

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

By
(JUDGE ROBERT L. GASH)

In the summer of 1878 Rev. W. H. Davis was called to this church, and he filled the pulpit for twelve years, until the summer of 1890. To understand the work of Mr. Davis, a brief sketch of the man and his work is necessary.

Of great influence on the life of W. H. Davis was his father, Dolphin Alston Davis, a banker, who began his career as a clerk in the Fayetteville branch of the United States Bank; was later manager of the Salisbury branch of the Cape Fear Bank; and, later founded the Davis and Wiley Bank of Salisbury, of which bank he was president until his death in 1880. One of his ideas on the education of his sons was to give each two years work in the bank, in addition to the other education he acquired. This portion of his education was of great assistance to W. H. Davis.

William Henry Davis was born in 1845 at Salisbury; in the Civil War he was a member of Ramsey's Battery of the 10th Artillery; was captured, and spent the last few months of the war as a prisoner at Point Lookout; graduated from Davidson College in 1869, and from Union Theological Seminary in 1872. In addition to being an able preacher, he was a good business man, an ardent sportsman, and a general favorite with all who knew him. His first work was evangelistic, in the mountain field embracing what is now Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Cherokee, Graham and Swain counties. This was a large field, a great deal of rough territory, and the fact that to this day many of the old settlers still talk of his work and his personality, and compare both favorably with those who have been and still are working in the same localities, speaks well for his work. After a few years this work, he was called to the Sharon Church in Mecklenburg County. From that church he went to Davidson River in 1878. At first he rented a house in Brevard. Shortly after he built the house near Davidson River, which is still known as the old Davis Place, and is owned by two of his children. In the early eighties he assisted in and superintended the building of the Presbyterian Church in Brevard. Leaving the Davidson River Church in 1890, he spent several years at Charlotte Courthouse in Virginia; was pastor of the Providence Church in Kentucky; was again pastor of Sharon Church, and in 1908 again came to Davidson River, which church he served until he retired in 1915. From his retirement in 1915, until his death in 1919, he spent much of his time in Home Mission work for Asheville Presbytery, often preaching at Mills River, Swannanoa, Preston, Etowah, and elsewhere.

For some years during the eighties, he was County Superintendent of Schools in Transylvania County, and was for many years one of the trustees of Davidson College.

It is of interest to note that the W. H. Davis place, near Davidson River, included the land owned by the Rev. Daniel Davis, the first pastor of Davidson River Church, the location of the Daniel Davis house being near the spring, about two hundred yards in front of the W. H. Davis house.

When Mr. Davis came to Davidson River Church, the acute stage of reconstruction days had passed; the section was fairly prosperous; the branch of the Davidson River Church adhering to the Northern General Assembly had practically died out, and about that time its church building was turned over to the old church; the church owned a lot in Brevard, donated by the newly form-

ed county of Transylvania, and it was a new thing for this section for a local church to have the entire time of an able, well educated preacher, and one who lived among them and gave his entire time to his church and pastoral work.

Shortly after he came to Brevard revival services were being carried on in Brevard, and Mr. Davis wholeheartedly joined in the work. He made a lasting and favorable impression on the preachers of the other denominations, by being able to reach a number of the "hard boiled" citizens who had apparently never been influenced by any preacher or preaching before, and, also, by his stand that the important thing was for the men to be saved, and that they should feel perfectly free to unite with whichever denomination they preferred.

His church being several miles in the country, Mr. Davis early started the movement for the Presbyterians to build a church in Brevard. The result is the Brevard Church. For years he preached at Davidson River on Sunday mornings, and on Sunday afternoons preached at Brevard or at Glade Creek (the "Northern" Davidson River Church).

The universal high regard of all people for him, regardless of denomination, shows how well he was looked on by the community. By common consent he was the arbiter and judge (unofficially of course) of many of the differences between citizens for miles around. His slow deliberate drawl, and his endless supply of dry humor, was the "life of the gathering" on numberless occasions.

Shortly after the Brevard Church was finished, a movement started for the organization of a church in Brevard, and this issue stirred the church considerably for several years, and some criticized him severely because he insisted that there should be sufficient membership and strength to maintain a church in Brevard as well as at Davidson River, and it took considerable time for the advocates of the new church to see the wisdom of "erecting the fences and cultivating the ground" for some time before taking on the responsibilities of a separate organization.

It was during the mid-eighties that Transylvania County voted bonds to aid in the construction of the C. K. & W. R. R. from Greenville, S. C., to Knoxville, Tenn., the bonds to be delivered on the completion of the road through Transylvania County. Contractors worked for a long time grading the new railroad from Jones Gap to the French Broad valley. It was about 1888 or 1889 that the railroad company failed, and also the contractors. Nearly everybody in the county had been either working for the contractors, or selling them supplies. Everybody was hard hit, and there was the worst period of "hard times" in Transylvania County from the Civil War to the present "world depression."

The church work, like every other kind of work, was hampered by the general economic conditions, and with adverse local conditions, and a growing family, it was more and more difficult for the preacher to make "both ends meet."

In the summer of 1890 the call came from Charlotte Courthouse, Virginia. This presented a larger and wider field for his activities, and offered better educational facilities for his children. Mr. Davis accepted the call.

A strong testimonial to the place Mr. Davis held in the community life is shown by the fact that when the movement came seventeen years later to again call Mr. Davis to Davidson River, a number of citizens, members of other denominations, pledged sums to help pay his salary.

The fall of 1890 again found old Davidson River without a regular pastor, and with preaching services supplied from time to time by Dr. D. McNeill Turner, who was spending a few months at Davidson River.

(To be continued)

Administrator's NOTICE

State of North Carolina
County of Transylvania.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

Having qualified as administrator of the Estate of Ollie J. Perry, deceased, late of Transylvania County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of the deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at his home at Calvert, N. C. Cathays Creek Township, on or before the 18th day of June 1932 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 18th day of June 1931.
J. J. PERRY, Administrator of the estate of Ollie J. Perry, deceased.
6t Jn 18-25jly2,9,16,23

ETOWAH NEWS

In honor of Mrs. J. Volney Blythe's birthday anniversary, and coming as a complete surprise to her, Miss Eleanor Gaillard of Charleston, S. C., who has spent the past few weeks at the Blythe home, entertained a number of friends on Monday, June 22, from four till six p.m. Cake, ice cream and candy were served to about 20 guests.

After spending two weeks at the home of Rev. and Mrs. D. L. Earnhardt, J. T. Ervin has returned to his home at Cherryville, N. C.

Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Mosely of Hendersonville, were Sunday visitors here.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Dalton were called to Brevard on account of the sudden death there Saturday of the latter's sister, Mrs. James Killian.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Gray of Flat Rock road, were Sunday visitors here.

Mrs. H. G. Buckner and three children have been visiting relatives at Reem's Creek for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Blythe of Ebenezzer section, were visitors here Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Tracy and Lon and Roy have arrived from Miami, Fla., to spend the summer at their cottage here.

Rev. H. O. Baker filled his regular appointment at the Baptist church here Sunday.

Mrs. R. M. Blythe and daughter, Charlotte, Mr. and Mrs. Surret Nicholson and young son were recent visitors to relatives and friends at Greenville, S. C.

Ulys Justus of Black Mountain, was here Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Orr and four children, Nettie Ann, Phyllis, Harold and Christine of East Hendersonville, were Sunday visitors here.

Mrs. S. C. Bellamy and daughter Carolyn and son Edward of Wilmington, N. C., are spending some time at the home of the former's mother, Mrs. C. E. Mallett, near Etowah.

Miss Eleanor Gaillard left Thursday for her home in Charleston, S. C. Miss Gaillard has visited at Etowah for the past three years and has won many friends here.

Miss Marie Lance, who was called home from the National Military hospital, Dayton, Ohio, a few weeks ago on account of the illness of her sister, Miss Minnie Lance, who is at Patton Memorial hospital, Hendersonville, made a brief visit to her father, S. B. Lance, and sister, Miss Louise Lance, recently.

Friends of Miss Minnie Lance will be glad to learn that her condition is slightly improved.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wilson, a son, Clarence, Jr.

Mrs. Lee Johnson and daughter, Miss Mona Johnson, have arrived from Miami, Fla., and are at the Gash home.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Nicholson attended the funeral of Mrs. James Killian Sunday.

S. B. Lance, J. J. Gray and two daughters, Emma Sue and Dorothy Gray of this place, and H. W. Gray of Flat Rock road, visited friends at Pleasant Grove Sunday afternoon.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Under the power of sale contained in that certain deed in trust executed by W. W. Reid and wife, Lecus Reid, to Lewis Hamlin, trustee, dated the 22nd day of June, 1929, and recorded in the office of the register of deeds for Transylvania county, North Carolina, in book 24 on page 220, et seq., and default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and demand having been made for sale, the undersigned trustee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at 12 o'clock M., on the 27th day of July, 1931, at the courthouse door in the town of Brevard, N. C., the following described piece or parcel of land, lying and being in Hogback township, and more particularly described as follows:

First Tract: On the waters of Flat creek, beginning on the creek at the mouth of a small ditch and runs up said ditch south 38 east 36 poles to a 5' small white oak at corner of the fence; thence with the same south 15 east 8 poles to a stone crossing the branch; thence south 75 east 14 poles to a stake; thence south 50 east 8 poles to a stake; thence east 8 poles to a stake at wire fence; thence with wire fence south 50 east 14 poles to a stake at a gate; thence north 51 east 10 feet to a stake at the W. E. Reed corner; thence north 48 east 24 poles to a stake in the R. E. Wood line on top of the Blue Ridge; thence north 34 west 27 poles to a stone on top of the Blue Ridge, passing W. W. Reed at 4 poles passing another corner at 18 poles to a chestnut stump, old corner; thence north 60 west 32 poles to a stake in the creek and in the line that divides the land between G. J. Whitmire and T. V. Smith, thence up and with the creek south 14 1-2 west 17 poles to the beginning, containing all the land enclosed in deed from G. J. Whitmire and wife, Cora Whitmire, dated the 30th day of August, 1920, recorded in the office of the register of deeds for Transylvania county in book 45 at page 162 and containing nine acres, more or less.

Second Tract: Beginning on a stone and pine stump, Johnny C. Whitmire and W. W. Reid's corner, and runs south 41 1-2 east 54 poles to a black pine in Norton line; then with his line north 27 1-2 east 92 poles to a locust in a small hollow, Norton's corner; thence north 62 1-2 west 6 poles to a small maple in Johnny Whitmire line of his home tract; thence south 84 west 37 poles to a Spanish oak on top of Blue Ridge and in own line; thence south 10 west 11 poles to the beginning, containing twenty-one acres, more or less, and being the same land deeded to W. E. Reed and wife, Lecus Reid, by Johnny Whit-

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

Lake Toxaway News

Miss Lovella Merrill of Penrose, is spending this week at Toxaway, visiting relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Arrowood Lee and son Boyd were dinner guests of Mrs. Fannie McCoy last Sunday.

Paul McCoy and Cecil Robertson were Fairfield visitors last Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Fisher and family spent last Sunday with Mrs. Fisher's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kinsey Miller.

Toxaway and Quebec played ball last Saturday at "Tip Top." Quite a number of Toxaway people attended. J. C. McCall of Oakland, spent a few days last week with L. C. Case, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Lou O'Shields were called to South Carolina last week on account of the death of one of Mr. O'Shields' relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. McNeely gave an ice cream supper for the B. Y. P. U. last Friday night.

Lyle McCoy and Emmitt Owen were in Selica last week.

Mrs. Leonard Thomas had as her guest last week her brother, Oscar McCall, of Oakland.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Foster and children of Leicester, N. C., spent the week-end with Mrs. Foster's mother, Mrs. Fannie McCoy.

Coming as a surprise to their many friends was the wedding of Miss Nettie Sanders and Mr. Walter McKinna last Saturday at Picketts, S. C. Mrs. McKinna is the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Sanders.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Ray and Mrs. D. C. Scruggs and children spent one day last week at Penrose with Mrs. Lyda and daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Gillespie were Asheville visitors last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McNeely of Tryon spent last Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. W. W. McNeely.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Tinsley and children left last week for a visit to Washington, D. C.

Mr. B. T. Egerton went to Asheville last Sunday to see a nephew who is very ill in a hospital.

Mrs. C. J. Moltz returned home last week from Savannah, Ga., where she had spent several days.

C. Williams spent last Saturday in Asheville.

Rev. and Mrs. Kuykendall and children and Mrs. Tinsley of Brevard, spent last Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. Ben Owen.

Mrs. D. C. Scruggs and daughter Elaine, spent last Saturday in Highlands, N. C.

Luther Owen of Wolf Mountain, spent last Saturday night with his daughter, Mrs. Cole Lee.

PISGAH FOREST NINE PLAN SOCIABLE THURSDAY NIGHT

An ice cream supper has been arranged at Pisgah Forest for this Thursday night at the Davidson River school house. The supper is being held to raise money to help defray expenses of the Pisgah Forest club and to arouse the spirit of the club and supporters in the coming invasion of the Carolina Valley league. The girls of the community have agreed to bake cakes, thereby helping and taking pride in the ball club. A lot of fun is expected.

REVIVAL TO BEGIN SUNDAY AT GLADY BRANCH CHURCH

Announcement is made that Rev. I. N. Kuykendall will begin a revival meeting at Gladly Branch church next Sunday evening, to which all people are invited. Song service will begin each evening at 7:45, and preaching services will start half an hour later, or at 8:15 each evening.

Wm. and wife, T. E. Whitmire, by deed dated February 22nd, 1923, said deed recorded in the office of the register of deeds for Transylvania county, N. C., in deed book No. 45, at page 167.

Said sale being made for the purpose of satisfying said debt, interest, costs and expenses of said sale.

This 26th day of June, 1931.
LEWIS P. HAMLIN, Trustee.
July 2-9-16-23.

NOTICE OF SALE

Sealed bids will be received at ten A. M., July 14th, 1931, by the Local Government Commission of North Carolina, at its office in Raleigh, for \$64,000.00 Funding and Refunding Bonds of the town of Brevard, State of North Carolina, dated 1st July 1931, denomination \$1000.00, maturing \$2000.00 per annum on July 1st in each of the years 1938 to 1945 inclusive, and \$3000.00 per annum on July 1st in each of the years 1946 to 1961 inclusive; interest payable semi-annually on January 1st and July 1st at the rate of six per centum per annum, principal and interest payable at the Chase National Bank in the City of New York, N. Y.; general obligations, unlimited tax, negotiable coupon bonds, no option of prior payment before maturity. Issued under authority of the Municipal Finance Act as amended. There will be no auction.

The town will furnish legality approval of Storey, Thorndike, Palmer and Dodge, Attorneys and Counsellors at Law, of Boston, Mass.

Bidders must present with their bids a certified check upon an incorporated bank or trust company payable unconditionally to the order of the State Treasurer for two per cent of the face value of the bonds bid for, the purpose of such check being to secure the town against any loss resulting from the failure of the bidder to comply with the terms of his bid. No bid for less than par and accrued interest can be considered. Right is reserved to reject all bids.

By direction of Local Government Commission,
CHARLES M. JOHNSON, Director.
This June 30, A. D., 1931.
Easterling.

CRAB CREEK NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Farmer McCrary and children were visitors at Neal Hamilton's Sunday; also Mr. and Mrs. Joe McCrary.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Paterson motored to Hendersonville on business Monday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Manson Hamilton, Arthur Hamilton, Gladys Hamilton, Mrs. Arthur Pickelsimer and Mrs. A. L. Hamilton and children visited Mrs. Manson Hamilton's sister, Mrs. Lee Kilpatrick, Sunday.

Miss Laura Turner of Picketts, S. C., are returning home after spending a few days with her sister, Mrs. Ruth Osborne of Geter Mountain.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Drake and little daughter Helen spent the day with Miss Leona and Colonel Pridmore Sunday.

Mrs. Henry Pridmore has been very ill for the past few days.

Mr. Carter Blythe was at Neal Hamilton's on business Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Davis visited Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Lance Saturday night.

Mrs. C. C. Orr and brother, Tilman Hood, were callers at Mrs. Dalsia Pridmore's Friday.

Mrs. J. A. McCall was a visitor at Mrs. Lou Hamilton's Saturday.

Miss Leona Pridmore spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Ben Garren at Berea.

Mrs. Sue Jenkins is on the sick list. Rev. John Sentell visited Mrs. G. T. Pridmore Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Garren and children of Berea, Mr. and Mrs. George Pridmore and children visited Mrs. Pridmore's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Kuykendall, Sunday.

Mr. Jess Osborne and Mr. Balos Anderson and Mrs. Sue Jenkins made a business trip to Hendersonville Wednesday.

Mr. M. H. Lance visited Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Lance, Sunday.

Mrs. Jane McKinney had the misfortune of being in a wreck and knocked from a truck, fracturing the bone in one of her legs. She is doing well as could be expected.

NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF TRANSYLVANIA

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain deed of trust executed by C. E. Lowe and wife, Fannie Fortune Lowe, J. G. Lowe and wife, Nina Cook Lowe, to the undersigned, dated August 6, 1924, and of record in Book 14 of Deeds, at page 324 of the Trust deed records of Transylvania County, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured, whereby the power of sale has become operative, the undersigned will, at the request of the holder of the bond secured thereby, and for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness, on the 10th day of July, 1931, at 12 o'clock, M., at the Court House door of Transylvania County, North Carolina, in the City of Brevard, offer for sale at public auction, to the highest bidder, for cash:-

All that certain lot of land lying and being in Town of Brevard, Brevard Township, County of Transylvania, State of North Carolina, and more particularly described and defined as follows:-

Lying on South side of Main Street adjoining lands of Bishop, Ashworth and others and bounded as follows:- BEGINNING on a stake on the South margin of Main Street, 80 feet distant from where the South margin of Main Street intersects West margin of Caldwell Street, this point being a corner of the Bishop lot, and runs from this point, with the South margin of Main Street, North 64 deg. West, 42 1-2 feet to a stake; thence South 26 deg. West, 132 feet to a stake in the Ashworth line; thence with the Ashworth line, South 64 deg. East 42 1-2 feet to a stake at Bishop's line; then with Bishop's line, North 26 deg. East, 132 feet to the beginning.

This being a part of what was once the A. H. King lot; and being the same land described in the aforesaid deed of trust.

This 25th day of May, 1931.
A. C. Mann, Trustee Jnl1,18,25jly2

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