



Gateway to the West



Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society P. O Box 231 Jonesville, Virginia 24263

July 2020



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President's Report

By Becky Jones



This has been a trying time not only for the Lee County Historical Society but for our country as well, with this Coronavirus going around. We have not met since our January meeting. We did not meet in February because of high water in the road getting to our building.

Staying home has not bothered me. My husband and I are used to staying home, cooking for ourselves and not seeing anyone. I think I have made more cakes, homemade bread etc. in the past three months than I did in a whole year before. I think I have gotten lazy without having a routine, no church on Sunday mornings and meetings to go to. I have read a lot, cooked, sewn some and with warm weather we have planted a garden. We have been able to watch our church service on Facebook. Our daughter and grandchildren are helping with the garden and yard work.

Many of you members will remember Edgar Cress. Edgar answered queries for the Historical Society for many years and would send the Society the money he was paid. Edgar died in May 19, 2020 at age 93. He had a very interesting life. See the article written by his daughter, Katherine.

One of our members found a hand written history of Mt. Moriah Methodist

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Society Member Edgar Cress Passes

By Katherine Cress

Edgar Allen Cress, retired biochemist and genealogist died May 19, 2020 in Oak Ridge, TN.

He was born in Inman, Wise County, Virginia, September 28, 1926, where his father was a mine superintendent. The family, originally from Lee County, moved back to the Steep Rock community while Edgar was still a child. He enjoyed his childhood years on the farm, especially fishing in the Powell River with his brother Bill. The boys had many adventures, which both enjoyed telling and writing about in later life.

Edgar served in the Army Air Corp at the close of WWII. His mother opposed his joining the army, but allowed him to do so after making him promise to finish high school - which he did - graduating in the class of 1944. He did his basic training in Biloxi, Mississippi - which he and everyone else agreed was awful - heat, insects and rough drill Sergeants. He did not get to Europe until the war was almost over, but always said he "got to see Europe - although - not at its best."

One of the highlights of this time was getting to attend some of the Nuremburg Trials of Nazi War criminals. His company was stationed near Nuremburg and the men had rotating passes to attend. Ask about the attitude of the men on trial, he said "they were supremely arrogant in the belief they had committed no crimes."

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The Death of James Boone *by Greg Edwards*

On October 9, 1773, three small groups struggled west through the mountains of southwestern Virginia toward Cumberland Gap, the passageway into Kentucky. The leading party consisted of Daniel Boone, his wife Rebecca, his brother Squire Boone, along with other family members and people seeking a better life in the rich fertile lands of Kentucky. The party in the rear was led by William Russell, a Virginia aristocrat. It was Russell who had put these groups together. He wanted to settle his son, Henry, in Kentucky.¹ His plan was to build a homestead and clear land in order to be able to put in a crop by spring. Russell had not been able to leave when the first group had set out. He had some business affairs that he had to finish before he was able to leave. It was two or three days before he left. Russell and his party were trying to catch up with the group headed by Daniel Boone. Between these two groups of travelers was the doomed party.²

The party in the middle consisted of eight people. James Boone, Daniel Boone's eldest child, was one of these. He was just 16 years old. Yet, he had spent most of his young life on the frontier of the American colonies. With James Boone was Henry Russell, the 17-year-old son of William Russell. Accompanying these two young men were the Mendenhall brothers, John and Richard. They were but 14 and 15 years old respectfully. Isaac Crabtree, age 17 and another youth whose last name was Drake were also along. William Russell had sent 2 slaves with his son. Their names were Adam³ and Charles.⁴

Daniel Boone had sent the teenagers back to obtain more supplies from William Russell. They had managed to get more provisions along with farming utensils which were strapped onto their horses. William Russell had also sent along cattle with the teenagers in preparation for the winter months. They were trying to catch up with Daniel Boone's party before night fell on the 9th of October, 1773. They were unsuccessful.⁵ So the teenagers, along with the two slaves set up camp beside Wallen's Creek. The horses were tethered. The cattle were allowed to graze nearby. The young men built a fire, ate dinner, and prepared to go to sleep. Unbeknownst to the small group, a band of Indians who wished to prevent any white settlement of Kentucky had begun to track them

earlier. This band of Indians consisted of members from three tribes. There were fifteen Delaware, two Shawnees, and two Cherokees. Throughout the night the Mendenhall brothers were frightened by the howls of wolves and other night sounds.

The two brothers were not from the frontier. They had come along to try and make a better life for themselves. Crabtree made fun of the Mendenhalls. This had the effect of calming them.⁶ Soon all were asleep waiting for the sunrise. However, sunrise did not come for the Mendenhall Brothers.

As the sun started to come up, the Indians attacked the small party. Shots rang out from the bushes surrounding the camp. Arrows sang as they flew through the air to strike their targets. John Mendenhall and Richard Mendenhall were killed where they lay. Drake ran. He was wounded, yet somehow managed to make his way to a rock cliff about an eighth of a mile from the camp. There he climbed into a crevice to hide. His wounds were fatal. He was never seen alive again. His remains were found years later. Isaac Crabtree was luckier. He ran and managed to escape. While he was also wounded, he succeeded in making his way back to the fort at Castle's Woods.⁷ Adam had more luck than some of the others. As the attack began, he ran down Wallen's Creek. But from his secreted place, he saw and heard what happened to his comrades. After the Indians left, Adam wandered around in shock for 11 days before he was able to find anyone to succor him.

James Boone and Henry Russell were both shot and unable to escape. Unfortunately, they were still alive. As an Indian approached Russell with a knife, Russell grabbed the knife with his bare hands. The knife twisted in Russell's hands. His hands were mangled. The Indians tied Russell to a tree. They then turned their attention to James Boone who had been shot in the pelvis. Boone named one of his assailants. The man's name was Big Jim. The Indian had dined several times at Daniel Boone's home in North Carolina. James Boone was also tied to a tree. The Indians began their work. The torment began. One by one, of the teenager. The Indians slashed the two Captives with their knives. *(Continued on page 3)*

¹ Chloe Saunders, Hendersonville, Tennessee, to Lyman C. Draper, Baltimore, Maryland, 17 February 1848, Letter in the hand of Chloe Saunders, Draper Manuscripts 6C 20, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

² Ibid.

³ Tabitha Moore, Round Lick, Tennessee, to Lyman C. Draper, Baltimore, Maryland, 7 February 1842, Letter in the hand of Tabitha Moore, Draper Manuscripts 6C 19, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

⁴ John Mack Faragher, Daniel Boone: The Life and Legend of an American Pioneer (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1992) 93.

⁵ Lyman C. Draper, The Life of Daniel Boone. unpublished manuscript, n.d., Draper Manuscripts 5C 96, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

⁶ Faragher, Daniel Boone, 93.

⁷ Draper, 98.

The Death of James Boone *continued from page 2*

James Boone called out for his mother fearful that she had already been killed. Boone then cried out for God. Finally, when the pain had become too much to bear, he asked the torturers to end it and kill him. One of the chiefs walked over to him and tomahawked him. The Indian then did the same to Russell. The Indians plundered the camp.

They took everything that was of value to them and that could be carried easily. Charles was also part of the loot. The cattle were scattered. They left warclubs and darts around the dead as a sign of war. Yet, they did not scalp the teenagers as they were not officially at war with the whites. This was intended as a warning to others to stay away from Kentucky.⁸

The Indians then fled to the north taking Charles with them. Along the way, the braves began arguing over who was to own Charles. Finally, after 40 miles, one of the chiefs had enough. He bashed Charles' head in with a hatchet to end the bickering.⁹

Earlier that morning, a young man left the Daniel Boone camp. He had been caught trying to steal from others in the party. They had segregated him and had ridiculed him. He had decided to leave and go back to North Carolina. Daniel Boone had left deer hides in caches along the way for his son to find and bring on the horses. The thief was planning to take the hides and sell them in order to have some money when he got back. As he hurried away eastward, he came upon the scene of the massacre. The Indians had already left. One cursory glance was all it took. The man rapidly rode back to Daniel Boone's encampment.¹⁰

The news was received with panic. The men began to cut timbers to fortify their position in case they were attacked. A burial party was formed and lead by Squire Boone. Rebecca Boone, fearing the worst, gave Squire Boone two linen sheets for cerements.¹¹ When Squire Boone arrived at the location of the ambush, William Russell was already there. Squire Boone found Russell and his men bending over the bodies of the victims. Russell and his band had been determined to catch up with Daniel Boone. They had risen early and headed west as soon as they could.¹² The bodies were cleaned and wrapped in the sheets.

The Mendenhall brothers were wrapped together in one sheet. James Boone and Henry Russell were wrapped together in the other sheet. Two graves were dug, and the youths were laid to rest.¹³

When the Daniel Boone party recovered from their panic and realized that they were not going to be attacked, the group rushed back to the site of the slaughter. A meeting was then held to determine what they would do next. Daniel Boone wanted to press forward. But he was out-voted. William Russell decided that he would return east. When most of the company decided that they would also travel back with Russell, it made the creation of a successful settlement unlikely. Daniel Boone and his family retired to an empty cabin near Castle's Woods. Captain David Gass graciously loaned the cabin to the Boone household. Many of the Boone party returned to North Carolina.¹⁴

The news of the attack spread across the colony of Virginia. Col. Arthur Campbell reported the attack to the royal Governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore. Col. Campbell reported that while the boys had not been scalped, their bodies were ripped open.¹⁵ Lord Dunmore wrote to his Indian agent, John Stuart. Dunmore ordered Stuart to look into the matter and request that the perpetrators delivered up for justice. He also told Stuart to assure the Cherokees that he was doing all possible to prevent the encroachment of their hunting lands by white settlers.¹⁶

The next year, Daniel Boone returned to the site of the bloodbath to check on his son's grave. He found that wolves had tried to dig into the grave. He exhumed the bodies to make sure that nothing had happened to them. The corpses were intact and had not been mutilated. He rewrapped his son and Russell. A new grave was dug. It was deeper than the first one. Boone recovered the bodies. He concealed the grave so that it could not be discovered by Indians.¹⁷ This was a tragic ending to Daniel Boone's first attempt to move his family into Kentucky. In fact, no other attempts would be made to establish permanent settlements in Kentucky until 1775. In March of that year, Boone again ventured westward with his family and founded Boonesboro. The massacre curtailed the expansion of settlers for a year and a half.

⁸ Ibid., 96-100.

⁹ Moore, 19.

¹⁰ Faragher, Daniel Boone, 94

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Saunders, 20.

¹³ Draper, The Life of Daniel Boone. 100

¹⁴ John W. Hagy, "The Frontier at Castle's Woods, 1769-1786," The Virginia Magazine of History and Geography, 75 no. 4 (1967) 417.

¹⁵ Arthur Campbell, southwest Virginia, to Lord Dunmore, n. p., 14 December 1773, Transcript in the hand of Lyman C. Draper, Draper Manuscripts 6C 14, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

¹⁶ Lord Dunmore, n. p., to John Stuart, n. p., 20 December 1773, Transcript in the hand of Lyman C. Draper, Draper Manuscripts 6C 14", State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

¹⁷ Faragher, Daniel Boone, 96-96.



Mt. Moriah Methodist Church

President's Report *continued from page 1*

Church by R. L. Graham. (See the article on page 8). There was no date on the paper so I thought I would see what I could find on the Church and that area of the county. The Mt. Moriah Methodist Church Building and Cemetery are well cared for. Gary and Dennie Graham own the property now. In our Bicentennial History it says the Church was built in 1896 and the second Church in 1949. A cyclone hit that area on March 4, 1944. It had blown the Church off its foundation. The use of horses and members were able to put it back on its foundation. The Church has not been used for a house of worship since 1993.

Driving down to Mt. Moriah Church to take a picture I took my grandchildren. I wanted to show them the Swinging Bridge over the Powell River. The Bridge is very high and beautiful and years ago it was the only way to get across the Powell River in that area. Was that area called "Han" at one time?

According to "Lee County Virginia" as published in Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer 1884-1885 Richmond, Va: HAN, Lee County, VA. —

John P. Graham, Postmaster
Cane Mills: John P. Pennington
Cattle Dealers: George W. Russell
Corn and Flour Mills: J. M. Smith
Dentists: Joseph Ely
Physicians: John E. Burk, C. M. Graham, John P. Graham, D. H. Howard
Principal Farmers: M.K. Graham, Harvy J. Russell, John D. S. Russell, C.D. Russell, John P. Graham, **R. L. Graham**, J.E. Graham, Joseph Ely, Joseph Myres, James W. Cecil, J.E. Burk, George W. Russell, A.D. Zion, John W. Muncy, Isaac Woliver, H. D. Howard, Henry Graham, Irvin Myers,



Edgar Cress

James Myers, George H. Myers, Wilson Myers, V.H. Kelly.

In 1885 Lee County had 30 Post offices. Today I think there are only nine in the County. Our population in 1880 was 14192 White, 2 Indians, 922 Colored, total of 15,166. Population in 2018 was 23,541. The 16th Circuit Court met in Jonesville on Tuesday the fourth Monday in March, August and November with Judge John A. Kelley and Clerk John A. G. Hyatt.

The County Court met at the Court House on Tuesday after the 3rd Monday in each month with Judge Carr Bailey and County clerk John R. Gibson.

R.D. Flanary was Sheriff

M.B. Wygal was Treasurer

Luther Carmichael was Surveyor

Commissioner's Revenue, A.P. Witt, A. M. Ely and W.B. Myers.

Commonwealth's Attorney was John M. Morgan

Overseers of the Poor were Wallace Barker, Elbert Duncan, Jesse R. Edds, James Johnson and Preston Kirk.

Jonesville was the County Seat with population 277.

The Lee County Historical Society hopes to get back to normal by August. We have plenty of work at our building. Brenda Goins donated to us an old showcase that we are restoring. We have donated books and articles that need to be cataloged, cleaning and etc. in and around our building. I hope you will continue to support by paying your dues and donating to the Society so we can keep our history going for our future generations.

We still have our books for sale. You can visit our building for research by appointment or come to a meeting the second Saturday of each month.

Society Member Edgar Cress Passes *continued from page 1*

After his time in the service Edgar returned home to attend Lincoln Memorial University where he became very interested in biology studying under Professor Louis Lutz, a highly regarded biologist of the time. After graduation, where the opportunity came to go to Oak Ridge, TN - then a military reservation - and work at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory – he immediately took it and never looked back. He was very happy with his choice of occupation. Through the years he published and co-published many research papers on the effects of radiation and especially in later years on Molecular research.

After he retired, he became interested in genealogy. A lecture he attended by author Alex Haley (Roots) moved him to work on his own family history, which he did extensive research on, finally tracing the family roots back as far as the year 1000. After finishing work the Cress genealogy he went on to help many other families trace their family trees.

He also wrote many stories and histories of Lee Counties families. He had calls from many states seeking information and was always happy to be helpful with this. He was a member of the Lee County Historical Society and an active researcher for the society until his health began to decline. He lived in Oak Ridge from the early 1950's until his death, but his fondest memories always seemed to be about Lee County.

Judge Charles T. Duncan *by Ken Rodenberry*

Charles Taylor Duncan was born on 9 July 1838 in Scott County, Virginia. He was the son of John Duncan and Elizabeth “Ibbie” Carter both of Scott County.¹ They had two sons, Charles T. and William R., and one daughter Sarah E. The children received their education in the common schools of Rye Cove. The brothers worked on their father's farm when school was not in session. After he was grown, Charles taught school in Rye Cove. However, when the Civil War came to Virginia the brothers heard the call and enlisted in the same company serving most of their time together.

Charles enlisted in Co. D, 37th Regiment Virginia Infantry on 20 May 1861 in Estellville, Scott County, Virginia. He was promoted to 2nd Lt. and detailed as a recruiter in January 1862, and was promoted to Ordinance Sgt. on 23 May 1862. He served on the staff of Col. Samuel V. Fulkerson commanding the 37th Regiment and was with him at the battle of Cold Harbor near Richmond when Col. Fulkerson fell mortally wounded on 28 June 1862. Duncan was promoted to 1st Lt. before the battle of Sharpsburg on 17 Sep 1863 and was wounded and sent home on furlough. Having recovered from his wounds he returned to his company but was captured, along with his brother William, on 12 May 1864 at Spotsylvania Court House. Prisoners were ferried across the Potomac River at Belle Plains, a steamboat landing in Stafford County, Virginia. From there he was transferred to the Union prisons: Point Lookout, Maryland, then Fort Delaware, Delaware. He and his brother William remained in Fort Delaware almost one year when on 16 Jun 1865 [William on the 19th] he took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States and was released. Every prisoner released was described by their physical appearance. C.T. Duncan had a dark complexion, dark hair, and black eyes. He was 5 ft. 9 in. tall.^{2 3}

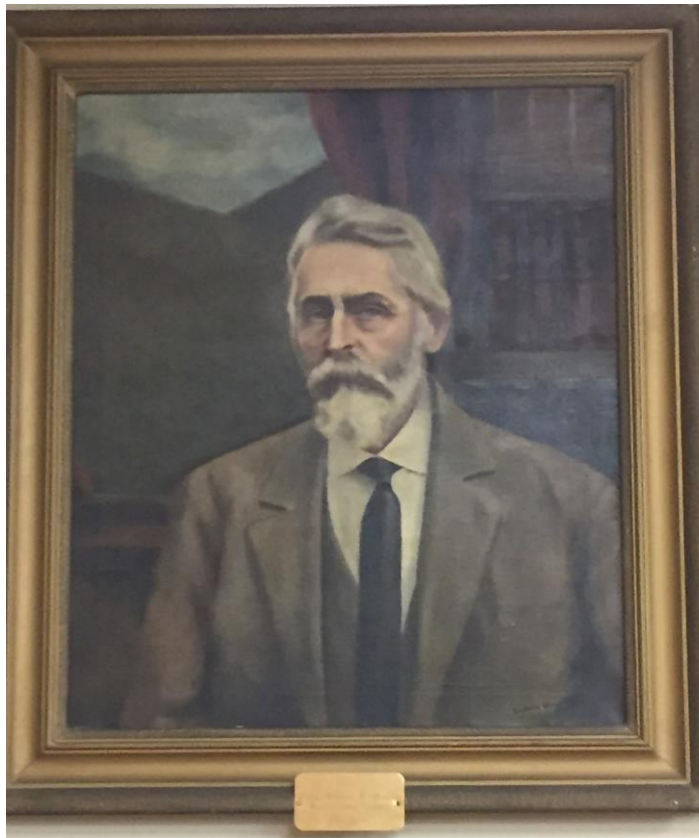
While a prisoner of war Charles had access to the officer POWs library at Fort Delaware⁴ where he studied law. He returned to his home in the Duncan's Mill near Cove Creek, Scott County, where his father farmed and operated a flour mill. During the war the mill supported the Confederate troops with flour and cornmeal.⁵ Charles listed his occupation as a merchant in the 1870 census.⁶

Charles T. Duncan married Mary L. Martin, daughter of Col. W.S. Martin, on 20 Sep 1868 in Lee Co., Virginia.⁷ They had three children: Margaret, married L.T. Hyatt, son of J.A.G. Hyatt; Elizabeth, married Dr. W.A. Baker, son of W.A.M. Baker; and Emma Houston Duncan. Mary Duncan died on 28 Jul 1885.⁸ Charles married Mary Ella Holliday, daughter of Francis Holliday, on 15 Mar 1888 in Lee Co., Va.⁹ They had two sons: Charles Taylor, Jr. and Paul Holliday. Mary Ella Duncan died on 3 Aug 1930.

Charles T. Duncan was selected by Scott County as a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1869. This convention formed Virginia's post-war constitution known as the Underwood Constitution.¹⁰ He was admitted to the Virginia Bar in the mid-1870's and established a law practice in Jonesville, Lee County, Virginia. He was elected Lee County Commonwealth Attorney in 1875 and served eight years. As the Democratic nominee, C.T. Duncan was elected Judge of Lee County by the Virginia General Assembly in Dec. 1885 over the Republican nominee Carr Bailey.^{11 12} Duncan resigned his judgeship in 1889 to become counsel for the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, Cumberland Valley Division.

Duncan was a Mason and was appointed Deputy Grand Master, Virginia District No. 19, Grand Lodge of Masons, on 12 Dec 1877.¹³ He served as the Worshipful Master of Preston Lodge No. 47 in 1877 and 1909.¹⁴ He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in Jonesville, Va. He also served as the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Jonesville

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Judge Charles T. Duncan *continued from page 6*

Portrait of Judge C.T. Duncan hanging in the Lee Co. Courthouse



The inscription reads...

This monument marks the spot where the first court of Scott County was held February 14, 1815. Erected to commemorate the One Hundredth Anniversary of Scott County, Virginia. 1815 - 1915.

Judge Charles T. Duncan *continued from page 4*

Institute in 1901 and was instrumental in the enlargement and improvement of the school.¹⁵

C.T. Duncan was an active member of the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) Pridemore Camp No. 80^{16 17}, Lee County, Virginia, where he served as the Commander from 1902 to 1905. He tendered his resignation on 20 May 1905 citing that his involvement in the railroad legal business was taking too much of his time. He was appointed delegate to the UCV Louisville, Kentucky reunion on 14 Jun 1905. Miss Emma Duncan, his daughter, was elected as the First Maid of Honor for the Louisville reunion. He was appointed alternate delegate to attend Virginia's veteran reunion at Roanoke on 24 Oct 1906 and Richmond on 29 May 1907. He was elected Lieut. Commander of the Pridemore Camp on 5 Oct 1910.

Duncan was called upon to deliver speeches at many local events. He welcomed more than one hundred civil war veterans on "old soldiers day" at the Third Annual Lee County Fair on 30 Sep 1909.¹⁸ He spoke before the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Big Stone Gap Chapter, on "*Things He Saw and Things He Heard in War Times*" in the Federal Court Hall on 17 Sep 1912. At this event about twenty Wise and Lee Co. veterans received the coveted Southern Cross of Honor pin. Five of these veterans were members of the Pridemore Camp No. 80.¹⁹ He attended the veterans' reunion for the 50th anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg on 24 Apr 1913. Upon his return he presented a *resolution of appreciation* to the Lee County Board of Supervisors for defraying expenses of the veterans who attended.

Following his visit to Gettysburg he spoke to many groups of his wartime experiences. At the 24 Jun 1913 meeting of the Light Horse Harry Lee Chapter of UDC, Judge Duncan gave an account of the Battle of Gettysburg and his late visit to the battlefield.²⁰ He presented the address to the veterans' reunion at the Lee County Fair Grounds on 11 Sep 1913 and retold his experience at the Gettysburg reunion. He addressed the veteran's reunion at the Lee Co. Fair Grounds on 22 Sep 1914 and, days before his untimely death, he attended the Pridemore Camp's annual meeting on 16 Sep 1915. Charles Duncan, a native son of Scott County, gave a Centennial speech on the 29th day of September 1915 commemorating the formation of Scott County and participated in the unveiling of a monument erected in Moccasin Gap near where the first court was held.²¹ The day was attended by hundreds of spectators but the weather changed to heavy rain and the

(Continued on page 7)

Judge Charles T. Duncan *continued from page 6*

celebration was moved inside the Scott County court house. Longtime friend and associate Rufus A. Ayers was with him that day and said that Duncan was *"bright and cheerful, meeting old friends and of his boyhood days, and comrades in the army, enjoying every minute of the time"*. After a long day Duncan retired at the home of J.M. Johnson, a life-long friend in Gate City. Johnson talked with Duncan for some time and then retired. Later, members of the household checked on him and found him dead.²² He was buried in the Town Cemetery in Jonesville on the 3rd October.²³

Members of the Lee County Bar Association prepared a resolution honoring their late president, Charles T. Duncan, and fellow bar member. A historical sketch of his life and career was written and further it was:

"RESOLVED that the bar association of Lee County express our appreciation of his services as president of the association, his helpfulness to the other members of the bar, and particularly his kindness and consideration of the younger members thereof, that we place on record our acknowledgement of his valuable services as a citizen, as a lawyer and as a gentleman,

RESOLVED FURTHER that the sketch preceding these resolutions be recorded therewith, and that a copy hereof be given to the family, and offered for publication to the Jonesville Star, Lee County Sun, and Gate City.

¹ Campbell, E. S., Miller, J. L. (1912). The Descendants of Capt. Thomas Carter of "Barford", Lancaster County, Virginia, 1652-1912: With Genealogical Notes of Many of the Allied Families. United States: J. L. Miller.

² 37th Virginia Infantry, The Virginia Regimental Histories Series, 1st Edition, Thomas M. Rankin, 1987, printed by H.E. Howard, Inc., Lynchburg, Va., ISBN-0-930919-44-0.

³ <https://www.fold3.com/image/12064722> accessed 16 Feb 2018.

⁴ Citron, Joel D. Confederate Prisoners at Fort Delaware: The Legend of Mistreatment Reexamined. United States: McFarland, Incorporated, Publishers, 2018. *"the officer POWs had established a library [and]...courses were offered in mathematics, languages (French, Greek, and Latin), medicine, and law."* p. 166-167.

⁵ Daugherty, Herbert H. "Duncan's Mill." *Appalachian Heritage*, vol. 20 no. 3, 1992, p. 52-53. *Project MUSE*, doi:10.1353/aph.1992.0059.

⁶ Year: 1870; Census Place: Taylor, Scott, Virginia; Roll: M593_1677; Page: 616B; Family History Library Film: 553176. Accessed 27 Mar 2019.

⁷ FHL Film Number: 32441. Reference ID: p20 #31. Ancestry.com. *Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785-1940* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2014. Accessed 24 Apr 2020.

⁸ FHL Film Number: 2048576. Ancestry.com. *Virginia, Deaths and Burials Index, 1853-1917* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Accessed 26 Apr 2020.

⁹ FHL Film Number: 32441 Reference ID: p67 #15 Ancestry.com. *Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785-1940* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2014. Accessed 26 Apr 2020.

¹⁰ Addington, R. M. (1992). *History of Scott County, Virginia*. United States: Overmountain Press.

¹¹ *Alexandria gazette. [volume]* (Alexandria, D.C.), 18 Dec. 1885. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85025007/1885-12-18/ed-1/seq-2/>>

¹² *Richmond dispatch. [volume]* (Richmond, Va.), 18 Dec. 1885. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85038614/1885-12-18/ed-1/seq-2/>>

¹³ *The daily dispatch. [volume]* (Richmond [Va.]), 13 Dec. 1877. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024738/1877-12-13/ed-1/seq-1/>>

¹⁴ Bicentennial History of Lee County, Virginia, 1792-1992; Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. and Don Mills, Inc.; Fourth Printing, 2000; LC#92-56474.

¹⁵ Virginia Memory, Library of Va., Chancery Digital Records Collections, Lee Co., Index No. 1906-004.

¹⁶

¹⁷ U.C.V. Pridemore Camp No. 80 ledger, Lib. of Cridlin Law Office, Jonesville, Va.

¹⁸ *The Jonesville Star* newspaper. Jonesville, Va., Thursday, September 30, 1909. Vol. V. No. 44. Lib. of Cridlin Law Office, Jonesville.

¹⁹ J.P. Barron, Steve Collier, E.K. Hyatt, B.F. Richmond, and D.C. Williams were members of the Pridemore Camp that received Southern Cross of Honor pins at the Big Stone Gap UDC meeting.

²⁰ U.D.C. Lee Co., Va. Chapter 1415, Light Horse Harry Lee, Chapter meeting ledger, p. 27; unpublished, Lib. of Cridlin Law Office, Jonesville, Va

²¹ Certificate Number: 1915022129. Virginia Department of Health; Richmond, Virginia; Virginia Deaths, 1912-2014. 27 Mar 2019.

²² *The Big Stone Gap post. [volume]* (Big Stone Gap, Wise County, Va.), 06 Oct. 1915. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.

²³ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 03 May 2020), memorial page for Charles T. Duncan (1838–1915), Find a Grave Memorial no. 125450279, citing Jonesville Cemetery, Jonesville, Lee County, Virginia, USA ; Maintained by frogsintn3 (contributor 47314461).



Lee County
Historical and
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Mt. Moriah Methodist Church

Hand written notes by R. L. Graham

Dr. Evan Spencer and his brother Bob Spencer were both local preachers in the Southern Methodist Church and firm believers in the Methodist Doctrine. Also, Jeffery Neff who was a staunch Methodist lived in this community before the southern Methodist had any church house of its own.

This being the condition, Dr. Evan Spencer opened the doors of his dwelling house to Rev. Reuben Steele (who was a successful revivalist and a great pastor of his days.) After two weeks, Rev. Steele moved his meetings to Jeffery Neff's home and continued for another week.

At this time, or soon after class was organized and they used what was known as the Spencer school house as a preaching place for a few years; Rev. R.E. Smith and Rev. L.H. Little serving as Pastors thru these years. The Methodist Episcopal Church also had monthly preaching in the Spencer School house at that time. Then this class which belonged to the Powell Valley Charge, was placed by order of the Conference on the Jonesville Charge. So, Rev. D.V. York who was the pastor of the Jonesville Circuit, became Pastor of our Class at Spencer's school house.

He commenced urging us to build a church to house our class, a number of us were in debt for our homes at that time, and we did not feel like we were able to build a church. But Rev. York said if we would undertake it, and failed he would go out on an evangelistic tour and take collections to help us out. So, we agreed to undertake the building and Bro York appointed W.S. Neff, W.I. Spencer and R.L. Graham as a building committee. We were to build the following year. At the conference that fall, they put the Spencer school house class back on the Powell Valley Charge and sent us Rev. G. B Draper for our pastor, instead of Bro. York, but we went ahead with the work. W.S. Neff and R. L. Graham paid \$50.00 each in cash and hauled all the material to the ground. All the members of the class helped as liberally as they thought they could at that time. Among the members were Mattie E. Tyler, Job Hobbs, Susan Suttle, Susan Colliers, Mollie Spencer and W.L. Spencer and possibly others that I have forgotten. Besides we solicited help from outsiders who contributed very liberally.

A lady by the name of Pasty Thomas sent me word that if we would name the church Mt. Moriah, she would give us \$5.00. That is the way it got its' name. Adam Suttle, whose wife was a member, though he was not a member of any church himself, gave the flooring and ceiling for the church.

Since that time, we have had our pastors S.K. Byrd, A.A. Towe, W.M. Ellis, N.O. Strader, A.B. Moore, Rev. Swecker, Rev. Henley, J.B. Rondall, J.C. Cornette, Rev. Shelby, Rev. Carbough, Rev. Stewart, Rev. Gibson, J.N. Graham. P.B. Sarves, J.A. Nelson, R.L. Osborne and Rev. J.C. Clark.

We have had revivals from time to time. Some have been very successful and some not so successful. But most of the children, whose parent were members, have been converted and joined the church and became active members. And many during the years have professed faith in the Lord, at the altar of Mt. Moriah Church and have attached themselves to the Missionary Baptist Church and some to the Christian Church.

The membership of the church at present is _____. The elder who dedicated Mt. Moriah Church was Rev. J.H. Kennedy and those who have served since are W.C. Carden, J.E. Neff, E.H. Cassidy, J.W. Rader, L.P. Martin, M.P. Carico, E.A. Shugart, T.J. Eskridge, P.L. Cobb and W.P. Eastwood.