

A History of the
Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church
Mecklenburg Presbytery
Charlotte, North Carolina



by
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May 1954

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Dr. Caruthers says that Craighead "was somewhat disposed to melancholy."⁵⁷ Perhaps this is what made him and his congregation ask for and welcome supplies in the last two years of his life. Perhaps he suffered from more than melancholy for the ninth of April, 1765, he drew up his will and disposed of all his property.

His will, which has never been fully published, and which is a most interesting document in Will Book A in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Mecklenburg County, is reproduced here:

I Alexander Craighead of Mecklenburg County in No Carolina Minister of the Ghospel being weak in body but of sound and perfect mind & memory Blessed be God for the same calling to mind the uncertainty of my time in this transitory world & that it is appointed for all men once to die; Do make & ordain this my last Will & Testament in manner & form following that is to say I recommend my Soul & Body to God that gave it— As to what world goods that God bestowed upon me I dispose of as follows:

Primis. I order that my Just debts & funeral expenses be paid & discharged by my Executors hereafter named. Item. I order it is my will that my well beloved wife Jane Craighead shall enjoy & possess the benefit of my plantation* where I now live and my plantation upon longcreek & the whole of it thereof and likewise the use & benefit of all the negroes I now possess for the support of my family during the time she bears my name—

Item. I give & bequeath Unto my eldest daughter Margaret five pound Current money to be delivered five years after my decease.

Item. I give & bequeath unto my daughter Agness five pounds of Current money to be delivered five years after my decease—

Item. I give & bequeath unto my daughter Jane Sixty pounds hard money or one Negroe which my Executors shall see fit or most convenient to give besides Horse Saddle & bridle, bed & its furniture which is to be delivered as soon as convenient after her marriage.

Item. I give & bequeath the same to each of my other daughters Rachel, Mary & Elizabeth to be delivered agreeable to the same manner as above to my Daughter Jane.

Item. I give & bequeath to my sons Robert & Thomas all and singular my books except Bibles & some other common books that is used in the family.

Item. I order & it is my Will that my land in Augusta County

⁵⁷ Caruthers, *op. cit.*, p. 27

* The Plantation "where I now live" was evidently the land that his widow bought from H. E. McCulloh in 1767 for these are the only two pieces of property listed for either Alexander or Jane Craighead in Mecklenburg County.

In 1764 Craighead bought 551 acres on Long Creek in Mecklenburg from John Garrison and Margaret, his wife.

Virginia containing by estimation 310 & my land on fishing creek in county containing by Estimation 500 be sold as soon as opportunity will permit.

Item. I order & it is my will that my two Sons Robert & Thomas shall be kept at learning till they attain to what learning that can be had in these parts—

To the discharge of the above particulars

Item. I order and it is my will that notwithstanding of what is said above concerning lands & negroes that it is not to be understood but that my Executors if they see it necessary for the discharging the above particulars they are hereby impowered to sell & make Sufficient titles to the purchase of any part thereof

Item. I order & it is my will that my Executors is fully impowered to make Sufficient Titles or conveyances to the above mentioned two Tracts of land in Virginia & fishing creek—

Item. I order & it is my will that if my beloved wife shall change her name that shall have her dower or third as the Law directs but if she continues in my name during her natural life she is fully to enjoy what I order above. At her decease what remains of Land & negroes or whatever else shall be Equally among my children.

Item. I nominate and appoint my said loving wife Jane Craighead & John Davis of this county to be my Executors of this my last Will and Testament and lastly I disannul & make void all former Wills & Testaments by me made whether in word or writing, & declare this only to be my last Will & Testament / In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal this ninth day of April one Thousand seven hundred & sixty five— Signed Sealed Pronounced & Declared by the said Alexander Craighead to be his last Will & Testament in the presence of—

Nathan Orr

Alexander Craeghead

Mildredge Orr

William Orr⁵⁸

Nathan and Mildredge Orr were husband and wife and William was their second son. They lived on a plantation adjoining the Craigheads. Nathan Orr's will, drawn in 1779, indicates that at that late date the settlers on Sugar Creek were still paying for their lands to H. E. McCulloch.

Some comments are in order here about Mr. Craighead's children. Margaret, the oldest daughter married prior to 1765 a Mr. Carruth. Agnes, or, as she is often called, "Nancy", married William Richardson who had installed her father at Rocky River in 1758.⁵⁹

⁵⁸ Book A., Will Books, off. of Clerk of Superior Court, Mecklenburg Count, pp. 167½-168

⁵⁹ J. G. Craighead, *The Craighead Genealogy*, Philadelphia, 1876, p. 51