

CHAPTER XII.

THE CHURCHES OF SHELBY COUNTY.

Baptist Churches: Mount Zion Church—Shiloh Church—North River Church—Prairie Church—Oak Ridge Church—Looney's Creek Old School Baptist Church. *M. E. Church South:* Shelbyville Church—Shelbina Church—Bacon Chapel—Clarence Church—Bethany Church. *Methodist Episcopal Church:* Berean Church, Shelbyville—Clarence Church—Evans Chapel. *Presbyterians:* Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville—Pleasant Prairie Church—Clarence Presbyterian Church—Cumberland Presbyterian Church. *Christian Churches:* Shelbyville Church—Antioch Church—Concord Church. *Catholic Churches:* St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church at Clarence.

THE CHURCHES OF SHELBY COUNTY.

Following in the wake of the pioneers, and identical with the pioneers themselves, were the early preachers of Shelby county. It is difficult, if not impossible, to say now which denomination came first and held first services, the distinction lying between the Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians. But very early the Christians or Disciples held meetings, and their preachers cried aloud in the wilderness, when for a truth the country *was* a wilderness, and when their meat was chiefly venison and wild honey.

Not all of the churches in Shelby county are represented in this chapter, as many of the clerks and those in possession of information concerning them have failed to respond to requests for such information. Want of time has prevented the compiler from giving his attention repeatedly to the matter.

BAPTIST CHURCHES.

Rev. Jeremiah Taylor, M. Hurley, and William Fuqua were the first Baptist ministers in Shelby county. They held services here as early as 1835.

Mount Zion Church—Tiger Fork Township, was organized on the fourth Saturday in August, 1838, by Revs. M. Hurley and Jeremiah Taylor, and is situated in Tiger Fork township on Sec. 6.—58—9. The original members of this church are Edward Rutter, Elizabeth Rutter, Levan Brown, Lucinda Brown, Caroline Looney, William Randolph,

Lucy Moffett, Jesse Vanskike, Martha Vanskike, Amanda Moore, Edmund Rutter, Jane Rutter, W. Moffett, and Hannah and Sarah, colored women. The present church consists of 59 members. The pastors who have had charge of this congregation are Jeremiah Taylor, John Keach, Nathan Ayers, Frank Smith, P. N. Haycroft, R. Kaylor, Sanford Smith, George C. Brown, C. S. Taylor, William Pulliam, J. P. Griffith, J. H. Rubenson and others. The church is a frame building, having been erected in 1856 at a cost of \$600. The Sabbath-school is composed of 15 scholars, William T. Looney being its superintendent. W. Moffett was the first clerk of this church, filling that office for a number of years.

Shiloh Church — Situated on section 10, township 59, range 10, Bethel township, was organized on the second Saturday in May, 1869, its constituent members being George H. Rager, Bedford Brown, Ann E. Brown, Elizabeth A. Brown, Lucinda Brown, George C. Brown, Elizabeth R. Brown, Sarah A. Brown, Eliza Nicol, Henry M. Nicol, Vincent C. Nicol, Elizabeth Neel, Robert A. Todd, Elizabeth Todd, Nancy Vanskike, Martha Latimer, Herbert Bloom, Jennett Bloom, George Elgin, Ducebelle Elgin, Addie Elgin, Henrietta Hewitt, Elizabeth Graves, Lucy Graves, Eliza Graves, Allen Wright, Matilda Wright, Nathan Martin, John Finney, Ann Finney, Margaret Finney, Jesse Vanskike, Martha Vanskike, Robert Lankford, Rebecca Lankford, W. Cochran, Monroe McIlhaney and Edmonia Moore. The present membership of this church consists of 105 communicants. The pastors who have administered to the spiritual needs of this congregation are D. V. Inlow, James P. Griffith and Thomas Smoot, the last named being the present pastor. The present church building was constructed in 1870; it is a frame, and valued at \$1,200. The Sabbath-school consists of 60 members, the superintendent being Marion Houglund. This church was organized by Revs. C. S. Taylor, John Easton, Nathan Ayers, R. Kaylor and George W. Eaton.

North River Church — Was organized in 1844, being situated on section 17, of Taylor township. The original members were Shelton Dodd and wife, John H. Garnett and wife, James Singleton and wife, Masco Garnett and wife, Jesse Stuart and wife, C. L. Harris and J. T. Garnett. The present membership numbers 67. John Sweeney, William Pulliam, S. C. Goodrich, John A. Clark, James Holt and John Raton are those who have served this church as pastors. The present church was built in 1882, a frame structure, costing \$1,000.

There are 30 scholars in the Sabbath-school, W. A. Dodd being its superintendent.

Prairie View Church — Is located on section 15, township 57, range 9, Jackson township, and was organized February 5, 1876. This church was formed by the consolidation of three other churches — Oak Dale, Hunnewell and Friendship churches — there being about 50 or 60 original members. The present organization is composed of 102 members. The pastors who have served this church are James Green, Joseph Terrill, W. B. Lile and Thomas Smoot, who is the present pastor. The church edifice was built in 1876 and is valued at \$1,200.

Oak Ridge Church — Located six miles south of west of Shelbina, in Jefferson township, was constituted an organization February 16, 1867, with the succeeding named persons: Henry Kidwell, Nancy Kidwell, Sophronia Kidwell, Louisa Kimble, William Kidwell, Rebecca Kidwell, Benjamin F. Kidwell, Elijah Dungan, Frances Dungan, Aaron L. Webdell, Milly Webdell, Nancy Thrasher, Annie E. Clark, Joel Thrasher, Cora Perry, John M. Wright, Mary J. Wright, Joseph Clark, Jephtha Smith and Nelson Thomas. Sixty-nine is the number of the membership at this date. During 1881–1882 a frame church building, 36x44 feet, was constructed and cost \$1,200. The pulpit has been occupied by Milfred Powers, A. G. Goodrich, W. B. Craig, J. G. Swinney and the present pastor, George D. Tolle. Preaching is held once a month. J. T. Miller is superintendent of a Sabbath-school of 50 members.

Looney's Creek O. S. Baptist Church — In Tiger Fork Township, was organized in 1835, being situated on section 33, township 59, range 9. The names of the original members are William Randolph, Nancy Randolph, Henry Louthan, Mary Louthan, Manly Elgin, Evalina Elgin, William Moffett, Edward Wilson, Mary Wilson, Edmund Rutter and Elizabeth Rutter. The present church has 19 members. Henry Louthan served this congregation as pastor for 34 years, after which F. M. Turner took charge, but there is no pastor at present. The church building is brick, valued at about \$1,200. This church was organized before the division of the Baptist Church into the two factions, Old and New School. (See History of Tiger Fork Township).

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH.

M. E. Church South, Shelbina. — This church was organized in the fall of 1858. The following were some of the first members: William A. Reid, J. R. Colvert and wife, F. M. Harrison and wife and William Wood and wife. The first church building was of brick, and

was built in 1867. The present building is also a brick, and was erected in the year 1882 at a cost of about \$5,000. It was dedicated the same year by Rev. J. D. Vincil. Some of the pastors of this church have been: Rev. Hudson, Thomas DeMoss, W. W. McMurry, William Bell, L. Rush, R. N. T. Holliday, B. H. Spencer, D. R. Shackelford, S. L. Wood, W. A. Tarwater and J. W. Jordan. The first meetings of this congregation were held in the bar-room of Thomas' Hotel on the present site of the Waverly; then in the public school-house until the first church was erected, which was built in connection with the Baptists and used until the present building was occupied. During the war services were partially discontinued. The church is out of debt and has a flourishing Sabbath school of 150 scholars. W. A. Reid is superintendent.

M. E. Church South, Shelbyville — Was organized in about 1839. Upon the division in 1844 it was reorganized with Thomas J. Brown and family, Cyrus Sanders and family, Dr. Thomas Irvin and family, James Irwin, William Broughton and family, Mrs. Edmonds, Mrs. Vandiver, William Dines and family, Tyson Dines, John W. Dines, Thomas Dines, Joseph Dines, James Ralph and family, Mrs. Crawford, John Laws and family, Jacob Vandiver and family and Cyrus Van Nort and family as its original members. The house of worship is a frame building, and the membership is about 100, Rev. J. M. O'Brien being the present pastor. The Sunday-school, of 100 scholars, is superintended by J. J. Hewitt. The old M. E. Church was a brick building, being the first church ever erected in Shelbyville.

Bacon Chapel — Salt River Township, was organized in the fall of 1837 with John B. and Charlotte Lewis, Charles and Dollie Christine, Mary I. Wailes, Margaret A. Moore, M. Wheeler, David Wood, William Wood and Stanford Drain as its original members. The names of the ministers who have served this congregation are as follows: Revs. William Pryor, Conley Smith, T. Ashby, Tyson Dines, Martin L. Eads, James M. Green, P. M. Pinkard, Jacob Sigler, James Wainright, James B. Callaway, George Smith, J. B. Baker, M. Birch, L. Newmann, James Light, E. K. Miller, William M. Bush, James Monroe, Joseph Dines, E. Hudson, T. DeMoss, L. Bush, W. M. McMurry and B. A. Spencer. Their church building, a frame structure, was erected in 1845 at a cost of \$1,900. The land on which it stands was donated by George Bacon, Esq., of Hannibal, and for him the church was named. The congregation consists of 217 members. John W. Wailes is the superintendent of the Sunday-school, which is composed of 100 scholars. This church was organized at

the residence of J. B. Lewis, and services were held there for a long time, and afterwards the worship of God was continued in a log cabin known as Bacon's cabin, where the first Sabbath-school was organized in 1838, Judge P. B. Moore being its superintendent.

Clarence M. E. Church South. — A reorganization of this church was effected through the efforts of Rev. L. Rush in 1867, the names of W. O. Huston and wife, George Hall and wife, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Whitby, Alice Burkholder, C. Hornback and wife, Mary Hodge and Mrs. Mary Jacobs appearing on the records as the constituent members. Their church building, a frame structure, 36x54 feet in dimensions, was constructed in about 1876 and is valued at about \$1,800. It was dedicated by Rev. Tarwater. The Revs. L. Rush, Blackwell, Babcock, Walter Tool, Todd, William Warren, D. R. Shackelford, William Wood, William Wainright, J. W. Jordan, A. P. Linn and Dr. Kimsey have ministered to the spiritual needs of the congregation. The number of present membership is 67. Mr. William Dimmitt is superintendent of a Sabbath-school numbering about 60 scholars.

Bethany M. E. Church South — In the eastern portion of Black Creek township, was formed March 4, 1882, the following persons constituting the original membership: R. J. Taylor and wife, George F. Carmichael and wife, Lulia Z. Taylor, C. E. Scott, Angie Foreman, Thomas Tingle and wife, Eliza Smith, J. H. Carmichael and wife, Levena Forman, Sarah Smith, Sallie Raine, Lucia Carmichael. There are now 23 members. A frame house of worship costing \$1,200 was completed in 1881 and dedicated in July, 1884. Charles E. Smith superintends a Sabbath-school of 60 pupils. For one and a half years W. A. Toole filled the pulpit, being succeeded by J. M. O'Brien.

Pleasant View M. E. Church South — Situated on section 6, township 59, range 9, was organized in February, 1881, its constituent members being Joseph A. Brown, Joseph H. Brown, Lucy V. Brown, Thomas T. Brown, Francis M. Brown, Mary B. Carlisle, John W. Carlisle, Julia Gardner, John R. Glasscock, Mattie E. Glasscock, Fannie L. Glasscock, Margarette E. Glasscock, Annie L. McGraw, Jennie Oder, James W. Settle, Carrie Settle and Elizabeth Seidelmeier. The present church consists of 21 members. The pastors who have served it are T. B. Kendall, William M. Wainright and James Penn. The building, a frame, was erected in 1880, at a cost of \$1,000. The Sabbath-school is composed of 40 scholars, the superintendent being James W. Settle. Two of the members of this congregation have

died, namely: Elizabeth Seidelmeier, in Colorado, September 30, 1883, and Julia Lydick, in June of the same year.

Oak Dale M. E. Church South — Was organized in about 1836, and is situated on section 5, township 57 and range 9. The present church is composed of 75 members, Rev. H. James being its pastor. The church building is a frame and was erected in 1871, costing in the neighborhood of \$2,000. The Sunday-school is composed of 40 scholars, superintended by R. W. Douglass.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Berean M. E. Church — Shelbyville, was organized January 13, 1850, by Christopher J. Houts, presiding elder of the Hannibal district, and J. M. Chivington. The original members were Leonard Dobbin and wife, James W. Ganby and wife, Joseph Hitch and wife, David Wood and wife, E. B. Stover and wife, John Short and wife. The first church building was erected in 1860 at a cost of \$2,500. It was moved to its present site and repaired in 1874, was dedicated by Rev. N. P. Heath, of St. Louis, and re-dedicated by Rev. William Taylor, of India. The pastors who have served this congregation are J. M. Chivington, J. M. Powers, J. F. New, John James, Ezra Sayre, James M. Oyler, Wesley Whorton, W. S. Wentz, Isaac Martin, J. W. Prince, T. J. Williams, J. M. Parker, A. M. Pilcher, Jacob Miller, L. P. McNeily, John F. Mesner, H. B. Seely, A. H. Powell, J. S. Barwick, Z. S. Wheeler, D. B. Dorsey, M. H. Butler and R. Stillwell. The number of present membership is about 40.

After the organization of the *M. E. Church South* in 1846 the *M. E. Church* had no organized church in Shelby county until 1850; but most of its former members were taken into the *M. E. Church South*, where they remained until the Missouri Conference of the *M. E. Church* was organized by Bishops Janes and Morris, at the request of the General Conference of 1848.

Clarence M. E. Church — Was organized by Rev. John Gillis and the presiding elder, Dr. N. Shumate, in 1866. Since that period the pastors in charge have been Revs. John Gillis, Comfort E. Ransom, G. W. Walker, A. Chester, and others. At a cost of \$3,250 a brick house of worship was completed in 1881. Mr. W. T. Carothers is superintendent of the Sabbath-school, which has a membership of 75.

Evans Chapel — Located in Taylor township, section 22-59-12, was organized in 1865. The names of the original members are John Barkley and wife, G. W. Greenfield and wife, R. Cox and wife, John Clemmons and wife and James Ward and wife. The present member-

ship is 30. The names of the pastors who have been here are James Parker, — Pilcher, Jacob Miller, L. T. Menley, Albert Cluster, H. J. Robins, H. C. Darehoff and F. M. Green. This church was built in 1882, a frame building, costing in the neighborhood of \$1,500. The Sabbath-school consists of 45 scholars, the superintendent being Recompense Cox.

PRESBYTERIANS.

No record can be found or remembered of the existence of a Presbyterian Church in Shelby county until the year 1859, when the church was organized at Shelbyville. But prior to this, however, there was preaching in the county by Presbyterian clergymen as early as 1836. Dr. David Nelson, of Marion College, Marion county, a very eminent divine, and one who has left an imperishable memory, and Rev. W. P. Cochran, still living in Marion county, both Presbyterians, preached in this county in 1836. At intervals from that time forward services were held in different portions of the county.

The Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville — Was organized July 30, 1859, by Rev. W. P. Cochran. The names of the original members are Joseph M. Irvin, Esther Vaughn, Mary Vaughn, Elizabeth Carothers, Dr. Darius Day, Peter B. Lightner and Mrs. Rachel Lightner. The names of the pastors who have served are Revs. George C. Crow, A. Steed, Duncan Brown, James Lafferty, J. C. Robinson and Edward Vincent, who is the present pastor. The church building, a frame, was erected in 1860 at a cost of \$3,000. The present membership of the organization is 45. P. B. Dunn is the superintendent of a Sabbath-school composed of 60 scholars.

Pleasant Prairie Church — Is located on section 18, township 59, range 10, and was organized in 1866. The present membership is 20, with J. J. Wilson as its pastor. The original members were J. A. Ewing, Rebecca Ewing, Sallie Cardwell, Eva Cardwell, Martha Cardwell, James Cardwell, Susan Cardwell, Joseph Blackwood, Ella Finley, Nancy Finley, Israel Cannon, Mary Cannon, Mary Cardwell, Susan Bostian and W. N. Bohon. The present frame church was erected in 1869 at a cost of \$1,500. The Sabbath-school of 30 scholars is superintended by J. J. Wilson.

Clarence Presbyterian Church — Was organized July 17, 1859, by Rev. J. R. Winters, with James S. Martin, J. E. Martin, Mrs. Mary J. Martin, Susan M. Hollyman, James B. Ryland, Mary J. Ryland and R. A. Newcomb. This church consists of 25 members. The pastors who have served this congregation are Jacob R. Winters, Rev.

A. Steed, from November 1862 to 1872; Rev. James Lafferty, Duncan Brown, — Carson, Rev. Robinson and Rev. E. Vincent, the pastor at present. The church building, a frame, was built about 1860, being remodeled in 1883 at a cost of about \$750, its original cost being \$1,200. The Land Company donated the lot upon which it stands. The Sabbath-school is composed of 35 scholars. J. P. Morse is the superintendent. This church is further mentioned in the early history of Clarence.

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN.

New Providence Church — In the south-eastern corner of Taylor township, was organized November 10, 1859, by Rev. S. C. Davidson, with the following as its original members: Nathan Byars, J. P. Killinger, Hugh Kirkwood, S. F. Dunn and wife, Jacob Killinger and wife, Glen Killinger, Margaret Kirkwood, Mary Evans and James G. Byars. The present membership numbers 47. The names of the pastors who have served this congregation are Robert H. Wills, John Winn, Nicholas Langston, J. R. Lowrance and T. G. Pool. This church was erected in 1874; it is a frame structure, and cost \$1,000. The number of the scholars in the Sabbath-school is 50, the superintendent being Nathan Byars.

CHRISTIAN CHURCHES.

Probably the first Christian minister in Shelby county was Rev. Jacob Creath, who was not only one of the first preachers of that denomination in North-east Missouri, but in the country. It is related of him that he held a meeting on Black creek as early as 1839. On this occasion, one of the settlers, who had been very proficient in the use of profane language before his conversion, and who had a singular, but a very strong aversion to snakes, was present. Though an experienced hunter, brave as a lion and able and willing to "whip his weight in wildcats," the sight of a snake, of whatever species, was sufficient to unnerve him.

But after Mr. S——'s conversion it was necessary that he should be baptized by immersion. He was taken down to Black creek with some others, and when it came his turn Rev. Creath led him into the deep water, meek and contrite, and looking as solemn as an anchorite. Suddenly, from a little drift not far away, a small water snake glided for what it thought a safer retreat and went swimming toward the preacher and the convert. As the latter discovered the wriggling little reptile making for him, his former fear and his former style of speech

came to him, and catching his preacher by the arm he exclaimed: "Good God! Brother Creath, *look at that d—d snake!*"

Brother Creath was a little disconcerted at first, but recovering himself, he said, "O, come along, brother; a good Christian need have no fear of serpents."

Shelbyville Christian Church.—The first congregation of this church was organized in 1839. The following were a majority of the first members: William Gooch, Tandy Gooch, Wm. S. Chinn, Joseph Chick, Hiram Rookwood, Warren Hall, Wm. Conner and their wives and families, and Mrs. Zerelda Hill. The congregation was reorganized in 1874 with the following members: Catherine B. Collier, Jane E. Black, Eliza J. West, Sallie Oakes, Sarah J. Hiter, Sarah Carley, Jane Brawner, Lucy S. Chinn, J. M. Collier, Maria L. Sullivan, Cordelia P. Dobyns. The first church building was erected in 1844 or 1845. It was a brick and cost about \$1,800. It stood on lot 3, block 15, on Jackson street, west side of the square. It was torn down in the fall of 1865. The present church building was erected by the Baptists. This congregation expended \$400 in the improvement of the building, and now use it in connection with them. Some of the pastors that served this church under the first organization were Jacob Creath and W. H. Hobson. Under the present organization they have been J. N. Wright, E. C. Browning, H. Northcutt and J. T. Welch. The church meets monthly for regular preaching, and meets every Sabbath for social worship and for Sunday-school. The latter is composed of about 40 scholars, and is superintended by Prof. W. R. Holloway. The present membership of the church is 78.

Antioch Church—In Taylor township, was organized in 1867, some of the original members being T. P. Manuel and wife, L. H. Gillaspy and wife, S. A. Vandiver and wife, J. McWilliams and wife, Mrs. Rebecca Peoples, J. P. Tandy, Mrs. C. G. Magruder, George A. Stuart and wife, J. D. Gray and wife, John A. Gillaspy and wife, Joseph Stuart and wife, Mrs. S. A. Magruder, and J. T. Baker. The membership now numbers 150. The names of pastors are J. P. Tandy, E. C. Browning, S. A. Vandivers and J. T. Welch. The present frame building was erected in 1884, at a cost of \$2,000, and was dedicated on the 11th of May. The Sunday-school is composed of 50 scholars, and is superintended by T. P. Manuel. This church is located at Leonard.

Concord Christian Church—Was organized December 1, 1883, and is situated on section 23, township 59, range 9, in Tiger Fork township, and a frame building was erected the same year of its

organization at a cost of \$1,200. It was organized by Rev. J. P. Tandy, with L. Hunter, William Daniels, S. I. Bragg, William Peak, James DeMoss, Levi Plight, Millie Plight, Mary Bragg, Martha W. Triplett, M. Peak, Alice Browning, Caroline Dougherty, Ida Dougherty, Mary E. Wolf, Susan Melburn, E. P. Allen, America Allen, Mahala Siminon, A. S. Rife, G. A. Rife, John McGraw, Eliza J. Bragg, Benjamin Talbott, Mary J. Pierce, Walker Pue, Ellen Siminon, Mary E. Jones, Charles Siminon, Elizabeth Poor, and F. M. Poor, as its original members. The membership is at present 40.

CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church—Was built in 1883. It is a frame building (located at Clarence) and was erected at a cost of \$2,000. The congregation of the church is composed of 150 members, its pastor being Rev. P. B. Cahill, of Macon. Only this meager information concerning this church can be given for want of proper knowledge of its affairs.

There is a Catholic Church organization and building at Shelbina, and also at Hunnewell. The pastor of these churches promised their histories for this volume, but for some reason, doubtless a good and sufficient one, has not done so. There are probably 400 Catholics in Shelby county, but only one resident priest, Rev. Father Casey, of Shelbina.



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