

Sarah McCaw's letter provides information about other members of the Hopewell Church. Col. James McDaniel, owner of the Chester Standard, chaired the committee which appointed Robert Brice as pastor in 1850.³⁸ In 1860, Col. McDaniel went so far as to advocate the reestablishment of the African slave trade as a cure for the economic doldrums in Chester County.³⁹ His son Jack was editor of the Standard and wrote a number of positive articles about the Confederate cause. Sarah strenuously criticized them, ". . . how he did degrad [sic] the union people, & the Union."⁴⁰ The McDaniel family suffered grievously in the war. Col. McDaniel died in March 1863 after a fall from a railroad car where he had been exhorting Confederate troops passing through Chester. Jack's brother William died in 1862 at the battle of Seven Pines. Late in the war both Jack and his brother Joseph were wounded at the battle of Fort Harrison near Richmond and both died. Only one brother, J. Hemphill McDaniel returned home at war's end.⁴¹ This family, with Covenanter roots reaching back to the American Revolution, is a good example of that accommodation to a secular environment which so concerned tradition minded Reformed Presbyterians.

Other Hopewell Church members mentioned in Sarah's letter included Hugh Darrough, Hugh Henry, David Moffat, Mr. Caldwell, Jane Flenniken (widow of the Rev. Warren Flenniken), and Dr. Douglas. All were slave holders, including Hugh Henry, who was said to be the last Covenanter in Chester County.⁴²

Sarah commented on the sermons at Hopewell during the war years. Although a part of Sherman's army camped near the church, it escaped with little damage. Had the soldiers known the nature of the Rev. Mr. Brice's preaching, ". . . they would not have had much murcy [sic]." Robert Brice was so supportive of the Confederate cause that the McCaw family seriously considered breaking with the Hopewell Church. Sarah wrote, ". . . sometimes we thought to quit going to church, as it was no use to go to hear what we did not believe."

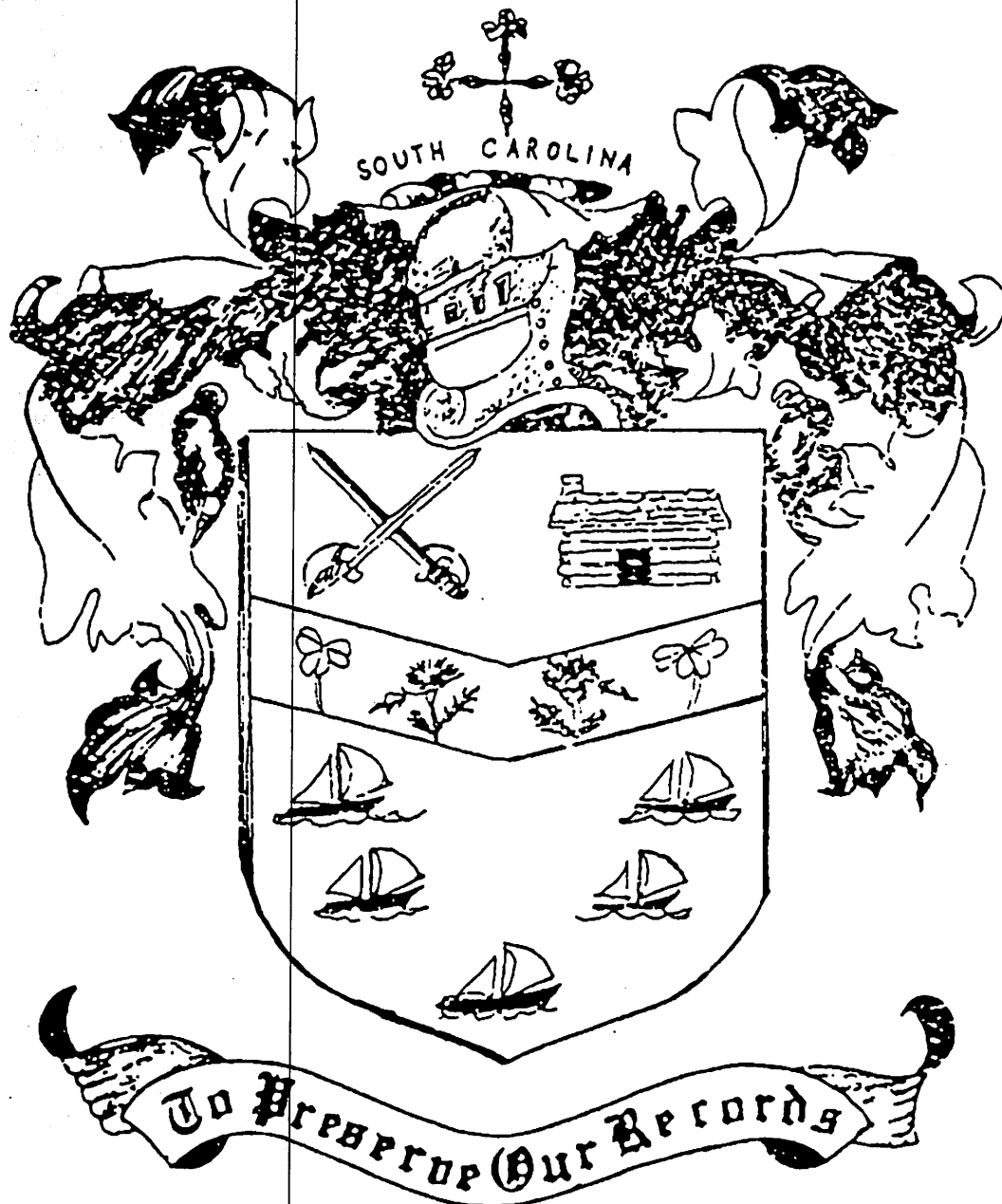
Robert Brice was a highly regarded ARP preacher who accurately reflected the changed attitudes of his congregation. He was much esteemed and served Hopewell from 1850 until his death in 1878. In Sarah's words, "Sometimes I could scarcely stay in the house so bitter was Mr. Brices prayrs [sic] against his enemy. . . . the confederacy was well prayed for in old Hopewell." Sarah McCaw lived out her life in Chester County. She died in 1901, still a member and a regular contributor to the Hopewell Church.

Joseph D. Kyle
Richmond National Battlefield Park
January 1993

1. Lacy K. Ford, Jr., Origins of Southern Radicalism, The South Carolina Upcountry, 1800-1860 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1988) is an excellent study of opposition to disunion with an extensive bibliography. See also Carl N. Degler, The Other South, Southern Dissenters in the Nineteenth Century (New York, 1974). For economic conditions see Alfred Glaze Smith, Jr., Economic Readjustment of an Old Cotton State: South Carolina, 1820-1860 (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1958). A version of this paper was presented in 1990 at the Missouri Valley History Conference. I am indebted to Virginia Fohl Rainey, then of the Miami (OH) Presbytery; Harold Parker, Professor Emeritus, Western State College; and Norman J. Bender, Professor, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, for their very helpful comments.

2. George Howe, History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina, (Columbia, SC, 1883), Vol. II, 700-707 has a sketch on the Covenanters along Rocky Creek.

THE BULLETIN



CHESTER DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

SERVING CHESTER, FAIRFIELD, LANCASTER, UNION AND YORK COUNTIES

P.O. BOX 336 RICHBURG, S.C. 29729

VOLUME XVII

MARCH, 1993

NUMBER 1