

## ABRAM EARHARDT

### EARHARDT'S CHURCH

The road leading from South Carolina to Beattie's Ford (which was the crossing place on the Catawba for travel), near the Ford intersected the "State" road, which was laid out by act of the Provincial Legislature in 1763, and led from Wadesboro, by Salisbury, to Morgan-town.

Six miles from Beattie's Ford, and near a branch of the State road, was Earhardt's church, which was constituted in the last century. It was about fourteen miles from Hebron and Long Creek and near the road which would be travelled in going from either of them to Union (Warlick's and Mount Ruhama, the next churches organized in this territory.)

Abram Earhardt, upon whose land the house was located, and for whom it was called, came from Pittsylvania county, Virginia. He was here as early as 1763; was an ordained minister and preached at the church and elsewhere. He owned more than a thousand acres of the best quality of land in this section, also a number of slaves, whom he desired to liberate in his will, but thought they would be worse off free in Africa than slaves in this country. He died in 1809. He built the first flouring mill in this region, also conducted a saw mill, cotton gin, tan yard, blacksmith shop and a distillery. His wife was a sister of Peter, Jacob and Abram Forney, the most influential men of that period. Some of the members of their families were members of the church. The Forneys married Abernethys related to those at Hebron.

Preaching was continued at the church, or in the orchard at the house, until the death of the widow in 1829. There was a burying ground at the church, Here he, his wife, and many of their neighbors were buried. Only unlettered stones mark the graves. Those who could have given a history of the church have passed away and what, no doubt, was an interesting chapter in Baptist history will never be recorded.

The site is now owned by the writer. It is about one and a half miles from Kid's Chapel.

HISTORY OF THE SOUTH FORK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, page 16-17

By W. A. Graham

NAME

*Ed. Abram Earhardt*

b.

d.

*1809*

Ancestry

Married

*Forney*

b.

d.

Ancestry

*from Pittsylvania Va.      Lantaw Va*

Record

*Earhardt's Ch.      1763*

See

*Grahams Smith Fork, p. 16.*

File No.

(Over)