

Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church

The little Cedar Grove Baptist Church as it now stands was built in the summer of 1812 on a plot of land about 3 miles south of Brookville, IN. It replaced an earlier log structure constructed about 1805. In December of 1811 the New Madrid Earthquakes occurred and the church members took it as a sign of judgment for their failure to build a proper church. Rev. Allen Wiley, a circuit rider for the church, wrote "The people ran to and fro, called for prayer meetings, called for each other to do good deeds and repent of sins as if Judgment Day was at hand. Then they met in solemn conclave and made a covenant with the Almighty that if he would send no more earthquakes they would build him a church."^[1]

The church was organized by Primitive Baptists lead by Elder William Tyner. Rev. Tyner and his wife Elizabeth "Betsy" [Hackleman] Tyner, natives of South Carolina left their home about 1802, traveling the wilderness road through the Cumberland gap along with Betsy's brother Abraham Hackleman and his wife Margaret [Tyner] Hackleman. They settled first in Scott Co., KY in March 1802, after a five-week journey. William and Elizabeth soon moved on to Ohio Territory where they established one of the state's first Baptist churches. In April 1805 they moved onward to the area of Brookville, IN.^[2]

It is assumed that the primary reason for their emigration was not religious in nature, but political. Both the Tyner and Hackleman families had served in the Loyalist Militias during the American Revolution, including at least 2 family members fighting with the British at the battle of King's Mountain. For this they were most persecuted during and after the war.

In 1810 Betsy died. Her tombstone, the only one preserved from the original cemetery adjacent to the church, still stands within the church. William later remarried and removed to Dearborn County.

The old cemetery next to the church building, with only one stone, with a totally unreadable inscription, still stands among dozens of other remnants of headstones and sunken graves.

The historic site is maintained by the Franklin County Historical Society is open to the public and a sign near the side entrance invites visitors to "ENJOY YOUR VISIT, STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE, GET THE FEEL OF THE PLACE".

^[1] http://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Cedar_Grove_Baptist_Church

^[2] [Hacklemans in America 1749-1988](#), Burr Hackleman, 1988