



Kerr Kronicles Volume I
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Happy New Year and welcome to the year 2020! Philadelphia Presbyterian Church is having its 250th Birthday this year and we will be celebrating throughout the year. There will be a “Peek into the Past” each week with historical information taken from *The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek* by Rev. Russell Martin Kerr and other sources as noted.

A Peek into the Past: The Presbyterian migration to America was centered near Philadelphia, New York, the Chesapeake Bay Area and Charleston. Later it found great strength in the Carolina Back Country. Separated by several hundred miles from the seats of Colonial government, the Back Country had a special appeal for the independent minded Scots. It became the end of the trail for many of the families that had first come to the Chesapeake Bay and Philadelphia.

During this migration the trail that led the first travelers became the Great Wagon Road, the Colonial prototype for the modern Interstate Highway. Beginning in Philadelphia it went westward across Pennsylvania through Lancaster...turning south it passed through York where it entered the great Valley of Virginia. By 1760 it extended to Salisbury crossing the Yadkin, through the Catawba Valley to Camden, SC. Maps of the time indicate that the road came through the Clear Creek Community on the way to Indian Trail and south. It came past where Clear Creek Baptist Church is now situated and went down Clontz Road where it crossed the present Highway 218.

Many of the settlers were second or third generation Americans. Some were well educated and had been active in churches. This core of the population had come with their Bibles, their Psalters and a desire for worship according to the dictates of their conscience. They knew at what great cost this freedom had been bought in Scotland and Ireland. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

A Musical “Note”: The father reverently takes the family Bible and says, “Let us worship God” The family then joins in singing a Psalm. Burns suggests it could have been to the tune called “Dundee” to which the 121 Psalm was often sung. After the singing of the Psalm, the father reads a passage of scripture, then kneels for an earnest prayer. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

Important National Event of 1770: The Battle of Golden Hill was a clash between British soldiers and the Sons of Liberty in the American colonies that occurred on January 19, 1770, in New York City. Along with the Boston Massacre and the Gaspée Affair, the event was one of the early violent incidents in what would become the American Revolution.