

UNION CHURCH AND CEMETERY

Short History & Directions

Union Presbyterian Church was founded in 1797 by Highland Scots emigrants. Until the late 19th century, services were conducted in both Gaelic and English. The current sanctuary was built in 1880, but the old 1803 building is still standing (as a barn) on the Boots Kelly farm, about four miles north. At one time, counting both white and black members, it was the largest attended Presbyterian Church in all of North Carolina. A boarding school once stood across Pee Dee Road from it. It was the scene of great revivals in 1801 and 1833, with many of the Blue family being converted.

A number of the descendants of both emigrant Duncan Blue, and also of his nephew "River Daniel" Blue, are buried here, as is River Daniel himself (one of the elders.) I can mention only a few of them:

- [generation 1] River Daniel Blue, an emigrant from Arichonan (in North Knapdale of Argyll) in 1804. His wife, Christian Lamonds Blue, is buried near him, but her stone has been lost. Many of you descend from this couple. His house (built in 1795 and still inhabited by his descendants) is standing, much as it was, in the Eureka section of Moore County. Some of "River Daniel's" brothers immigrated to New York State, and some of their many descendants are with us today. Several original letters between River Daniel and his New York brothers survive, and are copied in the Blue History.
- [generation 4] John Andrew Blue and wife, Sarah Jane McLean Blue. John A. Blue was the son of John McMillan Blue (who is buried at Bethesda) and grandson of John Campbell Blue (buried at Lakeview). John A. was a prominent farmer and elder in Union Church (and later at Eureka Church – a daughter of Union - nearby).
- [generation 4] Malcolm Jasper Blue and wife, Flora Ann Currie (herself a descendant of River Daniel Blue). Malcolm J. Blue was a son of John McMillan Blue and was a surveyor, NC Senator and elder in Union Church. He has many descendants.
- [generation 4] Captain Evander McNair Blue and wife, Martha N. McNeill. Captain "Mack" Blue had served with great distinction in the Confederate Army and was among "the immortal six hundred" officers, imprisoned near Charleston. His father was Archibald McMillan Blue, who is buried at Old Bethesda Church. Archibald M. Blue was the son of John Campbell Blue and Catherine McMillan. The house of Captain "Mack" still stands in thick trees immediately to the west of Union church cemetery (it belongs to our cousin, Lawrence McNeill). Many in attendance at this reunion are the descendants of Captain Mack Blue.

- There are many other blue relatives buried in the Union Church cemetery, as you will see from the tombstones. For the most part, the surnames found in this graveyard are much the same as you will see in cemeteries in the western Highlands and Islands of Scotland, (as some visiting Scots from Inverness pointed out to me only a few days ago, i.e. July 2007, when I showed them Union Church graveyard.)

UNION CHURCH HOMECOMING

Union Church will celebrate the bi-centennial of its founding on September 9th, 2007.

DIRECTIONS