

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

Early Schools in Campbell County

By

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Submitted by Rebecca Bryan Boone Chapter

The historic "seminary" at Coldspring, Ky., was built in 1857 by the Rev. James Jolly, who was a bricklayer, as well as a pioneer Baptist preacher. It was financed by the leading farmers of the community including Robert Dodsworth, John C. Youtsey, Joseph and Charles Horner and William and George Winters. The Rev. N. C. Pettit was the first principal and the first faculty included I. P. Keeney of New York, professor of Mathematics, Edward Morin of Flag Springs, professor of English, and Professor Sturm of Cincinnati who taught music. Among well-known men who were educated there were Col. R. W. Nelson, Judge James C. Wright and B. F. Graziana.

Another account states that the school was built in 1850 by Prof. N. C. Paddock, who there taught the sons and daughters of prominent families of Campbell County. It was used by home guards as a headquarters building during the civil war. I think the 1850 date is probably correct because I find an account of a reunion of the pupils of Rev. Pettit and the oldest person there was graduated from the school in 1855.

Asbury M. E. Church

"Old Asbury" enjoys the distinction of being the oldest Methodist Church in Northern Kentucky and Southern Ohio.

In 1802 a few christian people including the Rev. Jarvis Taylor and Mr. & Mrs. Stacey Reeves met at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Miles, on what is now known as the Winters lane, in whose humble log cabin in the virgin wilderness the first services were held and the church organized. Services were held for a time in a log school house nearby, and in 1828 a log church was built on the present site. The first Methodist church south of the Ohio River was under the supervision of Bishop Francis Asbury, who occasionally visited the church on his long and tiresome journeys on horseback in those early days when there were no roads and with only the rising and setting sun to shape his course.

The first Sunday school was founded in May 1838 by the Rev. Harrison, a Presbyterian minister and E. L. Southgate. Thos. Miles, son of Elizabeth Miles, was elected superintendent, which office he held for forty-five years. Charles Horner and James Cones were among the members at this time who were active in church work. In 1881 the present building was erected on the Alexandria Pike, a distance of perhaps a mile from the original site. At that time the church had a membership of 54 souls.

I hope this information will be of some value to you.

Leola R. Heilman.

The source of this information is newspaper clippings corroborated by Mrs. Belle Bennett (age 94 yrs.)