected