



# Photouring Florida

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## ST. PAUL'S DATES BACK TO TERRITORIAL DAYS

QUINCY --- The enchanting, vine-covered sanctuary of St. Paul's Episcopal Church houses a congregation that dates back to the territorial days. The church survived almost unbelievable hardships in the early days and through wars and depressions since.

Although the first rector, the Rev. Jehu Jones, found Quincy in 1839 to be "a pretty, interesting and very healthy village," he didn't stay long to guide the church in its formative stage. According to a history of the Episcopal Church in Florida, Jones got the church into financial troubles early, left his charge without notice, abandoned the priesthood to study law in 1841. Later he was admitted to the Georgia Bar, elected to Congress from Pennsylvania in 1851 and became Minister to Austria in 1858.

But St. Paul's struggled along. Its first vestry was elected in December, 1838 and the parish came into the Diocese in January, 1839. It was incorporated by the Territorial Legislature in February that year. The first church building was, constructed on the same site in 1839 and was consecrated on Feb. 21, 1841 (though Pastor Jones didn't show up for the event).

During the Civil War, St. Paul's church served as a Confederate Army hospital. It was so debt-ridden, the building again was put up for sale, an illegal act under the church. The depression after the war also found St. Paul's in financial embarrassment. The church survived. The present building was erected in 1892 and has been enlarged since. The present administration says the church has served since the Civil War as a "general hospital for sinners."

