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Penland



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Penland

Penland

and Allied Families

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QUAKER MEADOWS
by
Buford Penland

Upon receiving Kathy Penland's NETWORKING QUESTIONNAIRE I started looking for pertinent history books. The most unique one found in my library is: HISTORY of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES at QUAKER MEADOWS AND MORGANTON, FROM THE YEAR 1780 TO 1913, by A. C. Avery. My sister, Elvita Penland Setzer, many years ago had been given this copy of the book by an old lady named Elizabeth Avery, who is listed in the book as a member of one of those churches. Thus Elizabeth Avery would have had to have been a member prior to the publication of the book in 1913. The following sentence is quoted from page 9: "The Presbyterian churches of Quaker Meadows and Pleasant Gardens were the oldest church structures in the territory lying between Rowan County and the Tennessee line, except the old Lutheran 'Little John' church which was built a few years before either of them." Judge Avery died in 1913 at age 78. The book was published after his death.

Now why is this church history of interest to the Penlands? Going on to page 13 we find, and I quote "The elders and most active male members of the first congregation at Quaker Meadows were Robert Penland (who was remembered by the old people thirty years ago and affectionately called 'Father Penland') and John Duckworth. Robert Penland and Samuel Alexander, who married his daughter, were both ancestors of Mrs. Presnell, Mrs., Harrison Galloway and Mrs. William Harbinson. Robert Penland was the grandfather of the late Milton Penland of Asheville, and Robert Penland of Bakersville and the great grandfather of Judge G. S. Ferguson." The descendants mentioned were probably known personally to Judge Avery, since superior court judges in North Carolina hold court in many counties.

A short sketch of Robert Penland's life is given on pages 70, 71 and 72 copies of which are attached. The penciled in changes were done by Elvita.

14-Sep-1995

Family group sheet

=====

Husband: R. Penland, (Burke County Robert) #61

Born:	1744	in:	Newcastle, DE
Baptized:		in:	
Died:	16-Apr-1828	in:	Burke County, NC
Buried:		in:	Family Cemetery, near Quaker Meadows
Other:		in:	
Ref:		Occupation:	Farmer
Father:	John Penland (1706-1776)	#364	
Mother:	Jean ???? ?	#371	

(Family of R. Penland, (Burke County Robert) - Continued)

Wife: **Elizabeth Brank** #62
 Married: ca 1772 in: Burke County, NC
 Marr. Ceremony? Y/N: Y Divorced/Annulled/Separated: End Year:

Born: 1748 in: Bladen County, NC
 Baptized: in:
 Died: 26-Jan-1841 in: Burke County
 Buried: in: Family Cemetery
 Other: in:
 Ref: Occupation:
 Father: Robert Brank #171
 Mother: Jean ??? #172

1 **Priscilla Penland (Mrs. ___ Wakefield)** #63
 F Born: 1789 in: Burke County, NC
 Died: 1890 in: Oak Forest Cem. Buncombe County, NC

2 **Jean (Jane) Penland** #64
 F Born: 1773 in: Burke County, NC
 Died: 12-Nov-1858 in: Burke

3 **Elenor (Nellie) Penland** #65
 F Born: 22-Apr-1775 in: Burke County, NC
 Died: 18-Apr-1861 in:

4 **George Penland (1778-1877)** #138
 M Born: 1778 in: Burke County, NC Quaker Meadows
 Died: 1877 in: Macon County, NC, Near Otto

5 **Robert Penland** #67
 M Born: 15-Aug-1779 in: Burke County, NC
 Died: 1856 in: Haywood County, NC

6 **Peter Penland** #68
 M Born: 1781 in: Burke County, NC
 Died: 1-Aug-1865 in: Preble County, OH

7 **Leah Penland** #69
 F Born: 1783 in: Burke County, NC
 Died: 4-Jul-1877 in: Burke County, NC

8 **Henry Penland** #70
 M Born: 22-Mar-1786 in: Burke County, NC
 Died: 20-Jul-1854 in: Buncombe County, NC

9 **Ruth Penland, Mrs. ___ Alexander** #71
 F Born: 1792 in: Burke County, NC
 Died: 1851 in:

10 **Rachael Penland, Mrs William A. Erwin** #72
 F Born: 1795 in: Burke County, NC
 Died: 9-Dec-1828 in: Buncombe ?

HISTORY of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES at QUAKER MEADOWS AND MORGANTON, FROM THE YEAR 1780 TO 1913, by A. C. Avery, pages 70-72

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Presbyterian Churches at

ELDER JOHN DUCKWORTH.

Elder John Duckworth was born in the year 1757. He was in the very earliest history of the church a very zealous and active elder and according to tradition he was an earnest and exemplary Christian. During the first forty years after the church was planted in Burke County, he seems to have represented the churches of Quaker Meadows and Morganton in Presbytery oftener than any other elder. It was he who insisted at a meeting of Concord Presbytery, that Rev. John Silliman should be ordained by order of Presbytery and allowed to accept a call, in place of Rev. Chauncey Eddy. At one of the meetings of Presbytery it was recorded of him that he was to subscribe to a fund that was being raised for some good purpose and gave what seemed to be a liberal sum, to-wit: three dollars. Like most other Presbyterians of that day, he was an ardent friend of liberty and missed no opportunity to strike a blow for the cause. He was wounded at Ramsaur's Mill, and before he fully recovered from his wound, fought gallantly as a private in McDowell's regiment at King's Mountain. The bullet was not extracted from his body until late in life and was exhibited by Governor Morehead when speaking to an audience, as a candidate for governor, in 1842.

Among his descendants were a number of members of the Silver Creek congregation, the children and grandchildren of his son, Daunt Duckworth, and his daughter, Sallie, wife of Thomas Morrison.

He died November 6, 1843, aged 86 years, and was buried in the Presbyterian churchyard at Morganton. Near to his grave repose the remains of his granddaughter, Mrs. Jane Duckworth Kibler.

ELDER ROBERT PENLAND.

Elder Robert Penland was one of the first ruling elders ordained at Quaker Meadows. He was born ~~in~~ ^{IN} 1747. He came to the County of Burke with the advance guard of the Scotch-Irish colony that moved across Maryland and Virginia to the Carolinas. He settled in the valley of Canoe creek above the lands entered in the office of the Earl of Granville a short time before by Hugh McDowell and John McDowell. He was married ~~in~~ ^{IN} 1770 ~~at~~.

Quaker Meadows and Morganton

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to Elizabeth Brank, daughter of ^{Robert} Peter Brank, who settled at the place where Dr. William C. Tate afterwards lived, now the farm of Mr. R. K. Presnell, who married his great grand daughter, daughter of Robert Alexander, and is now an elder of the First Presbyterian church at Morganton.

The widow of Peter Brank was one of the three women who were scalped by the Indians in the incursion of 1777 and who survived their barbarous wounds for many years. The other two being Mrs. Hunter, the ancestress of scores of leading residents of Burke and McDowell Counties, and Mrs. McFall, who lived on the east side of the Blue Ridge. The husbands of these three women, fortunately for them, happened to be absent from home. It is said that the children and husbands of Mrs. Brank and Mrs. Hunter showed them a sympathy and devotion which almost amounted to worship until they died. Peter Brank, however, died soon after and probably before the close of the War for Independence. The writer has seen a description in one of the grants under which John Rutherford claimed on Muddy creek, the descriptive words "joining the lands of Brank's orphans." Mrs. Elizabeth Penland was the sister of Robert Brank, a dashing soldier in the command of Captain David Vance of McDowell's regiment, and, as will appear later, was also the sister of Priscilla Brank, who married David Vance.

Robert Penland was not only a devoted Christian, who was always mindful of his Master's work, but when duty demanded his services he enlisted in McDowell's regiment and fought bravely in the battles of King's Mountain, Ramsaur's Mill and Musgrove's Mill, and probably at Cowpens.

The piety of "Father" Penland, as he was affectionately called, seemed to have inspired, amongst those who lived in his neighborhood, a degree of reverence that has seldom been known. The writer recalls the kindly way in which his mother spoke of the venerable old man. She said that it sometime happened that, like all the men of his day, he walked about the neighborhood with his gun upon his shoulder taking the chance of getting within range of a deer, and that he would come in and place his gun in the corner of the room and after

*Notations and/or corrections have been handwritten in the book, possibly by Elvita Penland Setzer. Page 71, upper right side of page states "Peter Brank (is) not Eliz's father. Eliz's father was Robert Brank."

Continuation of HISTORY of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

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Presbyterian Churches at

a short sojourn, would ask that the family be called together for prayers. This was what the old time elder, trained by the followers of John Knox, deemed his duty.

As will appear later, his daughter Jane was the wife of Elder Samuel Alexander, and his son Henry Penland moved to Buncombe County and was the father of the late Milton Penland, of Asheville, and Robert Penland, of Bakersville, and his daughter, Nellie, married Nathan Gibson and was the grandmother of Judge Garland S. Ferguson.

The name of the dashing soldier-son of Peter Brank, referred to above (Robert Brank), brother of Mrs. Vance, has been perpetuated by Doctor Robert Brank Vance, who was elected to Congress in 1824, and who was killed in a duel by Hon. Samuel P. Carson in 1826. General Robert Brank Vance, who represented the mountain district in Congress for twelve years, was a later namesake.

Many false alarms had kept the families north of the Catawba ready to move into the fort on the hill north of Fleming's Ford, on short notice of the approach of the Cherokees, before the final incursion by that tribe in 1777. McDowell's command had been called out and were on duty out of the county when the Indians finally rushed in. But Robert Penland had been sent home as the safest man to entrust with the duty of helping families to the fort and of assisting other comrades left at home for their protection. When the alarm came he left his younger brother, ^{George} to remove his own family and the boy could only induce Penland's wife to leave her home by placing her children upon a horse and starting to the fort with them. For some reason Penland had not yet removed his ^{Daughter} mother-in-law, Mrs. Brank, from her home at the Dr. Tate, or Presnell place, which was on the opposite side of the river and less than a mile distant from the fort, before the Indians reached her home, scalped her and left her for dead, as already mentioned.

Robert Penland died at his home on Canoe creek, April 16, 1828. *on Stone*

Quaker Meadows and Morgan

ELDER SAMUEL ALEXANDER

Samuel Alexander was born on the at the home of his father, in what was then Vance County, his father having come down from Virginia in the advance guard of the Scotch-Irish turned southeastward about the Virginia line with the Indians of the West. Samuel Alexander stood, served when quite young, as a lieutenant in David Vance's company of McDowell's regiment that command at Cowpens, Ramsaur's Mill, and in one of those battles at least, was wounded.

Mrs. Claudia Erwin Poe, a daughter of Mrs. Erwin, and a great granddaughter of Alexander, recently published an article in the Durhamian which prove interesting as a piece of local history in this county, and especially to the Alexanders. Family friendships have continued from the country to the present time.

The article is as follows:

INCIDENTS OF ERWINS AND ALEXANDERS

The families were neighbors and friends. Samuel Alexander was away from home in the service of his wife in charge of the family. A neighbor came to her house ill. She took him into the house she hoped to hide him from the Tories, and return to camp. But a raiding party rode up to the house called for the men to come out of the house. When the house had been plundered and the men were made and capture of all Whigs. She tried to hold out, but when the house had been cornered and corner, they came to the door of the house. Erwin stood at the door refusing to admit them, drawing a sword, was in the act of striking them, when Mrs. Erwin threw herself, with her head between the door and the door, receiving a dreadful wound which was mortal.

This story was related by Mary E. Wilcox to her children. Mrs. Chambers was a granddaughter of Erwin and Sarah Robinson Erwin, the