

Genealogy

THE CALEDONIA CHURCH AND CEMETERY

MRS. EFFA M. DANNER

In a grove beside a little glen on a ridge extending back from the Ohio River is the Caledonia Church. With its large auditorium, Sunday School rooms, study, basement, furnace, and electric lights, it would grace a city, but it is the center of a rural community, several miles from any village, on the boundary between Jefferson and Switzerland counties.

The Caledonia United Presbyterian Church, a Scotch organization, is an old institution dating back to early pioneer days. The first family from Scotland settled in this neighborhood in 1816: others rapidly followed until there were thirty families in all, directly from Scotland, composing the first congregation. They were: Welch, Morton, Weir, Culbertson, Witherspoon, Glen, Dalglish, Brown, Scott, Dow, Sterritt, Tait, Anderson, Shaw, Ralston, Crawford, Gray, Jamison, Wilkie, Imire, Irvine, Bell, Storie, Stevenson, Spier, Thompson, Kirkwood, McKeand, Graham, Gunnion. The present congregation is composed principally of the descendants of these families.

In 1818 a praying society was organized and met in the cabin homes. A log church or "kirk" was built in 1819 or 1820. Across the road in Jefferson County, a stone church was built in 1827. A third church, made of brick molded and kilned on the premises, was built in 1872, a few feet north-west of the stone building. The present church was erected in 1920-1921, at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars; it is back over the county line in Switzerland County. In the history of the congregation, there have been only twelve pastors in 118 years. Now in its 129th year as a congregation, its church building is recognized as one of the most beautiful country churches in the state, an ideal spot for quiet, restful contemplation of the things of the spirit.

A walk through the near-by cemetery reveals the names of some of the founders of the church:

Mary Culbertson, native of Argyleshire, Scotland, died 1821, aged 74.
William Culbertson, native of Argyleshire, Scotland, died 1836, aged 74.
Agnes Graham, consort of Alex Graham, native of Edinburgshire, Scotland, died Sep. 22, 1836, aged 58.

Alexander Graham, native of Scotland, born Mar. 17, 1776; died June 9, 1860, aged 84 yrs. 2 mos. 21 days.

On vine-covered sides of a rather imposing monument are these inscriptions: S. F. Morton died and was buried here July 27, 1856, aged 25. Ann Morton, consort of Andrew, died December 1843, aged 54 (what became of Andrew is left to the imagination). On another side, one reads: "Susan, and all her father's pride, lies buried here." Other inscriptions in the cemetery read:

Marrion Robertson, native of County Renfrew in Scotland, and wife of Robert Spiers, died 1839, age 39.

Jane, consort of Hugh Stevenson, native of Ayrshire, Scotland, died May 24, 1829, aged 42 yrs, 8 mos.

Agnes, wife of Thomas Thompson, native of West Galter, Scotland, died 1848, aged 43.

William Wilkie, native of Queen's Ferry, Scotland, died Nov. 28, 1831, aged 42.

Hellen Morris, native of Leith, Scotland, wife of William Wilkie, died Dec. 21, 1832, aged 46.

MOUSER-SCHMIDLAPP GENEALOGY

(Cont'd)

Contributed by

MRS. SYLVAN L. MOUSER

- VII 1 Bertha Perry, dau. of VI, 1; r. near Madison, Ind.; m. — Cornwell; no children.
- 2 Mamie Jordan, dau. of VI, 4; m. — Barnes; children: a, Ruth.
- 3 Clara Jordan, dau. of VI, 4; m. Richard Steadman; children: a, Carl.
- 4 Stella Jordan, dau. of VI, 4; r. Edgewood, Indianapolis; m. Frederick Schmidlapp (see VII, 16).
- 5 Eva Lowe, dau. of VI, 6; r. Jefferson Co., Ind.; m. Charles Sponsel, cousin of Louise Schumann Mouser; children, a, Nicholas.
- 6 Charles Lowe, s. of VI, 6; r. Jefferson Co., Ind.; m. Rose Sever; children: a, Floyd, b, Garnet, c, Harold, d, Elma.
- 7 Lucy Lowe, dau. of VI, 6; m. Riley Wheate; children: a, Glenne (girl).
- 8 Addie Lowe, dau. of VI, 6; m. Isom Sever; no children.
- 9 John Lowe, s. of VI, 6; m. Lena Boyer; no children.
- 10 Bertha Lowe, dau. of VI, 6; b. 1884; r. Jefferson Co., Ind.; m. Walter Wallace, b. 1883, s. of George Wallace and Laura Cravens; children: a, Delmos, b, Odelle.