

I. Introduction.

- A. We have studied the history of the Baptists through the time of the Revolutionary War.
- B. Baptists were settled in the colonies and as the country grew – the Baptists grew!

II. The Baptists in Kentucky.

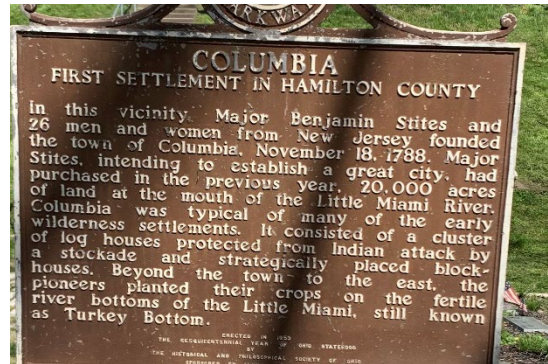
- A. The Baptists were the pioneers of religion in Kentucky. They came with the earliest settlers.
- B. The Severn's Valley Church was first organized in Kentucky. This occurred on June 18, 1781, at what is now known as Elizabeth town.
 - 1. John Gerrard was called as pastor.
 - 2. The church was organized under a green sugar tree.
 - 3. There were eighteen members (three of which were African American.)
- C. The Ceder Creek Baptist Church, five miles from Bradstown, was organized July 4, 1781. It became the 2nd Baptist church in Kentucky.
- D. The Traveling Church.
 - 1. Lewis Craig was an early Baptist preacher in Virginia. He had suffered abuse and imprisonment but continued to preach. [LEWIS CRAIG was born in Orange county, Va., about the year 1737. He was raised on a farm, receiving a very limited education, and, in early life, was married to Betsy Landers. He was first awakened to a sense of his guilt and condemnation, about the year 1765, under the preaching of Samuel Harris. Of his struggles while under conviction, John Taylor says: *"Mr. Craig's great pressure of guilt induced him to follow the preachers from one meeting to another. And when preaching ended, he would rise up in tears, and loudly exclaim that he was a justly condemned sinner, and with loud voice warn the people to fly from the wrath to come, and except they were born again, with himself, they would all go down to hell. While under his exhortation, the people would weep and cry aloud for mercy. In this manner, his ministry began before himself had hope of conversion, and after relief came to him, he went on preaching a considerable time, before he was baptized, no administrator being near, many being converted under his labors."*]
 - 2. The first Baptist church to be organized in Virginia was in August of 1760.
 - 3. As early as 1768, Lewis Craig was pastoring a Baptist church in a location between the James and Rappahannock rivers - afterwards, called Craig's.
 - a. The church was continually annoyed by the persecutions.
 - b. The time had come for a momentous decision.
 - 4. On September 2, 1781, Craig announced that all who were willing were to meet on an appointed day and leave for Kentucky.
 - a. Several preachers and about two hundred members agreed to go.



- b. So, the church, with the pastor, and the clerk with the old church book started on the journey.
5. On the second Lord's Day in December of 1781, the Traveling Church held its first services in Kentucky at Gilbert's Creek in Lincoln County.
6. The church moved again and was finally known as the South Elkhorn Baptist Church at Lexington, Kentucky. This church is still in existence. The Central Baptist Church at Cincinnati, Ohio was organized out of the South Elkhorn Church.
7. In 1785, a great revival swept Kentucky, and the number of Baptists and Baptist churches greatly increased.

III. Baptists in Ohio.

- A. The Baptists were the first to enter Ohio and the first to establish a church.
- B. In 1790, this first church was organized in Columbia, now Cincinnati.
- C. The account of the establishment of this community and church is as follows:



1. On November 18, 1788, a flat boat floating down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh and twenty-three men, 3 women, and 2 children went ashore.
2. This handful of folks began building cabins in which to spend the winter and await the coming of their relatives and friends.
 - a. Most of these people were from New Jersey and a number of which were Baptists.
 - b. Their leader was Major Benjamin Stites.
3. Reverend Stephen Gano of Providence, RI visited in 1790, baptized three persons, and organized a church. [Stephen Gano (1762-1828) served as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Providence, R.I. from 1792 until his death in 1828. His ministry was marked by the greatest growth in the history of First Baptist Church, and he presided over several major revivals and the planting of four daughter churches. A national Baptist leader, he travelled widely to mediate problems and to encourage new congregations and missions. He was one of the founders of the Triennial Convention and a founder and first president of the Rhode Island Baptist State convention. Under him First Baptist entered into the home and foreign missionary movements, the Sunday school movement, and the Bible and tract societies. In Providence, Stephen Gano presided over four major revivals, beginning in 1805 when there was added 152 members to the church (124 by baptism); in 1812 another 112 (110 by baptism), in 1816 another 114 (94 by baptism), and in 1820 another 157 (147 by baptism). By 1821 the First Baptist Church counted 648 members and was one of the largest in the nation.
4. The Columbia Baptist Church is still in existence.
5. Baptist growth was slow in Ohio but after the revival of 1825, greater gains were made.

IV. The Baptists in Illinois. The Baptists work in Illinois began in 1786; however, the first church was not organized until 1796.

V. As the country grew, the Baptist churches spread and grew. Now we find Baptist churches in almost every community.