

HISTORIC KENTUCKY

Photos and Text by J. Winston Coleman, Jr.



OLD BEASLEY CHURCH, MASON COUNTY—This Christian Church stood eight miles northwest of Maysville at the intersection of the Big Pond Pike and the Dover Road in the Tuckahoe Ridge section. Callender Holton was instrumental in establishing this church, which was the consolidation with a Baptist congregation whose church was located on Lee's Creek. Beasley Church was built of brick and stone and was completed in 1835, taking its name from nearby Beasley Creek. Alexander Campbell, a noted pioneer Christian minister and cofounder of the Disciples of Christ, preached here on occasion. Every distinguished professor at Transylvania University, at one time or other, came to old Beasley as a visiting minister. Among the outstanding men who held pastorates here was the Rev. William C. Morro, author of the life of J. W. McGarvey, later professor of New Testament at Texas Christian University; Dr. "Billy" Hall, the Rev. Kyle Brooks, who preached here for more than 50 years; the Rev. James Cartright and the last man to hold a pastorate at old Beasley, the Rev. D. W. Nicholas. Some 30 years ago, services were discontinued and the building abandoned. It got into a bad state of repair and collapsed on Sept. 21, 1950, after a hard rain. In the cemetery are buried about one hundred members, including Dr. Joseph Desha Pickett, a grandson of Gov. Desha, and president of the University of Kentucky (1868-69), and state superintendent of public instruction. Some of the families who were members of this church were the Holttons, Picketts, Osbornes, Donovans, Perrines, Smoots, Balls, Bouldins and Kirks.