

ROBERT BAILIFF FRONTIER FARMER AND MINISTER

BY RON CORNWELL

ROBERT BAILIFF was born Nov 1, 1798, at the home on **NEW HOPE CREEK** in Orange County, North Carolina, the son of Scotch Irish parents **THOMAS BAILIFF** and **ELIZABETH BAKER**. **ROBERT'S** parents were greatly influenced by the New Hope Presbyterian Church in Orange County, North Carolina, where **ROBERT BAKER** served as an elder. **ROBERT BAKER** was an uncle of **ROBERT BAILIFF'S** mother and **ROBERT** was probably named for this Great Uncle.

The **BAILIFF FAMILY** moved to Chatham County, North Carolina, where **ROBERT BAILIFF** married **NANCY ANNA BUCKNER** around 1818. By 1820, the family was in Christian County, KY, where **ROBERT'S** son **THOMAS BAILIFF** was born. **WILLIAM BAILIFF** was born there in 1821 and **SUSAN JANE BAILIFF** was born in **CHRISTIAN COUNTY, KY**, in 1823. About 1824, **ROBERT** moved his family to Smith County, Tennessee, where his father **THOMAS BAILIFF JR.** was living.

ROBERT BAILIFF was a frontier farmer and staunch Cumberland Presbyterian when he came from **CANEY CREEK, SMITH COUNTY, TENNESSEE**, to **CRAWFORD COUNTY, ILLINOIS**, in 1830. He made the journey from **TENNESSEE** in an ox cart and started his new home with \$10 as the sum of his earthy capitol. **ELIZABETH BAILIFF**, a single sister, moved with **ROBERT BAILIFF'S** family. In 1831, **ROBERT** moved his family to **MELROSE TWP, CLARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**, the present location of **BAILIFF CHURCH**.

The first service of the New Providence Cumberland Presbyterian Church was held at the cabin of **ROBERT BAILIFF** in 1833. The congregation met at the **BAILIFF CABIN** for the next 10 years. In 1838, **REV. ROBERT BAILIFF** became the minister of **BAILIFF CHURCH**, for 40 years. **ROBERT BAILIFF** died on January 12, 1877, and his tombstone stands near the present day church building.