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NOTES OF INTEREST OF HISTORY ON MT.OLIVET CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(compiled by Mrs. Wm.P.(Colleen B.) Garrett from various sources)
Prepared for Mt.Olivet's "HERITAGE DAY" Sunday, September 12,1976

In the early 1800's the site on the Plum Springs Road where the Church now stands was used for a camp ground for the purpose of worship. Persons came from various sections of the country, traveling horseback or in ox or horse-drawn wagons loaded with provisions and bedding. The stock was placed in the pasture while the revival would continue two to four weeks. Some of the families or a portion of them would return to their homes after ten days or two weeks in order that others could come.

Represented in the congregations were Presbyterians, Baptist, and Methodist. With the growth of the camp meetings came the desire for a Church building and a log church was constructed by the three denominations. Services were held the year around.

The Mt.Olivet Meeting House was built of logs about 1813, barely three years after the Church was organized and Cumberland Presbyterians have worshipped at the same location since that date.

The property of Henry Ewing, the land on which the camp meetings were held, was sold to William "Billy" Simpson who later deeded it to John H. "Jack" White. In 1844 Mr. White deeded the church ground to the trustees of Mt.Olivet Church. In 1845 it was voted to erect a brick structure.

When the congregation built the brick church in 1845 at a cost of a little over \$1,000.00, they gave the old log house to John Vance, who moved it about a mile from here, and put it up for a dwelling house. It was later known as the old Vance place. Mr. Vance did the stone work for the foundation of the brick church. Bricks were made less than 200 yards from the church site - the bricks being 12-inch thick. Mr. James Carter put up the brick work. The brick and mortar were applied by C.A. Carter, and a Mr. Patilo while the stone curbing was donated by Mr. Vance. While the whole church and the community generally assisted in the enterprise, yet Adam Bratton and John Grider probably did more than any two men towards building the Church. It is said that Adam Bratton worked on it himself nearly a whole year.

The building was arranged to accomodate Negro slaves, with approximately a third of the space in the rear of the building used to seat the slaves. Two doors at the rear of the church were used for entrance of the slaves. At one time the Negroes had a membership of over 30.

in 1880 the doors in the rear of the building were closed and the pulpit moved from the front & to the rear. In 1904 the church which bears the date 1845 in a stone above the entrances, was remodeled as it appears today.

(the following two paragraphs were taken the Rev. M.M.Smith's Sermon)

"The following Ministers were here at several camp meetings: R. A. Hunter, once a member of Logan Presbytery; James Smith, the Scotchman; Samuel Noel, from upper Ky.; Granville Mansfield of Logan Co.; William Neale, of Barren County; & Joseph Franceway. Rev. Milton Bird, when quite a young man was in charge of this church one year. Revs. M.Bryan Daniel Traugher and Caleb Weden preached here frequently. Revs. Peter & Alex Downey, Daniel Lowry, Wilson Martin, ~~Samuel~~ Joshua Barton, William Linn, and Alexander Chapman have preached here.

I suppose there was no one man who contributed as ~~much~~ much to the early history of this church as did Rev. Alexander Chapman. He was a remarkable man. His piety was of the purest kind. It was not pharisaical piety, but such as the grace of God in the heart can produce.

Chapman's figure in the pulpit was fine, and his appearance commanding. He preached as though he had a message directly from God."

* * * * *

Some of the first Pastors of the Church was the Rev. Jesse G. Grider, father of Edgar Grider, 1253 Chestnut St. Others who have served the congregations are Rev. M. M. Smith, the Rev. I. M. Halsell, The Rev. T. J. Shannon, and Rev. W.R.21 Salmon, Rev. S. H. Eshman, Rev. J. T. Barbee, and the Rev. C. G. Chick.

The Rev. Jesse S. Grider resigned Mt.Olivet Church after serving the Church several years to become the first pastor of the local Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Rev. Isaac O. Lewis deserves at least a mention because he was the largest man to ever occupy the Mt.Olivet Pulpit, or for that matter, the pulpit of any church in the area.

When measured by his vigorous church activity or by his corpulent 400 pound weight, Lewis was truly a large man. He had to travel about the country seated in the back of a spring wagon driven by a slave. He delivered his sermons in the Mt.Olivet Church while sitting at the pulpit.

Rev. Isaac O. Lewis, was Pastor April 1830 - 1834 at Mt.Olivet. On October 1830 Rev. Lewis's pay was \$35.00 a year.

Rev. Isaac O.Lewis born June 7,1777 died July 20,1850 buried in the wife - Frances Lewis born 1781 and died Oct.24,1854 Mt.Olivet Cemetery.

Rev. Madison M. Smith became blind while pastoring the Mt.Olivet Church. He was greatly loved by all the people.

Rev.Madison M.Smith born 1828 and died ~~1895~~ 1916 - both buried in the wife- Jeanette R.Smith born 1828 died 1905 - Mt.Olivet Cemetery.

Rev. Jesse S.Grider born Feb.11,1828 died March 31,1911 (age 83) wife Anelia McLean Grider born 1838 died 1911 - they are buried in the Smith Groves Cemetery.

Rev. and Mrs. C.G.Chick are both buried in the Fairview Cemetery. They have no Tombstone Markers.

* * * * *

ABOUT A FEW EARLY CHURCH MEMBERS:

JOHN GRIDER, father of Rev. Jesse S.Grider, loved that which was right and maintained the cause of right with a firmness of purpose seldom equaled, and it made no difference with him as to the odds against him. He spoke out against drinking. The first temperance society ever organized in this part of the country was in the John Grider's House.

In 1857, the General Assembly of our Church met at Lexington, Mo. Jesse Grider was there, a member of that Assembly. Mr. Garland Blewett (father of William Blewett) told Jesse in a conversation: "Your father (John Grider) was the only man that I ever was afraid of. I was not afraid of his physical strength, but I was afraid of his Moral ~~Power~~Power."

Elihu Carter (Father of S.P.Carter) was one of the pillars of the Church as long as he lived.

Simon Jenkins was a good man. He was special friend and neighbor of John Grider.

Edmund Payne was Clerk of the Session for a long time.

J. B. Hendrick - three of his sons are Preachers.

Taylor Morris - a devoted Christian Man.

Mr. Adam Bratton was a most hospital gentleman, and upon his name is never heard a reproach cast. He was a member of the Mt.Olivet Cumberland Presbyterian Church for 48 years, and camped at the old fashioned camp-meetings at Mt.Olivet twenty-one times. He was a pillar of his church.

George Bratton professed his faith in Christ at Mount Olivet Church August 22,1833.

John H. White who deeded the land to the Mt.Olivet Church was born June 2,1798 and died July 5,1886. John H.White was the father of nine sons, six are buried in Mt.Olivet Cemetery.He also had 4 daughters. Some of the children were also members of Mt.Olivet Church.

A lot of of good Christian people helped with the organization and the building of the Mt.Olivet C.P.Church. We only wish we had more information about some of these to share with you.

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NOTE OF INTEREST:

Rev. Jesse S.Grider, while pastor at Mt.Olivet was said to be the first to wown and drive a buggy there. The boys of the songregation were ~~so~~ interested in the buggy they would meet him when he arrived at the Church , and hitch his horse just to be near the buggy, when services were over they had his buggy waiting for him.

One very dark night they exchanged the horse for one of John H.White's oxen. When Rev. Grider came out of the church they crowded around talking so he would not notice. He got in the buggy and drove off. Later Rev. Grider said he wondered what was wrong with his horse that it was so slow he could not ever get it to trot. When he reached home a negro came out to put the horse in the stable he said, " Lord have Mercy on us, Mr. Grider, you ain't got no horse, just an old ox."

This was told to Bonnie Holman Baird by Milton O.White (one of John H.White's boys).

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Some Early marriages:

George Bratton's daughter, Nancy D.Bratton and Milton O.White married July 9,1862 at Mt.Olivet by Rev. J.S.Grider.

John Jackson Adair and Margaret Sarah Holman married Oct.25,1843.

Thomas William Almond,Sr. and Lillie E. Adair married Thursday, October 15,1879 at 9 A.M. Mt. Olivet Church by Rev. Brewer,Methodist Minister (taken from Mrs.Almond's Bible).

* * * * *

Remodled and repaired church in 1904 at the cost of \$1,625.00
H. R. Graham, Clerk. dedicated the 3rd Sunday in Sept.in 1904.

* * * * *

In ~~195~~ 1955 an educational building was erected by the Church's membership. The two new buildings are valued at over \$20,000.00

The Church Hanse was built and completed in Oct.1958 and valued at approximately \$12,000.00. Hanse dedicated May 1,1960.

The cost of the construction of the manse was \$6,500.00

Modern Manse 5 room brick, valued at over \$12,000.00 was constructed almost entirely by the labor of the 80 members of the Mt.Olivet Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The construction was completed in approximately 10 weeks. Manse completed in Oct.1958.
 Some labor by members in the community who was not members of the Church .
 The Manse is located on the southeast corner of the Church grounds.
 The construction project was financed by the entire 80 members of the Church where several donations from persons not members of Mt.Olivet.
 Actually the financial cost of the structure of the Manse was \$6,500.00 with the balance being contributed by manual labor of the members.

* * * *

The young men who entered the Ministry from Mt.Olivet Church:
 Rev. Carlton Hatcher was ordained Nov.13,1966 at Mt.Olivet.
 Rev. Richard Hughes - publicly answered the call on April 23,1967 at Mt. Olivet and Ordained at Mt.Olivet on Oct.4,1970.

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It is interesting to note in 1900 the General Assembly Minutes shows the following about Mt.Olivet:

100 Communicant Members
 46 in Sunday School
~~xxxxxx~~
 2 preaching Sunday a month
 Church property valued at \$1,000.00
 Pastor's Salary was \$125.00 a year.

Mt. Olivet is the oldest Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Warren County.

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LIST OF MT.OLIVET SESSION CLERKS

	<u>Dates</u>	<u>About No.Years</u>
James H. Lewis	1856 to Dec. 1867	11
Charles E. Blewett	1867 Dec. 1874	7
James H. Lewis	Jan.1875 June 1878	3
William M.Quissenberry	June 1878 to June 1881	3
Milton R. Graham	June 1881 to death Sept.7,1924	43
James M. Elkin	Sept.20,1924 to Dec. 1953	29
Gilbert P.Richardson	Jan.2,1954 to August 1955	1
James Boadley Hatcher	August 1955 to	

PASTORS OF MT.OLIVET CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(Minutes of Logan Presbytery Aug.31,1813 - Oct.19,1845)

(from 1813 - 1830 Pastors were listed in groups not churches pastored)

1830 - 1834 Rev. Isaac O. Lewis
 1835 - 1836 Rev. Peter Downey (1 Sun. a Mo.)
 1835 - 1836 Rev. David H. Harris (every other Mo. at Mt.Olivet)
 1835 - 1836 Rev. Nathaniel Porter (" " " " for 12 Months) at M.O.
 1836 - 1839 Rev. Gransville Manafield (1 Sun. a month)
 1839 - Rev. Hugh C. Read (every other Mo. for 12 months)
 1839 - 1841 Johnston Dysart (" " " " " ")
 (Dysart was ordained in Oct.1839 in meeting of Presbytery).
 1842- Rev. Hugh C. Read (1 Sun. a Month)
 1843 - 1845 Rev. Hugh C. Read (" " " ")

 PASTORS LISTED IN MT.OLIVET SESSION BOOKS 1856 - 1976

<u>DATES</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>ABOUT NO. YEARS</u>
1853 - 1867	Rev. Jesse S. Grider	14
1867 - 1875	Rev. Madison M. Smith	8
1875 - 1878	Rev. I. M. Halsell	3
1878 - 1880	Rev. T. J. Shannon	2
1880 - 1903	Rev. Madison M. Smith	23
1903 - 1906	Rev. W. T. Salmon	3
1906 - 1910	Rev. S. H. Eshman	4
1910 - 1911	Rev. J. T. Barbee	1
1911 - 1913	Rev. S. H. Eshman	2
1913 - 1947	Rev. C. G. Chick	34
1947 - 1950	Rev. L. C. Waddle	3
1950 - 1951	Rev. Charles Shelton	1
1951 - 1953	Rev. J. E. Durbin	2
1953 - 1954	Rev. Dwight Zeller	1
1954 - 1956	Rev. Glenn A. Moore	2
May 1956 - Jan.1957	Rev. John W. Beeten	1
June 1957 - Apr.1958	Rev. Paul Ray Troutt	1
Sept.1,1958 -Dec.1960	Rev. Donald W. Acton	2
March 1961 - May 1963	Rev. Robert Johnson	2
Aug.1,1963- Aug.1966	Rev. John W. Beeten	3
Sept.21,1966 -	Rev. William P. Garrett	

ELDERS OF MT.OLIVET CHURCH 1836 - 1976

<u>NAMES</u>	<u>ORDAINED DATE</u>	<u>DIED OR DISMISSED</u>
John H. White		died July 5, 1886
Benjamin F. Lewis	July 16, 1836	died June 17, 1893
Finis E. Lewis		died 1872
Simon P. Carter		moved to Ark. Sept. 22, 1881
James H. Lewis (Clerk)	July 16, 1836	died July 8, 1894
Charles E. Blewett (Clerk)	Dec. 1865	lettered out: July 3, 1880
Nathan M. Grider	Aug. 24, 1867	" " Jan. 28, 1872
Solomon S. Mitchell	Oct. 9, 1872	died June 23, 1878
Samuel Comfort	Oct. 9, 1872	died Jan. 29, 1879
William M. Quissenberry (Clerk)	Sept. 16, 1876	died March 18, 1907
Cornelius M. Jenkins	Sept. 16, 1876	died March 11, 1907
John G. McKay	Sept. 7, 1879	trans. to B.G. Church
E. W. Beck	Sept. 7, 1879	died Oct. 13, 1925
Hilton R. Graham (Clerk)	Sept. 7, 1879	died Sept. 7, 1924
Luther J. Miller	April 5, 1896	died Aug. 16, 1917
Cooper W. Stone	April 5, 1896	ceased to act: 6-12-1903
Evermont Jenkins	April 5, 1896	" " " May 1947
William Y. McGinnis	Aug. 6, 1903	" " " Mar. 12, 1914
Samuel Hendrick	Oct. 26, 1904	died Feb. 15, 1910
James L. Isbell	July 7, 1907	died June 1934
Thomas F. Lewis	July 7, 1907	?
Hilton G. Proctor	Nov. 1, 1908	died Jan. 28, 1928
Webster F. Quissenberry	Nov. 1, 1908	ceased to act: 9-4-1909
J. H. Lucas	April 10, 1910	" " " Aug. 17, 1919
F. A. Spalding	April 10, 1910	moved ?
F. W. Quissenberry	March 15, 1914	died Jan. 14, 1944
D. Boon Elkin	May 16, 1915	died June 16, 1915
John Thornton Almond	April 6, 1924	died Aug. 17, 1975
John B. Graham	Sept. 21, 1924	died June 1935
Hezekiah K. Doty	Dec. 6, 1925	died Nov. 2, 1964
W. L. Gray	Sept. 7, 1917	died Nov. 16, 1926
*Lewis F. Allen	Dec. 4, 1927	
John W. Penner	June 21, 1936	died Sept. 30, 1966
L. C. Hays	June 21, 1936	ceased to act: Died 1959
*B. Vance (Dick) Elkin	June 21, 1936	
Clem G. Childress	June 21, 1936	trans. to Ch. of Christ 1945
William S. Miller	Aug. 18, 1940	ceased to act 1945
*James Boadley Hatcher (Clerk)	Jan. 20, 1946	
Robert L. Kennedy	Jan. 20, 1946	died Feb. 26, 1970
*Gilbert P. Richardson (Clerk)	Sept. 19, 1948	
Alonza Ray Bryant	Sept. 19, 1948	died Feb. 17, 1975
* W. Thomas Woodward	June 15, 1952	
Paul K. Keown, Sr.	June 15, 1952	trans. to Methodist Church
J. F. Hanna	June 15, 1952	died
Taylor Moore, Sr.	Aug. 1961	died Sept. 3, 1970
* Willie H. Penner	April 1959	
* Everett Lowery	Sept. 1959	
James Elmore Meredith	April 1959	died April 14, 1972
Carlton Hatcher	Sept. 1957	Ordained Minister Nov. 13, 1966
Rondell Ray Bryant	1959	Inactive
* L. Edward Blair	June 30, 1974	
* Wayne Dinmore	June 30, 1974	
* William Ralston Doty	June 30, 1974	
* William Paul Keown, Jr.	June 30, 1974	
* Louie Reid Slaughter	June 30, 1974	

(*B active Elders in 1976