



Kerr Kronicles Volume X
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Peek into the Past: The Fall Meeting of Mecklenburg Presbytery in 1878 was special for the Philadelphia congregation, it was the host for the meeting. The Presbytery meeting always lasted for several days, so it took some careful planning to provide for the 18 ministers and 23 elders in attendance. It also meant planning transportation. The Presbytery expressed special thanks to the congregation “for sending to Charlotte for the members”. The Presbytery did not conduct business on the Sabbath, but joined with the congregation for worship, and the congregation provided “dinner on the grounds,” between the morning and afternoon services. In Pastor McDonald’s narrative report, he reported Sabbath Schools were growing and Ladies Benevolent Societies established. However, he had to include in the report that many churches had trouble with intemperance and family worship was being neglected. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

A Musical “Note”: 1870 - Seats had been designated for the “singers”. This may show that the “hymn sings” held in the homes of members provided a choir. Musical instruments were not needed in the homes since there were none in the church. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

Interesting Fact: In 1867 the membership reported was 316, however, after a review and purge of inactive members in 1869, the number went down to 196 with 60 children in the Sabbath school. Though some members were being received, more were moving. The year 1871 brought the roll of membership to a low point when 187 was reported. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

Important National Events: March 4, 1869: A hero of the Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant (1822–1885) becomes president of the United States. March 1, 1872: President U.S. Grant establishes Yellowstone Park as the first National Park