# Nicholas County Memories

By Lewis P. Scott

The calling of Dr. S. Evans Brown to the ministry of the Carlisle Presbyterian Church, and his coming installation on Sunday, Nov. 8, suggests that in connection with this event, the new minister as well as the present church members and even those of other denominations may be interested in a report made in 1942 by Mabelle Scott on the history of the Carlisle Presbyterian Church from its founding to the date of the report. It is submitted in it's entirety as a memorial to her for her devoted efforts in education both in church and school.

A Sketch Of The
Carlisle Presbyterian Church
By Mabelle Scott

The sources from which are gathered the statements made in this paper are four:

1, A history of Bourbon Street, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky 1882, edited by William Henry Perrin and published in Chicago by O.L. Baskin & Co. historical publishers.

2, Authenicated copy of the "Trustees Book of the Concord Congregation.

3, Minutes of the Session of the Carlisle Presbyterian Church 1843-1920, the earlier parts of which were collected and written in by the Rev. H.M. Scudder D.D.

4, The minutes of the Session of the Carlisle Presbyterian Church from 1920 until now (1942).

From the first of these sources we fine that the Carlisle Church was made up largely of those who had been members of the Concord Church which was the first religious organization in Nicholas County.

It is interesting to note that as early as "in the year 1793 a number of Presbyterians united together and built of logs, a house of worship, called and known by the name Concord Meeting House, for the use of said congregation."

In or about the year 1804, Barton W. Stone, pastor, with Amos Hall, Thomas Nesbit and others formed a new Society called Christians or New Lights, after which time the two parties used the house, each party electing three trustees.

It was some years later that the town of Carlisle was laid out (1816); and in 1817 the Rev. John Rankin, then pastor of one of the parties using the Concord Meeting House, began to preach at more or less regular intervals in the Court House at Carlisle. This continued until 1821 when the Presbyterian Church of Carlisle, made up mostly of persons bearing letters from Concord, was organized with Rev. John Rankin as minister.

Somewhat earlier, a certain Mr. Smith, a Presbyterian, set up a Sunday School to which those of other denominations were invited. From this developed: (1) a joint Sunday School of Presbyterians and Baptists, and (2) the decisions of these two denominations to build a house of worship for their common use. A lot was bought on the corner of Maple (later Broadway) and Mulberry Streets, and there was erected a plain substantial rectangular church, with two doors opening to the East. The pulpit stood between these two doors so that those entering faced the congregation. The Baptists had the use of the building for preaching services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month; the Presbyterians had the 1st and 3rd. The joint Sunday School was held every Sunday morning. This church was built in 1839.

In 1878 the Baptists sold their half interest in the church property to the Presbyterians for $1300.00. This included furniture, bell, organ, and lights. The Presbyterians at once began remodeling the building. A vestibule was built in front, surmounted by a tall spire; and the pulpit was placed in the rear. The Carlisle Mercury of the issue of Sept. 2, 1880 gives the following description of the remodeled church:

"The building has a seating capacity of 340; ceiling 20 feet high; the windows are Gothic, fitted with various colored glass; the walls and ceiling are finished in the highest fresco art; the casings and wainscoting are splendidly framed in walnut; the floor in the isles, and the area about the pulpit and door covered with scarlet and damask ingrain carpet; the pulpit is after a recherche design richly finished with mahogany veneering; the pews are models of comfort and elegance, while the chandeliers, three in number of six burners each, are as novel and pretty as anything we have seen in that line.....The external front view of the building is grand and commanding. The tower (brick) rises to a height of 40 feet and is surmounted by a spire 76 feet high, making a total height of 116 feet."

The remodeled building stood until March 1903 when the present house of worship was built. Later (1926) the ladies of the Auxiliary, after years of faithful labor, installed a pipe-organ; and in 1939, Sunday School classrooms and a kitchen were established in the basement at a cost of about $2000.00. This being a legacy left the church by the will of ruling elder H.M. Taylor, who died in 1927.

When Dr. Scudder came to reside in Carlisle, the church bought for a Manse the place now (1942) owned by Mrs. Fanny Soper on College Hill. It was later exchanged for a residence somewhat nearer the center of town; and that in turn for a cottage on Broadway nearly opposite the church. Since 1914, after considerable expenditure for remodeling and repairs, it has become an attractive and comfortable dwelling.

To turn now from the church beginings and church buildings there are other items of interest to be considered.

These lies before me a vloume of Sessional records, the greater part of which was collected and written out by Dr. Henry M. Scudder. A priceless volume of which the following is the introduction:

"The first volume of the sessional records of the Presbyterian Church of Carlisle, Ky., embracing its history from its founding until 1843 has been lost, and the following pages will be devoted to such items of information as may serve to give a condensed view of the progress of the church from 1843 onward."

"The reports to Presbytery 1843-1844 were: Total communicants 46; Added by examination 16; Added by letter, none; Died 3; Contributed to Home-Mis. $16.66. J.M. McConnaughy, Mod."

At this time Mr. McConnaughy was serving as minister for one Sunday a month, which was the small beginnings of the church. The absentees were never added in a protracted meeting in June 1843.

After this the growth of the church was steady, but not at any time very large, though protracted meetings were held every year. One thing to be noted is that while large families was the rule in those days, most of those added to the church were adults, the heads of families; and that in almost every case cited, the wife, if belonging to another church, promptly joined the Presbyterian Church with her husband.

The earlier years of the record of 1843-1920 show that Carlisle Presbyterians took their religion seriously. Members were called up before the session and admonished for their sins. Often offenders were publicly rebuked from the pulpit.

Another interesting thing is that on several occasions negro slaves were admitted to the full fellowship of the church.

Following the Civil War there was in Carlisle, as elsewhere in this unhappy country, a period of confusion and disorder. Instances after instance occured where Presbyterians coming in from other communities were received not by letter, but on their own statements as letters could not be had from disorganized churches.

I quote from the session Book 1843-1920, page 180;

"About this date a division took place in the church occasioned by the troubles which were afflicting the country, and which brought disaster to so many churches. Preaching was maintained for some time by the two branches North and South, small as the church was, until in 1870, Rev. Henry M. Scudder agreed to preach once a month for those known as the Southern Church. The other branch did not long attempt to maintain separate worship; and in the course of time God's Spirit healed the breach and people united harmoniously in maintaining Presbyterian worship."

This was the beginning of Henry M. Scudder's long and beloved ministery to the Carlisle Presbyterian Church, a ministry which was ended only by his death Sept. 30, 1911. A man of remarkable ability, though frequently called to large and influential churches, he was content to devote his life to the service of the two small congregations of Elizaville and Carlisle, each of which he served two Sundays a month. Under his care the church here grew from a mere handful to a maximum membership of 257.

Dr. Scudder's predecessors in the Carlisle from 1843 were as follows: John McConnaughy, 1843; John T. Hendricks, 1843; James Mathews, 1849; James P. Hendricks, 1855; Henry P. Thompson, 1857; Charles W. Price, Richard Carson no date; J.M. Scott, 1868 (Mabelle Scott's father).

It may be well here to complete the roll of ministers who have served the Carlisle Presbyterian Church, each of them as pastor: Anton VerHulst, 1913; F.D. Thomas Jr., 1915; Steven B. Chander, 1917; B.B. Hester, 1921; W.J. Gammon, 1924; D.T. Brandenburg, 1927; Henry W. Alexander, 1930; C.V. Crabb, 1936, the present incumbent (1943). (Editor's Note: Three additional ministers were W.L. Smith, W.R. Raborn and John A. Daniel bringing the history up to date with the installation of Dr. S. Evans Brown on Sunday, Nov. 8, 1970).

Since the organization of the Woman's Auxillary, its members have become what one member of the present Session calls "the very backbone of the church." Not only have they installed a pipe-organ and established a well furnished dining room and kitchen, but they have been helpful and dependable in many other ways. For years they kept up a Halloween Carnival and a Christmas Cake Sale, the proceeds of which together with their personal contributions have made a sizeable sum each year to be devoted to good works.

Especially have they done well in the Weeks of Self Denial and Prayer for Home and Foreign Missions, and in their contributions to Benevolences, in addition to their cheerful giving of labor and money, they have been a great help to our pastors in that they are faithful in their attendance upon church services.

There has always been maintained an excellent Sunday School. Its membership at one time reached a peak of 100. Other work among the young people has flourished at times. At present there are two youth organizations, the Senior, while small in number, is fine in quality, and the Junior which has a larger membership, and is made up of exceptionally promising material. Our pastor and his wife are leaders in this work.

It has been difficult of late for the church to raise the money for its maintenance. With an active membership of fewer than 100, many of whom are children, it has been a hard pull for the faithful few. Many have been the removals and deaths entered upon the Session's records, but many also, we hope, have been the records of devotion and faithful service kept in the great Book of Life.

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NICHOLAS COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH TAXING DISTRICT

## Financial Statement

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1970
Published in accordance with KRS 424.220

### Receipts

| | |
|---|---|
| Balance carried forward from previous fiscal year | $5,126.00 |
| Returned unexpended funds from county health department's budget of previous fiscal year | None |
| Amount received from collection of public health tax for current fiscal year less sheriff's fee | 12,152.09 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | 17,278.09 |

### Disbursements

To the County Health Department for general operation.

| Date Paid | |
|---|---|
| 7/7/69 | $3,000.00 |
| 8/15/69 | 1,000.00 |
| 12/16/69 | 3,000.00 |
| 2/12/70 | 1,000.00 |
| 4/16/70 | 3,798.07 |
| Total | $11,798.07 |

To the M.C. Blair Ins. Agency on Dec. 5, 1969 $80.00
To Hunt Printing for Supplies Oct. 3, 1969 $6.95
To Ralph Bowen for Furnace June 8, 1970 $17.90
To M.C. Blair Insurance Agency for Insurance May 5, 1970 $127.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS ---- 12,029.92
BALANCE ---- 5,248.17

This is to certify that at the close of business on June 30, 1970, a balance of $5,248.17 was credited to the account of the Nicholas County Public Health Taxing District.

/s/ William N. Young
(Officer or Cashier of Bank
Deposit Bank of Carlisle
(Name of Bank)

Witness my hand this the 9th day of November, 1970.
/s/Jack T. Morford, MD, Chairman
Nicholas County Public Health Taxing District

Commonwealth of Kentucky
County of Nicholas

Subscribed and sworn to by William N. Young and Jack T. Morford, M.D. before me on the 9th day of November, 1970.

My commission expires: June 18, 1972
/s/ Brenda B. Stone Notary Public

*Ladies Dress For The Part*

The Mission Society of the Carlisle Christian Church celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Church on Wednesday, Nov. 4, at the Church. Miss Mary Frances Fisher read a resume of the history of the Church. --Frey Photo

## Coe Ridge Story Told

Legendary Coe Ridge, once the scene of the largest single colony of moonshiners in Kentucky, has been immortalized in print by a Western Kentucky University professor.

"The Saga of Coe Ridge," by Dr. Lynwood Montell, traces the origin and life style of a group of exslaves and their descendants, who made and marketed illicit corn whisky for over half a century.

The setting for the book, a rugged 300-acre hill-land tract given just after the Civil War to a newly-freed family of 18 by their former owner, lies in Cumberland Co., some 10 miles north of the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

The inaccessibility of the region, and poor farming practices on the part of the Coe family led the clan, as early as 1890, to the bottling of their corn produce for economic survival.

The clan continued to grow in number and pursue their chosen profession relatively unhindered until 1942, when a new revenue agent, W.B. "Big Six" Henderson conducted the first of some 406 raids over 26 years which was to lead to the break-up of the operation.

Montell, whose native Monroe County lies just across the Cumberland River from the Ridge, began work on the book while a doctoral candidate at Indiana University.

His research methods, consisting solely of interviews with former colony residents, are somewhat novel among scholars, but were dictated by the lack of early written material about the settlement.

He noted that very few of the original Ridge residents still live in their native county, as most have migrated to the industrial centers of the north.

As to the accuracy of the many interviews he conducted, he said the similarity of the stories was amazing.

"They may have embellished the accounts to make a good story, but no one intentionally lied."

He said the colony of escapees, early in its history, was looked upon with much disdain by neighboring white residents.

"They apparently lived in total fear of their neighbors to the south. Their whole being was for the defense of their homes and families."

He noted the colony was the scene of many attacks by whites, who attempted to drive off the Coe residents, but that the attacks had subsided by the 1920's.

Montell credits the construction of the first road across the Ridge in 1938 for the eventual disintegration of the colony.

"The remoteness of the community fostered the illegal liquor trade, and the men brought in the law and signaled the end of the colony," he said.

The exploits of Henderson, who led the charge of the law in cracking the Coe Ridge moonshining, have become as much a part of the legend of the area as the residents themselves.

On that first foray, the raiding party listed the destruction of seven copper stills, along with 4000 gallons of mash and over 200 gallons of whisky.

But, complete eradication of the Ridge's No. 1 industry did not come easy.

Henderson said in 1944, after repeated raids, an informant told him of 13 moonshiners still in full operation. And as late as 1962, one of his raiding parties found and destroyed a single still.

Henderson, though completely dedicated to wiping out every still in operation on the Ridge, noted his campaign soon became a game between him and the moonshiners.

He admitted the colony's early reputation was fearsom, but said he only considered one or two of his adversaries dangerous.

He recounted finding, on a visit recently, his picture adorning a wall in the family home of some former Ridge residents.

He was surprised, since he at one time had been responsible for the arrest and conviction of two family members on moonshining charges.

When Henderson asked why they should want a picture of him, the man replied, "Why Mister 'Six,' I just want to show everybody I knows you."

His favorite story concerns a mid-day raid when his group had managed to slip unnoticed onto the Ridge, and hide under the one-room Coe Schoolhouse, just as the day's session was coming to an end.

He remembers the closing remarks of the teacher, himself a Ridge resident, as he dismissed his class.

"Now chilluns, tomorrow we takes up mixin' in the mash."

Dr. Montell noted once the colony members left the ridge and headed north, most of the once-convicted moonshiners "went straight."

"The situation at Coe Ridge forced their illegal behavior, and this pattern did not continue."

He added, "Today, only one man still lives on the Ridge, where some 36 families were living as late as 1942."

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## Hunting and Fishing In Kentucky

By Harry Towles

FRANKFORT, KY.--Migratory bird seasons and rules and regulations are most difficult to put into language clear enough for everyone to understand. Of course, many hunters don't want to understand and use any loopholes that may be detected to violate these federal and state laws. That percentage is very small, however, and most migratory bird law violations are the result of ignorance or the lack of ability to interpret the regulations after they have been formulated in Washington, Atlanta, and Kentucky, along with many other way stations. After careful study by Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel the regulations will be interpreted in the following story. To be sure all phases are not included--only what the hunter may or may not kill per day or have in his possession.

So, with the hope that the following story will be helpful, here goes:

First, the duck season. Statewide it opens on Dec. 4 and extends through Jan. 17. For the regulated hunt on the Ballard Wildlife Management area the dates are Dec. 4, but only through Jan. 16, since there is no Sunday hunting in this area and since Jan. 17 is on Sunday. By the way, no Christmas Day hunting is permitted in this area, either.

The coot season statewide is the same as the Kentucky duck season and the bag and possession limits are 15 and 30.

The shooting hours for all waterfowl are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset, statewide, but for Ballard Wildlife Management area the shooting shall be from one-half hour before sunrise until 12 o'clock noon, prevailing time.

Now here's what you may kill or have in your possession: The basic daily bag and possession limits: four mallards or four black ducks, daily bag limit is four. Possession limit is eight. Wood ducks--2 daily--4 possession. Canvasback or redhead--1 daily--1 possession. The above ducks may be taken in aggregate for the daily bag limit of four, but no more than two may be wood ducks, and only 1 can be either a redhead or canvasback. The possession limit is 8, with no more than 4 wood ducks and only one may be either a redhead or canvasback.

There is a bonus offered on scaup which season opens on Dec. 4 and extends through Jan. 17 statewide and limits for which are two daily or four in possession. And two of this species may be added to the daily duck limit of 4 and 4 to the possession limit of eight, making it possible, including the scaup, for a person to have six ducks in the bag limit and 12 in possession. But there is another bonus, if you'll read the regulations a bit further. This bonus is for blue-winged teal, which season opens on Dec. 4 and continues through Dec. 12, statewide. During this period the duck hunter, who has already added the scaup to his basic daily and possession limits of ducks and therefore has six and 12, may also add two blue-winged teal to the daily limit and 4 blue-winged teal to his possession limit, and therefore, counting his basic limit and two bonuses, may have a legal daily limit of eight, with a possession limit of 16.

If you are not thoroughly confused by now add this bit of information: There is a merganser season which coincides with the regular duck season statewide during which 5 mergansers may be taken daily, with a possession limit of 10, which limits may not include more than one hooded merganser in the bag limit or two in the possession limit.

Now that the duck season has been so expeditiously dealt with we'll run down basically that the goose season will open on Nov. 16, statewide, and extend through Jan. 24. Basically both the daily and possession limits are 5. But that's another story which we'll deal with later.

## VA Children Recieve Benefits

The Veterans Administration reported nearly 51,000 children will receive a 10 per cent increase in benefits under a new law, which also enlarges the definition of "children" for purposes of veterans benefits.

"Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Donald E. Johnson, said these benefits, which became effective July 1, 1970 will amount to about $3.6 million the first year.

The new law makes the adopted child of a veteran (for benefit purposes) a dependent from the date of interlocutory (intermediate) decree is filed, rather than the date it becomes final.

The law covers payments (dependency and indemnity compensation--DIC) to widows, certain children, and parents of veterans and servicemen. If death of the veteran or serviceman was caused by a service-connected disease or injury.

Johnson said the law provides DIC to children (where there is no widow entitled) at increased monthly rates of $88 for one child, $127 for two children, $164 for three children, with an extra $32 added to this rate for each child in excess of three.

Monthly supplementary DIC payments are raised from $29 to $32 for children under 18 who are permanently disabled and incapable of self-support. Benefits for children above 18 will be increased from $80 to $88 monthly.

The VA administrator added that if the child is a student 18 to 23 years of age (and the widow or mother is entitled to DIC), the payment will be increased from $41 to $45 monthly.

## UK To Publish Pictorial History

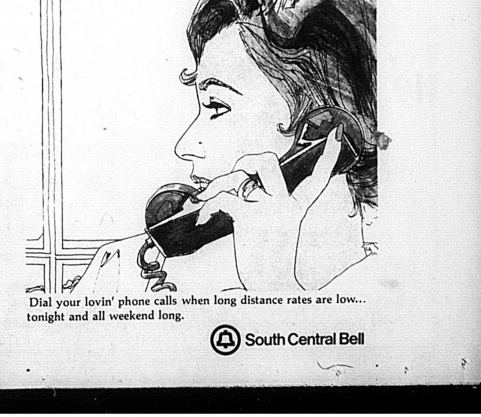
A pictorial history of Kentucky featuring approximately 1,000 illustrations (140 in full color) will be published in October of 1971 by the University Press of Kentucky.

J. Winston Coleman Jr., noted Kentucky historian and bibliophile, will be senior editor, with Lawrence S. Thompson, professor of classics in the University of Kentucky as associate editor. Seventy-five other Kentucky historians, authors, librarians, and journalists will assist in the preparations of the volume.

Based on an outline by historian Thomas D. Clark, the history of the Commonwealth will be traced pictorially from the prehistoric era to the present.

The illustrated history is expected to be one of the most significant and colorful works of its kind ever done, according to Dr. Coleman, who points to "the rich and varied history of Kentucky, the distinction of the contributors, and the fortunate existence of large photographic and other illustrative resources on Kentucky history." Mr. Coleman's own extensive photographic collection will be exploited for the book.

Aid from the Kentucky Department of Public Information in providing illustrations and color sections will permit the price of the pictorial history to be within the range of students, tourists and others interested in living or investing in Kentucky.

Helping organize the project and providing assistance are former Commissioner of Public Information James Host (now parks commissioner), his successor Kenneth Harper, and Robert Goldsborough, deputy commissioner.

Among the contributors will be University of Kentucky scholars A.D. Kirwan, Holman Hamilton, James F. Hopkins, Mary Wilma Hargreaves, Rhea Taylor, Hambleton Tapp, Clement Eaton, Joseph Massie, A. Lee Coleman, Burton Milward, Jacqueline Bull, and Charles Atcher; Leonard Curry, Joe Creason, Richard Hill, and Mrs. Josephine Johnson, Louisville; Lowell Harrison, J. Crawford Crowe, Julia Neal, Clyde Carver, and Kenneth Clark of Western Kentucky University; George Young of Morehead University; Danny Hatcher and Charles Hinda of Murray State University; Elizabeth Gilbert and Richard Drake of Berea College; Quentin Kean of Eastern Kentucky University, and Charles Talbert, Henry Harned, Glenn Cliff, and Mrs. Wade Hampton Whitney.