

LYNN CREEK CEMETERY

Section 8, Whitley Township

Moultrie County, Illinois

In 1829 the Waggoners, Martins and other Baptist families of what is now Whitley Township, Moultrie County, Illinois (Moultrie County was formed from Shelby and Macon Counties in 1843), organized the Old School Baptist Church. The first pastor was William Harvey Martin. The following persons were the first members: Isaac Waggoner and wife, Caleb Shaw and wife, Rachel Smith (grand-daughter of Isaac Waggoner), William Walker (son-in-law of Isaac Waggoner), and John Edwards and wife. This was the first church in Moultrie County. The congregation grew and in 1835, they built their first church building on Section 8 of Whitley Township on ground donated by William H. Martin. They named it Lynn Creek Baptist Church after the little stream called Lynn Creek, which flowed near by.

The church was a hewed log structure with puncheon seats and floor. This log building was replaced by a frame building about 1860. (The church does not stand now, but the old cemetery in which the building stood is still there but no longer used as a burying ground.)

Isaac Waggoner and many of his descendants made this church their regular place of worship. Names of other members were Isaac, Jr., Elisha and George (sons), Polly Webb, Jemima Walker, and Emsey Edwards (daughters of Isaac Waggoner); also several of George Waggoner's sons and daughters. Gilbert, Elisha, and Isaac, Jr. are among the older generations buried in the Lynn Creek Cemetery.

Most of the Waggoners who died previous to 1850 were buried in the graveyard on Isaac Waggoner's private property. Following Isaac Waggoner's death and the passing of his farm to other hands, the graveyard was closed for burying and the Lynn Creek Cemetery was generally used by the family.

Henrietta Dennis Jesse
(Mrs. Claude)

Additional inscriptions for Lynn Creek:

William Kester
d. Feb. 27, 1960
aged 19 yr 10 mo 21 das

Francis K. son of R. & E. Armantrout
d. Oct. 20, 1861
aged 4 yr 6 mo 11 das

Lynn Creek Cemetery

Inscriptions by Orris Lilly

August, 1971

L.P. Lilly (Linville Perkins)
b. Aug. 20, 1804 (Kentucky)
d. Dec. 1, 1870
Sarah Lilly (Sarah Luvicy Monson)
b. Mar. 20, 1809 (Kentucky)
d. _____

David G. Smith
d. Apr. 18, 1863
aged 36 yr 10 mo 17 das

Foot stone: D.G.S.

George W. Powell, *Pvt. Civil War*
Co. B. 7th Reg. Ill. Inf.

Celia wife of Thomas Haney
d. Apr. 4, 1860
aged 50 yr 9 mo 8 das
(Stone broken)

Foot stone: C.H.

Isaac J. Lewis (*Pvt. Civil War - H.R.*)
Co. G. 130 Reg. Ill. Vol.
d. Apr. 4, 1863

Emsy wife of J.L. Martin *nee Waggoner*
Oct. 12, 1832-Mar. 25, 1890

Jane wife of W.T. Martin
d. May 30, 1893
aged 57 yr 8 mo 25 das

Archibald "Archie"
A.L. Lane
Feb. 9, 1835-July 24, 1905

"Farewell Husband"
Esther wife of A. Lane *nee Lewis*
d. July 20, 1872
aged 36 yr 11 mo 21 das

Leander son of D.E. & G. Harbaugh
b. Feb. 18, 1852
d. Sept. 22, 1858
aged 6 yr 7 mo 1 da

James Lewis Martin
d. 25 Feb 1920
(Burial here, No stone)

Wm. Davis
b. Apr. 7, 1807
d. July 7, 1870

Harriet W. wife of Wm. Davis
b. Aug. 31, 1807
d. June 27, 1862

B.F. son of W.M. & H.W. Davis
b. Aug. 12, 1849
d. Apr. 10, 1861

Rachel wife of John Powel
aged about 67 yrs.

Rachel E. Martin
Apr. 2, 1832-July 5, 1909
d/o Joel Feagley (for your N.M.'s obit)
John Feagley Elizabeth Clemons Martin
J.N. Martin
Feb. 9, 1833-10 Mar 1923
s/o John & Ann Neely Martin

Franklin son of G.P. & L.E. Martin
d. Mar. 14, 1879

Infant son of G.P. & L.E. Martin
d. Dec. 2, 1884

Belvia J. dau of G.P. & L.E. Martin
b. May 5, 1891
d. Mar. 20, 1896
aged 4 yr 10 mo 15 das

Sarah E. wife of Charles Battson
d. Feb. 10, 1895
aged 21 yr 6 mo 10 das

Infant son of C. & S.E. Battson
b. June 14, 1885

Maria wife of Robert Scott
d. Dec. 23, 1870
aged 41 yr 6 mo
"Dear children remember me"

Elizabeth E. wife of Joshua Snyder
d. Mar. 28, 1873
aged 27 yr 3 mo

Foot stone: E.E. S

*(Is this "Lizzie" d/o
Gilbert + Martha Bailey
Waggoner?)*

Lynn Creek Cemetery

(2)

Rutherford Co., N.C.
 Gilbert Waggoner
 b. May 29, 1808
 in Rutherford ? County, N.C.
 d. Nov. 18, 1902

"Father - Mother"

Martha wife of Gilbert Waggoner
 b. May 6, 1812
 in Union County, S.C.
 d. Sept. 9, 1892
m Martha Bailey 1825

John T. Waggoner
 d. Jan. 6, 1870
 aged 31 yr 8 mo 3 das

John Waggoner
 d. 1881

Hannah Waggoner
 d. Oct. 24, 1865
 aged 1 yr 8 mo 1 da

Foot stone: J.J.W.

William Waggoner
 May 3, 1812-Apr. 27, 1868
 Nancy, wife of Wm. Waggoner
 Dec. 17, 1812-May 17, 1879
 "Gone to a better land"

(prob. Hostetter)
No "L"
 Violet Hostettler
 Jan. 27, 1873-Apr. 16, 1899
 OR Hostetter

Celia, beloved wife of S. Bundy
 b. Sept. 7, 1842
 d. Sept. 15, 1879

Foot stone: C.B.

Beatrice, dau of F.M. & N.S. Bundy
 Apr. 9, 1893-Oct. 15, 1893

Charley Bundy
 1884 - 1899

Sarah P. wife of J. Hunt
 d. Aug. 25, 1860
 aged 20 yr 7 mo 24 das

Mary L. dau of S.P. Hunt
 d. Aug. 8, 1860
 aged 3 mo 21 das

Foot stone: S.P.H.

Foot stone: M.L.H.

Old Lynn Creek Cemetery

Four stones across the creek and southeast of the present Lynn Creek Cemetery, thought to be the old cemetery. It is thought that a church was here at one time.

John Martin *to James Best + Jenny*
 Jan. 29, 1803-Jan. 10, 1856 *Martha Keagley Martin*

Ann, his wife *nee Neely*
 Mar. 29, 1801-Mar. 16, 1858
d/o Charles + Jane Martin Neely
 _____ harine Cretsinger *(Catherine?)*
 1830

(Broken stone)

_____ on Edwa _____ *(John? Edwards)*
 d. _____

_____ 7 mo
 (Broken stone)

Emsey _____ *(Edwards) (see Waggoner?)*
 April
 aged 20 yr
 (Broken stone)

The foundation of an old church is in the cemetery; flat field stones. The church was Hard-Shell Baptist or Primitive Baptist.

Linville Perkins & Sarah L. (Monson) Lilly are the great-grand-parents of Orris J. Lilly, the compiler of these inscriptions. Sarah's father, George Monson, is buried in the McCormick Cemetery.

Bertrude Rippe
 316 S. Washington St
 Sullivan, Ia. 61951

LYNN CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

by Faith Evans

Early settlers in Whitley Township, Moultrie County, organized a Primitive Baptist Church in 1829. This was the first church in Whitley Township and is said to be the first Baptist Church in Moultrie County. The services were held in private homes for a few years. The Okaw Baptist Association was organized in 1830 and this church was a charter member of this group of churches.

In 1835 the members constructed a log building for the church in Sec. 8, along the banks of Lynn Creek where a small cemetery was started. At first the church was known as Old School Baptist Church, but a short time later the name was changed to Lynn Creek Baptist Church. The church was built of hewn logs, the rafters being held in place with wooden pins. It had one door and three windows. The floor and benches were made of rough puncheons. Someone wrote, "The church was on Uncle Billy Martin's place." The first members of this church were Isaac Waggoner and wife Emsey, Caleb Shaw and wife Margaret (Peggy), Rachel Smith, William Walker, John Edwards and wife. The first pastor was William H. Martin. Isaac Waggoner and his family were the first permanent settlers in Whitley Township. Others of this family known to have been members of this congregation were: Isaac Waggoner Jr., Elisha Waggoner, George Waggoner, Polly Webb, Jemima Walker, Emsey Edwards, Gilbert Waggoner and wife Martha.

Many other members of the Martin and Waggoner families belonged to this church. Although it is known there were two full books of records of the Lynn Creek Church, they were not available. A third record book, not nearly filled gave much later records.

In a few years the pioneers of this Whitley area needed a place in which to hold school, and no other building being available, they decided to use the Lynn Creek Church. School was held during the week and on Sunday the church services there in the same building. The three small windows did not let in enough light for the children to study by, so a log was removed from the west end of the building to the entire length of the room to let in more light. Muslin was tacked over the opening. Gideon Edwards was the first teacher.

Many years later, plans were made to build a frame church and land was purchased from James Hostetter and James Cook for this purpose. Some records say the new church was built in 1860 and others say in 1868. But it was built some little distance west of the log church and across the creek. At the same time a new cemetery was started near the new church.

At this writing the church has been gone for many years, but the cemetery is still there, with a number of stones but it is in tangle of brush, vines and briars.

Gilbert Waggoner bought the old log church building and moved it to his farm, about a mile west and a mile north of the first location, where it was used as a barn until 1929 when it was torn down.

Records from an old book of the Okaw Baptist Association which gave the names of the "Messengers" from Lynn Creek Church to the annual Association meetings were available, being kept from 1838. As can be seen, the "Messengers" or as some call them "Delagates," were the same people sometimes; but this

ves a few of the members through the years from 1838 until 1920.

In 1839 the messengers were: William H. Martin, Harmon Smith, Gilbert Waggoner; 1843--S. Clark, John Martin, James Martin; 1844--Elder W. H. Martin, B. B. Piper, Elder S. H. Pullin, Joe Vandren, Harmon Smith; 1845--Elder W. H. Martin, John Martin, Regin Martin; 1860--Gilbert Waggoner, Joel Monson; 1863--Gilbert Waggoner, C. Davis; 1864--Gilbert Waggoner, J. Elder, J. N. Martin; 1868--G. Waggoner, J. Harrison; 1873--John Harrison; 1877--J. W. Martin, J. Harrison, A. Lane, W. J. Martin, S. J. Martin; 1882--D. Cotner, J. W. Martin, W. G. Martin, Sister R. E. Martin, E. J. Howard; 1883--W. S. Elder, W. F. Martin, J. M. Martin, A. Lane; 1885--A. Lane, W. T. Martin, Jasper Dolby, B. James, W. S. Elder; 1888--J. H. Dolby, Tommy Howard, Nancy Dolby; 1892--J. N. Dolby; G. W. Payne, A. Lane; 1899--A. Lane, J. Martin, J. Thompson, Nancy Lane, Rachael Martin; 1901--J. & W. H. Martin, W. E. Harpster, W. Sutton, John Thompson; 1904--J. Martin, W. F. Martin, George Jenkins, J. Thompson, W. E. Harpster; 1906--W. F. Martin, John and Dora Thompson, W. S. Elder, V. E. Harpster; 1913--W. F. Martin, W. S. Elder, W. Sutton, Clarence Elder, W. E. Harpster; 1917--W. I. Martin, W. E. Harpster, Fred Elder, Lane, J. Thompson; 1920--W. E. Harpster, Fred Elder, W. I. Martin J. Thompson, Will Sutton.

Sometime about 1906 the frame building that had been built to replace the old log church was in need of extensive repairs. It was decided not to repair the church that was situated quite a long distance from the main road, so for a number of years, services were held in the old Whitfield Church, which was located about a mile west of the Lynn Creek Church.

About 1916, plans were being made to tear down the old Whitfield Church and build a new one in it's place which would then be a Separate Baptist Church, so the Lynn Creek congregation was again without a place to worship.

For a few years the church members met in private homes or sometimes in a vacant house. In 1920, when the Palmyra country grade school was to be replaced with a new one, the Lynn Creek members bought the old school building and moved it a very short distance west to a location on the W. T. Martin farm. This was known as the Lynn Creek Church until 1942 when the church was disbanded.

In the last record book of Lynn Creek Church W. E. Harpster was the church clerk for most of the records and then the very last one was Arnold Harpster. In this book is a list of the members from 1902 to 1924: J. N. Martin, Rachael E. Martin, W. T. Martin, A. Lane, Nancy Lane, Manda Moore, Laurana M. Fulton, Sarah A. Thompson, John Thompson, Dora Thompson, William Sutton, Elizabeth Sutton, Malissa Niles, Neecia Warren, W. E. Harpster, A. P. Hostetter, Dora Yarber, George Jenkins, Elizabeth Niles, Mary Fulton, Serilda J. Martin, William S. Elder, Nancy Ethrige, Lucinda Stephens, Nancy Harpster, Ethel Harpster, Arnold Harpster, Fred Elder, Clarence Elder, James Lane, Mary Lane, W. S. Martin, Ida Martin, J. W. S. Owens, Vernie (Verna) Martin, Sarah Martin, Edith Harpster, and Elder Reeves.

EDITOR'S NOTE: (The Lynn Creek Cemetery inscriptions and history are published in Moultrie County, IL Cemetery Inscriptions, Vol. III, pages 3-6. This book contains inscriptions from the first Lynn Creek Cemetery (only parts of four stones were found) and those from the second Lynn Creek cemetery established in 1860 when the land was purchased from James Hostetter and James Cook for the building of the second Lynn Creek Church. This cemetery book may be purchased from the Society; see inside back cover of the quarterly for ordering info.)

*Sustained by
Moultrie County Historical + Genealogical Society
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