

HISTORY

(As told by Aaron M. Wicks, son of Zack and Ella Wicks)

I knew my grandfather, Dennis Wicks, and remember him in his old age. After he was too old to farm, he made baskets for all of the plantations near by.

I was told by my old aunt, that my great Granddaddy was named Ned. He was bought in Columbus by a farmer named Gilmore. He was a slave and a man that was very religious. He would walk 12 miles every Sunday to preach in Columbus. He was told by his White Master to stop going to preach or he would put 40 lashes on his back. Granddaddy told him "Sir, if you give me 100 lashes, I am going to preach". His White Master finally accepted him as his minister.

My old great aunt said he would talk about his trip from Georgia to Mississippi. He said that they traveled by wagons through the forest making a fire at night when they stopped to keep the wild animals and ghosts away. They crossed rivers on ferries—the strong would walk and the women and children would ride in the wagons.

After they were freed, my Granddaddy Dennis worked for a white man named Charles Smith on havers (halves). If you were smart and worked hard, he would give you what you made. Old man Dennis worked hard and made good crops. He managed to save a little money and had enough to pay down on 200 or more acres of land. He was not satisfied working for shares. He raised his family in his own home and with their help they paid for the land.

Grandfather Dennis had two brothers that I knew Uncle Elijah and Uncle Robert. He had more brothers, but I did not know them. He had two sisters, Aunt Julie and Aunt Carolina.

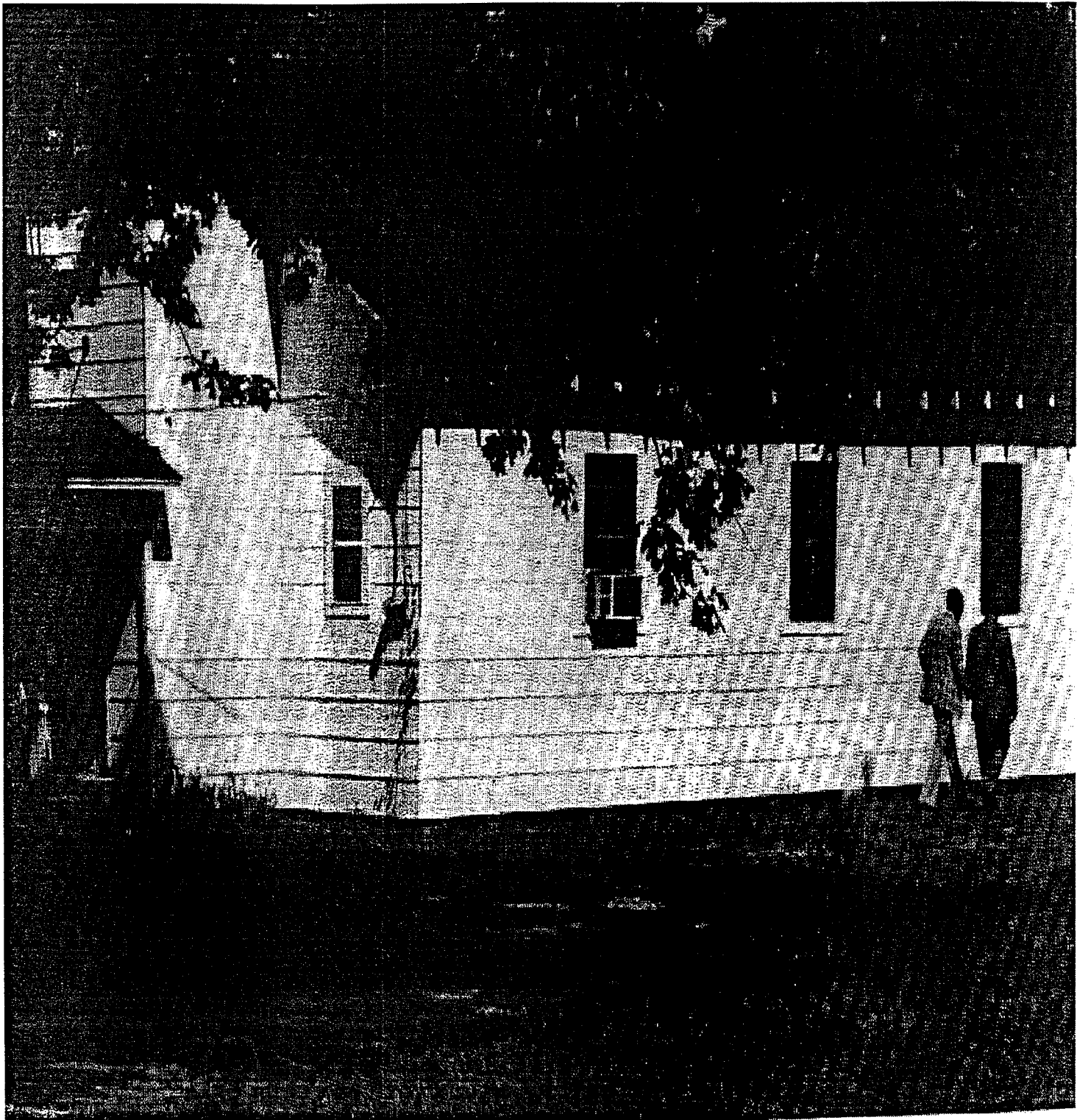
I do know that Granddaddy believed in religion and education. He built a church and a school on his land.



Dennis Wicks, Sr.
1826-1920



Dennis Wicks, Jr. (1871-1944) and Zack Wicks, Sr. (1872-1950)



**New Zion Baptist Church
(The Family Church)**



Zack (Zacharisas) (Z. R.) and Ella Victoria Regina Wicks
(1872-1950) (1877-1951)