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Symbols

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OVER

NAME

Wm B Worrell

b.

1840

d.

1822

1840

Ancestry

Married

b.

d.

Ancestry

Halifax

Cruelly treated by father -

Record

1832 Baptised 5-32 into Sandy Creek Ch. (Formerly)

Urged Organization of a Missionary Association
 in 1830 - Heukster had abdicated her birth-
 right. Pastor Grassy Creek - 1821-1824

See

Taylor's Tar River p. 331-

Devins Grassy Creek p. 91 & 123

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Vol 1

(Recog. m)

Worrell, William B. A native of Halifax County, he was born probably between 1790-1800. His conversion and baptism occurred in the wretched father who whipped him cruelly and drove him from home. In the Island Creek Church Community, Granville County, a deacon, Thomas Williams became so impressed with the way that he gave him shelter and provided for his necessities, with some help from others, and sent him to school. Not long thereafter he began to preach in Granville and Franklin Counties and wonderful results followed. From 1826 to 1832, he baptized 532 into the fellowship of Sandy Creek Church, Franklin County. When the Rehearsal Association, or rather the larger part of it, became Anti-Missionary about 1827-1830, he was among those who led in the organization of a new Association which believed in Missions. Thus it came to pass that the Tar River was organized in 1831. He, however, was ill at this time and could not attend the organizational meeting; and toward the end of 1832 he passed away.

Taylor T.J., pp 331-332. Hist. Tar River Assoc.

" Chas E. No. Coville Bap. Historical Papers. Vol II p 113

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When not especially employed as a missionary or agent, the whole region of country, within from a hundred to two hundred miles of his residence, was frequently visited by him, and especially such places as gave indications of revival. In these excursions his labors were often attended with the most happy results.

In a letter to Dr. Howell he says: "During the thirty years since I commenced the work of the ministry, I have traveled for the purpose of preaching the gospel about 60,000 miles, and preached upwards of 5,000 sermons, and baptized more than 1,500 people. Of that number many are now ministers of various grades, but twelve are men of distinguished talents and usefulness, and ten, mostly through my procurement, are regularly and thoroughly educated.

Mr. D. was emphatically the friend of young preachers. Affectionate and sympathetic in his intercourse with them, he was ever ready to impart instruction, and encourage and sustain them by his countenance and influence. His advice was always in favor of a close and constant study of the Bible, joined with ardent prayer, humility and exclusive devotion to the glorious cause. The Bible and the human heart were his chief books. His manner was natural and affectionate. He possessed a tall and manly person, a countenance of the finest mould, intellectual and benevolent, a voice in which

was mingled the sweetness of music and affection. For many years the locks upon his brow were white as wool. His whole aspect and manner instantly enchanted his hearers, and made them feel that they were in the presence of a great and good man. His piety was consistent, ardent, and cheerful. To his closing hour he retained his accustomed vigor of mind.

At Paris, Tennessee, on the 14th of September, 1840, in his 68th year, Elder Robert T. Daniel bid adieu to the trials and labors of a life consecrated to his Master's service, and entered into that rest that remains to the people of God, uttering as he left the shores of time, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

→ ELDER WILLIAM B. WORREL.

The subject of this sketch was born in Halifax county, North Carolina, about 1800. When he was some sixteen years of age he professed conversion and united with the Baptist church. His father being a very wicked man, was so enraged at his baptism that he whipped him most cruelly, which well nigh deprived him of his life. In mad fury he drove his bleeding, lacerated boy away from his dwelling upon the cold charities of a selfish world, to find a maintenance as best he could; but the youthful wanderer was guided by the unseen hand of Providence to the hospitable mansion of one who sympathized with suffering humanity, and whose

pious heart moved with pity by the sorrows of an outcast stranger, and beneath whose friendly roof he found shelter and protection. Young Worrel, in his ramblings, made his way into Granville county, and at length came to Island Creek Meeting-house on one of the days for preaching. The church had not as yet been regularly constituted, but stated services were maintained at that place, as a branch of Grassy Creek Church. After the services were closed, deacon Thomas Williams, having observed a youthful stranger in the congregation, sought an interview with him, and having learned something of his history, invited him to his home, which he thankfully accepted. He narrated to Mr. Williams the circumstances of his case, and showed him the still unhealed wounds, which he had received for Christ's sake. Mr. W. kindly extended to him the invitation to make his house his home, until he could find a more advantageous situation. Soon his generous patron became so favorably impressed by the evidences of piety and talent, which young Worrel exhibited, that he placed him at school* and bearded him gratuitously. During the year he began to exercise his gifts in public, which gave

*Mr. Worrel was put under the instruction of Rev. Mr. Wilson, a Presbyterian minister, who was then the Principal of a classical school at Williamsboro. He was so much pleased with the young man that he very generously taught him for three years without charge.

promise of eminent usefulness. Several persons were so favorably impressed with the young man that they proposed to join Mr. Williams in helping the struggling youth to obtain an education to prepare him the better to preach the everlasting gospel. He was continued at school two years longer, making commendable progress in his studies. Holding his membership at Grassy Creek, the brethren materially aided him, and particularly the sisters, in furnishing him with clothing. Their gifts were worthily bestowed upon a pious, noble young man, who was preparing himself for great usefulness in the service of his Master.

Mr. Worrel was ordained to the full work of the ministry about 1820. He became the pastor at Grassy Creek in 1821 and continued in that relation for several years, the Lord blessing his labors in the conversion of many souls to God, and adding many members to the church by baptism. In 1825 he preached at Midway, where his preaching was greatly blessed, and where he baptized quite a number. Elder W. was the first pastor at Island Creek Church, which was organized in 1820, with forty-two members from Grassy Creek. He probably filled that office ten years.

He was the means of originating the church at Hester's, to whose oversight he was called at its constitution, which took place in 1823. He continued to be their pastor for many years. He also served

as pastor the churches at Peach Tree, Maple Springs, Bear Swamp, and others. He performed the duties of the pastorate faithfully and to the entire satisfaction of the brethren. The churches under his care were generally prosperous. They experienced many precious and profitable revivals. His preaching was blessed of God in the conversion of many souls, and numbers were added to the churches by baptism under his ministry. The extent of his usefulness in the Master's vineyard, eternity alone will disclose; but doubtless many will, in that great day, hail him with joy as their spiritual father, who shall shine forever as stars in the crown of his rejoicing.

As a Christian man, he was greatly beloved. His deep-toned piety, and unblemished character gave emphasis to his public ministrations. As a preacher he stood deservedly high among the brethren as an earnest, faithful minister of the New Testament. He was a man of positive convictions. What he believed to be the truth of God, he boldly and fearlessly proclaimed, regardless of the frowns or smiles of men. He was consecrated to the great work of preaching the gospel to the children of men. In his person as a man, he was of medium height, rather slenderly built, of pale complexion, pleasant countenance, commanding voice, full of tender pathos, good mind, respectable attainments, and deep feelings.

Concerning the last moments of this servant of

God, the writer has not been able to obtain any accurate information. Elder W. died in the prime of life, in the midst of great usefulness, universally respected and lamented. His unblemished life and noble character had endeared him to all with whom he was acquainted. He died sometime about 1840, and was probably forty years of age.

ELDER JAMES KING.

The subject of this sketch was born in Surry county, Virginia, on the 6th of Sept. 1780. His parents were Randolph and Annie King, whose maiden name was Barker, of English descent and of high respectability.

When James was about five years old his parents died and he was made an orphan. After remaining several years in his native county in charge of a pious aunt, whose religious instructions made deep impressions on his infant mind which were never obliterated, he was removed to Granville county, N. C., and put in charge of Mr. Thomas Rix, a relative of intelligence and respectability. This was his home until he arrived at the age of sixteen years, when he was apprenticed for four years to a carpenter to learn the trade. At the age of twenty, having completed his term of apprenticeship, he went to work with energy, building houses, churches, &c., and soon laid the foundation for a competency; the dark cloud dispersed and the sun of prosperity shone

WILLIAM B. WORRELL

Mr. Worrell was a native of Halifax County. The date of his birth is unknown; but it was probably between 1790 and 1800. When he was about fifteen years of age he professed faith in Christ and was baptized into the fellowship of a Baptist Church. This so enraged his wicked father that he whipped him cruelly and drove him from home. In his wandering, young Worrell was doubtless guided by the hand of God to the church on Island Creek, where Deacon Thomas Williams became so favorably impressed with him that he took him to his home, provided for his necessities and sent him to school, others helping him in these deeds of kindness.

Young Worrell soon began to preach the gospel and was the first pastor at Grassy Creek. He preached to several churches in Granville and Franklin Counties, and wherever he preached large numbers professed faith in Christ and were baptized. The most wonderful results followed his ministry at Sandy Creek, in Franklin County. From 1826 to 1832 he baptized five hundred and thirty-two into the fellowship of this church. He baptized at almost every monthly meeting. The number of those baptized each month ranged from two to twenty. In one meeting, which he held in this church in 1826, seventy-six persons were baptized and on another occasion seventy-two.

After the policy of the Kehukee Association had been completely changed and the body had become antagonistic to missionary efforts, Mr. Worrell advised his churches to secure the co-operation of as many churches as were in accord with them, and securing letters of dismissal from the older body to form another Association. This was done as had been elsewhere related. Mr. Worrell may have been present at the preliminary meeting which was held, perhaps at Sandy Creek, in 1830, to plan for the organization of the new Association. But when the Association was permanently established at Sandy Creek, in 1831, being sick, he was unable to attend nor was he able to be present at the session of 1832, which met at Maple Springs; and, toward the close of that year his spirit entered into the rest which remaineth to the people of God. He died in the prime of a very useful life, but he had planned for the formation

of the Tar River Association, had outlined its policy and those of us who have been a part of this body have entered into the labors of this good and great man; for it is true, as always, the "one soweth and another reapeth".

HISTORY OF THE TAR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1830-1921, p. 331-332
BY: T. J. Taylor

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