

# Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

## Hickory Grove Church (Part 4)

The first local church established in Bucklesberry was Hickory Grove, purportedly in 1860. But it has not always been affiliated with the Methodist Conference, as the brick monument in front of the Church might suggest.

After he visited Hickory Grove in 1891, Rev. Dr. Esek Arnold Wright (1842-1920) claimed the Church had Baptist origins. Other historical records substantiate his claim. Outlined in last week's article were accounts of Baptist preachers who supplied the pulpit at Hickory Grove and several Baptist association meetings held there as early as 1873 and through 1882.

Led by interim pastor, Rev. Bushrod Washington (B. W.) Nash (1831-1911), a strong Baptist presence continued at Hickory Grove through 1883:

1883, January 30: "Rev. B. W. Nash passed through town [La Grange] on his way to Hickory Grove on Saturday. He filled the monthly appointment at that place on Saturday and Sunday." (*New Berne Weekly Journal*). Note: Rev. Nash was associated with the Union Baptist Conference Association.

1883, March 19: "Rev. B. W. Nash, editor of the *Baptist Review* of Goldsboro, was in town Sunday. He served the congregation at Hickory Grove Church on that day." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1883, April 24: "Rev. B. W. Nash passed through the village Friday evening *en route* to his appointment at Hickory Grove on Saturday and Sunday." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1883, May 30: "Rev. B. W. Nash passed through here Saturday, on his way to fill an appointment at Hickory Grove." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1883, July 25: "Rev. B. W. Nash preached at Hickory Grove in Bucklesberry last Saturday and Sunday." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1883, August 29: "Rev. B. W. Nash filled his regular appointment at Hickory Grove last Sunday." (*New Berne Weekly Journal*)

1883, October 10: "Large crowd in attendance at the 'Union [Baptist Conference] Association' at Hickory Grove on Sunday." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1883, October 25: "The members of Hickory Grove Church met last Sunday and elected Rev. J. D. Cavanaugh, of Duplin County, pastor for the ensuing year. This church has been without a pastor for the past year, but has been served by the Rev. B. W. Nash of the *Baptist Review*." (*New Berne Weekly Journal*). Note: Rev. Cavanaugh was a Baptist minister from Duplin County who lost the race for a seat in the State House of Representatives in 1882.

1883, October 31: "Rev. B. W. Nash did not fill his appointment at Hickory Grove last Sunday." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1883, November 18: "Rev. J. D. Cavanaugh will preach at Hickory Grove on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in this month, at which time he will inform the church as to his acceptance of the call of the church as pastor." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1883, November 29: "Rev. J. D. Cavanaugh filled his appointment at Hickory Grove last Saturday and Sunday. I learn that the congregation was large on Tuesday, and that he is making a very favorable impression on the people. So mote it be." (*New Berne Weekly Journal*)

More about Hickory Grove Church's journey from Baptist to Methodist will be shared in next week's Bucklesberry article.