

The Cane Ridge

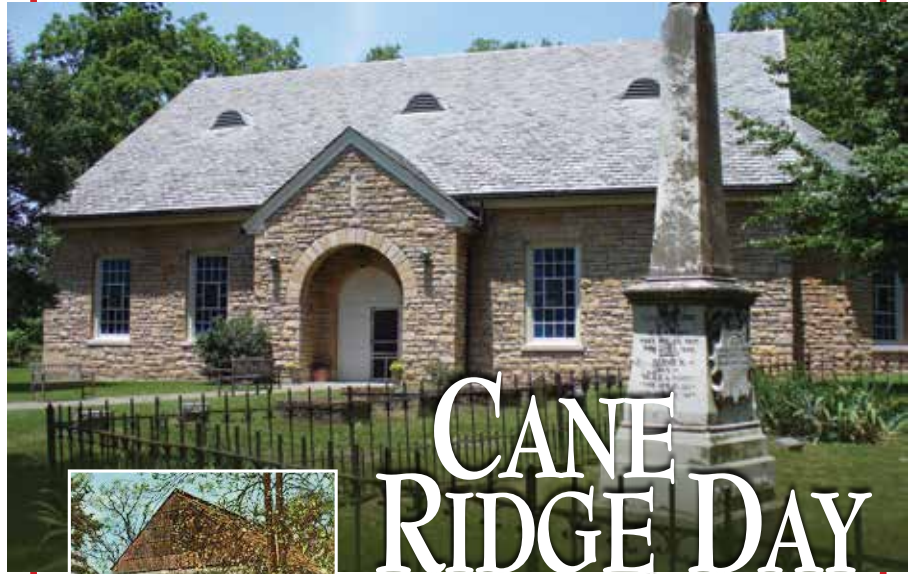
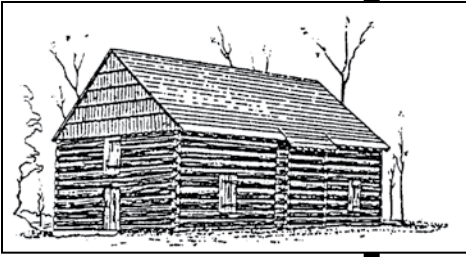
Summer 2022

BULLETIN

www.caneridge.org

phone 859-987-5350

curator@caneridge.org



Please join us on
Saturday, June 25, 2022
for an Open House

10:00 am Registration
10:30 am Hymn Singing
11:00 am The Story

*Bring your own picnic and tour the grounds
and our renovated restrooms.*



**THE CANE RIDGE
MEETING HOUSE**

1655 Cane Ridge Rd, Paris, KY 40361
(859) 987-5350 • curator@caneridge.org

www.caneridge.org

2022 Cane Ridge Day Scheduled

After two years without a Cane Ridge Day, we are celebrating the announcement of the 2022 Cane Ridge Day. We'll gather in the Meeting House for congregational singing and fellowship before a presentation of the Cane Ridge Story.

During lunch you may bring a picnic lunch to listen to the Backroom Band as they perform outside. You may sit at one

of our picnic tables or bring a blanket and share fellowship outdoors.

Cane Ridge Day has always been a homecoming for the Cane Ridge family and the re-union of friends and supporters has been a large part of the day. Come and help us celebrate the history and heritage of this special place.

Opening Day Service Celebrates Betty Allman



Cane Ridge opened on April 1 with more than 20 guests for the service. As part of the opening day

we celebrated the 28 years of service to Cane Ridge of Assistant Curator, Betty Allman, who retired at the end of 2020. The pandemic delayed our appreciation for Betty's service and devotion to Cane Ridge. Shown are Curator James Trader and Betty Allman.

SPEAKER

The Curator is available to preach or speak to a fellowship group about Cane Ridge throughout the year. Please contact Cane Ridge to schedule a speaking engagement as early as possible. Honoraria or Donations for the ministry of Cane Ridge are expected, and, depending on the amount of travel required, mileage and housing may be necessary.

GIFTS TO CANE RIDGE

Gifts to continue the mission and ministry of Cane Ridge should be sent to:
Cane Ridge, P.O. Box 26, Paris, KY 40362-0026



Notes from the Ridge

By James H. Trader, II

Searching for B.F. Hall

This is a shortened version of the opening day address on April 1, 2022. The search for information about ministers who may have served the congregation at Cane Ridge has led to a mystery. While James Rogers reports in his 1910 book, "The Cane Ridge Meeting House," on a list of ministers who served or held meetings at Cane Ridge, that Benjamin Franklin was here and this source was quoted in our publication, "The Cane Ridge Bicentennial Sampler". There is no other currently known corroborating source. We know, however, that another evangelist, Benjamin Franklin Hall, was born nearby and according to his autobiography he served the Cane Ridge Church for about a year. So, for the opening of 2022 we'll consider Benjamin Franklin Hall. If we are able to have a closing day service, we'll consider Benjamin Franklin, evangelist.

Benjamin Franklin Hall was born in Nicholas County, Kentucky in 1803. He is said to have been at least six feet tall and weighed about 200 pounds. An itinerant evangelist he was also a dentist, physician, lawyer, teacher, farmer, real-estate broker and developer. He had also served as an editor, a state evangelist, author of a hymnal and a military chaplain.

He was not a particularly good scholar, with only an average education. He did, however speak correctly with well-chosen words. He read extensively and had a better-than-average minister's library. He was known to read for hours out loud to whoever gathered. He had a pleasant voice, almost melodic and the tempo increased as he warmed to his subject. His manner was said to be abrupt at times, and he often appeared to have a kindly bearing.

In 1825, Hall was ordained by Barton W. Stone and around this time Stone sent a letter to Hall suggesting that he move to the Green River Country around Casey and Adair counties to preach. Shortly after, he was taken sick and spent months recovering. He could not work and had heard that a Mr. McCabe, a graduate of Washington College, Pennsylvania, was teaching school in Carlisle. Hall studied English Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric and Algebra, along with Greek.

Hall was soon traveling a preaching circuit in Wilson, Rutherford and Smith counties with Brother Jourdan, who was a well-known doctor and preacher in southern Kentucky who had been instrumental in the education of Isaac T. Reneau in Albany, Kentucky.

It is said that Hall converted Tolbert Fanning and baptized John Allen Gano in 1826. A Baptist minister in Norfolk, Virginia referred to Hall as "a strolling dentist of the name of Hall." He preached at many camp meetings in southern Kentucky and in Tennessee

He was known to lead the singing of his own hymns and entertained the children with his enthusiasm. Reportedly, his sermon illustrations were so vivid that the slaves, who gathered in the back of the churches, were delighted with his stories. He

was known for the power of his pulpit oratory.

A letter he wrote to Alexander Campbell in the Millennial Harbinger notes a problem he had identified in Kentucky. He said that, "there are but few churches that meet every first step to keep the ordinances. They are too much in the monthly system." He also complained that churches should assemble every week and about the poor pay given to evangelists. He said that the people love to hear preaching but do not want to pay for it.

While in Alabama in 1827 he married Dorinda Chisholm and continued his study of medicine under Dr. Rucker of Lauderdale County, Alabama. And then, in 1828 he moved to Stanford, Kentucky where he preached and doctored. He notes in his autobiography that, "the support they gave me was so meager, and the country so healthy, that I removed to Columbia." He would, however, quickly move to Madisonville. While there, Hall studied law under Gleenly Bennett and then began to study Dentistry under Dr. John Harris.

In 1831, Hall traveled back to Alabama and was taken ill on the journey. He recovered but his wife also became sick and died at her father's home in Alabama. His two daughters are left in the care of his wife's sisters. His travels included a sojourn to Havana, Cuba on his first ocean-going vessel. He was very sea-sick.

Hall returned to the port of Wilmington, NC in 1833 where he preached in a small Baptist Church. He reports that many were surprised by his speaking ability and one preacher said he thought, "that Kentuckians were all flatboatmen and hog-drovers! I did not know that they were preachers." Another woman said she thought all the residents of the Mississippi Valley were heathens and she had been contributing money to Christianize the heathen of that country. And then said, "If you are a specimen of the people who live in that country, they will get no more of my money to send the gospel there: for I learned more about Christianity from the discourse I heard you preach last night than I have learned from our minister in the last twelve months."

Hall moved inland to Edenton, NC, on the Albemarle Sound where he preached in a Baptist Church. The church voted, against Hall's will he says, to replace their minister with Hall. Although the Baptist minister did not remain, neither did Hall who traveled north to Virginia.

In 1833, he went on a preaching tour of Virginia, New York and Baltimore with Alexander Campbell.

In 1833, John T. Johnson and B.F. Hall co-edited, "The Gospel Advocate," they did so into the southern parts of Kentucky. This journal proposed to cover the following topics: The Gospel as the power and wisdom of God for salvation, the constitution and worship of the first Christian Churches will be shown, The Living



Searching for Benjamin Franklin Hall (continued from page 2)

Oracles, the great arbiter of all religious controversies will be advocated as the only means of faith and a directory of conduct, the incompatibility of all sectarian establishments, and a notice and review of different publications for the success of the Gospel. "The Gospel Advocate" of Hall and Johnson was not the same one that would be started two decades later by Tolbert Fanning. This "Advocate" would move to Versailles, Kentucky and be retitled "The Christian Panoplist," referring to the wide variety of subjects to be covered.

In 1833, having left Bethany, Virginia, B.F. Hall was travelling in the area of Richmond and Fredericksburg, VA. With Thomas Campbell, he moved on to evangelize in North Carolina.

A report in the *Millennial Harbinger* of September 1834 shows that John T. Johnson and B.F. Hall preached "for three days continuance" at the church in Paris, KY, which, "owing to the confused and disorganized condition in which the church finds itself, growing out of the unfortunate division which took place in the body some time since, and to which other causes have also contributed; and there being some things in its constitution which we do not approve" are invited to enroll as one body. Apparently, the division was somewhat healed and the church came back together.

He settled briefly in Georgetown about the time Barton Stone left the city to move to Illinois. He and J.T. Johnson became friends and often traveled the state preaching.

In 1836, Hall married Susan Bell of Woodford County. The marriage was problematic from the beginning. Because she had property and money from her deceased husband, John, there were financial considerations. Her lawyer sent Hall a marriage contract, the equivalent of a prenuptial agreement today. Hall refused and Susan claimed she knew nothing about the contract, tearing it up in front of him. There was even more irregularity in her finances and Hall suddenly became liable for more than \$6000.00 in debts. Over time this was assured by a third party but there were more irregularities to come.

One story comes to us from Hall's time preaching at an evening service in Carlisle, Kentucky, probably in 1853. A white cat entered the church and Hall immediately ordered that the cat be removed, stating that he could not preach while there was a cat in the house, even if it was hid from his view. He disliked both cats and dogs on the whole. After a bit of a chase the cat was removed. He began again, but expressed concern that it might re-appear. Rogers says that "he began speaking again and he seemed to be unhinged-altogether or largely out of kilter." True to form, the cat returned. Hall insisted that the devil had sent the abominable cat to ruin his discourse and he urged that it be removed and "kill that infamous thing, or put it in durance vile." Apparently, some removed the cat violently but did not kill it outright. Hall never regained his footing and the sermon failed to come back together.

Following the debacle of Carlisle, Hall did turn around and his discourses in Mason County, in Washington, were like his old self.

In 1834, Hall pastored the church at Main Street in Lexington.

While preaching in Louisville and starting a church in the Beargrass area, in 1842. The church in Louisville paid him \$1000 per year in four equal installments. He says that "peace and harmony prevailed in the church, they were strongly attached to me, and I loved them greatly." Despite this he resigned and began to preach once a month at Cane Ridge while preaching at other places the other Sundays.

During Barton Stone's farewell tour in 1843, he stopped at the South Elkhorn Congregation in Lexington and was joined by John Allen Gano and B.F. Hall.

Although he preached as far north as Philadelphia and Baltimore, he spent his ministry mostly in the south. He moved to Texas in 1856 but continued to travel extensively.

Although Susan traveled with Hall to Texas she could not be persuaded to move there with him, despite agreeing on a couple of occasions. He notes in his autobiography that Susan, "virtually exiled me from home; had, in fact, given up her home and divided our property among her first children, retaining for herself and our three children only eight thousand dollars she had induced the court to take from me and give to her. She was now living among her children, and I was afloat.... From the time of my second marriage I had not been a free man, nor had I been the head of my family. I had been subject to the will and pleasure of another, who never consulted my desires, nor my interests, temporal or spiritual. She had her property and I had mine, and the laws of Texas respected and protected the rights of each and of both."

Later he writes, "Owing to my second marriage my life has been a sad disappointment. Unhappy, miserable as I was, I would, for the sake of the cause which I love dearer than my life, have continued to love her during life, had she not cast me off. For years she had tried to get rid of me by one method and another; and, finally succeeded by getting me off to Texas with the promise to come, and then declining to request me to return to Kentucky. This unfortunate affair has greatly crippled my influence for good, and will be the cause of my sun's going down under a cloud."

Hall was a strong supporter of the Confederacy during the Civil War and served for nine months as chaplain in the Sixth Texas Cavalry commanded by Barton W. Stone, Jr. Chaplains of the day were not always non-combatants, many were fighting Chaplains. He rode "a fine mule, carried a splendid rifle and stipulated expressly that when there was any chance of killing Yankees he must be allowed the privilege of bagging as many as possible." B. F. Hall might even have been called a rabid secessionist. He is reported to have said, when asked about how he felt about Disciples who supported the North, "that they were no brethren of mine and that the religionists on the other side of the line were all infidel, and that true religion was now only to be found in the south." He is also reported as saying, with a chuckle, "that a demon might have envied" a friend of his who killed a helpless and

wounded enemy soldier.

Hall may not have been quite as bloodthirsty in real life as he sounded. He writes in his autobiography that, during the war, "I tried to do my duty in all particulars—to the sick and well, the dying and the dead; in calm, on the march; on the battle field, where the cannon boomed, and blazed, and hurled missiles of death thick and fast. I prayed, and preached, and exhorted the men to do their duty to their country, and to their god. And did I not do right? Will any say I did wrong? Set the wise, the just and the good answer. I fear not their decision. Above all, I appeal to the great searcher of hearts and am content, as I know I shall be compelled to do, --to submit to his decision. I was in, or rather at two battles, and carried a weapon of war, and deadly one, but never used it against anyone, I neither brandished sword nor fired a gun at an enemy. So I am sure I neither killed nor wounded anyone. I am not, therefor, guilty of blood."

Returning from war, in February of 1863 he married Mrs. Elizabeth Collins of Kentucky. Controversy developed because some believed he was not truly divorced from his second wife. He contended that under the laws of Texas that he had been abandoned and, indeed, did not know where his second wife was living. Another preacher brought the charge of adultery against him and Hall charged the minister with slander. The elders sided with Hall.

Because of the depredations which followed the war and his own financial problems he moved his family back to Kentucky in 1867, settling near Danville and then in 1868 to the Carlisle/Moorefield area and then to Richmond where he opened a Dental practice.

When Susan died in 1868 Hall traveled again and settled back in Texas in the Dallas area.

In his book, "Recollections of Men of Faith," W.C. Rogers writes of Hall that he expects to see many people in heaven but he not so sure of Hall. He says that Hall had a problem with his pride and he relates a story about when Hall addressed a meeting in Nashville. He held the audience spellbound by his eloquence but at the end no one came forward. When he asked Tolbert Fanning why, he was told that the people were so impressed with the splendor of the sermon and the masterful elocution that they had no occasion to think of the salvation of their souls.

W.C. Rogers also notes that Hall's estimation of his own talents led him to believe that he was greater than Alexander Campbell. When Hall traveled to Richmond, Virginia with Campbell they rotated the preaching. Hall reported that he appeared to be the better preacher between the two. However, in Richmond, Campbell had a full house and spoke so forcefully and knowledgeably that Hall was ashamed he had ever compared himself to Campbell. He was even reluctant to speak in Alexander's presence after that.

Benjamin Franklin Hall died in 1873 in Grayson County, Texas at the age of 69.

I invite you to join us on Monday, October 31 for our closing service when we'll discuss the evangelist, Benjamin Franklin.

Thanks to All Our Friends Who Donated in 2022

The trustees of Cane Ridge Thank all who gave in 2021 to preserve the shrine, Museum, House and grounds and to help provide for the future. Those who wrote checks or gave identified cash are listed below. There are many others who gave cash when visiting Cane Ridge. We would like to thank those persons, too. In addition, many gave freely of time and talent through mission groups and when called upon for assistance. Work groups came with skills and dedication, spending many dollars of their own to be here. Others assisted in planning and executing programs. Thanks to all who helped.

Churches

Alabama

Perfect Praise Inc., Huntsville

Florida

Rick Curry Ministries, Pensacola

Illinois

First Christian Church, Lawrenceville

Indiana

Little Flatrock Christian Church, Rushville

Kentucky

First Christian Church, Ashland

First Christian Church, Benton

First Christian Church, Bowling Green

Cadiz Christian Church, Cadiz

First Christian Church, Covington

Cynthiana Christian Church, Cynthiana

Indian Creek Christian Church, Cynthiana

First Christian Church, Danville

Grassy Creek Christian Church, Demossville

Faith Baptist Church, Dorton

Eminence Christian Church, Eminence

Erlanger Christian Church, Erlanger

Flemingsburg Christian Church, Flemingsburg

First Christian Church, Frankfort

First Christian Church, Georgetown

Grace Fellowship of Georgetown

First Christian Church, Glasgow

First Christian Church, Hopkinsville

Bethel Christian Church, Kevil

First Christian Church, Lawrenceburg

Antioch Christian Church, Lexington

Arlington Christian Church, Lexington

Central Christian Church, Lexington

Crestwood Christian Church, Lexington

North Lexington Church of Christ, Lexington

South Elkhorn Christian Church, Lexington

Woodland Christian Church, Lexington

First Christian Church, Liberty

Beargrass Christian Church, Louisville

Midway Christian Church, Midway

Moorefield Christian Church, Moorefield

First Christian Church, Mt. Sterling

Nicholasville Christian Church, Nicholasville

North Middletown Christian Church

Clintonville Christian Church, Paris

First Christian Church, Paris

First Christian Vacation Bible School, Paris

Little Rock Christian Church, Paris

River of Life Ministries, Paris

First Christian Church, Russellville

Simpsonville Christian Church, Simpsonville

Victory Christian Fellowship, Somerset

Stamping Ground Christian Church

Stanford Christian Church, Stanford

West Liberty CC, West Liberty

First Christian Church, Winchester

Missouri

First Christian Church, Jefferson City

First Christian Church, Plattsburg

Mississippi

First Christian Church, Meridian

Ohio

Washington Ave. Christian Church, Elyria

First Christian Church, Paulding

Sciotoville Christian Church, Portsmouth

Central Christian Church, Wooster

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Texas

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Virginia

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Cane Ridge Closing Day Worship Service Planned for October 31, 2022

Join us for the closing day service for the 2022 season on Monday, October 31 at 10:00 am. We'll join together for worship, fellowship and some history of Cane Ridge. An offering will be received. Light refreshments will be served in the Museum to close out the year.

Looking for a project for your youth?
Cane Ridge is always looking for cleaners, weeders, trimmers, stick picker-uppers. Contact the Curator if you're interested in helping to maintain this historic site.



Members of First Christian Church, Wauseon, OH, visited Cane Ridge on April 23, 2022. Michael Doerr, pastor, took this photo.

The Cane Ridge Bulletin
Summer 2022

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Website: www.caneridge.org

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CURATORIAL STAFF

Curator: James H. Trader, II
Assistant Curator: Linda Faris

SCHEDULE

Summer Season-April 1-October 31
Open Monday-Saturday - 9 am-5 pm
Sundays 1-5 pm

Winter-November 1-March 31
Open by appointment and when
curatorial staff is available.

Bourbon County Churches Celebrate Easter Sunrise at Cane Ridge

