



Union's third sanctuary, @1910

Donated in memory of Nettie J. and J. Frank Meek by Wade & Catherine M. Messer

Historical Record of the Organization
of Union Independent Presbyterian Church
Saturday, November 9, 1850

"The congregation of Union met and proceeded to organize a church by the election of Messrs. Daniel F. Ragan, Robert H. Craig and George R. Bryson, ruling elders, who after having answered the questions required by the Book of Discipline in the affirmative were solemnly set apart to said office by the imposition of hands and prayer.

The church thus organized having adopted the Book of Discipline of the Independent Presbyterian Church claim to belong to the Independent Presbyterian denomination to be known by the name of Union Church in Gaston County, North Carolina:

(Charter Members):

Daniel F. Ragan	Elizabeth Gingles
Robert H. Craig	Phebe Cath. Moore
George R. Bryson	Eliza. Ann Glenn
Harriet E. Bryson	Jane Herdman
Margaret A. Nolen	Margaret Herdman
Sarah Neil Craig	Mary H. Herdman
James S. Fewel	Martha Pam. Craig
Jane Elvira Fewel	Mary Ann Ford
Mary Cath. Craig	Margaret Moore
Oliver M. Nolen	John H. Craig
Enos B. Glenn	Robert M. Ratchford
Elisabeth M. Glenn	James F. Nolen
Samuel M. Pursley	Eliza Jane Berry
Sarah M.S. Pursley	Winslow W. Nolen
David Ward	William P. Bryson
Minerva W. Ward	Frances E. Bryson
James M. Craig	D. Maxwell Nolen
Mary Cox Craig	William D. Glenn
Susan Nolen	Frances C. Glenn

We can not say whether this list was all on November 9th or during the (camp-) meeting or not."

--Augustus L. Henderson
Clerk of Session
July 23, 1886

The General Assembly at Union in 1852
The General Convention of the Independent Presbyterian Church (12 churches) met at Union on Sunday, August 8, 1852!

The First Recorded Camp Meeting At
Union Independent Presbyterian Church
October 24-27, 1851 (Friday-Monday)

"Friday evening: Arrived at the camp-meeting at Union Church, N.C., 16 miles beyond Yorkville,¹ and preached by candlelight, from I Samuel 16:7 "The Lord looketh on the heart."

Saturday morning: Brother Carothers² arrived and preached. I preached at 2 o'clock P.M. from Luke 13:24 "Strive to enter in at the strait gate &c."

(Sabbath morning): Preached again, from John 1:29 "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." The communion services were solemn and sweet to the people of God.

(Sabbath evening:) Brother O'Daniel,³ pastor of the church here, preached by candlelight; after (the) sermon I addressed the people on the acceptable time and day of salvation. A good deal of feeling (was) manifested, and several persons under conviction for sin came to be prayed for and instructed.

Monday morning: I preached at 10 o'clock from Jeremiah 8:22 "Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? &c" After (the) sermon, the pastor of the church opened the door⁴ for the reception of members, when six persons presented themselves, whose examination being satisfactory, they were received, and publically covenanted with the Lord to be His servants for ever. The meeting (was) now closed and the encampment⁵ broken up. I came as far as Yorkville and preached by candlelight in our church from Hebrews 10:22...."

[from the diaries (3:193-194) of the Rev. Robert Young Russell, leader of the Independent Presbyterian Church, Historical Foundation, Montreat, N.C. Editorial information is in parenthesis or footnoted.]

- 1) Yorkville: former name for York, S.C.
- 2) Carothers: William Wallace Carothers, age 32, ordained preacher/teacher in Bethel Presbytery; later pastor of Union 1858-1866, along with Beth Shiloh and Zion.
- 3) O'Daniel: Joseph O'Daniel, age 43, pastor of Union & Olney; also a medical doctor; died 55 days later & is buried at Olney.
- 4) door: the only building in 1851 was the old log meeting house, which sat under the oak tree by the present sanctuary.
- 5) encampment: literally, a camping event!