

10/15/5

The "History of Dover Christian Church", which is an address delivered on the occasion of the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the church by Mrs. Maude K. Boyd-Myers, came into my possession through the courtesy of Mr. Dan Scott, who found this copy of the original among some old ledgers of the church. With his permission, I made carbon copies and thereby gained permission to file this document in the Library of the College of the Bible, with the understanding that the church retains the right to secure it for historic purposes should the occasion demand it.

Many of the old records have been lost or misplaced. The history of the Dover Christian Church is sparse and this address by Mrs. Myers is concise and significant for the celebration of the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the church. In particular is her note that Alexander Campbell preached at the Dover Church, though the specific date is not recorded.

*Richard A. Ehrhidge*  
*July 5, 1960*

To George and Ola Schubert  
With Best wishes  
"Miss Maude"  
MASON Co., Ky.

1837 -- THE DOVER CHRISTIAN CHURCH -- 1937

Our beginnings in every form of human endeavor is today a subject of great interest. If business records had been kept, there would be more data and interesting facts for our story today. But after all, it is the human relationship which makes the life of the church.

Recall, if you will, the very first words of the Bible, "In the Beginning, God"---and again, the very last word, "God." It is the bridge between the two, the bridge of human relationship, Christian Service, which brings us here today.

About this same time of the year in this Ohio River Valley in the little town of Dover, Mason County, Kentucky, just one hundred years ago, there met the ancestors of many of those assembled here today, to dedicate the first Dover Christian Church. We come today to pay tribute to them. We have been blessed by their efforts and lives.

This community has been blessed by this church. Around it has been centered the life history of many generations of good people. We must carry on this work.

About the time of the erection of this, one of the

oldest Christian churches in Kentucky, Alexander Campbell came preaching and teaching his common sense interpretation of the Scriptures. It was from his inspiration that many of our early Christian churches were built in Kentucky. He preached in the original church here and of this fact, we are proud. This fact was disputed, but I had the privilege of having our own dear Mrs. Sara Peck tell me of her father and mother coming from their home in Ohio to hear him preach. It was then a journey. She was left with neighbors to spend the night. She was then a little girl. Her family is present today.

The lot upon which the original church was built was donated by the Hon. Arthur Fox, wealthy land owner and a Virginia Aristocrat. Each generation of his family have been members here. The deed was made to Baldwin Earl, Benjamin Flynn and James True, our first trustees. Little is known of the first two mentioned but Mr. James True is the grandfather of Misses Martha and Ruth True and their family and of the same relation is Mrs. Happy Wilson, Miss Charles Ann True and family; also Arthur Sam, Greyham and Joe True, all known to us.



Mr. G. W. Bennett and Mr. John Lunsford stated they knew Mr. Baldwin Harl, who went to Missouri to live many years ago. He was about one hundred years old when the Railroad Case was being held in 1889. When in Dover, he lived on the Tabb farm.

The original building was of brick. It was built facing the Ohio River, on Hall Street, now commonly known as Railroad Street. It had a fence around the yard, with a stile in front from which horseback riders could get off and on their horses. About one-half of the congregation was country people then.

It was in '63 or '64 that the red brick that we knew was built to take its place. To most of us here today, it shall always be the church home of happy associations and tender memories.

In this Church were held some of the famous debates which made a part of the early history of the Christian Church in Kentucky.

In 1882, new trustees were named. They were John Lunsford, John Goff, James N. Boyd and G. W. Bennett.

In 1889, under the wise leadership of James N. Boyd,

a suit was brought against the Railroad, then known as the Mayeville and Big Sandy. The three men appointed to take the entire supervision of the case were James N. Boyd, C. M. Devare and John S. Wilson.

It will interest you to know that the witnesses called were James N. Boyd, G. W. Bennett, John Lunsford, John S. Wilson, C. M. Devare, W. D. Frazee, William H. Moore, J. J. McMillan, James Karnshaw and E. F. Cleveland. Most of these men were standard bearers for many years.

Mr. G. W. Bennett was so splendid in character and spirit, also devoted to his church, that even today there are those who tell of his true Christian service. Those of his Sunday School Class have said that they felt they had sat at the feet of Gamaliel.

Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson, then an old lady, said to me, "Bro. Bennett is the only person that I ever saw who truly lived the Bible teaching." He said in his court testimony that he had known the Church since 1844 and that he joined in 1857. He was made a trustee in 1882. The church membership at that time was 166 persons.

Many interesting facts were told me by Mrs. Jennie Bennett and Miss Lena Jacobs, with whom I was very closely associated when I lived in Dover.

Mr. John Jacobs, a contemporary of Mr. Bennett, was a very strong Christian character and when one of those delicate subjects which so often come in church life, had to be decided and all others hesitated, it was Bro. Jacobs who came forward true and strong with yes or no. Come what may, those very same characteristics are here today in our own Miss Martha True, whose mother was Bro. Jacobs' sister. Bro. Jacobs had one son who was known and loved by all, Mr. Parragin Jacobs, who died early in life. We have his son, Carl S. Jacobs, with us today and he has a boy to carry on the work.

Mr. James N. Boyd probably stood out in more ways and over a longer period of time than any one person. To him we must give the credit for his great inspiration and his teaching of music.

Through many years this Church has been blessed by those whom he taught. He brought the best talent of the brotherhood in music and leadership. It was around the



singing school of those days that happy times were had. Many young people not only had music but they found their life's companion and from this, many happy homes were made.

Mr. Boyd's family contributed much to the church life here. Mrs. Boyd's father and mother were devoted members for many years. Mr. and Mrs. David Frazee gave the lovely old communion service.

Quite a number of years after Mr. Boyd's death, the Railroad Company paid the damage to the church. A part of this money built the vestibule and belfry at the old church.

During the years of service of each of us here, there are names which if spoken, bring memories dear and sacred. For instance, think of the wonderful Sunday School teachers who have blessed these people. Each of you recall your teacher, Mrs. Henry Thomas, Miss Bettie Hanna, Mrs. Jennie Weaver Bennett, Miss Lena Jacobs, Mrs. John Wilson and others on down to the present day. They are wonderful.

There is here today, Mrs. Mollie Smith Earnshaw, whose teacher was G. W. Bennett. She has spent her long life teaching and helping wherever she was. Most of her life has been spent right here and as far as I can find, she has given

the longest period of service. (Stand, Aunt Mollie)

Mr. John Lunsford and Mr. Anderson Jennings were two early standard bearers.

Mr. Langhorn Tabb and all the Tabb Family had a great part in early history.

An old letter to Mr. James N. Boyd from Bro. Robert Giddens tells of his love for the Dover people whom he served as minister.

Bro. Billie Hall was associated here and can't you recall his gentle way and his delightful appearance.

This Church has had many historic meetings. It is quite unusual in Kentucky for a church like this to have colored members but we had two, Harriet Ann Blades and Mary Carter.

This History could not be complete without the mention of several men and their families, who have been "called home" but left a record of Faith and Service and blessed this community. At the mention of these names, we can recall favors done each of us somewhere, sometime,--William McNutt, C. M. Devare, Henry Thomas, John Thomas, James T. Holten, Perry Wilson, Mrs. Anna Howard and W. H. Moore.



We have with us today three who served as officers here with those men who have "gone on home"--Mr. Henry Schubert and his family and Mrs. Adam and Henry Pabat and their families.

There must be tribute paid the "faithful few" who attended the Mid-Week Prayer Meeting. Can't you just hear Sister Hessie Thomas singing the Holy City? She put her whole self into all that she did. Can't you hear Dr. Mahlan Smith with his questions, yet unanswered, because they were too much for us, such as, why don't we have a Christian mayor, or, why don't we have rules which apply to all alike? Such things make church life.

About 1923, the great need of a new church was impelling and Mrs. John A. Wilson (Lillie Howard) took the lead with her class to buy a lot upon which the present church stands.

In the Summer of '24, we had a tent meeting in the School House Yard, led by Bro. Thad Tinsley, with music by Monroe G. Schuster, who is now minister at Gary, Indiana. Here was given inspiration and material gifts for the new church.

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Prayer had been earnestly given that we might have  
a service without the interruption of a long freight train.

To those serving here today who have made possible  
this happy and historic occasion, we congratulate you and we  
thank you. May God bless you and in the days to come, may  
this day be a milestone in the life of this congregation which  
shall give you a realization of the worthiness of true Christian  
character as given in God's plan of life.

Maudie K. Boyd-Myers  
1741 Kilbourne St. NW  
Washington DC  
Aug 29. 1937