

AN AUTHENTIC HISTORY

OF

Donegal Presbyterian Church

LOCATED IN

East Donegal Township, Lancaster Co., Pa.

BY

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The Presbyterian Historical Society, The Lancaster
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MOUNT JOY, PA.

Propter amorem, non lucrum.

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represent the location of the Church building. X, represents the location of the sexton's house. G, R, the graveyard. S, represents the spring, the stream from which constituted a part of the original boundary line. The dotted lines represent the roads as at present located. S, T, represent the location of the Mansion house of the Stephenson farm (now Cameron's). This property was patented by James Stephenson. It was deeded to his grandson, David Watson, in 1780. David Watson and wife deeded it to their son, Dr. John Watson, whose son, Dr. Nathaniel Watson, sold it to the Hon. Simon Cameron in 1872.

THE PASTORS OF DONEGAL CHURCH.

For the purpose of a better apprehension of the first pastorate of Donegal Church and the relation which it sustained to the first Presbytery of the Church in America, it may be well to invite attention to a brief outline of that organization. "The first leaf of the records of the first Presbytery being lost, the book opens with the brethren in session at Freehold on a Thursday, engaged in examining Boyd for ordination. They held 'Sederunt 2d' on Friday; sustained his trial on the Lord's Day, Dec. 27th, 1706; his ordination was performed at the meeting-house in this place before a numerous assembly."—(Webster's *History of the Presbyterian Church in America*.) "The original members, as far as can be ascertained from the minutes, were Francis Makamie, Jedediah Andrews, George McNish, John Hampton, John Wilson, Nathaniel Taylor and Samuel Davis. To these may be added John Boyd, who became a member by ordination in 1706."—(Charles Hodges's *History of the Presbyterian Church*, page 94.) The second meeting was held in Philadelphia. We will pass over the subsequent meetings, except to say that aid was solicited from Europe, and that with the cheerful concurrence of the brethren some of them at various times made application to different places. "In 1710 Wilson and Anderson wrote to the Synod of Glasgow."—(Webster's *History*, page 94.) It may be observed that the name of Anderson is mentioned the first time in the history. The

intercourse of the brethren during nine years was harmonious and happy. Quiet, steady growth in numbers marked each successive meeting.

“The Presbytery of Philadelphia met in that city on Tuesday, September 18th, 1716. On Friday, the 21st, they resolved to divide themselves into subordinate meetings, or Presbyteries, which consisted of: first, the Presbytery of Philadelphia; second, the Presbytery of Newcastle; third, Snowhill, and fourth, Long Island. The following were the members of Newcastle, viz.: Messrs. Anderson, McGill, Gillespie, Witherspoon, Evans and Conn.”—(Webster’s *History*.)

The name of Anderson again appears. The ministers who served as pastors of Donegal will be noticed in the order of their ministrations.

The first pastor of Donegal, “The Rev. James Anderson was born in Scotland, November 17th, 1678; he was ordained by Irvine Presbytery, November 17th, 1708; he arrived in this country April 22d, 1709; he settled in Newcastle; he was called to supply a church in the city of New York, where he remained until 1726; he was called, September 24th, to Donegal on the Susquehanna and accepted it; he was installed the last Wednesday in August, 1727.”—(Webster’s *History*.)

“The Donegal Presbytery was organized and held its first meeting at Donegal, Oct. 11th, 1732, and consisted of Messrs. Anderson, Boyd, Orr, Thompson of Chestnut Level, and he proposed to Donegal Presbytery to employ an itinerant in Virginia. In April, 1738, Anderson was sent to Virginia, bearing a letter to the government of Virginia soliciting its favor in behalf of our interests. The Synod provided supplies for his pulpit and allowed for his expenses in a manner suitable to his design. Anderson performed his mission satisfactorily. He married Mistress Suit Garland, daughter of Sylvester Garland, of the head of Apoquinomy, February, 1712-13. She died December 24th, 1736. He married Rebecca Crawford, Dec. 27th, 1737.”—(Webster’s *History*, page 332.)

Anderson died July 16th, 1740. (He and his wife, Suit, are buried at Donegal, grave No. 127.) “His son, Garland Ander-

son, was one of the witnesses of Andrew's will (Jedediah) in 1742. He married Jane, daughter of Peter Chevalier, of Philadelphia; he died early. His daughter, Elizabeth, married Samuel Breeze and resided in New York; a woman of great excellence."—(Webster's *History*.)

The list of the Rev. James Anderson's children is from a mutilated leaf of his family bible. In his will the names of James, Susannah and Thomas alone occur, but he refers to all his children. He left a large estate, including the present site of Marietta, the ferry called "Anderson's Ferry" and land on the opposite side of the river.

The will of the Rev. James Anderson (a true copy).—"The last will and testament of James Anderson of Donegal in Lancaster County. *Imprimis*. I give and bequeath to my dearly beloved wife, Rebecca Anderson, the half of this plantation whereon I now live, including the house, barn, run to or about the place where Bank's house and improvements was, with some land at the riverside bottom, during her natural life; also I give and bequeath to her assigns forever the third part of my moveable estate and ye use and services of the negro wench Dinah while she and Dinah lives. In the next place, I give and bequeath to my son James the other half of this plantation to him, his heirs and assigns forever, to the possession of which he is to enter when at age or marries, and that piece of land over the river opposite to the place I also give to him and his heirs forever. I have payd and have a warrant in lien under the hand of Receiver General and paid for the patent to Mr. Peter's to him and his heirs and assigns forever. I also give and bequeath to him the negro man Plinè to him and his heirs and assigns forever; this in the meantime my will is that he pay one-half of the mortgage and quit rent yearly till all the mortgage be payed. *Item*: I give to my daughter Susannah the negro wench Bell to her and her heirs. *Item*: I give to my dearly beloved wife Rebecca my son Thomas as her own son and child to be brought up by her as her own in the way she shall see cause. Tho' my desire is that if possible that he may be brought up to learning and particularly to the ministry, and that half of

the plantation that I have left to my wife during her natural life fall in after her descease to him and his heirs and assigns forever. The remains of my estate, if there be any, my will is that it be equally divided between all my children. *Item*: My will that if any of my children die without heirs y^s that is hereby left to them shall be equally divided between all the rest. *Item*: I leave my said dearly beloved wife sole and only executrix of this my last will. *Item*: I give to my niece Susannah Bradford those bills and bonds which belonged to my former fatherinlaw, now in the hands of Mr. Sherer of Newcastle.

“JA. ANDERSON.

“This 14th day of July, 1740, witness William Allison, Robert Allison.”

“Be it remembered, that on the 22d of July, Anno Dom: 1740, the last will and testament of James Anderson, Dec'd, was proven in due form of law and administration with the Testament of the Said Dec'd annexed was granted unto Rebecca Anderson and Garland Anderson (the executrix having renounced) they having first given Bond well and truly to administer the Said Deceased's Estate and bring an inventory thereof unto the register's office in Lancaster County on or before the 24th day of August next and also to render an account of Said Administration on or before the 24th day of July, 1741.

“Given under the Seal of Said Office

“Sa. Blunstan Dep. Regter.”

All his children were his first wife's. His son Garland becomes one of his administrators, although not mentioned in his will as a legatee.

The following abstract from the will of his son, James Anderson (No. 2), and a quotation from a deed is inserted as corroborative evidence to the chart of the family on pages 27 and 28: Abstract of the will of James Anderson (No. 2) dated 1790: “Wife Margaret, son James Anderson (No. 3), son in law William Kelly, three grandchildren, Elizabeth, John and Ruth Kelly, children of my daughter, Susannah; grandson James Anderson (No. 4), granddaughter Margaret Anderson,

grandson Joseph Tate Anderson, granddaughter Ruth Anderson, grandson Thomas Anderson and grandson William Anderson. Executors, my wife, son James and Richard Keys."

Quotation from deed between Thomas and James Anderson : "This indenture Sept. 2d, 1758, between Thomas Anderson (No. 5), of Donegal Township yeoman, and Mary, his wife, of the one part, and James Anderson (No. 2) yeoman of the other part, whereas James Anderson (No. 1), deceased, father of the above named Thomas and James Anderson, by last will, duly executed and proved among other things, did devise and bequeath unto his wife Rebecca one-half part of his plantation, whereon at the time of executing the said will he lived, during her natural life, and after her decease to his son Thomas, party to these presents, and the other half part to his son James Anderson, party to these presents, etc."

Quotation from deed between James Anderson (No. 2) and wife to James Anderson (No. 3):

"This indenture, made the 22d day of July, 1772, between James Anderson and Ruth, his wife, of the Township of Donegal, yeoman of the one part, and James Anderson, the younger, son of the said James Anderson, of the same township, yeoman of the other part, witnesseth that the James Anderson and Ruth, his wife, for and in consideration of natural love and affection which they have and bear for and towards the said James Anderson, the younger, their son, and for his better preferment and advancement in the world and in consideration of the sum of five shilling lawful money of Pennsylvania to them in hand, paid by the said James Anderson, the younger. It being a part and parcel of a certain tract of land, containing 305* acres, which the Hon. Proprietors did grant a patent, bearing date 1736, to James Anderson, father of the said James Anderson, the grantor, who by his last will and testament, dated the 14th of July, 1740, etc."

*This tract covered a part of the present site of Marietta, which the Rev. James Anderson bequeathed to his wife and his son, James Anderson (No. 2). The ferry from the Lancaster County to the York County side

of the river was established by the Andersons and was known as Anderson's Ferry for a number of years, and was afterwards known as Keesey's Ferry. This is continued at the present time by steamboat between Marietta and Accomac.

The list of the Rev. James Anderson's children is from a mutilated leaf of his family bible.

His son James Anderson (No. 2) lived on his patrimonial estate. He was a member of the Assembly in 1776 and 1778-80. His first wife was the daughter of Thomas and Mary Bayley. His second wife was Margaret Tate. He died June 1st, 1790; buried at Donegal (grave No. 128).

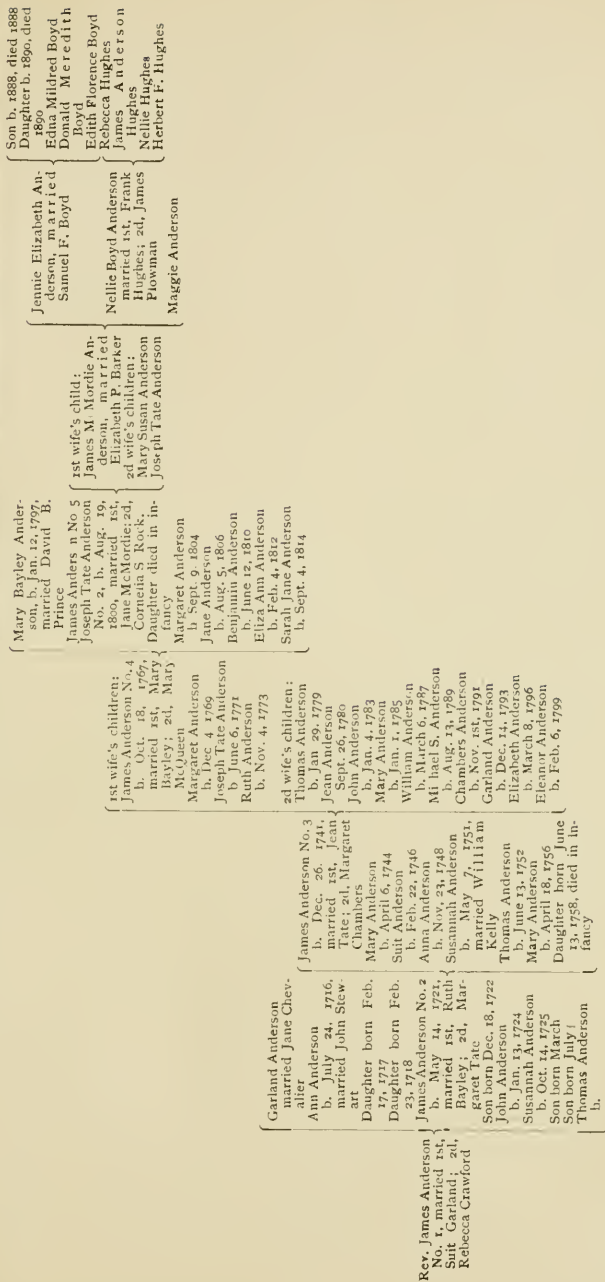
James Anderson (No. 3) served in the Revolution. He was twice married. His first wife was the daughter of the Rev. Joseph Tate. His second wife was Margaret Chambers, of Cumberland Co., Pa. He died Dec. 13, 1799.

James Anderson (No. 4) was twice married: first, to Mary Bayley, daughter of John Bayley; second, to Mary McQueen. His daughter by the first wife, Mary Bayley Anderson, married David B. Prince, who was principal of York Academy from 1819-66. Their children were David Oaks, James Anderson and Mary Elizabeth (surnamed Prince). James Anderson (No. 4) died June 7th, 1815. He was buried at York, Pa. His son, Joseph Tate Anderson, was a druggist in Marietta, Pa., with whom the writer was well acquainted. He was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati. He was twice married: first, to Jane McMordie, daughter of the Rev. Robert McMordie, a chaplain in the Revolutionary army; second, to Cornelia S. Rock, of Lititz, Pa. He died March 28th, 1857.

The writer deems it more appropriate to introduce the genealogical charts of the Rev. James Anderson and his descendants in this section of the work, rather than the part assigned to the families of the Church. His descendants are very numerous, so that it is impossible to trace all the various branches, who are widely dispersed. None of them are in the vicinity of Donegal.

A great-great-grandson, Mr. James McMordie Anderson, and son of Joseph Tate Anderson, resides in Chicago, to whom the writer is greatly indebted for valuable information.

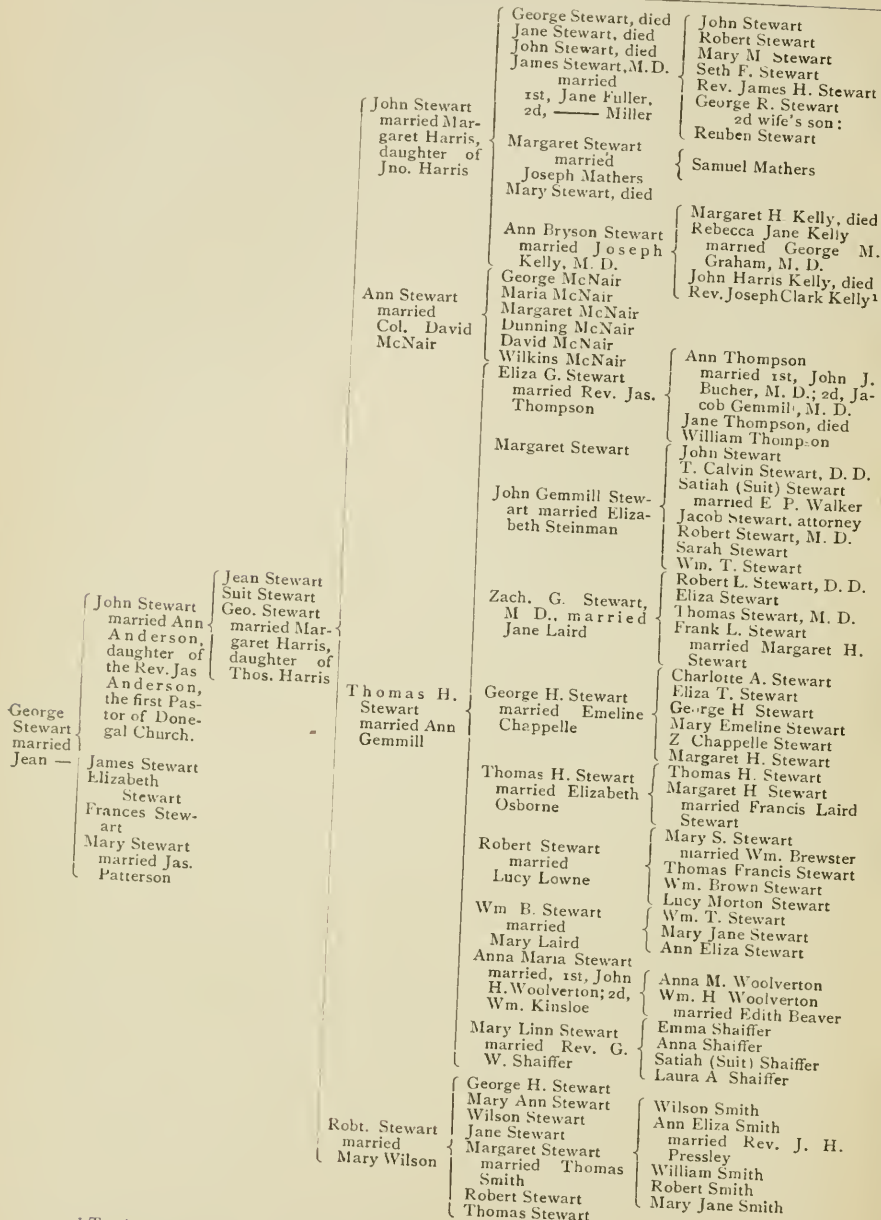
A Partial Chart of the Rev. James Anderson's Descendants



Rev. James Anderson
No. 1, married 1st,
Suit Garland; 2d,
Rebecca Crawford

A Partial Chart of the John Stewart Family

Descendants of Ann Anderson, daughter of the Rev. James Anderson.



¹ To the Rev. Joseph Clark Kelly the writer is indebted for the information relating to the descendants of Ann Anderson, daughter of Rev. James Anderson.