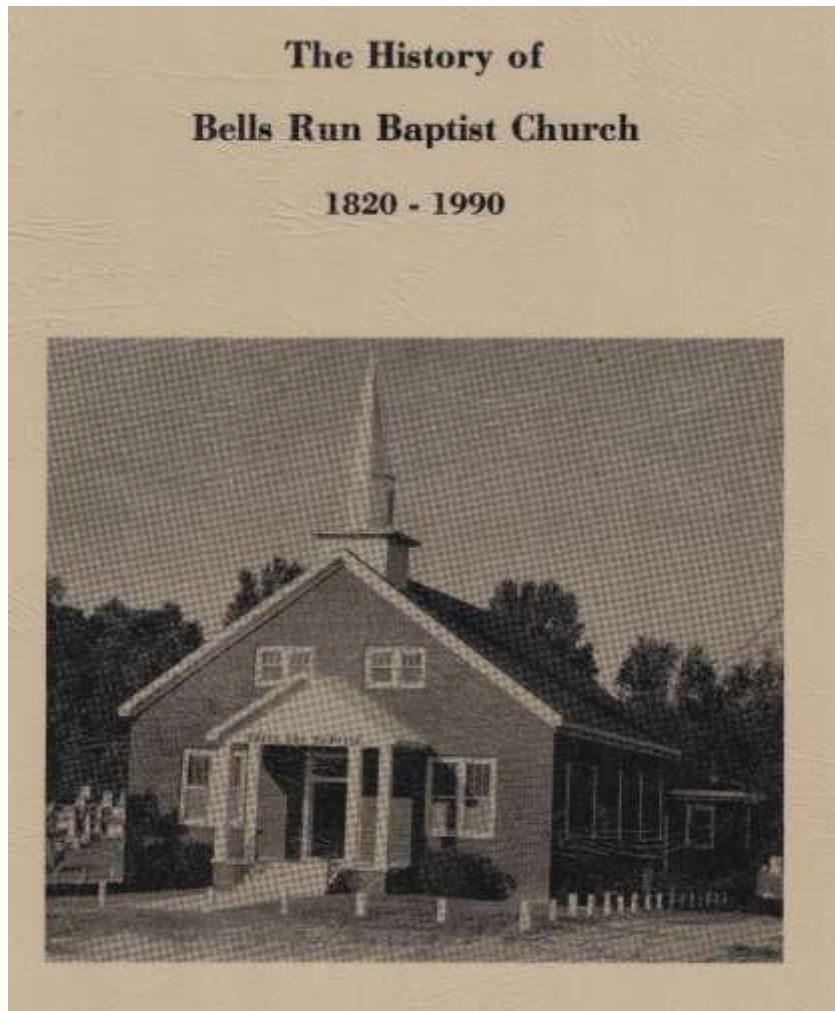


Negro Members of the Bells Run Baptist Church (Ohio County, Kentucky)



**From The History of Bells Run Baptist Church, 1820-1990,
By Rev. Wendell H. Rone (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1990)**

pp. 67-68 & 216:

Sons in the Ministry

Mack Taylor, a black slave belonging to Deacon Thomas L. Taylor and also a member of the church, had been licensed by the church as a potential minister among his own people. On January 7, 1854, Green Brier Church, which had thirty black members within its fellowship, requested that Bells Run Church ordain him to the Gospel ministry to labor among his own people

in that church and in Buck Creek and Bells Run Churches. It was referred to the next business meeting for full action. however, the Lord ordained otherwise because on February 11, 1854, the following resolution was approved by the church:

"Motion by Bro. Midkiff the Church take up the reference of last meeting on ordaining Brother Mack Taylor – It has pleased an all-wise Providence to call him from us by death on the 7th day of February; therefore, resolved, that. we as a Church feel humble and reconciled to the will of God. J. P. Ellis, Mod. R. B. Johnson, Clk."



The Black Members. 1821-1870. In common with most of her sister churches prior to and shortly after the Civil War the church had black members within her fellowship. In most instances they were the slaves of persons in her fellowship, as this was during the sad days of slavery in the United States.

It is difficult, for lack of early records, to determine when the first blacks became members of the church. It is only as we come to the second record book (1852-1881) that we learn of the names of fifteen "Coloured Members" of the church and their status in the period 1852-1870. As they were subject to the rules and discipline of the church, the same as the white members, it is recorded that the church had not only received them into its fellowship but that three of them were excluded, three of them had died while members, seven had been lettered out and two still remained in the fellowship after 1871 and through 1873. In 1852, the first time the churches in the Daviess County Association included a column giving the number of blacks and whites in the membership of the churches, Bells Run Church had ten blacks and seventy-four whites for a total of eighty-four. By 1870 this number had become eight blacks and ninety-two whites for a total of one-hundred. Six were lettered out in April, 1871 to become members of the Mount Pleasant Church at Pleasant Ridge. The remaining two must have been lettered out by 1874 as none are reported that year in Bells Run Church.

The record book shows them to be:

George Taylor
Mack Taylor
Sarah Taylor

Excluded for immoral conduct April, 1856
Died February 7, 1854
Lettered Out April, 1871

