**Life in the Early Days**

“In my early days I have heard from the lips of some of the oldest inhabitants, stories told them by their fathers which well agree with these statements. I have heard of the wild swine growing fat on fruits and of the roads which were but Indian paths. I have been told that the road between the New Hope and Hawfields settlements was distinguished by notches in the trees.

About two hundred years ago the middle section of North Carolina was one wild and extensive wilderness, inhabited by savages and the wild beasts and birds of the forest. It was about the year 1685 that Spotwood describes the entire State as being without any form of government.

The few settlers, chiefly in the eastern portion of the State, "did what was right in their own eyes, paying tribute neither to God nor Caesar." Mr. Bancroft, says: "There was no fixed minister in the land till 1703; no church erected till 1705; no separate building for a court house till 1722; no printing press till 1754.

Careless of religious sects, or colleges or lawyers or absolute laws, the early settlers enjoyed liberty of conscience and personal independance, freedom of the forest and river. The children of nature listened to the inspirations of nature. . . . For them the wild bee stored its honey in hollow trees; for them unnumbered swine fattened on the fruits of the forest or the heaps of peaches; for them in spite of their careless lives and imperfect husbandry, cattle multiplied on the pleasant savannahs, and they desired no greater happiness than they enjoyed. . .

*They were the freest of free; men to whom the restraints of other colonies were too sever; they were not so much caged in the woods as scattered in lonely granges.*

There was neither city nor township; there was hardly even hamlet or one house within sight of another; nor were there roads, except as the paths from house to house were distinguished by notches in the trees. But the settlers were gentle in their manners, of serene minds, and enemies to violence and bloodshed. Not all the successive revolutions had kindled vindictive passions; freedom -- entire freedom -- was enjoyed without anxiety as without guarantees the charities of live were scattered at their feet like the flowers in their meadows, and the spirit of humanity maintained its influence in the Arcadia”

Rev D.I.Craig

1891

“A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF NEW HOPE CHURCH”