

Bits and Pieces of Hardin County History

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A Short History of White Mills Baptist Church
by
Hubert Lee

It is not known exactly when White Mills Baptist Church was organized. The minutes of the church prior to 1898 have been lost. However, the year 1839 was used in the minutes of the Salem Association of Baptist Churches until 1895, then it was changed to 1853 for reasons unknown. In all probability there were Baptists in the White Mills community before 1853 because there was a Union Sunday School in the area in 1845, but no records of an organized church have been found.

On June 16, 1860, the Baptists, along with three other denominations, bought property upon which to build a church building. It was agreed that each denomination would hold services in the new building once each month and the deed stated which denomination would meet on each fifth Sunday. This building was located in what is now known as the "old" White Mills cemetery.

The WESTERN RECORDER of August 11, 1860, has a letter from J. Tol Miller stating that he held a revival at White Mills in July, and that there had been twenty-five conversions, twenty of which joined the Baptist Church.

The Salem Association minutes show that the Salem Association met at White Mills on Sept. 19, 20, and 21, 1867.

In October, 1899, messengers from White Mills Baptist Church met in Elizabethtown with messengers from 18 other churches to form the Severns Valley Association.

In the early minutes of the church, it was noted that occasionally a vote was taken to "exclude from fellowship" members who did not conduct themselves properly or who did not attend services as they should. They were restored to full fellowship when conditions were corrected and forgiveness asked.

In February, 1901, the church voted to "build a house" 32' x 42' x 16' in the clear. The lot for this building was bought from W. W. Owsley for \$50.00. The first services were held in the new church house on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in January, 1902. Though it has been enlarged more than once to accommodate a growing congregation, this 1902 building is still the one used by the White Mills Baptist Church.

A list of the pastors of White Mills Baptist Church from 1862 to 1898 (taken from the Salem Association minutes on file at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) follows

COURT ORDER BOOK, HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY 1800 (July)

At a Court held for Hardin County on Tuesday the 22nd day of July 1800 Present Robert Hodgins Philip Reed Stephen Rawlings Samuel Rice Isom Enlow & George Bell Gent.

On the motion of John Creamer who owns land on a West branch of Mill Creek including a large Spring and is desirous of building a water grist Mill thereon it is ordered that a writ of adquoddamnum Ifsue to the Sheriff of this County to Command him to Summon twelve good and lawful men to meet on the land there and then to Enquire of Damages &c agreeable to an Act of Afsembly in such Case made and provided and to do such other things as are required by law And such inquest so to be made the said Jurors Shall return under thier hands and Seals to the next County Court

On the motion of Martin Armstrong by his Agent It is ordered that Samuel Rice David Barber William Withers John Rice & Isaac Vertrees or any two of them be and they are hereby appointed commifsioners to Establish the Special Call of a five hundred acre Entry in the name of the Said Martin Armstrong lying on the Ohio at the mouth of Doe run and then and there to do Such other things as Shall be expedient & agreeable to Law and that the Clerk do Ifsue his warrant directed to Said Commifsioners

The Settlement of the Estate of Eleanor Burns with Joseph Enlow Administrator was returned into Court & ordered to record

On the Motion of Christopher Bush it is ordered that Samuel Haycraft Adam Miller Thomas Miller & Greenbury Dorsey or any three of them first being Sworn do review the Road leading from Elizabeth Town to Frakes's Ferry or so far as to William Humphreys and make report to the next Court whether there is a more Convenient & better way for said Road to go than the present one as is already cut out

On the Motion of David Morrison it is ordered that his Ear mark be recorded as follows (to wit) two under Cuts in the right Ear and one in the left

Josiah Hart John Chaffan & Conrad Frakes being appointed to view the nearest & best way for a road to lead from Elizabeth Town to Samuel Millers Ferry on the Rolling fork returned a report in the form following (to wit) Beginning at Carnahans Old Schoolhouse on the bank of the River Thence down the River to the River to the mouth of Downs run Thence Straight to the End of James Browns lane and along the same down apast Frakes's Thence down past Thomas Hargises house thence acrofs the Edge of the pond below Thence acrofs the pond & flats to Clear Creek above peter Bartmefs Thence Straight to William Snellings Thence up the branch to the Waggon Road that leads to Nolin thence along Said road to a black Oak Saplin marked J H where Harts path leaves the Said Road Thence along said path with Straightning the Crook to McKenseys Thence down apast Harts & Chaffans Thence along the direction of said path to Stephen Rawlings's thence to the Courthouse given under our hands this 22nd day of July 1800

On the motion of Robert Hodgins it is ordered that William Hargis be appointed overseer of the road that leads from Amoses Ferry on Green River to intersect the Road that leads by Andrew Reeds to the Saltworks in the room of John Brunk and that said Brunk be discharged from being overseer and that all the hands that were to be ordered to assist said Brunk do assist him in opening & keeping the same in repair and that the former order be amended so as to include all the hands on the South fork as low as Richard Brownfields including said Brownfield

Present Stephen Rawlings Esqr

On the Motion of Lettice Vanmatre Licence is granted her for keeping a Tavern at her house for the Term of one year next insuing the date hereof She having Complied with the requisitions of the Law in such cases made & provided

Absent Isom Enlow Esqr

On the Motion of Isom Enlow it is ordered that the Said Enlow be released as Captain of the patrollers and that Joseph Kirkpatrick be appointed in his room and that after the said Joseph Kirkpatrick is Sworn he do the same duties that was enjoined on the Said Enlow and that the same men ride with him that was to ride with said Enlow

Present Isom Enlow

Ordered Michael Roll be appointed overseer of the road leading from Elizabeth Town to the mouth of the beech fork Beginning at the seven Mile Tree on the big hill and to Andersons fence on Carneals line and that all the hands on the East side of Buffaloe run and on Clear Creek & Youngers Creek that was to assist William Bush in keeping the Said Road in Repair do assist Said Michael Roll in keeping the road in repair And that William Bush be released from keeping that part of Said Road in repair and that the hands that do assist Said Roll is released from working under the Said Bush

Ordered that Anthony Vernon be appointed overseer of the Road leading from the forks of the road between the mouth of the Beech fork and Mr Pairpoints up Youngers Creek to where it Crosses the left hand fork of Said Creek and that the hands on the South Side of said Creek from the head to the Mouth then up the Rolling fork to Jacob Westfalls from thence to the big hill thence to the Beginning do assist him in keeping the same in repair and that Francis Pairpoint be released from keeping Said road in repair and that all the hands under said Vernon be released from Working under the Said Pairpoint

Present Robert Hodgins Esq

On the Motion of Francis Pairpoint it is ordered that Samuel Robertson Eli Farmer & Jonas Gray do view the nearest best and most Convenient way for a road to lead from Culvers ford on the Rolling fork by Francis Pairpoints Mill and to intersect the road leading from the Mouth of the Beech fork to Elizabeth Town being first sworn and make report to the next Court

Ordered that Francis Pairpoint be appointed overseer of the road leading from the mouth of the Beech fork to the top

thirty Eight & a half poles to a Stone Then at right angles one pole to a stone half a pole below sd abutment Then parallel to the abutment & on the lower side thereof thirty one poles to a stone Thence nearly S W Seventeen poles to the Beginning And having due regard to the Interest of both parties we do appraise the aforesaid acre of land to twenty five pounds and having viewed the lands & appurtenances above and below said Dam it is our opinion that said land will not overflow to injury of any person or persons whatsoever and that fish of pafsage or ordinary Navigation will not be Obstructed nor the health of the neighborhood injured by said Dam given from under our hands & seals this 8th day of March 1800 Taply Oldham Elex Lashly Richard Stilwell Reuben Kemf Hardin Thomas Henry Hays Henry Enlow Joseph Smith Benjamin Banmater Mordicae Enlow Matthias Dorson Ede Hardin Teste--Nicholas Miller

It is thereupon considered by the Court that it was reasonable that the Said Joseph Enlow should build said Mill and leave was accordingly given

Ordered that the patrollers appointed in this County instead of riding thirty six hours do ride only twelve hours in Each Month

Ordered that Court do adjourn until Court in Course
Robert Hodgkin

ELIZABETHTOWN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES, 1825

In pursuance of an Act of Assembly directing elections to be held in the several County Towns of this state on the first Monday in August Annually for the purpose of electing five trustees in each Town I caused an election to be held at the Court house in Elizabeth Town on the 1st day of August (being the first Monday) in 1825 for the purpose of electing five trustees for said Town and caused to be elected by the qualified voters of Said Town as trustees the following persons to wit: John Morris Allen Singleton Armistead H. Churchill Horatio G. Wintersmith & Samuel Haycraft as appears by a return of the Clerk of the Hardin County Clerk. Given under my hand this 1st day of August 1825.

Sam Haycraft Clk
Board of Trustees

At a meeting of the board of Trustees of Elizabeth Town on Thursday the 25th day of August 1825 at the Clerks Office in said Town

Present John Morris Allen Singleton Armistead H. Churchill Horatio G. Wintersmith & Samuel Haycraft Trustees
On motion made and seconded John Morris is Appointed President of the Board

Samuel Haycraft resigned his Office as Clerk of the board

On motion made and seconded James E. Stone is appointed Clerk of this board in place of Samuel Haycraft resigned--And the Said Haycraft is ordered to deliver over the books & papers of the board to the said James E. Stone

following is taken from SPENCER'S HISTORY OF KENTUCKY BAPTISTS: "The first principal of Lynnland Institute was an impudent, ambitious, young man with a stubborn conviction of self-sufficiency of the name of G. A. Coulson. He soon began to preach some chimerical notions, which caused disturbance in several of the churches. A number of grave, judicious brethren labored to induce him to cease preaching these disturbing sentiments, but their attentions seemed only to inflame his self-conceit. The two most offensive propositions that Mr. Coulson promulgated and labored to sustain were that, there is no promise in the New Testament to the unbaptized, as such; and that there is no discipleship without baptism. In 1868, Mr. Coulson, being a member of Gilead Church and frequently preaching to it, Salem Association adopted the following resolution by an almost unanimous vote: "That we admonish said Gilead Church and all the churches of Salem Association and advise Baptists everywhere to give neither countenance nor encouragement to the unscriptured doctrine of those who may attempt to sow the seeds of discord among us."

The controversy was evidently very warm, for in August, 1868, Elder J. Tol Miller offered his resignation as pastor, and it was promptly accepted.

In the following November, William Sprigg preferred charges against Mr. Coulson, based on the above propositions which he was preaching, and a committee composed of J. R. Gaither, P. W. Simons, Jerry Jeffries, Gabriel Duvall, and Anderson Dorsey was appointed to investigate the charges and report to the church. On December 26, 1868, the committee reported to the church that they had not settled the difficulty nor reconciled the brethren, and submitted the whole matter back to the church. The report was received, and the committee discharged. A motion was made and seconded that the personal charges as alleged by Brother William Sprigg against Elder Coulson be ruled out, whereupon Elder J. Tol Miller announced that he was going out of the meeting and invited as many as felt as he did about the matter to go with him. After leaving the meeting, Elder Miller and his followers, numbering about forty, claimed to be the original Gilead Church, and proceeded to organize as such. J. R. Gaither was elected moderator, and William Sprigg, clerk, and the church called Elder J. H. Brown as pastor, and claimed the first Saturday and Sunday in each month as their meeting dates. The Coulson party continued to meet on the fourth Saturday and Sunday in each month. After numerous conferences, in which Dr. J. N. Weaver of Louisville, Dr. J. H. Spencer, Elders T. B. Samuels, R. M. Dudley, T. J. Stevens, S. F. Thompson, J. H. Brown, and G. H. Hicks took part, a compromise was effected in October, 1869. Elder Coulson and his family had called for and received letters of dismissal from the church some time previous. Elder Miller called for his letter a few months later. The church was evidently without a pastor from August 22, 1868, to June 24, 1871, when Elder J. E. Jenkins was called as pastor.

Clay Overall, James Jenkins, S. B. Bland, and William Sprigg were appointed as that committee. In June, 1880, the same brethren were appointed as the Building Committee. A committee on the location of the church house was appointed, consisting of the following: M. R. Gardner, Hiram Overall, Chas. Greenwell, J. M. Miller, Ed Harris, Clay Overall, F. W. Simmons, S. H. Bland, Jas. Starks, William Miller, Daniel Bland, Bailey Price, William Sprigg, James Sprigg, and James Jenkins. The entire church was later added to this committee and requested to meet the fourth Saturday in June at 3:00 PM for the purpose of deciding upon a location. In August, 1880, arrangements having been made to take down the old building and put up a new church house, the church adjourned to meet in the Glendale schoolhouse on the Saturday before the third Sunday in September.
(To be continued in the next issue.)

QUERIES

Am searching the following surnames: AMMONS, ARVACOST, ATEN, BARNES, BEAN, BEEKMAN, BENNETT, BLAIR, BLOODGOOD, CRUME, DRAKE, HARNED, HARTLEY, HULL, HOSKINSON, IGLEHEART, KENNISON, LUCUS, LYONS, MARSH, MILIAN, MOORIS(sic), MOORMAN, MOUCHETTE OLIVER, PARRAMOR, PETIT, PAPHAM, PORTER, PRESTON, SIPES, SKILLMAN, SKINNER, TILLET, VANDEVENTER, WHITWORTH, WIER. Will gladly exchange information. MAC BLAIR, 720 Northwood Dr., Huntingdon, TN 38344

BUCHANAN, SPRATT, SAMPLES, SHOFNER

William R. (Robert?) or M. "Bobby" Buchanan b. c1831 VA md. Martha Cosby SPRATT (b. 1821) on 24 Dec 1850 Taylor Co. Her parents Francis A. SPRATT & Martha SAMPLES per mg. bond Taylor County. My great-grandfather, s/o Bobby & Martha, William J. (James, Jack, Jackson) BUCHANAN b. 1864 Taylor Co. md Lucinda SHOFNER b. 1861 Taylor Co. per mg bond Taylor Co. Bobby's other children: Braxton K. b. c1853, Laura A. b. c1855, Caledonia b. c1857, Jane & Martha. Would appreciate hearing from anyone who has information on Wm. Bobby's death. Also his brothers & sisters if they were in Green Co. area. Any Buchanan info would be appreciated. Elizabeth (Betty) L. Brewer/Jones, 10817 S. Plahm Court, Worth, IL 60482

DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL AND HANNAH DRURY of Vermont, New York, and Kentucky, 1700 to the Present. 445 pages, completely indexed, 144 photographs, now available from the author Linda Kmiecik, 431 S. Center St., Bensenville, IL 60106-2642, \$40.00 plus \$3.00 P&H (IL residents only add \$2.50 Il sales tax).

This genealogy includes the following families: Drury, Hodges, Waldeck, and Walden of Hart and Larue Cos., KY and Macoupin and Montgomery Cos. IL, whose descendants moved on to Sumner and Cowley Cos., KS and further to California and Washington state. Chapters also included on other families: