

Bits and Pieces

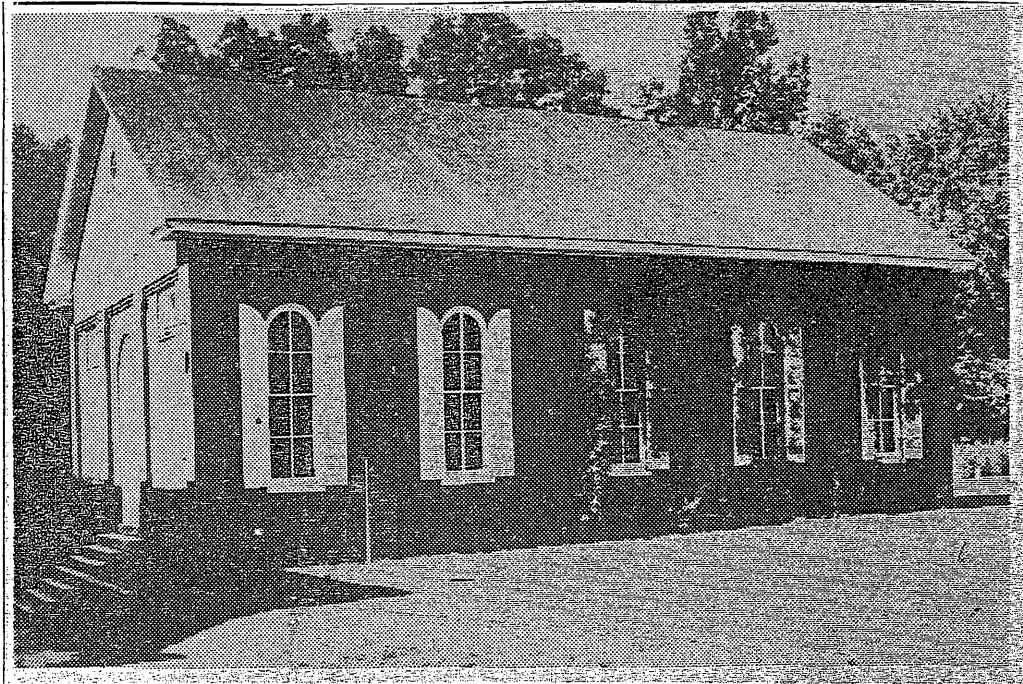
of Hardin County History

A PUBLICATION OF HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL XXI NO. 4

MARY JO JONES, EDITOR

WINTER 2003



From an old newspaper clipping, courtesy Wayne H. Hayes

GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

Warren Cash, a native of Virginia who had served under Washington in the Revolutionary War, and his wife Susannah Baskett Cash, came to Kentucky in 1784, and in 1806 found themselves in Hardin County, where Cash organized Bethel Church near Sonora, also known as "Sandy," and became its pastor.

On March 17, 1824, Cash, with a number of persons from the Bethel Church, met to organize a separate church near Glendale. The Constitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum were adopted. Records indicate that there was meeting house used by the church from the beginning. The church acquired title to the land on September 10, 1827 by a deed made between the heirs of Isham Ready and the Trustees of Gilead Baptist Church for one acre of land on the Nolin River, which contained a meeting house built by Thomas Dorsey. Price paid for the land was twenty-five cents.

Cash became the first pastor of Gilead Church and served until 1840. The church, with 31 members, was admitted to membership in the Salem Association in September, 1824.

In 1840 the membership divided on the subject of missions. The Rev. Mr. Cash led off part of the members and organized an anti-mission church under the name of "Regular Baptists." Those who remained as United Baptists took the name Gilead Church. Both organizations worshiped in the same building for a number of years. In time, the anti-missionary group ceased to exist.

The troubles over holding slaves and the resulting Civil War which disturbed so many churches throughout the country seem not to have given Gilead any serious worry. According to the custom of the day, the colored people worshiped at Gilead with the whites. In 1871, however, all colored members were notified to be present at a meeting, and letters of dismissal were granted to them.

In the fall of 1880 the old church building was torn down and a more substantial one was erected in its place. The new building, like the old one, was made of brick. The cost of the new building, with equipment, was \$1,792.25. In 1924 two inexpensive rooms were added to the church. In 1930 a brick veneer building containing fifteen classrooms was dedicated. On June 10, 1956, the fourth building of the Gilead Baptist Church was dedicated. In 1967 a new educational building was constructed and the 1880 building was razed.

The seeds planted by Warren Cash almost two centuries ago have grown into a powerful force in the Glendale area. A magnificent church building still stands on the banks of the Nolin River.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DUES FOR THE 2003 CALENDAR YEAR ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. DUES ARE \$8.00 PER MEMBER, \$16.00 PER FAMILY.

DUES WERE RAISED TO \$8 ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO, AND HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED AT THAT AMOUNT IN ORDER NOT TO EXCLUDE ANYONE. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN TREMENDOUS INCREASES IN POSTAGE AND PROGRAM COSTS, AND THE SOCIETY IS OPERATING SLIGHTLY "IN THE RED." IF YOU CAN PAY \$10 OR \$12, IT WILL BE APPRECIATED. PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TO THE SOCIETY AT P. O. BOX 381, ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42702, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IN ORDER THAT YOU WILL NOT MISS ANY OF THE INTERESTING PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR OR ANY ISSUES OF *BITS AND PIECES*.

MERANDA CASWELL, TREASURER

INDIAN PROBLEMS



The pioneer settlers in Severns Valley were subject to frequent attacks by the Indians. In 1782, the Rev. John Gerrard, first pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church left home with his gun, apparently alone, and went into the wilderness to hunt for game. He was expected back that night, but his wife and daughter looked for him in vain. He was never seen or heard from again. It was concluded that he was killed by the Indians who were then prowling near with the determination of driving the white man from their hunting grounds.

Haycraft's *History of Elizabethtown* details the occasion in which Dan Vertrees, grandfather of W. D. Vertrees, one-time County Judge, was killed. Vertrees was described as a stalwart young man of daring. According to Haycraft: "He, with . . . Colonel Nicholas Miller and others, were pursuing a band of Indians; Miller, then young, was tall, slenderly built, but as active as a cat, and as fleet as a hind, and as brave as Julius Caesar. This company, coming upon the Indians suddenly, a desperate fight ensued. Vertrees was killed at the first fire. A stout warrior seized a white man, wrestled his gun from him, and was about to cleave his head with an axe. Miller at that moment, with a celerity of action which few men could equal, and with a power that few possessed--in the language of John Glenn 'snatched the white man from the Indian as he would a chicken from a hawk,' and, with an equal rapid motion, killed the Indian. This turned the tide, and the remaining Indians fled, leaving several [of their number] dead on the ground."

Haycraft also reports that Henry Helm, son of pioneer settler Capt. Thomas Helm, was killed by Indians.

About the middle of September, 1782, a roving band of Indians made their appearance in Hardin County and committed several depredations. Miles Hart, whose keen penetration and skill as an Indian fighter, had gained from them the name of "Sharp-Eye," with several other settlers, pursued them. In the pursuit, Hart shot their chief, while several others of the party were also killed. Only two of the Indians made good their escape. These two reported the chieftain's death to the tribe. Vengeance was declared by them against Sharp-Eye and his family for the death of the fallen chief, and speedy execution followed the threat. A short time thereafter, a band of Indians, led by a brother of the slain chieftain, secretly and silently made their way into the neighborhood of Elizabethtown, where they emerged from their hiding places and commenced their outrages. The neighborhood was instantly aroused, and Hart, always ready to assist in repelling the savage foe, was the first upon their trail. The whites followed in rapid pursuit for an entire day, but were unable to overtake them.

As soon as the locals had turned toward their homes, the Indians, who must have been closely watching their movements, picked up their trail and followed them back to the settlements. Hart arrived at his home five miles from Elizabethtown about dark in the evening and slept soundly through the night, as he had no apprehension of further Indian depredations.

On the succeeding morning, just as the family was beginning to partake of their frugal meal, the band of Indians, who had been prowling around the house all night, suddenly appeared at the door, and the brother of the fallen chief shot Hart dead. Joseph Hart, son of the slain man, a brave youth only twelve years old, grasped his rifle the instant he saw his father fall. Before the savage could enter the door, the boy sent a ball through his heart, thus avenging his beloved parent's death. The Indians then rushed to the door in a body. Joseph plunged a

