

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

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Nazaree Brumfield Walthall County, Route 3, Box 118

I am a deacon of the Mount Canaan Baptist Church in Pike County, Mississippi. On August 5, 1964, my church was burned by unknown arsons. I was informed early Thursday morning, August 6, of the burning by Pearly Holmes. I contacted Mr. Payton, another Deacon, and together, we went to find Stanley Boyd, a Sheriff's deputy, in Pike County, who lives in the general vicinity of the burned church. We all came back to the church, and Mr. Boyd called for other officers. A Highway Patrolman came, as well as Herbert Bearden, the Constable of Pike County. The officers went inside the church and gathered evidence, which included matches, a rag, and cigarettes. The officers then left the scene without further discussing it with any of the bystanders, which included Mr. Payton and myself. I haven't heard anything from any of the law enforcement officers since that day.