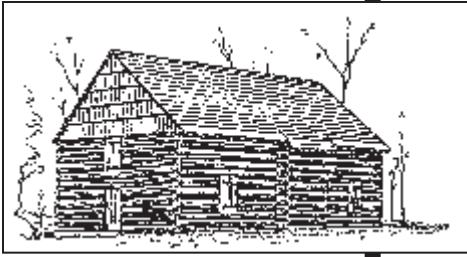


# BULLETIN

www.caneridge.org

phone 859-987-5350

curator@caneridge.org



# Join Us For Cane Ridge Day on June 24, 2017

*Gathering Begins at 9:30 am*

*An offering will be received both morning & afternoon*



**10:00 am Morning Program Begins**  
*Men and Women for All Seasons: Early Stone-Campbell Leaders of Great and Diverse Learning*

**Speaker: James Trader**, Curator of the Cane Ridge Meeting House for the past 10 years. Trader has been the Manager of the Lexington Theological Seminary Bookstore and Director of Continuing Education at LTS. He is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**Special Music: David L. Edwards**

a native of Virginia, David was a congregational pastor for over 40 years, a musician, composer of about 100 hymns and currently a volunteer and provider of music and singing for Loretto Child Care Center at the Loretto, KY Headstart Program



**Lunchtime Entertainment:** The Backroom String Band will perform at noon outside. Bring a picnic lunch and join in the fellowship

**1:00 pm Afternoon Program**

The Dulcimer Dames perform

*Up the Valley and Through the Gap*

**Speaker: Mel Hankla**, historian, researcher, speaker, writer, collector and builder of KY long rifles, historical actor with KY Humanities Council for 22 years and soon to be on PBS



**Events**

**Calendar**

June 24 - Cane Ridge Day-Registration begins 9:30 am

October 31 - Closing Worship 10:00 am

## 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

## Celebrating the African-Americans at Cane Ridge

On April first we opened Cane Ridge for the summer season with a worship service in the Meeting House. That morning we remembered the African-American members and the early integration of the congregation.

While few records exist and almost no names of the African-American members, slave or free, have survived, we know a few things.

In the mid-1790's members of Cane Ridge and their sister congregation, Concord, authored legislation for the local synod to excommunicate slaveholders. The measure did not pass but established the trajectory of the congregation.

Though the balcony was known as the Slaves Gallery it quickly became unnecessary as most slaves in the church were freed and welcomed to the main floor with everyone else. Though it is unlikely that there was true equality, the congregation was integrated by 1829 when the balcony was removed and the building was modernized with plaster, weatherboarding, glass windows, a new floor and a ceiling and wood stove.

Barton Stone, pastor of the congregation from 1796 until 1812, inherited slaves on two occasions. On the first he chose slaves over money so that he could free them. Ned and Lucy were freed once they were of age and could take care of themselves.

The second occasion occurred while Stone lived in Georgetown, KY when his mother-in-law willed four slaves to Stone's wife and children. This prompted the family's move to Illinois to legally free the slaves because the Stone's had moved to a free state where slavery was not legal. Stone had briefly been the President of the American Colonization Society in Georgetown.

Courthouse records indicate that within nine months of the 1801 revival at Cane Ridge there was a marked increase of manumissions

in Bourbon County, KY.

The northeastern corner of the graveyard seems to have been where many of the African-American members were buried although no markers have survived. We know of only two names of the African-Americans buried on the grounds, Samuel Bonaparte "Bone" January and Charles Spencer. We know that January was a local carpenter.

We also know two things about Spencer. The first is that he was sometimes called "Uncle One Note" due to the fact that, according to James Rogers "he could sound but one note and that of the highest key, and in every song that note was sounded most thrillingly, electrifying those unaccustomed to the unearthly shriek."

The second is that he knew Barton Stone and when Stone preached at Cane Ridge for the final time he left the pulpit and embraced Spencer. He was criticized for the action but is said to have responded that he only hugged the image of Christ he saw in him.

The opening day program was dedicated to the memory of Melvia Fields. Melvia had been the chair of the Cane Ridge Board in 2005 & 2006 and had been on the board for several years before. Melvia, and her daughter Sharon, wrote a booklet titled "In Other Words... Stories of African-American Involvement in the Early Years of the Stone-Campbell Movement in Kentucky." Melvia passed away on Jan. 22, 2017. Many contributions have been received at Cane Ridge in her memory and are welcome at Cane Ridge, P.O. Box 26, Paris, KY 40362. The Disciples Women's Ministries has also established The Melvia Fields Fund at the Christian Church In Kentucky, 1125 Red Mile Rd., Lexington, KY 40504.



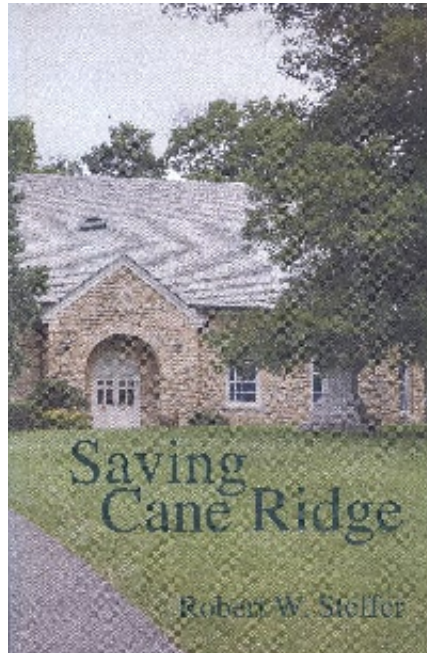
*Melvia Fields*

## Preservation Project History Now Available

Dr. Robert Steffer, co-curator of the Cane Ridge Meeting house with his wife, Diane, from 1998 until the end of 2006 began working on a history of the Cane Ridge Preservation Project before he retired to Toronto, Canada. After more than ten years his efforts have culminated in *Saving Cane Ridge*, an historic celebration of the Project which has preserved the Meeting House from the time the congregation closed its doors in 1921 until the present day. In 378 pages Dr. Steffer clearly details the preservation of a site which has been called "A temple to Christian unity."

Copies may be ordered from Cane Ridge using the order form below. Cost, including shipping, will be

\$25.00. They may also be picked up at Cane Ridge for \$20.00.



## *Cane Ridge Archives Would Like to Receive Items*

*The Millennial Harbinger*, Ed. by Alexander Campbell, 1987 College Press Reprint Edition, Volumes needed: 32, 33, 34, 57, 58, 61, 65, 66, 67. (Other editions are also welcome.)

*On The Kentucky Border*, 1867, James Roberts Gilmore.

*The Great West*, by Henry Hare.

*Revivals in the Midst of Years*, 1943, Benjamin Lacy, John Knox Press.

*Biographical Sketches of Gospel Preachers*, 1932, Henry Leo Boles.

## *How to Donate to the Cane Ridge Shrine, Inc.*

Your tax deductible contribution to Cane Ridge can now be made using a credit card, MasterCard, Visa or Discover. Cane Ridge is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Please provide all of the information requested and mail to: The Cane Ridge Shrine, Inc., P.O. Box 26, Paris, KY 40362. Remember to print legibly.

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Card Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

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Amount of your donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to purchase Dr. Steffer's book, "Saving Cane Ridge" at \$25.00 (shipping included) -

quantity of books purchased \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed for books \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total for donation and books \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ship books to above address? \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

If no, please provide shipping address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# Cane Ridge Thanks Everyone for 2016 Donations

The Trustees of Cane Ridge thank all who gave in 2016 to preserve the Shrine, Museum, House and grounds and to help provide for the future. Those who write 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 individuals gave freely of time and talent through mission groups and when called upon for assistance. Mission/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.

## ***Congregational Giving***

### **Arkansas**

First Christian Church, Stuttgart

### **Florida**

Central Christian Church, Clearwater

### **Georgia**

Guyton Christian Church

### **Illinois**

First Christian Church, Lawrenceville

### **Indiana**

Little Flatrock Christian Church, Rushville

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First Christian Church, Benton

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Bethany Indonesian Ch. of God, Phila.

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## ***Christian Women's Fellowship/Disciples Women by State***

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### **Tennessee**

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*(Continued on Page 5)*

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Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Indianapolis, IN  
First Families of Kentucky  
Lexington Theological Seminary  
Kentucky Society, Children of the  
American Revolution  
Rogers Family Reunion  
(Continued on Page 6)

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Website: www.caneridge.org

#### CURATORIAL STAFF

Curator: James H. Trader, II  
Assistant Curator: Betty Allman

#### 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.

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#### **Giving** (Continued from Page 5)

SONS Ministries, Tyrone, GA  
Builders for Christ Men's Fellowship

#### **Memorials**

Leon and Doris Bennett, Genoa, NV  
In Memory of Diane Steffer

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