

## **ROBERT BAILIFF CAME FROM CANEY CREEK TENNESSEE IN 1830**

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### **BAILIFF FAMILY HISTORY**

#### **ROBERT BAILIFF**

A minister who came **from Caney Creek, Tennessee, to Crawford County in 1830 and a year later came to Melrose**. He was a man of fine character and great energy. He made the journey to this State in an Ox Cart, and started his new home here with \$10 as the sum of his earthly capital. He was a Cumberland Presbyterian and notwithstanding the pressing need of his family, added to his cares of a frontier farm by preaching in various parts of the county. He was pastor of a single church for forty years, and died, universally beloved, in 1877. His son and grandson both followed in his steps and are in the ministry now, [in 1883]. The first Church organization was the "New Providence Cumberland Presbyterian Church." Services were held at the cabin of **ROBERT BAILIFF** in 1833 by **REV. SILAS OSBORNE**. In the following year a church was organized by **REV. HENRY GROVES** at **MR. BAILIFF'S** residence, with **MR. BAILIFF** and wife, **JOSEPH GREEN** and wife, **SARAH BUCKNER** and **THOMAS HANDY** as members. For ten years, meetings were held at the residence of **MR. BAILIFF**. A **log house 20x26 feet was erected on section 36**, the land being donated for the purpose by **MR. BAILIFF**. This building served as a place of worship until 1867 when it was torn down and the material used to erect a dwelling where it is still doing service. In 1867 a frame building 26x36 feet was erected on the site of the old log structure at a cost of \$1100 and is still doing service. It was dedicated in the same year by **REV. JESSE BEALS**. **REV. I.C. HILL** was pastor of this church until 1838 when **REV. ROBERT BAILIFF** was called as pastor and continued in the service of the church until his death, in 1877. His son **THOMAS** succeeded him, and is now the pastor. The membership numbers fifty-eight persons.

**SOURCE:** Copied "History of Clark County, Ill." 1883, Page 446.