

**Interesting Chapters in W. N. C. History
BREVARD-DAVIDSON RIVER CHURCH
OLD PRESBYTERIAN INSTITUTION**

By
(JUDGE ROBERT L. GASH)

(1851-1860)

Rev. C. P. Baldwin having severed his connection with the church in the summer of 1850, the church was then vacant and the records are silent until March 1851, when we find the brief record, "the Revs. N. Hood and William Graves held a two days meeting at Mills River Academy and the next Saturday and Sunday at D. R. Church." Interest seems to have been aroused at once for the records show meetings held, Communion Services held and a general activity aroused. Most of the meetings being held by Messrs. Hood and Graves. During this period, among those who joined the church were, F. C. Byers, M. M. Murray, Elizabeth Miller, Ananias Young, J. W. Davis, D. D. Murray, Jane Patton, Mary E. Mills, Mary Allen and Sarah Brown. Mr. Hood was then employed as a missionary by Union Presbytery and sent out to fill the pulpit in the various vacant churches in the bounds of the Presbytery.

At the Camp Meeting held in August 1851, Mr. Graves was called to the Presbytery. A public collection on the date it was called amounted to fifteen dollars. Ten dollars of which was given to Mr. Graves and \$5.00 to Mr. Hood. Mr. Hood promised to procure \$100.00 per year from the Home Mission Society toward Mr. Graves support and the session agreed to secure \$200.00. Mr. Graves accepted this proposition, agreed to move his family into the bounds of the church and commence his active ministerial work the following November and we find the record on November 10, 1851 that Mr. Graves had moved his family into the parsonage at Mills River Academy and commenced his ministerial labors according to arrangements.

Another instance of the result of church discipline in the days gone by is found in the minutes of May 30, 1852: "Session met and restored Sarah Trull to church privileges, who had been charged with a crime by Common Fame against the peace and order of the church, who had given satisfactory evidence of repentance."

The year 1852 seems to have been an active one and among those who united with the church were, E. B. Corpening, Elizabeth Summey, Penelope Young, Rebecca Lyday, M. E. Neill, A. Hamilton, M. A. Hamilton, George Summey, W. H. Graves, M. A. Graves, H. M. Deavor, J. M. Mackey, P. J. Mills, N. A. Osborne, Nancy Lee, J. A. Mackey, M. L. Devenport, J. L. E. Devenport, S. L. Miller and M. A. Anderson.

On August 14, 1852 there is a notation that a collection was taken up, which amounted to \$16.50 which was given to Mr. Graves, "to pay the expense of the meeting and keep the balance."

At the foot of the page containing the 1842 records there is a notation by George Orr, Clerk of session, without date in the following words: "For the ministerial labors of Rev. William Graves the past year, the church paid him \$260.00. The \$60.00 was raised to make up for the \$100.00 promised by Rev. H. which he neglected to obtain to aid us in sustaining said Graves."

The next year, 1853, there are usual formal entrance meetings held, records of receiving into the church B. A. Hollingsworth, M. J. Williams, A. Clayton and E. Allen.

At the Camp Meeting held in August the collection amounted to the unheard of amount of \$25.00, of which \$10.00 was given to Rev. Smith of Tennessee, \$5.00 to Mr. Graves to pay the commissioners fund, \$2.25 Presbyterial taxes, \$2.00 to the Rev. J. Hood and the balance of \$13.00 to meet other claims due from the church, as usual, and to defray the expenses of our representative to Presbytery and Synod. (It is a little difficult to figure out just how the arithmetic and finances work on these figures but this is the way it is stated in the record.)

The record for the year closed with the record of sending J. W. Killian as representative to Presbytery which met in Maryville, Tennessee, the approval of the record by the Presbytery and the characteristic of the clerk, George Orr, "for the ministerial services of the Rev. William Graves the passed year which commenced November 1852 and closed November 1, 1853. We promised to pay his two hundred dollars, paid \$172.00, leaving a deficiency of \$28."

In 1854 there seems to have been quite a commotion in the church when charges were preferred against Dr. A. J. Lyday for swearing. Witnesses against him were named as L.

S. Gash, M. A. Young, J. W. Clayton and S. R. Neill. The usual formality was carried out, copies of charges sent to the Doctor, date set for hearing, postponement a time or so and finally a trial held in June 1854. The testimony was rather dry and uninteresting except for the light on the subject given by the witness, Milton Young, to the effect that the Doctor swore at the election at Little River. (Considering the good Doctor's politics and the usual Little River results it is not strange that he did not exactly approve of the Little River election). The session found him guilty and "suspended him from church privileges until he give satisfactory evidence of repentance."

It might be of interest to note that part of the procedure in the old time church trials was for the pastor, at the next preaching service to read the finding and judgment of the tribunal from the pulpit with or without comments of his. Not in this trial, but in some of them. "What the preacher said was aptly."

At the Camp Meeting in August 1854, Mr. Graves was assisted by several preachers, J. C. Carson, J. Hood, Chapman, Morrison, R. W. Patton and L. E. Brittain joined the church and at this meeting is the first time we find a record of the church paying the expenses of the pastor to Presbytery and Synod. The whole sum amounted to \$5.45. George Orr ends the usual church year with the record that the church and congregation had paid Mr. Graves \$173.00 leaving a deficit of \$27.00, according to their original promise.

The year 1855 seems to have been a quiet year; meetings were held regularly. Carson, Hood and Smith assisted Graves at the Camp Meeting. Hulda Kinzey, William Brittain, Rachael Brittain and Laodecia Devenport joined the church. The church sent representatives to Presbytery and Synod as usual. Mr. Graves made a formal report at Presbytery and Synod and the records show that the church and congregation had paid Mr. Graves for his services—\$202.00. Times must have been getting some better for it will be noted that the payment was \$2.00 more than the promised stipend.

In 1856 we have the usual records of meetings and camp meetings receiving into the church Margaret St. Clare Carson, M. A. Miller, Sarah S. Clayton, Rebecca M. Lane, Rachael R. Miller, Nancy E. Brittain. The sending the usual representatives to Presbytery and Synod and paying the preacher's salary, \$205.00. During this year evidently some of the members or the preacher, were impressed with the carelessness with which the church records were kept and John Murray and John Clayton Sr. were appointed a committee to revise and correct the church session book and have it transcribed. We also have records of appointment of committees to see various members touching certain unfavorable reports about them.

The year 1857 had very similar records and along here we have the records of J. S. Summey, M. R. Summey and G. H. Seneker, F. R. Brittain, Benjamin Lane, Sarah E. Deavor and Mrs. Martha Johnson joined the church. At the Camp Meeting in this year we find the record that the Lord's Supper was administered to about two hundred communicants and we also find the record of the payment of "\$2.00 for table cloths and wine," and the record of the ordination of William Brittain as a Deacon and J. S. Summey and J. H. Seneker as Ruling Elders and also a record of quite a number of baptisms.

Record of 1858 is very similar—record of meetings, Camp Meetings, baptisms, etc. It was during this year that the question was up as to whether this church would go without "United Synod" or "Old School" and the vote in this question which was a little more than four to one in favor of the "Old School." In 1859 the movement took form that divided the church into two churches and in the Fall of 1859 Presbytery appointed Rev. Dr. Chapman, Rev. G. D. Parks and A. T. Summey as committee to organize a church at Mills River to be known as the Mills River Church. (It had formerly been a branch of the Davidson River Church) and the following March, 1860 Mr. Graves formally resigned as pastor of Davidson River Church.

It was during the pastorate of Mr. Graves that the second church building was erected at Davidson River about 1855 and the Davidson River Academy was established. At that time there were a number of well-to-do farmers in the Davidson River and French Broad Valleys who wished better educational facilities in this section and they took steps to build a combined church and school house; the old building being totally inadequate for either church or school. The building committee included William Deaver, Elizur Patton and J. W. Killian.

lian. Those taking part in the movement for better schools controlled a greater part of the property owners of the section, but in numbers were a decided minority in the church. There were various discussions about the management of the school part of the building, if the church were placed on the old Davidson tract where the earlier building stood. William Deaver seems to have been in charge of the construction but did not seem to be worried over the administration of the school. He owned the field adjoining the church property on the east. The plans for the new building placed the church on the second floor, a large auditorium that would comfortably hold several hundred people, the ground floor contained two large school rooms. After the church was built and when the arrangement of the school, management of the building, etc. were discussed, Mr. Deaver stated that he guessed he would also have to be consulted if there were anything attempted either unusual or improper in the conduct of either church or school. Taking his compass to a corner of the church grove, (which was the corner of his field), he sighted at the next corner and a glance through the sights showed that the church and school building had been erected with the sill and a foot or so of the building on the church grounds and the remainder across the line on his land. He gave the would-be managers to understand that when it was settled that there would be an efficient and well conducted school and church going, and with good prospect of continuing together, he would deed the additional property to the church, but until permanent arrangements were made he still retained a controlling interest in the property. For some reason the disagreements died out. What was a very efficient school for those days was maintained for many years. Strong teachers were employed, notably J. H. Seneker and D. McNeill Turner.

At the beginning of Mr. Graves' pastorate the church was disorganized, weak and doing nothing; at the end of his pastorate it was a strong church and also, a strong church. (Mills River) had been cut off from it. Davidson River Academy was being conducted and everything was going smoothly at the time he resigned. (It was just as the war clouds were gathering which brought on the Civil War).—To Be Continued.

**LEGISLATORS NOW TO EXPLAIN SEE BIG EGG NOW
TO IRATE FOLKS BACK HOME AT B. & B. FEED CO.**

(By CARL GOERCH)

The Legislature (maybe) is o'er,
The weary members homeward go,
While happy people shout and sing:
"Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!"

Anybody ought to be pardoned for breaking out into poetry during this gladsome and joyous week. Throughout the various sections of the State, our people undoubtedly are dancing and caroling in their joy over developments in Raleigh.

The Legislature finally has decided to call it a day's work and go home. Hundreds of bills have been passed and have become laws unto themselves. During the last three or four weeks, however, about the only thing that was done was to argue. The legislators were in no hurry to adjourn, because as long as they stayed in Raleigh, they were safe from bill-collectors and bankers back home. Nobody dared press them too vigorously, because they might turn right around and pass some kind of a crazy law just for spite. So they just stuck to their jobs and argued.

However, they didn't gain much, because the minute they get back home they'll have to resume their arguing. It is going to take a whole lot of explaining for some of them to get by.

The luxury tax was finally decided upon as the best method of helping finance the MacLean law. Instead of being interested in financing a six-months' school term, most of the opponents to the law probably would have been only too glad to help finance a six-months' jail term for Mr. MacLean.

Just the same, you've got to admit that the attenuated Scotsman certainly held their feet to the fire.

I was up in Raleigh Monday, talking to the Governor.

"Well," I remarked thoughtlessly, "your troubles will soon be over. The Legislature will be clearing out of here in a day or two."

"Over!" he echoed. "You mean they'll just be beginning. Just look at the organization work and reorgan-

ization work that will have to be done!"

Come to think of it, he probably will be busy for some time to come. There's the new highway department to start functioning smoothly, there's the new county government department, and the purchasing department and the consolidation of the three principal educational institutions receiving State support, and the new system for operating the schools—and Heaven knows what else! There is no question but that His Excellency is going to have his hands full. Legislatures may come and Legislatures may go, but Governors apparently have to keep right on going. They can't adjourn until their term expires. And even then don't adjourn of their own volition; they're kicked out of office.

And while I'm on the subject, I'd like to add another word or two. Some of the folks have been slammung Max sort of vigorously during the last month or two, but I've had a chance to talk with quite a number of the leading members of the Legislature—fellows on both sides of the fence—and I have yet to find one who doesn't admit that he handled things in first-class shape. The slammung is being done principally by folks back home who don't know what it's all about.

Well, anyway, the boys are leaving Raleigh and are scattering in all directions. Ed. Flanagan is going back to Greenville to run his garage, Bob Hanes has headed for Winston-Salem to take charge of his pants factory again, Bruce Etheridge has returned to the coast to resume peddling fish, Colonel Garibaldi has gone to Charlotte to fix watches and clocks some more, Bill Neal will continue knitting sox, John Holmes will take up his ploughing where he left off, and Ed. Johnston has gone back behind his counter to sell sardines and crackers and Rivers Johnson has sauntered back to Warsaw to resume loafing. The big show is all over.

And just this final word Taking every thing into consideration, it is strange for a while, though; having nobody to cuss or fuss with. But—there's always one's wife left!

"What an egg! That's what everyone is saying today and then adding, 'Some canary that laid that egg.' Such are the outspoken comments on the big egg on display at B & B Feed Co.

There's a story back of the big egg and the exhibit. It's a part of a national campaign by the Purina Mills through several thousand dealers in United States and Canada to encourage the production of big eggs. It has been found that the market wants big eggs and discriminates against small sized pullet eggs.

In order to produce big eggs there must be big body development. A small size pullet cannot produce large eggs. For that reason poultrymen are being urged to feed the poultry flock a good growing ration during the growing months this summer in order to insure large body development by the pullets, insuring the production of large eggs when they come into production this fall.

On 5,000 birds in a recent Canadian national egg laying contest it was found those fed a growing ration laid 51 more eggs that averaged 2.2 ounces more per dozen than those that were not properly fed during the growing season. Very important is the fact that birds fed properly during the growing period come into production earlier in the fall, usually at a time when egg prices are starting upward, while birds that are not properly fed during the growing period come into production late and often when egg prices are starting downward.

Yes, there's a real story back of that big egg at the B & B.

voted more serious thought or more careful consideration to the problems of the State than the one which has just busted up. We've all been having a good time, throwing brickbats at them occasionally, but they've done mighty well at that.

Our Legislative jag is over. It's time to sober up and get back to work again. It'll be sort of lonesome and strange for a while, though; having nobody to cuss or fuss with. But—there's always one's wife left!

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