On October 26, 1765, John Barnett was sent from England by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to replace Rev. John McDowell who had left sometime before. Barnett’s duties included preaching at the old St. Philips Church which was completed during his ministry, and to what he described as remote congregations. In a letter to his conference secretary dated 22 August 1767 John Barnett wrote:

“Nine times in the year, I preach at the Boundary House situated on the line between the Carolinas. Here a large congregation meets...At my first coming they were so unacquainted with liturgy that I was obliged to make every response myself, but I for many Sundays afterward spent about half an hour before the divine service in explaining every part of the Liturgy and I have now the pleasure of seeing it well performed there as in most country churches.”

[From article in the IRQ, October 1970, page 12, by C.B.Berry]