

North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society

Winter, 2016

Spring Tour 2016: April 1-2

Spring in "Connemara" and the Blue Ridge Mountains



"Connemara" home of Carl Sandburg Photo by Sam Martin

Our Spring Tour for 2016 will take us to the Lower Blue Ridge region of southwestern North Carolina, where we will explore the stories of those who settled in this area and will visit some of their churches and old cemeteries. We will be in the PCUSA Presbytery of Western North Carolina and in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian's Synod of North Carolina.

During the first part of our tour, we will explore the *Carl Sandburg National Historic Site*. Sandburg was a three-time Pulitzer Prize writer, known primarily for his poetry and his six-volume biography of Lincoln, although his collection and singing of American folk songs and his children's books endeared him to many. He left school at 13, and his youth was filled with manual labor jobs throughout the West. After attending Lombard College and marrying Lillian Steichen, Sandburg became a journalist for the Chicago Daily News. There he wrote many of his best-known poems, including "Fog" and "Chicago." In 1945 the Sandburgs moved to "Connemara," where he produced about one-third of his published works and where Lillian (called Paula) developed an award-winning goat herd. The goats are still one of the attractions on the estate.

Mills River Presbyterian Church was started before 1830 as a small log church in the valley northwest of Hendersonville. Education has always been important to Presbyterians, and in 1830 a two-story building was constructed as the Mills River Academy. School was on the first floor, and the congregation met on the second floor. The academy continued through 1908 and was the first Henderson County school. We will visit the cemetery and church and hear a little about the rich history of the area.

Trinity Presbyterian Church is a more modern structure. We will visit the beautiful grounds of the church, the columbarium, and the church itself.

One of the most historic churches in Henderson County is *St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church*. The church is part of the National Register of Historic Places and was begun as a private chapel by residents of the low country of South Carolina. The chapel burned and another chapel was built of brick in 1833. The chapel was deeded to the Episcopal



Diocese of Western North Carolina about three years later. We will investigate the history of southern aristocracy and slavery with regards to the church and the area, as well as the prominence of the residents of the community of Flat Rock, the "Little Charleston of the Mountains."

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church traces its roots beyond the Church of Scotland to the earlier Covenanters. (More information on our sister denomination is on p. 2.) In Flat Rock we will visit *Pinecrest Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*, and will learn more about its history in N.C.

Our accommodations headquarters will be the Best Western Hendersonville Inn (see p. 6). Our evening meal on Friday will be at the Golden Corral nearby, where we have reserved a meeting room. Just identify yourself as a member of NCPHS and pay as you enter, as meals are not included in registration. Our Saturday lunch and business meeting will be at the Moose Café, a farm-to-table restaurant well-known for their appetizer of homemade biscuits and apple butter.

The registration form for our meeting is on p. 7. •

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

The history of the Associate Reformed branch of Presbyterianism requires a look back at the history of all Presbyterians whose roots are in post-Reformation Scotland. Threatened by both the Roman Catholics and the established Church of England, protestants in Scotland bound themselves together by covenant to maintain the Presbyterian doctrine and policy as the sole religion in their nation. Armies were raised supporting the English Parliament against Charles I and were sent to protect protestants in northern Ireland from Catholic uprisings. The civil war within Scotland (1644-47) between Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Catholics was bitter. During this turmoil the Westminster Confession of Faith was written, and it was ratified by the Scottish Parliament in 1649. Before long the Covenanters also fought Cromwell's Puritans. The Restoration of Charles II brought severe persecution of Scottish Presbyterians, including the banning of religious assemblies that were not Church of England. Many met anyway in secret in the hills.

In 1690, after William and Mary had succeeded to the throne, the various Presbyterian congregations became the established Church of Scotland. Although freedom from the episcopal Church of England was welcomed, the close alliance of the Presbyterian Church and the State continued to cause controversy and dissension. In 1733 a pastor by the name of Ebenezer Erskine led a group of Christians known as Seceders in forming a separate *Associate* Presbytery. Ten years later churches closely allied to the Covenanter tradition of the 17th century organized themselves into the *Reformed* Presbytery. Members of both groups migrated to Northern Ireland and thence to Pennsylvania, where both presbyteries were organized before the American Revolution.

In 1782 most of the churches in these presbyteries united into the Associate Reformed Synod, with congregations before long in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, North and South Carolina, and Georgia. By 1803 there were four Synods and one General Synod. However, the Synod of the West left in 1823, and in 1858 the northern part of the church and many separate Seceder congregations joined to form the United Presbyterian Church in North America, leaving only the Synod of the South as the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Today there are ARP churches in 21 states and in three provinces of Canada. Erskine College and Seminary are in Due West, South Carolina. Their conference center is Bonclarken ("good clear vision") in Flat Rock, NC.

The ARP Church remains close to its Covenanter roots. Its doctrine is based on the Bible, "infallible in all that it teaches and inerrant in the original manuscripts," and on the Westminster Confession and the Catechisms Larger and Shorter. Psalms arranged in meter are generally sung in church, but a church session may allow hymns as well. Women may be deacons, but not ordained ministers or elders. The denomination is part of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council and the World Reformed Fellowship. •



Covenanters in a Glen, painting by Alexander Carse, showing an illegal conventicle, 1680s.

Doing Research?? Check this out....

The Internet Archive (<https://archive.org>) is an excellent source for anyone researching Presbyterian (or other) church history. It contains an enormous number of out-of-print items, including many histories of individual churches; minutes of church sessions, presbyteries, and synod; and copies of the *Presbyterian Standard* – all completely searchable.

To begin your search, click on "eBooks and Texts", and then on "American Libraries". On the right you can enter "North Carolina Presbyterian" to bring up all on that topic, or add the word "history" to bring up all the church histories. You can also search at the American Libraries level for the name of a particular church. Be sure to use quotation marks to keep names of churches or persons together. The initial search is of the cataloging terms and shows all works found; open the book to search within it. A line at the bottom shows the references found. Google may also find one of these books, but often with too many other hits.

There are so many searches you can do on this site, through American and Canadian libraries. It is truly amazing how much material has been digitized and made available on the internet. •

Significant Church Anniversaries in 2016

This year our program chairman, Mr. Sam Martin, will be delivering certificates of recognition and congratulation from NCPHS to each of the following:

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

Eureka Presbyterian Church, Carthage, NC	100 years
Grove Presbyterian Church, Dunn, NC	100 years
Panthersford Presbyterian Church, Red Springs, NC	150 years
Sardis Presbyterian Church, Linden, NC	200 years

Presbytery of New Hope

Blacknall Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC	100 years
Farmville Presbyterian Church, Farmville, NC	100 years
Morton Presbyterian Church, Rocky Mount, NC	100 years
Snow Hill Presbyterian Church, Snow Hill, NC	100 years
First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, NC	200 years
Hillsborough Presbyterian Church, Hillsborough, NC	200 years

Salem Presbytery

Glenwood Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, NC	100 years
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Presbytery of Western North Carolina

West Asheville Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC	100 years
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Congratulations to all of these congregations! We hope you will let us know how you are celebrating your anniversary; send us a copy of any published history; and describe for us any historical project completed as part of your celebration. We'd like to share this information and recognize your good work.

First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh: 200th Anniversary

First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh was organized on January 21, 1816, with forty members and Dr. William McPheeters, pastor. At first they met in the original State House on Capitol Square. In 1818 a brick colonial-style church was constructed on the southwest corner facing the square. When the capitol building burned in 1831, the North Carolina Supreme Court met in the church's Session House until the current capitol building was completed in 1840. The church's present sanctuary was built in 1900 on the same site as the former.

In the 20th century First Church "mothered" nine churches to serve the growing population of Wake County and one in Johnston County. The church itself, however, has remained downtown. Its church property has expanded, been renovated, and put to good use by the community as well as the congregation. Today it supports many organizations that serve the community.

On Thursday evening, January 21, 2016, the congregation marked its 200th anniversary. The commemoration began in the 1840 State Capitol building with a worship service of praise and thanksgiving led by senior pastor, Dr. Ed McLeod, Jr., and others. Bagpiper Emily Sprague then led the procession of worshippers from the capitol building across the square to the church sanctuary. There the worship and festivities concluded with refreshments. Members of the church had worked with the pastors to plan and carry out the events.

On Sunday the celebration continued during worship with a work composed for the occasion by Dr. Richard Nance of Lakewood, Washington. "Benedicite" (Bless Ye the Lord) was performed by the chancel choir and guest instrumentalists.

Throughout the year there will be special guest preachers and concerts. Down a long hallway in the church, its history is now detailed in word and picture. Special displays will feature families with generations of members. Oral histories are being recorded onto DVDs. Dr Glenn Jonas of Campbell University is writing a new history of the church to be released in September. And each member or family is being challenged to put in 200 hours of service in the community and record them in displays at the church.

Our congratulations and best wishes to First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh.

Sally MacLeod Owen

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Awards: If you know of a recently published church history or a completed church history project that you feel is worthy of consideration for an award, please send the book or a description of the project to Awards Chairman Mrs. Sheila Brewer, 915 Evans Dr., Sanford, NC 27330. Her contact information is above. Awards are given in the spring for works published or completed in the previous year or in a recent year.

Board Meeting, Sept. 26, 2015

An extra board meeting was held last September at the home of Tom and Brenda Spence in Sanford, to discuss the suggestions for building the future of our society, offered during the celebration of our 50th year. Some of the good ideas would be difficult to carry out at this point because of our small numbers, so the list was divided into high and low priorities. Discussion turned first to the need for an expanded website – one that can be easily updated, with space for posting church anniversaries and events, and with information and references for Presbyterian history in NC. Someone will have to take responsibility for updating it on a regular basis, and also the Facebook page if we decide to have one.

Another priority is improving communication with members, churches, and retirement homes. For example, we need to establish links with the Presbyterian Women historians in each church. Many ideas for the future were discussed, reports were made, and the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Board Meeting, January 30, 2016

As a result of wintry weather on the previous weekend, the NCPHS Board of Directors held their meeting a week later than planned, at Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Sanford. Unfortunately our newly elected co-secretaries, Dan and Flo Durway, were unable to be there on the new date because of previous commitments.

Our Awards Chairman Sheila Brewer is a member of Buffalo Church and made the arrangements for our meeting. After our gathering prayer, Sheila told us about the history of this lovely church, organized in 1797. It was the northernmost of the Highland churches, and most members had come from the Isle of Skye. The church has produced noted ministers and educators, including Charles McIver, Alexander McIver, and Daniel McGilvary. She often gives talks to groups coming to visit the church and cemetery. Later we visited the newly refurbished sanctuary.

In our business meeting the historian and newsletter editor were reappointed, and the minutes and treasurer's report were approved. Sam Martin reported on his recognition at presbytery meetings of churches celebrating major anniversaries. Sam then presented his plans for our Spring Tour of Historic Churches, which will be in Henderson County near the southern Blue Ridge Mountains. (For details, see pp. 1, 6-7.) He is planning for our fall meeting to be at the Presbyterian Church in Graham. Next spring he hopes we will visit Johnson C. Smith University during its centennial year.

Newsletter editor Barbara Cain reported on plans to update and expand the society's website this year. She suggested a committee and someone to work with us on the shape of the website. This should get underway soon. Dr. Dudley's book will soon be ready to be indexed. Historian Sally Owens reported on requests for information she has received via email. Sam Martin reported that a new edition of the society's brochure will be printed in time for the spring meeting.

President John Goodman will appoint a nominating committee in the spring, and he requested suggestions for the committee. The offices to be filled next fall are the program chair and the awards chair. After a brief review of old and new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer. •

Report on the Fall Meeting, 2015

Summerville Presbyterian Church

Harnett County



On October 10 our Fall Meeting was held at the historic Summerville Church outside Lillington. Rev. Tom Spence, long-time member and former officer of our society, is the interim pastor there, and he spoke to us about its history. The area was in the northern part of the original Cumberland County, and as waves of Scottish immigrants continued to arrive well into the 19th century, they were forced to find land farther upriver, beyond the rapids, a long way from Fayetteville. The Presbyterian church at Barbecue was 20 miles away, so a church was built of logs with river stones for its foundations. It was organized in 1811 and named Tirzah, a pleasant place. One of its founders, Neill McKay, had a large plantation nearby, and some local slaves became communing members. McKay's son Neill became a prominent Presbyterian minister, serving in the area for almost 50 years, establishing the Summerville Academy, and serving on the board of trustees for UNC. In 1845 he built a new plantation house named Summer Villa.

When lightning destroyed the first church building, the present sanctuary was built in 1849 and the congregation's name was changed to Summerville. In the 1870s the appearance of the church was changed from Greek Revival to Gothic, but the walls, pulpit, table, and font are original, and the pews date from the 1870s. The large cemetery served the town as well. It contains the grave of a stranger who died on the church steps. The building has not been locked since. When Harnett County separated from Cumberland in 1855, the courthouse was to be near the church in a new town named Toomer, after a Fayetteville lawyer. Not happy with location or name, the residents voted to put the county seat two miles away in a new town on the Cape Fear River, named Lillington. Eventually the church was dissolved, but it was reorganized in 1951. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places, and in recognition of its Scottish roots, the congregation has its very own tartan!

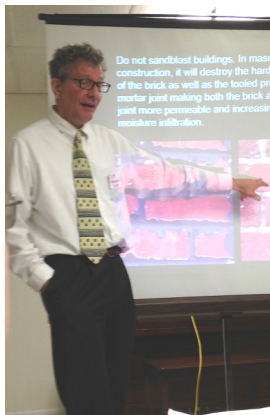


Historic Preservation and the National Register

The program for the meeting was very fitting. Jessica Dockery and Jeff Adolphsen from the State Historic Preservation Office spoke to us about the National Register, what its criteria are, and what are the standards for repairing and rehabilitating an older building. There are over 2700 North Carolina properties and historic districts listed on the National Register at the present time, including 54 Presbyterian and A.R.P. churches and Flora McDonald College. Forty-one of the Presbyterian sites have been visited by NCPHS one or more times in the past 50 years.

And yet, many of our very historic churches are not on this list. Why is that??

1. Sometimes changes made to the original church disqualify it. The majority of the historical building must be there, with no large additions in front. It must look basically the same. It must also have architectural, cultural, or historical significance.
2. Because of budget cuts, the State Historic Preservation Office no longer seeks out properties to be nominated and does not prepare the nominations. A building or site may come to their attention through a survey of historic properties in an area, or it might be put forward by individuals.
3. The process takes a long time. A property that has not been previously surveyed must apply to be studied, and if studied, it may or may not be approved for the next step -- a detailed, scholarly, rigorously verified and illustrated description and history of the property. This nomination is then submitted by the State Preservation Office to the National Register Advisory Committee for review and a final decision.
4. Documentation and nomination are likely to be expensive. The state office does not charge for its advice, but the research and preparation of the paperwork according to strict guidelines may require hiring a consultant whose charges could add up to around \$6,000.
5. Since churches do not pay taxes, they do not benefit from the state and federal tax credits. Being listed on the National Register is mainly for the honor of the thing.



Once on the list, are there any restrictions or protections?

1. The National Register does not control what you do to the property, but the state or municipality may impose restrictions. A listed building can be torn down, but any tax credits would have to be repaid. It can be sold, with a covenant for its maintenance.
2. Listing provides limited legal protection, but only from development that requires federal permits. It does make a clear statement that this property is an important one to preserve.

Once listed, are there guidelines for preservation, maintenance, and repair?

Yes. The Secretary of the Interior's illustrated standards and guidelines for the rehabilitation of historic buildings may be found deep in the National Park Service website at <http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation/rehabilitation-guidelines.pdf>. These must be followed if the cost is to be partially reimbursed by tax credits, but should be followed if at all possible when caring for any historic building. Jeff Adolfsen reviewed many of these

for us, explaining the damage that can be caused by improper cleaning or repair.

For other questions about historic preservation, go to their website, www.hpo.ncdcr.gov.

Lunch was followed by the annual business meeting, with reports to the members and election of officers. President John Goodman, Treasurer John Myhre, and Membership Chair Sarah Alexander were re-elected, and Dan and Flo Durway were elected as co-secretaries.

Directions to the Carl Sandburg House, Flat Rock:

The park is located three miles south of Hendersonville, NC, on Little River Road off of the Greenville Highway/Rt. 225 in Flat Rock, NC. Visitors using GPS or mapping software should use 1800 Little River Road and look for the signs directing you to the visitor parking lot on Little River Road.

From Interstate 26 take exit 53. From I-26 east, turn right onto Upward Road; from I-26 west, turn left onto Upward Road. At intersection with Rt. 176/Spartanburg Hwy, continue straight. Upward Road turns into Highland Lake Road. At the light, turn left onto Rt.225/Greenville Hwy south. At next light take a right onto Little River Road. Visitor parking is on left.



Our recommended motel is the Best Western

Hendersonville Inn, located at 105 South Sugarloaf Road just off 64-E at the intersection of I-26 and US 64 (Exit 49-A). **Please call the motel directly for reservations at (828) 692-0521 and ask for group booking.** Identify yourself as a member of the North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society and ask for the Senior/Group discount rate of \$79.99 + tax for two double beds. A hot breakfast will be available and a microwave/refrigerator is available in each room.

The fog comes
on little cat feet.

It sits looking
over harbor and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.

Carl Sandburg



North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society
2016 Spring Tour
Hendersonville and the Lower Blue Ridge

Friday, April 1, 2016

12:00 noon Registration and social hour
 Carl Sandburg Home, 1800 Little River Rd., Flat Rock

1:00 Tour of Sandburg house and grounds.

4:00 Mills River Presbyterian Church, 10 Presbyterian Church Rd., Mills River

5:30 Check-in at motel (Best Western, 105 Sugarloaf Rd., Hendersonville)

6:30 Dinner at Golden Corral, 2530 Chimney Rock Road, Hendersonville

9:00 Board Meeting at Best Western

Saturday, April 2, 2016

7:00-8:30 Breakfast and check-out

9:00 Trinity Presbyterian Church, 900 Blythe St., Hendersonville

10:30 St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church, 1905 Greenville Hwy, Flat Rock

12:00 Pinecrest Associate Reformed Presbyterian Ch., 1790 Greenville Hwy, Flat Rock

1:30 Lunch and brief business meeting, Moose Café, 59 Highland Square Dr.,
Hendersonville

2:30 Adjourn

Registration: \$20.00. (Tours are included, but not meals.) Suggested accommodations and map are on the previous page. Transportation by tram is provided from the parking lot at the Carl Sandburg Home to the front door. A video of the upstairs is available if you prefer not to climb stairs.

Please send form below and check (payable to NCPHS) by March 23rd to NCPHS, P.O. Box 20804, Raleigh, NC 27619-0804. If you have questions, please contact our Program Chairman Sam Martin, (910) 428-4165, smartin8@embarqmail.com.

Registration, Spring Tour, April 1-2, 2016

[Click for Fillable Form](#)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Registrations: _____ @ \$20.00 = \$ _____

Dues if included (Individual \$15; Family \$20; Individual Life Membership, \$125): \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____ Please send this form with your check (made out to NCPHS) **by March 23rd** to NCPHS, P.O. Box 20804, Raleigh, NC 27619-0804.

If you can do so, please put the following announcement in your church bulletin or newsletter:

The North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society will hold its **Annual Spring Tour** on Friday and Saturday, April 1-2, in the village of Flat Rock and in the historic towns of Mills River and Hendersonville. We will meet Friday noon at the Carl Sandburg Home in Flat Rock and will visit a number of historic churches in the area. Please join us for a memorable tour. Registration is . The schedule, registration form, and address are on our website at www.ncphsociety.org, or contact Program Chair Sam Martin at (910) 428-4165.

**** If you haven't paid your 2015 dues yet, please send them with the registration form. Individual \$15
Family \$20; Individual Life Membership, \$125. ****

North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society
P.O. Box 20804
Raleigh, NC 27619-0804

Springtime in the mountains! April 1-2, 2016
See registration form on p. 7.