

be a body corporate, by the name and style of the Church Wardens and Vestrymen of St. John's Church at Jacksonville. * * *

The congregation began to raise funds for the erection of a church. The ladies of the Church added materially to the building fund by means of a sewing society, over which Mrs. Thomas Douglas presided for a long time. One-half of the square owned by St. John's Church, at the head of Market Street, was deeded to the Church September 17, 1842, by Mrs. Maria Doggett, as a donation; the other portion was acquired at a later date.^c

The corner-stone of the church was laid Sunday, April 24th, 1842, by Rt. Rev. Christopher Edwards Gadsden, Bishop of South Carolina. The structure was soon up and services were held in it, but it was not entirely completed until 1851, when it was consecrated by Rt. Rev. Stephen Elliott, Bishop of Georgia.^e The building was burned by Federal troops March 29th, 1863.

In building the first church, every person who contributed a certain sum of money was given a deed to a pew in his own right, and the same was entailed to his heirs. The early choir was composed as follows: Dr. A. S. Baldwin, leader, base viol; J. W. Bryant, first flute; William Lancaster, second flute. The singers were, Mrs. A. M. Reed, who also played on a melodeon which a servant carried on his shoulders to the church for each service; Miss Eliza Lancaster, and Mrs. William Douglas. The communion service consisted of two small waiters and two silver cups—family silver loaned by Mrs. Susan L'Engle. A burial plot was provided north of the church for members of the congregation, and the ashes of some of Jacksonville's early residents still occupy the original graves, although most of the bodies were removed many years ago to the old city cemetery on East Union Street.^d

In 1866, a temporary wooden church was erected and the congregation worshipped in it eleven years. The corner stone of a new church was laid April 7, 1874; there was considerable delay in completing it, and it was not until Easter Day, April 1, 1877, that the first service was held in the edifice.^e This was a handsome red brick church, costing \$27,000 and having a seating capacity for 800. It was consecrated May 7, 1882, by Bishop John Freeman Young.ⁱ This church.