



Kerr Kronicles Volume IX

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Peek into the Past: After the death of John Makemie Wilson, Pastor for 30 years in 1831, there were three pastors in six years until 1837 when Angus Johnson was invited to become stated supply for one year, and then the congregation, pleased with his work, extended a call for him to become the minister which he continued until 1843. He served two thirds of his time at Philadelphia Church and one third at Union Church. Noted as Philadelphia's First Historian, he brought a significant leadership to the Philadelphia congregation.

Philadelphia Church is greatly indebted to Mr. Johnson for his recognition of the need for orderly records. One of his first actions was to secure a well bound book for the recording of the Session's minutes and including a register for members received, baptisms, deaths and marriages. He began the record by writing a brief history of the church as it had been handed down through families: "This history is very imperfect and doubtless there are some chronological error: But this is the best we can furnish from memory there being no sessional record ever kept by this church so far as we can learn." (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

Interesting Fact: During the 1830's it was common for members to be brought before the Session for profane swearing, Sabbath breaking, dancing, fornication and the most common offense of intoxication. One member "confessed he was guilty and sorrow and promised to entirely abandon the use of ardent spirits unless for medical purposes". (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

A Musical "Note": Even one hundred and sixty nine years later one feels like standing with the Congregation and singing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

Important National Event: March 6, 1836 - A tragic siege at the Alamo becomes a legendary battle in the Texas War for Independence. Local events in 1837: United States Mint began its operation in Charlotte and Concord Presbytery founded Davidson College.