

Mt Vernon Cumberland Presbyterian Church Pilot Grove United Presbyterian Church

Township: T-47-N
Range: R-18-W
Section: 8
Map: [Click Here](#)

Organized: April 1853
Disbanded: Yes
Active: No
Updated: March 6, 2003

Cemetery: There was a cemetery associated with this church. The church moved and the cemetery did not. The cemetery is maintained by a group other than the church.

Area: Southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of the section near Pilot Grove, Missouri. Currently located on Mt. Vernon Street in Pilot Grove.

Records: It is known that when this church was disbanded that the records were sent to the Presbytery. The location might have been to Jefferson City, Missouri; but more likely to Philadelphia.
Department of History & Record Management Services
Presbyterian Church
425 Lombard Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147-1516
215-627-1825

History:



**Mount Vernon Cumberland Presbyterian Church
From "History of Howard and Cooper Counties Missouri", 1883**

Mount Vernon C. P. Church -In the month of April 1833, the presbytery of New Lebanon established a church called Mount Vernon in the neighborhood of Pilot Grove, and about one mile southwest. The organizing members were William Houx, John Miller, James Deckard, John Houx, Sr., Frederick Houx, Gideon B. Miller, Benjamin Weedin, Daniel Weedin, Jacob Houx, William Miller, Charlotte Houx, Anne McCutchen, Harriet L. McCutchen, Christina Deckard, Ellen B. Crawford, Regina Houx, Mary Miller, Sr., Mary Miller, Jr., Catherine Weedin, Mary Weedin, Elizabeth and Rachel Weedin, Ann Rennison, Elizabeth H. C. Berry, Margaret Houx. William Houx and John Miller were the elders. The present elders, are Judge J. M. McCutcheon, Dr. William B. Harriman, Abraham Brownfield, and Thomas Brownfield. Among the early preachers who officiated in the pulpit of this church were Samuel C. Davidson, Robert Sloan, Archibald McCorkle, William Kavanaugh and Finis Ewing. The pulpit is not now supplied by any regular minister. Rev. J. T. H. Henderson was the last pastor of this church. The church now numbers thirty members.

**Mr. Vernon Cumberland Presbyterian Church
From "History of Cooper County Missouri" by W. F. Johnson, 1919**

"Mt. Vernon Cumberland Presbyterian Church was located about one mile southwest of Pilot Grove, Missouri and was organized in April, 1833. Some of the early pastors were: Samuel C. Davidson, Archibald McCorkle, William Kavanaugh and Finis Ewing.

The charter members were: William Houx, John Miller, James Deckard, John Houx, Sr., Frederick Houx, Gideon B. Miller, Benjamin Weeden, Daniel Weddin, Jacob Houx, William Miller, Charlotte Houx, Anne McCutcheon, Harriet L. McCutcheon, Christian Deckard, Ellen B. Crawford, Regina Houx, Mary Mill, Sr., Mary Miller, Jr., Catherine Weedin, Mary and Elizabeth and Rachel Weedin, Ann Rennison, Elizabeth H. C. Berry, and Margaret Houx."

**"Story of the First Church of the Pilot Grove Community"
From an article in the Pilot Grove Weekly Record in 1932**

"To begin with, the Mt. Vernon Church still exists. It is the present 'Presbyterian Church' of Pilot Grove and was the first church to serve this community. ...Presbyterianism had its start in Cooper County at New Lebanon in 1820 and the Mt. Vernon congregation was organized in April, 1833, and was located one mile southwest of where the town now is and near the site of the old Mt. Vernon Cemetery. ...One of the strong supporters of the Mt. Vernon Church was the late E. H. Harris, Sr., whose home at that time was just at the church door, where now the C. C. Rockwood family live."

Mr. Harris was not only of pioneer stock and the pioneer merchant and banker of the community, but he was the pioneer ice man. He boasted of having at his home, the first ice house of the entire community and from its cooling and refreshing hillside depths each Sabbath Morning of the many hot summers, he took a red cedar bucket of crystal cubes to quench the thirst of the country folks who assembled for Sunday School and preaching services

When Pilot Grove came into being in 1873, the town began to build to conform to the railroad lines, some of the younger members of Mt. Vernon felt that to be properly in accord with the times, and to drop some of the rusticity of the setting, the church should move into town. After a period of some twelve years, to be exact, in 1885, the spirit of advance and development had thoroughly obsessed the Mt. Vernon congregation and the move was decided upon.

Judge J. M. McCutcheon, father of the present heads of the church, gave a lot in town, for the building which was erected during the pastorate of Rev. T. J. Claggett. The church carried with it

the beloved name of "Mt. Vernon" and the street on which the church faced was named "Mt. Vernon Avenue"; all a fitting tribute to the mother church down on the hill, about which many sacred memories still cling.

This is the story, briefly told of Mt. Vernon, the first church of Pilot Grove rural community, although not the first church to be erected in the town, the Methodists having had a building on the site of the town, when it was first surveyed.

The story of Old Mt. Vernon Church would not be complete with knowledge of the final disposition made of the building itself, after the congregation and the name had been removed to the new structure in town.

The Mt. Vernon school house, which stood only a few feet from the church on the north slope of the hill, had become dilapidated from the usage of many years, so the church property was acquired by the school board and equipped for a public school. After many years, the Mt. Vernon school district was consolidated with the Pilot Grove school district, and again Mt. Vernon Church building was put up for sale. This time, it was purchased by F. S. Butterwick, who had all the materials removed to his lot in Roe Heights in Pilot Grove, where he assembled it and erected a modern bungalow, using all the massive hand-hewed hard wood timbers, just as they were, making the building distinctive and historic. In recent years, this residence has passed to the ownership of Mr. L. U. Green, and today is one of the prettiest and most desirable properties in Pilot Grove. With its well kept and modern appearing walls and its massive basement are to be found the relics of the old Mt. Vernon Church.

United Presbyterian Church
From " Pilot Grove Centennial 1873 - 1973"

In the month of April, 1833, the presbytery of New Lebanon established the Mt. Vernon Cumberland Presbyterian Church, a mile southwest of Pilot Grove, near the site of the old Mt. Vernon Cemetery. Charter members were: Wm. Houx; John Miller; James Deckard, Sr.; Fred Houx; Gideon Miller; Garnett Miller; Benjamin Weedin; Daniel Weedin; Jacob Houx; Wm. Miller; Charlotte Houx; Ann McCutchen; Harriet McCutcheon; Christena Deckard; Ellen B. Crawford; Ragenia Houx; Mary Miller, Sr.; Mary Miller, Jr.; Catherine Weedin; Mary Weedin; Elizabeth Weedin; Rachel Weedin; Ann Rennison; Eliza H. C. Berry; Margaret Houx.

One of the strong supporters of the church, E. H. Harris, Sr., took a red cedar water bucket of crystal ice to church services each Sunday to quench the thirst of the country folk, who came for preaching services. He had the first ice house of the community.

As Pilot Grove developed into a town, some in the church favored moving the church, and after twelve years of watchful waiting, the plan was adopted. J. M. McCutcheon gave the lot, and the building fund, that had been started in 1883, was used to begin the new building. During the pastorate of the Rev. T. J. Claggett, in 1885, the Mt. Vernon congregation moved to Pilot Grove, bringing with it the beloved name of Mt. Vernon. The street on which it stands is also known as Mt. Vernon Street.

In 1906 the church became the United Presbyterian Church. Extensive remodeling was completed in 1937, and re-dedictory services were held on Nov. 7.

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