

## **BAILIFF MEN PROVIDE 98 YEARS MINISTERIAL SERVICE AT BAILIFF CHURCH**

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### **BAILIFF CHURCH**

#### **ROBINSON DAILY NEWS—APRIL 19, 1941**

Standing two miles west of **WEST YORK** on the north side of the road which established the Crawford-Clark county line is the **BAILIFF CHURCH**, house of worship of the **CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN FAITH** for six generations. It stands on a hill surrounded by trees of oak, walnut, beech and poplar which have stood there for a century. Adjoining the church yard is the well-kept **BAILIFF CEMETERY**, both church and burying ground named for **ROBERT BAILIFF**, minister, one of the founders of the church and donor of the land on **which both are located**.

In the year **1830 ROBERT BAILIFF** and his wife, **ANNA BUCKNER BAILIFF**, came to Illinois from Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, in an ox-cart and entered land in this vicinity. About that time **CAMP MEETINGS WERE BEING HELD** with great success near Marshall by the Cumberland Presbyterian Preachers, **JAMES ASHMORE** of Edgar County and **JOHN TAYLOR** of Clark County. **ROBERT BAILIFF** invited these men to come to his farm and hold a **CAMP MEETING**. They held the first meeting in **1834** and had several conversions who with others of the same faith were organized into a church. The first ministers were **REV. BEALS** and **REV. J.C. HILL** who served until **1838**.

Another of the early preachers was **SILAS OSBORN** who with his family had settled near Grayville, Indiana. He was sometimes accompanied on his trips by his daughter, **REBECCA**, who on one of these occasions met **CHARLES BUCKNER**, to whom she was married in the 40's. The **CHARLES BUCKNER FAMILY** were faithful attendants to **BAILIFF** for many years and their home was always open to the ministers who came from the many points to hold the **ANNUAL PRESBYTERY**.

The first house of worship was a **large shed like building made of rough lumber** and located just a little west of the present structure. This building was used until **1842**.

In **1838 ROBERT BAILIFF** was chosen as pastor of the church and in **1842** he led the membership **in building a log church** which served as a church until **1867** when **the present frame building** was erected. He served as pastor of this church until his death in **1877**, a **TOTAL OF FORTY YEARS**. After the death of the **ELDER BAILIFF**, his son, **THOMAS**, took up the work of his father. He ministered to the church and kept it going as long as he lived. Unlike the father, who seldom left home to preach, **UNCLE TOMMY**, as he was called, was a **CIRCUIT RIDER** and traveled far and wide, preaching and holding revivals and making many conversions. He always married many couples and conducted funerals in all the surrounding territory. He always gave his services to his home church and was highly respected by all who knew him.

With the passing of **THOMAS BAILIFF**, his son **CHALKLEY**, succeeded to the pastorate of **BAILIFF CHURCH**. Besides his work in the home church he preached in many other

churches and was active in revival work as his father had done. He died in **1936** at the age of 84 years. The combined ministerial service of this one church of **CHALKLY BAILIFF**, his father [**THOMAS BAILIFF**] and grandfather [**ROBERT BAILIFF**] extended over an unbroken period of **98 YEARS** and each of them donated their services for the love of the cause. They, with their wives, are buried just west of the present chapel, the location of **ROBERTS GRAVE** being the **door of the old log church**.

**DUANE BAILIFF**, son of **ED BAILIFF**, has also preached in the Bailiff Church, making four generations of **BAILIFF'S** who have preached there.

**ROBERT BAILIFF** was made a life member of the home and foreign missionaries at Alton, Illinois, in 1864. The young men of the congregation took **MR. BAILIFF to Terre Haute in 1870** and had a large photograph of him made. This with the pictures of **THOMAS BAILIFF** and **CHALKLY BAILIFF** hang in the chapel today.

Through the leadership of **ROBERT BAILIFF** a custom was established of holding a basket dinner in the month of August every year. They began the Lord's Day with Sunday School followed by preaching and communion. Every Sunday for this assembly, old friends were greeted and new acquaintances made. The dinner was followed by worship in the afternoon.

The church is today in good repair and has a faithful membership which maintains Sunday School and Worship regularly

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