

Sketches, Historical & Biographical of the  
Broad River & Kings Mtn. Baptist  
Associations by John R. Logan

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

253

which was preached exactly three weeks previous to his death.

The 15th verse of the first chapter of 1st Timothy was selected by himself as the text of his funeral sermon: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." The sermon was preached by Elder J. C. Grayson, an old veteran of the cross, and fellow-helper of the Truth.

Elder Alexander Abernathy had attained to the age of 76 years when he died and went to his reward. He had passed beyond the scriptural allotment of three-score-and-ten, and died with the Gospel harness girt about him brightened by constant use. He leaves behind him a son every way worthy of such a sire, Elder William Abernathy, who was born in Burke county, N. C., on the 25th December, 1821. Married Miss Irene, youngest daughter of Elder Thomas Carleton, July 27th, 1853. He joined the church at St. John's, Sept., 1866; was licensed to preach Dec. 1st, 1866; ordained August 10th, 1867. May he rival his father!

In 1819 Elder Abernathy appeared as a delegate from Union church to the session of the Broad River Association held that year at Head of Tyger River church. The church does not appear, from the Minutes, to have been represented again until the session of 1825, when Bro. Abernathy again attended the session of that year at Buffalo church as a delegate. The church after that session was not represented again until after the organization of the Catawba River Association in 1828, when the Union church became a constituent member of that body, and consequently Alexander Abernathy was no longer a Broad River minister. He, however, continued in his new relationship up to the time of his death. We notice in the Catawba Minutes that at the sessions of 1858-'59 he presided as the Moderator of the body. We recollect hearing "Old Aleck," as he was familiarly called, at a session of the Broad River Association in 1829 preach an able sermon to a large concourse of people, who seemed to receive the exhibition of the Word by him with rapt attention. His style of preaching was very different from that of many of the olden time "sing-song" preachers. He had a good flow of words, very appropriate and suitable to express the noble thoughts that appeared almost intuitively to originate in his mind without previous reflection or study, and his delivery as to elocutionary rules was preferable to anything taught in the schools. It was simply natural and free from affectation of any kind, and peculiar to himself alone. Had Alexander Abernathy

## OBITUARIES

Sister Irene Abernethy, wife of the late Rev. William Abernethy, after a long life of devotion to our heavenly father departed this life at the age of 82 years. She seemed in her last years to grow brighter and stronger in christian graces as she grew older and died in the triumphs of a gospel faith.

CATAWBA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION MINUTES, 1908, p. 8

NAME Eld. Wm Abernathy

Dec 25, 1821

Ancestry Alexander Abernathy

Married Irene Carliton 1853

b. d.

Ancestry Eld. Thos. Carliton

Record Catawba River Asso. 1874

See Logan p. 253 (fine)

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