



## **Kerr Kronicles Volume XXI**

**June 14, 2020**

*Peek into the Past:* George W. Cheek was the pastor from 1913 to 1918, serving during the turbulent times of World War I and also during major renovations to the church. He was 32 years old when he arrived and his personality and ability seemed to be just what the congregation needed. At a congregational meeting on February 14, 1915, the moderator spoke for a few minutes on 'Why we should remodel our church'. Among other things he said, 'Our church is practically what it was ninety years ago when our forefathers were plowing oxen and using crude farm implements. Our church has not kept pace with our business. If you as a congregation say you want these improvements the battle is won.'" Mr. Craig, representing the deacons said 'We cannot go much further without repairing the church on account of the condition of the roof. The rain leaking through will soon rot the carpet and the floor. There is a time to plant a crop and if we let the time go by without planting the crop we are the loser. So it is with our church.' (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

In 1915, a motion carried that "those who were appointed to look after the timber for remodeling our church be appointed to see if it be practicable to cut the timber on the church grounds". In 1915, the church building was remodeled. An annex was placed on one side and a new front which included educational rooms was added. The women of the church presented a number of memorial windows and the old gallery was removed. (Historical notes circa 1952)

*Interesting Fact:* In 1913, the deacons were instructed "to have sawed not less than fifty posts 4 x 4 x 8ft. to be used as hitching posts for horses". And the women's organization became the Woman's Auxiliary and the women were divided into seven circles. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*A Musical "Note":* In 1902, the Session had expected to begin the new Century by meeting the first day of the year for the purpose of electing an organist and Choir leader. By a unanimous vote John Miller as leader and S. A. McWhirter and Walker Wilson as assistants were re-elected. The election of an organist was the next order. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*Important National Events:* 1914– 1918 World War I: U.S. enters World War I, declaring war on Germany (April 6, 1917) and Austria-Hungary (Dec. 7, 1917) three years after conflict began in 1914. Armistice ending World War I is signed 1918