

CONCORD PRESBYTERY

Minutes of the annual meetings of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church indicate that Rev. William C. DAVIS spent his ministry with the church in South Carolina except for a few years starting in 1798 when he was at Olney, N.C. Olney was located in what was then Lincoln County. Lincoln and Rutherford Counties had been split off of Tryon County in 1779. Years later, in 1846, Gaston County was formed out of the southern part of Lincoln County.

Olney Church was in the Concord Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church. Microfilm of the Minutes of Sessions of Concord Presbytery from about 1796 to 1820 are at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia. Following are some notes from these.

3/27/96 at Goshen Church. Elder ISAAC WHITE present.

9/4/04 at Centre Church, 19th Session. On Wednesday September 5, "Mr. JOHN WILSON now present and satisfactory reasons for his absence on yesterday and took his seat with his elder Mr. THOMAS WHITE."

11/28/04 at Long Creek Church. It was reported that ROBERT GLENN, ISAAC WHITE and JOSEPH McREYNOLDS had seen divine lights and McREYNOLDS had laid hands on heads. Also ROBERT WHITE and wife NANCY WHITE, presented their child to be baptized by the ruling elder of Knobb Creek Church.

Thursday 11/29/04 at Long Creek Church. "Appeared before us THOS. WHITE, JOSEPH DAWSON, ROBERT McREYNOLDS, WILLIAM GILE, JOHN BARBER, JAMES McREYNOLDS, WILLIAM MOORE, ROBERT WHITE, Jr., JOHN LITILE, ISABELLA WHITE, MARGARET DAWSON, ELIZABETH STEPHENSON, BETSEY McREYNOLDS, PATSEY GIVENS, and JOSEPH STEPHENSON: After having heard the declaration of each of the above named persons touching the part that they acted in, or the point of view in which they conceived the practices and things stated on the minutes of our Presbytery as irregularities of errors, and alleged to as if in the Congregation of Knobb Creek and Long Creek, and whereas it did appear that the above named persons had either joined in these exercises themselves or approved of them in others, JOHN LITTLE, JOHN GLENN and JOSEPH STEPHENSON excepted, who appear to be guilty only in a minor degree, the Committee therefore after mature deliberation do judge that the aforesaid persons, excepting as above, agreeable to the resolution of Presbytery at their last Sessions, be and they are hereby suspended from the sealing ordinances of the Gospel until they confess their errors and show evidence of repentance and reformation.

We further judge that ISSAC WHITE and his wife NANCY be and hereby are suspended from the sealing ordinance of the Gospel in that they presented their child to be baptized by a Person unauthorized to administer sealing ordinances.

10/3/06 at Olney Church. "Of members of the Congregation of Knobb Creek who had been suspended from the sealing ordinances of the Gospels the following appeared before us ISSAC, THOMAS, ROBERT and NANCY WHITE, are having solemnly disavowed the practices for which they were suspended were cheerfully received by us to the Communion of the Church."

Thursday 4/9/07 at Poplar Tent Church. ISAAC WHITE applied for and was licensed to officiate as Catechist and Exhorter in the Congregation of Knobb Creek and adjacent vacancies.

1812. Mention of ISAAC WHITE, Catechist.

4/5/14 at Goshen Church. Elder ISAAC WHITE with Mr. JOHN B. DAVIS, Elder JAMES WHITE with Mr. John WILLIAMSON, seated later were Rev. I. WILSON and his Elder JOHN

WHITE.

4/4/16. At Unity Church, Lincoln. Among elders present was ISAAC WHITE.

4/20/16. Unhappiness expressed over the Bullocks Creek, South Carolina, members who continued their attachment to WM. C. DAVIS after his declination from the Presbyterian Church. Rev. DAVIS had been disciplined in 1810 for authoring "Gospel Plan."

9/7/19. At Hopewell. Elder JOHN WHITE present.

40 YEARS IN NORTH CAROLINA

THOMAS WHITE was born in 1780. The 1850 U.S. Census gives JAMES' age as 68, making his birthdate 1782. The 1850 Census of Gaston County, N.C. shows his brother JOHN to have been born in 1777 or 1778, and SARAH to have been born in 1785 or 1786.

In the 1790 Census of Rutherford County only ELINOR WHITE's family could have contained the combination of ages of JOHN, THOMAS, JAMES and SARAH. In Lincoln County only the JAMES WHITE Family could have contained them.

An 1823 will of JAMES WHITE of Lincoln County names heirs: Wife SARAH, son ISAAC, daughter LUCY, son JAMES (to receive land in Illinois), sons ROBERT, JOHN, THOMAS, WILLIAM, SAMUEL. The executors were to be sons ROBERT and JOHN.

Daughters of the American Revolution provide the following biography of JAMES WHITE:

"JAMES WHITE born 1743, Londonderry TWP., Chester County, PA. Married SARAH MARY GIVENS in 1773. She was born 1752, PA., and died 1836. JAMES died June 22, 1823, Lincoln County, N.C. So did SARAH die in Lincoln County, N.C. Later to become Gaston County, N.C. Their Children were:

ROBERT WHITE: B: Oct. 2, 1774 D	Md: JENNIE SCOTT
JOHN WHITE: B: April 19, 1776 D:	Md: POLLY BAIRD
ELIZABETH WHITE: B: Nov. 11, 1777 D:	Md: ? ROBINSON
THOMAS WHITE: B: Jan. 9, 1780 D:	Md: 1. ? McCORD 2. ? BEATTIE
JANE WHITE: B: Nov. 1, 1781 D: Young	
JAMES WHITE: B: Sept. 12, 1783 D:	Md:
SARAH WHITE: B: Aug. 28, 1786 D:	Md: ?
EDWARD WHITE: B: Feb. 6, 1789 D:	Md:
WILLIAM WHITE: B: April 1, 1791 D:	Md: ? JOHNSTON
SAMUEL WHITE: B: Dec. 12, 1794 D:	Md: In Illinois
LUCY WHITE: B: , 1796 D:	Md: JAMES OATS
ISAAC WHITE: B: Feb. 29, 1798 D:	Md: POLLY (Mary)

"JAMES WHITE moved to N.C. in 1772. A Lt. of a Company from the South Fork and fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain. He is buried at Long Creek Presbyterian Cemetery, Dallas, N.C. ISAAC was the Captain of the Company. After the War ISAAC settled in Bond County, Illinois.

References:

Hunter's Sketches of Western North Carolina.
Draper's Kings Mountain and It's Heroes.
Records of ROBERT M. OATS in the Archives at Raleigh, N.C."

The DAR "*Roster of Soldiers from N.C. in the American Revolution*" reports that Lt. ISAAC WHITE, Capt. JAMES WHITE and Lt. THOMAS WHITE were born in Pennsylvania, moved to Lincoln County, N.C., in 1779; and that " Lt. ISAAC WHITE fought at Kings Mountain in

October, 1780 and died in 1821.

WHITE's "*Kings Mountain Men*" reports: that ISAAC, JAMES and THOMAS were born, in Pennsylvania, moved to Lincoln County in 1779 and were pensioned in Illinois. JAMES was a Captain and the others were Lieutenants.

"*Kings Mountain and its Heroes*", by DRAPER, reports "ISAAC WHITE, of Scotch-Irish parentage, was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1760; and migrated with his elder brother THOMAS to Lincoln County, N.C., about 1779. Though young, JAMES WHITE was chosen a Captain, and his brother the Lieutenant of the Company, and served at Kings Mountain and Cowpens. In 1816 they moved to Bond County, Illinois, JAMES dying in 1821, aged 61 years, and THOMAS in 1824, at the age of 70 years." (It was ISAAC and THOMAS who died in Bond County. -W.A.W.) [William Allen White]

In the 1790 U.S. Census of Lincoln County the JAMES WHITE family was reported to be in the 12th Company and contained five males under 16 years of age and four females, apparently the five sons and three daughters who have been born to date as shown in the DAR biography.

The 1800 Census picks up the rest of the children of the JAMES WHITE household, and loses two of the older ones, apparently 26 year old ROBERT and 19 year old JANE. ROBERT is married and appears in a separate household. Probably JANE has died.

On June 3, 1804, JOHN married POLLY BAIRD (or Beard). And on November 1, 1808, BETSY married DAVID ROBINSON. Remaining with their parents in the 1810 Census appear to be THOMAS, JAMES, SARAH, EDWARD, WILLIAM, SAMUEL, LUCY and ISAAC, ranging in age from 30 down to 12. In that census LUCY appears to be listed as 16 years old instead of her true 14.

LUCIEN AGNIEL in "*Rebels Victorious*" wrote, "...the region including northwestern South Carolina, western North Carolina and a segment of what today is eastern Tennessee. There in the Appalachian Mountains resided the tough, independent frontier people, mainly of Scotch-Irish descent. To them, the war against Britain had been dwarfed by the more immediate problem of protecting their homes and families from the Indians."

HARRY GOLDEN in "*For 2¢ Plain*" wrote that the North Carolina troopers were unsung heroes of the Revolution. In Boston, he said, the Americans started at the top of the hill against the British, and lost; at Kings Mountain the Americans started at the bottom of the hill, and won.

The father of THOMAS WHITE, according to one of his biographers, was a JOHN WHITE who migrated to Pennsylvania from Ireland about 1740. JAMES was born in 1743, THOMAS about 1754 and ISAAC about 1760. JAMES came to Tryon (later Lincoln) County before the War, probably with a wave of Whites down the traders road from Pennsylvania. THOMAS served with a Pennsylvania unit, was captured by the British, escaped at New York in mid-winter, walked his 333 pounds back to Pennsylvania and rejoined his unit as a Lieutenant. He was a school, teacher and amateur explorer. He and ISAAC came to Lincoln County in 1779 and settled on the Broad River in Rutherford County.

When the British brought the war to western Carolina JAMES was a married land owner with four small children. He and ISAAS gathered some troops and fought the British at Kings Mountain and Hanna's cowpens. Our great grandfather Thomas was born just ten months before the battle of Kings Mountain and Hanna's Cowpens. Our great grandfather Thomas was born just ten months after the battle of Kings Mountain.

Great grandfather THOMAS WHITE was born January 9, 1780, in that part of Lincoln County which became Gaston County in 1846 (very likely). He was probably educated at home by his parents and relatives, and lived at home until he was in his middle thirties. He joined the

Presbyterian Church at about the age of 20 under the ministry of Reverend WILLIAM C. DAVIS, the pastor at Olney.

THOMAS WHITE married our great grandmother in 1816 or 1817, probably. Marriage may have occurred in North Carolina, or Indiana, or Illinois. There were McCords (great grandmother was a McCord) on the Broad River in Rutherford County, North Carolina, and some more in Bond County, Illinois. Thomas, Sr., moved his family by wagon from Rutherford County to Bond County in the fall of 1816. ISAAC WHITE moved his family to Bond County via Indiana, arriving sometime between 1817 and [between 1817 and] 1820. (WILL WHITE said, in the nineteen thirties, that his people stopped at Crawfordsville, Indiana, for a time on their move west. We don't know whether these were the Whites or the Rannells). SAMUEL, a younger brother of great grandfather THOMAS, moved to Bond County in 1816, according to his biographer. Also the Denny family moved in 1816 from Lincoln County to Madison County, just west of Bond. A JOHN LEEPER preceded them all to Illinois. He appears in the 1810 U.S. Census of Bond County. [*This is the John Leeper, descendant of the family that owned property along the creek bearing the family name which empties into Dutchman's Creek, then into the Catawba River. -DSH*]

40 YEARS IN ILLINOIS

Shoal Creek Presbyterian Church was organized in 1819. It's quarters were in a log cabin on the east fork of Shoal Creek, three miles north of the present location of Greenville and in the midst of the White settlement in Bond county, Illinois.

An 1892 "*Biographical Record of Montgomery and Bond Counties*" reports of THOMAS WHITE, Sr. in 1820: "The red men became his familiar visitors, and among them Mr. WHITE found many who possessed fine traits of character. Deer and wolves abounded in the country and wild turkeys flew over the streams, but as he was no hunter he did not pursue any of the wild creatures for sport."

The 1820 U.S. Census of Bond County lists THOMAS WHITE, Sr., ISAAC WHITE, ROBERT WHITE and THOMAS WHITE, Jr., among the several WHITE households in Ripley Township. THOMAS, Sr., ISAAC, and ROBERT were from Rutherford County, North Carolina. And according to the 1850 Census, ISAAC's wife was ISABELLA, and ROBERT's was NANCY.

It appears likely that THOMAS WHITE, Jr., of the 1820 Census was our great grandfather, and that the adult female in his household was great grandmother, and the other adult male was THOMAS's brother JAMES. Grandfather JAMES HARVEY WHITE who may have been between one and two years old at the time was not in the THOMAS, Jr., household, but there was a male under 10 with the THOMAS, Sr., family of adults. HARVEY may have been in their care because his mother was very ill.

Great grandmother WHITE probably died in late 1820 or in 1821. In the fall of 1821 THOMAS took his son JAMES HARVEY and moved north to Morgan County, Illinois. It would be interesting to know if new land laws or the extension of government surveys made Bond County attractive in 1816 and Morgan County attractive in 1821. Brother JAMES WHITE was living in the THOMAS WHITE household in 1830, 1840, and 1850, so he was probably with THOMAS and HARVEY when they migrated, from Bond County.

THOMAS married again, a North Carolina girl ten years his junior, named MARGARET BEATTIE. She was a member of a different church denomination than THOMAS. HARRIET was born to them in 1824, FRANK in 1825, ISAAC NEWTON next, and SARAH in 1830. All were born near Jacksonville in Morgan County.

In 1827 the Jacksonville Presbyterian Church was organized and THOMAS transferred his membership to it from the Shoal Creek Church in Bond County. June 30, 1827, was the first meeting of Sessions of the Jacksonville Church. October 21, 1827, was it's third meeting and

THOMAS WHITE appeared before it that day and was tested for his knowledge and beliefs. The Clerk of Sessions objected to the proceedings because the meeting had not been constituted (opened) with a prayer. The Moderator overruled the Clerk, and THOMAS WHITE was voted the 14th member of the church. He came by transfer, being "formerly a member of the Shoal Creek Church and in good standing and correct deportment which was testified by JOHN LEEPER."

The Clerk noted in the minutes that the meeting adjourned "without attending to the order of prayer." There was a JOHN LEEPER in the 1810, the 1818, and the 1820 Censuses of Bond County, and in the 1830 Census of Morgan

MARGARET WHITE joined the Church at the 5th Session, July 26, 27, 1828, as its 25th member. Formerly a member of another church and having no certificate, she was received on examination.

The original of these minutes are at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia. With them is the following certificate from the (Sangamon) Presbytery Moderator: "Presbytery, Shoal Creek, Illinois, October 1828: "Minutes examined and approved with the exception that one of the Sessions was opened and closed without a prayer." "JOHN MATHEWS, MOD."

The 1830 Census of Morgan County lists the THOMAS WHITE household as: one male under 5 (NEWT.), one male between 5 and 10 (FRANK), one male between 10 and 15 (HARVEY), one male between 40 and 50 (Uncle JAMIE), one male between 50 and 60 (THOMAS), one female under 5 (SARAH), one female between 5 and 10 (HARRIET), one female between 40 and 50 (MARGARET). The slavery issue surfaced early in the Presbyterian Church. It resulted in a split in 1838. In Jacksonville one of the factions set up the Second Church, and THOMAS WHITE was its Presiding Elder until his death in 1860. The Churches were reunited after the Civil War. THOMAS's widow, MARGARET BEATTIE WHITE, lived to be at least 94 years old. She signed for her share of the husband's estate when final settlement was made in 1884. Son HARVEY married CAROLINE RANNELLS and sired four sons in Gentry . County, Missouri. Daughter HARRIET never married. She was probably a school teacher. In 1884, when her father's estate was finally settled, she was living at Whitesville, Missouri, and was guardian of her sister's minor children. Son FRANCIS was traveling with JOHN C. FREMONT while his father was still alive. FRANK fought in the Civil War, came home to marry a nurse, MARY PARK DAVIS, and sired three sons and two daughters. Son CHARLES fought in the Spanish American War, and was for many years the Union Pacific depot agent at Denver, Colorado. The two girls and son OLIVER had no children. Son THOMAS had 15 children and all were living at St. Joseph, Missouri, the last report on them. FRANK died at King City, Missouri, in 1909.

Son ISAAC NEWTON left home before 1850. He was a carpenter by trade and settled in Kansas City, Missouri. He was alive in 1884 when his father's estate was settled. According to EDGAR WHITE, HARVEY's son, NEWT. lived until about 1903.

Daughter SARAH married ANDREW MILLEN and they raised five children in Gentry and Andrew Counties of Missouri. Both SARAH and ANDREW died during the 1860's and HARRIET WHITE became their guardian. SARAH's children were: ANNIE born in 1858, ETTIE in 1861, JOHN in 1864, THOMAS H. born in 1867, and HARRIET P. born in 1873.

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From the *Annals of Lincoln County*: Page 237.

The following tribute to Hon. JAMES H. WHITE appeared in the Gastonia Gazette of November 16, 1883:

The reaper, Death, day by day snatches from our midst some friend. One by one the old landmarks take their last steps on the march to Eternity. The subject of this sketch was born in

Derry County, Ireland, in May 1802, and died at his residence in Gaston County, N.C., November 1st, 1883, in the 82nd year of his age.

When but 16 years of age he emigrated to America, landed at Charleston, S.C., and located in Gaston (then Lincoln County, N.C.) and settled down as a farmer.

He always took great interest in public affairs, was elected to the House of Commons in 1842-44-46 & 48, was chosen State Senator in 1850, to the House from Gaston in 1854 and 1860 and again to the Senate in 1862, making a total service of sixteen years in the General Assembly. He once told the writer that the proudest act of his public life was securing the charter of the Dallas & Kings Mountain Railroad (now the C. & L.R.R.).

At that time there was throughout the State bitter opposition to the granting of charters to any railroads leading out of the State, but he fought hard in the Assembly for the passage of the bill granting this charter and was successful, and to him more than to anyone else are we indebted for our narrow gauge railroad, binding as it does the hills of North Carolina with the lowlands of the Palmetto State.

Mr. WHITE was always a true Democrat of the Calhoun school. While not a fine orator, he was a positive and forceful speaker, admired more for his depth of argument than for eloquence. He was a bold and aggressive advocate of what he thought was right, yet frank and generous to his opponents.

He was also an ardent lover of individual liberty and personal rights, and at a recent election in which he thought a just privilege was being trampled upon, he remarked as he cast his ballot, "I was born in a land of tyranny, but I Want to die in a land of liberty."

He has taken hut little interest in politics since the late war, but his name will stand prominent in the history of this section of the State.

Personally Mr. WHITE possessed that warm-hearted generous disposition characteristic of every true son of Erin. He was a great admirer of Burns' poetry and was consequently a lover of the grand and beautiful in Nature.

An affectionate husband and loving father, a steadfast friend and generous foe, loved by his friends and admired by all, he will ever be kindly remembered. He died in the Presbyterian faith, and a nobler, manlier soul never winged its flight heavenward.

*"Green be the turf above thee,
Friend of other days;
None knew thee but to love thee,
None named thee hut to praise."*

Dallas, N.C. November 1883.

WILLIAM L. SHERRILL.

Mr. WHITE was active in the movement for the creation of the County of Gaston, which was established in 1846. He married to MARGARET JENKINS, July 3, 1834, and reared a large family. One son, JOHN B. WHITE, was Clerk of the Superior Court in Gaston from 1878 to 1890, and represented Gaston in the Legislature of 1893. The body of Mr. WHITE rests in the JENKINS family graveyard, a few miles west of Dallas. There is no tombstone because it was his request that no marker be placed over his grave.

(Note: There is no discernable relationship between James H. White (who may have been the James White that was the first sheriff of Lincoln County with the James White of Long Creek. -DSH)

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[Taken from *Footprints in Time*, journal of the Old Tryon Genealogical Society, Summer, 1989, pp 19-25]