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Red River Cumberland Presbyterian Church - Logan County, Kentucky (MSS 258)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 258 RED River Cumberland Presbyterian Church – Logan County, Kentucky

½ box. 11 folders. 80 items. 1948-1992. Photocopies.

1981.73.1

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

Between 1785 and 1789 a “Society of Presbyterians” organized themselves into a church “on the headwaters of Red River.” This was the first church of any denomination in the western half of the territory that would become the state of Kentucky in 1792. A log building was constructed on a rise near Morton Maulding’s fort, southeast of present-day Russellville in Logan County.

In 1800 the Red River Meeting House, as it was known, was the site of the beginning of the Great Revival of 1800. Reverend James McGready had come to the area in 1796 as pastor to the Red River, Muddy River and Gasper River churches. On the third Sunday in June 1800 McGready invited all three of his congregations to a joint communion service at Red River. Over a period of several days, and with other ministers assisting, a spirit of religious fervor swept among the more than 300 men, women and children in attendance. Many people came to witness this manifestation and soon the spirit of revival and renewal spread to other areas of Kentucky and the southern United States. This assembly at Red River is considered by some historians to be the first camp meeting.

The original church structure had completely collapsed by 1856. A second structure had been erected in 1847 and was razed in 1935. Records indicate that the building was auctioned in 1930. Several years after the church was torn down the Red River Memorial and Cemetery Association was organized to commemorate the events of 1800 and care for the church cemetery. The cemetery contains the graves of veterans of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. In 1953 a monument constructed of foundation stones of the two early churches was placed on the spot of the original structure. A replica of the early building using hand-hewn logs and hand-made boards for the roof was completed in 1959. It was destroyed by an arson fire in 1992 but rebuilt in 1994. Although regular worship services are no longer conducted there, a homecoming is held annually and the church is available for special events.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection is devoted entirely to material related to the history of the Red River Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the preservation efforts of the Red River Memorial and

Cemetery Association and the Old Red River Meeting House Association. One folder includes partial minutes of the Red River Memorial and Cemetery Association, 1951-1977. Another folder contains partial minutes of the Old Red River Meeting House Association's annual reunions, 1968-1978. The remaining folders deal with the history of the church and its important role in the Great Revival of 1800. One includes a brief history written by Martha B. Cheek entitled "A Resume of the History of the Old Red River Meeting House"; one contains a list of all the people buried in the church graveyard as of 1948; and one includes a number of news clippings related to the church's history and its annual homecomings.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Red River Presbyterian Church	1948-1992	80 items
Folder 1	Inventory		2 items
Folder 2	Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting	Sept. 9, 1961	1 item
Folder 3	Minutes of the Red River Memorial and Cemetery Association	1951-1960; 1963-1965; 1967-1977	13 items
Folder 4	Minutes of the Old Red River Meeting House Association Reunion	1968-1973; 1975-1976	12 items
Folder 5	Letter concerning the sale of the Old Red River Church House	1970	2 items
Folder 6	Copy of a Christmas card picture of the Old Red River Meeting House	n.d.	1 item
Folder 7	"A Resume of The History of the Old Red River Meeting House" by Martha B. Cheek	n.d.	1 item; 9 pgs.
Folder 8	Question and answer program from Red River Church	n.d.	1 item
Folder 9	Morning and evening church services agenda	Sept. 10, 1961	1 item
Folder 10	Old Red River Graveyard – List of burials	April 1948	2 items
Folder 11	Historical information concerning the Old Red River Church – Newspaper clippings	1948-1992	45 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS RED River Cumberland Presbyterian 1948-1992
 258 Church – Logan County, Kentucky

Copies of items related to the history of the church; items detailing the preservation efforts of the Red River Church Memorial and Cemetery Association and the Old Red River Meeting House Association; 1948 list of burials at the Old Red River Graveyard.
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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Cemeteries – Logan County F10
 Cheek, Martha (Butt), 1892-1987 F7,10
 Churches – Logan County
 Cumberland Presbyterians – Logan County
 Logan County – Cemeteries F10
 Logan County – Churches – Cumberland Presbyterian
 McGready, James, 1758-1817 – Relating to F4,7,8,11
 Old Red River Meeting House Association F4,11
 Red River Memorial and Cemetery Association F3
 Revivals – Logan County – 19th century – Relating to

Lile/Jeffrey 05/26/2009