



## **Kerr Kronicles Volume XIV**

**May 31, 2020**

*Peek into the Past:* In the early part of the 1890's, an important event was occurring for the church and community of Mint Hill with the Bain Academy. Provision for education had long been neglected in Mecklenburg so, with the encouragement of the church along with the entire community, Bain Academy became one of two very prominent high schools in Mecklenburg County. After the first committee was appointed, John Bain, a civic minded bachelor, set out to build a school. Land had been secured across the road from the church. Mr. Bain built the school and then gave it to the church. Tuition rates ranged from \$1 per month for the first grade to \$3.25 for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Teachers were described as college graduates, with normal training and several years' experience. Good board was advertised in private homes of the families at \$10 per month, except laundry. The student body numbered 180.

In appreciation for John Bain, the members of the community presented to Mr. Bain a gold headed walking stick bearing an inscription of appreciation. In turn, Mr. Bain willed it to Philadelphia Church with the stipulation that it was to be held by the oldest male member of the congregation. This tradition continues today.

Through a committee, the church carried forward the work of the school for many years. Mr. Bain willed a portion of this property to the church for the use of the school as well as the church at large. John Bain died on March 26, 1897 and is buried in the West Cemetery where a large pillar marks his resting place, and a window in the old sanctuary honors his memory. (The History of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church by Rev. Russell Kerr-1970)

*A Musical "Note":* A Music Course (at Bain Academy) was available with piano lessons at the cost of \$2.00 per month and 50m cents for the use of instrument one hour each day. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*Important National Event:* 1893: A widespread panic creates a serious economic depression lasting until 1897.