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HISTORIC KENTUCKY

Photo and Text by J. Winston Coleman Jr.



MAYS LICK BAPTIST CHURCH, MASON COUNTY—Twelve miles south of Maysville in the town of Mays Lick stands this pioneer Baptist Church, organized Nov. 28, 1789. The first church was log and stood on the site of The Rev. Walter Warder's monument in the local cemetery. This was replaced by a brick structure which burned in March 1829. In that year a new brick church was erected across the road (U. S. 68) on the present site. With a membership of 700, this was probably the strongest church in the West. In 1829-1830, a split over the doctrines of Alexander Campbell formed a new church—the New Lights, or Campbellites. Both factions used the church—on alternate Sundays—until 1842, when the "Reformers" moved to their new church down the street. Donald Holmes was the first pastor of Mays Lick Church, followed by Jacob Gregg, Baldwin Clifton, William Grinstead, Walter Warder and Gilbert Mason; their pastorates

covering the years 1797 through 1843. Some of the families of this church were the Owens, Powells, Formans, Shotwells, Clifts, Van Camps, Peeds, Allens, Yanceys, McIlvaines, Chamberlains and Calverts. S. L. Helm filled the pulpit from 1843 to 1850; W. W. Gardner, 1852-57; J. W. Bullock, 1857-62, and Cleon Keyes, 1862-71. In the fall of 1870, the present church was erected and in 1883 it was remodeled with the addition of the steeple and vestibule. Some of the later ministers have been J. E. Carter, M. M. Riley, A. M. Vardeman, Zachery T. Cody, J. D. Simmons, H. H. Hibbs, Jacob B. Holly, W. W. Horner, Lewis N. Thompson, C. V. Waugh, T. U. Fann, G. H. Moore, M. Jackson White, G. G. Lanter, Joseph F. Woodson, Roy C. Magill, John W. Kruschwitz, John D. Laida and Dr. Archie D. Odom, the present pastor, who filled an earlier pastorate, 1931-1937. (This is No. 75 in the Historic Kentucky series).