

*Original bound in  
my home  
March 6, 1906*

AUTOBIOGRAPHY  
of the  
Rev. Ebenezer Hearn.

-----o-X-o-----

Ebenezer Hearn Son of Thomas and Rachel Hearn, was born in Montgomery County State of North Carolina 25th of September 1794 A D My grandfather Thomas Hearn Sen and my grand mother Nancy Wilson were both born in the State of Meriland(sic) on the Eastern shore This the fartherest back that I can trace my ancestry They Re- moved from there to Onselow County North Carolina where my Father was borne in January 1768 Some few years after that the old man with his family removed to Montgomery County and settled but A few miles from the narrows of the Yadkin. he was possesst of some property but when the Revolution war came on the old man having taken the oath of alegence to the King he would not take up arms against the King nor agains the Col- loneyes but would be neutral on which account he was treated badly by both parties, so much so that the most of his effects were destroyed about the year 86 my Father went to the State of Virginia and Married Rachel Drewry my mother They were both poor, hard run to make Support for A fast growing family my mother had two sons and then two Twins and I was one of them (Page 2) My Brother was the first borne, and was always the largest but we were so near the Same that until we were nearly grown one was never sick but what the other was sure to be sick the same way, and when one got well so did the other. This continued until we we re nearly grown and somewhat seperated by the common occurrences of life. in several instances while young my lif life was in A wonderful manner preserved. While but A child I was so near drowned that I had lost sight of all earthly objects, the water was not more than 12 inches deep but I had become alarmed so as loose all self possession I was rescued by A friend who was near and saw my condition. When about ten years old I was quite high from the ground in A Tobacco Barn and attempted (to) pass from one Joice to another on A

Tobacco Stick, it being the fourth story I lost my ballance and fell to the ground my head struck A grub and cut to the scull, but was most wonderfully preserved from Death Shortly after that time I came near being kiled by the falling of a prise beam when priseng Tobacco but still as the old adage is A miss is as good as A mile (Page 3) not long after this time I went up stairs with a candle in my hand in company with my eldest Brother I was then some ~~twakxax~~ 12 years old. my Mother had A large fishing net fild with pickt cotton hanging to the upper Joice & my father had the rise of 100lbs of gun Powder in Keggs on the floor Just under the cotten. Through my carlessness or absence of mind I let the candle touch the cotten, notwithstanding I had been cautioned against it. my Brother not thinking of the Powder, caught the cotten & puld it down on the powder and then caught it up & threw in down stares & out doors, saved the house from burning. this was one of the most astonishing occurence I ever saw for the Powder was scattered over the floor from pouring it out of the keggs. it was surely the Lords doings & is marvelous in our eyes When I was about seven years of age I was sorely convicted for sin and I am fully persuaded that I was converted to God young as I was. the circumstances was as follows, I had been taught from A child to fear to offend against god and was often taught by my mother that if I said bad words that the old black man would catch me & put me in (Page 4) the fire I being an eritable disposition I got vext at a cow I called on God to D D the cow I then felt that I had done Rong in the sight of God & in the sight of my mother The first thing I thought of was my parrents would correct me for it if they found it out I lookt round but saw no one, but then I recollected what my mother had said then I feared the Devil, and lookt for his appearance then I thought the only safty was to look to God I did by Prayer & faith until all my fears were gone and I loved God for his goodness in saving me from what I thought A Just punishment for the Sin of Swar ring and I solemly promised God I would never Sware another oath and for near Sixty years I have truly kept my word now this (was) about the time I crosst the line of

accountability. The oath was the first Sin I was sensible of and through fear I was moved to seek an assylum in the wounds of A kind Saviour and found peace & pardon, but here I made A Blunder, for I thought I could serve god secretly and let none know it & I attempted to do it but found that soon I lost my pease with God--~~and lived~~ (Page 5) and lived A good morral Sinner for some ten years often feeling deeply convicted for Sins of omission as well as sins of Commission, seeking god by times but unwilling to make A full consecration of my self to God. when about seventeen years old I felt A firm conviction that I had A work of Solem carrector to do and was Sol- emly urged to get Religion that I might be able to do the work God intended me to do. during the time I was thus halting and posponing my return to god My Father Removed from North Carolina and Setled in middle Tennessee Wilson County, A new uncultivated country but soon after the work of Religion broke out to A considerable extent and my convictions became more powerful and at length I Resolved to Serve my God let others do as they thought proper So I Joined the M.E.Church as A Seeker of Religion, and soon I was enabled to obtain the pardon of my Sins, this was in the fall of 1810 I was then fully convinced that God called me to the work of the ministry and I felt wo is me if I Preach not the gospel, and I still felt that I had not the first qualifica- tion (Page 6) as to Education I had Scarcely any at all for all my schooling cost only five dollars I went to two or three small schools some three months each and Tuition was at that time and place Six dollars per year or fifty cents per month the only Grammer I knew anything of was in the back part of the Spelling Book commencing with All every one aul to make A hole &c. this was calld the English Grammer. when about thirteenn years old my father settled in West Tennessee quite A frontiarear country No schools and much hard work to do so my education was at an end; and with all the rest of my disabilities I had an Impedement in my Speech from my childhood and still grew worse as I got older but notwithstanding all this I felt woe is me if I

Preach not the gospel I kept my impressions to my self and tried many ways to get rid of them in the year 1813 the Creek Indian war broke out and I volunteered to go as A Soldier under General Jackson we had hard times during the whole campain it was short only three months the most of the time we suffered by forse marches some fighting and for nearly one month lived on any thing we could get from meat and Bread down to Acorns nutts herbs & some dry cowhide when almost starved and when in battle hearing the whistle of bullets and the groaning of the Dying still I felt God had A work for me to do and still how it was posable for me to engage in such A work I could not Imagine Still I often had impressions that God could clear the way through all. I made many efforts to rid my self of the impressions but still they clave to me. in the year 1814 I commenced to learn the Cabinet business went to A strang neighbourhood (and)while here A Brother White A Local Preacher suspecting something of the kind so managed to get from me my impressions which I had kept conceal'd for several years This caused me more distress, but shortly after this I removed to A strange place where I endeavored to hide my self again and did to some extent for A time but in the fall of 1815 I attended A conference near Lebanon Tennessee where (I) became perfectly subdued & Resolved to yeald to the opening providence here (Page 8) (I met) the venerable Bishop Asberry and heard him Preach sitting in his chair his venerable appearance made an impression on my mind never to be erased. I went from this conference resolved never to try to hide from duty but to mark the opening of Providence Soon after I was call'd on tp pray in publick but still held no office in the church not even A class leader nor Steward. Sometime in the Summer or fall of 1816 through the influence of Rev. John White I was recommended from A Society to the quarterly Conference and from the quarterly Conference to the Tennessee Annual Conference for admission in to the Itinerency. The Conference was held in the town of Franklyn October 1816 much to my surprise the Conference

Rec'd me with all my disqualifications I was poor unlearn'd and almost as great a stammerer as ever lived so from my childhood now 22 years old & still greater was my surprise when the appointments were read out instead being placed with and under some experienced man, I was sent to a large Circuit all alone having charge (PAGE 8) A four weeks Circuit with 24 appointments this was almost more than I could bear but I had put my hand to the plow and dared not look back. I soon found myself on the Duck river Circuit but how to perform the duties of a Preacher I could not tell but I thought I must do the best I could. Soon after I started on the Circuit I found my impediment of speech had left me this gave me much relief & some confidence that God would help me but still I could scarcely hold up my head before a people so far superior to me in all kind of information. Still I look'd to God for aid and more prudent of my Brethren did all they could to hold me up from sinking under the great cross I had to bear. One Father in Israel, Rev. Joshua Kilpatrick he had been Circuit preacher where my father lived when I was but a boy he took me as father to a child and gave me all the information and encouragement he could and his lovely wife done the same So I was induced to continue on the Circuit (PAGE 9) after making one or two rounds on the Circuit my worthy Preceding Elder Rev. Thomas Duglass came on to hold his quarterly meeting and he added much to my comfort I took courage and went forward doing the best I could the good Lord helping me The work of convictions & conversions were many so that during the year we had an increase of some four hundred increase & so far as my own enjoyments & advance in the divine life it was not inferior to any year of my life. at my fourth quarterly meeting we had a camp meeting at a place call'd Prewetts Lick in Murry county at which time and place the rise of one hundred conversions took place and several profest Sanctification during this year I attended several camp meetings on other Circuits at all of which a glorious work was accomplished during this year in many places there were

strang Exercis's among the people not only lowed shouting but the Jirks and dancing Exercises I have seen Saint & Sinner have the Jirks so that it seem'd that life and lim were in great danger I have (PAGE 10) seem them take hold of Posts or saplins and hold on as long as they could & ~~an~~ finally loose there hold & be violently carried from one place to another with such violence that it seem'd that the(y) ~~me~~ must be cripled or kill'd Some feeble ladies could be held and such was the violence with which their head would go back & forward that platted hair would pop like A whip. at the same time many would resemble person dancing while others would be Lying in A helpless & to all human appearance censless situation for hours and in some instances for days. These wer~~x~~ marvelous things but in all the Exercises I never knew on(e) to be hurt I often though(t) of the Scripture that say great and marvelous are thy works Lord God almighty ,and yet scores were as the Prophet said behold you despisers and wonder and perish and would not beleave tho men declared it to them. Surely there was A great mistery in these things I have known the most deeply pious devout christians and the most abandon(ed) sinners (PAGE 11) operated on by the Jerks in the same while one would shout & praise God while the other would Blaspheme and curse the Exercises. having closed my first year in the Itin-erency visited my fathers family went again to Conference held at the same place November 1817 here I was appointed in charge of the Flint Circuit having for my colleague A young man named Sterling C.Brown we went to the work in good time but I soon learned that my appointment was to be of short duration having another work to do So after A few months my P.Elder T.L.Douglass requested me to leave the Circuit in the hands of the young man and go as A Missionary to South Alabama which I concen-tered to and in April 1818 I left my Circuit and numerous friends to go into almost A ~~wilderness~~ wilderness country to form Societies and Circuits where the gospel had not been heard This was A great cross & Task to me my inexpearance & timidity almost crusht me again

but still trusting A higer power I took courage and prest forward (PAGE 12) when I crost the Tennessee River at A place call'd Dittoes landing now call'd WhitesBurgh, here I had crost in 1813 as A soldier under General Jackson to figh the Indians now I was under King Emanuel going to fight with powers of Darkness. here I had to pass through A portion of Indian country I rode some fifteen miles quite pensive found A cabbin on the mountain it was growing late in the afternoon I enquired the chance of A house to spend the nigh he said there was A house some two miles on ahead. I heard the Lady say don't let him go on for you know they are not prepared to keep him for said she he is A Preacher. I was so struck with the remark that I determined to stay there and so I did he was A white man but an Indian Country man I exprest some fear that the natives might steal my horse as the Lott was some distance from the house but he soon alayed my fears by saying there was no danger as I had put my horse in his care they would not dare to take him for he knew (PAGE 13) all there hiding places I found them quite civil and somewhat genteel for such A place. I talked with them about Society Schools & Preaching. after supper I enquired if I might have Prayer with them he said yes but said wait A short time my mother and sister are coming down he stept out and made a srill hollow and the were soon on hand. So here I commenced my Mission Labours by talking too and Praying for an Indian Country mans family. I spent the night pretty comfortably and at daylight I rose to start and to my great surprize I had nothing to pay but was solisited to call when I could. I rode fifteen miles for Breakfast Stopt at A Mr. M Meads he had A fine Virgin(ia) Lady for his wife She was Refined and Religious here I met with the kindest reception allways when the landlord was from home here I found that some five miles from there I should find A considerable white settlement ~~Blountsville~~ Breaching I find some of the place had been Members Bears Scote Cabin now blount