

# Pleasant Point Baptist Church History

By Jerry Long  
c.2024



Pleasant Point Baptist Church, Pleasant Ridge, Daviess County, KY



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 10 June 2022, pp.1C & 6C:

## History of historic Black churches told at library

### Fourth Street Baptist, Pleasant Point Baptist trace origins to mid-1800s

By Nathan Havenner, Messenger-Inquirer

Former City Commissioner Pam Smith-Wright and the Rev. Rhondalyn Randolph, president of the Owensboro NAACP Branch 3107, provided a history of two historic Black churches in the Owensboro and Daviess County community Thursday evening at the Daviess County Public Library.



**The Rev.  
Rhondalyn  
Randolph**

**Pamela  
Smith-Wright**

Smith-Wright began by telling the story of Fourth Street Baptist Church, the oldest Black church in Daviess County.

"Fourth Street Baptist Church came from First Baptist Church, which was downtown, and the slaves outnumbered the members of that church, and then they finally gave them a church because they did not want the slaves to outnumber them," she said.

The church traces its roots to Yelvington Baptist Church, which was established two years before Daviess County was carved out of the previously established Ohio County.

Smith-Wright said the church soon became known as Rock Springs Baptist Church and met about two miles southwest of the Yelvington community. It moved into Yelvington in 1850.

"The church began with 23 white members and two Black members," she said. "In its first 20 years the church baptized into membership 103 blacks and 133 whites."

Smith-Wright told of one of the first Black members of the church, a man named Oliver Potts, who was enslaved.

"As the number of black members grew, Oliver was recognized as their spiritual leader and sometimes referred to as 'preacher'," Smith Wright said. "Around 1830, a well-to-do land owner, Phillip Thompson, provided in the town of 'Owensborough' a small log cabin as a place of worship for Black congregations."

During the 1850s, a brick structure was built, which was enlarged in 1881. The building was later destroyed by fire. A new building was built in 1873 and served the Fourth Street Baptist congregation until 1972, when it was demolished and the current Fourth Street Baptist Church was constructed.

Showing a black-and-white photograph of the 1873 church building, Smith-Wright, who attended the church as a child with her family, said it was an "architectural marvel."

"I was privileged enough to be have been baptized in that church," she said.

Smith-Wright said that while the old Fourth Street Baptist Church could seat 500 people and had a beautiful pipe organ, it was in such a state by the early 1970s that the congregation could not keep up with the necessary repairs.

"Every Sunday we would go to church, and while church was going on some plaster would fall," she said. "We couldn't afford to keep it in that condition, but it was beautiful."

The current Fourth Street Baptist Church is at 821 W. Fourth St.

"Owensboro should be very proud that we have a church that is the oldest African American church in the county," Smith-Wright said.

Randolph presented the history of the historic Pleasant Point Baptist Church in Utica, where she has served as pastor for the last 13 years.

Located at 3723 State Road 764 in Utica, the church was founded by six emancipated slaves in 1871. By 1874, it had been fully organized, with services taking place in a log cabin. A church building was erected in 1878 that is still in use.

"Although we are not the oldest Black Baptist church in the county, we are the oldest to worship in the same existing location," she said.

Randolph said the noted inventor and agricultural scientist George Washington Carver spoke to farmers at the church in 1909, and the cemetery has the largest concentration of Black veterans from the Civil War to Desert Storm.

"Thanks to the Kentucky Room, I was able to locate an actual program that had George Washington Carver's face on it, and where he was on the program in what was called Negro Chautauquas," she said.

The events were designed to bring members of the Black community together so they could have a common vision and a common purpose to work towards for the community.

Randolph said that while some additions have been made to the church over the years, the building is structurally similar to what the church was when it opened.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 29 July 2018, pp.1C & 4C:**

## **Church continues to embrace change after 140 years**

By Collin Morris Messenger-Inquirer



The Rev. Rhondalyn Randolph is shown inside the sanctuary Friday at Pleasant Point Baptist Church in Utica. Randolph is one of only three female Southern Baptist pastors in Kentucky. Photo by Alan Warren, Messenger-Inquirer.

In the muggy August of 1871, a group of six emancipated slaves left Green Brier Baptist Church in Utica to establish their own congregation, which led to the construction of Pleasant Point Baptist Church in 1878.

That church is still standing and active at 3723 Kentucky 764, and its leadership continues to make history.

Rhondalyn Randolph, the church's pastor, is one of only three female Southern Baptist pastors in Kentucky, which leaves her church unrecognized by the Southern Baptist Convention.

According to the Southern Baptist Convention's website, the organization's official stance on female pastors is: "While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture."

Randolph challenges that view. She says God has called her to pastoral work just as he has her male colleagues, and she's fulfilling that work despite obstacles she's faced.

"God does not put any constraints on ministry -- that's man-made," Randolph said. "I had to fight through all of that opposition in regard to what other people thought, so I had to go with what God spoke to me. And I know what God spoke to me because at each opportunity, he just kept opening doors."

The journey toward a pastoral career began for Randolph as a preacher in ministerial training with Zion Baptist Church on 2311 W. Ninth St., the church her father pastored.

Six years later, she began attending Pleasant Point. The pastor soon became ill and, given her experience, Randolph was asked to enter the pulpit in his absences.

When Pleasant Point's full-time pastor's illness became debilitating, Randolph was chosen from a pool of eight candidates to assume the role of pastor.

"I was excited because I never thought that I would be in that position," Randolph said. "It seemed so far removed because I didn't have any examples of women being able to pastor and being used by God in that way, but what I've learned is that God will make room for your gift."

Randolph became yet another milestone in the legacy of a church that was once the location of a meeting between white and black farmers with George Washington Carver, and hosts a cemetery that is officially recognized by the state of Kentucky as the commonwealth's largest concentration of gravesites honoring black soldiers.

Under Randolph, the church promotes women in other leadership capacities as well. Of its two deacon positions, one is held by a woman, Dova Tinsley, and Randolph said the future for other women in the Baptist church is looking up.

"I feel the future of women in churches is bright because if we don't have the hands, the work and the ministry of women in the church, you're missing the heartbeat of the church," Randolph said. "You're missing your key, committed workers. The vitality of the church depends upon the willingness of the church to accept women as God has called them."

Pleasant Point's weekly attendance is from 25 to 30 members each Sunday, but its messaging does not differ from other, traditional Southern Baptist churches, Randolph said.

The church convenes for Sunday school at 10:30 a.m., followed by its regular services at 11:30 a.m. On Aug. 15, the church will host its 144th anniversary celebration with a meal at 2 p.m. and a special afternoon service at 3 p.m.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 4 February 2013, pp.1A & 2A:**

## Historic church OK'd for marker Inventor Carver visited Pleasant Point Missionary Baptist

By Angela Oliver Messenger-Inquirer

Among meetings with three U.S. presidents and world leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, pioneer scientist and inventor George Washington Carver visited farming towns across the country.

On one tour, he stopped in Pleasant Ridge.

In 1994's "A Nostalgic Memoir," the late Leslie Shively Smith, a former member of Pleasant Point Missionary Baptist Church, wrote about Carver's visit to the church. According to her book and a newspaper clip of the "Colored People" column in the church archives, Carver visited Pleasant Ridge during the Black Chautauqua, July 16-26, 1909.

"The church kept great records over the years," said the Rev. Rhondalyn Randolph, pastor. "Now, people will be able to see something more permanent."

The church, which was officially organized in 1874, was recently approved for the Kentucky Historical Society's Historical Marker Program.

Randolph, along with church members Dova Tinsley and Teresa Rumph, began the application process in March 2012.

"I was the anniversary chairperson, so I'd been looking at the history for our anniversary service," said Tinsley, who joined the church about 70 years ago. "Once we started, we thought the marker would be a good way to share it with the community."

Criteria for the approval includes having services in the same building for more than 100 years and having hosted a prominent national figure. Several people, including David Kelly, executive director of the Human Relations Commission, and the Rev. Larry Lewis, former pastor of Pleasant Point, also wrote recommendation letters for the application.

"It's a great feeling to have so much support," Rumph said.

The church cemetery is already registered with the state, as a high number of black veterans, from the Civil War to the Vietnam War, are buried there. Its history will be featured on one side of the marker.

The KHS accepts 15 applications in April and October each year. There are 28 markers in Daviess County. The latest was placed at the Daviess County Courthouse last fall.

"We were glad to see the application from the church," said Becky Riddle, coordinator of the marker program. "Most applications come from central Kentucky, but we like to have a representation of the whole state because the markers are on sites people would never know about otherwise."

After the church raises \$2,500 for the marker, there will be an official ceremony for the installation. Randolph said they plan to raise the funds by April and will have the ceremony in August for the church's anniversary.

"It's been a tedious process, and we still have work to do," she said. "But we all know it'll be worth it."

As the women sought verification of their research, they contacted the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Mo., where Carver was born, and the George Washington Carver Museum at the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site in Tuskegee, Ala., where Carver taught and led research for 47 years.

Both places are run by the National Park Service.

"We had the documents showing his travel schedule in that area at the time, but the stop at the church was new information for us," said Chief Ranger Diane Eilenstein, of the monument.

The monument is the first national site dedicated to a black person and was approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1943, when Carver died, according to the Biography Channel website. Carver was born on a plantation there around 1864, though the exact date is unknown.

Ranger Curtis Gregory conducted further research and said the details of Carver's visit will be added to the archives at the monument's accompanying museum.

"We get new info from visitors, family members, just everyday people all the time," Gregory said. "Those kinds of things add a personal touch and update our research. They help us continually tell Carver's story and show how he impacted so many in our country."

The museum in Tuskegee also confirmed Carver's travels and submitted the church's information for its archives, Randolph said.

"We see the marker as a way to connect our city to the entire state," she said. "It could lead to the national registry. Who knows?"

The committee also drew from "History of Pleasant Point Baptist Church," by Wesley Acton, an Owensboro activist, retired teacher and former member of the church. In it, he wrote of Carver's breakthroughs in extracting ingredients, which led to more than 200 ways to use the sweet potato and more than 300 ways to use the peanut. He also discovered how rotating crops replenished soil, leading to more use of farmland.

Randolph said Carver was influential to local black farmers as they owned about 750 acres along U.S. 231 as part of the Homestead Act of 1862, which permitted any citizen, including freed slaves, to claim up to 160 acres of federal land at no cost, barring a registration fee.

"That gave blacks an opportunity to start over," she said. "They built this community from nothing and kept the farms in their families for years."

Smith's memoir states that Carver visited several farmers, offering advice and demonstrations of farming techniques. He was the guest of her grandparents, William Leslie and Kate Thomas Shively, at their home on Andersonville Road, now Kentucky 140, near U.S. 231.

"A lot of black history has been lost because a lack of education prevented many blacks from writing it down," Randolph said. "Things like markers give us a way to make sure our history won't be forgotten. It gives kids a better understanding of how we all contributed to this community and this country."

"We're proud of the things that have happened here," Tinsely said. "The next generations will see this marker and be proud, as well."



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 19 August 2013, p.1C:**

## Pleasant Point marker unveiled

Pleasant Ridge church hailed for contributions to county

By, Angela Oliver Messenger-Inquirer

Many may have noticed a small white church and its cemetery while driving along Kentucky 764 to U.S. 231. Now, with a historical marker in front of it, many will know a part of the church's story.

"When people drive by and read it, maybe they'll think, 'I can make a contribution to preserve my community,' " said the Rev. Rhondalyn Randolph. "No contribution is insignificant."

The Kentucky Historical Society dedicated Kentucky Historical Highway Marker No. 2403 at Pleasant Point Missionary Baptist Church in Pleasant Ridge Sunday. It was also the church's 139th anniversary.

"Daviess County already has a rich history," the Rev. Larry Lewis said during the main address, "but it'll be more vibrant now that Pleasant Point has been added to it."

Lewis was the pastor of Pleasant Point in 1975. In 1976, he moved to Zion Baptist Church and has been the pastor there since. He supported the church's efforts by sending a recommendation letter to the society.

He was also there to show his pride for his daughter, Randolph, pastor of Pleasant Point.

Randolph was overwhelmed with community support during the application process. That spirit of community, she said, carried over from the early days of the church.

Pleasant Point was founded by six emancipated blacks in 1871. It was officially organized in 1874 and built in 1878.

According to the church archives, George Washington Carver visited Pleasant Ridge during the Black Chautauqua, July 16-26, 1909. The pioneer agricultural scientist spoke at the church, visited several farmers in the area, offering advice and demonstrations of farming techniques, and was the house guest of the late William Leslie and Kate Thomas Shively, church members.

Dova Tinsley and Theresa Rumph led the application committee, along with Randolph.

As the women sought verification of their research, they contacted the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Mo., where Carver was born, and the George Washington Carver Museum at the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site in Tuskegee, Ala., where Carver taught and led research for 47 years.

Both places are run by the National Park Service.

The committee's findings were new to the museums and have since been confirmed and added to the museums' archives.

The backside of the marker also recognizes the veterans buried at the cemetery from the Civil War to Desert Storm.

Other speakers included David Kelly, former executive director of the Human Relations Commission; Wesley Acton, former member of Pleasant Point and author of "History of Pleasant Point Baptist Church"; and Aloma Dew, Daviess County historian and retired teacher.

"Black history has not been covered well, but we hope to change that," Dew said. "We can't live in the past, but we have to remember it and know we're all connected."

Dew said the ceremony was emotional, and she's excited to make Pleasant Point a part of a history book that is in the works by the Daviess County Bicentennial Committee.

Daviess County Commissioner Jim Lambert said he was happy to support the event.

"Many churches struggle to survive, but Pleasant Point has kept a vital presence in Pleasant Ridge," he said. "With such history, Pleasant Ridge is unlike any other town in the county. It's very special."

The church played a major role in advancing local blacks, Randolph said. One way was through educating black children.

The church was the first site of the Rosenwald Schools in the area. The school, built in 1919, was one of 5,357 public schools, manual training shops and teacher cottages built for blacks in the South with grants from the Rosenwald Fund between 1912 and 1932.

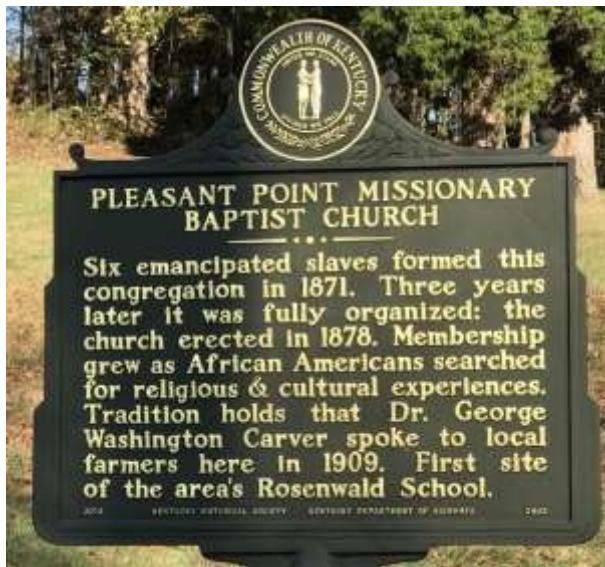
The one-room school is now in Yellow Creek Park's Pioneer Village.

William Young, 88, remembers his days at the school. Though he lives in Evansville, the distance doesn't stop him from attending his boyhood church.

"I'm glad to be here, to see all the old members and friends," he said. "I had many a good day on these grounds. Looking at that marker tells me we stuck together all these years."

Though the journey toward the \$2,500 marker was long, Randolph said, it was worth the effort.

"Today is a great demonstration of faith," Lewis said. "The faith of our ancestors ... we walk in the footprints of those that came before us. Pleasant Point, be proud; your story will be told for generations to come."



Kentucky Historical Highway Marker erected in 2013 by the Kentucky Historical Society and Kentucky Department of Highways. Marker is located near Pleasant Ridge in Daviess County, KY on Kentucky Route 764 just south of U.S. 231, on the right when traveling north. Inscription:

Side 1: Pleasant Point Missionary Baptist Church – Six emancipated slaves formed this congregation in 1871. Three years later it was fully organized: the church erected in 1878. Membership grew as African Americans searched for religious & cultural experiences. Tradition holds that Dr. George Washington Carver spoke to local farmers here in 1909. First site of the area's Rosenwald School.

Side 2: Pleasant Point Missionary Baptist Cemetery – Oldest marked grave is from 1873, although there may be earlier unmarked graves in the cemetery. Among those buried here are veterans who served from the Civil War through Desert Storm. The church has played a vital role in shaping the community of Pleasant Ridge & the lives of its citizens.





# Uncovering the past

Area church to celebrate anniversary, historic moments

By Angela Oliver Messenger-Inquirer



Pastor Rhondalyn Randolph, left, leads guests and friends including Dova Tinsley, right, and Nevaeh Grant, 9, through Pleasant Point Baptist Church's cemetery on July 27. The church will be celebrating its 138th anniversary on Aug. 19. Photo by Jenny Sevcik, Messenger-Inquirer.

The words of a slow hymn and the tapping of feet could be heard from the front door of Pleasant Point Baptist Church one Sunday in late July as the modest congregation sang in unison.

The sanctuary doors opened as the Rev. Rhondalyn Randolph, the pastor, approached the podium. She began her sermon about Jephthah, "An Unprovoked Attack," in a soft tone, gaining a melodic fervor common in black preachers, particularly in the South, toward the end.

After an interpolated version of "His Eye is on the Sparrow," Randolph reminded the audience of a special upcoming service.

Pleasant Point will celebrate its 138th anniversary at 3 p.m. on Aug. 19. The church is at 3723 Kentucky 764 in Pleasant Ridge. The Rev. Connie Baltzell of St. James Baptist Church in Evansville will be the guest speaker.

The youngest member, Aaliah Reed, 9, and eldest, W.A. Howard, 92, will be honored during the anniversary service.

"It's amazing the history our church has, and we're excited to celebrate it," Randolph said.

In the years just after enslaved blacks were freed by the ratification of the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution on Dec. 18, 1865, six of 10 members of the predominately white Bells Run Baptist Church decided to form their own church when their desire to lead ministries was denied, according to "History of Pleasant Point Baptist Church," by Wesley Acton, an Owensboro activist and former member of the church.

Sarah and Harriett Taylor and Washington, Mary, Fanny and Levi Wilhite, founded the church as Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in 1871, fully organizing it as a congregation in 1874 with 17 additional members.

Golden Acton Sr., 83, said he's seen the church's congregation fluctuate over his 55-year membership. Though there was a split in 1982 and 1983 when other members wanted to form a church in the city, now Cedar Street Baptist Church, he said, there was no church he'd rather attend or in which he'd rather raise his six sons and five daughters.

"It's wonderful to have our memories here," Golden Acton said. "It's really been a family church."

His son, Jeffrey sat next to him at the service in the deacon section. He later reminisced about his childhood at the church, citing his baptism in 1974 as his most fond memory.

Jeffrey Acton's mother, Helene, two grandmothers and two sisters are buried in the church's cemetery. Civil War, World War II and other veterans are buried along with them.

The cemetery, which was there before the church, is next to the church on a hill. Limestone pillars have names, birth and death dates etched into them, some dating back to 1834 [note: this is an error – the oldest found is 1873], and the most recent just three years ago.

"If you look at the detail of some of these headstones, you can tell our people really cared for their loved ones," Randolph said. "The graves are still beautiful after all these years."

Among them is a blush-colored headstone of John Tinsley, PFC in the Army during World War II. He died Dec. 23, 2000 at age 80. Next to his name is that of his wife, Dova, who met and married him at the church. She is still a member of Pleasant Point.

She joined the church at age 12 and remembers Baptist Training Union conventions and the community picnic the congregation had on the third Saturday of July of each year, where everyone would play games and the men would barbecue mutton.

"It was so much fun having all those things to do as a young person," said Tinsley, "a dainty 82.

"I've seen the church grow and change and I'm happy as ever with our pastor and where we are now. We're very blessed."

Some memories are too distant for Tinsley, though.

Many of the church's historical moments were before the current members' time. True to the oral tradition of enslaved Africans, much of the church's history was passed only through generations by a griot, or community storyteller. Some of it was documented, however.

In 1994's "A Nostalgic Memoir," the late Leslie Shively Smith, who was a member of the church, wrote of parts of its unique past.

According to Smith and a newspaper clip of the "Colored People" column in the church's archives, pioneering agricultural scientist George Washington Carver toured the Pleasant Ridge community during the Black Chautauqua, July 16-26, 1909.

Carver, of the Tuskegee Negro Normal Institute, now a university in Alabama, gained prominence for extracting ingredients finding more than 200 ways to use the sweet potato, and more than 300 ways to use the peanut. He also discovered how rotating crops replenished soil, leading to more use of farmland.

Smith's memoir said Carver visited several black farmers in the area, offering advice and demonstrations of farming techniques. He was the guest of her grandparents, William Leslie and Kate Thomas Shively at their home on Andersonville Road, now Kentucky 140, near U.S. 231.

"Not only did he stay with our church members, he spoke here," Randolph said.

"Our church was the only public place that could hold so many people," Tinsley added. "So the community came here to hear him speak."

Since blacks owned nearly 700 acres of fertile well-drained land in the area, most of his speech centered on maintaining it.

Randolph, Tinsley and Teresa Rume, an usher and choir member, have been working to register the church and cemetery as historical landmarks.

They have been in contact with curators at the Tuskegee Institute for copies of Carver's tour schedules and writings about his visit, if any.

"It's a long process, but we're hoping to hear some good news soon," Rume said. "We want to preserve our heritage for our children, for ourselves, for the Daviess County community."

Aside from its background, Pleasant Point is historical in another way. Randolph is the first black woman pastor of a Baptist church in Kentucky. She became the pastor in 2007, which was her first assignment.

"They accept me and that's another part of what makes our church special," she said. "And thinking of everything this church has seen, everything its been to the community — that's what keeps me motivated in the pulpit."



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 15 June 1992, p.1C:**

**one room schoolhouse on the road to being preserved**

By Dan Heckel, Messenger-Inquirer

A one-room schoolhouse in Pleasant Ridge is headed for Yellow Creek Park this week - sometime.

Workers thought the 83-year-old former Rosewall School for black children was ready to move Thursday, but summer parks department employees were still taking the roof off Friday morning.

County Commissioner Fred Marksberry said the school had to be moved early Saturday morning to avoid traffic and because that was the day the state permit allowed. But late in the day Friday, Marksberry said the permit had not been secured and it would likely be Tuesday or Wednesday before the schoolhouse was moved.

Preservation Alliance took ownership of the building from the Pleasant Point Baptist Church next door in October after a donation to the church.

The church was going to tear the building down, but Preservation Alliance President Joyce Edwards persuaded the county to use the school as a teaching tool.

A foundation has been poured for the schoolhouse at Yellow Creek Park near the nature trail's swinging bridge. Much of the original brick foundation will be used.

The next step is to get the schoolhouse from its home on Kentucky 764, off U.S. 231 near the Ohio County line, to the eastern park that runs between Kentucky 144 and Reid Road.

Workers spent four days this week trying to get the schoolhouse onto a Doug Brantley and Sons truck, Marksberry said.

The county road department brought huge piles of gravel to fill a ditch in front of the school so Brantley's tractor-trailer can pull straight onto 764, Marksberry said. The gravel will be removed once the truck is clear.

The next step was to remove the roof, which was the only part of the house in bad shape. It also needed to be removed because the building wouldn't fit under the overpasses on the way to the park if the roof was attached, Marksberry said.

The schoolhouse will travel down 764 to U.S. 231, then onto the U.S. 60 bypass to U.S. 60 and then to Reid Road. Escorts will be provided because the schoolhouse will take up the whole road, Marksberry said.

Students at Kentucky Tech will put on a new roof with supplies provided by the county.

Once the building is back together, Preservation Alliance will begin filling the inside with items that would have been used in the school, which operated from 1909 to 1936. The building will then be used to teach today's schoolchildren about the past.

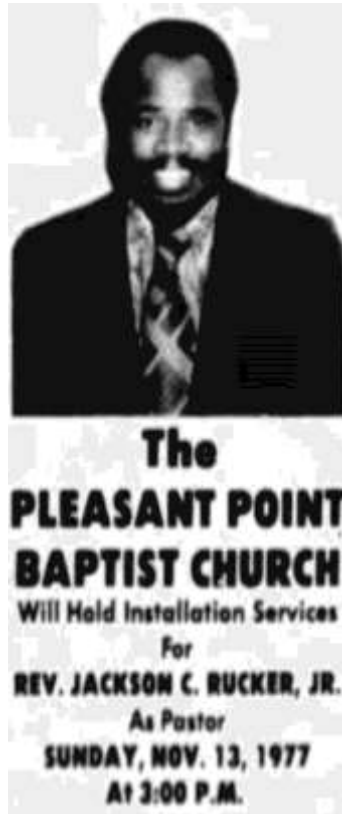


Pleasant Ridge Rosenwald School in the Jim Lambert Pioneer Village in Yellow Creek Park, in Daviess County, KY. Between 1914 and 1932, Julius Rosenwald, an American businessman, philanthropist, and president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, contributed \$4.4 million toward construction of more than 5,000 schools and associated facilities for African American students and teachers in fifteen southern states. Pleasant Ridge, Utica, and Whitesville were selected as Daviess County sites. The Rosenwald School currently located at Yellow Creek Park was originally built in 1919 on Kentucky Highway 764 adjacent to the Pleasant Point Baptist Church in Pleasant Ridge, Daviess County, KY. In the early fall of 1919, African American students were enrolled in grades 1 – 8 at the school. More than 1,000 students graduated from the

school. With the consolidation of schools in 1936-1937 the school closed. Its students were enrolled in African American schools in Owensboro. In 1992, the school was moved to Yellow Creek Park and restoration was completed in 1996 through the efforts of Daviess County Fiscal Court, Kentucky Bicentennial Commission, Kentucky African American Preservation Alliance of Owensboro-Daviess County, and former students and teachers, and other benefactors.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 12 November 1977, p.9A;**



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 24 August 1974, p.5A:**

***Pleasant Point Baptist  
celebrates 100th year***

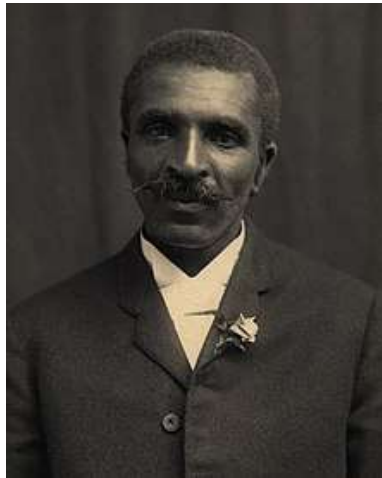
A century ago, according to the recorded deed, Pleasant Point Baptist Church was established.

The first four years the organization was domiciled in a log cabin which was already on the lot when purchased. At that time, it was called The African Baptist Church.

As the congregation grew, it became necessary to rebuild, which they did in 1878 and changed the name to Pleasant Point Baptist Church of Pleasant Ridge, Ky.

Sunday the church will observe its one-hundredth anniversary. The Rev. Larry Lewis, pastor, will be the morning speaker and the Rev. J. E. Gillis, pastor of Sweeney Street Baptist Church, accompanied by his choir and congregation, will bring the afternoon message. Dinner will be served on the grounds.

The public is invited to attend the celebration.



George Washington Carver (c1864-1943)

In July 1909 George Washington Carver (c1864-1943), renowned American agricultural scientist and inventor, visited the Pleasant Point Baptist Church, at Pleasant Ridge, in Daviess County, KY. At the time he was in Owensboro, KY, where he had been invited to be a speaker at the annual Negro Chautauqua.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 30 May 1909, p.8B:**

## COLORED PEOPLE

### Preparing To Give A Chautauqua In July

A Number of Speakers and Entertainers Have Been Secured for Assembly

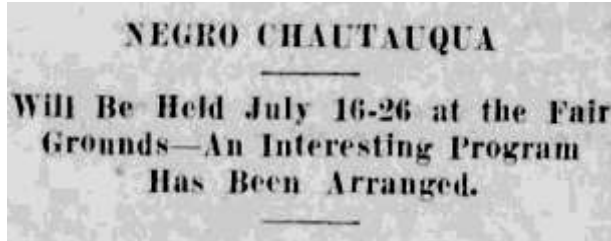
Announcement has been made of the third annual negro chautauqua. It is to be given July 16 to 26 at the Daviess county fair grounds. The managers of the two preceding assemblies claim that they were successful and they expect this year's gathering to surpass them. Some of the noted attractions will be Hallie Q. Brown, a world-renowned elocutionist, Bishop C. T. Shaffer, D. D., M. D. of the A. M. E. church, **Prof. G. W. Carver**, of the Tuskegee normal school, Prof. T. L. Williams, principal of the Sumner high school, St. Louis, and Rev. W. S. Ellington, of Nashville.

The special days will be devoted to farmers, education, women, fraternities and Sunday schools.

The officers of the association are Rev. Wm. Ward, president; Prof. S. L. Barker, secretary, and Prof. A. O. Guthrie, general superintendent.



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 4 July 1909, p.14:**



A very unique end interesting program has just been issued announcing the third animal Negro Chautauqua July 16-26

This is the only negro Chautauqua in the United States, and the array of talent assures that there will be no dull times from start to finish. The Daviess County Fair grounds, where the meeting will be held, have been greatly improved and it will be as an ideal summer resort to those who wish to spend ten days camping on the grounds.

Season tickets, if secured before July 10 will cost only \$.100, but will positively be raised to \$1.25 after that date, general admission will be as usual 25 cents.

Those desiring to rent tents will please give their order by next Tuesday, as the supply is limited and no orders will be taken after that date. \$300 secures a tent for the entire time.

All privileges for stands, booths, etc., will be sold at the fair grounds Tuesday afternoon, July 6, at 3 o'clock and the ladies' auxiliary has been called to meet at the Sweeney-street church, Monday evening at 7 o'clock. No stock subscription will be received after Tuesday night at the general meeting which will be held at Center-street church, and those desiring to finish paying or take new stock will please see to it at that time.

The athletic sports committee promises good ball games and athletic contests for each day. Those wishing to enter the contests will please see Dr. Walker. The rest of the knockers are dead so buy your tickets and prepare for the greatest feast of oratory, music and pleasure ever presented in Owensboro. You could not go to Rome, so we have brought Rome to you.

No one doubts the ability of **Prof. G. W. Carver**, head of the agricultural department of Tuskegee institute, Misses Hallie Q. Brown, the world's renowned elocutionist, Prof. F. L. Williams, principal of Sumner high school, St. Louis, Mo., Rev. P. J. Bryant, D. D., of Atlanta, Ga, Bishop C. T. Shaffer of Chicago, or Dr. M. C. B. Mason, the Cicero of the race, who will deliver an address on Napoleon at Waterloo, besides many others. In fact every day will be a special day and every speaker a star.

Season tickets are on sale at White's drug store, Weaver's ice cream parlor, or they can be secured from any of the pastors, M. L. Porter or A. O. Guthrie.

All lodges and clubs of the city will have headquarters on the grounds and the general watchword will be "Come On."

For further information, call on or address, A. O. Guthrie, Gen. Supt.



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 15 Jul 1909, pp. 2, 3 & 4:**

Hear Prof. Carver, director of Agriculture at Booker Washington school, tomorrow at Negro Chautauqua.



Messenger and Examiner, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 26 July 1888, p.3:

Pleasant Ridge Notes

Pleasant Ridge, Ky., July 23. – The Ministers and Deacons meeting of the colored Baptists convened Thursday last at Pleasant Point church near here. Sunday morning a vast crowd assembled at the church, to hear the eloquent negro divine, Rev. Dupee, preach. He preached Sunday evening at 4 o'clock in the Ridge for the whites. His sermon was highly spoken of.



See also article, “Pleasant Point Baptist Church Cemetery, Pleasant Ridge, Daviess County, Ky.”, by Jerry Long, on website, West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy:  
<https://wckyhhistory-genealogy.org/black-kentucky-pioneers/>

