

## STORY OF THE GEART REVIVAL AT FORK HILL

The following was copied from The Lancaster News, May 2, 1939:

Our good friend and subscriber, J.A. Reaves, has brought us a copy of The Lancaster News, May 22, 1909, in which is an account of a revival meeting held 100 years ago and is still attracting attention. A number of people have asked Mr. Reaves to secure them a copy of the paper containing the story. Since we have no more copies of this paper other than the one in our permanent files we are publishing the revival story which follows:

What must have been one of the most remarkable religious revivals within the history of Lancaster county was held at Fork Hill Baptist church seventy years ago. It is doubtful if any of the oldest citizens now living have any personal recollection of the great event, though some of them may have heard members of a former generation speak of the memorable revival.

The only information we have on the subject is contained in a paper, yellow with age, which has been found among some old papers which belonged to William J. Connors, who was father of the late W.M. Connors of the Lancaster bar. It appears from this paper that a series of meetings was held at Fork Hill, beginning on August 15th, 1839 during which as many as 159 persons joined the church and a number of others were restored to membership. Among the converts were some colored persons, showing that the whites of those days looked after the spiritual as well as the physical welfare of the slaves.

The Fork Hill officers are now getting

up a history of the church and for their information, as well as that of many others interested, we here publish the paper in question. On its back appears the following endorsement:

A list of Names of Candidates Received at the Fork Hill Church During the Several Protracted Meetings in the Fall of 1839.

The names on the inside as follows under the following head:

Names of Candidates Received and welcomed to the Ordinance of Baptism During our Protracted Meeting in 1839:

the  
August 15th

Dioy Broen, Harry Baskin (colored), Eleanor Blackmon, Sarah Ooten, Mary Falkenbury, Masorie Baskin, James J. Blackmon, Anna A. Blackmon, Elizure J. Blackmon, Mary Blackmon, Delilah Blackmon, Erasmus G. Gaston, William Cunningham, Andrew B. Blackmon, Mary Ann Giles, Anna M. Blackmon, Titus Baskin (colored), Sawkin Reaves, James Reaves, Jr., Samuel Sims, Garrett Sims, Junsey Sims, Margaret Broen.

August the 16th and 17th

Nancy Reaves, Malinda Adams, Anna Small, William Owens, William J. Connors, Britain Blackmon, Sr., Elizabeth Turner, Allen Small, Woody Estridge, Clarrissa Baker, Bingham Blackmon, William Baker, Emma J. Connors, John Sims, Rolley Hammond, Sarah Hammond.

(FORK HILL REVIVAL continued)

October the 13th, 1839

Jane Langley, Sarah Blackmon (colored), Franky Hanson, Elizabeth Reaves, Sr., Rose Hail (colored), Martha Hilton, Sabina Langley, William Eastridge, Susanna Eastridge, Nancy Blackmon (colored).

October the 14th, 1839

Zacharias N. Thompson, Hannah Small, James Small, Milly Eastridge, Margaret Baskin, Elizabeth Langley, Peter Small (colored), Alexander Coin.

October the 15th, 1839

Salmon Williams, Susanna Marshal, Elizabeth Belk, Joseph Hail, James Liles, Jane Baskin, Minor A. Blackmon, Elizabeth Liles, Marilla Blackmon.

October the 16th, 1839

David Chace, Bynham W. Small, Mathew Eunice, Menrow Small (colored).

October the 17th, 1839

Robert Belk, Thomas Small, Jr., Mary Small, William M. Blackmon, Maggie Liles, Ruth Vickery, Joseph Eastridge, Jefferson Belk, Joel B. Small, John Belk, Jr., George Liles (restored), Lydia Liles, Mary Eastridge, Richard Ooten, William Wright, Chapman Small, Mary S. Blackmon.

(FORK HILL REVIVAL continued)

October the 18th, 1839

Samuel Belk, Martha Blackmon, Sarah Williams, Eliza J. Blackmon, Hunter Stegner, Thomas Blackmon (colored), William Small.

October the 19th, 1839

James W. Thompson, William Roberts, Winny Ooten, Elizabeth C. Falkenberg, Jane Small, Jr., Wiley Liles, Joshua Small, Uriah Williams, Benjamin Stegner, Arcady Chace (restored), Herred Johnston, Mary Ooten, Thomas Reaves (colored), William Reaves, William Liles (restored), John Blackmon.

(FORK HILL REVIVAL)  
continued

August the 18th

Mary H. Blackmon, Absolun Blackmon (colored)  
Robert Ellis (Colored), Stephen Small, Jane  
Small, Sr., Jemina Goin, Mary Blackmon (colored).

September the 9th

Levy Miles, Martha Ann Ellis, Merena Black-  
mon, Martha Sims, Martha Goin, Elizabeth S.  
Blackmon, Elizabeth H. Reaves, Joanna Hinson,  
James A. Blackmon, Dolly Reaves (colored),  
Letha L. Blackmon, John A. Blackmon.

September the 10th, 1839

Charles C. Gonnors, Hannah Belk, Elizabeth  
Goin, Anna Melissa Blackmon, Melissa Caroline  
Reaves, Sarah Graves, Eleanor Matilda Black-  
mon, Eleanor Small, James H. Blackmon, Andrew  
B. Ellis, John Reaves Jr., Charles Gaston (col-  
ored).

September the 11th, 1839

Holsey Blackmon, Bynagh Adams, Jesse  
Turner, John Goin, Levy Wright, William W.  
Wright, Blackmon, Hardy Hail, Elizabeth A.  
Caston, William C. Ellis, Elizabeth M. Baskin,  
Delila Belk, Tharaza Thompson.

October the 12th, 1839

John Reaves, Sr., Elizabeth Roberts, Anna  
Estridge, Josiah B. Blackmon, Sarah Reaves,  
Frederick T. Small, Buck Reaves (colored),  
Frank Reaves (colored).

*Elizabeth Ann Caston (Betsey) later married  
John T. Copeland (school teacher) son of Rev. Joe T. Copeland  
2nd pastor of Flat Creek church. Thomas J. Caston who  
lived was brother of Betsey, both being children of Jesse H. and  
Mary Copeland.*