

# Tells of Day at Brick Church And of the McMorries Family

Mrs. Anne Cofield Jeter Writes of Place of Worship in Fairfield County and of Gathering of Descendants of First Settlers.

(By Anne Cofield Jeter.)

More than 300 persons from far and near assembled at the Brick church in Fairfield county August 21 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the erection of the present church building.

Many were descendants of the first settlers in this section. They met and had a warm handshake either with old friends or with kinfolk whom they had never seen.

They felt the urge to know each other better. It was interesting to hear them trace their lines of ancestry and arrive at a conclusion as to just how and to what degree they were akin.

We soon saw that many improvements had been made. The walls were in a wonderful state of preservation but for future safety heavy steel rods had been put in to brace them, a copper roof put on, granite door and window sills put in, a nice new finishing covered the entire inside. Old maps and new plaques of information about the church's past history adorned the walls. All outside walls had been cleaned. A splendid granite house had been built for a caretaker.

Some 20 or more devoted women of this community who reverence this sacred spot gathered a week before. They cleared off the cemetery, replaced all tombstones that were out of line or askant.

With brooms, brushes, rags, soap and water they washed these tombstones so that visitors might read the interesting inscriptions.

This showed the family, community and church pride found here. Many words of appreciation and commendation were spoken about this. These benefactors were too modest to allow their names mentioned at the services but few things are hidden and let us render praise to whom it is due and at least mention Daniel Heyward and Mrs. Nan Chappell McMeekin, who took the lead, and Mr. McMeekin, who helped to carry out the plans.

Two good sermons were enjoyed, one by Dr. Oliver Johnson of Winnsboro and one by Dr. R. C. Grier, president of Erskine college. After Innob Fitz Hugh McMaster of Columbia made a splendid talk.

All enjoyed a nice picnic dinner served from a table in the grove. Plenty of iced tea and iced water was brought up from Columbia by Macfie Anderson. Perhaps to none more than to Fitz Hugh McMaster and Macfie Anderson, should be rendered a deeper note of thanks for their interest in this section. They are ever ready to show their patriotic love for these historic spots in Fairfield, to reverence her glorious past and encourage the present generation to emulate the noble characteristics of their forebears.

Rev. Horace Rabb of Due West for his interesting book, "Biographical Sketches of the Kincaid, Watt, Glazier and Rabb Families" Before the Revolution.

The first A. R. P. church in this section was built before the Revolution. It was about two miles west of the present church.

The present church was built in 1788 of hand made brick. William McMorries, Sr., helped to make the brick. The church was relocated and built upon land given by James or Alexander Kincaid. In this church the Synod of Associate Reformed Presbyterian church of South Carolina was organized May 9, 1803. When Sherman passed through Fairfield after burning Columbia he took the door and window sills from the church and used them in building a bridge over Little river. After passing he burned the bridge.

In 1852 a solid granite wall was built around the church and cemetery under the supervision of R. W. Sloan and John Glazier Rabb. The original deed to the land was made to 30-odd persons, members of the congregation. The name of William McMorries is among them.

"All history is written in 'biography'". At a meeting called in England to protect the beautiful countryside from ugliness, the speaker said, "You will never regain your beautiful England until you get a beautiful people to live in it". How far reaching are the influences of certain persons and families.

George E. Cofield, Union, his two sisters, Annie Cofield Jeter, Whitmire, and Ruth Cofield Howie, Greenville; S. A. Jeter, Whitmire; T. C. Jeter, Mrs. John A. Jeter and sons, John Jeter, Jr., and Charles Jeter, Columbia, descendants of William McMorries, Sr., spent Sabbath at the Brick church. Here is the genealogy:

William McMorries, Sr., married Jane Donovan.

Their son, John McMorries, married Nancy Morgan.

Their son, Dr. William McMorries married Jane Caldwell (Brown).

Their daughter, Erin E. McMorries, married Joseph Cofield.

Their daughter, Anne Cofield, married Singleton Argulus Jeter.

**Facts About McMorries Family.**  
William McMorries, Sr., was born in Belfast, Ireland, 1737. He married Jane Donovan, who was descended from the Stuarts of Scotland. They came from Ballemena in County Antrim, Ireland. They landed at Charleston, and went directly to Craven, Fairfield county, and settled on Little River, 1768. Their children were: Mary, aged 12; William, 10; Ann, 8; Rebecca, 6; Alexander, 4; Joseph, 2; John, James and Charles, born in Fairfield.

While this family was en route to America the food gave out. The ship's crew agreed to cast lots as to whom they should kill and eat in order to keep from starving.

The lot fell upon Mary McMorries. She was then 12 years old and the most beautiful person on the ship. No one would agree to

day or two and again cast lots. The second time the lot fell upon Mary. They spent the entire night in prayer. Early next morning a ship was sighted and food obtained. One of the daughters of James Kincaid and Mary McMorries married Jonathan Davis. The Furmans of Greenville are descended from them. Mrs. Mary Furman gave to her cousin, Mrs. R. E. Houston of East Washington street, Greenville, an oil painting of Mary McMorries Kincaid, which she still has in her possession. Mrs. S. A. Jeter (Anne Cofield) of

Whitmire has the original red mahogany dining room table that William McMorries, Sr., brought over from Ballemena in 1769.

James Kincaid.

James Kincaid was born in Belfast, Ireland. He sailed from there in 1773, landed in Charleston and proceeded at once to the home of William McMorries, Sr., a former neighbor and friend of his father. In three months after his arrival he married Mary McMorries. (Guess he had loved her in Ballemena and followed her to Fairfield.)

They were married in 1774 and settled on Mill creek. On this place was the famous 10-acre granite rock. They made money, built an elegant mansion and a terraced garden, the contour of which is still visible. This plantation remained in possession of some one of the descendants (the last the Andersons) until a few years ago. It is now owned by Daniel Heyward, president of the Winnsboro or Fairfield Granite works. The place has been improved and beautified. It is today called "Heyward Hall".

First Cotton Gin.  
James Kincaid set up and operated the first cotton gin in the United States. Hudgens Holmes of Bamberg, then living at the Kincaids was engaged in perfecting the invention of the cotton gin. James Kincaid had another white man, Eli Whitney, working on his place. He discharged him. When the gin had been in successful operation at Kincaids for some time Eli Whitney came back. Captain Kincaid was not at home. Whitney asked Mrs. Mary McMorries Kincaid to let him see the gin. She sent him the keys to the gin house by a servant. Whitney wrote down all the information that he wanted. He went to Washington, D. C., and had the invention patented. It seems that God protected the invention, for this gin house and gin were burned in 1865 by Sherman's army.

Later Alexander Kincaid, a brother of James Kincaid, came to Fairfield. He married Ann McMorries. Their descendants intermarried with the Watt, Glazier, Rabb and Irby families.

William McMorries, Jr., married the daughter of Thomas Woodward, the Regulator. His record as a Revolutionary soldier may be found in Mr. Salley's office (secretary of the state historical commission.)

File:  
Fairf. Co.  
History

1788?

Two of the sons of William McMorries, Sr., were killed or died during the Revolution. One went to Virginia and one to Missouri. So the name is not well known in Fairfield.

John McMorries, born January 5, 1796, and James McMorries came to Newberry county. John married Nancy Morgan, and James, Frances Morgan. They were the daughters of Maj. Spencer Morgan by his second wife, Sallie Kenner.

Maj. Spencer Morgan, a near relative of Gen. Daniel Morgan, married Ida Knuckles the first time. They had two daughters, Agnes Morgan, who married James Rice of Union and Susan Morgan, who married a Dankens of Spartanburg. The Morgan men of Virginia organized the first rifle regiment in America.

Maj. John McMorries was a stalwart handsome fellow and weighed 200 pounds. His wife, Nancy Morgan, weighed 90 pounds. Soon after their marriage at her father's home on Thickety creek in Union or Spartanburg county, they rode to their home in Newberry county. Nancy behind John on a pillion, and they settled on Indian creek. John owned a large plantation and built a fine Colonial home and called his place "Poplar Grove". He was a planter, also a merchant and ran the first store in that section. He served in the legislature and presided at the first anti-tariff meeting held in Newberry district. (See Annals of Newberry.)

He gave the land on which King's Creek, the oldest church in Newberry district, was built, and was a leading elder in that church. John and Nancy and many other McMorries are buried in the cemetery there. John and Nancy had nine children. One of their daughters, Susanna, married a Calmes. The Rev. Spencer McMorries, their son, married (the second time) the daughter of Colonel Herndon. She and their infant are buried in the family plot near the Herndon home at Whitmire. John Mc-

Morries paid for the medical education of the noted Hugh Hubert Toland of Newberry county along with that of his own son, Dr. William McMorries, in the Medical College of Philadelphia. He promoted the life of Doctor Toland, who later went West, became rich and gave the medical buildings to the University of California.

A daughter of James McMorries and Frances Morgan married Chancellor Dan Caldwell, a near relative of John C. Calhoun. It was from this line that James Fitz James Caldwell is descended. He was a noted lawyer of Newberry and one among the first graduates of the South Carolina college. Dr. William McMorries was one of the leading elders and founders of Thompson Street A. R. P. church in Newberry. His daughter, Nancy Morgan McMorries, married Dr. William Moffatt Grier, for many years president of Erskine college.

The Rev. W. W. Morries, a graduate of Erskine college and seminary, was a talented much beloved A. R. P. minister. He went over to the Presbyterians. He died recently and was buried in Beth-Eden cemetery in Newberry county. Since his passing there is no one in the state to bear the name. Through the help of Mrs. McBryde, a regent of the D. A. R., a nice granite marker to William McMorries, Sr., has been placed beside the highway below the Brick church.

The following copy of letter and obituary sent by the late Dr. James H. Carlisle, of Wofford College, Spartanburg, to Joseph W. McCreight of Winnsboro is of general interest:

Spartanburg, S. C.,

August 3, 1905

Mr. Joseph W. McCreight.

My dear Cousin:

I send a copy of the obituary of your grandmother. I am not sure of your R. F. D. address. Let me hear if this reaches you.

All well and join in love to you all.

Yours, J. H. C."

Following is copy of Obituary sent:

"Departed this life on the 13th of November, in the 67th year of her age, Mrs. Nancy Buchanan. She was born on the 18th February, 1762, in the County of Antrim, Ireland. Her parents were members of the Presbyterian church, and she became a member in her 18th year. She was married in her 26th year to William Buchanan, to whom she had ten children, six of them died in infancy. She was left a widow with the four youngest in the year 1813, and after five years discharging the duties of a mother, in providing for her children, she left her native country and emigrated to South Carolina. Here she became acquainted with the people called Methodists, who were much spoken against and here she settled. She had some strong prejudices against them, however and determined not to say much about them until she should make herself better acquainted with the Scriptures. On her reading and praying to God for direction, her opinions became quite changed. She was for forty years a member of the Presbyterian church, but was always a Methodist in principle, and never could see in her Bible the doctrine of reprobation. In her 58th year she cast in her lot with the people called Methodists, where she remained, growing in grace and in the knowledge of God to the day of her death. She was bold in re-

proving sin, and regular in attending to the means of grace, when she had opportunity. She was sorely afflicted for the last few years, and for four weeks previous to her death she suffered much. She was patient under her afflictions. About an hour before she breathed her last, she was asked if she felt if God was with her. To which she replied, "I trust He is." and three times repeated with a strong voice, 'Praise the Lord.'

"She then called one of her grandchildren by name, and breathed her last without any apparent sign of suffering.

"I was in the chamber where this good woman met her fate but my humble pen is unable to describe the scene. I can only say I saw the parent struggling in death, but a heavenly calm rested on her countenance. I saw all her children around her bed, professing a well grounded hope, that they might meet their parent where parting should be no more. She is gone but our loss is her gain."

Wm. Carlisle."

South Carolina Fairfield District, December 12th, 1829.

Copied from Christian Advocate and Journal (New York), January 22, 1830.

Added by Dr. Carlisle: She was Nancy Ray, daughter of Wm. Ray and Mary Wilson."

#### MISS WITHERSPOON SUF. 6/9/18 FERS SERIOUS ACCIDENT.

The entire Mitford section is grieved at the serious accident sustained by Miss Witherspoon of that community, one night last week. It seems that Miss Witherspoon together with her brother and mother had attended the commencement exercises of the Mitford school. When they were ready to leave the school house that night the mule that they were driving became unmanageable and ran away. Mr. Witherspoon was thrown out at once and a short distance down the road. Miss Witherspoon was either thrown from the buggy or fell as she attempted to jump. Mrs. Witherspoon remained in the buggy until the mule was stopped near the home of Mr. Glass. In falling from the buggy Miss Witherspoon sustained serious hurts about the head and skull. At the last report she had not yet been moved to her home, having been taken to the residence of Mr. Glass. While her condition is extremely serious, it is sincerely hoped that her recovery will be a matter of only a short time.