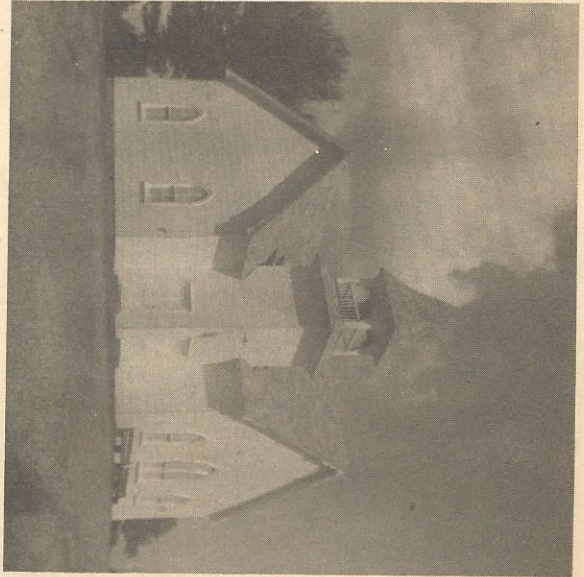


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Braue Plot 38-

Braue 3 + 4

The Pleasant Hill Church

S

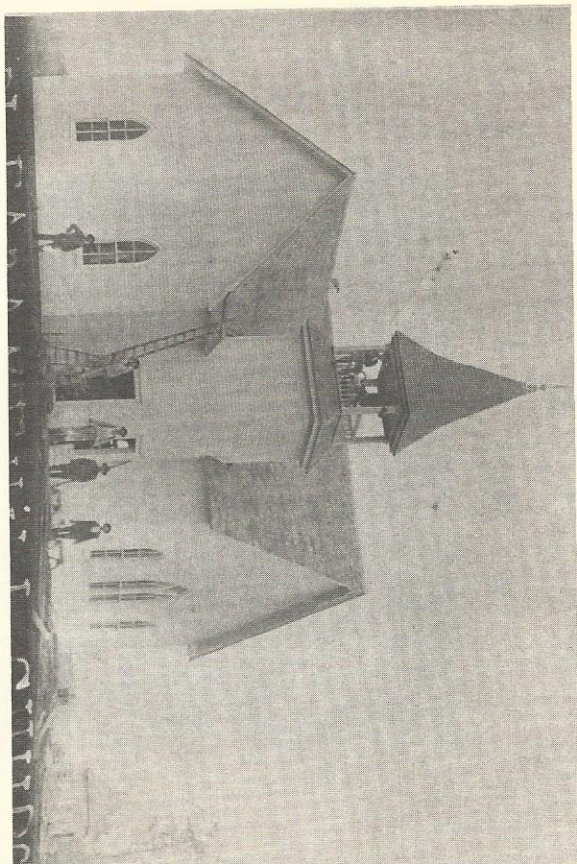
Unto Thee, O God, do we give
thanks.

Psalm 75:1

S



Pleasant Hill Church on Dedication Sunday, November 20, 1910.



Picture on cover is of the Pleasant Hill Church taken in 1910 after the Carpenters drove their last nail and were ready to turn the key over to the Board. Pictures are of Mr. J. D. Creed, his three sons, Fred, Ben and Ed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

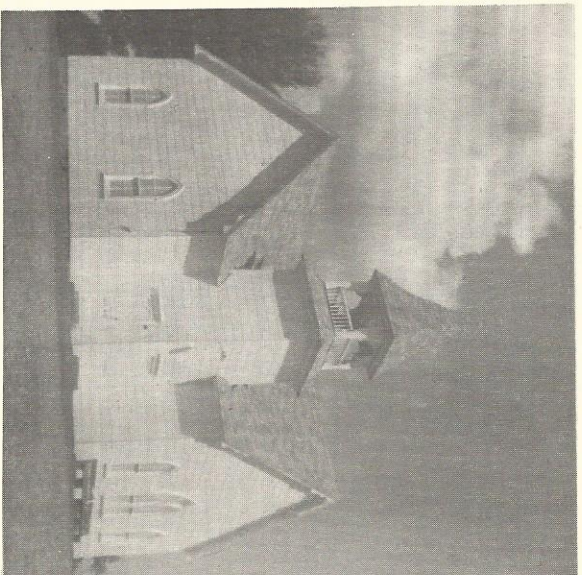
To those who have given me information and encouragement in any way.

DEDICATION

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By
Anna Bidewell



DEDICATED

TO MY MOTHER
MRS. MAUDE JENKINS

And

IN MEMORY OF MY FATHER
THE LATE MR. W. M. JENKINS



INTRODUCTION

At the first Memorial Service of the Pleasant Hill Cemetery Association, Inc., May 30, 1964, at Pleasant Hill, a short history of the Pleasant Hill Church was given. After the meeting, there were a number who wanted a copy of this article which I promised to give you. Two years have passed, with humble heart and mind I have tried to compile a more complete history for those who desire a copy.

You will find I have used very few names in the early years of the Church history for fear that I will leave out some names that should be in the history. I fully realize that this is not a complete history without the names of all the pioneers that had a part in the making of Pleasant Hill.

There were very few records to be found, but after interviews with some of our Senior Citizens, and others also having attended Church and Sunday School in the present building when a child and being inspired by my loving Mother, I will try to record at least some of the events of Pleasant Hill.

Some of the information was given by Mrs. Rose Adkins on her 90th birthday, Mrs. Amy Margraves McClain, 86 years of age, and Mrs. W. M. Jenkins, 81 years of age. All three remember going to school and church in the old log building.

IN MEMORIAM
MAY 30, 1964

The principal purpose of memorial services is the inspiration we, the living, derive from the deceased to carry on the dedicated work of our departed loved ones, at home, in the church, in the community and in our country.

We look out over this peaceful garden north and west of this building -- as we watch the sunset or stand in the shadows looking over the hills, may we be happy, not sad--may we be thankful to God for "Pleasant Hill", for such a beautiful, quiet place for our loved ones to rest. Thankful for our heritage for our fathers and forefathers, for their achievements--but taking up where they left

May we be thankful thus far that our loved ones sleep peacefully in this Pleasant Hill Cemetery not disturbed by bursting bombs and flying shells. On this Memorial Day may we pause for a moment of silent prayer and meditation in honor and in memory of those who are resting in this Cemetery and in memory of those far and near, those who died for you and me this, our land of liberty.

UNTO THEE, O GOD, DO WE GIVE THANKS.

PSALM 75:1

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH

There was a little village called Tillman named after Mr. A. J. Tillman who owned the first general merchandise store here. The village grew to have several business buildings and a number of nice homes.

There is a little hill located about one-half mile from Tillman where a little log building was erected about one hundred years ago, with a grove of trees on the North, South and West. This was God's country and a very pleasant and peaceful place. Some one or a group of people were inspired or led to call this "Pleasant Hill". A more beautiful and fitting name could not have been chosen.

The log building was used for a House of God, where Sunday School and Church was held and also for public school. The first ones of this community to depart this life were placed to rest just west of the building where the cemetery was started.

The log building with its fire place, floors and creaking steps served its day and its time for about twenty-five years.

In 1889 the first frame building was built by farmer carpenters who could use the ax, the saw, the level and the hammer. The Pleasant Hill church for years was on a circuit, where the preacher rode across the country on horse back making it here once a month for preaching service, calling on members, visiting the ill and maybe attending a singing held in some of the homes in the community.

FEVERS prevailed, often long illnesses, as there were very few drugs. For instance,

a young man ill had time to think and pray. Brother Paschall went to the home and witness the young father accept God, and baptised him and also the wife and children at his bed side. A short time later, the young man was layed to rest in the cemetery west of the church.

In 1910 a wind storm flattened the building. After viewing the site where the building lay scattered all over the ground, men of the community began to call on their neighbors and ask "What can we do?" They gathered on the hill and after some discussion, they were all in one accord and said, "We must build at once with a renewed faith the building was started that same year. Thus we have our present building. Some of the men of this community estimate the cost to have been around \$1500.00. Mr. John Creed erected this building with the help of his three sons, Fred, Ben and Ed, for the sum of \$250.00. Mr. Creed did a wonderful job. The windows that were once stained in beautiful colors to keep the sunlight out are still intact. The belfry is still strong enough to hold the old church but the steeple still pointing heavenward, not only as a monument, but as a milestone. After fifty-six years, the foundation is good and the building still stands erect. Those who rest under crumbling headstones in the adjacent cemetery were baptised here; they worshipped here; they were married here and a man who knew them well in life came to eulogize them in death. This is a beautiful church, house of God; where the older men sat in can bottom chairs in the Amen corner. Where the saints shouted and the hallelujah's rolled up and down these aisles. A place where our fathers and forefathers dedicated their lives to God, a hallowed spot--a place near and dear to many hearts.

Every road and every path across the meadows led to the meeting house at Pleasant Hill. At first they came in wagons, on horseback, the ladies riding on side saddles and some walked. They tied their teams to the "old hitchin posts." Then as better modes of travel were invented, they came by buggy or in the "surrey with the fringe on top".

The old church bell with a long rope reaching to the belfry and a little old man pulling on the other end of the rope would cause the old bell to ring out - ding dong, ding dong, a short time before services started; the sound traveling far over hill and dale. If you weren't already there you were usually on the way and when the bell was heard the horses were tapped with a long-handled whip to increase their speed. Mr. Belfry man, who ever he might be, would look at his pocket watch and fifteen minutes later would give the bell the three final taps that meant time to start.

At this time you could hear the old familiar tune "There is Power in the Blood" (according to the records was sang more often than any other, led by the deep voices of the men). Sometimes without the help of the old fashioned organ or piano. The men always led the singing, as Pleasant Hill was blessed with a number of good male voices. Close your eyes and listen as you sit in the little white church at Pleasant Hill and you can practically hear the strands of "Amazing Grace", "Shall We Gather at the River", "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" or "The Old Time Religion". The white scarfs with hand crocheted edging were all freshly washed, ironed and placed on the Organ, Pulpit and Secretary table.

A revival meeting was held now and then, the Evangelist staying in the homes.

services started with singing and then a testimonial service. At first a little slow, then by the second or third night some one said, "I quote, "Reminds me of pop corn". There would be two or three on the floor at the same time all talking and testifying at the same time, telling of their faith and of their many blessings. Others sitting on the edge of their seats trying to wait their turn.

We can see the old stove red hot in the winter and hear the clanging of the poker and the coal as it was poured out of the coal bucket onto the fire, all taking place right in the middle of the service. Everyone relaxed, nestled down in their seat a little more comfortably to hear the rest of the sermon. But no one took off their coat, and no complaining about a draft or cold feet. In the early part of the service everyone wanted close to the stove, but slowly and surely had to move a little farther away as the old stove got red hot. Sometimes you might hear a baby cry and if the mother could not quiet the child, she would hurry out the door, and if you listened closely, you might hear it getting a spanking. After a few minutes, mother and child would slip back in. With a few tears and snubbing, the child sat quietly the rest of the service or went to sleep.

The tin collection plate was passed and as each one dropped in a coin it landed with a bank, very rarely any paper money was dropped in. Each was happy with the noise his coin would make, the louder the better. After the ushers passed the plate inside they always went on the outside and passed the plate to a group of men who couldn't depart from their chewing tobacco or who just wanted to stay outside. They looked forward to giving of their tithes and had their money ready for the ushers.

The Sunday School lessons were no different than they are today. For instance, in some of the old records I found such topics as Stewardship of Money; the gospel meeting the world's needs; Beverage Alcohol and the Community. In the 1930s, the attendance ran from 30 to 50 in Sunday School. The collection was from 25 cents to \$1.00 a Sunday. A janitor was paid \$1.00 a month to clean ashes out of the stove - cut the kindling, bring in the fuel - build the fires - clean the floors and dust the pews. Some of you may recall in the year 1925 a drive for money to buy a piano. Women and girls went over the country stopping at each farm home asking for a bit fat hen or two (if they had any to spare after buying the Kansas City Star) then these were sold and the piano was purchased.

At Christmas there was the traditional Christmas tree, strings of popcorn, red berries and tinsel for decorations, with the small candles for light. All made a beautiful setting with the old gas lights glowing for the children's program, speeches and dialogues.

The platform was enclosed with curtains made of sheets strung on a wire and pulled back when it was time for the little angels to appear.

This tradition was broken when one year the Christmas tree caught fire from some of the candles. They had their troubles in those days too. I have been told during one of their programs some boys from another community came up on the outside and cut up some real fine harness while the owners were attending the program.

On Sunday you had company for dinner or went home with your neighbor. The wagons, surreys and buggies all started out after church, when they arrived, all were a little tired and hungry. But dinner had to be cooked so the women all lent a helping hand and dinner was ready in no time. Even if they did have to dress the chickens after church, they were at least pinned up.

As the country progressed the first car began to appear on the roads, though the roads were awfully rough. The old Maxwell, Mitche Jacksons and Hudson cars were seen, usually with the mother riding in the back seat with the children to keep them from bouncing out the seat.

All went well at Pleasant Hill for a while, but the country grew, the roads were improved, more cars purchased, distances grew shorter because of the mode of travel. Families began to move to be closer to high school, colleges and for other reasons. Services were held here until 1949 when the church was no longer active. Members had moved to Bell City, Advance, Cape Girardeau and other communities far and near. For a number of years services were held occasionally and a funeral now and then. But the building was very badly neglected and in need of repair and the Methodist Conference was about to sell or dispose of it, as is their custom of Methodist buildings not used or cared for.

In 1954, some of the members and former members of this church realized that we were about to lose a valuable landmark, a monument, a memorial. Again with heavy hearts they called on their neighbors and asked, "What can we do?" Most of the members of this church were supporting other churches by this time and to preserve this building and keep up this cemetery was quite a load.

Again with a renewed faith the trustees of the church began to make a drive to get money to re-roof the building. In 1964 the Board of Trustees, who are the following: - Mr. Lon Redman, Mr. Will Hinkle, and Mr. Joe Redman, called everyone's attention to the condition of the siding. It was agreed that to preserve this building new siding would have to be put on. So the three began to receive donations for this project. In a few days the siding was ordered and Mr. Joe Redman donating a lot of his labor, our church building is in good shape and stands erect, a beautiful memorial to our fathers and forefathers.

"Unto Thee, O God, do we give thanks."

Psalm 75:1



THE PLEASANT HILL CEMETERY

The cemetery, like the church building, has gone through many changes. The cemetery was started on the west side of the church. The oldest lots date back to 1870. Men have been working on this cemetery for one hundred years or more. At one time the old cemetery was fenced, with a gate close to the church building. Some of the trees are still standing. Years later the land on the north was needed. This was fenced with a nice fence and gate.

As activities slowed down at Pleasant Hill, the cemetery was sadly neglected, weeds and briars grew in profusion, the fences were literally covered. When the body of a loved one was brought back to Pleasant Hill, a group of men (volunteers) would open the grave and cut a path through the weeds and briars so family and friends could get to the grave for final rites.

Our fathers and forefathers, relatives and friends who are resting in this cemetery are worthy of a place free from briars and weeds. Some of the pioneers of this community and surrounding communities, the builders of our roads, churches and schools are resting in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. The least we can do is to keep Pleasant Hill beautiful as a memorial.

A cemetery meeting was called, the condition discussed, and with the faith and spirit that it took, the fences and briars were cut, raked and mowed. Mr. Frank Foster, Mr. Elzie Owens, Mr. J. D. Troppf, and Mr. J. Ernest Dunn, with as many as twenty volunteers at a time, the cemetery began to be cared for.

Many of these men have passed on and we owe a vote of thanks and appreciation for their efforts and achievements through the years.

A few years later a tractor mower was purchased through donations and the cemetery was cared for by the volunteer work of the maintenance board - Mr. J. Ernest Dunn, Mr. Guy Gardiner and Mr. Howard Tropf. These men deserve a lot of praise for their work on this cemetery. Now it is our time to pick up and carry on.

THE PLEASANT HILL CEMETERY
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

In 1963, a little old lady eighty years young had a dream - most things start from someone's dream -- others caught the vision. A growing Memorial Fund was visualized. So on May 29, 1963, after much talk, a few telephone calls, visits and putting announcement in newspapers, the first meeting was called and the Pleasant Hill Cemetery Memorial Association was organized, in the Bell City Methodist Church, with representatives from Advance, Cape Girardeau, Bell City, and Painton.

A board consisting of seven members were elected and they were as follows: -

- Mr. James Delay - Bell City, Mo. - President
- Mrs. Ralph Painton - Painton, Mo. - V. Pres.
- Mrs. Joe Redman - Bell City, Mo. - Secretary
- Mrs. Glen Bidewell - Advance, Mo. - Treas.
- Mrs. Lloyd Loftin - Cape Girardeau, Missouri
- Mr. Charley Hinkle - Advance, Missouri
- Mr. Fred Williamson - Bell City, Missouri.

One member going off each year and a new one elected. The maintenance board was re-elected: -

- Mr. Howard Tropf - Advance, Missouri.
- Mr. Joe Jenkins - Advance, Missouri
- Mr. Jesse Foster - Bell City, Missouri.

The purpose of the Pleasant Hill Cemetery Memorial Association, Inc., was to raise funds by gifts or donations in memory of a loved one to be put in a savings account to draw interest and only the interest to be used for the perpetual care of the cemetery, this will insure the care of the cemetery through the coming generations.

May 29, 1963, the Memorial Fund was started with a gift by Mrs. W. M. Jenkins and children in memory of her husband and their father, the late Mr. W. M. Jenkins.

The next day, May 30th - Memorial Day, the members of the Board were at Pleasant Hill to meet the people and explain the organization of the Memorial Association and met with approval at every instance.

A lot of you walked over the cemetery, leaving flowers here and there and at the same time met old friends. Some found seats on the old benches sitting beside the building the same benches our forefathers had sat on, reluctant to leave, waiting and wondering who you would see next.

After a steady stream of cars over the weekend, the cemetery looked like one big flower garden. It was neatly mowed and everyone left flowers. For this reason, your Pleasant Hill Memorial Board thought you would enjoy a Memorial Day meeting and it was voted to do this on the next Memorial Day, May 30, 1964.

A certificate of incorporation was issued

May 11, 1964, and the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, affixed and signed by Warren E. Hearn, Secretary of State. The treasurer, Mrs. Glen Bidewell, was bonded May 22, 1964.

In 1964, Mr. Ralph Owens and family donated and deeded a strip one hundred feet wide to the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, south of the building.

Cash donations totaling \$4,360.19 were given to the Memorial Fund the first year.

FIRST MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

May 30, 1964, the first annual meeting of the Pleasant Hill Cemetery Memorial Association, was held at Pleasant Hill near Bell City, at 10:00 A.M., Dr. Arthur Fulbright, from Dexter Methodist Church delivered the message. Rev. Gene Davis, of Bell City, led the singing of old time hymns. With the McFarland Quartet of St. Louis, Missouri, and the Bell City trio, Miss Karen Dunn, Miss Mary Rendleman, and Miss Diann Delay furnishing special music. A brief History of Pleasant Hill was given by Mrs. Glen Bidewell. Dr. Fulbright delivered a most inspiring sermon on "Eternal Life". Some were heard to say they could hardly suppress aloud "Amen", others said they felt like shouting, as they sang "There's Power In the Blood" and "Amazing Grace".

During a business meeting, Mrs. Joe Redman read the by-laws and minutes. Mrs. Glen Bidewell gave the Treasurer's report. Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected and members elected for the board were Mr. Max Bollinger, Bell City, Missouri, and Mr. Fred Williamson.

Among those present were Mrs. Amy Max-
graves McClain, Bell City, Missouri, who was

eighty-six years young, Mr. Otto Richmond, eighty-two years of age, and Mrs. W. M. Jenkins, eighty-one years young from Advance Missouri, Mrs. Ollie (Ailene) Dunn traveled the greatest distance coming from Flint, Michigan.

Services were dismissed at 12:00 noon. Long tables had been built for the old-fashioned basket dinner that was served at the noon hour.

SECOND MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

The second annual Memorial Day service of the Pleasant Hill Cemetery Memorial Association was held at the church May 30, 1965, at 10:00 a.m. Services began with the singing of "There is Power in the Blood", which by this time had been adapted as the Theme Song for the opening of each Memorial Day Service as this was found to be the most popular hymn ages ago.

In the absence of the President, Mrs. J. Redman, Secretary, welcomed everyone and read the minutes. Treasurer's report was given by Mrs. Glen Bidewell, a reporting that \$5,250.00 was in the Memorial Trust Fund to date. Mr. Joe Redman gave a report on the repair of the church building. Mr. A. S. Reed gave a talk and recalling days spent at Pleasant Hill, which was enjoyed by everyone. Mr. Reed introduced the speaker, Mr. Rush H. Limbaugh, Jr., of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, who delivered a most inspiring address not only a memorial to those who gave their lives for their country, but also a memorial to the pioneers of the Pleasant Hill Community. An old-fashioned basket dinner was served at the noon hour.

A register at the entrance of the building revealed people present from Smithboro, Illinois, Cahokia, Illinois, O'Fallon, Illinois, East St. Louis, Illinois, Toledo, Ohio, Fredericktown, Poplar Bluff, Dexter, Scott City, Bloomfield, Bell City, and Advance, Missouri.

Mrs. Nellie (Bollinger) Shumate, her son, Mr. David Shumate, and his daughter, Melanie, traveled the greatest distance, coming from Toledo, Ohio. The eldest attending was Mrs. Amy Margrave McClain, 87 years young, Mr. Otto Richmond, 83 years young, and Mrs. W. M. Jenkins, 82 years.

In the afternoon, the crowd assembled again for a short business session when Mr. Clifton Rhodes was elected to the board of trustees, retiring Mr. Charley Hinkle. Mrs. Joe Redman and Mrs. Glen Bidewell re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. It was voted that the next annual Memorial Services be held May 30, 1966.



For years, the Pleasant Hill Church was on a circuit, with the Bell City Church.

PASTORS 1884-1949

The oldest records that were found list the following Pastors that served this church from 1884-1949.

Rev. S. Richmond	1884-1885
Rev. McClintoc	1885-1187
Rev. I. W. Pickens	1887-1889
Rev. C. S. Mills	1889-1891
Rev. J. D. Daughtery	1891-1892
Rev. W. H. Paschall	1892-1895
Rev. S. C. Biffle	1895-1899
Rev. C. M. Cagle	1899-1900
Rev. J. W. Ogdon	1900-1902
Rev. N. J. Peekles	1902-1903
Rev. F. Eaker	1903-1905
Rev. Harry Behr	1905-1906
Rev. D. E. Dowless	1906-1907
Rev. S. C. Biffle	1907-1909
Rev. R. M. Ramsey	
Rev. R. M. Ousbey	1909-1911
Rev. J. G. Craig	1911-1915
Rev. C. C. Bone	1915-1916
Rev. F. A. Hearn	1916-1917
Rev. A. M. Burris	1917-1918
Rev. W. C. Barks	
Rev. J. J. Smith	1918-1919
Rev. J. L. Walestran	1919-1920
Rev. L. W. Harsey	1920-1921
Rev. Ora E. Welker	1921-1922
Rev. S. W. Maynard	1922-1923
Rev. J. L. Batten	1923-1924
Rev. W. A. Edmondson	1924-1925
Rev. Jas. A. Wood	1925-1926
Rev. R.E. Carpenter	
Rev. F. M. Stickney	1926-1931
Rev. H.M. Andrews	1931-1934
Rev. J.W. Allen	1934-1935
Rev. Marvin Neblack	1935-1936
Rev. Albert E. Northdurf	1936-1949