



Kerr Kronicles Volume V
February 23, 2020

Peek into the Past: The year 1780 marks a major change in the life of the congregation. The original meeting house had been built near the waters of Clear Creek adjacent to the Rock Springs Cemetery. It is altogether likely that the name Rock Springs Meeting House was just as familiar as the name Clear Creek. In conformity to the style of meeting houses of that day, it was likely constructed of logs and many have had split logs for seats. For a decade or more the congregation had gathered here to worship and be close beside where they had buried its dead. Now this first structure was destroyed by fire. This first building was on lands owned by Adam Alexander. The reasons for not remaining at the original location cannot be discovered; however, at this time the congregation decided to move to a new location about a half mile south of Charlotte-Cheraw Road, the site now marked by a small cemetery known as either the Hart or Rice Cemetery. It had plank siding, glass windows, and at least two doors with locks. At the time of relocation, the name of the church was changed from Clear Creek to Philadelphia. (The History of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church by Rev. Russell Kerr-1970)

Interesting Fact: During the Revolutionary War, the men were fighting battles, but the women did not remain silent. In a published note in The South Carolina and American General Gazette of February, 1776: "The young ladies of the best families in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina have entered into a voluntary association that they will not receive the address of any young gentleman of that place except the brave volunteers who served in the expedition to South Carolina....being of the opinion that such persons as stay loitering at home, when the important calls of the country demand their military services abroad, must certainly be destitute of that nobleness of sentiment, that brave, manly spirit which would qualify them to be defenders and guardians of the fair sex". (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

A Musical "Note": Venerable Bede saw the influence of the Celts in the Singing Lollards of Kyle who were singing the gospel in native language. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

Important National Event: Shays' Rebellion was an armed uprising in Western Massachusetts in opposition to a debt crisis among the citizenry and the state government's increased efforts to collect taxes both on individuals and their trades; the fight took place mostly in and around Springfield during 1786 and 1787.