

*Author is
Julius McCurdy?*

HISTORY

New-Hope Church was constituted in the year of our Lord 1788 by Rev. John Newton with William Hodge and David Adams elders. In 1789 William Luckie was received as an elder from Long-Cane Church, Abbeville, S.C. In 1790 Robert Cowden and David Ewing were ordained as elders by Rev. John Newton. In the same year (1790) William Appleby and James Leaper were received as elders from Big-Spring Church, Cumberland Co., Pa. At this time the church consisted of about sixty (60) members in full communion. Rev John Newton died in 1796 and the church was left without a pastor for the next two years; but was occasionally supplied by Rev. Francis Cummins, D.D. and Rev John Springer. In 1799 the church obtained one half of the Labors of Rev. William Montgomery who continued to minister to the church until the close of the year 1810, during which time William Fergus and Samuel Woods were ordained elders. About the year 1803 during the ministry of Rev. William Montgomery the church consisted of at least one hundred and eighty (180) communicants but was soon afterwards greatly reduced by emigration to Jackson Co. of this state and to the Duck-River purchase in Tennessee.

After the removal of Mr. Montgomery in 1810 the church was left almost wholly destitute of preaching until 1823 when she secured one fourth of the labors of Rev. John S. Wilson who supplied the church two years. During his ministry the church which had been previously reduced to eleven members, was enlarged by the addition of more than thirty new communicants. January 31st 1824 Rev. John S. Wilson ordained Alexander Human and Samuel Woods jun elders.

In 1825 David Haslit supplied the church, and in 1826 Rev. James Gamble. Next Rev. Joseph Y. Alexander preached to the church from the beginning of 1827 to the close of 1830 during which time Col. Samuel Groves and David Evans Esqr, were ordained elders. During 1833 & 1834 the church enjoyed the ministrations of Rev. Henry Safford. From that time until Jan. 1836

the church was destitute, when Rev. H.C. Carter began to preach to her and continued during that year. Sometime in this year (1836) Benjamin W. Woods was ordained an elder by Rev. H.C. Carter stated supply. In 1837 & 1838 Rev. James F.W. Freeman preached one fourth of his time.

The records of the Session of this church up to the year 1838, if any were kept, have been irrecoverably lost.

SESSIONAL RECORD

October 7, 1838.

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present- Rev. J.F.W. Freeman - Mod. and A. Human, S. Groves, D. Evans and B.W. Woods elders.

Groves H. Cartledge was examined on experimental religion and received into the communion of the church. Closed with prayer.

Samuel Groves, C.S.

The same day G.H. Cartledge was baptised upon the public profession of his faith in Christ.

Oct. 7, 1838.

Night Session met again and was constituted with prayer. Members present as above. Elizabeth W. Cartledge and Sarah L. Groves were examined on experimental piety and received in the communion of the Church. Closed with prayer.

Samuel Groves, C.S.

The same night E.W. Cartledge and S.L. Groves made a public profession of their faith in Christ and the former was baptized as an adult.

March 3rd. 1839

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. H. Safford, Mod., and A. Human, S. Groves, D. Evans and B.W. Woods elders. Ned, a colored man belonging to James Thompson Sen. was examined and received into the communion of the church. Closed with prayer.

Samuel Groves, C.S.

The same day Ned was baptised as an adult on profession of his faith in Christ.

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June 1st, 1839

Session met and constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. H. Safford, Mod. and A. Human, S. Groves, D. Evans and B.W. Woods elders. Daniel, a servant of T. Long, was examined & admitted to the communion of the church. Closed with prayer. Samuel Groves. C.S.

June 2nd, 1839.

Daniel was baptized as an adult upon profession of his faith in Christ. Sometime in the year 1844 Joseph B. Long and Anne Long were received by certificate from the church at Thyatira

Sept. 20th 1845

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present - Rev. A. Church D.D., Mod. and S. Groves, D. Evans and B.W. Woods - elders. Hohn D. Long, Jane McCurdy and Susan McCurdy were examined and admitted to the communion of the church. Session the had a recess until Sabbath 21st. Sabbath Sept. 21st.

Session met pursuant to adjournment. Members present as above. Mary W. McCurdy was examined and received into the communion of the church. Closed with prayer. Samuel Groves, C.S.

Same day John D. Long, Jame McCurdy. Mary McCurdy and Susan McCurdy made a public profession of their faith in Christ.

Oct. 5th, 1845

Rev. H. Safford baptized Henriette infant daughter of Benj. W. and Eliza A. Woods, Mary Lucas infant daughter of Robt. & Artemisia M. Woods and Mary Frances infant daughter of Jos. B. and Sarah L. Long.

Dec. 7th, 1845

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. H. Safford, Mod. & S. Groves, D. Evans and B.W. woods, elders. Mary Thompson and Mary a servant of James Thompson, Jun. were wxamined and admitted to the communion of the Church. Closed with prayer.

Samuel Groves, C.S.

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The same day Mary Thompson and Mary a servant made a public profession of their faith in Christ and the latter was baptized as an adult.

May 3rd. 1846.

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present H.C. Carter, Mod. and S. Groves, D. Evans & B.W. Woods elders. Martha N. Cartledge, Cynthia A McCurdy, Mary A. & Sarah Manning were examined and admitted to the communion of the church. Closed with prayer.

Samuel Groves, C.S.

The same day the four above named individuals made a public profession of their faith in Christ and Martha N. Cartledge was baptized as an adult.

August 2nd, 1846

Session met and was constituted with prayer, Members present Rev. C.C. Dod, Mod. and S. Groves, D. Evans and B.W. Woods elders. Eliza McCurdy, William H. McCurdy, Mary Evans, Samuel and Mary I. Thompson, William M. Cartledge, Stephen C. Cartledge, John L. Cartledge, Dilla Amanda Cartledge, James Long, Frederick Human and Martina a servant of J.B. Long were severally examined and admitted to the communion of the Church. Session took a recess until Monday August 3rd. The same day all the above named persons made a public profession of their faith in Christ and Mary I. Thompson, W.M., L.C., J.A., and D.A. Cartledge and Martina were baptized as adults.

Monday August 3rd.

Session met and pursuant to adjournment members present as above.

Richard Saye, William L. Evans, John A. McCurdy son of S.G. McCurdy and John A. McCurdy son of J. McCurdy and Martha McCurdy were examined and admitted to the communion of the Church. Took recess until Tuesday August 4th.

The same day all the above named persons publicly professed their faith in Christ.

Tuesday Aug. 4th 1846

Session met pursuant to adjournment. Members present as above. Susan Evans was examined and received into the communion of the church. Closed with prayer.

Samuel Groves, C.S.

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Same day Susan Evans publicly professed her faith in Christ.

Dec. 5th, 1846.

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present S. Groves, D. Evans, and B.W. Woods elders. In the absence of a minister, Samuel Groves Moderated the Session. Mr. John Etcheson appeared before Session, made satisfactory acknowledgements and was restored to the communion of the church. Samuel Groves, C.S.

Sept. 18, 1847

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present, Rev. Wm. P. Gready, Mod., and S. Groves, D. Evans and B.W. Woods elders. James H. Thompson was examined and received into the communion of the church. Had a recess until Sept. 21st.

On the next day Mr. Thompson was baptized upon a profession of his faith.

Sept. 21, 1847

Session met pursuant to adjournment. Members present as before, Julia A Etcheson was examined and admitted to the communion of the church. Closed with prayer. Samuel Groves, C.S.

Julia ^A. Etcheson subsequently made a public profession of her faith in Christ.

Nov. 3rd. 1847.

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present - Rev. William P. Gready Mod. and S.L. Groves, D. Evans, and B.W. Woods elders. Mrs. Dinah Thompson presented to Session a certificate of membership in good ~~standing~~ and regular standing in Moriah Baptist Church and was admitted into communion of the church. Closed with prayer.

Samuel Groves, C.S.

1848

During the year 1848 Robert Woods and Joseph B. Long Esqr. were elected and ordained Ruling Elders in this Church.

1848.

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. Wm. P. Gready, Mod., S. Groves, D. Evans,, B.W. Woods Elders. Jackson P. Hopkins was examined and received into the communion of the church.

Closed with prayer.

Samuel Groves

Subsequently J.P. Hopkins was baptized as an adult on a profession of his faith in Christ.

1848.

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. Wm. P. Gready, Mod. S. Groves David Evans B.W. Woods elders. John G. Evans and Nancy Caroline McCurdy were examined and received into the communion of the church. Closed with prayer.

Samuel Groves.

Subsequently the above ~~#####~~ persons made a public profession of their faith in Christ.

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Present Wm. P. Gready. Mod. Saml. Groves, D. Evans, B.W. Woods, J.B. Long and Robert Woods elders. Sarah Manning a member of this church was charged with fornication, she having given birth to a bastard, whereupon she was cited to appear before the session. Closed with prayer.

At a subsequent meeting of the Session, at which members were present as above, Sarah Manning refused to appear. Session then cited her again. At the next meeting of the Session, members present as above, she still refusing to appear, she was excluded from the communion of the church.

Closed with prayer.

Saml. Groves

April 7th, 1850 - Charles Willam infant son of Rev. G.H. & A.M.

Cartledge was baptized.

1850.

Session met. Present Rev. G.H. Cartledge Mod. S. Groves, D. Evans, B.W. Woods and J.B. Long elders. Dr. John D. Long was at his own request dismissed to join the church at Thyatira Jackson County, Ga.

Saml. Groves.

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Nov. 3rd 1850

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Present Rev. Groves H. Cartledge Mod. S. Groves, D. Evans, B.W. Woods and J.B. Long elders. Maj. William Groves, Mary L. Hopkins, Sarah L. McCurdy, Sarah H. Long, Elizabeth J. Woods and Sarah E. Woods were examined and received into the communion of the church and Rebekah J. Groves was received by certificate from the church at Danielsville Madison County Ga.

Session took a recess to meet at the call of the Mod.

The same day all the above named persons made a public profession of their faith in Christ.

Monday Nov. 4th 1850.

Session met at the call of the Mod. Present Rev. G.H. Cartledge, S. Groves, D. Evans, B.W. Woods, R. Woods and J.B. Long, Elders.

James G. McCurdy Samuel D. McCurdy Samuel N. Woods and Elizabeth Ann McCurdy was examined and received into the communion of the Church. Closed with prayer. Joseph B. Long, C.S.

The same day all the above named persons made a public profession of their faith in Christ.

January 18th 1851

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Present the Reverend Groves H. Cartledge Mod. Samuel Groves, B.W. Woods, R. Woods and J.B. Long, Elders. Samuel Thompson a member of the church came before the session and acknowledged the sin of Drunkenness and rendered full satisfaction to the Session. Closed with prayer. Joseph B. Long, C.S.

Approved in Presbytery April 19, 1851.

N. Hoyt, Moderator.

August 3rd, 1851

August 3rd, 1851

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Present the Reverend Groves H. Cartledge, Mod., Samuel Groves, B.W. Woods, R. Woods, J.B. Long, Elders Misses Adaline Patten came before the session and made satisfactory acknowledgement and was restored to full fellowship. Then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, C.S.

September 7th, 1851

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Present Rev. G.H. Cartledge, Mod. Samuel Groves, David Evans, B.W. Woods, R. Woods and J.B. Long Ruling Elders. Nancy A. Power was received by certificate from the Church at Thyatira Jackson Co. Session closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, C.S.

October 5th, 1851

Session met and was constituted with prayer, present Rev. G.H. Cartledge, Mod., Samuel Groves, David Evans, B.W. Woods, R. Woods and J.B. Long Ruling Elders. Sarah Elizabeth Thompson & Elizabeth Jane Branahm was examined and received into the communion of the Church. Sarah Saye was received into the church from Concord church, Hall County upon her known Christian character. Session closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, C.S.

The same day the within named Sarah E. Thompson & Elizabeth Jame Branahm made a public profession of their faith in Christ.

April 4th 1852

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Present Rev. G.H. Cartledge, Mod. D. Evans, R. Woods & Joseph B. Long Ruling Elders.

The following charges was tabled to wit by B.W. Wood.

1st. I charge Col Samuel Groves with acting unjustly in cultivating and renting to others land which was mine by contract and with holding from me the rent thereof. I proppse to establish the above charge by the

following witnesses to wit. S.C. Groves F. Groves R. Groves S.G. McCurdy
E.A. Wood & J.P. & S.L. Long.

2nd. I charge Col. Samuel Groves with a violation of his private contract
with me to wit that he promised & agreed to give a certain tract of land
which he got from me for that purpose adjoining the church lot to the church
and has since refused to comply with said promise. I propose to establish
the second charge by the following witnesses to wit. R. Groves & E.A. Woods.

B.W. Woods, Pross.

Session then took recess until Tuesday the 13th of April 1852.

Joseph B. Long, C.S.

Col. Samuel Groves was then presented with a copy of the charges and
a list of the witnesses & cited to attend.

April 13th, 1852

1st charge.

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Present Rev. H.H. Cartledge,
Mod. D. Evans R. Woods and J.B. Long Ruling Elders. first charge.

April 13th. On the day appointed for trial the parties in the case of Woods
ver Groves being present it was agreed upon between them that the understand-
ing or agreement in reference to the purchase of the land was substantially
as follows to wit that Col Samuel Groves should bid for the land and was
authorized by Mr. Woods to bid as high as one thousand dollard, and that
Mr. Woods would sell the place he lived upon and take land off his hands
if he could, and it was further agreed that Mr. Woods did about twelve months
thereafter comply with his above conditional contract although Col . Groves
states that in the meantime he was very doubtful whether Mr. Woods would be
able to comply and that he therefore felt authorized to make what he could
off the land by cultivating and rent until he found out whether Mr. Woods
would be able to take it or not he not knowing but that he might have to
pay for the land himself and it was agreed upon by the parties that the
above statement

above statement should go before the Session and upon the record in lieu of all testimony on that point.

Judgement under first Charge. In the ^{Judgement} ~~judgement~~ of the Session the first charge is not sustained by the evidence for the plain reason that the contract as it appears from the testimony was conditional and Col. Groves had no positive assurance that that condition could or would ever be complied with, But in the opinion of the Session the whole transaction was of a loose indefinite unbusiness like character which should be absent from the dealings of Christians even though they may be intimate Relations.

Joseph B. Long, C.S.

2nd case.

B.W. Wood Vs S. Groves. I charge Col Samuel Grove with a violation of his private contract with me to wit that he promised and agreed to give a certain tract of land which he got from me for that purpose adjoining the Church lot and has since refused to comply with said promise.

1st Wit. E.A. Woods

Question by Pross. On the same evening after our trade in this piece of land above the grave yard was it not your understanding that he had got that piece of land from me for the purpose of giving it to the church?

Witness, it was.

2 - And did he not say in your presence that he was abler to give it to the church than I was.

Witness - he did

Cross examined.

How did you learn what the contract was in reference to the lot adjoining the ~~#####~~ grave yard?

Witness - From hearing a conversation between the parties upon the subject.

2nd Witness - Samuel G. McCurdy

Question by Prosecutor - Did you not hear Col Groves when you and the Mod. first conversed with him in reference to reconciliation between us say that he would give that lot of land above the graveyard to the Church?

Witness - I did

Question - Did you not think at the time that he would do it and that he intended to do it? Witness - Yes!

Cross examined.

Question by Defendant - Did not the conversation continue and did I not finally refuse and say that I would not do it then and that I would not be forced to do it

Wit. Yes

1852 - Judgement under 2nd Charge

In the Judgement of the Session the second Charge is sustained by the evidence, although the Session vote to sustain the charge yet they are persuaded from facts connected with the case that Col. Samuel Groves did not knowingly or designedly act amiss but was led into a violation of his promise by forgetfulness or infirmity of memory and should therefore be exculpated from all criminal intention.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. Sess.

Approved by Presbytery at Greensboro April 30th 1852.

John W. Baker, Mod.

October 2nd 1852

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. G.H. Cartledge, Mod., D. Evans & J.B. Long, Ruling Elders.

Salina Floyd was examined and received into the communion of the church also Sarah Mannen appeared before the Session and made satisfactory

Acknowledgement and was restored to the communion of the Church Session then took recess.

Oct. 3rd 1852

Session met members as above with S. Groves and R. Woods, Elders.

Then came forward Sidney Catharine Woods & Frances Goulding Woods and was examined on experimental religion and received into the communion of the Church & Elmira Story was received by letter. Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, C.

On the same day Salina Floyd, Sidney Catharine & Frances Goulden Woods made a public profession of their faith in Christ and Miss Salina Floyd was baptized.

October 3rd, 1852

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present Rev. G.H. Cartledge, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, & J.B. Long Elders. Eda, a colored woman, of William Thompson appeared before Session and was examined and received into the communion of the church. Session then took recess.

Joseph B. Long, C.S.

On the same day Eda made a public profession and was baptised.

October 4th 1852

Session met at the call of the Mod. Members present G.H. Cartledge, S. Groves, D. Evans, R. Woods & J.B. Long. Samuel F. Woods appeared before Session and was examined and received into the communion of the church, Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, C.S.

On the same day Samuel F. Woods made a public profession of his faith in Christ.

October 13th 1852

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. G.H. Cartledge, Mod., D/ Evans, R.W. Woods, & J.B. Long, Ruling Elders. B.W. Woods, Elder, was charged with neglect of duty in absenting himself from the meetings of Session and from the Lords Supper.

Witnesses, D. Evans, R. Woods & J.B. Long.

Adly. B.W. Woods was charged with unchristian conduct wo wit: About a month ago he ordered his own mother-in-law out of his house.

Witnesses: R. Groves, D. Evans, & T. Long.

Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, C.S.

Oct. 27th 1852

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Present Rev. G.H. Cartledge, Mod., D. Evans, J.B. Long, & R. Woods, Elders. B.W. Woods appeared before Session and acknowledged the facts specified unddr the first charge and offered ~~###~~ as his plea that he could not fellowship with Col. Groves one of the elders of the church. The Session then voted that the first charge was sustained by the acknowledgement of the accused.

2nd Charge.

Groves, being sworn, thestified that being at Benj. W. Woods house she began a conversation with respecting the difficulty between him and Col. Groves when after stating several facts to him he said if you go in with that old man you'll have to go out of my house and repeated I say you'll have to go out, then raised up his foot and stamping the floor I say go out of my house.

Witness cross examined by the defendant, Did I not say to you that if you came to disturb me in my own house I would thank you to go out. Witness replied you did not.

David Evans being sworn testified that B.W. Woods acknowledged in his hearing that he told his mother-in-law that he would be glad if she would leave his house.

B.W. Woods then commented upon the charge & the evidence after ~~#####~~ which the Defendant & Witnesses left the house and the Session after deliberating voted unanimously that the 2nd charge was sustained by the evidence.

The Session then entered its judgement to wit: that B.W. Woods be and he is hereby suspended from the communion of the church until he repent, the

The principal reason which influenced the Session in coming to such a decision was the fact that B.W. Woods had not only neglected his duty but had given as a reason for that neglect the fact that he could not fellowship a man whom the Session had exculpated from all blame.

Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. of
Sess.

November 7th 1852

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Present Rev. G.H. Cartledge, Mod., S. Groves, D. Evans, R. Woods & J.B. Long, Ruling Elders.

Mary E. Groves & Joseph W. Cartledge was examined on experience and received into the communion of the church. Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

The same day the above named persons made a public profession of their faith in Christ and was baptised.

March 6th, 1853

Miss Salina Floyd was dismissed by certificate to join the church at Danielsville. Done by order of Session

Joseph B. Long, Clk.

Approved, Athens Ga. April 22nd, 1853

John W. Reid, Moderator

May 15th 1853

Session met . Member present, Rev. R. Milner, Mod., S. Groves, D. Evans, R. Woods & J.B. Long, Ruling Elders. There being an unfavorable report in circulation against Sarah Mannen after some consultation it was moved that there be a committee of two to see her and inquire into the matter and report at the next meeting then appointed James McCurdy & J.B. Long, Com. Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long. C.S.

June 4th, 1853

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present, Rev. M.R. Milner, Mod., S. Groves, R. Woods & J.B. Long, Ruling Elders. Session then called for a report of the Com. appointed at last meeting in the case of Sarah Mannen when J.B. Long made a report and after some deliberation on the matter the case was postponed indefinitely by consent of parties. Session then agreed to have three Elders elected the church then went in to the election of Elders and it resulted in the election of Dr. J.F. Groves, J.T. Hopkins & J.A. McCurdy. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

The same day the above named person made a public profession of his faith in Christ.

Sept. 4th 1853

Session met. Members present, Rev. R. Milner, Mod., S. Groves, D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.F. Groves, J.P. Hopkins & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders. Appointed J.A. McCurdy to ~~#####~~ attend the next meeting of the Presbytery at Clarkesville & R. Woods alternate. Session then closed.

J.B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

Sept 18th, 1853

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present, Rev. R. Milner, Mod., S. Groves, R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.F. Groves & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders. John, ^A servant of Mc. Carrington, was examined and received into the communion of the church. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

The above named person the the same day was baptized and received into the church.

Oct. 9th, 1853.

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R. Milner, Mod., S. Groves, D. Evans. R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.P. Hopkins & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders.

Frances Long and William A. Thompson was examined on experimental religion and received into the communion of the church. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long C. Sess.

On the same day the above named persons made a publick profession of their faith in Christ and Miss Long was baptised.

J.B. Long, C. Sess.

Oct. 16th, 1853

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R. Milner, M^d., S. Groves, D. Evans, R. Woods, H.B. Long, J.P. Hopkins, J.A. McCurdy, & Dr. J.F. Groves, Ruling Elders.

Mr. Newton M. Story, Miss Matilda F. McCurdy & Miss Huldah Strickland was examined on experimental religion and received into the communion of the church. Session then appointed J.B. Long as a deldgate to represent them in the next meeting of Synod of Georgia and J.A. McCurdy as alternate. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk. Sess.

On the same day the above named persons made a publick profession of their faith in Christ and Miss McCurdy and Miss Strickland was baptizd.

J.B. Long, Clk. Sess.

April 2nd, 1853.

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., S. Groves, D. Evans. R. Woods, J.B. Long, Dr. J.F. Groves, J.P. Hopkins, & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders.

Session then took up the case of Miss Mannen there being no evidence to support the unfavorable report it was dismissed by the session. Session then appointed J.A. McCurdy to attend the next meeting of Presbytery and R. Woods to be his alternate. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long Clk. Sess.

Approved in Presbytery, Lexington, Apr. 7th, 1854.

Henry Newton, Mod'r.

May 6th, 1854

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., S. Groves, D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders. Dr. J.F. Groves brought in a charge against Ned, servant of James Thompson for the crime of adultery also Ephriam Thompson. Mary servant of of the same with the same crime. Session then took recess until tomorrow morning. Session came together and there being no business Session was closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, C. of Sess.

June 4th, 1854

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., Samuel Groves, D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders. Ned came before the Session and gave satisfaction. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, C.S.

September 3rd, 1854

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., S. Groves, D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders. There being an unfavourable reports against Newton M. Story for swearing and drinking. Session then appointed David Evans & Joseph B. Long to see into the case. Session then appointed John A. McCurdy to attend the next meeting of Presbytery & R. Woods alternate. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk. Sess.

Oct. 2nd, 1854

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.F. Groves, J.F. Hopkins & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders. Mr. George W. Evans, Miss Harriet & Nancy Thompson, Miss Emily & Armina Carithers, Miss Rachel A. Woods and Miss Lucy J. Patten was examined on experimental religion and received into the communion of the church. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

On the same day the above named parsons made a publick profession of their faith in Christ & then Miss Thompson & Miss Carithers was baptized.

Nov. 5th, 1854

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.P. Hopkins. Miss Elizabeth Story was examined on experimental religion and received into the communion of the church. Mrs. Annie N. Cartledge was dismissed by letter. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk.

On the same day Elizabeth Story made a publick profession of her faith in Christ.

Jan. 20th, 1855

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.F. Groves, & J.P. Hopkins, Ruling Elders. Session dismissed by letter Elmita Elizabeth Story. Session then called on Com. for report in the case of Newton M. Story. Com. reported that they had saw him and that he denied the charge. and that he was willing to meet it and that he would try and be with the session in the March session. Appointed Dr. J.F. Groves to write to him and for ~~him~~ ~~him~~ him to meet the Session on the Sunday of February. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk of Sess.

March 20th, 1855

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.P. Hopkins, J.F. Groves, J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders. Session then called on J.F. Groves for a report. He stated that he had wrote to Mr. Newton M. Story but had not heard from him. Publick rumor having charged Mr. Story with the crime of taking the name of the Lord in vain on the ~~church~~ church ground. Session ordered the Clerk to make a charge to that effect and cite him to be before the session on the first Sabbath in April. Session then appointed Dr. J.F. Groves delegate to the next meeting of the Presbytery at Woodstock. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

April 1st, 1855

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner Mod., R. Woods, J.B. Long, Dr. J.F. Groves, J.P. Hopkins & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders. Session then inquired into the case of N. Story. Clerk stated that he had made out the charge and sent by mail but could not say whether he had got it or not. Session after consultation laid the case over and for some one of the Session to try and see him so that it might be known that he had got a citation. Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, Clk of Sess.

Examined thus far and approved. Woodstock 7th of April, 1855

Sam'l S. Davis.

May 5th, 1855

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R. Milner, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, Dr. J.F. Groves, J.P. Hopkins and J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders. Session then took up the case of Mr. Story. R.W. Miller stated that the clerk furnished him with another citation and that he had handed it to Mr. Story and Mr. Story said he had received the other citation and denied the charge but stated that he would be present on Saturday before the first Sunday in May next and if any thing turned up so that he could not come he would write but did not appear. Session after some consultation laid it over until the first Sunday in June at that time to dispose of the case in some manner. Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, C. Sess.

June 3rd, 1855

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present, Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, Dr. J.F. Groves, J.P. Hopkins, Ruling Elders. Session then took up the case of N.M. Story but nothing more had been heard ~~#####~~ from him. Session then suspended him for not complying with the citation and for not even showing any disposition to meet the session. The session felt that they had showed him as much lenity in the case as they could and had wrote to him and all that had the opportunity had talked with him and admonished him to try to reclaim him but all seemed to be in vain and thought it might be for his good and for the Glory of God to suspend him until he repent and turn to the Lord and he will abundantly pardon and forgive all that come unto Him. Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. Sess.

August 5, 1855

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.F. Groves, J.P. Hopkins & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders. Session then received by letter Mr. William F. Saye and Mrs. Agnes Saye & Mrs. Sarah Milner into the communion of this Church. Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

Sept. 2nd, 1855

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.F. Groves, J.P. Hopkins, Ruling Elders.

R.W. Milner stated to the session that they might look for some other supply as he was going to leave. Session then appointed R. Woods to attend the next meeting of the Presbytery & R. Woods Alternate. Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

Oct. 7th, 1855

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.F. Groves, J.P. Hopkins & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders.

There came before the Session Mr. Henry Jones Long & Henry Thomas Evans and was received into the communion of the church by experience.

Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, Clk, of Sess.

On the same day the above named persons came forward and made a public profession of their faith in Christ.

Joseph B. Long, Clk, of Sess.

Approved in Presbytery- R.W. Parker, Moderator

Augusta, Ga. April 4th, 1856.

Sept. 21st, 1856

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.F. Groves, J.A. McCurdy & J.A. Hopkins, Ruling Elders.

Then came before the Session of the church Mrs. Amanda Thompson and after being examined on experimental religion was received into the communion of the Church. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

On the same day Mrs. Amanda Thompson came forward and made a publick profession of her faith in Christ.

Joseph B. Long. Clk. of Sess.

Oct. 5, 1856

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, H.B. Long, J.F. Groves, J.P. Hopkins & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders.

Then came before the Session Mr. James Thompson, Thomas W. Long, Sidney F. Woods, Martha R. Woods, Peneacy C. Thompson, Susan Sorrells, Emily F. Woods, Mary Woods, ##### Eliza J. Groves, Rachel F. McCurdy & Sarah Strickland, & Clark serv. of J.B. & Thomas A. Long. Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

On the same day the above named persons came forward and made a publick profession of their faith in Christ.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

Oct. 6th, 1856

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, John A. McCurdy, J.P. Hopkins, J.F. Groves, Ruling Elders.

Then came before the session Nancy Emily Thompson, Sarah A.R.M. Patten Agnes Anthony, Emily Ann Patten & Mrs. Rebecca Scott. Session then appointed R. Woods to attend the next meeting of Presbytery to be held at Eatonton

and J.P. Hopkins & J.F. Gorves to attend thae meeting of Synod at Atlanta & J. Long alternate. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

The above named persons came forward and the same day and made a publick profession of their faith in Christ.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

Oct. 18th, 1856

Session met and was constituted with prayer. members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. LONG, J.F. Groves, J.P. Hopkins & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders.

There came before the session after Mrs. Lucinds Thomspson and Joseph W. Woods and after being examined on experimental religion was received into the communion of the Church. Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

On the same day the above named persons came forward and made a publick profession of their faith in Christ and Mrs. Thompson was baptised.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

Madison, April 9, 1857. Examined and Approved

N.M.S. Breck, Moderator

May 3rd. 1857

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.F. Groves, J.P. Hopkins & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders. Then came before the session of the Church Miss Salency Strickland and after being examined on experimental religion was received into the communion of the Church. Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

On the same day the above named person came forward and made a publick pfeession of her faith in Christ and was baptized.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

May 17th, 1857

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.F. Groves, J.P Hopkins & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders. Then came before the session of the church Miss Elizabeth J. Mannen and after being examined on experimental religion was received into the communion of the Church. Session then closed with prayer.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

On the same day the within named person came forward and made a publick profession of her faith in Christ and was baptised.

Joseph B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

June 7th, 1857

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.A. McCurdy & J.P. Hopkins Ruling Elders.

The session of the church of New Hope in order to more effectually met the religious wants of the congregation under their charge & more efficiently to perform their duties to the head of the church who has made them overseers in his spiritual vineyard have determined to apportion to each of the Elders a section of the congregation which shall be under his special supervision. It is designed that each one shall be able when called upon to give all information desired by the session as to the walk and deportment of those under his charge for this purpose, visit if possible once a month & have religious conversation with each member of the family as far as practicable & at any rate with all the members of the church in the family. It shall be his duty in these conversations to inquire into their religious knowledge, their views of Divine Truth, their experience personally of these truths. Likewise as to their performance of personal & relatives duties as secret prayer, reading of the Word, meditation on the Word, Family prayer, instruction of children & servants in the catchisms Observance of the Sabbath, attendance upon the prayer meetings & the preaching

of the Word, their observance of the ordinances & sacraments of the church, all cases of irregularity requiring admonition, & he shall bring to the notice of the pastor any case requiring his attention on all these. There shall be a report at least once in two months, these laborers to commence the 3rd Sabbath of July 1857. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

Sept. 6th, 1857

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present, Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., D. Evans, R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.F. Groves, J.P. Hopkins & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders. Then came Mrs. Mary Carithers and after being examined on experimental religion was received into the communion of the church. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

On the same day the foregoing person came forward and made a publick profession of her faith in Christ.

J.B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

Oct. 6th, 1857

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present, Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., with other ministering brethren, D. Evans, R. Wood, J.B. Long, J.F. Groves, J.A. McCurdy & J.P. Hopkins, Ruling Elders. Then appeared Mrs. Mary Tait and stated to the session that she had been a member of the church and that she had not been turned out but in being without preaching for a long time the church had ~~#####~~ almost died out and after reviving again she still continued to absent herself from the privileges of the church until the present session had no knowledge of her as a member but knowing her all the time saw nothing amiss only that she had stayed away from the privileges of the church but was a regular attendant at preaching after investigating some of the old members could tell about it she acknowledged her fault and was restored to full communion. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

January 17th 1858

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Present Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., R. Woods, J.B. Long, J.F Groves, & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders.

H.I. Long was dismissed to join the Presbyterian Church at Danielsville. Session closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk.

March 21st.

Session appointed J.B. Long Principal & J.F. Groves Alternate as delegates to attend Presbytery. Then adjourned.

J.B. Long, Clk. of Sess.

Examined and approved in Presbytery, New Hope, April 1858

L.A. Simonton, Modr.

Aug. 6th, 1858

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present, Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., Dr. J.F. Groves, & J.A. McCurdy, Ruling Elders.

There came before the session Willis J. Dudley, James P. McCallister, Priscilla Pierce, Francis Downs, Mary E. McCallister, Sarah A. Downs, ~~#####~~ Sarah E. McCallister, & ~~#####~~ Jane Downs and were examined on experimental religion and were received into the communion of the church. Session then closed with prayer.

J.B. Long, Clk of Sess.

On the next day the above named persons came forward and make a publick profession of thier faith in Christ & Willis J. Dudley, James P. McCallister, Priscilla Pierce, Francis Downs, Sarah E. McCallister & Jane Downs were baptised ther other two having been baptized.

J.B. Long, Clk of Sess.

Aug. 8th 1858

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present, Rev. R.W. Milner, Mod., R. Woods & J.F. Groves, Elders.

There came before the session Mrs. Rachael Downs, James A. Pearce & William Downs and was examined on experimental religion and were received in the communion of the church, Session then closed with prayer.

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August 9, 1858

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present Rev. R. W. Milner, Mod R. Woods, Ruling Elder.

Then came before the session of the Church John P. Downs Nancy Stephens, Mary W. Mead & Sarah Downs and was examined on experimental religion and was received into the communion of the church. Session then closed with Prayer.

J. B. Long, Clk of Sess

August 9, 1858

On the same day the foregoing named persons with the exception of William Downs made a publick profession of their faith in Christ and were all baptized with the exception of James A. Pearce who had been baptized before.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

September 19, 1858

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present Rev. R. W. Milner Mod R. Woods, J. B. Long, J. F. Groves & J. A. McCurdy Ruling Elders.

Then came before the Session James H. Looney and was examined on experimental religion and was received into the communion of the Church. Session then closed with Prayer.

J. B. Clk of Sess

On the same day the above names J. H. Looney made a publick profession of his faith in Christ and was baptised.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

~~October 2nd, 1858~~

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October 2nd, 1858

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present. Rev R. W. Milner Mod R. Woods, D. Evans, J. P. Hopkins & J. A. McCurdy Ruling Elders.

Then appeared before the Session Amos Carithers, William Hearing Woods, and Elizabeth Groves Saye and were examined on experimental religion and were received into the communion of the Church. Session then closed with Prayer.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

On the next day the above named persons made a publick profession of their faith in Christ and A. Carithers & William H. Wood were baptised.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

Oct. 3rd, 1858

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present Rev. R. W. Milner Mod, D. Evans, R. Woods, J. B. Long, & J. P. Hopkins Ruling Elders.

Then came before the Session Susan Patton and was examined on experimental religion and was received into the communion of the Church. Session then Closed with prayer.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

On the same day the above named person made a publick profession of her faith in Christ.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

~~Nov 5th, 1858~~

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Nov. 5th, 1858

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present Rev. R. W. Milner Mod, R. Wood, J. B. Long, John F. Groves, and J. P. Hopkins Ruling Elders.

Then came before the Session Emily Thompson and was examined on experimental religion and was received into the communion of the Church. Session then closed with Prayer.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

On the same day the within named person made a publick profession of her faith in Christ.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

Jan. 16th, 1859

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present Rev. R. W. Milner Mod, R. Woods, J. B. Long, J. P. Hopkins Elders.

Then came before the Session Elizabeth Jane Evans and was examined on experimental religion and was received into the communion of the Church. Session then closed with Prayer.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

On the same day the above named person made a publick profession of her faith in Christ and was baptised.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

Examined & approved in Presbytery, Milledgeville, Ga.
April 9th, 1859.

C. W. Lane (?) ~~###~~ Mod'r--

July 2nd, 1859

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present Rev. R. W. Milner Mod, R. Woods, J. B. Long, J. F. Groves & J. A. McCurdy Ruling Elders.

Session then passed an order that they would not receive any person by letter from the Baptist Church without their making a publick profession of their faith in Christ. At the same time received by letter from the Baptist Church at Carnesville Mary Weems. Done by order of sess.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

On the next day the above named person came forward and made a publick profession of her faith in Christ and was received into full fellowship.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

Oct 5th, 1859

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present Rev. R. W. Milner Mod, D. Evans, R. Woods, J. B. Long, J. F. Groves, J. A. McCurdy & J. P. Hopkins.

Then came before the session of the Church Mrs. Urena Daniel and was examined on experimental religion and was received in the communion of the Church. Session then closed with Prayer.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

On the same day the above named person made a publick profession of her faith in Christ and was baptised.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

Nov. 5, 1859

Session met and constituted with Prayer. Members present Rev. R. W. Milner Mod, R. Woods, J. B. Long, J. F. Evans, J. A. McCurdy
Ruling Elders

Then took up the case of Isbel Humane for absenting herself from

the House of God and its privileges and appointed a committee of three to see her Dr. J. F. Groves, J. B. Long, J. A. McCurdy, J. F. Evans & J. A. McCurdy saw her and reported to the session that she gave no satisfaction. Session then directed the clk to have her cited to attend. Session closed with Prayer.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

Nov. 19th, 1859

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present Rev. R. W. Milner Mod, R. Woods, J. T. Evans, J. A. McCurdy Ruling Elders.

Session then took up the case of Isbel Humane. Dr. J. F. Groves reported that he took the citation and talked with her but no satisfaction. Session then appointed J. F. Groves to see her and defend her case. Session then closed with prayer.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

Dec. 3rd, 1859

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present Rev. R. W. Milner Mod, R. Woods, John F. Groves, J. A. McCurdy, J. P. Hopkins Ruling Elders.

Session then took up the case of Isbel Humane. Dr. Groves stated that ~~#####~~ he went to see her and stated that he could not do anything with her. She said that she would not attend and they might do just what they saw proper with her. Session then suspended her until she repent of her falt and makes some acknowledgement of the same. Session then closed with prayer.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

Jan. 7th, 1860

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present

Rev. R. W. Milner Mod, R. Woods, J. B. Long, J. F. Groves, J. A. McCurdy & J. P. Hopkins Ruling Elders.

Session inquired for business & Mr. P. H. Evans came forward and stated that he had on one occasion bin drunk to his shame & regret and stated that if they would forgive him for that offence by the help of God he never would be guilty of the charge again. The Session excused him. Session then appointed a committee of three to write a letter to the Church as regards situation and admonish one and all to the performance of their duty. That committee consists of Dr. John F. Groves, Joseph B. Long & Robert Woods and their report read before the Church & filed on the minutes. Glosed with prayer.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

August 10th, 1860

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present Rev. R. W. Milner Mod, D. Evans, R. Woods, J. B. Long, & J. P. Hopkins Ruling Elders.

Then came before session John G. Lane, Freeman Weems, Asa T. Falkner, Hesiah Weems, Elisabeth Weems, Susannah L. Hopkins & Mary F. Levy and Thomas B. Anthony Jun and was examined on experimental religion and was received into the communion of the Church. Session then took recess.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

Session came together again. then appeared before the session Mrs. Mary A. Anthony and was examined on experimental religion and was received into the communion of the Church. Session then closed with prayer.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

On the same day the foregoing named persons made a publick profession of their faith in Christ and John G. Lane, Asa T. Falkner, Thomas B.

Anthony, Mary A. Anthony, Hesiah Weems & Elizabeth Weems was
Baptised.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

Sept 2

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present
Rev. R. W. Milner, Mod, R. Woods, J. A. MccCurdy, J. F. Groves,
J. P. Hopkins & J. B. Long Ruling Elders.

Then appeared before the session Thomas A. Long and was examined
on experimental religion and was received into the communion of the
Church. Session then closed with Prayer.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

On the same day the above named person made a publick profession
of his faith in Christ.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

Oct 8th, 1860

Session met and was constituted with Prayer. Members present
Rev. R. W. Milner Mod, D. Evans, R. Woods, J. B. Long, F. Groves,
J. P. Hopkins & J. A. MccCurdy Ruling Elders.

Then appeared before session Dr. B. N. Thompson, Armandy Jane
Thompson & Margarette Elisabeth Emily Carithers and was examined on
experimental religion and was received into the communion of the Church.
Session then closed with prayer.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

On the same day the above named persons made a publick profession
of their faith in Christ & Amanda Jane Thompson & Margarette Elisabeth
Emily Carithers was baptised.

J. B. Long Clk of Sess

Session met and was constituted with prayer. Members present R.W. Milner, Moderator, David Evans, Robert Woods, John F. Groves, Jackson Hopkins & Robert Henderson, Elders. Mary Weems a member of this church with charged with unlawful intimacy with another man than her husband. It was rodered by the session that she be cited to appear before the session of this church on the 21st day of November. Session then adjourned until the 21st instant.

November 21st, 1861. Session met according to adjournment and was constituted with prayer. Members present Rev. R.W. Milner, Moderator; D. Evans, R. Woods, J.P. Hopkins & R. Henderson, Elders. The accused having been presented with a copy of the charge and a list of the names of witnesses against her and cited to appear as ordered by the Session, she appeared. The session proceeded to the investigation of the case. First witness: Freeman Weems. Q. Do you know any thins implicating Mrs. Weems with un^aw-ful intimacy with any other man than yourself? A. I think so. Q. How far back do you go with these charges? A. nearly three years. Q. Mention the first cause. A. We went into the store doing some trading. I was out and coming to the door. Suddenly I say them leaning over the counter as if whispering together. He suddenly jerked up, I saw a change in their countenance which led me to suspect something rong. This was about three years ago. Q. What next? A. On Chtistmas eve night 1858 I saw him standing in the chimney corner. I was watching heard a knock I went up, he stepped off. Q. What next? A. In the spring after in 1859 I was led to believe all was not right. Q. What was that? A. I saw them having a private chat: and on that Wednesday night it being mail day he went for the mail got home late did not come with his family to church. I went back home found him in the chimney corner. I spoke to some of my family and he ran off. Next in July or August the same year 1859 when gettin near home I heard a noise behind the house, went up so I could see. Saw the window partly open and a man standing leaning in the window. When I went up he ran

Q. What next? The winter following I went up to the shop and returned, slipped up got over fence near kitchen saw him in corner of fence. He said he ought to give some explanation. Said he had heard I was jealous of him and he was looking around to see if he could find out. I told him I was and my reasons for it: running him from my house. Q. What did this man tell you his excuse was? A. He denied being there only the first time and stated that he had went there that time to play off a Christmas trick. Q. How do you know it was him? A. From his dress and appearance. Q. How long have you been jealous of your wife and your reason. A. I alluded to reports that followed her from the upper neighborhood. Q. How long before you left did you hear of these reports? A. Three or four years. Q. Was she accused of intimacy with more than one man? A. She was. Q. Did you have any evidence of the fact? A. I do not know positively of any. Q. Did any one ever tell you it was so? A. A man told me it was so. Q. Was he a credible man? A. He was. Q. Was there any difficulty in any church in that neighborhood? and in what did it result? A. In the expulsion of the man from the church. Q. Was your wife a member of the church at that time? A. She was at Carnesville. Q. How did you explain it to her church? A. The difficulty about a piece of writing; my explanation was that they had got a false report of the instrument of writing. Q. When you came here you believed that all was not right with your family? A. I did. Q. The next incident that led you to suspect the man in this neighborhood? A. In the spring of 1861 I went out to watch in consequence of his being absent from his usual place of business at a certain time of day. I went down about the spring after seeing my wife go that way and I saw him passing nearly on the other side of the track coming in that direction and he saw me and turned and went another way. Q. What next? In July I went down to the spring soon saw her coming. Saw the man on the fence by Hamptons. I asked her about it, She said she knew nothing about his being there. that she had been out to get some blackberries. Q. Thursday October 10th do you know anything of a suspicious character?

A. I do not remember anything. I went down home to make some paste. Saturday October 12th I was notified that eh went at the back door of the kitchen. I went I got to Mr. Rhodes cowpen before I was discovered by the children. They all made for the kitchen. I got to the upper corner of the house. They got the door wide enough open to go in he was standing at the back door and Mrs. Weems in the door. They conversing together. Q. Did you see him there at any other time that week night or day? A. I saw him at my nouse Friday night, it was not late in the night. Q. How about some hoop skirts? A. She got them while I was in Athens. Thomas said to me she had got three and they to be paid for when I came home. Was she or your family said he was there any other time? He was there Saturday evening and at night & Sunday morning came about eight o'clock and left about nine o'clock.

Cross Examination:

Q. Was any of the children awith Mrs. Weems at the times you mention seeing her at the spring? A. They were. Angelina was with her the first time and Eliza the last time. Q. Did you see Eliza go to the kitchen and return to the house again? A. I do not remember it if I did

Testimony of A.W. McCurdy 2nd Witness.

Q. Do you know anything relative to these charges against Mrs. Weems? Ans. I do. Q. How long shnce has anything come under your knowledge? A. Some time this summer. Q. State such things as came under your knowledge? Ans. I saw a person going down the lant going through the potato patch. Q. How near did the person go to the house? A. As near as the pine thicket. Q. Did you see anything during the week embracing the charges? A. I saw him Wednesday pass up through the potato patch round the pine thicket saw him sometime after returning dont recollect how long he staid ~~#####~~ though not long. Saw Thursday about the same as on Wednesday. Next I saw was on Saturday saw about the same only more than on former days. Having some curiosity to see farther I steped out of my shop down so I could see better. I saw the same person pass around as before & this

time go as I think to the back door of the kitchen. Q. Did you see anything of
of Mrs. Weems that day? A. think I say her about the shouse- Saw from my stable
the same person about Eleven oclock Sunday going from that way home. Q. Have
you seen anything since? A. I have seen the same person about twice going about
the place & returning home up the lane but with alone I would not have suspected
~~anything wrong.~~ anything wrong.

Testimony of Rev. R.W. Milner 3rd Witness

Q. Will you state what you know in relation to the charges against Mrs. Weems?
Ans. I was led to notice anything that took place from remarks which I heard
from members of the church about her and this man being too intimate. It was
about the first of July I saw him coming form the immediate neighborhood of that
house. The next thing was a visit of this woman to my house. coming in the back
way, telling my wife things which a faithful wife could not do. (to wit) that
her husband was staying out ~~late~~ late at night and that he was drinking
too much and various charges. various other things led me to notice. this
occured about a week before what I saw. Monday I noticed this man passing
about the same rout as testified by McCurdy returning Tuesday. Wednesday, the
same thing occured returning with something in his hands, I supposed to be corn.
this was the 7th 8th & 9th days of October- on the 10th of October (Thursday)
fixing to start from home about nine oclock saw this man go up to the back
door of the kitchen (believing he went in) and in about two minutes I saw her
take the children to the house. went back to the kitchen and closing the door;
I then after some time saw Mr. Weems going down the road when a great hubbub
occurred. The children running to the kitchen. I say Eliza run to the kitchen
run back to the house. Saw Mr. Weems go to the kitchen ~~peep~~ peep in at a
crack saw him squat down as if peeping under the house did not see them come
of the kitchen did not see the man go out but soon saw him coming up from
that way. I left home on the day mentioned and was not back untill Friday ~~night~~
night. I had a conversation with Mr. Weems about going to the army and his

reasons he said he would not go if all was right at home and repeating about the same story to me that he has to us today. I left him saw the man as I was going to my yard. Saw the man going down as on former occasions and getting over the fence near the pine thicket. When about twenty yards from the fence I saw the woman go into the kitchen: He passed around the pine thicket was out of my sight about one minute. I then saw him about one hundred yards from the house in Weems enclosure, coming straight up to the kitchen door and as I thought went in; I then went down to the McCurdy shop Weems was there, I spoke to McCurdy. I then returned to my yard, when I got into my yard I saw Weems walking pretty fast toward home. When he got to the corner of Rhodes cow pen the children discovered him. Eliza ran to the kitchen door and knocked and returned to the house with a great hubbub. Weems went on when he got near the kitchen the man apparently stepped out of the door. Weems passed right on to the door and opened it. The girls were with him. Think Weems did not go in, sat down in the door. During the next week I saw the man standing in the pine thicket. As some ladies passed up the road he passed to the back of the kitchen, rapped on the fence with his stick and then picked up something and threw it at the house and Mrs. Weems came out to him.

Miss Kesiah Weems first witness for the accused.

Q. Was you at home on Thursday the 10th day of October? Ans. I was. Q. Did you see anything improper in you mother? A. I did not Q. Did you see any man about the premises that day? Did not. Q. Do you remember anything about Saturday the 12th of October? A. I do I saw a man in the field and mother called to him and he came to the fence and she asked his advice in a certain matter and told him she had a paper she wanted him to read and he crossed the fence and came to the kitchen door. Q. What then occurred? A. He remained untill Pa come. Q. What then occurred, Did they speak? A. Pa said it was a pretty day to him & then he spoke. Q. Did he remain long after that? A. No

Q. How long? A. Did he not come into the house? A. He did not. Q. Which way did he leave? A. He crossed the fence and went up through the field. Q. Did he come there any other time? A. Yes Friday night the 11th. Q. What time of night did he come? A. About eight oclock. Q. How long did he remain? A. Dont recollect. Q. Did he go away that night? A. He did. Q. Was he there at any other time that week? A. Yes on Saturday evening he had dug some potatoes & brought them to show to us. This was about half hour by sun in the evening. Q. Do you remember any other time that he was there since that? A. He came down Saturday night to see if Pa had come home to go Patrolling. Q. Did he ~~come in~~ come in? A. No. Remember no other time that he was there. Q. Do you remember when your Pa worked in Athens? A. I do remember his coming home in the night and saying he saw somebody at the window and that he thought they were they were trying to make an interuption between him and Ma he was not satisfied with breakkng him up in the shop he told his name next morning and it was not the man we have been talking about. Q. Had you heard anything before he came? A. No

Cross Examination

On Thursday 10th of October witness thinks when her father came home to get the salve it was about nine oclock thinks her mother & Eliza was in the kitchen getting dinner thinks the children was in the house her Pa stoped in the house, Fryday night there was a man came and staid aobut one hour & a half or longer Pa came home while he was there. Q. Was any of the family sick? A. Elizabeth was & sent to the store for Batemans drops for her. Q. Was there any body there Sunday morning? A. yes a man was there.

Elizabeth Weems 2nd witness for the accused:

Q. Do you remember Thursday the 10th day of October? A. Yes. Q. Was you at home? A. Yes Q. Was there any man there that day? A. No. Q. Did you see any man about the premises? A. No. Q. Did you see any bocy Friday? Yes at night. Q. What time did he come A. About eight oclock. Q. When did he leave? A. About nine oclock. Q. What took place between your Ma and the man? A. She called him to come near

She wanted his advice and then she offered him a paper to read. Did not come in staid ten or fifteen minutes. He was there on Sunday morning, went away at ten or eleven oclock. Q. Do you remember when your Pa worked in Athens? A. Yes Q. Do you remember hearing anything that occured on his coming home that night? Yes. he saw a man standing at the window. Pa said it was a man, not the one we have been talking about but Pa said he had not pestered him enough and he wanted to produce an interruption between him and Ma. Q. Was there anything else occurred about it? A. Yes that man knew Pas was coming home that night for he had told him so. Q. Did you ever haear of any other man being about the place. A. Yes. Q. Was it the first man alluded to or the last? A. the first him and Pa talked together. He said to Pa he had understood that he was jealous of him and Ma and Pa told him he was not nor never had been. Q. Who done the cooking the week including the twelfth of October? A. Kesiah, we cook week about. Q. Do you remember where you were when your Pa came home to get the salve? A. I was in the house. Q. Where was your Ma when your Pa came? A. She was in the house. Eliza was gone to the spring. Q. Did your Pa go to the kitchen? A. Pa did not go into the kitchen. Q. Did he not go to the kitchen to see your Ma? A. He did. Q. How long before your Pa come did you Ma go out to the kitchen? A. About ten or fifteen minutes. Q. Saturday morning ~~where~~ where were you when your Pa came home? A. I was in the ~~kitchen~~ kitchen. Hesiah had gone out to ger some wood and just come in as Pa came home. Q. Who was there? A. A man. Q. How come there? A. Ma called him. Q. What about the whoop skirts? A. Pa came and said that one the men said one was paid for and Ma said that she would not have it that way she would burn it up first.

After hearing the testimony the Session unanimously decided her guilty of intimacy highly discreditable to her as a Christian: ~~and~~ and decide that she is suspended from the Communion of the chruch until satisfaction is given it,

When she shall be admonished by the Moderator and restored. The Session comes to this conclusion for the following reasons. They believe that the testimony in the two specifications made to be of the very strongest circumstantial character, tending directly to prove her guilt in this case. Again the evidence before the session implicating her in many other instances is unimpeached, and as a whole makes out in our opinion a plain case of guilt. When there was no testimony for her that we considered scarcely competent, being none but her two Daughters & their Testimony was in the whole no more than a general denial of the crime. As being the case we must conclude her guilty, without a shadow of a doubt of conduct highly discreditable to her as a Christian.

Session closed with Prayer.

Robert Henderson, C.S.

August 19th, 1861

The Session met & was opened with prayer. ~~#####~~ Present Elders Hopkins, Long, Woods & Groves & R. Milner, Moderator.

The Session was notified that rumor charged Sarah Manning & her daughter Elizabeth with very disreputable conduct. After consultation it was determined to cite them to appear before the session on the 29th inst. to answer to the following charges, that at home they were guilty of most obscene & adulterous conduct & that gadding through the country they violate the Scripture injunction that they should be chaste keepers at home.

Witnesses, Jas. Thompson, sen., John A. McCurdy, Jun., Mary Burres & others.
Session adjourned to meet on the 29th. Closed with prayer.

R.W. Milner, Mod.

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Aug. 29th, 1861

The Sess. met according to adjournment & was opened with prayer. Present the Mod. R.W. Milner, Elders, Long, Groves, Hopkins, Woods and Henderson. The case of Sarah Manning & her daughter were introduced. After reading the charge & the introduction of some unimportant testimony it was resolved to send a commission consisting of Woods, Hopkins & Long to take the testimony of some witnesses whose attendance could not be secured. Session then adjourned to meet---

R.W. Milner.

Session met according to adjournment present members as above & proceeded to the trial of Sarah Manning & her daughter. The testimony of Mary Burren taken by Commission was introduced & is as follows.

Have you been any night lately at Sarah Manning's? Yes Sir.

With whom did you sleep? With Fanny & Sarah Manning

Was anyone else there that night? Yes Sir Russel Porterfield an a man was the answer.

Where did Elizabeth sleep? With that man in room

What time did Porterfield come? At what time did they go to bed?

"I was on the bed when they went"

Did they know you were awake? I dont know Sir.

Did anyone come to the bed? Yes Sir, Elizabeth came

Was anyone else there? Yes Sir, six or seven negroes

Did they bring anything? One of them brought something in a handkerchief.

At what time did Porterfield leave? I was at school.

The Testimony of this girl was objected to by defendent as she intended to prosecute her in a civil Court, her objection was not admitted.

Thurmond Sanders was introduced by the Session ~~#####~~ as a witness and examined as follows: Did you see the accused the day Capt. Montgomery's Com. left for Athens? I did

Did you see any improper intimacy between them? & any man?

I saw Dick David kiss Elizabeth Manning in the Streets of Athens, They were in a wagon in the Streets.

Jas. Thompson, Sen., & others Testified that they had seen the accused at various public gatherings, within doors & places where they could not have business. Thompson testified that she had once asked him for wheat at one of these gatherings, this is the only time in which they made a show of business.

After ~~#####~~ hearing the testimony the Session boted the charge fully sustained in the case of Elizabeth Manning & only the Seckond specification in the case of Sarah Manning & suspended them from the Communion of the Church until they gave evidence of amendment.

Session then adjourned.

R.W. Milner

Charles William infant son of Rev. G.H. & A.M. Cartledge, April 6th, 1850
 Samuel Groves infant son of William M. & E.I. Cartledge, Zemely Jane infant
 daughter of Benj. W. & E.A. Woods and Sarah Rebekah infant daughter of
 Robert and A.M. Woods - May 4th 1851.

Sarah Eller Clementine infant Daughter of Joseph B. & Sarah L. Long,
 Eliza Artemissa infant daughter of James & Zemily W. Woods,
 Susannah Long, Thomas Joseph & Isabells Matilda infant children of
 Jackson P. & Mary L. Hopkins - August 3rd, 1851

Joseph Melvin infant son of Rev. G.H. & A.M. Cartledge and

Nancy Jane infant daughter of W.M. & E.J. Cartledge July the 4th, 1852

Elmira Tillotson infant Daughter of Elmira Story - 1852

Mary Margaret infant Daughter of E.M. & Dianah Thompson this the
 4th of October, 1852

Bethany Elizabeth and William Henry Long infant children of James S. &
 Francis Long.

David Alexander infant son of J.P. & Mary L. Hopkins, Mary Frances infant
 Daughter of S.C. & M.E. Groves, John Allen infant Son of R. & A.M. Woods
 Cicero Groves infant Son of James & Zemily W. Woods this the 9th of
 October 1853

William Hammond Groves Infant son of Dr. J.F.G. & Eliza Groves

Eda Milner Dudley & James Samuel Infant Children of Willis J. & Martha Dudley
 1854.

John Milton infant son of William H. & Huldah McCurdy

Harriet Elizabeth Infant Daughter of John A. & Nancy McCurdy, Jane Alice
 Infant Daughter of Stephen C. & Mary E. Groves May 17th, 1857.

Robert Infant son of James A. Pearce & Priscilla Pearce Sept. 1858

James Lucas Infant son of George W. & E.L. Evans Oct. 1857

BAPTISMS

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Dudley & James Samuel Dudley Infant children of Willis H. & Martha Dudely, 1854.

John Milton infant son of William H. & Huldah McCurdy. Harriet Elizabeth Infant Daughter of John A. & Nancy McCurdy & Jane Alice Infant Daughter of Stephen C. & Mary E. Groves. May 17, 1857.

Robert Infant son of James A. Pearce & Priscilla Pearce Sept. 1858

James Lucas Infant son of George W. & E.G. Evans Oct. 1857.

Mary Francis, Elizabeth Susan & Sarah Eliza Infant Children of W.P. & E.J. Evans.

Sarah Emer M Nathaniel Gholston Infant Children of James S. & Francis Long

Cornelia Joseph & Lelar Jane Infant Children of John F. & E.J. Groves

Robert Milner Infant son of Samuel F. & Martha W. Woods

Nancy Elizabeth Infant Daughter of William H. & Huldah McCurdy

Mary Talula Infant Daughter of J.P. & Mary L. Hopkins

Sarah Elizabeth Infant Daughter of A.W. & Tildah F. McCurdy

Sarah Harriet Martha Infant Children of James Thompson Jun.

Mary Elisa Infant Child of George W. & E.J. Evans

John Infant son of J.W.N. & E.J. Cartledge --Oct. 2nd, 1858

Joseph Deloney Infant son of William & Loucindy Thompson

Nancy Elizabeth Infant Daughter of J.L. & C.A. Cartledge -April 3rd, 1859

William Cicero Infant son of William N. & E.J. Cartledge

Mary Francis Infant Daughter of William H. & Huldah McCurdy

Robert Wilson Infant son of Robert & A.N. Woods

John Thomas & Charles Cicero Infant Children of Willis J. & Martha N. Dudley --July 3rd, 1859

Benjamin Franklin infant son of S.F. & M.W. Woods

William Ephriam infant son of J.A.M. McCurdy

Harriet Elizabeth infant Daughter of J.P. M.L. Hopkins

Esauas Earl James Williamson Frances Angeline Sarah Margaret Infant Children of F. & M. Weems

James infant son of J.A. & N. McCurdy ----Nov. 20th 1859

Sarah Artemissa Infant Daughter of G.W. & E.J. Evans

James Samuel Infant son of J.A. & M McCurdy

James Wyley infant son of J & N Thomspen

William Russell Josephene & Martha Angalena infant children of Urino Daniel

Thos. Golden infant son of A.N. & M.F. McCurdy ---May 6th, 1860

Sarah Francis & John Newton infant children of I.W. & A Saye this the
1st day of July 1860

George Case infant son of Rev. R.W. & Sarah L Milner- this the 8th of Aug 1860

Mary infant Daughter of Dr. B.M. & Amanda Jane Thomppon This the 8th of Oct.
1860

Georgia Ann Infant Daughter of George W. & E.J. Evans

Ida Infant Daughter of J.B. & Sarah L. Long

Lucius Cooksey Infant Son of John R. & E.J. Groves

Robert Wills Infant Son of Robert W. & Sarah L. Milner

Armarintha Lucinda Infant Daughter of William H. & Huldah McCurdy

John Thomss Infant son of John A. & Nancy McCurdy

Emmer Infant Daughter of Stephen C. & Mary E. Groves

####

(no explanation given for this Numbering)

95. Mary Carithers
96. Mary Tait - Deceased
97. Willis J. Dudley
98. James P. McCalister - Deceased

LIST OF COLORED MEMBERS NEW HOPE CHURCH

1. Daniel - Serv. of T. Long
2. Martina - Serv. of J.B. Long
3. Henry - Serv. of W. Carithers
4. Ned - Serv. of J. Thompson, Sen.
5. Mary - Serv. of J. Thompson, Jun.
6. Peggy - Serv. of D. Evans - Dead
7. Eda - Serv. of William Thompson
8. John - Serv. of Mc Carrington - Dead
9. Clark - Serv. of J.B. & Thomas A. Long

List of Members in New Hope Church

1. Col. Samuel Groves, Elder (Dead)
2. Rachel Groves
3. Stephen C. Groves
4. Maj. Wm. L. Groves
5. Rebekah J. Groves - dismissed by letter
6. Dr. John F. Groves - dismissed by letter
7. Benj. W. Wood, Elder - Suspended
8. Eliza ^{W.} Woods
9. Robert Woods , Elder
10. Artemissia M. Woods - Deceased
11. Elizabeth I. Woods
12. Samuel N. Woods - Deceased
13. Femely W. Woods
14. Sarah E. Woods
15. Joseph B. Long, Esq., Elder
16. Sarah L. Long
17. Thomas Long, Esq. - Deceased
18. Isabella Long - Dead
19. Elizabeth Long
20. Anne Long - Dismissed by letter
21. James I. Long
22. Sarah H. Long - Dismissed by let.
23. Jackson P. Hopkins - Deceased
24. Mary Hopkins
25. James McCurdy, Esq.
26. Rachel McCurdy
27. Mary W. McCurdy
28. Susan E. Coyle - Dismissed by letter.

29. Alonzo W. McCurdy - deceased
30. John A. McCurdy
31. Martha W. McCurdy
32. James G. McCurdy
33. Elizabeth McCurdy
34. Samuel G. McCurdy - Deceased/June 20th, 1863
35. Nancy McCurdy - Died June 9th, 1854
36. William H. Mc Curdy
37. John A. McCurdy - Deceased
38. Eliza ^{/G.} McCurdy
39. N. Caroline McCurdy
40. Sarah L. McCurdy - Deceased
41. Samuel D. McCurdy - Dead
42. Nancy A. Cartledge - Dead
43. Elizabeth W. Cartledge - Dismissed by letter
44. Groves H. Cartledge - Minister
45. Annie M. Cartledge - Dismissed by letter
46. William M. Cartledge
47. Jane Cartledge
48. Stephen C. Cartledge - Dismissed by letter
49. John L. Cartledge - Dismissed by letter
50. Cynthia A. Cartledge
51. Martha N. Cartledge - Now Dudley
52. D. Amanda Cartledge - Dismissed by letter
53. James Thompson, Sen. - Dead
54. James Thompson, Jun. ~~#####~~ deceased
55. Elizabeth Thompson
56. Samueo Thompson - Deceased

57. Mary #. ^{A.} Thompson
58. Mary Thompson
59. James H. Thompson
60. Dianah Thompson
61. Elizabeth Carithers
62. David Evans Esqr. - Elder - Deceased
63. Mary Evans - Deceased
64. William T. Evans
65. John G. Evans
66. Alexander Human - Elder - Died 11 Dec. 1852
67. Frederick Human
68. Isabella Human - Suspended
69. Anne Human
70. Martha Woods
71. Mary Ann Graham - Dead
72. Adaline Patten
73. Nancy N.A. Power. - Dead
74. Sarah Saye - Deceased June 15th 1867
75. Sarah Elizabeth Thompson
76. Elizabeth Jane Branham
77. Elmira Stpru - Dismissed by letter
78. Salina Floyd - Dismissed by letter
79. Sarah Jane Mannen - Suspended
80. ~~#####~~ Sarah Catharine Woods
81. Frances Goulden Woods - Deceased
82. Samuel Fergus Woods - Deceased
83. Many Epsy Groves (Mary Epsy)
84. Joseph Willosn Cartledge - Dismissed by letter
85. Francis Long
86. William Alexander Thompson - Deceased

87. Newton Mayes Story - Suspended
88. Matilda Frances McCurdy
89. Huldah Strickland
90. Elizabeth Story - Dismissed by Letter
91. Emily Carithers
92. Armina Carithers
93. Nancy Thompson
94. Harriett Thompson
95. Rachel A. Woods
96. Lucy J. Patten - Indefinitely Suspended
97. George W. Evans - Deceased
98. James Thompson, jun. Deceased
99. Thomas W. Long
100. Sidney F. Woods
101. Mattha N. Woods
102. Peneacy C. Thompson
103. Susan Sorrells - Dismissed by letter - 1864
104. Emily F. Woods
105. Mary Woods
106. Eliza Groves - Dismissed by letter
107. Rachel F. McCurdy
108. Sarah A. Strickland
109. Nancy Emily Thompson
110. Sarah A R N Patten
111. Sarah Mehuldah Branaham
112. ~~Barbary Agnes Anthony~~ Barbary Agnes Anthony
113. Emily Ann Patten - Suspended
114. Rebecker Scott - Dismissed by letter
115. Salency Strickland
116. El~~eh~~ Mannen - Suspended

Marriages

William L. Groves and Rebekah Jane Scott Dec. 20th 1849

Samuel Patton and Susan Evans Feb. 21st, 1850

John L. Cartledge and Cynthia Anne McCurdy Dec. 24th, 1850

Willis J. Dudley and Martha N. Cartledge May 29th, 1851

Alonzo W. McCurdy and Metilda Porterfield September 9th, 1852

Deaths

James Thompson, sen. June 29th 1851

Alexander Humane Elder December 4th, 1852

Nancy N.A. Power

Col. Samuel Groves Elder Aug 3rd, 1856

Mary Todd July 19th, 1859

Elizabeth Thompson Nov. 1856

Isabelle Long Dec. 15th, 1859

Transcript from
"Historical Sketches"
Presbyterian Churches
and
Early Settlers in
Northeast Georgia
by

Groves Harrison Cartledge

(Printed by the University of Georgia Printing Department - Distributed by)
Jessie J. Mize, Athens, Georgia.

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"Historical Sketches of New Hope Church" - By The Rev. Groves H.
Cartledge"

In the autumn of 1787, a colony of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians started from the neighborhood of Carlisle, Penn., to seek new homes in the wilds of upper Georgia. When they had nearly reached the Savannah River, they met a crowd of pioneers fleeing from Georgia before the infuriated savages. Several persons and some entire families had been ruthlessly murdered by the Indians. In consequence of these reported Indian outrages, most of the Pennsylvania emigrants stopped a year in Abbeville County, South Carolina, and made a crop there in 1788, and in the fall of the same year continued their journey to Georgia. They all settled in the same neighborhood between the north and south forks of Broad River, one of the larger tributaries of the Savannah, in what was then Wilkes County, 40 miles northwest of Washington.

Perhaps the oldest man among them, and the only Englishman in the whole colony, was my grandfather, Stephen Groves, from Lancashire, England, who had emigrated to Pennsylvania about the year 1763, and who had intermarried with Isabella Weakly, of Carlisle, and had thus become identified with the Scotch-Irish.

Stephen Groves died in March, 1839, in the one hundredth year of his age, when the writer was 19 years old; and much of the information given in these sketches was obtained from his lips and from the lips of his older children, all of whom but two were born in Pennsylvania. His oldest daughter, Elizabeth, was married to John McCurdy before leaving Carlisle, and with her family formed a part of the colony. Her husband, John McCurdy, was a relative of the distinguished Rev. Elisha McCurdy, who was pastor of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church in western Pennsylvania, from 1800 to 1835. Samuel Long was also a prominent man among the colonists. He had a large family and was distantly related to the Groves, McCurdy, and Hodge families. Wm. Hodge was a relative (an uncle, I believe,) to that other William Hodge, who emigrated to Tennessee, and under whose ministrations, united with those of the Rev. James McGready, the great revival in the beginning of this century took its rise.

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Elizabeth, the oldest child of Stephen Groves, was married to John McCurdy some years before their removal to Georgia. She was a woman of excellent sense and of great energy and decision of character. She had more energy in her little finger than her husband, John McCurdy, had in his whole

Transcript from
"Historical Sketches"

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body. Their daughters were Isabella, the wife of Thomas Long, Esq., and Agnes Weakly, the first wife of Maj. William H. Saye. Their sons were Stephen, John, James, Robert, Samuel and William.

Stephen, John and Robert McCurdy settled in western Ga., and I know but little of their families. John and Phillip McCurdy of Stone Mountain are good men, sons of Robert McCurdy. Phillip is a Baptist minister. James and Samuel McCurdy lived and died in Madison County, and left a numerous and worthy posterity. William McCurdy took to wife the worthy Anne, the daughter of Samuel Woods, Esq., and they have passed away leaving no offspring.

My great grandfather was the Robert McCurdy mentioned above, and my grandfather was Phillip McCurdy.

far off in the older white settlements. The settlers were all Pennsylvanians, and therefore they were not accustomed to subsist upon corn bread, and consequently, even when corn was plentiful, they esteemed it a great hardship to be deprived of their usual wheaten biscuits and raised loaves.

The first generation of settlers in a new country always experience much hardship and privation, and are all sure to die before they surround themselves with much of the comforts of life. The second and third generations will enjoy still greater comforts. But not until a country has been occupied by civilized people for a hundred years, do the inhabitants thereof begin to live easily and comfortably.

Until the year 1840, the nearest good market to the New Hope settlement was the city of Augusta, nearly a hundred miles distant. But at the time of which I am writing, Augusta was only a small trading post, and Charleston more than two hundred miles off was the nearest good market town. The settlers, therefore, for some years bought and sold principally in Charleston. As nearly all their money had been spent in removing and settling themselves, and as it was several years before they could get land enough open to make their bread, and a crop of tobacco for market, they could only buy their salt and iron, and a little sugar and coffee for the sick and for Sunday morning breakfasts.

But the New Hope settlers were the descendants of the Scotch Covenanters who had ages before contended unto the death for Christ's crown and covenant, and therefore we are not surprised to find that among their first acts, was the selection of a site for a church and the erection of an humble house of worship. The first structure was only a log cabin put up for a temporary purpose. Soon after, perhaps about 1791 or 1792, they built a good house made of large hewn pine logs, nicely notched together at the ends. The shingles were nailed on with the wrought nails made by the blacksmiths in the neighborhood. Indeed every nail in the house was home-made. The house was seated after the manner of an amphitheatre, each seat being raised a short step higher than the one before it. The pulpit and table were made of pine; but they were perfect specimens of handicraft. The builder was a Mr. Cochran, one of the members of the church. The moulding, dovetailing, and jointing of the pulpit were absolutely perfect of their kind. Above the pulpit was suspended a sounding-board of the same workmanship so constructed that if it had been let down upon the pulpit it would have formed a perfect lid, fitting it as nicely as the lid of a chest. The pulpit, like all others of that age, was very tall and very small. In that old house and before that tall old pulpit, the first Sabbath in October, 1838, the writer stood before the congregation and took the vows of God upon his soul and the baptismal seal upon his brow.

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In these days, many people in the older States are tempted to seek fresher lands in the Western States beyond the Mississippi. For the benefit of such, I will make the following statements in connection with the history of New Hope Church. I have heard my grandfather and others of the first settlers around New Hope frequently say that when they left Pennsylvania in

1787, the lands around Carlisle were old and worn out, and that they emigrated to Georgia to seek fresher lands, better range for stock, and plenty of fish and game. During the late war in 1863, many of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren were with General Lee when he invaded Pennsylvania, and I have heard them affirm, that the country around that same Carlisle was all cultivated like a garden and contained the best farms they ever saw. Old lands are better than new lands. Even in Georgia many men are making better crops on lands worn out by their grandfathers than those same grandfathers ever made upon the same lands when new and fresh. He that owns an old worn out farm near a church, school, and mill, owns a good fortune, if he could but believe it. And such a one dooms himself to severe hardships and privations for the balance of his days, when he sells off his old lands and moves to the West in search of fresher and better lands. And worse than all, perhaps he may doom his children to grow up in rude and wild society without the refining influences of church and school privileges, and therefore go down to the grave himself in his old age grieving over the waywardness and ungodliness of his own offspring.

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William Walker, a plausible, but unstable man, who had apostatized from New Hope, soon became a leading man and a leading preacher in the new heretical society and made up his mind to move his church out of their old barn into New Hope meeting house, and take it from its rightful owners. Accordingly he gave public notice that on a certain Saturday and Sabbath he would preach in the house and dedicate it as a "Bible Christian" meeting-house, and shut the Presbyterians out of it. When this notice was given by Walker, Col. Samuel Groves, the only active elder, was in Milledgeville as a member of the Georgia Legislature. The other male members would not move in the matter. But two noble women were equal to the emergency. Mrs. Rachel Groves, the wife of Col. Samuel Groves, and his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth McCurdy, had sprung from the land of Hamilton, Knox, Cargill, Cameron, and Renwick, and were themselves the daughters of heroes; and they determined that if the men would not act, they themselves would save their beloved house of worship.

Accordingly, when the day had arrived, in the morning before Walker and his people had assembled they locked and barred the doors and windows of the church and then took their seats upon the front steps as the sentinels and guardians of God's house. When Walker came up, they told him that that house had been built by Presbyterians, for Presbyterians to worship the true God in; that every log had been cut, hewn, and notched down by Presbyterians; that every plank had been sawn, every shingle made, and every nail forged and driven by Presbyterians, and that before he and his heretical crowd could take that house away from the Presbyterians, they must walk over their dead bodies. After Walker had solemnly promised that he would not attempt to take the house away from them, and that he never would make another appointment to preach in it, they opened the doors and let him go on with his meeting for that time. This was a deathblow to "Bible Christianity" in that neighborhood. Walker soon after left the country and went to ruin; the other Presbyterians who had been led astray by him, soon after returned to the old fold; the heretical society expired, and not a "Bible Christian" has been seen in the community for more than forty years.

From information lately obtained from Rev. James H. Saye, of Chester County, S. C., I have learned that the first emigration from Cumberland County, Penn., to New Hope, took place in 1786. George Elliot, Sr., and his five sons, Robert, Alexander, George, Jr., James and William, and his son-in-law, Christopher Gardner, and probably, Allen Leeper, Wm. Hodge, and others before mentioned, started from Pennsylvania to Georgia in 1785, but hearing in Virginia that the Indians were hostile in Georgia, they stopped one year in Rockbridge County, Virginia, and then in the fall of 1786, continued their journey to the unbroken wilds of upper Georgia, and made the first settlement in the neighborhood of New Hope, in what was then the northern part of Wilkes, but now the southern part of Madison County, Georgia. Most of the sons of George Elliot, Sr., were married men at that time, and were mechanics. They were Revolutionary patriots; and two of them being blacksmiths, had helped to make the chains which were stretched across the Delaware River to impede the British fleet at Red-bank and Mudisland in 1777. The same Elliots, after their settlement at New Hope, employed their hands and their forges in the more peaceful avocation of making nails for the construction of that old log-house in which the New Hope people so long worshipped the God of their fathers; and two more of the Elliots helped to hew the logs. The name and the very blood of all the Elliots and Gardners have long since left the community of New Hope, and are now scattered over the earth from South Carolina to Illinois. Rev. J. H. Saye, of Chester County, S. C., and his brother, Rev. John B. Saye, of Springfield, Illinois, are grandsons (on their mother's side) of Christopher Gardner, and great-grandsons of George Elliot, Sr. The flight of Gardner and others from New Hope before the infuriated savages in the fall of 1787 to Abbeville, S. C., caused Stephen Groves, John McCurdy, Samuel Long and others of the Pennsylvania emigrants to halt and tarry one year in South Carolina.

But to the point. William Hodge, Sr., Samuel Woods, Robert Woods, Sr., Samuel Long, Sr., Stephen Groves, William Fergus, John McCurdy, Alexander Thompson, Sr., and his son James Thompson, Sr., Thomas Evans, and his son David Evans, Alexander Human, Samuel Groves, eldest son of Stephen Groves, and their wives, were among the most active and devoted members of the church in her earlier days, and to-day their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, are the main stay and body of the church. Of the six elders now in the church, Robert Woods is the son of elder Samuel Woods; J. B. (Joseph Brown) Long is the grandson of elder Samuel Long and of John McCurdy, and a great-grandson of Stephen Groves; Thomas W. (Wilson) Long is the son of elder J. B. Long, and on his mother's side is also a grandson of elder Col. Samuel Groves, and great-grandson of elder Wm. Fergus; Ephraim Thompson is a grandson of James Thompson, Sr., and great-grandson of Alexander Thompson, Sr.; John A. McCurdy is a grandson of John McCurdy, and great-grandson of Stephen Groves; John L. Cartledge is a grandson of Stephen Groves. Of the four deacons now in the church, Wm. Woods is the grandson of Robert Woods, Sr.; Wm. Hodge McCurdy is the grandson of elder Wm. Hodge and of John McCurdy, and great-grandson of Stephen Groves; Henry Evans is the son of elder David Evans, and grandson of Thomas Evans, Sr.; and Marion Henderson is the son of elder Robert Henderson, who came into the congregation about

Franklin. In 1811, Madison County was laid off mainly from Elbert and Franklin counties, but with small portions taken from Jackson, Clark and Oglethorpe. Nearly all the first settlers in what is now Madison County were Pennsylvanians from the Neighborhood of Carlisle in Cumberland County, and were of the Scotch-Irish stock; that is, they were descended from people who were of Scotch blood and of Irish birth.

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But to return, the practice of plowing the horses by day and turning them out to graze at night, sometimes resulted in the loss of the horses. For an instance, one morning the late Col. Samuel Groves, then a lad of about fourteen years went out to drive up his father's horses. Guided by the bell, he came in sight of them on top of a ridge a short distance above the spot on which now stands the residence of David B. Moon, and saw two stalwart Cherokee Indian braves were in the act of bridling two of the best horses. He did not remain long enough to see the Indians mount. Many years afterwards in a treaty with Indians, provision was made by the United States for payment to owners for all horses stolen by the Indians, and Stephen Groves received sixty dollars apiece without interest for his horses. And those horses from Pennsylvania were horses indeed. I have heard the old men say that they never had any good horses, after death put an end to the ones they brought with them. The old men all died believing that horses could not be raised on the corn of Georgia, that would be equal to the Pennsylvania horses raised on rye and oats. John McCurdy drove to Georgia a team of four large horses all as black as a crow, and I have heard him say that he never had any good horses after their death.

As I have already said, fish were very abundant. In their season, shad from north and south forks of Broad River were so plentiful that those who did not wish to be at the trouble to catch them could buy them for five cents apiece. Among the first settlers was a family of Peytons on North River, who lived as some of their descendants do yet mainly by fishing and hunting; and all who did not fish for themselves could buy plenty of fish from the Peytons. Blue cat were large and numerous. I have heard my mother say that when a small child, she had seen two of the Peyton men bring blue cat fish to her father, Stephen Groves, with a handspike run through the fish's gills and the ends of the handspike borne upon their shoulders, and the tail of the fish reaching nearly to the ground. The new fresh lands, the abundant range and plentiful game and fish were the main inducements, which caused the first settlers to sell out their worn out old fields in Pennsylvania for a small price to the incoming Germans and seek better homes in the wilderness of upper Georgia.

And now let every reader observe well what I am about to write. Capt. James Long was about fourteen years old when his father, Samuel Long, Sr., moved to Georgia. About the year 1849, Capt. Long, in returning from one of his business trips to New York, came by way of Carlisle, Penn., to see his old home and native land. Soon after his return he told me that it did not look like the same country. Instead of the old worn-out fields he had left in 1787, he found it in 1849 all cultivated like a garden, not an old field to be seen, and the finest farming lands he had ever seen.

twenty years ago, and who died there since the close of the late war.

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It has often been remarked, that in the War of the Revolution, all Presbyterian ministers and people in the United States were Whigs and patriots. This was certainly true of the first settlers of New Hope, and their kindred in Pennsylvania and the Carolinas. And like religion, if patriotism does not run in the blood, it is nevertheless transmitted from sires to sons, by precepts and by examples. In the war of 1812-14, New Hope bore her full share. Col. Samuel Groves, an elder, commanded a regiment in Gen. Andrew Jackson's army, and made a name for gallantry and humanity to his soldiers, which rendered him the most popular man in Madison County. In the same service, his brother-in-law, John Fergus, son of elder Wm. Fergus, contracted the disease which soon hurried him to the grave, in the prime of early manhood. Many others from the same community did gallant service; but few of them lost their lives. In our recent struggle for independence, New Hope bore a noble part and suffered severly. Samuel, James, and William Thompson, three noble brothers, and brothers of elder Ephraim Thompson; William Caruthers, grandson of Wm. Thompson, Sr., and great-grandson of A. Thompson, Sr.; S. Newton Woods, son of elder Robert Woods; F. Goulding Woods, son of elder B. W. Woods (and both grandsons of Col. S. Groves); Alonzo W. McCurdy, grandson of John McCurdy; John A. McCurdy, another grandson of John McCurdy; George and Pinckney Evans, sons of elder David Evans; Jackson Hopkins, an elder of the church, whose wife was a granddaughter of elder Samuel Long; Wilson Struckland, and Stephen G. Cartledge, a grandson of Stephens Groves, all lost their lives in their efforts to establish Southern independence. Elder John A. McCurdy lost a leg at the battle of Cold Harbor, Va.; elder Thomas W. Long had his shin bone shattered near Richmond, Va., and he was lamed for life; Joseph W. Woods lost an arm, and was captured at Knoxville; and elder John L. Cartledge was severely wounded, and was captured at Jonesboro, Ga. Many others fought as bravely, but escaped unhurt.

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In 1777, Wilkes County was laid off by the Legislature. Its northern line started on Savannah River at the mouth of Lightwood Log Creek and ran up said creek about one mile north of the present site of Hartwell, and about three-fourths of a mile above the present site of Danielsville and thence to Cherokee Corner, nine miles below Athens on the Lexington road. At Cherokee Corner, Wilkes cornered with the lands of the Creek and Cherokee Indians, the Cherokee Territory lying north, and the Creek Territory south. In 1784, Franklin County was made by the Legislature from lands taken from the Cherokees as indemnity for the depredations of the Indians on the whites during the War of the Revolution. Franklin lay north and northwest of Wilkes. In 1790, Elbert County was laid off from the northeast corner of Wilkes, and in 1793, Oglethorpe was laid off from the northwest corner of Wilkes. In 1796, Jackson County, then including all of Clark and Oconee counties, and small portions of Walton, Gwinnett and Hall counties, was laid off from

In 1863, Lee's army fought the Battle of Gettysburg in Cumberland County, Penn., the very county from which the first settlers of Madison came. And the grandsons and great-grandsons of these first settlers were in Lee's army and that terrible battle; and they too have told me that they never saw a finer farming country than the land around Gettysburg, Chambersburg and Carlisle. No old fields. No worn-out lands. And now the lesson to be learned. Let every farmer in Madison County take for his motto-Every year I will improve my lands, and when I die and leave them to my children, I will leave them better than I found them.

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Stephen Groves and his son-in-law John McCurdy, came from Cumberland County, Penn., in company with Samuel Long, Sr., (and) the Eberharts and settled in Madison County in 1788. The company left Penn. early in the autumn of 1787 expecting to reach their destination before the 25th of December the same year. But in Abbeville, S. C., they learned that the Creek Indians had recently made a hostile raid into the white settlements in upper Georgia and fearing to proceed further at that time, they rented land in Abbeville, made a crop in 1788, and then in the fall sold their crops and moved on to their final destination.

Stephen Groves was an Englishman. He was born in Lancashire, England, Jan. 6, 1740. When he was twenty-three years old, his father and mother having died when he was a child, he came to America in search of an elder brother, William, who had preceded him many years before. Having landed in Philadelphia, he set out in search of his brother and not long afterwards he found Isabelle Weakly, in Cumberland County, Penn., fell in love with the sedate Scotch-Irish lassie and took her for his wife and soon discovered that he had drawn a prize. She was born in Penn., but her parents were Scotch from the North of Ireland. She died when I was nine years old, in 1829, but I remember her well. She was neat as a pin, quiet as a mouse, and as industrious as a bee. In her life of eighty years, she never did or said one foolish thing. Like her youngest daughter, my revered mother, she never engaged in gossip or chit-chat. When necessary she spoke and spoke to the point, and in words most appropriate. When she said anything, it was said never to be unsaid. To her children and servants her word was law and none presumed to call it in question. She never said the same thing twice. Her voice was low, mild, soft, and pleasant, but its mild tones were weighty and conclusive.

A few years before the War of the Revolution Stephen Groves bought a large body of land adjoining Fort Pitt where Pittsburg, Penn., now stands, and removed his family from Cumberland County to his new purchase at Fort Pitt, and opened a store and a tannery. His object was to trade with the Indians, who occupied all the country west of the Ohio River. At that time the portion of Penn. west of the Allegheny Mountains had very few settlers. Stephen Groves was rapidly piling up a fortune by his trade with the Indians when the War of the Revolution set in, which soon blasted all his fine prospects. The British soon excited the Ohio Indians to hostilities against the white Americans. He first sent his wife and children back to his old home in Cumberland County for safety.

But he soon saw that his own life was in great danger and having an opportunity to sell his place for a small part of its value, in beeves mostly, he took refuge in Cumberland County. On his way to Cumberland he drove his beeves to Gen. Washington's camp and sold them for a good price in Continental money.

Soon afterwards Continental money began to depreciate, and hearing that it was at par in Charleston, S. C., he stuffed his saddle bags with Continental money, mounted his horse and rode from Carlisle, Penn., to Charleston, S. C., to exchange his Continental script for good money. But neither the merchants nor the banks in Charleston would exchange at par; but the merchants proposed to sell him goods for his Continental money at par. Therefore he bought a few hundred dollars worth of costly jewelry and a piece or two of fine silk, which he could carry in his saddle-bags. The rest of his Continental money became worthless, or nearly so on his hands. After his return from Charleston, he entered Gen. Washington's army. Many times have I heard him say that he had often in the army given a fifty dollar bill of Continental money for a pint of brandy or whiskey. The land Stephen Groves sold near Fort Pitt is now all in the heart of Pittsburg and with the improvements thereon is worth two hundred millions of dollars. Stephen Groves died in March, 1839, in the one hundredth year of his life. Samuel married Rachel Fergus (commonly called Forgy) and Robert married Sallie Fergus. They were sisters and among the best women in the world. Samuel Groves was twelve years old when his father moved to Georgia.

In 1813 Samuel Groves joined a regiment raised in Elbert, Madison, Franklin, and Jackson counties for Gen. Charles Floyd's army to fight the British and their allies, the Indians. The Col. of the regiment was a man by the name of Harris of Elbert. Samuel Groves went out as a private in the ranks. Their first battle was with the Indians at the Calechee swamp in Ala. At this battle Col. Harris, when the firing began, ran and hid among the baggage wagons in the rear. For his cowardice Col. Harris was cashiered and Samuel Groves was elected Colonel in his stead. There was no cowardice in Col. Groves' blood. He soon gained the entire confidence and love of his men, and as long as his old soldiers survived in considerable numbers in Madison, Col. Groves could get any office he wished in the county. He was either Senator or Representative annually and consecutively from 1815 to 1834 inclusive.

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Elizabeth, the oldest child of Stephen Groves, was married to John McCurdy some years before their removal to Georgia. She was a woman of excellent sense and of great energy and decision of character. She had more energy in her little finger than her husband, John McCurdy, had in his whole body. Their daughters were Isabella, the wife of Thomas Long, Esq., and Agnes Weakly, the first wife of Maj. William H. Saye. Their sons were Stephen, John, James, Robert, Samuel and William.

Stephen, John and Robert McCurdy settled in western Ga., and I know but little of their families. John and Phillip McCurdy of Stone Mountain are good men, sons of Robert McCurdy, Phillip is a Baptist minister. James and Samuel McCurdy lived and died in Madison County, and left a numerous and worthy posterity. William McCurdy took to wife the worthy Anne, the daughter of Samuel Woods, Esq., and they have passed away leaving no offspring.