

of her deceased husband, in favor of her son, George,* who entered into bond, etc.

James Trimble was appointed constable in place of James Anderson, February 28, 1744. This was probably the James Trimble who became deputy surveyor of Augusta in December, 1745.

At last we find a movement for a road through the Valley. On February 24, 1745, James Patton and John Buchanan reported that they had viewed the way from the Frederick county line "through that part of the county called Augusta, according to the order made last March," (which the writer failed to see) and the court ordered "that the said way be established a public road."

The last order of Orange Court in reference to Augusta or her people, was entered at November term, 1745, when Augusta's part of the cost of running the line between the two counties was fixed at £32 5s. 9d.

THE REV. JOHN CRAIG AND HIS TIMES.

The late Maj. J. M. McCue, an enthusiastic antiquarian, brought to light a record book kept by the pioneer minister of the Valley for nine years, and from it we give here some interesting extracts.

The title of the book, as written by the minister himself, is as follows: "A record of the names of the children baptized by the Rev. John Craig, both in his own and in neighboring congregations, where God in His Providence ordered his labors." It, however, embraces other things besides the record of baptisms. The writer was too busy to think of style, and some of the entries are the more interesting because of their quaintness and crudity.

The first child baptized in the county by Mr. Craig was Elizabeth, daughter of Jeremiah Williams, October 5, 1740. On October 26th, Samuel, son of William Logan, was baptized; and on the 28th, Mary, daughter of John Preston. Jean, daughter of Robert McClanahan, was baptized December 8, 1740, and this child, on growing up, became the wife of Alexander St. Clair, who is often mentioned in the ANNALS, and is the author's great-grand-mother.

James Bell's twins, William and James, were baptized December 12, 1740. They were of the Long Glade family. William was killed in battle during the Revolutionary War.

At the close of the first year, Mr. Craig writes: "The year being ended, the whole number baptized by me is one hundred and thirty-three; sixty-nine males and sixty-four females. Glory to God who is daily adding members to His visible church!"

* George Breckinridge probably moved to Albemarle, and therefore his name seldom appears in the Annals of Augusta. An act of Assembly in 1758, provided for the pay of persons who had rendered military service, and among them was a George Brackenridge of Albemarle, who was entitled to 13 shillings.—*Hening, Vol. 7, p. 203.*

It appears from Mr. Craig's record, as well as elsewhere, that there was a low state of morals amongst the white servants brought into the county before the Revolution. This is not to be wondered at, as many of such persons were criminals brought over under sentence of transportation. But good people appear to have sought to rear the children of the convicts under religious influences. On January 20, 1742, "Mr. James Patton stood sponsor for a child baptized, named Henry, born in his house of a convict servant, a base person; could not be brought to tell who was the father, notwithstanding all means used."

Robert, son of Robert Young, was baptized January 22, 1742, and Mr. Craig notes that he was "born with teeth."

William Johnston's son, Zachariah, was baptized September 26, 1742, and his son, Joseph, April 21, 1745.

In the second year the number of baptisms was eighty-two, and the record is followed by another ascription of praise to God.

Under date of December 19, 1742, we find: "This day the news of the Indian rebellion and the death of our friends by their hands, came to our ears." The allusion is to the massacre of John McDowell and his companions in the Forks of James river.

David Logan's child, Benjamin, was baptized by Mr. Craig, May 3, 1743. This child became the distinguished General-Logan of Kentucky.

On the 26th of June, 1743, several children were baptized at North Mountain Meeting-house, and on the 30th, eight at South Mountain Meeting-house. The latter place may have been the predecessor of Tinkling Spring, or it may have been in the present county of Rock-bridge. The names of the children baptized there were Hays, Greenlee, Dunlap, Crawford, Breckinridge, etc.

The child of a woman "lately from Ireland," bound to John Pickens, was baptized December 10, 1743. Mrs. Eleanor Pickens stood sponsor, her husband being abroad. From 1740 to 1749, inclusive, various children of Israel, John and Gabriel Pickens were baptized.

James Robertson's son, Alexander, was baptized January 10, 1744.

On the 15th of January, 1744, David Campbell's child, Arthur, was baptized. This was the widely known and distinguished Colonel Arthur Campbell.

James Trimble's son, John, was baptized March 18, 1744, and James Robertson's son, George, April 24, 1744.

Mr. Craig pursued his calling wherever he went. Under date of June 1, 1744, he says: "Being at Synod" [of Philadelphia] "I baptized three children in Pennsylvania."

Elizabeth Herison, "an adult person," was baptized July 27, 1744, and the following children at the dates mentioned: John Pickens' son, Israel, October 1, 1744; Thomas Stuart's son, Archibald, and Edward Hall's daughter, Jennet, February 12, 1745; John Crawford's son, William, March 21, 1745; and David Logan's son, Hugh, March 24, 1745.

William Renix was baptized June 2, 1745, and his brother, Joshua, in October, 1746. These were children of Robert Renix, (or Renick),

who was killed by Indians in 1761, and his wife and children carried off. William returned from captivity with his mother in 1767. Joshua remained with the Indians, and became a chief of the Miamis.

Next we have the date of the first meeting at Tinkling Spring. After recording the baptism of Samuel Davison's child, Jesse, April 14, 1745, Mr. Craig says, in words expressive of his dissatisfaction with the place and the people: "This being the first day we meet at the contentious meeting-house about half built—T. S."

The "contention" to which Colonel Patton was a party, was then vexing Mr. Craig's soul. He mentions, however, June 9, 1745, "this day Colonel Patton appeared at meeting." We shall see hereafter about the "contention" alluded to.

On September 1, 1745, Charles Campbell's son, William, was baptized. This child became the celebrated General William Campbell, of King's Mountain fame, the maternal grandfather of William C. Preston, of South Carolina.

February 26, 1746, was "a fast day appointed by the Governor upon ye account of ye civil war." The war referred to was doubtless the rebellion in Great Britain stirred up by Charles Edward, son of the Pretender to the British throne, which began in 1745, and was ended by the battle of Culloden, April 16, 1746.

At North Mountain Meeting-house, June 1, 1746, among the children baptized were John Trimble's son, James, and Alexander Crawford's son, William. It is an interesting coincidence that John Trimble and Alexander Crawford were both murdered by Indians in October, 1764, and probably on the same day, as related elsewhere. John Trimble's son, James, mentioned above, probably died in childhood, and another child called by the same name, born in 1756, became Captain James Trimble.

John Madison, the first clerk of the County Court of Augusta county, and father of Bishop Madison, was no doubt a member of the Church of England; but, no rector having been appointed for Augusta parish, his son Thomas was baptized by Mr. Craig in October, 1746.

David Stuart and Abigail Herrison, "adult persons," were "baptized, after profession of faith and obedience," January 21, 1747.

Thomas Stuart's child, Jennet, was baptized February 22, 1747. This was probably the "Miss Jenny Stuart," a very old maiden lady, who was residing in Staunton within the recollection of persons still living.

Mr. Craig's record shows that there were repeated lapses from the path of virtue, and not alone by the class of "convict servants." It would not be to edification to set these matters forth in detail. The civil magistrates were rigid in the enforcement of laws against immorality, and the minister of religion faithfully performed his duty in the premises as he understood it. "Public satisfaction" was required of delinquents before they were allowed to have their children baptized.

The first rector of Augusta parish was the Rev. John Hindman, who was appointed April 6, 1747. He seems to have been a Dissenter and an old acquaintance of Mr. Craig, who mentions him curtly, April 5, 1747, as follows: "This day John Hindman attend, having turned

his coat and now appears in the quality of a Church of England parson."

Robert McClanahan's son, Robert, was baptized April 19, 1747. He became Dr. Robert McClanahan, removed (after 1770), to the part of Botetourt now Greenbrier, was captain in the Botetourt regiment under Colonel Fleming in 1774, and killed at the battle of Point Pleasant.

John Tate's child, Eleanor, was baptized at North Mountain meeting-house, November 5, 1747; and Joseph Bell's child, Mary, February 21, 1748.

Andrew Lewis's son, Samuel, was baptized September 15, 1748, and became a Lieutenant Colonel in the Revolutionary War.

James Crawford's son, Alexander, and Patrick Crawford's daughter, Martha, were baptized in November, 1748.

Robert McClanahan's child, William, was baptized January 10, 1749. He was the father of Colonel Elisha McClanahan, of Roanoke.

On January 22, 1749, Mr. Craig makes the following entry: "This the first day we meet in and preach in Augusta meeting-house." It is generally supposed that this refers to the stone meeting-house which is still standing and used by the congregation.*

During the year 1749, besides his regular preaching places, Augusta and Tinkling Spring, Mr. Craig administered baptism at North Mountain, South Mountain, "Timber Grove," North River, near Great Lick, Calf Pasture and Cow Pasture.

The last entry in the book is dated September 28, 1749. During the nine preceding years the number of baptisms was 883,—463 males and 420 females. Mr. Craig could not say with the Apostle Paul that he was sent "not to baptize, but to preach the gospel," although he too, no doubt, preached whenever and wherever he could.

* A letter from the Rev. Dr. William Brown, dated Bay View, Florida, Jan. 24, 1890, says: "I think you mention somewhere that the exact date of the building of Augusta church was not known. I am able to supply the deficiency. In 1837, I visited the family of John Hamilton, a grandson of Rev. John Craig. They were about to remove to Missouri. I found in a blank leaf of one of his books, a memorandum in Mr. Craig's hand-writing, in which he states that on such a day he laid the corner stone of Augusta church, and makes record of the prayer which he offered. It was in August, 1747. * * When I went to Augusta church in 1836, the tradition was, that the building was advanced far enough to be occupied in 1748, but was not completed for two or three years after." "The small log building previously used, stood about the center of the old grave-yard."

Among the records of the County Surveyor's office is a book known as the "Entry Book," on page 2 of which is the following:

"May 16, 1746—200 acres for ye Meeting house of ye Lower congregation, where it is now Built, including a spring adjoining Thomas Stephenson's land."

The reference here is no doubt to the original log house, not the stone church.

Mr. Craig states in his diary that the first service was held in the stone church on January 22, 1749; but as the year at that time began on March 25th, the month of January belonged to the same year as the preceding month of December. Therefore, Mr. Craig's date of January 22, 1749, is, according to the present reckoning, January 22, 1750.

ANNALS

- OF -

Augusta County, Virginia,

From 1726 to 1871,

- BY -

JOS. A. WADDELL,

Member of the Virginia Historical Society.

Second Edition.

1902.



[COUNTY SEAL.]

C. J. Carrier Company
Harrisonburg, Virginia

1986

