



## **Kerr Kronicles Volume XI**

**May 10, 2020**

*Peek into the Past:* As in the case of former pastors, Mr. McDonald had his own farm and by the results of his efforts there was able to sustain his family though the church found it increasingly difficult to meet its financial obligations. Early in 1887 Mr. McDonald was called to his reward, having exercised a faithful and patient ministry for 25 years. In September of that same year the congregation voted to set out to raise the sum of \$500 during 1887 and 1888 to establish a scholarship at Davidson College in his honor. His influence lived on in the church as a result of his labors, but also by the influence of his family. (The History of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church by Rev. Russell Kerr-1970)

After the Civil War, Ladies Benevolent Societies began to form in the churches of the presbytery. On July 16, 1875 some of the women of Philadelphia Church met in the grove after the service and decided to form a society. One of their primary purposes was to make quilts that could be sold to raise money to help the destitute in the church and provide quilts where there was a need. By selling quilts and seeds, they raised \$407.16 during 1875 to 1882. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*Interesting Fact:* During this time, the Mecklenburg Presbytery adopted a paper on Worldly Amusements. Sessions were not to receive those who would not renounce such worldly amusements as the theater, circuses, card playing and the ball and dance. The Philadelphia Session took these recommendations seriously. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*A Musical "Note":* The closing hymn, "God Be with You till We Meet Again", was written in 1880 by Jeremiah Rankin, a minister of Washington D.C.'s First Congregational Church. (*Source: Internet*)

*Important National Events:* May 24, 1883: The Brooklyn Bridge opens with a huge celebration, and the crush of visitors results in a disaster a week later.