



Kerr Kronicles Volume VIII

March 15, 2020

Peek into the Past: As may have been expected, work on the new meeting house proceeded slowly, but in August, 1826, it had reached the point where the building could be used. A note in the papers of the church records “on Friday the fourth day of August in the year of our Lord 1826 the first sermon was delivered at the new brick meeting house of Philadelphia congregation by Rev. John Wilson. On Sunday, the 6th, the Sacrament was administered.” The general rejoicing of the congregation in the achievement of their purpose was tempered by the fact that in the same week a daughter of the Wilson’s died. The “study house” which had been built in connection with the second meeting house was moved to a site of the “new meeting house” where it continued to serve as a meeting place for the Session. The name given suggests that it may have been a place of retreat for the minister and for catechetical classes which would have been quite in keeping with the forward looking ideas of Mr. Wilson. (The History of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church by Rev. Russell Kerr-1970)

John Makemie Wilson, Pastor 1802-1831, had the distinction of being the only minister of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church with a degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of North Carolina. Dr. Wilson was able to maintain an active ministry at Rocky River Church and Philadelphia Church until the last year of his life. He joined the “saints who from their labors rest” on July 30, 1831 at the age of 62. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

A Musical “Note”: “On Friday the 4th of Day of August in the year of our Lord 1826 the first sermon was delivered in the New Meeting House Philadelphia Congregation by the Reverend John M. Wilson on Sunday the 6th the Sacrament was administered.” “Old Hundredth” must have rung out as the congregation joined in singing, “Praise God from whom all blessings flow.” (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

Important National Events: July 4, 1826 - Two founding members of the United States pass away on Independence Day; Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President, and John Adams, 2nd President.