

The following sketch was written by Henry Trotter, of Pigeon Forge, Tenn., in April, 1906. There were in the possession of Mrs. Howard Davidson (Ursula Baker), 303 Western Heights, Knoxville, Tenn., and her son, Larry Davidson, brought them to my History class at Rule High School in April, 1953. Mrs. Davidson is the daughter of Frank H. Baker, b. 1886, m. Harriet Trotter, b. 1889, d. 1938. Harriet Trotter was the daughter of John Trotter, b. 1860, d. 1945, m. Sarah Walker, b. _____, d. 1915. John Trotter was the son of Henry Trotter who wrote the following sketch. J.A. Sharp.

I have been impressed for some time past to give a brief survey of my past life, nor that my life has been so pure. I know that I have made a great many mistakes, but yet I know that my life will soon close out here.

I want to give some of my life. My wife (Harriet) went so much with me through life. I have said we have traveled thousands of miles together and I know a great deal about her experience.

I remember when I was a boy about six years old. My father, my brother, John, and I were together in a log barn, and my father told John and I a story which I have never forgotten. He gave us the description of the two worlds-- "A good world and a bad world." He said the good people would go to the good world and the bad people would go to the bad world. He gave us the description of both worlds as the Bible gives it to all of us, and that lesson I have never forgotten. It has followed me through life. When I was a boy carrying water to my father in the field plowing, I would sing, "O Heaven, Sweet Heaven, I Long for Thee, When Shall I Get There?" I have been singing that old song about seventy years now and I think more of it than I ever did before.

When I was about eleven years old, Mother was afflicted and could not go out to meeting, so the circuit preacher published meeting for our house. He came and had services at night and after preaching, he called or seekers, and there were three girls who went up as seekers. I was impressed that I should go, but I did not go as a seeker. The preacher prayed and encouraged them all he could and then he opened the doors of the church. One of the girls joined the church, the other two belonged to the church already. They all three seemed to be in great trouble about themselves. I joined as a seeker and so did John. We were very small boys. I believe this to be one of the best things I ever did in my life. I joined the church as a seeker and I lived in the church about eleven years before I was converted. I was seeking as I thought most all the time, and would think sometimes that there was no mercy for me. I became disgusted and got the consent of my mind to give up seeking after peace, until a more convenient time, so there were two years of my life spent in darkness.

My heart became more hardened-- so hard that I had no feeling on religion, so in this condition I decided to change my life. I decided to do for myself, so Harriet Carnes and I were married. Then the question was settled with me before I knew how it would be. Harriet professed religion about two years before we were married and was living a straight and upright life. We set out to do for ourselves, and she started talking to me about my spiritual condition. She would talk and shed tears and pray for me. I was more sorry for her than I was for myself, yet I wanted to be a Christian. I wanted to be saved from all sin. My way was dark and gloomy. So time moved on and Camp meeting time came. Mother said to me, "Henry I want you and Harriet to fix up and go to the camp meeting with us, you will have to drive the wagon anyhow." I thought that was all right and I would enjoy the trip. We moved over to the camp grounds on Friday, and when Saturday came I was tired of the

place. I wanted back home. Sunday night the meeting was good. They called for seekers and called for me also. I got the consent of my mind to go, and as I went, I decided that if I went to torment I would go there praying. On Monday night Uncle Ashla Wynn preacherd. He seemed to preach with great power. It seemed as if he was talking to me. Seekers were called, so I went and got down on my knees. I continued to call upon the Lord for mercy, and while I was calling upon the Lord for mercy, my friends were praying for me. They were all concerned about my welfare. Uncle John Trotter and Harriet came and got down by me and commenced talking to me and praying. I remember what she said, "Remember what Uncle Wynn said." After she said that the next thing I knew I was up praising the Lord. My conversion was clean and wonderful-- it was from death into life. I thought I never would see anymore trouble that I would go on to Heaven rejoicing. So the meeting closed Wednesday morning. We moved back home a new family.

Night came and bed time. Harriet said, "It's time to go to bed." I said to her, "Had we better have prayer before we go to bed?" She agreed that we should, so we sang the old hymn "How Firm A Foundation" and tried to pray. From that time on for fifty years we tried to keep up family worship. Of course there were some times it was not kept up all the time. We made it our business to go to meeting all we could.

Time moved on and we lost our friend Mother, a sister, three brothers and a great many relations in time of the war. I would go out and try to get relief and the Lord would bless me and make me praise his good and blessed name aloud. I remember going out feeling so sad and lonely. I went to a stump and got down by the stump to talk to the good Lord about my lonely condition and while I was down calling upon Him, that has all power, I received a great blessing. It seemed to me that the friends I was sad about, came to meet me there. That was a bright time with me. I praised the Lord. I realized the fact that the angles of the good Lord encamped around about them that fear him, and deliverith them. From that time I never grieved about those friends that had gone before. I wanted to live in a way I could say "Thy will be done, Lord help me to ever be submissive to they will at all times." This is my humble prayer. The past part of my life I have given was before the war 1865.

Time moved on and we made it our business as much as we could to attend meetings. We went far and near. I will name some of the many places: Pigeon Forge, Middle Creek, Shiloh, Wear's Valley, Sevierville, Red Bank, Waldens Creek, Catons Chapel, Gatlinburg. We have been to these places time after time and witnessed a my conversion. We would go and take our two horse wagon and take a load with us. We helped all we could to go to meetings, and always enjoyed our trips and sometimes came back praising the Lord on the way home. I remember one time being at Shiloh. One night Mr. & Mrs. Trevena were coming home with us, and we were coming up the river. We had a good load and some of them got to shouting and praising the Lord. Mr. Trevena got alarmed and scared and shouted the horses would run away with us. I said, "There is no danger of their running away." So we all enjoyed the trip that night. I could name a good many times and places when we have had a pleasant time. It does me good to think of some facts of my life that is past and gone, and some again make me feel sad.

I will give a few sketches of our life from 1870 to 1875. In 1870 there was a great meeting in Knox County near Knoxville. It was held by a man named Incept. It was a wonderful meeting, and people came a great distance to get to it. It was called a holiness meeting. Thousands of people attended and the meeting continued about two or three weeks. They had meeting in the fall for three or four years and the attendance kept growing and there was a great revival. As well as I can remember there were hundreds of conversions and I would say and believe there were hundreds who professed sanctification. There were a great many I was well acquainted with and I think they knew the meaning and what there were doing. So time moved on and a preaching by the name of Ford came to Shiloh and preached on the doctrine of sanctification and called for those that wanted to enter into this life to come and bow at the altar of prayer and consecrate their life unto the Lord. There were a good many who went and bowed before the Lord and while we were bowed, calling upon the Lord to help us to make a full surrender unto him, Harriet received a great blessing. She accepted it for the blessing of sanctification and she never seemed to doubt that she got what she sought for. She continued in that faith as long as she stayed here upon earth. By her talks to me and her faith it was a brighter life to live so I continued to seek after this life.

We were attending meeting at the old school house at Pigeon Forge and were having a good meeting. Mr. Trevena was our preacher and he preached on the doctrine of holiness or peffection as I understand the Bible, and I was still seeking to get into that higher life. While singing and praying was going on I was sitting down on my seat and Mr. Trevena came to me and took me by the hand and said to me, "Acknowledge it, this great blessing," and I received a great blessing. From my conversion to this time I acknowledged that great blessing of being the blessing of sanctification. I believed that if I could get to that I would go along rejoicing all the time, but before I left the school house I had the old Devil a to contend with. He came up as a deceiver. He got me in a way I was not thinking about. He told me that I had publically acknowledged that I had received this great blessing. I knew that I had, so unbelief came and that gave me a great deal of trouble. In the dark I went back to meeting the next night not feeling any better satisfied. I was in a condition I didn't know what to do. I continued to go to the Lord to know something to do about my condition, whether I was deceived about this great blessing. So the meeting closed that night. We were coming home riding horse back, Harriet and I. I was riding before her thinking and praying over my condition, and in that condition I saw the Father and the Son sitting side by side and as I saw them there I saw the blood running from our Blessed Christ's side and I was made to rejoice and praise the Lord aloud. I received a great blessing that night. I have never doubted that I received that great blessing from that time to the present time, but I have to gregreat that while the Lord has been so good to me I have not done what I should have done but I will say that the doctrine I have been holding to, I find it's a very present help in time of trouble.

The End.

The following was written by the late W.I. Marshall: "The life of this great Christian man was the means of leading many sinners to the Lord Jesus Christ. No man lived in that country that had a greater influence for good than he.

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He has gone to a rich reward long years ago and is now enjoying the bliss and glory of that heavenly home. A great christian has gone to his coronation and now lives in that house not made with hands but which is eternal and in the heavens. It was my privilege to know him from childhood. I knew about many things he talks about in this paper. I want to close with the lines of the poet, who wrote:

Servant of God well done,
Thy glorious warfare's past,
The battle's fought the victory won,
And thou are home at last.

Amen."