

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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THROUGH THE YEARS

We join all New Bernians, whatever their faith may be, in wishing the First Baptist church a significant and satisfying 150th anniversary.

There have been lean years and fat years for the flock, but in the century and a half that the church has existed in our community it has been a vital and vibrant champion of Christianity's cause.

Neither adversity nor dissension—the congregation has seen plenty of both—dampened typical Baptist ardor for vigorous and enthusiastic worship. About all, Baptist worshippers enjoy their religion.

In this connection, we might add that the Good Book furnishes a sound basis for this attitude. We are admonished to "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness, come before his presence with singing."

Members of the First Baptist church have been following these Biblical instructions explicitly since the church had its beginning. Nobody else, in any other denomination, sings a hymn quite as loud as does a Baptist. Fortunately, most of them also sing reasonably well.

As for the squabbles and feuds that crop up on occasion, they are inevitable in a denomination that refuses to be regimented. Autonomy, or self-rule, is the privilege of individual Baptist churches, and they don't miss the chance to differ with others and among themselves.

However, the First Baptist church has done much more during its 150 years than produce loud singing and ferment a few arguments that stemmed from human frailty. It has done great good in the community, and for Christianity throughout the world.

Liberal giving is a Baptist characteristic, and members of the First Baptist church are no exception to the rule. If the old saying is true that you can tell where a man's heart is by what he shells out money for, Baptists are sold on financing the work of the Lord.

You just can't beat a Baptist at his best. This editor (a Methodist) learned that early from his father, who was a deacon in this selfsame First Baptist church for many years until his death.

It is fitting and proper that ministers from other denominations here have been included among those who will participate in the week-long series of services. No one church or denomination has an exclusive claim to Christianity. And all churches can and should share this anniversary occasion with their Baptist friends.

The event will be a homecoming for two former pastors, Dr. Thomas W. Fryer of the Stanton Memorial Baptist church in Miami, and the Rev. R. A. Thompson of the Second Baptist church in Kershaw, S. C.

It would have been nice for the third former pastor now living to be here too, but Dr. W. H. Horton—in retirement in Arkansas—was unable to come here because of infirmity.

Many distinguished religious leaders will be in our city during the approaching week. Among them is former Congressman Brooks Hayes, who is currently serving as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Another equally outstanding speaker who will be on hand is Dr. William Friday, president of the Greater University of North Carolina. No New Bernian's time will be wasted when he is privileged to listen to men in this category.

For our part, we're looking forward to the anthems too. Donald Smith, who is minister of music, and the organist—Mrs. Andrew Fuller—are a great credit to their church. Under their touch, the First Baptist choir has gone far in the realm of sacred melody.

Yes, it's a big occasion for the Baptists, as well as the rest of us.

Historical Gleanings

—By—

FRANCES B. CLAYPOOLE and ELIZABETH MOORE

LAND TRANSFERS FROM THE CRAVEN COUNTY RECORDS

1712, January 22. CHRISTOPHER DAWSON relinquishes and quitclaims a survey on the North side of NEUSE RIVER between WILKINSON'S POINT and ANDREW MERES ISLAND to TOBIAS SHELLFORD. C2.

1714, July 31. WILLIAM BOOTH, attorney, to THOMAS LEPPER, acknowledges to JOHN BERNARD SHANYWOOLF an assignment of a patent for 190 acres on DAWSON'S CREEK. Randall Fisher and William Webb, witnesses. C2.

1714, December 20. THOMAS HARRYS relinquishes to ALEXANDER NICHOLAS 60 acres on the North side of NEUSE RIVER at the mouth of ORCHARD CREEK, joining PETER PRICE and DUDLEY GARDENS. Robert Turner and John Slocum, witnesses. C2.

1714/15, March 21. HENRY, DUKE OF BEAUFORT, grants for two pounds, to MARTIN FRANCK 190 acres on the North side of NEUSE RIVER, and East side of BEARD'S CREEK, surveyed for ENOCH WARD. C2.

1723, June 19. ROBERT BOND sells 50 acres to ANTHONY MOORE. Beginning at Oak on BROAD CREEK, dividing line between land once belonging to Rees Price and JOSEPH WILKES, up the creek to end of WOOLF PITT POINT . . . to BROAD CREEK. John James and Caleb Metcalf, witnesses. C1.

1729, July 11. RANDOLPH FISHER sells to THOMAS CARRAWAY 130 acres near the land I sold to JAMES KEITH. William Carraway and Hugh Banks, witnesses. C1.

1729, May 2. EDMUND PEARCE sells to THOMAS CARRAWAY 275 acres on the North side of NEUSE RIVER, beginning at middle of the land on said River . . . to POWELL'S POINT. Job Carraway and William Carraway, witnesses. C1.

1729, July 28. JOHN WEXDALE sells to JOHN KEELING 96 acres on the North side of NEUSE RIVER on the East side of BEARD'S CREEK, surveyed by ENOCH WARD and sold to MARTIN FRANCK. John Carraway. C1.

1729. THOMAS CARRAWAY sells to GEORGE WHITLEY 70 acres on the North side of NEUSE RIVER, 30 acres called the ISLAND and 40 acres at the head of ISLAND CREEK, joining EDMUND PEARCE'S line, with liberty to get firewood upon KEITH'S NECK. John Keeling and William Carra-

Village Verses

TO A DESERTED PARK

I wonder, when the night comes on, and everything is dark, If all those old-time baseball thrills are haunting Kafer Park; The base knocks and the fielding gems that made the bleachers roar,

The umps so blind that what they called made everybody sore. Gone are the days of Anderson, of Knowles and Lester Burge, Those slugging days of '38, the one year we could splurge. Gone too are Flythe and Kennel, the Ferebee boys and Shipp, It only seems a week or two, so quick the years can slip.

And in the visiting line-ups were a dozen stars to be, Who were built of big league timber, as anyone can see; For instance there was Keller, a mighty man of swat, And cocky Johnny Humphries who could burn them down the slot.

Jim Tabor's pegs were bullets, and Hitchcock's were the same, Oh I could ramble on and on, recalling each by name; They gave the fans the best they had, and as the years roll by I can't believe the things they hatched are ever gonna die.

I like to think, when night comes on and everything is dark, That all the old-time baseball thrills come out to haunt our park. —JGMcd.

way, witnesses. C1.

1729, December 1. DANIEL SHINE sells to JAMES ROE 300 acres on the North side of NEUSE RIVER, between ORCHARD CREEK and BROAD CREEK, the courses being on a patent for 510 acres dated 11 November, 1719. John Verham, witness. C1.

1729, December 10. JOHN GATLIN sells to JAMES ROE 110 acres on the South side of BROAD CREEK, on the North side of NEUSE RIVER, beginning at a small gut near JOHN MOORE'S house. C1.

1729, December 16. CHARLES HOPTON sells to ELIZABETH WEST 250 acres on the North side of NEUSE RIVER, beginning at POWELL'S CREEK and running down the river to ISLAND CREEK, bound on the East by GEORGE WHITAKER and on the West by WILLIAM CARRAWAY lands. C1.

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He Maketh No Mistake

My Father's way may twist and turn,
My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad I know,
He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray,
My hopes may fade away,
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead
For He doth know the way.

Tho' night be dark and it may seem
That day will never break;
I'll pin my faith, my all in Him,
He maketh no mistake,

There's so much now I cannot see,
My eyesight's far too dim;
But come what may, I'll simply trust
And leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift
And plain it all He'll make.
Through all the way, tho' dark to me,
He made not one mistake.

—A. M. Overton.

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