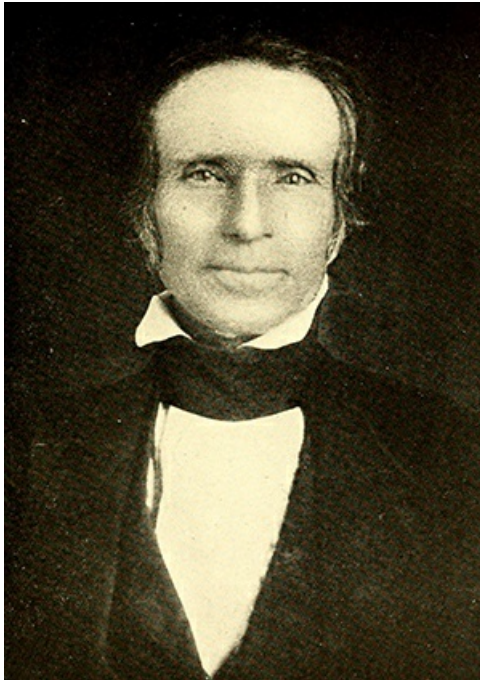


Mclver, Colin ^[1]

Mclver, Colin

by Lucile Miller Johnson, 1991

9 Mar. 1784–18 Jan. 1850



Reverend Colin Mclver (1784-1850). Image from Archive.org.

^[2]Colin Mclver, minister and teacher, was born on Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, in the Hebrides. In 1808 he was a student at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia and a member of the Union Society. In 1809 he went to Fayetteville ^[3], N.C., to teach in the Fayetteville Academy ^[4], where in 1811 he was listed as second assistant to the principal.

In April 1811 Mclver was licensed to preach by the Orange Presbytery. He was ordained by the Harmony Presbytery in South Carolina on 9 Apr. 1812. As required, he preached a year at Saltcatcher (Saltkehatchee) Church and then was assigned to Chesterfield and Darlington churches after being formally admitted to the presbytery. He was transferred to the Fayetteville Presbytery in 1814 and remained in it for the rest of his life.

Mclver's connection with the Presbyterian Church ^[5] of Fayetteville (First Presbyterian) was significant. He was never pastor, but on 31 July 1815 he was elected stated clerk of the session and was asked to prepare a sketch of the history of the church. This sketch, along with the minutes he recorded until 1849, are among the records of the church. He was stated clerk of the Fayetteville Presbytery and the Synod of North Carolina from 1818 to 1835.

In 1819 Mclver was appointed as agent to solicit funds for the Presbyterian church then under construction. From his "Northern excursion" he collected \$293. Among his contributors were President James Monroe, \$25; George Washington Campbell, U.S. ambassador to Russia, \$10; and John Quincy Adams, secretary of state, \$10. From his "Southern excursion" he collected \$55.

Through Mclver's efforts, Sardis Presbyterian Church was organized in 1813. During the five years he served as pastor, he preached one sermon in Gaelic ^[6] and one in English at each worship service. Churches throughout the area requested his services.

During his ministry he represented his presbytery as commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States more than any other minister. The Moravians ^[7] in Salem ^[8] said that when Mclver visited on 1 Oct. 1826, "He preached an edifying sermon here." He was active on committees in formulating rules and in attending to the business of the assembly. Mclver was also an original trustee of Donaldson Academy, which received its charter in 1833. The name came from Robert Donaldson ^[9], a benefactor of New York and a former citizen of Fayetteville. The academy was closed when graded schools were established in Fayetteville.

Mclver was the author of the North Carolina Register and United States Calendar ^[10] (1823); *Evangelical Museum* and *Virginia–North Carolina Presbyterian Preacher*, both monthly pamphlets (1828); *The American Preacher*, a monthly

magazine (1829); and *The Southern Preacher* ^[11], a book. In 1842 he wrote *An Essay concerning the Unlawfulness of a Man's Marriage with His Sister by Affinity* ^[12]. A member of the Order of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons ^[13] (Phoenix Lodge AF and AM), McIver served as chaplain for many years. At his request he was buried in his bands and Geneva Gown. His epitaph in Old Cross Creek Cemetery, Fayetteville, reads: "He was a consistent Christian, a sound Divine, a laborious and faithful servant of the church. He fulfilled the duties of the Gospel Ministry for a period of more than forty years."

He married Sarah Barge, the daughter of Lewis Barge, a signer of the Liberty Point Resolves of Cumberland County ^[14] in 1775. The couple had no children of their own but adopted two daughters of Sarah's brother, Carolina and Sarah Barge.

A photograph of McIver is among the memorabilia in the Historical Room of the First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville.

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Image Credits:

"Colin McIver Born Storaway, Island of Lewis, Hebrides, Scotland, March 9, 1784 Died in Fayetteville, 1850." *History of First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina: from old manuscripts and addresses*. [s.l. : s.n.]. 1928. 44. <https://archive.org/stream/historyoffirstpr00rank#page/44/mode/2up> ^[2] (accessed July 23, 2013).

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