

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

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Sketch of the  
Old Christian Church at  
California, Kentucky

Mrs. John D. Ellis

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REMATCH OF OLD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

at

CALIFORNIA, Ky.

by

MRS. JOHN D. MULLIG

The First Christian Church in Campbell County was built in California, Ky. in 1853. During its early history, such notables as Alexander Campbell, Walter Scott, John Smith, all pioneers of the denomination preached here. The building was damaged to such an extent by the "Hay Storm" of 1860 that services were discontinued. About this time, Union soldiers passing through the village, propped up the sagging roof, and used it as a military barracks. Their rough usage completely destroyed it. At the close of the war between the States, Rev. James Galle and T. Lloyd Young took up the matter of repairs. Suit was brought on the ground of spoliation and sufficient damages recovered to restore the building. Before the repaired structure was used, an old slave negro, dear to the Young family became insane and there being no asylum near, "Aunt Fannie" as she was called by all the community was installed in the church until other arrangements could be made. For quite awhile no services were held in the building, but in 1878 Rev. J. C. De Boss and his family came to the village and gathering some of the remaining members together, opened the church once again. Rev. West of New Richmond became the pastor at this time and occupied the pulpit for one year, when Rev. James Houston took charge. In 1884 the church was damaged by the flood but was restored within the year. Again in 1892, this church of many vicissitudes was de-

stroyed by fire, but was rebuilt in 1893.  
It is still in existence on the same site as in the beginning and has an active membership, made up largely of true Americans of Pioneer stock.

Contributed by Mrs. C. S. Peakley,  
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