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SKETCHES COVERING A CENTURY OR MORE OF HISTORIC BETHESDA CHURCH

Early Doings of Its Pastors, Officers and Members--First Burial

(By N. A. McKeithan)

To tradition we owe much of the early history of Bethesda. The community as early as 1751, as shown by certain State records, grants to John Patterson one of which probably covered the land now held by the church and cemetery trustees. Major J. M. D. Ray forty years ago told the writer that his grandmother told him that she and other women buried in 1781 in the night time in the old cemetery Archd. Ray who was killed by Revolutionary soldiers while Ray was in hiding and making shoes in the woods. The place was pointed out to me some years since. Twenty years since a lady who was over 80 years told me that her grandmother told her the first burial in the old cemetery was before the Revolution, that of a little girl who was traveling south, was taken sick and died at her house (this house stood in what is now the new cemetery). A wild rose still marks the spot where stood the gate to the front yard. Bethesda was known as early as 1790 as a place for worship. The first known minister was Colin Lindsay, according to a tradition that I think is worthy of acceptance. I gather from the report to the synod of the Carolinas of October 1, 1795 that in a division of Orange Presbytery creating Concord Presbytery the name of Colin Lindsay with others whose work was in this part of the Presbytery of Orange, Synod, October 31, 1799 lists Colin Lindsay without charge.

March 27, 1801 we find seven candidates before Orange Presbytery at this time among them Murdock McMillan.

October 2, 1800 we find that the Presbytery had conditionally suspended Colin Lindsay.

October 1, 1801 Orange Presbytery reported they had removed the conditional suspension of Colin Lindsay. Among the reports of the Rev. James Hall of sainted memory and action during the Revolution speaks of his visit to Colin Lindsay and Archd. McDiarmid and the revival that spread over the country in 1801-06. This report to the synod by Dr. Hall was in 1810. In this report he mentions only McDiarmid, Murdock McMillan and Malcolm McNair and John McIntyre as of this section. October 5, 1809 the Presbytery of Orange reports receiving John McIntyre.

Extracts from Dr. Hall's report in 1810 say "Mr. McDiarmid and Mr. Lindsay, although having been deposed from the ministry, continue to preach and command influence over thousands of their countrymen from Scotland." It is most evident that these ministers followed their Scotch inclinations too far in the use of ardent spirits. In his report he says "Many families have lately come over to Mr. McIntyre and frequently young people of families who adhere to Mr. Lindsay are taken with convulsions under Mr. McIntyre's preaching."

In the authorization of the formation of Fayetteville Presbytery October 5, 1812 we find Murdock McMillan and John McIntyre. No mention of McDiarmid or Lindsay.

On the 27th of March, 1801, Orange Presbytery met at Barbecue church, seven young men were licensed to the ministry, one of whom was Murdock McMillan and who near this time opened an academical school about 1-2 miles from this church. He taught here for several years and supplied this and surrounding churches. He remained in Moore county, preached and taught until about 1831 when he moved to Tennessee and died near Memphis in 1851. He organized Ephraim church in 1819.

John McIntyre who lived at what we know now as the Buchan farm, a widower twice, at the age of 44 years, reared as a shepherd boy in Scotland, took up his studies under McMillan where he mastered his Latin and Greek and was licensed by the Presbytery of Orange in 1809.

It was about this time that Dr. Hall writes of a visit into this section and the inference is that John McIntyre began his ministry here. Tradition also has it that he began his work here and in the surrounding section. Tradition says that the first elders were Archd. Patterson and John McMillan. Patterson died in 1810 and is buried here. McMillan died about this date or earlier. As the oldest roll of membership is dated January 1812 which was preserved by John P. Graham, clerk and carried by him to Alabama in 1825, this roll carries the names of 107 members who without exception were Scotch, while this roll is dated 1812 it probably covered a period of several years following this date and also prior to this date.

This roll gives John McIntyre, pastor; Alexander Graham, John McLeod, Daniel Martin, Lauchlin Currie, J. P. Graham, elders. Just here it may be of interest to speak of the descendants of these elders.

Rev. Mr. McIntyre in the period 1801 to 1806 married Mary Graham, widow of Archibald Graham, who lived at what we know as the Buchan farm. Among the descendants of Mrs. McIntyre we have Rev. J. D. A. Brown, who is a grandson, and other descendants living in Robeson county of the Purcell family, with whom Mr. McIntyre made his home in his declining years and died in 1863, aged 103 years of Capt. John McMillan, one of the first elders of this church, I will say that his father, Daniel McMillan, was one among those who was killed in 1781 at the Duncan M. Blue place by Wade's men. His daughter, Mary, married Malcolm Clark and was the great-grandmother of Rev. J. McM. Clark, of Concord Presbytery.

Archibald Patterson, an elder prior to 1812, was the father of Daniel Patterson who became an elder about 1833. J. D. Patterson was a grand-son of Archibald. Archibald died April 1810, aged 80 years. Daniel died May 1861, aged 87 years; Amelia, wife of Daniel, died December 1851, aged 80 years; J. D. died December 1879, aged 75 years.

Alex Graham lived at the Graham place near Bethlehem and is buried there. His son Robert moved to Robeson, Ashpole county, where his son, "Mack" Graham lived 40 years since near Ashpole church.

Lauchlin Currie lived north of what is now Pinehurst. Rev. Lauchlin W. Currie who died in Texas about 35 years since was a grand-son, also W. P. M. Currie, pastor of Wallace and other churches in Duplin county, is a grand-son. Rev. G. C. Currie, a great grand-son, is a minister in Arkansas—all Presbyterians.

John Black, elder, married Mary Blue. One son, Duncan B., was a Presbyterian minister. Rev. J. Stedman Black was a grand-son.

Daniel McNeill was a father of Malcolm McNeill, elder, and grand-son of J. A. McNeill, and elder who was accidentally killed in 1922.

John McLeod, elder, was grand-son of Rev. R. A. McLeod, now of Galatia, and father of elder J. A. McLeod, of Eureka. J. W. McLeod died April 1863, aged about 91 years.

Daniel Martin, elder, who came from Scotland in 1811 lived and raised a family and three daughters; all

died many years since, leaving no relatives here.

Norman Shaw, elder, moved to Alabama in 1835.

Alex Graham, elder, was father of J. B. Graham and Neill Graham and grand-son of J. W. Graham, an elder at present.

The foregoing is a meagre sketch of the elders who served with father McIntyre during his work prior to 1885.

I have been told that the minutes and roll of membership covering a period to 1833 were lost in the burning of residence of Clerk of the Session.

(To be continued)

(We are pleased to inform our readers that Mr. N. A. McKeithan has consented to contribute from time to time articles pertaining to the early settlement of the Scotch. To him we are indebted for the above article.—Ed.)

THE PILOT WINS SILVER CUP

It was gratifying to THE PILOT to win the Savory Cup awarded to the best example of a country paper printed in North Carolina by the committee of Press Association at the annual meeting last week at Blowing Rock. This is a distinction coveted by the papers all over the state, and in bringing home the prize THE PILOT had to impress the committee with its virtues simply through the influence of those virtues alone. The committee was not known. It acted on the judgment of its members entirely, and not on any argument from the publishers or their friends. The cup is a fine trophy offered the state newspapers by Mr. Savory of Pinehurst, to be the property of the paper winning it until won from it by another in a succeeding contest. It was said that THE PILOT had a good chance last year, but was eliminated by reason of its size. This year being more fully grown its standing was conceded.

The prize will be on exhibition at THE PILOT office for a time.

THE GLORIOUS FOURTH

You've the wrong impression if you think a proper celebration of the 4th of July means touching off a lot of fireworks and wasting money that could be used to a better advantage. Neither are you right in believing that it consists in loading up the family flivver with gas and seeing how many miles you can cover between sunup and sundown. No, our forefathers who wrote and signed the most wonderful document the world will ever know, had neither of these in mind when they performed an act which justified a holiday for the American people.

There is no better way for people spend a patriotic Fourth of July than to spend it in a simple, quiet visitation among relatives and friends, or even in a little family party at home or in a grove nearby. The church picnic is also an ideal Fourth of July celebration, and so is the community or the school picnic. The family reunion, with a nice big dinner, and a place for the children to play is another enjoyable and appropriate manner of observing the event. And always there is someone present who can entertain with reminiscences of early days and early ways that will make the time both interesting and enjoyable.

There is but one right way to celebrate the Glorious-Fourth and that is to celebrate in a safe and sane manner. Noise doesn't mean real patriotism. The quiet man is usually the quickest to take up arms for his country. Be sane in your celebration this year and see how much more enjoyment you get out of it, and how much more enjoyable it will be for all who come in touch with you on that day.

BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION AT ABERDEEN HELPS THE TOWN'S TAXES

Correspondent Sends Interesting News Letter--Some Union Church History

The Building and Loan Association of Aberdeen, is about to start its fifteenth house. To date the Association has been instrumental in collecting over \$40,000.00 in dues and subscriptions, \$39,000.00 of which will be invested in Aberdeen homes when this fifteenth house is completed. Not a great many of these houses would have been built without the help of the Building and Loan Association, and we are safe in saying that the Building and Loan Association is primarily responsible for putting from \$60,000 to \$75,000 worth of taxable property on the tax books—a most excellent record for the short time it has been in existence—to be precise, seventeen months.

T. M. Sparrow of the Aberdeen Building and Loan Association attended the State Association of Building & Loan Associations in Albemarle on Thursday of last week. So important have the building and loan associations become in the building up of communities in the state that they are now receiving special attention by the State to enable them to become still more useful. The State Insurance Commissioner, Hon. Stacey Wade, under whose supervision all State building and loan associations are, makes it a point to be present at these annual meetings each year. This year he delivered a talk on "6 percent and Safety." Judge Clarkson also made a very able address. On Thursday all the visiting folks were treated to a cafeteria banquet with an abundance of chicken and every thing imaginable to eat. They were also taken out and shown over the Badin Aluminum Plant, and the big dam across the Yadkin river there. Mr. T. R. Wilder made the trip with Mr. Sparrow and attended the meetings with him.

The Young Men's Welcome Class of the M. E. Church gave a fish fry and moonlight picnic in honor of the young ladies last Friday night at Blue's Bridge. Everybody reported having had a good time, and although a big crowd was in attendance they could not eat all the fish their generous hosts provided for them.

Mrs. Grace Russell and sons, Scott and Leonard, are visiting her father, T. Scott Barkley at Statesville. They made the trip with Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Page who were on their way to Barium Springs Orphanage, of which institution Mrs. Page is a trustee.

T. R. Averitt had the misfortune of breaking his arm trying to crank his Ford last Monday. The old time Fords still "rare" as much as they used to, and if it were not for the fact that the new models are equipped with self-starters some of us would be having our arms in slings all along.

The bathing beach across Aberdeen Lake is getting to be a public rendezvous. Not only do Aberdeen folk congregate there for their daily swim, but strangers are attracted to it. We have heard it pronounced an ideal swimming place by outsiders. Just at present though, the bridge over the front gate in the dam is out of commission, or rather in an unsafe condition. This makes it impossible for cars to get over to the other side. We understand, though, that steps are being taken to put it in proper repair.

Miss Dorothy Morrison of Bennettsville, S. C., is the guest of Mrs. Mary McKeithan.

C. O. Corbitt, of Miami, Fla., is visiting his brother, K. R. Corbitt, the new manager of Farrel's Cafe.

R. M. Carpenter is assisting Arthur Carpenter, his brother, at the Auto Oasis. This brother is just off the farm. This makes three Carpenters—all brothers—in Aberdeen now; enough to start a union.

The ball team went to Raeford to play their return engagement there

last Friday afternoon. Raeford won 10 to 5. Batteries for Aberdeen: Martin and McLeod; for Raeford: Culbreth and Poole.

Postcards arriving here show J. Mc-N. Johnson and entourage to have been in the Grand Canyon on the 19th. The cards also state that they expect to arrive at their final destination, Caronado, Cal., on Friday the 22nd. The party reports a most pleasant trip.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. McMillan, of Candor, visited at H. A. Keith's Sunday.

Mrs. A. C. Eatman and children, of Raleigh, are visiting W. P. Page and family.

Aberdeen has a "Kurious Kat." It is an eight-toed cat, or rather kitten. Mrs. Keith states that it and a pet chicken are steady companions, and that the chicken sets up a squall when the cat goes out of sight. Our own experience with cats and chickens has been most disastrous. Perhaps if all cats had eight toes they would leave the eating of chickens entirely to us.

Old Bethesda

"Who is left among you, that saw this house in its first glory."—Haggai 2:3.

On this scriptural question, the Rev. Martin McQueen based his farewell sermon to old Union church, Bethesda's neighbor. It's application is again apt now at the time of the coming together from everywhere everyone of the children of Bethesda.

Time has brought progress and changed men and customs, but the creatures of our modern day civilization do not carry with them the attachments of the generation before. We have our imposing church edifices into which we come and go. We hibernate and travel back and forth, becoming little, or if at all attached to anything. The first glory of Bethesda is her greatest glory. Kinship, friendship and fellowship in worship were so closely interwoven then that the ideals of the church were those of the community; stern ideals which our present generation would consider onerous, but which produced the strong men and women of the past generation. That first glory is now but a recollection. There will be in the reunion some who are still living in it. To them the day is dedicated.

Old Presbyterian History Reprinted For Bethesda Reunion

On August 19, 1910, Union Presbyterian church on the occasion of the Home Coming printed a booklet written by Rev. John K. Roberts, then pastor of the Union church, which contains much that is pertinent and of interest at Bethesda Reunion, and we give such excerpts as we think will particularly interest our readers:

"The only way possible to ascertain the dates of the first settlements in Union congregation is to search thru the grants on file in the Secretary of State's office in Raleigh. Permanent settlements, however, began with the great scotch immigration into the Carolinas after the disastrous battle of Culloden in 1746. Shiploads of the Highland Scotch landing at Wilmington made their way up the Cape Fear river to a point first known as Cross Creeks, afterward called Campbelton for the Rev. James Campbell but changed to Fayetteville in honor of Marquis LaFayette during his visit to that city in 1825. From this point they formed settlements in the surrounding country."

"The first grant issued to a Scotchman in North Carolina was filed by a Mr. McPherson in the Pamlico district in 1707. In Foote's "Sketches" we find that a man by the name of Clark and other Scotchmen had settled near old Bluff church in 1729.

(Continued on page two)