

# Bethel African American Cemetery

## Ohio County, KY

By Jerry Long  
c.2021

On Highway 62 about four miles east of Beaver Dam turn north onto the Bethel Church Road. Down about three-fourths of a mile is the Old Bethel Methodist Church and cemetery. The African American cemetery is across the road from the church in the edge of the woods. Jerry Long copied the cemetery on 19 November 1987.

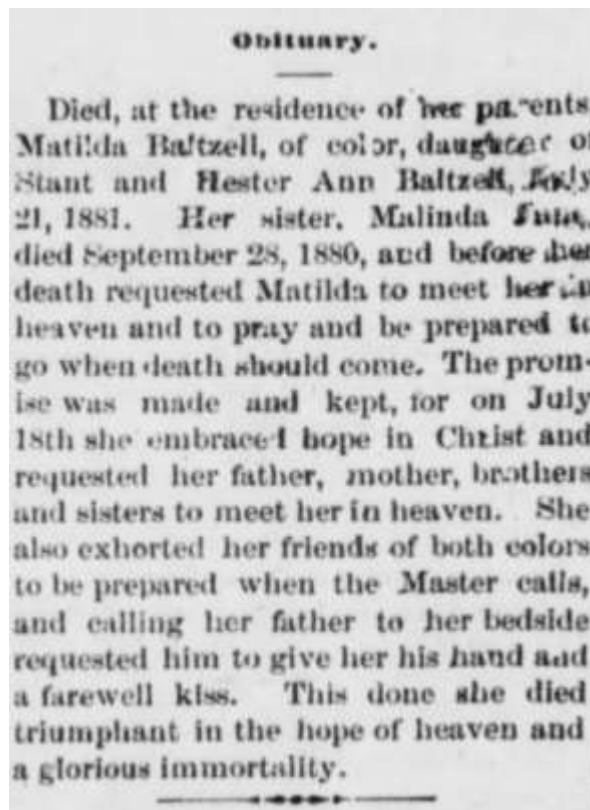


View looking toward back of Bethel Church & cemetery (old section).  
In edge of woods to the right of the church is the Bethel African  
American Cemetery. Picture taken by Jerry Long on 23 April 1980.

Baltzell, Corrine Tinsley, wife of Dearling [no monument found; daughter of James & Celistine Tinsley]	11 Sep 1900	15 Oct 1935
Baltzel, Dearan, son of Stant & Hester A.	Nov 1851	5 Jun 1900

Baltzell, Dearling, Jr. [no monument found]	10 Oct 1935	11 Oct 1935
Baltzell, Geo. Washington, son of Hester & Stant	1864	22 Jun 1897?
Baltzell, Malinda Julia, daughter of Stant & Hester [no monument found]	1858	28 Sep 1880
Baltzell, Matilda, daughter of Stant & Hester [no monument found]	1862-1863	21 Jul 1881

Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY  
Wednesday, 3 August 1881 p1



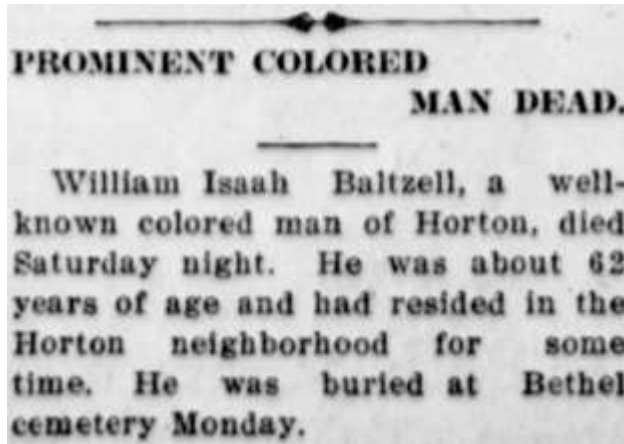
Baltzell, Probie W., daughter of W. M. & M. J.	15 Nov 1889	22 Jan 1914
Baltzell, Stant	Apr 1819	8 Sep 1917
Hester A., his wife	1828	6 Jun 1898

Stanton (Stant) Baltzell (1819-1917) is listed in the 1870, 1880, 1900 and 1910 censuses of Ohio County, KY. His death certificate gives his parents as Frank Jackson & Jennie Monroe. He was a farmer. He married Hester Ann about 1850; her maiden name on her daughter, Ada's, death certificate is given as Shanks and on son, Stant, Jr. as Render. Their children were: Dearan S. (November 1851 – 5 June 1900), William Isiah (12 September 1854 – 29 June

1918, married Margaret Jane Collins, 11 November 1885 Ohio County, KY), Stanton (Stant) Jr. (28 October 1856 – 28 June 1922, married Harriett Barnes, 30 November 1893 Ohio County, KY), Malinda Julia (1858 – 28 September 1880), Constantine (c1859-after 1870), Matilda (c1862 – 21 July 1881), Ada Belle (20 November 1863 – 7 January 1924, married Simeon Morris Taylor, 25 December 1889 Ohio County, KY), George Washington (1864 – 22 June 1897) and Florarella (c1867-after 1887, married Henry Tinsley, 14 December 1887 Ohio County, KY, she may have died 1887-1890, her husband, Henry Tinsley , born 1863, died 1932, was remarried c1890).

Baltzell, William	12 Sep 1854	29 Jun 1918
Margaret J., his wife	9 Apr 1864	27 Jul 1938
[William Isiah Baltzell, son of Stant & Hester Ann; husband of Margaret Jane Collins]		

Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY  
 Wednesday, 3 July 1918 p4



Baltzell, Willie, son of William I. & Margaret J. [no monument found]	20 Apr 1887	16 Mar 1915
Barnes, Aurilla [daughter of William Isiah Baltzell & Margaret Jane Collins; wife of Dennis Tichenor, Jim Eaves & ___ Barnes]	18 Aug 1885	10 Mar 1947
Fant, Martha, wife of William [nee Taylor; in the 1880 census of Ohio County, KY census, Bethel neighborhood are listed William Fant, 50, wife Martha,	18 Dec 1829	8 Oct 1880

50, & children – Robin H., 18, Mary, 18,  
George G., 15, John S., 13, Fielden B., 10  
& Ulissus G. Fant, 8]

Maddox, Robert [no monument found; his death certificate records he was about 63, was the son of Richard Maddox & Harriet Fant and was buried Bethel Cemetery; he is listed with his mother, Harriet Maddox, born 1820-1828 KY, in the 1880 & 1900 censuses of the Bethel Church area of Ohio County, KY]	May 1860	14 Feb 1923
Norman, Ellen [no monument found; nee Logan; married Richard Midkiff / Metcalf, 1882 Ohio County, KY & James Norman; death certificate records buried Bethel Cemetery]	17 Nov 1861	23 Apr 1945
Shultz, Dewey, Jr. [no monument found; death certificate reports he was the son of Dewey & Geneva Shultz and was buried Bethel Cemetery]	10 Jan 1947	11 Jan 1947
Taylor, Ada B., wife of S. M. [Ada Belle. daughter of Stant & Hester Ann Baltzell; wife of Simeon Morris Taylor; death certificate lists her parents as Stant Baltzell & Easter Shanks]	20 Nov 1863	7 Jan 1924
Taylor, David, “of color”, aged about 75 years, died Mary, “of color”; aged 83 years, died		1848 9 Oct 1862
Taylor, Martha Corine [no monument found; her death certificate records that she was the daughter of E. C. Taylor & Norine Tinsley and was buried Bethel Cemetery]	22 Jul 1923	31 Jul 1923
Tichenor, Dennis [husband of Aurilla Baltzell Barnes; his death certificate gives his parents as Harry Tichenor & Amanda Whittinghill]	28 Oct 1883	28 Oct 1913



(Old) Bethel Methodist Church  
Picture taken by Jerry Long  
on 19 November 1987



**Ohio County News, Hartford, KY, Thursday, 26 December 1974, Part III, p.8:**

**Negro community located near Bethel**

By Wendell Allen

One of Ohio County's oldest Methodist Churches is Bethel. Located approximately one and one half mile north of U. S. #62 near the Horton Community, the church was one of the three Methodist churches established in Ohio County in 1804.

Directly back of the church is the old church cemetery, which has been filled to near capacity and as a result, a new burial site for the church and community had to be opened. This one is located in front of the church.

Little known, however, to many people outside the Bethel community is that there are three cemeteries at the church site. Directly across the road from the church is a colored cemetery.

One might wonder why a colored cemetery is located here since there are no members of the race living anywhere in the immediate area, and haven't for several years. At one time in this area a very large Negro community existed here. Many of the male residents were employed at a stave and hoop mill at Horton. Still others worked in the saw mill. Very few I'm told were employed in the coal mine that was operating at that time near Horton. Incidentally the first coal mine to open in the Horton area was the Gold Nuggett mine.

The Negro community had a school – The first school I was able to learn was located near the Lonnie Black farm, and the second school was close to the Jesse Daniel property. The Negro community had church services in the school building. Whenever a death occurred they used the Bethel Methodist Church for the funeral service. Some colored folk attended church service at the Methodist Church.

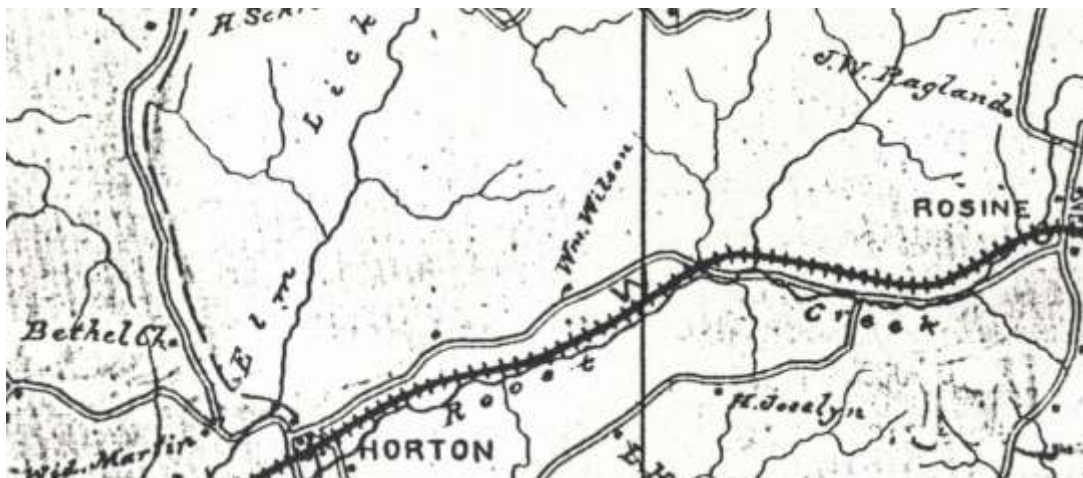
Some of the more prosperous farmers in the area owned slaves and this, I think, must be a reason for the colored community developing.

One person to own slaves was George Baldwin, who came to America from England. Mr. Baldwin was the grandfather of Mrs. Jess Smith of Beaver Dam. Mrs. Smith related to me how her grandfather took a young colored man by the name of Stant Baltzell to work for him. On one occasion young Baltzell for an undetermined reason left the Baldwin farm to go to work for another family. Here Baltzell was treated unhumanely. Mr. Baldwin learned of the mistreatment his former employee was receiving, mounted his horse and rode to where young Baltzell was working. Upon learning that Baltzell was indeed being unjustly treated, Mr. Baldwin took the young Negro home with him.

At once Mr. Baldwin was offered \$1,000 for the young man, a price he promptly refused. He was not for sale.

Stant Baltzell remained in the area, married and reared a family, a rather large size family, as evident of the many Baltzell names of the headstones in the old cemetery.

Uncle Stant Baltzell, as he was affectionately known, throughout the area was born in April of 1818 and died September 8, 1917 at age 98. His wife was Hester Ann Baltzell, 1828 / June 6, 1898.



1886 map of Ohio County, KY – Bethel Church northwest of Horton