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The Rev. John McDowell came from England and assumed duties as pastor of St. Philips Parish in old Brunswick Town in May 1757. He also traveled a circuit which reached Little River. On June 15, 1762, he reported to the Secretary as follows:

“The reason I have already baptized so many this current year is this: I was out the 9th of May at the Boundary line which divides North and South Carolina and, as my parish joins the South province, I had the largest congregation from both provinces, I ever saw since I have been in America and baptized 23 children on that occasion.”

“My parish of St. Phillips runs from the mouth of the Cape Fear River along the sea side to Little River...”

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