

Bell's Run Baptist Church **(old section)** **Ohio County, KY**

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, KY



Located along Highway 764 about three miles east of Pleasant Ridge. The old section of the Bell's Run Cemetery is located across the road from the church and the new cemetery. The earliest date in the old cemetery is 1824 and the latest is 1918. Burials were begun in the new cemetery behind the church in 1890. The old cemetery was abandoned and became a thicket of vines, briars and saplings. I suspect it had not been not cared for because it was on a knoll above the roadway and was thus more difficult to access. In 1989 it was reclaimed and cleaned off. On 27 March 1989 Jerry Long copied the old cemetery. I copied just the old section due to the fact it had been un-accessible for many years. Fifteen monuments were found that had not been included in a listing published in 1975 and twenty-five errors in the previous listing were found (Ohio County Kentucky Cemeteries, Volume I (West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Owensboro, KY, 1975, pp67-69). While copying the engravings I discovered two monuments that were buried in the ground and only a tiny edge was visible. One of these was

John P. Taylor (1847-1872), a brother of my great-grandmother. Twenty-five graves were counted with fieldstones and there were signs of at least that many more unmarked graves.

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Diflis Ambrose (s/o D. & S. T.)	22 Feb 1869	18 Jan 1870
Mahala Bunger (w/o Thomas)	22 Aug 1824	18 Dec 1886
Mary M. Bunger (consort of Thomas; aged 43 yrs)		6 Sep 1851
Thomas Bunger [deathdate is broken off, he died 3 Apr 1873]	27 Oct 1803	
Jesse L. Chapman (d/o W.L. & M.A.)	27 Mar 1884	7 Aug 1885
Moses Chapman [birthdate unreadable]	? Feb 1820	17 Mar 1890
Clearsa A. Christian (w/o Charles) "Aged 57 yrs 3 ms & 24 ds. A loving wife. A mother dear. A faithful friend I buried here. She was the dau. of / Wm. Hendrix. He a son Sam Hendrix, native of N.C. Grand dau. of Jasper Bristow, a Baptist minister, native of Ky. She was married to Chas. Christian, May 10, 1849. Mother of 13 children. Was a member of / Bells Run Church."	3 Oct 1833	27 Jan 1891
James W. Christian	9 Feb 1850	13 Feb 1886
Lewis R. Christian (s/o Charles & C.A.)	17 Aug 1854	7 Jul 1887
Mary F. Christian (d/o Charles & C.A.)	15 Dec 1852	6 Jul 1887
Warner Crow Christian	1 Apr 1864	13 Jan 1887
Eliza Cooper (w/o Jacob)	11 Feb 1814	29 Oct 1880
Jacob Cooper	2 Dec 1816	20 Mar 1902
T. J. Crow	22 Oct 1813	17 Jan 1883
Frankie C. Daley (s/o E.C. & N.P.)	22 Aug 1887	11 Feb 1889
Hannah H. Davis (w/o J.T.)	31 Apr 1839	25 May 1871
Bethena Dawson (w/o Jackson)	15 May 1809	13 Mar 1881
Jackson Dawson	16 Nov 1816	22 Apr 1876
Jesse Ford (s/o D.G. & Emily)	15 Oct 1855	6 Feb 1856

Anna Foxworthy (infant d/o W.N. & Mary) "Born Union County, Ind., died in Davis Co., Ky."	9 Jan 1887	28 Jun 1887
Infant son of S.R. & S.F. French		28 Sep 1871
James E. Greer (s/o J.W. & Lucinda)	23 May 1884	9 Jun 1884
George R. Hinton (s/o W.E. & A.F.)	14 Sep 1876	19 Sep 1885
J. S. Hinton		no dates
Peter Hinton		no dates
Emma Hinton		no dates
Edward Hinton		no dates
? Jewell (s/o ?.L. & N.?.)	18 Sep 1882	illegible
Barnett Johnson "Born in Granville Co., North Carolina"	4 Dec 1805	14 Feb 1886
James A. Johnson	17 Oct 1807	22 Jan 1873
Lucinda Johnson (aged 94 yrs 2 ms & 22 ds)	2 Jan 1811	24 Mar 1905
Delila King (w/o J.T.)	Apr 1857	17 Apr 1898
Infant son of J.T. & D.D. King	3 Feb 1888	7 Feb 1888
John T. King [separate gov't marker: "J.T. King Co.E. 12th Ky. Cav."]	3 May 1856	9 Dec 1898
Julia A. King (d/o T.S. & R.)	25 Jan 1864	18 Jun 1872
Oma Netter King (d/o H.O. & M.E.)	21 Sep 1882	11 Sep 1883
T. S. King [Mason]	9 Jan 1834	4 Jan 1894
Rebecca King	11 Apr 1842	13 Mar 1917
John B. Lake [separate gov't marker: "J.B. Lake Co.B. 10th Ky. Inf.]	22 Jan 1842	27 Aug 1887
Mary Lake (mother)	2 Aug 1847	11 Apr 1911
Jesse S. Long (s/o R.J. & S.M.)	26 Mar 1882	15 Jan 1886

Joseph McKinley	11 Jul 1844	17 Jul 1918
Susan E. McKinley	25 Apr 1856	15 Mar 1913
Cynthia M. McKinley	4 Mar 1846	15 Mar 1890
W. S. McMahan	25 Jul 1823	10 Jun 1877
John N. Maddyx (s/o G.W.)	15 Apr 1877	17 Dec 1879
Sarah E. Maddyx (d/o G.W.)	6 Mar 1879	16 Feb 1880
Charles L. Magan (aged 27 yrs 9 ms & 16 ds)	12 May 1853	28 Apr 1881
George L. Martin (c/o J.S. & L.E.)	25 Jul 1887	30 Sep 1888
Arthur L. Martin (c/o J.S. & L.E.)	15 Oct 1883	3 Oct 1884
Sally M. Martin (d/o E. & C.)	7 Oct 1852	19 Oct 1861
Mary Morgan (w/o J.)	7 Dec 1817	4 Oct 1879
Andrew Morrison (s/o J. & E.) (aged 25 yrs 11 ms & 15 ds)	8 Dec 1843	23 Nov 1869
Alice Mosley (w/o William)	12 Apr 1856	31 Mar 1877
David A. Mosley [separate gov't marker: "David Mosley Co.B. 3rd Ky. Cav."]	11 Apr 1841	27 Jul 1866
Deborah A. Mosley (w/o David)	15 Nov 1843	3 May 1866
John Robert Mosley (aged 25 yrs) [separate gov't marker: "J.R. Mosley Co.B. 3rd Ky. Cav."]		18 Dec 1863
Alfred J. Murray (s/o J.R. & S.A.)	8 Jun 1867	16 Apr 1868
Corrilla Murray (d/o J.R. & S.A.)	25 Nov 1854	8 Jul 1858
Dr. Jessie R. Murray	22 Mar 1824	28 Mar 1868
Sgt. J. A. Nelson (Co. A. 12th Ky. Cav.)		no dates
James L. Ralph	16 Dec 1851	17 Aug 1886
Caleb Dellanon Rhoades (s/o J.M. & C.)	27 Jul 1877	3 Nov 1880

"In Memory of Thompson Russel's Family, erected in 1888"

Catharine Russel (w/o T.)		Sep 1861
John P. Taylor	19 Sep 1847	28 Feb 1872
R. D. Taylor [Mason]	24 Mar 1835	8 Oct 1872
Rachel Taylor (w/o R.D.)	22 Oct 1831	26 Mar 1881
Rolley Taylor (s/o L.G.W. & Victoria)	1 Sep 1882	31 Aug 1883
S. L. Taylor (s/o R.D. & Rachel)	26 Sep 1869	21 Jan 1877
Sally Mc Taylor (2nd w/o Thomas L.) (aged 74 yrs 8 ms & 23 ds)	5 Jun 1807	1 Mar 1881
Thomas L. Taylor [note - he died in 18781	10 Aug 1795	18 Jul 1875
Cassander Taylor (w/o T.L.) "erected by J.S. Taylor in memory of his mother"	10 Sep 1802	27 Jun 1824
W. C. Webster (Co. K. 3rd Term. Inf.)		no dates
Dollie Mc Westerfield (d/o J.C. & Lydia J.)	7 Nov 1882	8 Sep 1886
Estel T. Westerfield (s/o John C. & M.M.)	24 Mar 1878	7 Jun 1883
George W. Westerfield	13 Jul 1874	19 Mar 1890
Hurbert Westerfield (s/o J.H. & M.E.)	8 Jan 1883	12 Jan 1883
Infant son of W.H. & Nancy Westerfield	born & died	20 Jul 1887
Infant d/o W.H. & Josephine Westerfield	born & doed	6 Sep 1873
James C. Westerfield (s/o J.H. & M.E.)	29 Aug 1870	14 Dec 1870
Martha R. Westerfield (d/o J.H. & M.E.)	29 Aug 1870	15 May 1871
Josephine Westerfield (w/o W.H.)	12 Jun 1849	3 Jan 1881
Mary E. Westerfield (d/o J.H. & M.E.)	30 Jun 1881	23 Jul 1882
Mary Eter Westerfield (d/o C.F. & M.E.)	9 Feb 1873	9 Mar 1874
William H. Westerfield	5 Sep 1858	26 Jun 1874

(s/o John C. & Martha M.)

Presley Wilhite (aged 52 yrs)		28 Nov 1846
Lillie D. Yates (d/o T.E. & P.A.)	16 Aug 1891	18 Dec 1892
Lossie L. Yates (s/o T.E. & P.A.)	9 Jun 1885	24 Mar 1886
Lundie L. Yates (s/o T.E. & P.A.)	15 Jun 1893	22 Jul 1893
Infant son of J.R. & N.J. Yates	born & died	12 May 1887
James Yates	29 Aug 1825	5 Jun 1878
James M. Yates (s/o Marion & Nancy A.)	26 Oct 1863	23 Apr 1864
Mary Belle Yates (w/o W.D.)	18 Jul 1867	30 Jun 1887
Matilda Yates	18 Nov 1837	19 Jun 1899

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A History of the Daviess – McLean Baptist Association in Kentucky, 1844-1943, Rev. Wendell H. Rone (1943, pp232-234):

BELL'S RUN BAPTIST CHURCH

This historic church was organized by Elders Frederick Tanner and Thomas Downs on December 24, 1820. The church first took the name of the United Baptist Church of Christ located on the waters of Barnett's Creek, Ohio County Ky. The charter members numbered eight in all. Elder Downs was chosen as the first pastor and J. C Chapman as first clerk

The church went by the name of Barnett's Creek United Baptist Church until about the year 1834 when the name was changed to that of Littleflock. In the year 1839 the church again changed its name — this time Bell's Run as it is now known.

From the year 1820 to the year 1844 the Church was a member of the Goshen Association She became a constituent member of this Association in November, 1844. Her membership with this fraternity continued until the year 1901 when she went into the constitution of the Ohio County Association to which she still belongs.

From the year 1820 to the year 1901 the church was served by the following pastors and clerks: Pastors—Thomas Downs 1820-1832; William Downs, 1833-1839; Ancil Hall, 1840; Reuben Cottrell, 1841-1842; J. P. Ellis, 1842-1857; J. S. Taylor, 1858; T. .L Brooks, 1859-1860; J. B. Haynes, 1861-1863; A. B. Smith, 1863-1864; D. E Yeiser, 1865; J. P. Ellis, 1866-1878; B. Y. Cundiff, 1879; J. S. Taylor, 1879-1881; J. S. Coleman, 1882-1886; B. F. Jenkins, 1886-1892; D. E. Yeiser, 1892-1893; B. F. Jenkins, 1893-1899; J. N. Jarnagin, 1900-1901; Clerks—J. C. Chapman, 1820-1843; J. S. Taylor, 1844-1849; Jams King, 1850-1853, R. B. Johnson, 1854; J.

M. Taylor, 1855; T. R. Wilhite, 1856-1859; J. M. Taylor, 1860-1861; G. W. Taylor, 1862-1879; Presley Jewell, 1880-1881; G. W. Taylor, 1882-1884; J. S. Yates, 1885; F. M. Westerfield, 1886-1890; K. H. Martin, 1891-1896; John L. Massie, 1897; K. H. Martin, 1898-1900; H. O. King, 1901. In her early records this church is shown to have met in private homes for some time. Finally the church proposed to build a house near Calaway's Springs but the plan fell through. A small log house was then erected near the present location of the church. In 1843 the old log house was destroyed by fire. Mainly by the efforts of Deacon Thomas L. Taylor a new house was immediately erected which served the church until enlargement became necessary in the year 1867. The Free-Masons in cooperation with the church built a lodge room upstairs over the church building. In the year 1877 a new house was erected, with Deacon Thomas L. Taylor again playing a large and important role by donating a lot adjacent to the old building. The Free-Masons also joined in this work and again had a lodge room upstairs. This building was used by the church until it was destroyed by fire a few years ago. At present a new and beautiful little house of worship greets the eye of all who chance to pass that way. Four buildings in 122 years is the record of the church. Of these, two have been destroyed by fire.

The majority of our information concerning the early history of this church was gathered from a history published in the Daviess County Association minutes for 1880 and written by Elder J. P. Ellis. He states that the early minutes up to the year 1852 were destroyed in a fire that completely burned up the household effects of Brother James King. His early statements are gathered from some old manuscript papers in the possession of the J. C. Chapman family, who served as the first clerk. It has been the privilege of the author to see the extant records from 1853 to 1901.

Brother Martin Hudson was ordained as the first deacon of the Church in June, 1821, by Elders Thomas Downs, James Nanny, and John Hall. Elder J. P. Ellis joined this church in 1835 and was licensed to preach soon afterwards. In October, 1842, he was ordained by Elders Reuben Cottrell and H. H. Ellis, his brother. His ministry with the Church was blessed in the building up of the cause in every way. In November, 1853, Brother J. S. Taylor was licensed to preach. He was later ordained by the Church at Whitesville. In February, 1856, Brother T. L. Brooks was licensed to preach the Gospel. His ordination took place in July, 1858, with Elders J. P. Ellis, J. S. Taylor, J. B. Haynes, David Whittinghill, and D. J. Phillips serving as presbytery. Brother Moses Chapman was licensed to preach in November, 1883. No record is given if he was ever ordained. In September, 1893, Brethren Joe Tom Taylor and C. C. Taylor were licensed to preach. At this same meeting W. D. Cox united with the Church by baptism from the Methodists and was also licensed to preach. He was duly ordained by Elders J. S. Coleman, J. S. Taylor, D. E. Yeiser, B. Y. Cundiff, A. G. Davis, B. F. Jenkins, and W. P. Bennett in February, 1894. In December, 1894, Joe Tom Taylor was ordained by Elders B. F. Jenkins, E. H. Maddox, and R. T. Bruner. Thus, up to the year 1901, this church licensed seven men to preach and of that number five were ordained. In January, 1854, the church licensed Mack Taylor, a colored brother, to preach, and was to have ordained him but his untimely death prevented it.

About the year 1838 the subject of missions caused agitation in the membership of the church. The opposition, small though it was, finally took letters of dismission and constituted Barnett's Creek Church in 1839. The opposition was mainly on the subject of plans and methods of carrying on mission work. In fact it was the old issue of Hardshellism and Missionism. Bell's Run continued to be a missionary church and is such to this day.

Besides Brother Martin Hudson the Church was served during her history to 1901 by the following brethren as deacons: Thomas L. Taylor, Barnett Johnson, B. W. Taylor, G. W.

Ambrose, James Yates, G W. Martin, Thomas S. King, E. P. Moseley, Joe C. Westerfield, M. E. Jones, W. L. Chapman, Palestine Chapman, Aaron Hawkins, and K. H. Martin. These were all ordained at different periods during the time prior to 1901.

This church has been fundamentally Baptist all during her history. In 1872 the following statement was adopted. "We, as a church, do not recognize anything as baptism only the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and that performed by an administrator or agent acting by or under the authority of a Baptist Church." In 1892, the church voted to close her doors forever against the use of her building for political speeches. In 1899 a rule was also passed barring the Mormons from using the church house. We wish for this grand old church a continued useful ministry until the coming again of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The church entertained the Daviess County Association in 1850.

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Thomas L. Taylor (1795-1878)
Wrong year of his death was placed on his gravestone.
Picture was taken by Jerry Long on 30 March 1981.

A History of the Daviess – McLean Baptist Association in Kentucky, 1844-1943, Rev. Wendell H. Rone (1943, p475):

DEACON THOMAS L. TAYLOR

Thomas L. Taylor, the subject of this sketch, was born in Fairfax County, Virginia, on August 10, 1795. He was in the War of 1812 and participated in the siege of Baltimore in the year 1814. In the year 1816 he moved to Shelby County, Kentucky, where, in 1818, he married the daughter of Elder Samuel Vancleve, a Baptist minister in that county.

In the year 1823, Mr. Taylor moved to Ohio County, Kentucky. The following year tragedy entered the home which resulted in the death of his wife, on June 24, 1824, she leaving two sons to the care of her grief-stricken husband. The youngest child died in infancy, while the other grew to manhood and became a Baptist preacher, Elder J. S. Taylor, whose sketch is also included in this history. In 1828, Mr. Taylor married Miss Sallie McCrocklin, who lived to survive him.

Brother Taylor became a Christian early in life and in the year 1831 placed his membership in the Bell's Run Church. In the year 1833 he was ordained as a deacon of this Church. To his energy and promptness as a deacon may be attributed much of the success of this historic Church during his lifetime. He was also a prominent member in the organization of the Association, in 1844, and always cooperated and urged his Church to faithfulness in cooperating with the Association in its work. He was active in every good work, and about the last thing that he did was to deed to the Bell's Run Church a lot of ground upon which to build a new house of worship. His death prevented him from seeing the new house completed.

Brother Taylor raised seven sons and four daughters, nine of the children being born after his second marriage. He saw them all take up their cross and follow him as he followed Christ. On February 7, 1877, he was stricken with paralysis, from which he did not recover, but died at his home on July 18, 1878. Daviess County Association and Bell's Run Church lost a valued and loved member in the death of Deacon Thomas L. Taylor. "Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace."

A History of the Daviess – McLean Baptist Association in Kentucky, 1844-1943, Rev. Wendell H. Rone (1943, p352):

J. S. TAYLOR

Elder J. S. Taylor was born in Shelby County, Kentucky, September 24, 1821. He came to Ohio County while young where he received a good education for the day. He professed faith in Christ as Saviour while a youth and was baptized into the fellowship of Bell's Run Church. This church licensed him to preach the Gospel in November, 1855. He later moved his membership to Whitesville Church and was ordained at that place on May 30, 1856, by Elders J. P. Ellis, J. R. Gillespie, and J. G. Howard.

His services as pastor were not many and we have no record of them. We have learned that he served as missionary for the Daviess County and Goshen Associations, and in this field led souls to Christ. Disease of the throat prevented him from preaching during his later years, and in 1870, he was elected to represent Ohio County in the State Legislature.

The only thing we have been able to find concerning his family life is that he was first married to Miss Nannie Phillips in January, 1847. After her death he married Mrs. Susan Taylor in February, 1896. This union was dissolved by his death on March 3, 1897. We regret that more particulars have not been found of his life.

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Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 23 September 1995, p8C:

Church marks anniversary

Messenger-Inquirer

Bells Run Baptist Church has been around since James Monroe was president. On Sunday, the church will be celebrating its 175th anniversary.

The church near Pleasant Ridge was founded by the Rev. Thomas Downs, a pioneer in Baptist work in the area, and two men from Buck Creek Baptist Church, Dick and Frederick Tanner, said the Rev. Curtis Daugherty, who is pastor there now.

The congregation began in 1820 with eight charter members from Buck Creek. At first it was known as United Baptist Church of Christ, then Little Flock Baptist Church before the name was permanently changed to Bells Run in 1839, Daugherty said.

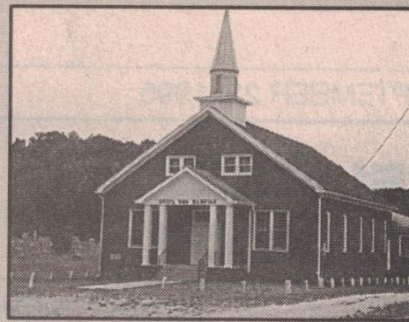
Over the years, the congregation there started several other churches, including Pleasant Ridge and Barnett's Creek Baptist churches, and Downs started several others, including Mount Carmel, Mount Liberty and Blackford Creek.

Downs' brother William, a minister elsewhere, baptized Thomas Lincoln, father of the future president, Daugherty said.

Over the years, the congregation has had about three buildings at Bells Run, the pastor said. The current one was built around 1940 after the previous structure was destroyed by fire.

These days, the church averages

Bells Run Baptist's 175th Anniversary



- **Where:** 5 miles from Pleasant Ridge on Kentucky 764
- **Sunday's plans:** 10 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m., worship service; noon, meal; 1:30 p.m., play "Our Past Revisited"
- **Who's welcome:** All former pastors and members

65 to 70 people on Sunday mornings. The congregation has licensed a young man, David Ford, to preach in the last year, Daugherty said.

Sunday's anniversary celebration will start with regular morning services, a lunch and then a drama of the church's history at 1:30 p.m. Several members will be portraying their ancestors, some of the old church minutes will be read, and former pastors and churches formed by Bells Run will be recognized.