

History of the Lutheran Churches  
in Orangeburg County, S. C.

The records do not show the exact time when St. Matthews, which is the oldest church in the county, was first organized. It must evidently have had a very early date, in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. My great-grand father, Charles Burckmeyer, who was born & educated a Lutheran in Germany, migrated to South Carolina prior to the year 1730. He settled, first in the "Dutch Fork", Seecington county, then in the "Saxe Gotha" settlement on the Congaree & Santee rivers. Afterwards, he removed to Charleston, in 1730, where he spent the last years of his life. Being a Lutheran, & residing in the vicinity of the present St. Matthews Church, he probably participated in the organization of the first church, & in that event, it must have been organized prior to the year 1730.

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