

Concord Baptist Church

Township: T-47-N
Range: R-17-W
Section: 21
Latitude: 38.820000
Map:

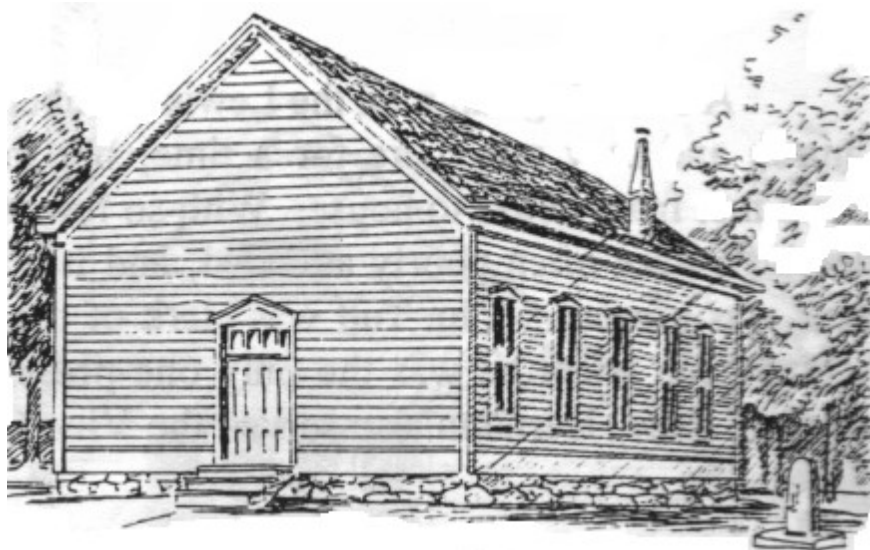
Organized: May 10, 1817
Disbanded: 1919
Active: No
Longitude: -92.780600
Updated: March 8, 2020

Cemetery: There is a cemetery associated with this church. The church building was sold in 1924 as is used as a barn

Area: Southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of the section in Palestine Township, Cooper County, Missouri; northeast corner of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter about .4 of a mile northwest of the fork of the Coalbank Creek and the Tutt Branch - about 3 1/4 miles from Bunceton, Missouri.

Records: The location of the church records is unknown at present.

History:



From "Cooper County Church Sketches" by F. Chesnutt

Concord Church

From "History of Howard and Cooper Counties Missouri", 1883

On the 10th of May, 1817, a meeting was held among these cross-bearing disciples, which was attended by Elders Edward Turner, William Thorp and David McLain, who proceeded to organize the Concord church with the following members: Luke Williams, Polly Williams, William Savage, Mary Savage, Delaney Bolen, Judith Williams, Absalom Huff, Susanna Savage, Joseph Baze, Lydia Turner, Charles Williams, Patsey Bolen, Sally Baze and Elizabeth Williams, in all fourteen.

The following is a copy of their Articles of Faith

Article 1. We believe in one only living and true God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one.

Art. 2. We believe the Scriptures of the old and new Testament to be the written word of God, and the only rule of life and practice.

Art. 3. We believe in the fall of man and his utter inability to recover himself from that lost estate.

Art. 4. We believe the doctrine of particular election, especial calling, believers' baptism, and the final perseverance of the saints, through grace.

Art. 5. We believe in baptism by immersion, and the Lord's Supper, and that true believers are the only proper subjects of the same.

Art. 6. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment.

Art. 7. We believe the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

Art. 8. We believe in the imputed righteousness of Christ.

Art. 9. We believe it to be our duty to support the gospel and defray the expenses of the church.

This church was located in the settlement south of Boonville, and gave name to the Concord Association in 1823. In June of the year 1817, at the second meeting of the church, she chose Elder Luke Williams as her pastor, who continued in this relation until his death, about six years afterwards. This left the church in a very destitute condition. The membership was small, very few of whom were males. Such was the gloomy state of affairs when Elder Kemp Scott came among them, a year or two after the death of Elder Williams. He was chosen pastor, and for a time the church was greatly prospered. The first fourteen years of its history show that the church gradually grew, receiving members both by baptism and by letter every year, but at the same time dismissing many members to join other churches, and sometimes to go into new organizations. During this period its numerical strength ranged from twenty to forty-five. There are no authentic records of the church from 1833 to 1846, a period of thirteen years. On the 26th of December 1846, a reunion was formed with a neighboring church, known as "The Vine." This event added considerable strength to the old church, which to this day stands as "a city set on a hill."

Concord Baptist Church

From "History of Cooper County Missouri" by Levens and Drake, 1876

Previous to the year 1817, there were no regular churches in Cooper County, but services were held, from time to time, either in the houses of the settlers, or whenever convenient, in some school house. But in that year the first church in the county was built. It was called "Concord Church," and was located about six miles south of the City of Boonville, near the present residence of John Crawford. Its denomination was Baptist. The first minister who preached there, was Luke Williams, who was also the first regular preacher located in Cooper county. It has always been stated and believed by many to be the fact, that Concord church was the first church built in Missouri, outside of St. Louis and St. Genevieve, but of the truth of this the authors are not informed, therefore they cannot vouch for same. But is certain, that there could have been but few churches then built in the State, and it is probable that they were all in those two cities, as no neighborhoods in this part of the State were strong enough to be able to build one.

Concord Baptist Church

From "History of Cooper County Missouri" by W. F. Johnson, 1919

Concord Church was organized May 10, 1817 by Elders Edward Turner, William Thorp, and David McLain. The following were the first fourteen members: Luke Williams, Polly Williams, William Savage, Mary Savage, Delaney Bolen, Judith Williams, Absalom Huff, Susanna Savage, Joseph Baze, Lydia Turner, Charles Williams, Patsey Bolen, Sally Baze and Elizabeth Williams.

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Concord Church was located in the settlement south of Boonville and was called Concord Association in 1823. Elder Luke Williams was pastor for six years, beginning in June 1817. After his death which occurred at the end of his pastorate, Elder Kemp Scott was chosen pastor. The church had a membership of about 45. Dec. 26, 1846, Concord church united with a neighboring church known as "The Vine" which strengthened materially the old church. The charter members of this church were Luke Williams, Polly Williams, William Savage, Mary Savage, Delaney Bolen, Judith Williams, Absalom Huff, Susanna Savage, Joseph Baze, Lydia Turner, Charles Williams, Patsey Bolen, Sally Baze and Elizabeth Williams.

Concord Baptist Church
From "History of Cooper County Missouri" by E. J. Melton, 1937

CONCORD BAPTIST CHURCH was established in 1817, about six miles south of Boonville. From it the present Concord Baptist Association, comprising several counties south of the Missouri river, gets its name. Luke Williams was its first regular preacher.

It is claimed Concord was the first church in Missouri outside St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve.

PIONEER PREACHERS WERE INTENSELY EARNEST

Zeal of Elder Luke Williams of Cooper County, Baptist pastor of Concord, first church organized south of the Missouri and west of St. Louis, was so great that he was troubled in his soul when he did unorthodox good on the Sabbath, as did Jesus of Nazareth.

The Reverend Williams, born in Virginia August 5, 1776, settled with his family, in 1817, five miles west of the present Boonville, farming in pioneer fashion and preaching nightly and Sundays, without monetary reward. He carried the Gospel afar.

One Sunday morning before starting for Concord Church, about site miles south of the present Boonville, Elder Williams was distressed because his children were crying for food and there was nothing to eat. A fat buck leaped into his garden. Reverend Williams shot and dressed it. His wife cooked venison and appetites were appeased.

With heavy heart the pastor went to the meeting-house. Weeping, he recounted the situation and his act and asked if he had done wrong. The members voted unanimously that he was right, under the circumstances.

Luke Williams and James Savage held services at Hannah Cole's Fort, within the present Boonville in 1815, 1816 and 1817. Both were Indian fighters. On May 10, 1817, Elders Edward Turner, William Thorp, David McClain, Luke Williams, William Savage, C. W. McWilliams and others formed Concord Baptist Church, a month later Luke Williams was elected pastor.

Vince and Concord Church
From "Cooper County Church Sketches", F. Chestnut, 1993

Some of the earliest pioneers began a Baptist congregation on Loutre Island on the Missouri River in 1810, after Indian raids had sent them back to safer territory. A few ventured soon after to what was to become Cooper County. Rev. Luke Williams was officially called on May 19, 1817 when a meeting was held to organize a church south of Boonville. Rev. Williams was a man well-fitted for the job. He preached without remuneration, traveling over a large territory, supporting himself and

his family by work on his farm when he was not engaged in preaching. He labored with the Concord group about six years before he died. Concord and other churches gratefully provided for his widow after his death.

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Charter members were: Elders Edward Turner, William Thorp, and David McLain. Members included Luke Williams, William Savage, Delaney Bolen, Absalom Huff, Joseph Baze, Charles Williams, Sally Baze, Polly Williams, Mary Savage, Judith Williams, Susanna Savage, Lydia Turner, Patsey Bolen, and Elizabeth Williams.

Rev. Kemp Scott was secured as pastor in 1832 and preached for twelve years, giving Concord one Saturday and Sunday a month. The meeting house and cemetery were located on a farm five miles southwest of Boonville, formerly owned by Gus Reid. The house was small and inadequate and the meetings were held from house to house much of the time. In 1838 the membership was 98 souls. As other churches were being organized the number dropped to 40 under Rev. R.H. Herndon.

One such alternative was the Vine Church, begun near the Concord site on August 5, 1837, by Gabriel Tutt, John Tutt, F.W.G. Thomas, Alexander Roads, Isaac Lionberger, Nancy Taliaferro, Jane C. Tutt, and Martha Tutt. Elders Gahon, Fielding White, and M. Embree assisted in the organization.

A small log cabin on the Lewis Lionberger farm was given to the Vine Church and they met there for a time, but the cabin proved unfit, and the group met from house to house. With so few members outside the family, the meetings were often poorly attended, and it was often recorded that only the clerk was present. John Tutt was clerk of the Vine during its entire history. At one time when he was the only one present, he put his prayer upon the minutes. Rev. Herndon also served the Vine Church following Rev. Fielding White.

When Rev. Elias George became pastor of Concord in 1846 the two congregations joined forces and by January 25, 1847, the union was complete. Concord retained her name and Vine retained her location and Rev. George continued as pastor. In 1851 a house of worship was built. This was the first house of worship the congregation had ever had although it had been organized for 36 years.

In the 1860's, two members of the Tutt family became ministers, B.G., and George. B.G. served for 16 years.

The second building on an acre donated by C.H. Gallagher, dedicated in 1853, surpassed the first. A third building was built in 1870, at a cost of \$4,000, and could accommodate 400 people.

Within a few years, however, the Osage Valley and South Kansas Railroad began laying their tracks a few miles to the west. By 1919 Concord was disbanded and the Christian Church across the road would soon follow. The building was sold at auction in 1924 to Mrs. M.A. Rush of Mt. Herman and used to build a barn and out buildings. Trustees were A.S. Chamberlin, G.C. Harness and C.D. Shirley.

The cemetery of the Christian Church can hardly be distinguished, but the Concord Cemetery (the oldest in Cooper County) has been more fortunate. Glora Fancier Doty, John Scott and W.F. Fancier in 1991 championed its restoration. Among the early pioneers resting there is a member of William Quantrill's band, wounded nearby, and nursed by Southern sympathizers in the woods till the end. He was buried by moonlight with no marker, as wartime violence was inflicted on the dead as well as the living. His name was Riley Crawford, but little else is known of him.
