

### A Short History of The Macon County Baptists

The history of Macon County Baptists began with the establishment of the Franklin Baptist church May 4, 1822. The old minutes of the Franklin church begin with these words: "In the Cherokee Purchase, Haywood county, N. C., May 4, 1822, the Presbytery consisting of Elders Stephen White and Adam Corne, met on the day above written, and after prayer and preaching, twenty members presented themselves with letters from different churches, and gave themselves up into the hands of the Presbytery to be constituted into a church," etc.

The names of the first members constitute a roll call of the first citizens of the county: Thomas Kimsey, deacon; Zachariah Peak, Green H. Freeman, John B. Moore, Benjamin Stiles, John Stewart, James Bryson, deacon; Nancy Kimsey, Sarah Peak, Nancy Freeman, Milley Moore, Nancy Hall, Charity Stiles, Mary Davis, Rachel M. Connell, Mary Ann Stewart, Ann Bryson, Elizabeth Bryson, Catharine Shields, and Elizabeth Redmond.

Benjamin Stiles was the first clerk of the church. The first meetings of the church were held at Sugar Fork, Franklin, and Coweta, awaiting a decision as to the permanent location of the church house.

On July 17, 1822, Elder Humphrey Posey, who at that time represented the Philadelphia Baptist association as missionary among the Indians, presented his church letter and the letter of his wife, Lettie Posey, and they became members of the Franklin Baptist church. It was agreed that the meetings of the church should continue to be at Coweta and Sugar Fork respectively, or alternately. The town had some land here, but there was little or no town here to occupy the land. The settlers of the county were scattered over the hills and valleys of the section.

From items secured at random from the inhabitants of the section, we may piece up a picture of the pleasant and primitive times when the early citizens came into the section. Indians were still occupying the beautiful valleys. They ate corn hash, or hominy, and beans, and pumpkins, and frogs, and wild game and fish. The ground hog was served up in many a savory dish. The opossum was easily caught with dogs, and often adorned the table. Raccoon was a savory meat for the pioneers, Wild turkey and duck and squirrel and quail were plentiful.

Elder Humphrey Posey was much beloved by the Indians. They aided him in erecting his first home of log construction. Some of the logs which were placed in this hut are still in existence near the road leading to Bryson City. These logs are at present built with others into a barn on the farm of one of the descendants of these early Baptists.

The roads were very bad in winter. Often as the settlers plugged along through the mud a single tree would break and camp would have to be made in the rain until remedies could be discovered. Much hardship was encountered by the early settlers. Houses had to be built, seats, chairs, and stools had to be made, tables had to be manufactured. Barns and stalls had to be erected. Tools had to be made or sharpened. Blacksmiths played a large part in the early history of the county. Every large farm would have its own forge.

There was an appreciation of educa-

tion and culture among the early whites. Good schools were provided by private funds at several localities, some of them far up in the hill tops. Higdonville and Hamburg formerly had good schools. Higdonville is said to have been the seat of education for Macon county. The early families displayed a great deal of superior taste in matters of honor, industry, culture, and piety.

The school teachers of the early age were often men of taste and personal pride. A story is told of a certain young school teacher who wore a beaver hat when he went a-courting. One day while passing over Cowee creek with his courting clothes and his beaver hat on, he was studying what he would say to his expected bride, and his horse's foot slipped on a rock, and the young courtier fell into the creek, while the horse's body fell across him, crushing and killing him. His devoted fiancée took his hat unto herself and kept it as a love token, and her aged son has it to this day. Of course it was hard to get an education in those days. Some men did not learn their letters until after they were married, and then their wives had to teach them to read. The beautiful valley of the Little Tennessee was very much like the valley of Sleepy Hollow, and many of the teachers were doubtless duplicates of the celebrated Ichabod Crane, pictured so adeptly by Washington Irving.

Witch and goblin stories were told to the children in the old days to scare them into obedience. It was often said that Indians stole white children and carried them off. A lady tells how on one occasion a good Indian was visiting her home. He took the baby into his arms to pet and caress it. All at once without notice, he rose up and began to run away across the field with the baby. The mother was not afraid, because she knew the good old Indian was only teasing her. After awhile the Indian came back bringing the child and laughing at his prank.

The Ammons family came into the section soon after the year 1822. Among the older members of this noted family were John and Joshua Ammons. Joshua Ammons was a great missionary and traveller. He stole away from his farm work to the various settlements and preached in the little log huts and gathered congregations which were later to be formed into churches. Through many a creek he waded, through many a dark forest he treaded his way, on missions of evangelization. He climbed the mountain heights and passed over to tell the story of Jesus to the people on "yanside." Among other citizens of the early days were Thomas Clemmons, Samuel Rose, Joseph Welch, James Poteat, and David Peak. James Whitaker was a man of culture and was a ready penman. He was for a long time clerk of the Franklin church. Among other families who were in these parts prior to 1824 were families of the following names: Woody, Davis, Clore, Phillips, Buchanan, Hibberts, Wilkins, Riddle, and Dickey. The Willmores were in the section also. One member of this family became a much beloved and leading citizen.

Rev. Joshua Ammons taught the Indians how to remember when Sunday came, by boring seven holes. A peg was placed in a hole each day until the pegs were all in their places, then the pegless hole represented Sunday. In it no work was to be done. Only deeds of love and

mercy and worship were to occupy the mind on that holy day.

Tom Crawford came into the section over one hundred years ago. He was the ancestor of the extensive and honorable Crawford family which is scattered over the hills. This family has had a reputation for rectitude and honor and dependability. This is one of the greatest things that can be said of any family. Industry, thrift, and piety are discovered among their ranks. They have made good citizens. They have helped to make the public sentiment that makes Macon county fear the liquor traffic and its evils.

The son of Tom Crawford was George Crawford. George has a son named John who will be one hundred years old the coming Christmas day. John is the oldest child of seventeen children in his family. He now lives in Clay county.

Mrs. Ellen Crawford has a rolling pin to make biscuits with, that George Crawford whittled out with his knife a hundred years ago or over. His wife was Lorena Moore. Lorena may have used the rolling pin on George's head, but one of his descendants says she did not knock out any hair, if she did. George lived to the ripe age of ninety four years and had a heavy coat of hair in his old age. George had six sons to go to the Civil War and all came back alive. Emerson was the only son that was wounded.

A bullet entered his right shoulder and came out on his left shoulder. He was also shot in the hand. He was not shot in the back. The Crawfords always faced the front. They met the enemy face to face.

(Continued next week)

### Some Things I Notice

There are some things I notice concerning the Baptist church of Franklin. They speak for themselves.

I notice that there are 176 who have agreed to read the New Testament through. This is a good thing. The church is established on the principles of the New Testament. The Christ of the New Testament is the only head of the church. His law is given in the New Testament. Therefore the members should know

this book.

I also notice that the regular Bible readers are also regular in their attendance at church and Sunday School. Those who are irregular are dwarfing their Christian life.

Those who read the Bible and attend regularly upon the church worship are the best supporters of the gospel with their means and prayers.

Those who read the Bible are the best members of the B. Y. P. U., the Sunday school, and the W. M. S. The Bible readers are developing their spiritual life and increasing their Christian fruitfulness.

Regular Bible readers appreciate the sermons of the pastor more and get more benefit from them.

Regular Bible readers are planting the seed which will bring an abundant spiritual harvest. How can seed sprout and grow, when it has not been planted? Christianity is founded upon the Bible. Bible readers are taking Christianity to heart. They are honoring God, and God will undoubtedly build them up in the inner man.

Bible reading will produce character and dependability in people. We cannot learn of God without learning how to live right.

I admire this Bible reading plan. It will bear its fruit in due time.

W. M. LEE.

### Baptist News

The street in front of the church is now paved up to the sidewalk. Rev. J. B. Stallcup has had charge of the collecting of the money and is in need of funds to complete the payment. Arthur Waldrop has been overseeing the work and has done a fine job. Shields and Duvall have aided the work by generous treatment of the church. The pavement will make a great improvement in the appearance of the church, and will also make the approach to the church in wet weather far more neat and convenient.

Let us help Bro. Stallcup in settling this bill, as he has given much hard work and thought to it and has walked the streets in cold weather to get it done. The church should show its appreciation for this dear brother

by helping him with this work which is for the Lord.

The Sunday school was larger in attendance. Fifteen teachers answered to their names. We missed those who were absent. The class of young married women was large and the interest was good. Bro. J. M. Carpenter had a larger attendance. Paul Carpenter had a good crowd of men in his room up stairs back of the pulpit. Arrangements will be made to heat this room. This is the best room in the church. It is quiet, retired, and large. It is the pastor's study room. Let our men from 24 to 41 fill it.

The B. Y. P. U. will put on a pageant. Mrs. Peek is chairman of the committee on the pageant. The story hour was well attended. The Seniors and adults had interesting programs. The adult men are at work. They are trying to be A-1.

Two beautiful duets were rendered at the hours of worship. Alma and Merle Peek sang at the B. Y. P. U. Bro. Chas. Blain is getting his records in shape for a modern Sunday school. Let us build up the Sunday school. There are 662 Baptist prospects within a mile of the church, according to the census. Of these, 418 are members of the church. Every member should be in Sunday school.

### LETTERS TO SANTA CLAUS

Prentiss, N. C., Dec. 1929.

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little boy 2 years old, and I live on North Skenah. On June 9th my daddy got drowned in a lake near Franklin. So I thought I would write to you and see if you would bring me something for Christmas. I want a little hatchet and gun, and some candy, oranges, and apples. Last Christmas daddy got me candy but now he is not here.

I also have two little sisters, one 4 years old and the other is 2 months old. Please bring them something, too.

So I will close. From your little boy, HOWARD WILSON HASTING.

# HOLIDAY FOOTWEAR

**SURELY** you're going to have at least one new pair of shoes in your wardrobe for the holiday season —and what better opportunity can you hope for than our pre-Christmas sale of new footwear!

**Beautifully Styled**  
**PUMPS, STRAPS**  
**and OXFORDS**  
**\$4.50**

In all favored leathers and colors  
 ALL SIZES AND WIDTHS

**SLIPPERS**  
 Specially low priced for the Christmas season

**\$1.50 to \$4.50**

Ideal Gifts for Father,  
 Mother, Sister and  
 Brother.



### GOOD COFFEE IMPROVED —WITH CHICORY!

A perfect blend of Coffee and Chicory, such as our Gold Ribbon Brand, means—healthier, tastier, stronger, more economical coffee. Use just half as much as of ordinary coffee. Taste its delicious flavor today.

DOUBLE STRENGTH USE ONLY HALF AS MUCH AS OF ORDINARY COFFEE.

**Gold Ribbon**  
 (BRAND)  
**Coffee**

