

"We hold to submit to Civil Government, etc.

"We do hold to open our doors to any orderly Ministers or Church of the Separate Order, that doth not tolerate War."

January 5th, 1788, the church, in conference, gave it the name of Tyger River. We have no account of its having been changed. We are inclined to think that about the year 1803, or soon thereafter, Tyger River was dropped and the present name substituted for it by common consent.

Barnett Putman and W. Wilbanks, Sr., were ordained deacons the same day the church was organized. Moses Haines was appointed Elder of the church May 5th, 1787. We notice the term elder here does not mean a minister, but an officer of a different grade. What his duties were we are not told. In 1792 the subject of eldership was brought up in conference for discussion, but was laid over till the next meeting. We have no account of its having been taken up at the next or any subsequent meeting. The next year Wm. Wilbanks, Sr., and Wm. Wilbanks, Jr., were appointed Elders, which seems to have been the last of the order, as the last named persons were elected Deacons the ensuing year.

About this time a rather singular rule was adopted by the church forbidding marriage on the Sabbath.

In 1792, John Putman and Wm. Wilbanks were elected delegates to the Bethel Association. On the 14th September 1793, she granted license to Spencer Bobo to preach the Gospel. March 12th, 1796, "Gave Thomas Greer leave to exercise his gifts; also gave Nathan Jackson leave to pray and exhort with caution." February 11, 1797, "Gave Nathan Langston leave to pray in public and exhort when convenient." We would remark here, that for near four

years prior to this time the infant church was in great trouble, in consequence of the fall of their pastor Frederick Crowder, into sin and disgrace. The precise nature of his offense is not stated; but the fact that he was excluded after much labor on the part of the church is proof that it was something serious. He was finally restored to fellowship; but it seems the shock, occasioned by this difficulty and probably other minor troubles, retarded the growth of the church for sometime.



REV. THOMAS RAY

Thomas Ray, the son of Ambrose and Elizabeth (Holcombe) Ray was born in 1780. He was reared in the Cross Keys section of Union County and he married Sarah Whitlock. He joined Padgett's Creek Church during the time of the big revival in the year 1802, was licensed to preach in 1804, and ordained to the ministry by his home church in August 1805, after which he served the church as pastor for about twenty years.

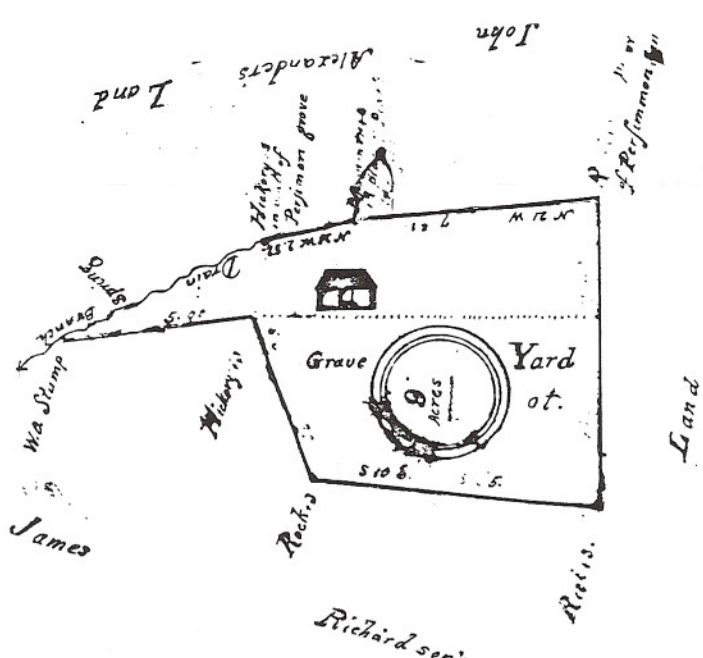
The two brothers, Ambrose and Elijah Ray, followed the example set by their uncle, Rev. Thomas Ray, by entering the ministry and being ordained at Padgett's Creek. During his ministry he served as pastor of various churches in Union and neighboring counties.

He was a wealthy man for his time, and never seemed to be much concerned about a salary from the churches he served. It is said that he preached to a church in Laurens County for a number of years without even the hint of a salary, though the church was at least 25 miles from his home; and when at last the church, feeling perhaps some slight compunctions of conscience over the matter, actually put the amount of ten dollars in cash into his hands, he exclaimed with a benign smile, "Well that will buy me a new saddle!" Rev. Thomas Ray was a man of kingly appearance and his majestic form, on a superb horse, was a familiar figure for over fifty years among the people within a radius of many miles from his home. It is said that he traveled altogether on horseback, and never mounted a horse that was not worthy of a knight.

It seems probable that as an expression of gratitude for his long and faithful services, that Padgett's Creek Church retained him as a sort of nominal or honorary pastor, while Rev. John Ezell and other preachers were called to do the active work for the church.

During the year 1829, John G. Landrum lived in the house of Rev. Thomas Ray, who was a great uncle of Landrum and attended the school of John Bostick, an educated Englishman who was teaching in the neighborhood. It was during his stay that John Landrum decided to be a preacher and it has been stated that "God made John G. Landrum a preacher through the instrumentality of his mother and Rev. Thomas Ray."

Rev. Thomas Ray died suddenly on May 29, 1862 in the 82nd year of his age, and his body laid to rest in the old cemetery at Padgett's Creek.



The above plat represents a piece of land conveyed to the Baptist Society or Church at Padgett Creek meeting house by John Alexander, Sen. and James Richardson, containing nine acres. It was surveyed Jan. 20, 1827 by Wm. White, D.S. The recording was witnessed by Ambrose Ray and Jesse Alexander.

Padgett's Creek; the bridge so often referred to was probably Murphy's bridge on Tyger River Bethel Association Minutes 1791-1803: Asplund's Reg. 3, 5 and 6 ed. list of members of Padgett's Creek Church made up from the church book 1784-1804:

Sally Addenton, Angus Alexander, Anne Alexander, Charity Alexander, Eunity Alexander, John Alexander, Lewis Alexander, William Alexander, Isaac Barnet, Mary Barnett, Patty Barnet, Sarah Barnet, James Bennett, Fanny Blossengame, Thomas Blossengame, (Blasingame?), Barram Bobo, Spencer Bobo, William Bogain, Lydda Bowman, Thomas Boman, John Bond, John Bond, Sr.;

Also: Martha Bond, Betsy Boteman, Jessie Boteman, John Boteman, Rebekah Brandon, Hannah Briant, Philip Briant, William Briant, Mrs. William Briant, Charles Browning, Daniel Browning, Robert Browning, Jr., Thompson Browning, Betty Bruton, John Bullington, Benjamin Burns, Levina Burns, Marget Burns, Rachel Burns, Robert Burns, Rhoda Busclark, Nelly Call, William Call, Mary Canada, Mordecai Chandler, Polly Clayton, Nancy Cooksey, Polly Coleman, Daniel Comer, Elijah Cooper, James W. Cooper, Richard Cooper, John Couch, Rev. Frederick Crowder, Milly Crowder, Charity Curtis, Fielding Curtis, John Curtis.

Also: Patty Curtis, Amey Darnal, Morgan Darnal, William Dodd, Betty Duncan, James Duncan, Judith Edmonson, Hannah Fincher, Mary Fincher, Peggy Finny, David Floyd, Elizabeth Floyd, Jean Floyd, Susanne Gamblen, William Gamblen, Edward Garret, Elizabeth Garret, Joab Garret, Ailey Garrot, Henry Garrot, Joseph Garrot, Priscilla Garrot, Robert Gilla, Amey Goodwin, Delilah Goodwin, Nancy Goodwin, Nathan Granger, Betty Greer, Caleb Greer, Carleton Greer;

Also James Greer, Joshua Greer, Rachel Greer, Robert Greer, Sally (Sarah) Greer, Thomas Greer, Jr., and Sr., William Greer, Mary Gregory, Robert Gregory, Betsey Haddock, James Haddock, Rebekah Hail (Hale), Moses Hains, Sarah Harling, Jemima Harras, Hizziah Hart, Joseph Hart, Phoebe Hays, Samuel Hays, James Head, Thomas Head, Anne Hendrix, Ruth High, Hosea Holcombe, Jesse Holcombe, Philip Holcombe, Sarah Holcombe, Joseph Hollingsworth, James Hollis, Sarah Hopkins, Avery Howard, Betsey Howard, Hannah Howard, Harmon Howard, James Howard, Jesse Howard, John Howard, Lettice Howard, Mary Howard, Elisha Hunt, Lewis Hunt, John Ingrum, Betsey Jackson, Cassy Jackson, Delilah Jackson, Delilah Jackson, Jr., Frederick Jackson, Jr., and Sr., John Jackson, Mark Jackson, Mary Jackson, Nancy Jackson, Nathaniel Jackson, Patty Jackson, Ralph Jackson, Sarah Jackson, William Jackson, Eleanor Johnson;

Also Thomas Johnson, Delilah Jones, Sarah Jones, John Kelly, Susanna Kelly (wife of Joseph), Betsey Lamb, Catherine Lamb, Robert Lamb, William Lamb, Absalom Lancaster, Katherine Langston, Nathan Langston, Peter Laurence, Jr., and Sr., Seitha Lawson, Susanna Lawson, Anne Little, Joseph Little, Patty Little, Samuel Little, Rebecca Littlefields, William Littlefields, John Lucas, George McClain, Daniel Malone, Elizabeth Malone, Mary (Polly?) Martindale, Richard Mayfield, Hamer Mitchell and wife;

Also Archer Muckle, Sarah Muckle, Bird Murphy, Charlotte Murphy, Mark Murphy, Sion Murphy, Susanna Mur-

phy, Betsey Murrell, Nancy Murrell, Franky Newman, William Newman, George Night, Sarah Night, Aaron Nix, Benjamin Nix, Joseph Nix, Milly Nix, Moses Nix, Rebecca Norman, Betsey Norman, David Norman, Jesse Norman, John Norman, Jonathan Norman, Judith Norman, Patty Norman, Polly Norman, Thomas Norman, William Norris, William Palmer, Enoch Pearson, Tabitha Pearson, William Pearson, Martha Peek, James Penny, John Penny, Ann Polk, Betsey Polk, Rachel Polk;

Also Humphrey Posey and wife, John Powel, Jar Powers, Nathaniel Powers, Mary Prewit, Oney Prev Amey Prince, Betty Prince, Edith Prince, Edith Prince wife of Richard, Edward Prince, James Prince, Joseph Prince, Mary Prince, Richard Prince, Sarah Prince, Josiah Prince, Sisley Prince, William Prince, Amey Putman, Barnet Putman, Betty Putman, Edith Putman, Eleanor Putman, Heira Putman, James Putman, John Putman, Joice Putman, Joseph Putman, Sarah Putman, Thomas Putman and wife, Ambrose Ray, Elizabeth Ray, Hosea Ray, Polly Ray, Sarah Ray, Thomas Ray, William Ray, Sr., Joseph Reeder, Ma Reeder, Rev. Jacob Roberts;

Also Alley Robinson, Christopher Robinson, Sea Rogers, Woodson Rountree, Thomas Scales, Lewis Shelton, Betsey Sibley, Anne Simmons, Carpenter Simmons, Polly Simmons, Sarah Simmons, Susanna Simmons, wife of Pato Samuel Simpson, Sarah Simpson, Caleb Smith, Dicy Smith, James Smith, John Smith, Jr., Polly Smith, William Smith, Elizabeth Sparks, John Sparks, Amey Spillers, James Spillers, Joseph Springer and wife;

Also Benjamin Stone, Anne White, Milley White, Moses White and wife, Polly White, Robert White, William White, Sarah Whitlock, Susanna Whitlock, Anne Wilbanks, Ave Wilbanks, Gilliam Wilbanks, Hosea Wilbanks, Isaac Wilbanks, Joseph Wilbanks, Shadrack Wilbanks, Susanna Wilbanks, William Wilbanks, Jr. and Sr., James Willard and wife Winny, John Williams, Rachel Williams, David Wimpy, Polly Wis (Win), Wiot Wood and wife, Anne Woodson, Betty Woodson, Mary Woodson, Phoebe Woodson, Polly Woodson, Robert Woodson, Thomas Woodson, Elizabeth Yarbrough, Lewis Yarbrough, Betty Young, Rebecca Young.

On the 10th of November, 1798, Thomas Greer was licensed to preach the Gospel. On the 9th November 1799 Thomas Greer and Spencer Bobo were ordained to the ministry by Frederick Crowder and Joshua Palmer. These pioneer heralds of the Cross were greatly blessed in their labors.

"The former was a man of peculiar manners; tall and commanding in appearance, plain, rather rough in talk, but very zealous and energetic as a worker. He died at an advanced age, greatly beloved by the church.

The latter died about the year 1828 in Spartanburg County, in the vicinity of Woodruff's, bequeathing a considerable sum of money to the church at that place, which was swallowed up by the convulsions of war. On the 3rd of December 1799, Lewis Hunt was granted license to preach.

The beginning of the year 1800 marks an epoch in the history of the church. The Holy Spirit, like the dews of heaven, gently descends upon her. Nearly every month accessions are made to her members. There was no spasmodic effort, nor great revival meetings, as we term them, but a