



Kerr Kronicles Volume VII

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Peek into the Past: March, 1824, the congregational record shows this motion: “Resolved that a new meeting house be build and that it be a brick house”. The actual building began March, 1825, but was not usable condition until summer of 1826. Each of the quarters of the church was appointed to bring a certain number of loads of rock, clay and sand to be used in making the brick for the new church. The fact that the congregation decided to build a brick meeting house is of special note, since most of the meeting houses in this area were of wood...The brick homes in this area are attributed to the fact that several German settlers in the neighborhood of Morning Star Church were skilled makers of brick. It’s said that one of them, William Rice, made brick after 1803 in addition to farming. He advised the members of Philadelphia Church in their making of the brick though the actual manufacture took place at the site of the present building, done by the members themselves. (The History of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church by Rev. Russell Kerr-1970)

A Musical “Note”: In 1826 the Lord’s Supper was observed twice a year and was kept as a High Day in the life of the congregation. Often a neighboring pastor would be invited to take part in the preparatory services and, and on the Sabbath he and the local pastor would take turns presiding over the table. The solemn occasion would be concluded with the singing of a Psalm and the benediction. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

Important National Events: 1824-The American presidential election which made John Quincy Adams president is bitterly contested and must be resolved by the House of Representatives.; 1825-The Erie Canal opens, making New York the Empire State; 1830-In Baltimore, a steam locomotive races a horse-driven railroad car—and loses after a drive band slips.