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# History of Bethel Church

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by

Mrs. L. A. (Opal) Garriott

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HISTORY OF BETHEL CHURCH

Bethel Methodist Church in the early 1800s was a small un-hewn log building to meet the needs at that time and was also used as a school to be helpful to any citizens in that part of Kentucky, to secure a foundation for future good government; it was all important that religion and education were the chief corner stones upon which good and wholesome government must rely. There were no county or state schools, especially the case in rural Kentucky at that time.

Hon. George D. Ewing deserves credit for some of the news of the Bethel churches, as his parents moved to the Bethel community from New Castle in 1834, he was six years old. He spent most of his life there, and his parents are buried there.

It was in the year 1836 the county of Trimble was organized. Soon after that, the church known as First Bethel was torn away and a neat, hewn log building was erected, this was called Bethel Number Two. Some who helped build First Bethel and Bethel Number Two were Charles Cook and wife, Sarah; Davis Latty and wife, Martha; Robert Dougherty and wife, Elizabeth; Samuel Wyatt and wife, Polly; George Wyatt and wife, Malinda; Charles and John May; Nancy Trout Gain; James Hayden and wife; Fielding Colbert and wife, Catherine; John Garriott and wife, Sophia.

The third Bethel was erected on the old site in 1867. This Bethel was a neat frame building, which remained at the old place. A new road went through and changed things. They located on the new road and named the church New Bethel. There were many large beech trees that furnished shade, when there was an overflow crowd. Several men in the community preached some where needed, George Strother and three sons, John, Jeremiah, and French. The father and two sons were local preachers, but Jeremiah was, for a time, in the Conference. At one time, the Rev. Jeremiah Strother was sent to the Bedford Circuit.

In June, 1940 Bethel had lost so many members by death the church had grown weak and there was talk of closing its doors. Rev. C. P. Pilow, pastor at that time, was not willing to give up the country church that he had worked so hard with for nearly five years to restore membership, but this seemed impossible. So while the missionary women were having an all-day meeting at the church, Rev. Pilow, pastor, and Rev. George D. Prentiss, District Superintendent, came and it was decided to disband.

In September, 1940, the Conference sent Rev. W. M. Williams with his saw and hammer. It was under his ministry that Bethel was torn down and the building and its congregation was moved to Bedford, and an educational building was erected at the back of the Bedford Church, and was dedicated February 1, 1942, by Bishop U. V. W. Darlington of the Kentucky Conference.

So time and circumstances had, after many years, erased the precious and sacred memories of many, many years. All that is left to tell the story is the Bethel Cemetery that will never be forgotten. By Mrs. L. A. (Opal) Garriott.

REGISTER OF BETHEL CHURCH

Fulton Ewing	D. L. Miller	W. R. Handlon
Martha Latty	W. W. Miller	Eliza McDowell
Nancy Whittaker	Florence Miller	Lenora Fannie Scott
Mahala Hill	Alpheus Hill	Eliza Boney
Jas. W. Latty	Elizabeth Hill	Elizabeth Wright
Wm. Spilman	Lenora E. Ewing Powell	Bettie Wright Hisle
Elizabeth E. Spilman	Edmonia Bunte	Ann E. Mitchell
F. S. Wright	J. W. Giddens	Mr. M. C. Shoots

Nancy E. Wright  
Abraham Whittaker  
Elizabeth Colbert  
Cordelia C. Chandler  
Clark O. Colbert  
Tammie Colbert  
W. B. Taylor  
Lonisa Welch  
Fred Hutchinson  
Sallie Hutchinson  
Dorcas Sanders  
Emily Sanders  
Rob<sup>t</sup>. Sanders  
Francy J. Sanders  
Agnes Colbert  
Cornelis Bell  
Lafayette Bell  
Rosana C. Bell  
N. B. Welch  
Louisa Welch  
Thos. S. Giddens  
Cornelia Bell, Jr.  
Jas. Colbert  
Maggie Wells  
Edmonia Handlon  
Mary Alexander  
Cordelia K. Jones  
Mattie Kendall Hyatt  
Abbie Leatherman  
Geo. Welch  
Catherine Kendall McDowell  
Amanda Kendall  
Isadore Alexander Melvin  
Fannie B. Kent  
Nathan P. Calvert  
Mary E. Calvert  
Roland Kendall, Jr.  
W. L. Alexander  
Nancy A. Alexander  
Chas. Alexander  
Elba A. Kendall  
Jefferson D. Welch  
Jennie C. Welch  
Wm. L. Kendall  
Wm. Scott  
Henry McDowell  
Marcus Alexander  
Ada Giddens  
Mary Wright  
Sarah May  
Catherine Haynes Vanhook  
Jennie Ewing Coleman  
Gertrude Bell Humble  
Permelia Fitzgerald

Catharine Whittaker  
Wm. H. A. Driskill  
Rebecca A. Scott  
Sophronia Whittaker  
Clara Tingle  
H. Daugherty  
Susan Daugherty  
Sarah Hunt  
Addie Pierce McIntire  
Sarah T. Kendall  
Sarah M. Kendall  
Andrew Handlon  
Catherine Handlon  
Sarah Walker  
Mariah D. Wright  
Elizabeth Kendall  
Jno. Tingle  
Mary Johnson  
Hannah Colbert  
Arminta W. Tingle  
Edward Branch  
Minnie Wright  
Sallie Wright  
Lula Daugherty  
Sarah Dunn  
Mollie Colbert  
John Hancock  
Fannie Wright  
Walter McDowel  
Ida Wigington Cull  
L. M. Scott  
Lizzie E. McCarty  
Melinda C. Taylor  
Gertie Cull Miles  
Amanda Tingle  
Jessie Davis  
Robert Abbot  
Georgiana Leatherman  
Gabe May  
Lettia M. Yager  
Minnie Scott  
Jessie Giddens  
Fannie Tyre  
Naomi Bell  
Newel B. Evans  
Mattie Williams  
Druzy Hanlon  
Mary E. Tyre  
Alfred Hanlon  
Bell Hanlon  
Bud Daugherty  
Henry Daugherty  
Charlie Pearce  
Dolly Latty

Rob<sup>t</sup>. Kendall  
Melvina Kendall  
W. D. Kendall  
Jane Kendall  
Roland Kendall  
Jno. Hisell  
Vitura N. Hawkins  
J. G. Sanders  
Dollie Sanders  
Samuel Tingle  
Alice Tingle  
Elvira Branch  
Rob<sup>t</sup>. Lynch  
W. L. Bell  
Ora May  
Cora E. Ball  
Hamitt Whittaker  
Stephen Hawkins  
Amanda E. Daugherty  
Rhoda E. Pierce  
Florence Alexander  
Eliza Alexander  
Mert Calvert  
Mary Whitaker  
Ida Walker  
George Baxter  
John Stettelow  
Lusette Law  
Tice Whitaker  
Ida Daugherty  
Maggie Pearce  
Kate Sullivan  
Lillie Webster Moore  
Thomas Calvert  
Florance Sullivan  
Mattie McCarty  
Lizzie Goude  
Anna Pearce  
Frank Sullivan  
Name Belle  
Mollie Belle  
Nanrie Hutcheson  
Thomas Sullivan  
Joseph King  
Lucy Dunn  
Robert Dunn  
Thomas Hancock  
Mrs. T. G. Kidwell  
G. M. Baxter  
Thomas M. Dunn  
A. F. Bryant  
Anna M. Bryant  
Georgie Wheeler  
Glizzie Spillman

Mary Jane Welch  
Mary Jones  
Sarelda Henry  
Mary E. Harmon  
Joseph H. Hamible  
Ida A. May  
Emma Hisle  
Thos. L. Handlon  
W. B. May  
Christiana May  
G. W. Taylor  
Sophia E. Taylor  
Margaret A. Handland  
Frank Lee  
Annie Morgan Lee  
Phebe M. Lee  
James Wright  
Alexander Wright  
Henry Tingle  
Monroe Hancock  
Sedwick May  
Clara M. Tingle  
Allen Tyree  
Addie Tyree  
Bailey Jones  
Flora Jones  
James Burl Branch

Andrew Hanlon  
Willis Johnson  
J. K. Henry  
Elkana Wright  
James Louden  
Dena Kendall Tyree  
M. V. Long  
Wm. McDowel  
Mrs. Roxie Wyatt  
Brack Walker  
John Louden  
Frank Baxter  
Margret Baxter  
M. G. Winter  
M. S. Winter  
Athea Winter  
Lesley Baxter  
Ednes Baxter  
Cornelious Baxter  
James Baxter  
John Tildree Hawthorne  
Arthur Earnest Giddens  
Minnie Crafton  
Jessie Wentworth  
Georgiana Colbert  
Berry Wiggington  
Maggie Giddens

William Colbert  
Mary W. Whitaker  
S. J. Robertson  
Sarah J. Robertson  
B. H. Hawthorn  
Susan Hawthorn  
S. C. Robertson  
Thomas Simmons  
Robt. Spillman  
Mrs. Robt. Spillman  
Allen Tyra  
Wm. Spillman  
Lizzie M. Spillman  
Bettie E. Spillman  
C. O. Colbert  
Nannie Jacobs  
Florence Sullivan  
Christian Bell  
Margaret Crafton  
James Hutchinson  
Charles Colbert  
Lutis Hancock  
Ida Walker Brown  
Rhoda E. Colbert  
Mary Etta Hill  
Laura Etta Davis  
Daniel Francis Holstine