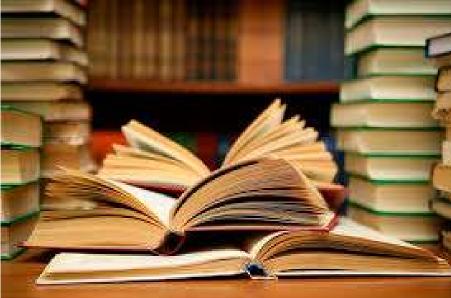


Chestnut Ridge Cousins Early Religion on the Frontier

Disclaimer by the author: This writing is for historical purposes only. It is not intended for religious argument but solely for telling a story of history. I have written this from a few sources and recollection of my studies of the Restoration Movement. It is presented as a presentation of my studies and it is not intended to offend anyone. In no way do I want to invite a discussion on doctrine issues.

Sources:

The Cane Ridge Reader, Life of Barton W. Stone, Tennessee Christians, Marshall County and Bedford Sesquicentennial Histories Lincoln County Pioneers, Methodism In Tennessee, Goodspeed History, (Website – Restoration Movement), Biography of David Lipscomb and verbal conversation.

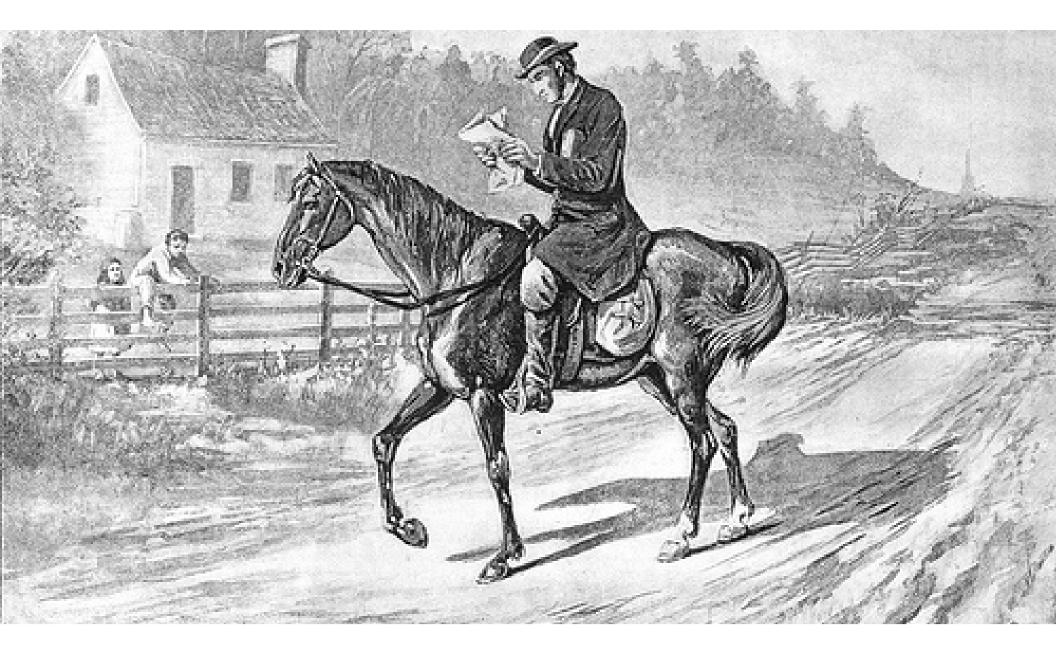




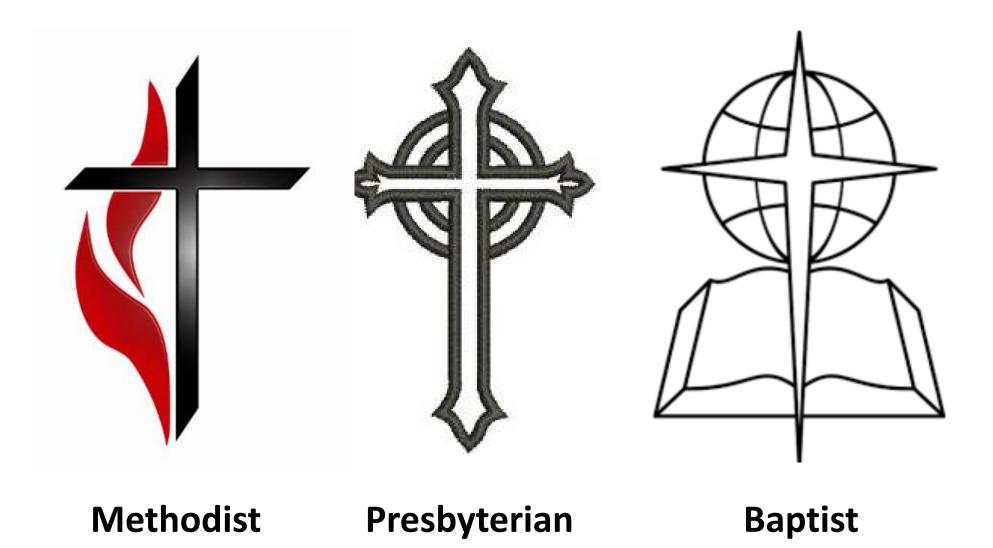


"Religious freedom is the most valuable and cherished of all freedom was guaranteed by the section of the Bill of Rights that was prefixed to our constitution and reads as follows: That religion or the duty which we owe to our creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore all men are entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience, and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice forbearance, love, and charity toward each other. The settlers were willing to endure any manner of hardships to obtain this freedom." -Mary Pepper Fort

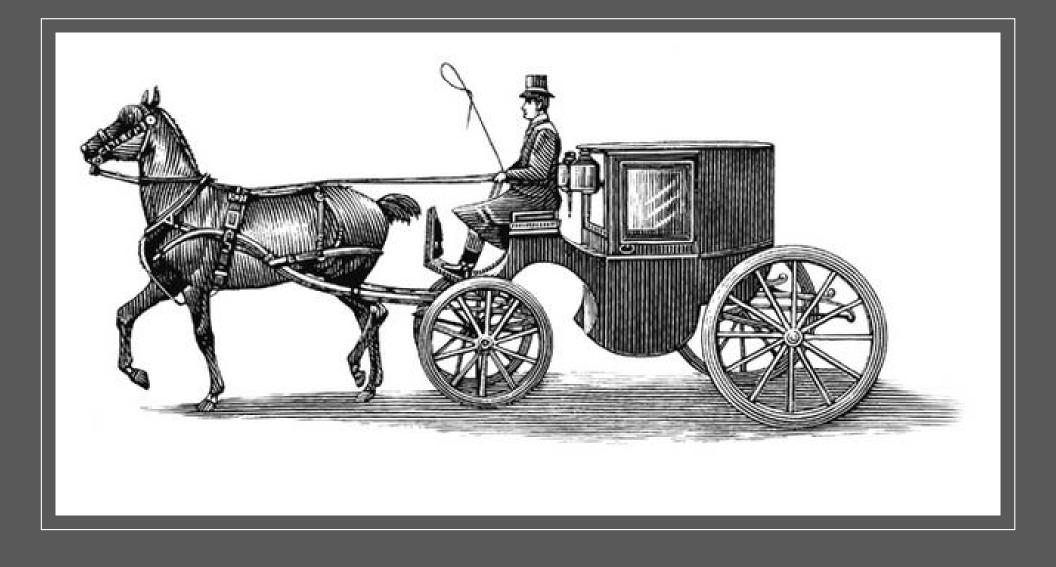


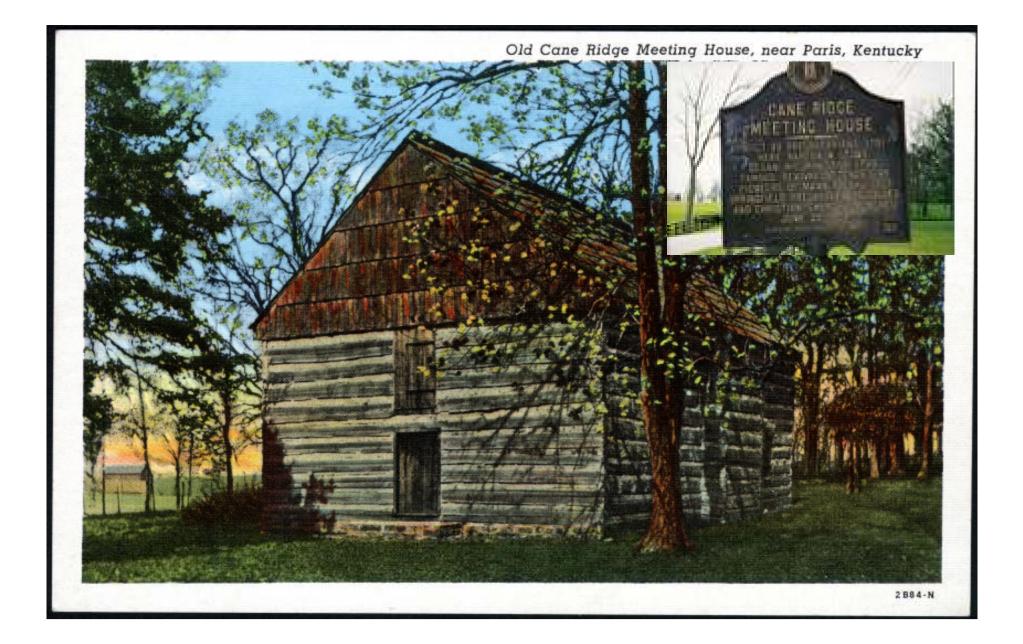






"Shelbyville is a handsome town, situated on the north bank of the Duck **River, and the county seat of Bedford County. The lands in Bedford County** are fertile, and well adapted for agriculture purposes. Methodism, as has been seen, was introduced into the Duck River country at an early period, and in portions of Bedford County made rapid progress. In the town of Shelbyville, the Methodist have not been so numerous as they are in other towns and cities of Tennessee; yet there has always been, since the first organization, a respectable Church, which numbered among its members some of the most worthy and honored citizens of the place. The Turrentine, Ruth, Cannon, Knotts, Blackmore, Shapard, Brown, Holt, Moody, Wilhoite and others equally worthy. In the county of Bedford, the Methodist are numerous." -Methodism in Tennessee





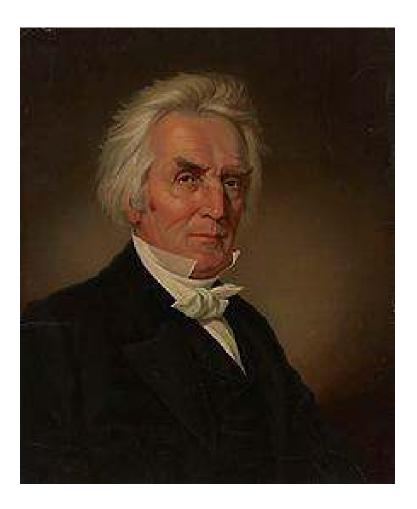


Stone

1772-1844



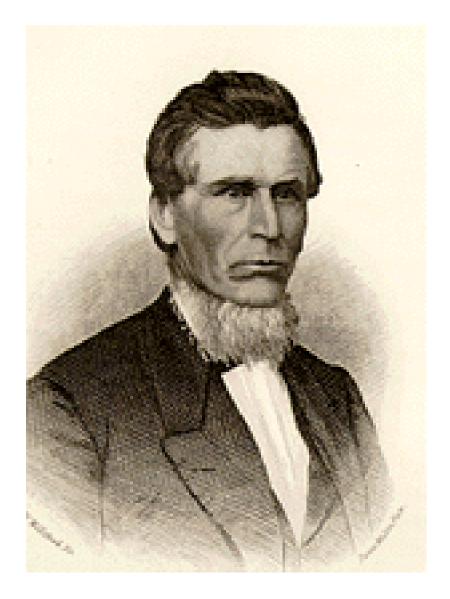




Alexander



1788-1866

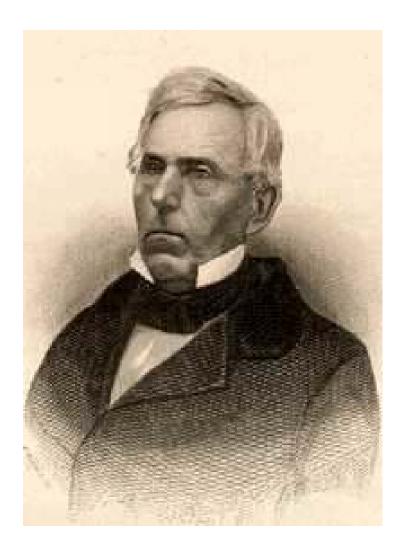


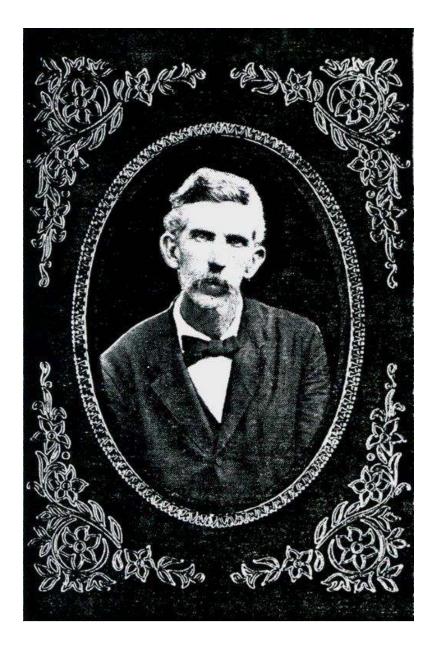


1818-1880

Tolbert Fanning

1810-1874





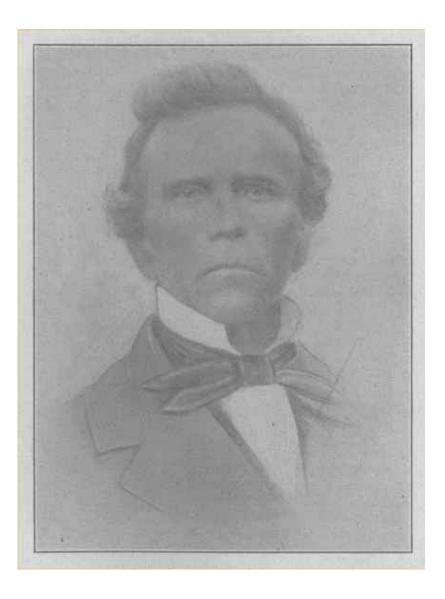


1791-1851

. Joshua

Kennerly Speer

1794-1858

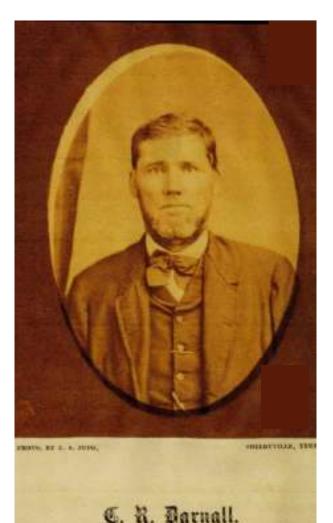








1823-1905





Darnell

"He had given opportunity to numbers of poor girls and boys to go to school to him and after being competent, teach and obtain means and pay. Never had one single poor child either the orphan or any other, been refused the chance to get learning."



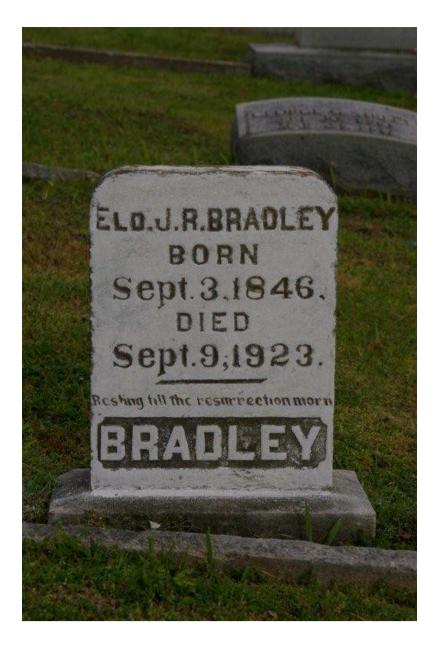




Elder, J. R.

Bradley

1846-1923



Mulberry Baptist Church has a long history, dating back to gatherings of Baptist-believers at the home of one of the early citizens of Lincoln County, John Whitaker, Carolyn Crowley's great-great-great grandfather. John's home was in the valley of the East Fork of Mulberry Creek. He, like many others, had migrated from Kentucky. His own brother, Mark Whitaker, had come with his family, too, and lived just up the creek, almost within sight.

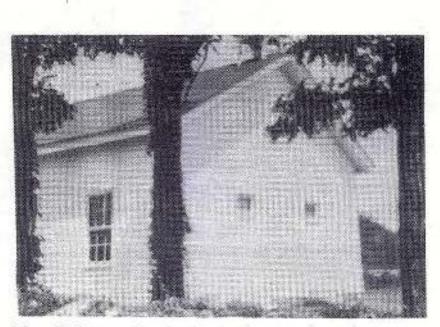




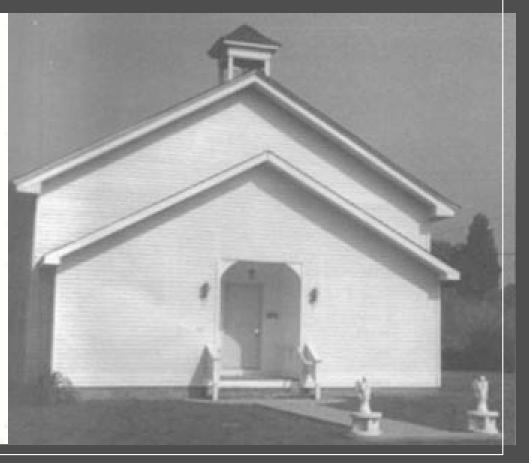




Mount Hebron Cumberland Presbyterian Church

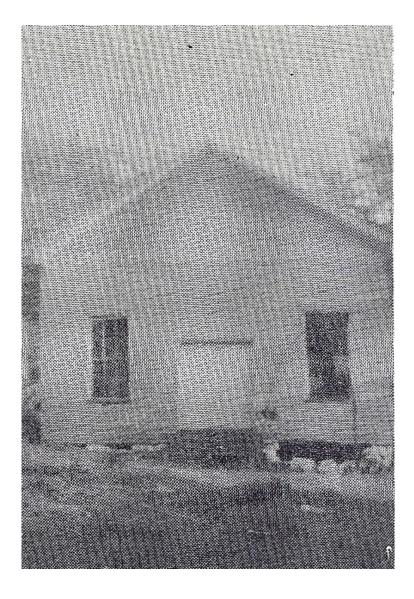


Mt. Hebron Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Belleville was organized 1830 (then Norris Creek) & is very active today in 1986.



Oak Hill Baptist Church, est. 1883 (after several years of camp meetings near Belleville) on the hill above the stores, & getting its name from the oak trees around. The Church was very active in 1986.





Concord Primitive Baptist Church at Norris Creek (now Belleville). Est. between 1810 & 1820. Closed for lack of member is 1935.



Former Pleasant Grove Methodist Church



