

Marker weekend honors local history

April 25-26 was noted for being National Historic Highway Marker Weekend. Through the program, the wealth of history, which is Kentucky's past, is made accessible to the public as they travel along the roadways, by these markers with the history written on them. Crittenden County has several of these markers, but many are not noticed by traffic speeding by so quickly.

Let's visit a couple of areas in Crittenden County that have these highway markers to help provide history for the area.

Interesting spot in Crittenden appeared in Press Sept. 1931

We drove down an interesting spot last Sunday, this spot is just beyond the Seven Springs Church and on towards the Cumberland River.

A quantity of various hued blue pebbles sparkled along the road demanded our attention. On stopping to examine them, we found that while practically all of the smaller rocks were of a solid blue composition, the large pieces along the bank and in the adjoining woodlands were of this same colored material intermixed with burned wood or charcoal.

This find caused us to inquire the reason for this curious formation. We were told that these blue rocks are all that remains to remind residents of that locality that at one time there was a sizable iron works.

Iron ore was taken from the hills. The land was denuded of its timber to make charcoal. In the process of manufacture, this charcoal, so the natives told us, was in some way mixed with the raw iron ore. These blue rocks now scattered over the territory were the cinders or waste from the huge furnace.

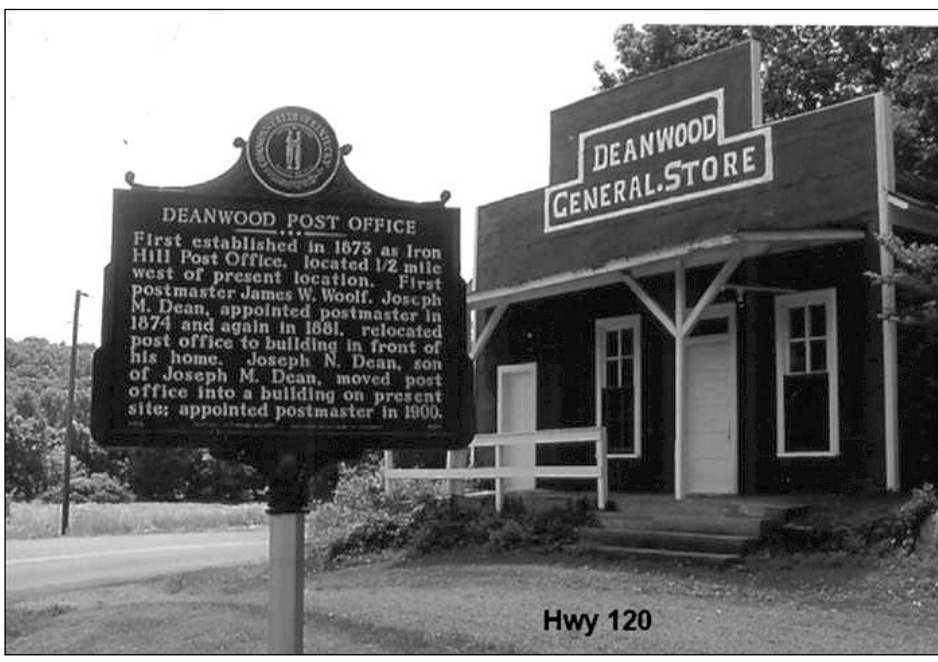
Big iron wash kettles, skillets, and irons were made there and a quaint old "shaving skillet" small and dumpy with funny little legs was in the home of our uncle not far away. This shaving skillet was made here in Crittenden County. Placed on the back of the cook stove, water was soon heated in the skillet for a quick shave.

This would be the Cobb Iron Furnace.

Those Piney Bluffs, written in 1923

Why, down here in Crittenden County acres of bluffs rise to a dizzy height out of a country that is not unusually rough. Truly, it's a little community to itself, but we're proud of it. And, if you as a tourist should visit us here, we might show you peaks that would cause those of the Rockies to pale in comparison. We might lead you to overhanging cliffs and show you wonders equal to those of the Lookouts. Wonderful sights to see are the Bald Alley Knob, the Middle Knob, Graveyard Knob and the gulches of Pigeon Roost Creek.

The Bald Alley is a very



The Deanwood post office and store marker are located in the heart of the beautiful Piney area of Crittenden County. The areas mentioned in the article are all located not too far from this marker.

high projecting bluff, not much vegetation on its crown, and the way to the top is through a rock alley, four or five feet wide and with smooth rock walls on each side. Graveyard Knob, so named by the children of the area, as from a distance it looks like a coffin large enough for a giant to be buried in. It has beautiful colored rock formations, as they have been formed and shaped by the weather all these hundreds of years.



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

And if yours is a poetic nature, we might find for you the trail of the lonesome pine, or the old roadway that was known as Cedar Lane. Cedar trees lined the road and made a scene of beauty and grandeur as you drove along its way. Green in the summer and in the winter, snow covered and looking like a winter wonder land on a postcard.

One of the "show places" of the whole chain is Chimney Rock, and truly one that is right named. It stands apart from the others and rises to a great height. At its base trickles an eternal fountain that would probably have given Ponce de Leon the greatest thrill of his life, had he discovered it.

Piney Creek flows at their base and has all the true characteristics of a mountain stream. When storms rage it becomes turbulent noisy and a dangerous stream; but when they subside it will again lapse back into the gentle musical little creek we know and love.

Through the years little has changed, the bluffs are the same old barren rocks when winter comes; the same

riot of flowers and fern when soft southern breezes blow in the spring. The same old moon still peeps through the swaying branches of cedar and pine and the beeches still stand like silent sentinels to guard the valley; and at their feet the little stream still winds its silvery way.

Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church

Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church was organized in 1803 as the Bethany Presbyterian Church, northwest of the present city of Marion in the Crooked Creek neighborhood.

In 1845-46 the congregation moved from the location on Crooked Creek to the site of the Old Marion Cemetery. A brick structure was built and served as the house of worship until the division in 1881. The church was now in need of repairs.

The First Presbyterian Church U.S. on Bellville and College streets was organized and a new house of worship built (where the Crittenden County Historical Museum is located today).

On July 7, 1883, a meeting was called at the home of John A. Hill, by Rev. A. J. Thomson, for the loyal people of the church to express their views on reorganizing the church. It was decided by a unanimous vote to reorganize and call their church Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church.

The charter members were Matilda Armstrong, Mary Armstrong, Mrs. Gabrilla Carrick, Julia Elder, John G. Elder, Addie Franks, John A. Hill, Margaret L. Hill, Mary Mayes, William Mayes, James Mayes, Helen Mayes, Mr. and Mrs. Thadius Witherspoon, J. H. Yandell and Sarah Yandell.

Services were held in the Chapel Hill schoolhouse until the new house of worship could

be erected.

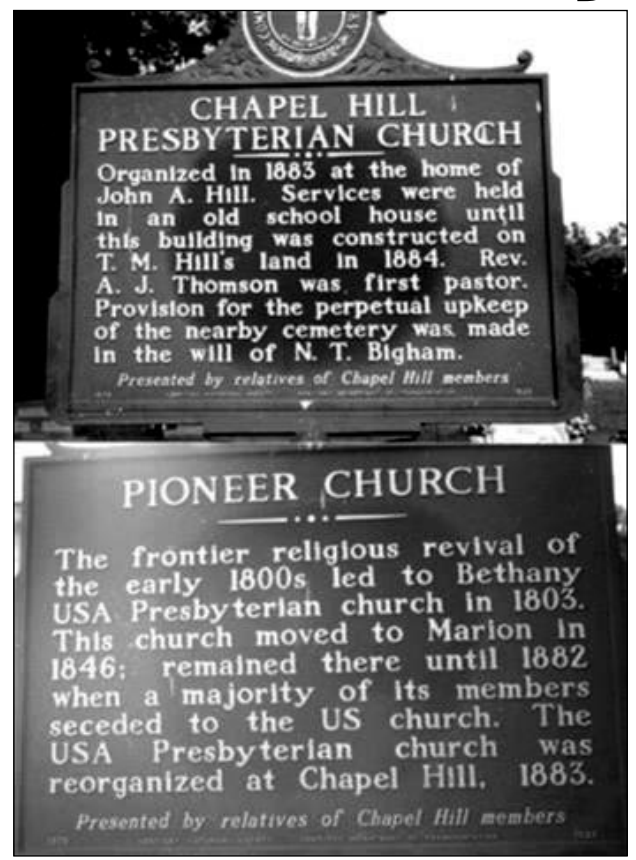
The land was given by T. M. Hill, his wife Sallie and his mother Mary W. Hill, for the church in June 1884. Mr. Hill and his mother also donated land for the Chapel Hill Cemetery in 1903. The church was dedicated on July 20, 1884, with the Rev. W. W. Cleland giving the dedicatory address. A great revival followed for the next two weeks that added many members to the church roll.

In August of 1955, the Chapel Hill Church celebrated 150 years of its founding and for its annual homecoming with a special week of spiritual awakening with programs and special events each evening.

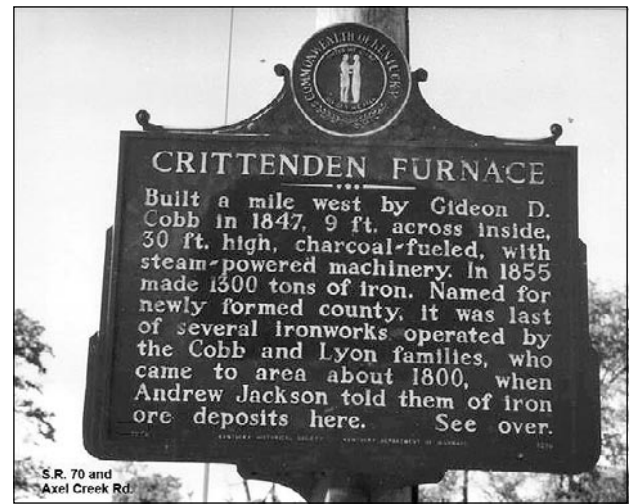
After 1964 only Sunday School was held as attendance began to decline. The Presbytery decided to dissolve the Chapel Hill Church. It officially closed its doors in July 1967 due to low attendance. There were meetings held in the church afterwards but no formal services.

Past members, and relatives of these members, in hope to have the history of this wonderful old church preserved, got together and applied for a Kentucky Historical Marker to be set on the property near the church and the cemetery. This dream was fulfilled in 1975. This marker still stands proudly today and it tells a brief but descriptive history of the church.

In May 1995, the church cemetery committee, with a heavy heart, voted to have the building torn down. It was beginning to deteriorate and was being vandalized.



This marker is all that is left to carry on the history of the church that once was located here and was a vital part of the neighborhood.



This historical marker tells the history of the Cobb Furnace that was located on Axel Creek Road.

The committee hated to see its beloved church fall into decay and defaced, so before that could happen it was decided to have it torn down.

Today the church and school property are empty with only the historical highway marker standing at the entrance of the cemetery to tell the history of this pioneer church.

These highway mark-

ers help preserve our past for future generations. We just have to remind everyone over the years that we have these markers.

(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Crittenden County Board of Elections will offer excused, in-person absentee voting May 6-13 weekdays 8-4 inside the Office of Crittenden County Clerk, 200 Industrial Dr., Marion, for primary election voters who will be unable to vote in person for Early Voting or on the day of the election. Voters must attest to their reason for being unable to vote during Early Voting (May 14-16) or on Election Day (May 19).

This notice given pursuant to Kentucky statutes

GoVote.ky.gov

For a sample primary election ballot

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Mervin Byler
184 Rooster Lane
in Marion, KY
Signs will be posted

Orders can also be placed at Mattoon Village Pantry

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AN ALL KENTUCKY CITY

Employment Opportunity
PT MAINTENANCE WORKERS

The City of Marion has a **PART-TIME PERMANENT POSITION AVAILABLE IN THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT** for 2026.

Position is expected to work 40 HOURS EVERY 2 WEEKS at a rate of \$15/hour

Primary activities will include, but are not limited to

- Property lawncare and landscaping
- Repairing/replacing water and sewer infrastructure
- Repairing street and alley infrastructure
- Reading water meters
- Turning water services on and off along with any other such duties common to the department's operations.

The successful applicant will work under the general direction of the Maintenance Supervisor.

All resumes must be accompanied by a City of Marion job application. Applications are available at the city office, 217 South Main Street, Marion, Kentucky. Consideration is continuous until all necessary positions are filled.

The City of Marion is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Certified Drug-Free Workplace.

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