

Old Apple Creek Church

AND

Its Early Membership



ADDRESS



BY

JOHN A. HOPE
of St. Louis, Mo.

At Celebration of the

105th Anniversary

Sunday, May 22, 1926

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The Missouri Cash-Book, Publisher, Jackson, Missouri.

1926

FOREWORD.

It is well that a foreword or explanation should be given reciting how Mr. Hope's address was finally written and printed.

For many years Senator Robert Burett Oliver and family have made, in May of each year, pilgrimages to Apple Creek Church, near Pocahontas, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, where his father and mother, both of his grandmothers, and his grandfather Oliver are buried, and where he was baptized as an infant in 1850.

In 1871, Mr. Oliver was present and heard the semi-centennial sermon preached by the Rev. Asahel Munson. He was present on the 90th Anniversary, 1911, at which time Mr. Willis Knox delivered a most valuable historical sketch of the old church, with a list of its charter and early membership. He was present at the Centennial Anniversary, 1921, and delivered an address on the influence of the Early Membership of the old church, and how that influence was reflected upon the Religious and Educational Culture of Southeast Missouri.

In May of this year, 1926, Mr. Oliver was absent from the State, attending the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States at Pensacola, Florida, as lay Commissioner of Potosi Presbytery.

Soon after his return, Mr. Oliver was confined to his bed and room with rheumatism for several weeks. While thus confined he was visited by his pastor, Rev. C. H. Morton, who preached at Apple Creek at the annual "Big Meeting" in May, 1926, and heard the address of Mr. John A. Hope, now of St. Louis, and a descendant of three of the charter members of the

church: Martha Abernathy Thompson, James Hope, and Mary Young Hope.

The Missouri Cash-Book had, also, made favorable mention of the address. Thereupon, Mr. Oliver wrote Mr. Hope from his sick-room asking for a copy of his address, if it had been reduced to writing, and for a copy of his notes if it had not been written.

Mr. Hope replied that his address was wholly extempore, that he had not expected to speak until invited by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Allen, that morning, but that he had been studying the early history of the church and the history and lives of the early settlers of that neighborhood and had made notes of his research and that he could dictate and reproduce his address if desired.

Mr. Oliver who had done some research work himself along the same and kindred lines, (concerning the early settlement of the Apple Creek neighborhood) wrote and urged Mr. Hope to reduce his address to writing, and to enlarge upon it, by giving a brief sketch and history of the charter and early members of the church, if his professional obligations and valuable time would permit it.

Mr. Hope generously consented to do so and has added to the address foot-notes and references supporting his text and the foundation of his address. Prior to the delivery of the address, as well as the subsequent preparation of the foot-notes, Mr. Hope had, through the kindness of Senator Oliver, access to and the use of the diary and miscellaneous writings of his Grandfather, John Oliver. In addition, he had the benefit of Senator Oliver's acquaintanceship and recollection of two or more of the charter members and of many of the immediate descendants of the charter and early membership of the church.

Every descendant of that galaxy of noble, patriotic Christian men and women, constituting the charter and early membership of the old church, is under everlasting obligations to Mr. Hope for the labor, diligence and intelligent study he has given this subject and in rescuing from oblivion so many precious historical and genealogical facts and in setting them out in such eloquent and gracious manner in his address.

After he had written out the address he forwarded a copy of it to Mr. Oliver while the latter was still confined to his room and Mr. Oliver was so impressed with the historical value and importance of the address, that he at once asked for permission to submit it to the Missouri-Cash-Book for publication. Mr. Hope realizing that many of the readers of that paper were descendants of the Apple Creek neighborhood consented that the address be so published.

And now at the earnest request of many descendants of the old church whose blood has been stirred anew on reading the achievements of their ancestors, and of many lovers of the early history of Cape Girardeau County, who glory in the influence left them as a priceless heritage by that body of consecrated, self-denying, Godfearing pioneers, all join and ask that the address be printed and put in booklet form for permanent preservation.

Rumple said "There is probably no higher incentive to the faithful discharge of public trusts, than the hope of transmitting an honored name to posterity. But if posterity forgets their honored ancestors, then neither the dread of shame nor love of honor is left to inspire men to an honorable course of life."

The Publisher.

Old Apple Creek Church and Its Early Membership

ADDRESS

BY

JOHN A. HOPE

Sunday, May 22, 1926

oOo

I was born and reared in this neighborhood.

“Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!
Whose heart hath ne’er within him burn’d
As home his foot-steps he hath turn’d
From wandering on a foreign strand!”

In a farm home, only two miles away, my mother taught me the alphabet from the big letters on the outside covers and the fly leaves of an old Apple Creek Church Hymn Book. About a mile to the north, on the outskirts of Pocahontas was the home of grandfather Hope. ¹ A mile and a half to the west stands the home of my grandfather Thomp-

1. Robert Young Hope, son of Elder James Hope.

son. ² Much of my childhood and boyhood days was spent at these homesteads. How vividly I recall staying an entire school year at grandfather Thompson's, attending, as a mere boy, the Liberty public school. I well remember the look of commendation and encouragement, not to say pride, that came over the faces of my parents when the teacher, Robert M. Sawyer, at the close of the school, awarded me the prize for spelling. I had won the spelling match. I thus learned early in life that in the minds of Apple Creek and Pleasant Hill church members excellence in the school room was more creditable than victory at the neighborhood shooting matches. I was educated for the legal profession in the law office and under the supervision of a brilliant product of this church, my distinguished friend and kinsman, Senator Robert Burett Oliver. I am largely indebted to this church and to the influences and associations connected with it for whatever success, if any, I may have attained in life.

It is now some twenty years since I last attended an Apple Creek church meeting. My earliest recollections are of the "Big Meetings" on these sacred grounds. "Big Meeting at Apple Creek," it was then called. Here, with each return of the roses of spring, the people gathered from everywhere; our friends and kindred from Cape Girardeau and Jackson, from Pleasant Hill, from Neelys, from Oak Ridge and Shawneetown, from Brazeau, from Farmington, and from Caledonia. We went to the cemetery and decorated the graves of our loved ones with the flowers of May. The congregation assembled in this same old building. To the left of this same old pulpit from which I am now speaking, in the "Amen

2. James Nelson Thompson, son of the pioneer James Thompson.

Corner," so to speak, sat the elders of the church—such men as Henderson Baldrige, and Judge Green.³ To our right some gifted daughter of the community played the organ, and the old time songs rang out in the clear bell-like tones of a Query⁴ or McNeely. In the assembling congregation, there was a particularly fine specimen of young manhood, James Monroe Seibert, conspicuous because of his magnetic personality and handsome and commanding appearance. Grandson of founders⁵ of the church, and then still

3. Judge Samuel M. Green; elder of Apple Creek 1868-70; member from about 1850 until 1870, when he moved to Cape Girardeau and transferred his membership to the Cape Church; practiced law at Cape Girardeau until his death, February 21, 1913, at the age of 84. Judge Green caused survey and plat of Pocahontas to be made; erected the building at the corner where the road to Shawneetown intersects the road from Neelys to Oak Ridge, and there carried on a general country store business; was founder of the town and its first merchant; this was in 1861. He was of distinguished ancestry. His father was Rev. Thomas Parish Green, an eminent Baptist minister, who was the son of Elder David Green, founder of the first Baptist Church in Missouri. Houck's History of Missouri, Vol. 2, p. 206, Vol. 3, p. 219; Mo. Baptist Centennial, Stephens Press, Columbia, pp. 50-56; Will of David Green, probated December 11, 1809, Cape Girardeau County Probate Records. On the maternal side, Judge Green was grandson of a prominent Cape Girardeau County pioneer, Col. Samuel B. McKnight, who lived within the bounds of Apple Creek congregation, and rendered great and noteworthy service in the cause of education in early Missouri. Mrs. McKnight was an active and devoted member of Apple Creek. Judge Green was reared in the McKnight home.

4. Two brothers, Newton and Robert, came from Mecklenburgh County, N. C., and joined the Apple Creek settlement. Newton's wife was daughter of Abner Hope. The Querys were people of distinction in North Carolina—still are. John Query signed the Mecklenburgh Declaration of Independence. Wheeler's History North Carolina, 1851, p. 70. See also a "Query Reunion", Charlotte, N. C., Observer, July 29, 1920.

5. Mr. Seibert is a grandson of John McCombs and wife Mary, who, with their children, came, early in the last century, from Lincoln County, N. C., and settled on land near Apple Creek Church. McCombs bought it from the Government. The family cleared up this land, put it in cultivation, and erected thereon, in

in his youth, he was soon called by the people into the public service, first, to enforce the laws and to handle the revenues of the county in the office of Sheriff and Collector, and, then, on account of his high character and extraordinary capacities and genius in politics, to high State office and a long period of undisputed leadership in the government of our State. ⁶ On this rostrum sat giants of the Presbyterian clergy. From this pulpit, they preached the religion of our fathers—Alexander or Beale in the forenoon; Harlan or Munson ⁸ in the afternoon.

addition to other substantial plantation improvements, a dwelling house that was a veritable mansion for those days. It was a leading and important family seat in early Southeast Missouri, long known as the "McCombs Place." In later years, this property has been known as the "Hays Place," the "Baldrige Place," and the "Thompson Place," from its successive owners, James Madison (Matt) Hays, Dr. John M. Baldrige, and James C. Thompson. Thompson's aged widow still lives on this land.

John McCombs was a leading man of the time. Both he and his wife were prominent members of Apple Creek. In the early eighteen thirties he obtained for the church from the Government the title to the land occupied by the church house and cemetery—doubtless at his own expense and as a donation to the church. He died July 27, 1843 at the age of 93. His wife died July 13, 1852, aged 63. These dates are on their tombstones, side by side, in Apple Creek Cemetery.

6. Sheriff and Collector 1878-1883; Collector 1883-1884; State Treasurer 1884-1889; State Auditor 1889-1901; Excise Commissioner, St. Louis, 1901-1905; head Real Estate and Tax Department Missouri Pacific Railway System, from 1905 to the present time. Centennial History of Mo., Vol. 3, p. 917.

8. Asahel Munson, distinguished Presbyterian minister; born in Wilmington, Vermont, 1812; graduated from Union College, N. Y., and Andover Theological Seminary; preached a few years in Indiana; came to Missouri about 1836; married Serena King of St. Louis County in 1841; after preaching at St. Charles and other points, became pastor of Apple Creek in 1845 and served there until 1866, at same time supplying at Pleasant Hill, Brazeau and Cape Girardeau; died at Potosi, Missouri, in March 1876, leaving widow, Serena, and children: Clinton, Minnie (Mrs. King), Serena (Duckey) who married James T. Gardiner, Asahel Duncan, and John Yale; all dead excepting Asahel Duncan living at Anselmo, Nebraska, and John Yale, residing at

And this Sabbath day is another anniversary of the founding of this church. In this month of May, one hundred five years ago, this church was organized. Standing here amid scenes of my childhood and boyhood—in sight of the old cemetery where sleep so many friends and relatives, including both of my parents, my four grandparents and six of my great grandparents, three of the latter charter members of this church—I should be untrue to my feelings if I did not at least try to make some further response to the invitation to address you, so courteously extended by the pastor, Reverend Allen.

According to the record as preserved in Willis Knox's "Sketch of Apple Creek Church," published in 1911, the following persons met here on May 21, 1821, and, with Reverend Salmon Giddings acting as Moderator, organized this church:

Margaret Abernathy; Samuel Anderson and Jean Anderson; John Brown, ⁹ Martha Brown, Mary Brown and Benjamin Brown; Elizabeth Byrd; Patty Flynn, Ebenezer Flynn, and Margaret Flynn; Mitchell Flem-

Berthoud, Colorado. Mrs. Munson, after Rev. Munson's death, made her home, until her death in 1883, with her daughter, Mrs. Gardiner, in Colorado. Children of Mrs. King are now living in Pasadena, California. Rev. Munson owned forty acres of land just off the Jackson-Neelys road, between Fruitland and Leemon, on which the family resided during the latter half of his twenty years' ministry in this county.

9. John and Martha Brown were husband and wife; Mary, their daughter, and Benjamin, their son. Benjamin, born in North Carolina in 1794, married Mary Fleming of the Fleming family mentioned in the charter roll. John Brown died in 1828. His will, Book A, p. 204, Cape Girardeau County Probate Records, shows, from the number and character of his bequests, that he was a man of affairs and standing in his day. Both he and Benjamin entered considerable land in the Northern part of the County. Robert T. Brown, the first Sheriff of Perry County (Ency. Mo. History, Vol. 5, p. 92) and the Browns of Apple Creek Church were doubtless related.

ing, George Fleming, Sady Fleming, and Hiram Fleming; ¹⁰ Cyrus Henderson and Jean Henderson; Oliver Harris, Kiah P. Harris, Milton Harris, Elijah Harris, Sophrina Harris, Hannah Harris, Delia Harris, and Margaret Harris; John Gilliland, Mary Gilliland, Jean Gilliland, and Dovey Gilliland; James Hope and Polly (Mary) Hope; William Johnston and Isabelle Johnston; Mary Jetun; ¹¹ John Little, ¹² Jean Little, and Elizabeth Little; Agnes McFarlin; ¹³ Mrs. McLane; ¹⁴

10. Hiram Fleming married Jane Stevenson in Perry County, January 10, 1837. He lived on what was known as the "Fleming Place" on Shawnee Creek in the Henderson neighborhood. He ran a retail dry goods store at this place on Shawnee Creek; afterwards moved to Jackson and there engaged in the same business; died at Jackson quite a while before the Civil War.

11. Who was she? Kin no doubt to Adolph Jetun who in 1821 entered Government land in Township 31, Range 11.

12. A Revolutionary soldier, N. C. Col. and State Records, Vol. 16, pp. 1101, 1106; Vol. 13, p. 519. The Little farm was near the Church and North of the road leading to Pocahontas. John Little got it by Government entries in 1821 and 1822. His daughter, Margaret, married James Hope's son, Thomas. The Littles were, of course, North Carolinians; no doubt from Lincoln County, because the Oliver Diary contains numerous references to the Littles, showing that they were neighbors of the Olivers and Abernathys who resided in that County. The Littles, associated with Miles Farrar (of the same Perry County pioneer Farrar family), operated, long before the advent of steam craft, a line of boats on the Catawba River, carrying cotton and other products of the rich Catawba Valley to the Charleston markets. The Oliver negro slaves (brought to Missouri by John Oliver in 1819) were often hired to Little & Farrar to help run these boats. Diary of John Oliver, Sr., pp. 20 to 97.

13. Wife of Robert McFarlin; maiden name Fleming. Her husband joined Apple Creek in 1830, Knox's Sketch, p. 4. Doubtless John McFarland (McFarlin), the brave lad who accompanied the ox team caravans of "Forty Niners" to the gold fields of California, was of this McFarlin family. Besides the McFarlin boy, Matt (James Madison) Hays, William Pierce, James McLane, Milton Anderson, Austin Hope, Robert Washington Harris, Andrew Caldwell and Robert Caldwell were "Forty Niners" from Apple Creek and Pleasant Hill congregations. All came back to Cape Girardeau County, excepting the McFarlin boy; he died in

Margaret Smith and Matthew Smith; Mary Steele; James Stevenson ¹⁵ and Jean Stevenson; Patsy (Martha) Thompson; William Wallace, Jean Wallace, William Wallace, Jr., James Wallace and Sarah Wallace.

Margaret Abernathy in the above list was doubtless the wife of Lott Abernathy of Perry County, because, according to the diary of John Oliver, Senior, Lott Abernathy married Margaret Little. Martha Thompson, also named in the list, was a sister of Lott Abernathy and of Mrs. John Oliver, Senior, and the wife of James Thompson. All the members of this branch of the Abernathy family excepting Mrs. Oliver and Mrs. Thompson, settled in Perry County. ¹⁶

California. William Pierce later returned to California and settled there permanently. Mns. Recollections. William C. Walker.

14. Daughter, I believe, of Elder John Gilliland. See his Will, March 19, 1832, Record C. p. 507, Cape Girardeau County Probate Court, where Joseph R. McLane is Gilliland's son-in-law and executor. McLane was evidently a prominent man in early Cape Girardeau and Perry Counties; land owner in both Counties, acquired both in his name and jointly with Alfred and John A. McLane. He probably lived on, or near Apple Creek, since the "Alf McLane Mill" was at Appleton and the "Ans McLane Mill" about three miles up Apple Creek from Appleton. Mns. Recollections, William C. Walker.

15. Ancestor of the Stevensons of Northern part of Cape Girardeau County; got his homestead from the Government in 1822; elder of Apple Creek from 1822 until his death, October 13, 1851. His wife, Jane, died April 16, 1865. They came from Poplar Tent Church, Cabarrus County, N. C. The Stevensons were people of standing and prominence in that section. Before moving to Missouri, James had been honored with election to eldership in Poplar Tent. Harris' Historical Sketch, Poplar Tent Church, 1873; reprint, 1924, pp. 14, 18.

16. These, besides Amy Oliver and Martha Thompson, were: Susannah, widow of John Abernathy; sons: Jeremiah and wife, (nee Berenice Harris), William Harley and wife (nee Sally Rockett), Barry, Lott and wife (nee Margaret Little), Clayton and wife (nee Angarona Cobb), Larkin and wife (nee Jane Little); daughters: Fannie, with husband Alexander Little, and Mary who

Not long after the organization of the church—very early in its history—the Luckeys, the Rosses, the Querys, the McCombs, the McNeelys, the Trick-eyes, the Russells, the Adams, the Woods, the Primms, the Alexanders, the Wilsons, ¹⁷ the Torrences, the

married Ransom Little in Missouri. John Oliver, Sr., Dairy; Mns. Oliver History of John Abernathy Family.

John Abernathy, the father of these children, was a soldier in the Revolution. His father, Robert Abernathy, was an officer in the Colonial Militia (N. C. Col. and State Records. Vol. 22, pp. 307, 368, 369, 370, 372) and in the Armies of the Revolution; member from Tryon County in the Provincial Congress of 1776 which adopted the Declaration of Rights and Constitution for North Carolina as a State independent of Great Britain (10 N. Car. Col. and State Records, 913, 915, 924); and member from Lincoln County in North Carolina House of Commons, 1779, 13 N. Car. Col. and State Records, pp. 811 to 1000.

Joseph Abernathy, known as "Uncle Joe" was the head of another branch of this Abernathy family. He too was born in Lincoln County, North Carolina. He was one of the very earliest in the Apple Creek Settlement. His farm was just west of the Church grounds, on the south side of the road to Pocahontas. With straight black hair, dark complexion, high cheek bones, and erect stature, "Uncle Joe", according to the traditions coming down from early days, was part Indian—a descendant of the Virginia Princess, Pocahontas. The town of Pocahontas was named in honor of "Uncle Joe" and in recognition of his tradition. Evidently he was a relative—the testamentary proof indicates he was a brother—of the celebrated Elizabeth Abernathy, who married the son of "Gentleman" John Perkins, and who "was said to be the handsomest woman of her day. She was tall and handsome, and her form and moving was graceful and elegant. Her eyes were dark and sparkling, and her hair as black as the raven's wing. It is said the Abernathys received their dark complexion from their Pocahontas blood." See account of marriage of Ephraim Perkins and Elizabeth Abernathy, by Col. M. L. McCorkle, in "Gentleman" John Perkins, Lenoir News-Topic, Lenoir, N. C.

17. Thomas Wilson, a pioneer from North Carolina, was the founder of this family in Cape Girardeau County. Among his children were, Richard E. Wilson, Alfonso Wilson, and Addison Wilson, all leading and influential citizens. Their descendants, wherever they reside, many of them now living in Cape Girardeau County, are people of high standing.

Sloans, the Bulls, the Baldwins, * the McKees, the McKnights, the Walkers, the Robbs, and the Crawfords were in the congregation and members of the church. The McPhersons of Perry County, also the Knoxes intermarried with the McNeelys and the Wilsons—and the Baldriges from Tennessee—came into the congregation a long time ago. Practically all of them, both those on the original membership roll and those who came into the congregation later, were Scotch-Irish; all came from North Carolina, excepting perhaps the Russells, who, I believe, were from Virginia.

Cooperating with them in the Apple Creek congregation from the very beginning, were John Oliver, Senior, a North Carolinian of Virginia cavalier descent, and a prominent member of the church; the Brevards, ¹⁸ who were Huguenots, intermarried with

* Owner of Baldwin's Tan Yard, just east of the Zenas Ross farm on the road from Pocahontas to Neely's Landing. Like McGuire's Tan Yard at Jackson, the Glasgow Tan Yard on the old McCombs' Place, and the Statler Tan Yard on the creek between the Robinson Russell and the Gillispie Horrell plantations, it was a thriving and profitable business. The Statler Tan Yard especially was operated on a big scale, as, in addition to tanning hides of all kinds, it kept a force of skilled workmen employed and manufactured the leather into shoes, etc; had a ready market for its product, and made money. Militia musters and elections were held at Baldwin's Tan Yard in the early times.

18. Adelia, wife of Milton Harris and, with him, an original member of Apple Creek Church; was the daughter of Robert Brevard, Revolutionary soldier and patriot, Hunter's Sketches of Western N. C., Raleigh, 1877, p. 196. Robert Brevard was an early member of Apple Creek, Knox's Sketch, 1911, p. 4. He lived at Jackson; lies buried in the Jackson Cemetery. During the Revolution, Tarleton's dragoons destroyed the home and property of the widow Brevard, because, said the British, "she has seven sons in the rebel army." Ellet's Domestic History of American Revolution, Scribners, 1851, p.226; Ellet's Women of the Revolution, Baker and Scribner, 1848, pp. 300-303. Adelia Harris' father was one of the "seven sons"; brother of the distinguished Dr. Ephriam Brevard, Wheeler's Reminiscences and

the Sloans and the Harrises; and the Clodfelters, 19 so-called North Carolina Germans, who had intermarried with some of the Scotch-Irish families.

To discuss adequately the founding of Apple Creek Church, one must deal with the principles of civil and religious liberty; with the origin and development of the principles; with the beginning and progress of Presbyterianism. One must deal with history, particularly that relating to the Carolinas and early Tennessee, Kentucky, and Missouri. For instance, to give a sketch of any one of the fifty original members of this church, commensurate with his or her character and work as a founder of religion, education and government in Missouri, would be like giving a history of the beginning and growth of the Presbyterian faith. It would be the story of the Scotch-Irish from the time, early in the eighteenth century, when, for the sake of civil and religious liberty, they left their homes in Ireland and settled in what was then the frontiers of Pennsylvania. We would have to trace the family of the individual under discussion, through the Valley of Virginia, into the Carolinas, and Tennessee, and on to Missouri—always on the frontier, founding homes, churches communities, counties and commonwealths; building first, wherever the family settled, a Presbyterian church,

Memoirs of N. C., 1884, pp. 237-243; Lossing's Field Book of the Revolution, Harper Brothers, 1852, p. 618. She died at the Milton Harris home, near Neely's Landing, September 22, 1870; buried there in the Harris grave yard, overlooking the Mississippi. She outlived Elizabeth Byrd a few months, and Mary Steele, nearly a year, and was the last of the original members of Apple Creek Church.

19. Jacob Clodfelter, who entered Government land in September, 1821, and Phillip Clodfelter, who figures in Apple Creek Church records as early as 1826, were, it seems, the founders of this family in Missouri. Iredell is said to be the North Carolina County they came from.

and, side by side, a school house.

Glance, for illustration, over the names on the original membership roll of Apple Creek Church. Note the women—these mothers in Israel. Here is Mary Steele. She was the wife of Robert Steele. They were the grandparents of our venerable Dr. R. T. Henderson. She lived until October 16, 1869, one of the last of the fifty original members of this church. Her very name recalls, to anyone familiar with our national history, the beginning and development of Presbyterianism and free government in this country. We are reminded of Steele Creek and Steele Creek Presbyterian church in the Carolinas; of General John Steele; of his illustrious mother, Elizabeth Steele, whose name and noble deeds will live forever in the literature of the Revolution.²⁰ Any student of Tennessee history also recalls the valorous participation of the Steeles, with the Bledsoes, the Shelbys, the Byrds, the Gillispies, and the Knoxes, in the conquest of Tennessee from the Indians, in the settlement of

20. Ellet's Domestic History of the American Revolution, 1851, pp. 204 to 209; Vol. 2, Ellet's Women of the Revolution, 1848, p. 297; Wheeler's Reminiscences and Memoirs, 1884, p. 397; The Papers of John Steele, in 2 Volumes, Publication of N. C. Historical Commission, Raleigh, 1924.

Robert, Henry, and Ninian Steele, brothers, belonged to the Rowan County Steeles—a family of wealth and distinction in Colonial and Revolutionary North Carolina. Robert and Henry settled in Cape Girardeau County. Robert died in 1822; Henry in 1833. Minnie Steele and Gilbert D. Statler of Oak Ridge are grandchildren of Henry Steele. James Statler, pioneer in Texas, and one of the founders of the City of Marshall in that State, was a grandson of Henry Steele; died January 1, 1825, 90 years of age. See sketch and editorial in Sherman Daily Democrat, January 1, 1925. Ninian, a soldier in the Revolution and member of the Rowan County Committee of Safety, remained in North Carolina (10 N. C. Col. and State Records, 252; Papers of John Steele, Vol. 2, p. 825); but his daughter, Eloise, who married James G. C. Morton, came with her husband, after they had lived for a time in Tennessee, to Cape Girardeau County, about 1830. (History of Southeast Mo., Goodspeed, 1888, pp. 786-87).

Eastern Tennessee, and in the founding of the City of Knoxville, in that State. ²¹.

Here is Jane Wallace. She was the wife of William Wallace. They were the parents of the three other Wallaces whose names, along with the parents, adorn this roll. She was the daughter of John Moffit. The Moffits, in association with such men as General Jacob Byrd, James Turner, Rednap Howell and other brave spirits of the time, were leaders in the so-called "War of the Regulation," ²² preceeding the Revolution, and leading to the founding of the "Independent State of Franklin," the adoption of the Mecklenburgh Declaration of Independence, ²³ and the ultimate overthrow of British tyranny in the Carolinas, Jane Wallace's father was a hero at Kings Mountain, immortalized in the classic pages of Draper.

Here too is Elizabeth Byrd. What a volume any adequate sketch of her would be! She was a Gillispie, and the Gillispies were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. She married Captain Abraham Byrd. The Byrds and the Gillispies settled in Tennessee. There they erected "Byrd's Fort" and "Gillispie Fort" in the valley of the Holston. ²⁴ This noble heroine must have witnessed the formation of the Wantauga Association,

21. Cisco's History Sumner Co. Tenn., pp. 24, 33, 125; et seq; Carr's Early Times in Middle Tenn., p. 201; The John Steele Papers, Vol. 2, pp. 739, 753, 759; Some Neglected History of N. C., by Fitch, 1905, pp. 63, 66, 167, 188, 208 and 268.

22. Some Neglected History of N. C., by Fitch, pp. 125, 142, 144, 155.

23. Some Neglected History of N. C., by Fitch, pp. 259, 262, et seq.

24. 2 Houck's History of Mo., p. 184.

said by profound students of constitutional government, including John Allison of Tennessee, to have been the "first free and independent and purely republican form of government in the western hemisphere." ²⁵ In 1799, Mrs. Byrd came with her husband to Cape Girardeau County, then part of the Louisiana Territory. She lived, if I have been correctly advised, until 1869, leaving Adelia Harris as the only survivor of the fifty, who on May 21, 1821, organized Apple Creek church. In her life we have the annals of early Tennessee, twenty years of Upper Louisiana and Territorial Missouri, the stirring events connected with the admission of Missouri into the Union, and some fifty years of Missouri statehood! A life embracing the close of the Revolution, Jefferson's acquisition of Louisiana, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the War between the States! And what about the scenes at her home on Byrd's Creek! Her husband, Abraham Byrd, was a leading and conspicuous citizen. His brother, Colonel Stephen Byrd, was one of the delegates from Cape Girardeau County in the Convention that adopted the first Constitution of the State. Both served in important public offices before and after the admission of the State into the Union. ²⁶ Presiding over the home of Abraham Byrd, she necessarily saw and participated in the making of history. It was an influential and a hospitable home. That home, as I think we need not doubt, was visited from time to time, by the leaders of that era—such men as Senator Buckner, Lieutenant Governor Cannon, Governor Dunklin, Congressman John Scott, General Watkins, Greer W. Davis, General English, John Oliver, Colonel Christopher Hays, Oli-

25 9th Congress Scotch Irish Society of America, p. 151.

26. 3 Houck's History of Mo., p. 260.

ver Harris, John Hays, the Giboneys, Johnson Ranney, Major Bollinger, and others—for conferences with Mrs. Byrd's husband and his brother, Colonel Stephen Byrd, on public affairs—on matters of politics and statecraft. Also Matthews, Donnel, Cowan, and other early ministers of this church, and Salmon Giddings, the Missionary who presided at its organization, while on his missionary journeys, were, we need not doubt, guests at the hospitable home of this noble Christian lady. The Horrells were kindred of the Byrds. So it can be taken for granted that Thomas Horrell, one of the founders of the Episcopalian church in Missouri, and early Rector of Christ's Church Cathedral in St. Louis,²⁷ was a welcome guest at the Byrd mansion. And Nancy Hunter, daughter of one of the heroes of the expedition under General George Rogers Clark,²⁸ which captured Kaskaskia and Vincennes and added the Northwest territory to the Domain of the United States, mother and grandmother of Governors and United States Senators, and her first husband, Israel Dodge, and her second husband, Asabel Linn, were, as we think it can be safely surmised, guests at the Byrd's Creek home of this charter member of Apple Creek. Many times, no doubt, these worthies, as guests of that home, attended with her the services here. Such, I think, is some little description of the life of Elizabeth Byrd, but how inadequately told, and how much it omits!

I would not have you get the idea that my mention of Mary Steele, Jane Wallace, and Elizabeth Byrd, means that I regard the others on the early membership rolls of this church as in any way unworthy of praise and veneration. Every

27. Billon's Annals of St. Louis, p. 69.

28. Kaskaskia Records, by Alvord, Va. Series, Vol. 2, p. 228; Rozier's History of Miss. Valley, 1890, pp. 166, 270.

name has an interesting background. ²⁹ Ancestors of each of them figure bravely, honorably, and conspicuously in the history of the struggles of the Scotch in Ireland for civil and religious liberty; in our Colonial and Revolutionary annals; in the organization records of the early Presbyterian churches ³⁰ everywhere in this country; in the student and faculty rolls of the famous "Log College" ³¹ of Pennsylvania and the early academies of the Carolinas and Tennessee; and in the records and membership rolls of the western North Carolina churches whose congregation sent to Charlotte the delegates who adopted the celebrated Mecklenburgh Declaration of Independence. ³² These families, in addition to having given the Presbyterian church elders, ministers, missionaries, teachers and scholars, ³³ and besides stalwart citizens on the farms and in other honorable vocations, have furnished our country not a few of its statesmen, lawyers, jurists, military officers, and political leaders. ³⁴ These

29. See, in *Scotch-Irish Pioneers in Ulster and America*, by Charles Knowles Bolton, Boston, 1910, account of their arrival in America, the ships they came on, their settlement in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Hampshire, and the founding of the first Presbyterian churches in America.

30. Webster's History of the Presbyterian Church in America, 1858, 192, 215; 326-65-67; 404, 405, 440, 484, 498; 599; 656-58-69.

31. 8th Congress, *Scotch Irish in America*, 73; 1st Congress, *Scotch Irish in America*, 88, 90.

32. 2 Lossing's Field Book, 616.

33. Webster's History of the Presbyterian Church, *supra*.

34. Apple Creek congregation furnished soldiers to both sides in the Civil War. Quite a number were in the Federal encampment at Cape Girardeau and aided in holding the City against the Confederate attack, known as the battle of Cape Girardeau. The fearless Captain "Shawnee Bill" Wilson, who lived in Shawnee Township, not far from Apple Creek Church, was a noted

were the people who, at Apple Creek and Pleasant Hill in Cape Girardeau County, and in the Bellvue Valley in Washington County, and at Brazeau in Perry County, and on Buffalo Creek in Lincoln County, ³⁵ laid among the foundation stones of the Commonwealth, then seeking admission into the Union, the principles and institutions of Scotch-Irish Presbyterianism;—the sacred home, the free church, the public school, and the conscientious citizen.

Had I the data at hand, and were I endowed with ability to present it interestingly, it would be impossible, in the time available here, to sketch even briefly so many families. However, here is the first bench of elders—Oliver Harris, Samuel Anderson, John Gilliland, Mitchell Fleming. And Ebenezer Flynn and James Hope, so the records say, were added to this

Union leader in this section.

On the Confederate side, the Company that enlisted under Captain Robert Allison Hope was composed almost entirely of boys from the Apple Creek congregation. Dr. Samuel S. Harris, as commander of Harris' Battery, won distinction for bravery and notable service. Some of these Confederates never returned. Captain Hope died at Camp Allen; Charles A. Oliver, in active service; Abner Hope in a Federal Prison. In the Battle of Pine Bluff, as the Confederates were charging through a paling fence, Joseph Crawford's rifle struck the palings, causing it to discharge, and accidentally killing both his brother, Thomas, and his cousin, Theodore Hope.

Dr. John H. Walker and Young Walker carried through life, marks of their serious wounds; but their brother, Lieutenant Cyrus Walker, after facing the guns of the enemy in many battles, including the bloody Battle of Westport, and coming out unscathed, lost his life by accidental discharge of his own pistol the night following the Battle of Westport. William C. Walker and Robert Russell (son of Robinson Russell), after the Battle of Westport, followed General Shelby to Texas. Upon the collapse of the Confederacy, Walker came home. Russell, as part of the unconquerable remnant of Shelby's brigade, went with the Shelby expedition into Mexico; and this, so it is said, was the last ever heard of the gallant Bob Russell. Mns. Recollections of William C. Walker.

35. History of Pike County, Mo., 1883, 191, 638, 641.

venerable board the following March. Here we need deal with only six names. John Gilliland had been a soldier in the Revolution. ³⁶ Mitchell Fleming, upon the authority of Houck's History of Missouri, had been a brave soldier ³⁷ in the North Carolina Militia in the War for Independence. Ebenezer Flynn, according to the same high authority, manifested at an early period in Missouri interest in the cause of religion. He was a member of an Auxiliary Bible Society ³⁸ which the Episcopalian minister, Rev. Thomas Horrell, organized at Jackson. He was known as Captain Flynn. No doubt he had been a Captain in the Revolution or in the War of 1812. James Hope was born in 1774; died in 1835. His mother was an Allison. His wife was Mary Young. They came from Poplar Tent congregation in North Carolina. ³⁹ He served as elder of Apple Creek church until his death. They were my great grandparents. Samuel Anderson will be mentioned later in this talk.

Oliver Harris, as I have already said, was one of the first elders. I think attention, somewhat extended, may be appropriately given to him. Counting his daughters, Jane Henderson and Isabelle Johnston, wives respectively of Cyrus Henderson and William Johnston, the Harris clan numbers ten on the original roll—one-fifth of the congregation. The Wallaces are next in point of numbers. I shall not dismiss Elder Oliver Harris by merely calling your attention to the

36. The King's Mountain Men, by Katherine K. White, 174.

37. 3 Houck's History of Missouri, 84.

38. 3 Houck's History of Missouri, 232.

39. Robert Hope's Will, 1808, Cabarrus, Co., N. C.; Mns. History of William Young Family, by Robert W. Allison; 2 Van Noffen's Biographical History of N. C., 1 to 9; Morrison's History of Allison Family, 145, 147.

fact that Pennsylvania, as an indelible tribute to his forefathers and in memory of their glorious deeds in that Colony, named her capital city Harrisburgh; 40 that would not suffice. Along about 1730 his grand parents moved from Pennsylvania to what later became Cabarrus County, North Carolina, then Mecklenburgh County. 41 Harris was probably English, but the Harrises had intermarried with the Scotch-Irish. In his veins was the blood of the McIlhenys and other Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. He was more Scotch-Irish than English. His grandfather James Harris was, I have no doubt, the Major James Harris who signed the Mecklenburgh Declaration. 42 His father, Robert Harris, it is certainly known, was a soldier in the Revolution in a company commanded by Captain Charles Polk. 43 His father was one of the leading men of the Mecklenburgh region. I do not know whether he was the same Robert Harris who was Sheriff of the County, Clerk of the Superior Court, elder of Poplar Tent, and signer, too, of the Mecklenburgh Declaration. It is evident, however, that Oliver Harris came of one of "the first families" of the country. Go back with me to Poplar Tent Church, in what was then Mecklenburgh, but later Cabarrus County, North Carolina, about the year 1785, amid the closing scenes of the Revolution. The occasion is the marriage of Oliver Harris and Margaret Shelby. 44 The bride, too, is of one of the great fam-

40. 8th Congress, Scotch Irish in America, 213, 216, 171; 221, 225; 380, 382, 383.

41. Hunter's Sketches Western N. C., 162, 164.

42. Revolutionary History of N. C., by Hawks, Swain and Graham, 56.

43. Hunter's Sketches Western N. C., 80, 81, 103.

44. 2 Armstrong's Notable Southern Families, 305, 306.

ilies of the country. The patriot pastor of Poplar Tent, James Hezekiah Balch, who, in collaboration with Dr. Ephriam Brevard, drafted the Mecklenburgh Declaration of Independence, if living, would doubtless have been the officiating minister; but he died in 1776, some ten years before this wedding. Nathaniel Alexander is present. In just a few years he will lead Jane Harris, a relative of Oliver Harris, to the marriage altar. He is to graduate from Princeton, and he will be an elder of Poplar Tent and Governor of North Carolina. ⁴⁵ Dr. Charles Harris, a graduate of Princeton, is another near relative of the groom. He is still a young man, but has attained high standing as a physician and surgeon, and as the founder of an important medical school. ⁴⁶ He honors the occasion with his presence. The Doctor lives in the immediate neighborhood. Naturally too, we see the queenly Mary Brevard. She is the widow of General Davidson. The General has been killed in one of the battles of the Revolution. ⁴⁷ A great institution of learning located in that vicinity, is to be called Davidson College. Mrs. Davidson is still a widow, but before long will be the wife of a Harris. And who are these in this other family circle? Here is Brigadier General Shelby. He is the uncle, we understand, of the charming bride. He is Evan Shelby, the same old soldier under whom Andrew Torrence fought in the Indian Wars and at Point Pleasant. And in the years to come a descendant of the Torrences, as wife of the second

45. 2 John Steele Papers, 508; Harris' Historical Sketch of Poplar Tent Church, 13, 24.

46. John Steele Papers, 120; Hunter's Sketches, 162.

47. Hunter's Sketches, 146.

John Oliver, will be, with the entire Oliver family, a member of Apple Creek congregation, and she will preside with queenly dignity and Christian grace and hospitality at Pleasant Gardens, the ancestral home of the Olivers in Cape Girardeau County. ⁴⁸ Margaret Shelby's father, Major Moses Shelby, gives her in marriage to Oliver Harris. His nephew, also named Moses, is doubtless present. This battle-scarred hero has been thinking of moving to the New Madrid District in the Louisiana Territory, then under the dominion of Spain. He is acquainted with George Morgan. He has heard of the supposed immense grant of land to Morgan in the New Madrid District. In that assemblage of the important people of that time, we see, of course, General Isaac Shelby of Kings Mountain fame. He is one of the founders of Tennessee. He is to be the first Governor of Kentucky. Isaac Shelby and the bride are first cousins. ⁴⁹ And here, I imagine is the family of Israel Pickens. ⁵⁰ They too live in the immediate vicinity of Poplar Tent. Only a few years before, General Andrew Pickens of South Carolina had succeeded Daniel Morgan, the hero of Saratoga and Cowpens, as commander of a regiment, composed largely of North Carolinians, in the Army of the Revolution under General Nathaniel Green. ⁵¹ A host of friends and relatives are up from

48. Ramsay's *Annals of Tenn.*, 116; *Rev. History of N. C.*, by Hawks, Swain and Graham, 184; *Hunter's Sketches*, 172, 174, 196.

49. *Draper's Kings Mountain and Its Heroes*, 417; 2 *Armstrong's Notable Southern Families*, 311-12.

50. 1 *Wheeler's Historical Sketches of N. C.*, 61; *Harris' Historical Sketch of Poplar Tent Church*, 20.25.

51. *McGrady's South Carolina in Revolution, 1780-83* (Macmillan & Co.), 120.

Charlotte for this wedding. They are the Polks, Alexanders, Brevards and others. Here also we see the Olivers, Abernathys, Grahams and McCombs, who have come from the adjacent County of Lincoln to attend the nuptials of the popular couple and the incidental festivities. They came, I imagine, on beautiful and prancing steeds, for Lincoln County was a land of fine horses. ⁵²

After their marriage Oliver Harris and Margaret Shelby, lived, it seems, for some twenty-five years in the Poplar Tent Church neighborhood near Concord, North Carolina. There they reared, and educated under the tutelage of such men as "Master" Thomas Allison ⁵³ and the illustrious Reverend Doctor John Robinson, ⁵⁴ twelve children. But Mrs. Harris' cousin, Moses Shelby, had moved to New Madrid County, Missouri. David Shelby and Jonathan Shelby, relatives of Mrs. Harris, were living on the River in what afterwards became Perry County, Missouri. And it must not be overlooked that William Ross had a Spanish Grant in Scott County, Missouri, near the present Thebes Bridge. The place was then called Ross' Point. ⁵⁵ He had a son, John Ross, and Hannah Harris, sister of Oliver Harris, was the wife of John Ross. Isabelle, a daughter of Oliver Harris, had married William Johnston, and another daughter, Jane, was Mrs. Cyrus Henderson, as I have previously

52. "Gentleman" John Perkins, Lenoir, N. C., News Topic, 9.

53. Morrison's History of Allison Family, 144.

54. Harris' Historical Sketch of Poplar Tent, 17, 18, 20.

55. William Ross' Will, Cape Girardeau County Probate Record A, 115, May 24, 1820.

stated. The Johnstons and the Hendersons were thinking of moving to Missouri, and a little later did come to Missouri, and settled near this site of Apple Creek Church. The Shelbys in Missouri, were sending news in some way or other to Oliver Harris in North Carolina about the new western country and the fine prospects in Missouri, and were urging him to come on to the Missouri territory. So Oliver Harris and wife, with all their children, migrated to Missouri. I do not know the exact year of their arrival in Missouri, but, from the circumstantial evidence, I think it must have been about the year 1810; maybe earlier. In the Archives of the Missouri Historical Society at St. Louis, in the handwriting of Stephen Hempstead, is Hempstead's Diary, covering his trip from New London, Connecticut, by way of Pittsburgh, down the Ohio, and up the Mississippi, to St. Louis. This was in 1811, the year of the New Madrid earthquake. Ascending the Mississippi, and before reaching Cape Girardeau, so Hempstead says, he landed his keel boat on the Missouri shore. He put up for the night on the bank of the river, and there, so he relates, he was furnished with provisions by a man by the name of Harris.⁵⁶ Now, Oliver Harris was a Presbyterian, and Stephen Hempstead was on the look-out for Presbyterians in the wilds of the West. The main object of his long and perilous trip, it would seem from his letters, was to establish and spread the faith in the new and developing western land. Keeping in mind that Mrs. Harris' cousin, Moses Shelby, was in the New Madrid District, that she had Shelby cousins on the River in Perry County.

56. Hempstead Papers, 296.

that William Ross was living on the River just below Cape Girardeau, that Oliver Harris' sister had married a Ross, and that Oliver Harris, on coming to Missouri, would naturally have selected a place on the River near his sister, and affording, in the then condition of the country, practically the only means of reaching or communicating with his Shelby relatives at New Madrid and in Perry, it is a reasonable conclusion, I think, that the Harris who supplied Stephen Hempstead, camped at or near Ross' Point, with provisions for the remainder of his voyage to St. Louis, was none other than Oliver Harris, who ten years later appears on the board of elders of Apple Creek Church. If so, he was one of the earliest, if not the very first, of the Apple Creek congregation to arrive in Missouri, excepting, of course, Elizabeth Byrd, who had been here since about 1800. He was an early land entryman in both Cape Girardeau and Perry Counties. He settled finally, I believe, on Apple Creek in Perry County among the kinfolks of his wife. He must have been buried in Perry County, because, if my information is correct, no tombstone in Apple Creek Cemetery tells of any Oliver Harris sleeping here. He was a leading citizen, an influential man, a conspicuous figure in early Missouri, as his antecedents had been in North Carolina and Pennsylvania. His selection by Moderator Giddings and that congregation of strong men and good women for the bench of elders confirms our estimate of him. It was doubtless on account of his high standing and qualities of leadership that the congregation named the place Apple Creek Church, because, as I have just said, his home seems to have been on Apple Creek.

In this connection, we must not overlook his neighbor and co-elder, Samuel Anderson. He too resided in Perry County. At the very time Anderson was aiding here in the founding of Apple Creek church, Perry County was being organized, and Anderson, as a leading citizen and public official there, took part in the creation of Perry County, so the early records of that County disclose. It may be that Anderson suggested Apple Creek as the name for this church.

I have never seen a picture of Oliver Harris. He died in January 1835, at the age of 71. His contemporaries died long before I was born. I cannot, therefore, describe his physique. But a likeness of him readily takes form in my mind, because I well knew his grandsons, Oliver Harris Hope and Judge John R. Henderson.⁷⁵ These men were above the average in height, of large frame, but not corpulent. So Elder Haris, I imagine, was just about such a man as Oliver Hope or Judge Henderson—tall and erect in stature, strong and dignified, a born leader in any community.

Hezekiah P. Harris, listed on this charter roll, was a son of Oliver Harris. Not many years after the organization of the church, Hezekiah returned to North Carolina. He there won distinction as a physician and leading citizen generally.⁵⁸ All the other children of Oliver Harris remained in Missouri, name-

57. Carnes Henderson, father of Cyrus and grandfather of Judge Henderson, settled in Cape Girardeau County; died, as his tombstone in Apple Creek Cemetery shows, Dec. 29, 1842. Knox's Sketch, 9; McCue's "Henderson Chronicles."

58. In June, 1926, Davidson College conferred the degree of L. L. D. upon Hon. Wade Hampton Harris, Editor of the Charlotte (N. C.) Observer, and grandson of Dr. Hezekiah P. Harris.

ly, Dorcas (wife of Daniel Cline); Robert W. Harris; Jane (Mrs. Cyrus Henderson); Isabelle (Mrs. William Johnston); Berenice (Mrs. Thomas J. Sloan); Moses Harris; Thomas S. Harris, (married Jane Hope Henderson); Brevard Harris; Charles A. (married Elizabeth Hope), moved to Hopkins County, Texas, about 1860; Narcissus (wife of Judge David C. Hope); and John R. Harris (married Dorcas Sheppard.)

But there were other Harrises among those pioneers, kin to Oliver Harris, but not of his immediate family. Elijah Harris, another Revolutionary soldier, is on this original roll of Apple Creek church members.⁵⁹ His sister, Berenice, lived in Perry County. She was the wife of Jeremiah Abernathy.⁶⁰ Hannah and Sophrina Harris, also on this charter roll, were sisters of Elijah. And there was Samuel Harris, apparently not a member of this church, but nevertheless a prominent man in the community. I think he was a brother of Oliver Harris, since the records show that Oliver had a brother named Samuel, born in 1758. Samuel appears in the records at Jackson as early as 1817.⁶¹ He too was a soldier in the War for Independence, and a member of the Rowan County, North Carolina, Committee of Safety.⁶² His will, one of the interesting documents in the Probate

59. N. C. Col. and State Records, Vol 17, p. 221; Vol. 16, p. 1082.

60. John Oliver, Sr., Diary. Elijah Harris' Will, Cape Girardeau County Probate Record A, 130, April 28, 1828.

61. Circuit Clerk's Office, Jackson, Court Record A, 163-4; 224-5.

62. N. C. Col. and State Records, Vol. 10, p. 252; Vol. 17, p. 129.

Court at Jackson, written and signed in North Carolina, and witnessed there by Dr. Elam W. Harris and John Wallace, shows that he was a son-in-law of Matthew McClure, who, according to the historians, was a renowned leader and patriot in Colonial and Revolutionary North Carolina. In this will, signed in February, 1822, Samuel Harris says that he was a resident of Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, but was then temporarily "in Cabarrus County, North Carolina." He died shortly after making this will. Evidently John Wallace and Dr. Elam W. Harris were also only temporarily in North Carolina when they witnessed this will, because they were back in Missouri in May of that year, and it was upon their testimony, given in the Cape Girardeau County Court, then exercising Probate jurisdiction, in May, 1822, that this will of Samuel Harris was admitted to probate. ⁶³

And there was John Harris. His tombstone in the cemetery here shows that he was born in 1766. I cannot explain the absence of his name from this original roll of members of Apple Creek, except to say that, like Dr. Elam W. Harris and Samuel Harris, he probably returned occasionally to North Carolina on visits to relatives there, or perhaps on matters of business. He may have been away on some such trip at the time this church was organized. But, he, like Oliver Harris, Elijah and Samuel, was evidently a prominent man in pioneer Missouri. He was the father of Milton Harris, Dr. Elam W. Harris, and Judge Edward L. Harris, all leading characters of

⁶³. Probate Record A, 168.

that time. Milton Harris, as the record discloses, participated in the organization of this church.

It is worthy of note that the Harrises, while successful in other callings, have been, from generation to generation, in the front ranks of the medical profession. I have already mentioned the high standing in this respect of Dr. Charles Harris. But Dr. Elam W. Harris, who lived in this County at an early period and died here long ago, had a practice which extended over a wide scope of country. He left in Missouri a record of success and achievement in the profession equal to that of his distinguished relative in North Carolina. His son, Dr. Samuel S. Harris of Cape Girardeau, was, as it is well known, a leading and outstanding man in the field of medicine and surgery, as well as in the political and public affairs of the State. We all remember with tender and affectionate regard the courteous, kind and benevolent Doctor Edward H. Harris. He lived in this community and here healed our ills, always ready to come to our relief, day or night, in storm or sunshine. The aptitude of the Harrises for healing the ills of mankind is exemplified in Dr. Henderson of Jackson and Dr. Howard Hope of Cape Girardeau, both great grandsons of Oliver Harris. And we have already mentioned that Dr. Hezekiah P. Harris, a son of Oliver Harris, was an eminent physician in North Carolina. ⁶⁴

It may not be amiss to note the condition of this section of the country at the time our forefathers set-

64. Also Moses Harris, son of Oliver Harris, was a prominent physician in Perry County.

tled here. This entire northeast corner of the county was a wilderness. The Shawnee Indians had a village on Indian Creek, west of the Oliver place, and another village in the vicinity of the Judge Henderson place, only a few miles from this church. There was a big town of Shawnee and Delaware Indians near the mouth of Apple Creek. The nearest inhabitants, other than the Indians, were the Byrd family on Byrd's Creek, near Jackson; John Hays, first Sheriff of the County and Register of the Land Office, who then lived on the River at the place now known as Lovejoy; John Logan and General Henry Seibert * on Apple Creek at the place later known as Wilkinson's Mill; the Fenwicks and David and Jonathan Shelby in the neighborhood of what is now Wittenberg; and perhaps one of the Neelys on the River at Neely's Landing. Jackson and Cape Girardeau, the only towns in the County, were scarcely more than frontier villages. Primeval forests covered the sites of the present towns of Pocahontas, Shawneetown, New Wells, Oak Ridge, and Fruitland. These pioneers, as their parents had done in Pennsylvania and North Carolina, instead of settling in a comparatively opened up neighborhood, such as Jackson, Cape Girardeau, New Madrid, or St. Genevieve, struck out, so to speak,

* Native of Virginia; officer in the War of 1812; member from Perry County in the early State Legislatures; friend and associate of Thomas H. Benton. His son, Daniel Seibert, married Sarah Ann Melissa McCombs, daughter of the pioneer John McCombs. Daniel Seibert and wife are buried in Apple Creek Cemetery. They were the parents of Col. James M. Seibert, already mentioned; David B. Seibert, a leading St. Louis banker, formerly cashier of the Cape County Savings Bank and Collector of the County, who died in 1921; and Mrs. Lillian Seibert Wilson of Jackson. All figure prominently in the annals of Apple Creek and in the social and public life of the State.

for the frontier, and here they established their homes. About the first thing they did, just as their forebears had done in Pennsylvania and in the Carolinas, was to erect on this hill, out of logs, a building in which to worship God, and simultaneously, therewith another log building as a school house in which to educate their children.⁶⁵ The wilderness, even the presence of the Indians, held no terrors for these people whose fathers in 1781 formed a small company and, under the command of Captain James Thompson, practically annihilated a British army at McIntyres Creek in Mecklenburgh County, North Carolina.⁶⁶

65. First school in the County north of Jackson. At this time the John Hays family lived on the Mississippi, near the place afterwards called Lovejoy. His daughter, Mrs. Zerilda Byrnes says, "We all frequently attended Apple Creek Presbyterian Church," and that the school at Apple Creek Church was "the first educational institution north of Jackson in Cape Girardeau County." Mns. Recollections of Zerilda Byrnes, Houck Library, Elmwood; Houck's Memorial Sketches, 75. Catholics founded St. Mary's Seminary in Perry County in 1818, only three years earlier. Some twenty years earlier, emigrants from Pennsylvania and Virginia, evidently Scotch-Irish, established at Mt. Tabor in the Ramsey-Giboney Settlement in Cape Girardeau County "the first English school west of the Mississippi River." 2 Houck's History of Missouri, 182, 183.

On February 23, 1853, John Oliver, Jr., John Horrell, Edward L. Harris, and Wright Mitchell, organized Cape Girardeau County School District No. One. About this time, at Pleasant Hill Church, under the guidance and fostering care and aid of John Oliver, Jr., arose Pleasant Hill Academy, articulated with Westminster College, and for many years one of the leading educational institutions of the State. Mr. Oliver, it may be truly said, was the father of this Academy. He perscribed the course of study and selected the teachers, among whom was Prof. Michael Fisher, afterwards head of the Latin department of Westminster College, and later head of the Latin department and Acting President of the State University.

66. 2 The Murphy Papers, Pub. N. C. Historical Commission, 246, 248; 19 N. C. Col. and State Records, 969, 990; Hunter's Sketches, 136 to 141.

It held no terrors for these men and women whose grandparents assembled in the shade of a giant poplar and under the leadership of the Colonial Missionary, John Thompson, established Poplar Tent Presbyterian Church in the Colony of North Carolina, at a time when the warwhoop of the Cherokee still resounded in the land. ⁶⁷

But I must end these rambling and disconnected remarks. I wish, however, not to overlook a point I had especially in mind when I began this talk. It has reference to Willis Knox ⁶⁸ and the gratitude all of us should feel toward him for having compiled and printed the record of the organization of this church and for his work in preserving from oblivion much of the early annals of Apple Creek. I refer to his interesting historical pamphlet published in 1911 in connection with the ninetieth anniversary of the founding of the church.

And may I here add that the diary and memoranda left by John Oliver, Senior, a man of education and culture, who was a leading member of

67. Webster's History of Presbyterian Church, 192; 212-24-45-55-56; 355; 8th Congress, Scotch Irish in America, 236; Harris' Historical Sketch of Poplar Tent, 10, 12; Hunter's Sketches, 89, 164.

68. Now residing, and elder in the church, at Jackson; formerly at Apple Creek. His great grandfather, Ezekiel Knox, born in North Carolina, settled in Perry County, near Brazeau Presbyterian Church, about 1828. Willis Knox's father, John W. Knox, now 87 years of age, and living at Jackson, has been a member of Apple Creek for about 60 years. The family has been prominent in Missouri, particularly the Brazeau, Apple Creek and Caledonia congregations, ever since Ezekiel Knox settled in Perry County. The Knoxes were conspicuous patriots in Colonial and Revolutionary North Carolina. The father of Ezekiel Knox and many other members of the family were soldiers in the Revolution. The mother of President James K. Polk was of this family.

this church, and who was a keen observer of the times, constitute an invaluable source of historical information concerning both North Carolina and early Missouri, and the people who founded Apple Creek and Pleasant Hill Churches. Practically all of those who signed the original membership roll of Apple Creek Church were of the sturdy Scotch-Irish stock. Oliver, however, was a scion of the gentry of Colonial Virginia. In 1800 he married Amy Abernathy. She, it seems, was of Scotch extraction; but she was not Scotch-Irish, because the Abernathys came to Virginia direct from Scotland, and not by way of Ireland. She was descended, like her husband, from a family that since 1630 had been plantation owners in Virginia and the Carolinas. Both belonged to the land-owning and slaveholding class which in those days was socially and politically dominant. It is not surprising, therefore, that when they migrated from Lincoln County, North Carolina, to Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, and settled on Indian Creek, within the bounds of Apple Creek Church congregation, in the Spring of 1819, he acquired a large body of land and there established and maintained, on the order of magnificence and hospitality, characteristic of the Old Virginia plantation, the home ever since known as the "Oliver Place"—a home that served to give tone and color to society in pioneer Missouri. Nor is it difficult to understand that John Oliver, Senior, as the head of such a home, was not only a leader in Apple Creek Church, but a man of influence and power for good far beyond the confines of Apple Creek congregation. His diary and other writings extend over a long period, covering, in addition to his life in North Carolina, his subsequent residence in Missouri from the Spring of 1819,

when he settled in Cape Girardeau County, until his death in 1838, at the age of 67.

It is, I think, a reproach to historical research and learning in Missouri, that the North Carolina Settlement in Cape Girardeau County, which centered around this church and was an important event in the founding and development of the State, has been overlooked by those who profess to be the historians of Missouri. So far as the subject has had the attention of professional historians or those who claim to be historical experts, Apple Creek Church is an unwritten chapter of Missouri history. It is indeed a reflection on Presbyterianism, justly priding itself on its record of devotion to education and culture and scholarship, that Presbyterian historical literature contains so little about Apple Creek Church. How it happens that the scholars and historians of the denomination have failed to take adequate note of the significance and importance of Old Apple Creek, is difficult to understand. No blame for this oversight can be attributed to Louis Houck. He was not a member of the Presbyterian Church, and, besides, his monumental work, as historian of Missouri, begins with the earliest explorations and ends with 1820. Apple Creek Church was not organized until May 21, 1821. And how it reflects on Presbyterian annalists that so little can be found in published Presbyterian literature regarding the kinfolks of the Apple Creek people, who, on August 12, 1816, at Caledonia in the Bellvue Valley, Washington County, established the first Presbyterian church in Missouri—the first west of the Mississippi. It was left to Louis Houck to search out, from the letters of Hempstead, Giddings,

and Robert Stevenson and from other sources, the story of Presbyterianism in the Bellvue Valley. I think no other account of the Caledonia church has ever been written comparable to the full and interesting sketch of that church to be found in Mr. Houck's History of Missouri. He names all of the original members of that church, giving due prominence to Elder Robert Stevenson. Those people, so Mr. Houck says, were North Carolinians. As a matter of fact, the Sloans, ⁶⁹ the Alexanders, ⁷⁰ the Hendersons, the Johnstons, the Stevensons, and the Walkers, ⁷¹ named in Mr. Houck's History of Missouri among the founders of the Caledonia Church, were kindred, not only

69. In Cape Girardeau County before 1816, because, in that year, Thomas Sloan, who had married the widow of John Hand, appeared in Court for her as administratrix of Hand's estate. Court Record A, 93, 130, Circuit Clerk's Office, Jackson. This Thomas Sloan was doubtless related to Hiram Logan Sloan, who settled just North of Cape Girardeau, and for whom Sloan's Creek took its name. They were relatives of the other Thomas Sloan, early member of Apple Creek. Hiram Logan Sloan was the brother of George Franklin Sloan, whose daughter, Margaret, was the wife of John Oliver, Jr.

70. Begins in Cape Girardeau County with Ambrose Alexander of Apple Creek Church. He came of a family conspicuous and distinguished in Scotland, Ireland, and America. Revolutionary History of N. C. by Hawks, Swain and Graham, 18, 53; History of Mecklenburgh County, N. C., by J. B. Alexander.

71. James Walker, born in Mecklenburgh County, N. C., married Jemima Young; came to Apple Creek Settlement in eighteen twenties; parents of Dr. John H., Young, Cyrus, Esther Jane, and Sarah Walker. His wife and James Hope's wife were sisters. Robert Young Hope's wife, Margaret Walker (widow of Levi N. Torrence, Sr.,) was James Walker's sister. Another Walker, not related to the above, so far as known, was John Walker, a Revolutionary soldier, who came from Lincoln County, N. C., and settled on what is now known as the "Putz Place," adjoining the old McCombs' land. William C. Walker, formerly of Oak Ridge, now 85 years of age, and living with his daughter at Maplewood, and whose Recollections are cited in these footnotes, is a great grandson of this John Walker.

in religious faith, but by blood, of those of the same names, who, only a few years later, played equally important parts in the Apple Creek congregation. Likewise the Allison's, who, with other Carolinians, settled in Lincoln and Pike Counties, and there, at about the same time this Apple Creek settlement was taking form, erected Buffalo Fort on Alexander Allison's farm and organized Buffalo Creek Presbyterian Church, were the kinsmen, in lineage, sympathies and ideals, of the Carolinians in our Apple Creek congregation.

Other denominations have not neglected their sacred, their historic shrines. Methodist literature, historical and otherwise, contains the story of McKendree Chapel. It was the first Methodist Church west of the Mississippi. It was organized near Jackson in 1811. Old Bethel Church, which was the first Protestant church west of the Mississippi, and which was organized by the Baptists near Jackson in 1806, has never been overlooked by the historians of the Baptist denomination. Libraries everywhere have long contained historical works telling at length the story of Old Bethel, written by devout and learned men of the Baptist faith. Gavels, carved from the logs of the old church house, have long been used by presiding officers in ruling the District meetings, the General Association, and other important gatherings of Missouri Baptists. In 1906 they held their General Association at Cape Girardeau. They came from every section of Missouri. They met at Cape Girardeau in order that they might run out to Jackson and pay tribute to the founders of their denomination in Missouri, and get inspiration, from a study of the lives

of their forefathers, for better and bigger accomplishments for the Christian religion in this day and generation. So they congregated at Old Bethel. And there on that historic spot, amid the graves of the founders of their denomination in Missouri, they listened to the addresses of their great and distinguished laymen and ministers, and unveiled an imposing monument in memory and in honor of David Green ⁷² and his associates—the founders of the Baptist faith in Missouri.

It is well that we too pay tribute to those who here organized Apple Creek Church more than a hundred years ago. I would like to see erected here a monument with their names inscribed thereon. It is proper that we honor and revere them as founders of the Presbyterian faith in this section, and that we study their lives and deeds; that from such contemplation of their heroic and consecrated lives we may be

72. In addition to the connection between Old Bethel and Old Apple Creek, arising from Judge Green's descent from Elder David Green, there was the Abernathy relationship. John Abernathy was in the Bethel congregation; his wife, Clara, a charter member. He was born in Scotland; landed in Virginia in 1772; located the same year in Wake County, North Carolina, where he resided during the Revolutionary War; rendered great service in the cause of Independence, both as soldier and public official in Wake County. At the time of the organization of the State Government, the North Carolina Provincial Congress had his plantation under consideration as a suitable site for the State capitol. After the Revolution, in 1788, he moved to Georgia, and in 1800 to the Spanish dominion of Louisiana; settled on Hubble's Creek in what afterwards became Cape Girardeau County. About a year before his death he moved to Union County, Illinois, where he died in 1835 at the age of 82. He was a friend and associate of Elder David Green and had the friendship and confidence of Congressman John Scott and United States Senators, Barton, Buckner, and Benton, with each of whom he was well acquainted. See details of his interesting career in his Pension Papers, Pension Bureau, Rev. War Section, Washington, D. C.

fired with uplifting aspirations and be inspired to achieve, as they achieved; to worship God, as they did, in daily Christian living; to foster, as they did, the church and the school; to stand, as they did, with unflinching courage for right and truth; and to realize, as they did, that citizenship involves sacred patriotic duties to be solemnly and conscientiously performed, to the extent even of sacrificing life; if need be, for principle.