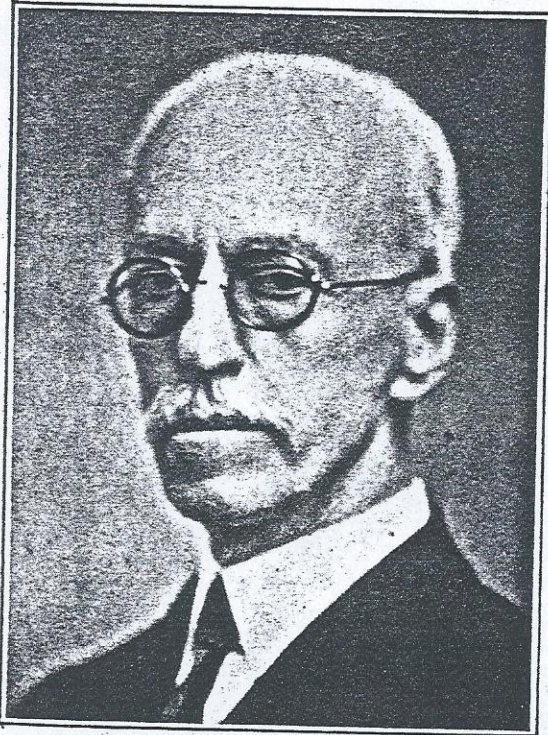


CHARACTER SKETCH OF EUSEBIA CHURCH

Eusebia! It is a beautiful word in itself but it is especially significant as the name given at the founding of a church in the Appalachian wilderness in earliest pioneer days. It means for one thing that an educated minister was the founder of the church. In his saddlebags a well-thumbed Greek Testament nestled close to his King James Bible. In that testament he found a word, Eusebia, that had been chosen by holy men of old who spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, and which means reverence toward God, piety, religion. In Greek classics Sophocles and Plato and other sages had



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Rev. S. T. Wilson, D. D., President of Maryville College, and author of Character Sketch of Eusebia Church, the influence of whose mission will not be measured by years.

used it to mean reverence to the gods of Olympus; but the New Testament writers exalted it to mean reverence to the Most High God and to His Son Jesus Christ. And this great word the pioneer preacher culled out of the past to be the name of the church that faith was establishing amid the mountains of the New World.

The giving of the name also testified to the strong religious spirit of the founders. When the preacher suggested the name, and explained its significance, the elders agreed to it, for was not their sole purpose in the establishment of the church the glory of God and the good of his cause? What more appropriate than to baptize the new frontier organ-

ization with the godly word Eusebia, reverence to God, piety, religion? It was the same spirit that made the pioneer patriarch of long ago call his holy place, "Bethel," the house of God. The name of a church is a good thing to hear even if it be merely an arithmetical name, as the First Church; or a Saint's name, as St. Paul's; or a local name, as the Geneva Church; or a historic name, as the Westminster Church; or a reformer's name, as the Knox Memorial Church; but surely no happier name could be invented than Eusebia, reverence to God—a word which takes hold of God and man and brings them together in holy union. And this church has the honor of being the only organization in our great Presbyterian church that bears this beautiful name of Eusebia.

You would expect a good history of usefulness from a church which, at its very beginning, on its very baptismal day, took upon itself a name that was intended to describe and pledge its purpose to be God-reverencing and God-fearing. And then this expectation would be by no means lessened when you learned that the ministers and membership of the church came from one of the sturdiest and most conscientious stocks known in history, and had been trained in the fear of God and the love of duty.

The Scotch-Irishmen, or the Ulster-Scots, if you prefer that name, are not always lovable or gentle, and are often angular and stubborn, but, thank God, they have had convictions and principles, and loyalty to them. As you pass over the half-million dollar bridge that now leads across the Foyle to Londonderry, in North Ireland, you see at the half-way place in the bridge a bronze tablet representing the seal of the city of Derry. A skeleton guarding a wall, and the words, "No surrender"! Yes, ahead of you around the original city of Derry stand today the very walls that our Scotch-Irish fathers, even when reduced to skeletons, held, with "No surrender," against King James and Roman Catholicism. And it was from this determined race that our Eusebia forefathers came. In no community in the United States is the Scotch-Irish origin of the citizenship more evident in names, traditions, religion, and even features than in the Eusebia neighborhood. The names that appear in the earliest rolls of the membership of this church, how Ulster-Scottish they are! Even in the latest church register there is three times the space required for the Mac's that is required for those of any complete letter of the alphabet. How Scotchy the roll is: McCallie, MsCampbell, McCammon, McCulloch, McAnally, McCully, McCroskey, McClurg, McGahey, McMurry, McHenry, McTeer, Creswell, Boyd, Kirkpatrick, Bogle, Dunlap, Vance, Ramsey, Shedd, Sims, Cunningham, Houston, Malcom, Cardwell, Anderson, Snoddy, "Ingrum," Rhea, Hunter, Kennedy, Trundle, Gamble, Pickens, Lowry, Hafley, Pitner, and the rest of them. Even the good Welsh families, Davis, Evans, Jones and Williams, and the French DeLoziers may have come by way of Londonderry, where families of those names are still found. Indeed, practically all the names I have mentioned as being on the old roll of Eusebia Church are given, many of them often, in the present-day directory of Londonderry now in my possession.

In 1909, while I was visiting Londonderry, the