

*History of Grassy Creek Baptist Church
by Robert L. Devin*

GRASSY CREEK CHURCH.

Picket, Elisha Battle, Robt. T. Daniel,
Thos. D. Mason, Samuel Duty,
Jos. Baldwin, Robert H. Marsh,

sent out from this Church (Licen-
—Sanders Walker, Wm. Creath,
Wm. Richards, Zachariah Allen,
m. B. Worrell, John E. Montague,
and others.

ers.—Samuel Whitehead, Sanders
Howard, Wm. Cockrill.

—Richard Harris, Wm. Graves,
Jonathan Johnson, Charles Har-
ns, Henry Hester, Samuel Allen,
George Hunt, Joseph Hart, George
Hester, Wm. Hester, Thomas B.
ovall, John S. Overby, L. B. Stone,
d, James Hester, Thomas Hester,
Y. Ragsdale, B. T. Winston, Thos.
W. Gordon.

Chas. Harris, Wm. Royster, Thos.
Hester, Thos. Hester, B. T. Winston,

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

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SECTION VII.

Biographical Sketches of the Pastors of
Grassy Creek Baptist Church.

The author was anxious to present at least a brief outline of the lives and labors of all the ministers, who have been connected with Grassy Creek church, but several names, whose memory ought to be preserved, he has been compelled to leave out, because the needful information could not be obtained.

Much allowance must be made for a portion of the sketches which are given, on account of the scanty supply of materials out of which they were compiled.

The sketches of Elders Reed, Harris, Picket, Creath and Richards, are mainly taken from Dr. Taylor's "Lives of the Virginia Baptist Ministers," with some changes and additions, and that of Elder Daniel is condensed, with some alterations, from the one given by Dr. Purefoy in his "History of the Sandy Creek Association."

ELDER JAMES REED.

Although it appears that Mr. Reed lived and died in the neighborhood of Grassy Creek, and sustained the pastorate of the church for nearly thirty years, yet, I have not been able to collect but little information concerning him, besides what is given by Semple, Taylor and Benedict. He was probably born in Edgecombe county, N. C., in 1726. In early life, he was the subject of much alarm, under the consciousness of his guilt, as a transgressor of the divine law, but he did not submit to the sway of

the Prince of Peace until he was about thirty years of age. He was converted under the ministry of Rev. Daniel Marshall, and baptized by Elder Shubael Stearns about 1755 or '56. His spirit was stirred within him when he beheld the thousands around him exposed to ruin; and he at once lifted up his voice in simplicity and godly sincerity, proclaiming the gospel of Christ. Up to this period his opportunities for mental cultivation were very limited, but he assiduously applied himself to study, and under the instruction of his wife he became considerably improved. Although at the time of his entrance into the ministry he was in many respects unqualified to instruct in spiritual things, but as an evangelist he was very successful in winning souls to Christ. Indeed, his talent seems to have been peculiarly suited to this kind of labor. He traveled extensively, especially in the early part of his ministry, both in North Carolina and Virginia. In company with Elder Samuel Harris in one of his journeys, seventy-five, and in another, more than two hundred, were buried, by him, with Christ in baptism. He possessed a sanguine temperament, and in some things was enthusiastic—disposed to regard his impressions as immediately from heaven. Elder Reed was the first pastor of Grassy Creek church, and continued in that relation, with the exception of two or three years, till declining age disqualified him for the active duties of the pastorate. He was

instrumental in planting the church at Buffalo, Mecklenburg county, Va., to whose oversight he was called at its organization in 1778, which position he occupied successfully for many years. His labors in building up the church were greatly blest, and several extensive revivals were enjoyed under his ministry, and many precious souls converted to God and added to the Lord through his instrumentality. His death took place in 1798, in the seventy-second year of his age, having been more than forty years engaged in the ministry. His end was most triumphant—willing to leave the world and expecting to be with Christ. His last words in departing were: "Do you not see the angels waiting to convey my soul to glory?"

ELDER SAMUEL HARRIS.

Elder Harris sustained the pastoral office with the Grassy Creek people for about three years—that is, from 1770 to 1773. This distinguished minister of the gospel was unusually popular, and large crowds attended his meetings.

Col. Harris, as he was usually called, was born January the 12th, 1724, in the county of Hanover, Virginia, but in early life settled in Pittsylvania. Few men could boast of a more respectable parentage. His education, though not the most liberal, was very considerable for the customs of the day, and as he advanced in age, became a favorite with

NAME

Eld. James Reid

b.
d.

Ancestry

Married

b.

d.

Ancestry

Record

Cashie Valley

1856

See

File No.

(Over)

1853

Mar 4.

Reid, Mary E. L.
D. of Rev. James

Bib. record